

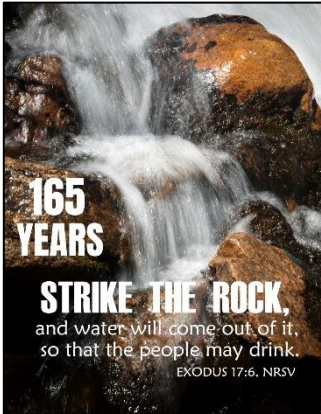
WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 1, 2023

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



WATER FROM THE ROCK

Exodus 17:1-7

Over the last 165 years, The Congregational Church of Rochester, Minnesota has faced many challenges in our commitment to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be of service to our neighbors. This congregation has survived through devastating tornadoes, stock market crashes, two world wars, the tumult of the 1960s and 1970s and the information revolution of the 1990s and 2000s. Most recently, we have come through a years-long global pandemic that disrupted the life of our church and forced us to continue to be the church in new and creative ways when we could not gather together safely. There is fairly unanimous agreement, with data to support it, that most churches lost membership over the course of the pandemic and there are not yet signs that it will return to the pre-pandemic levels. At The Congregational Church we remain committed to our ministry,

while acknowledging that even after the pandemic we continue to face a challenging time for our congregation.

After their remarkable crossing of the Red Sea to be free of Egyptian bondage, the people of Israel found themselves wandering in the wilderness. After making camp one evening, they complained to Moses that there was no water to drink. They asked, “Have you brought us out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?” Moses appealed to God, who told him to strike a rock with his staff. As soon as he did, water came flowing out of the rock and the people had plenty to drink.

As we reflect on our 165-year history, we would do well to remember that we didn't get here on our own. Our congregation has survived and thrived over these 165 years because God has been with us all along the way. When we faced seemingly insurmountable challenges before, God made a way for us- God made water spring from the rock. When we reflect on our present and future challenges it is important to remember that we are still not alone, God is with us here and now. God is helping us to make a way forward where it seems there is no way. Despite our post-pandemic challenges, there are signs of new life and vitality all over our congregation. We have new families attending worship, a growing choir, a committed youth group, the creation of excellent opportunities and resources for Christian education, and an incredibly generous, kind, and welcoming congregation. Even in this time of difficulty, our own journey in the wilderness, God continues to provide for us, continues to pull water from the rock. Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION will be served by passing of the plate. If you prefer, prepackaged Communion elements are available in the Narthex or from an usher.

POTLUCK FOLLOWING WORSHIP - Members and friends, both old and new - all are invited!



TODAY WE WILL COLLECT A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN), a special mission of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. **One-third** of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). **Two-thirds** of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. **Special offering envelopes will be available in the chair pocket, or indicate “NIN” in the memo line of your check or PayPal.**

THE CARE FUND is collected on the first Sunday of the month and is used for emergency relief for our members. Please consider making a contribution so that we may continue to respond to the emergency needs of our members during difficult times.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	10/1	11:15 AM	Confirmation, Youth Bell Choir, Potluck lunch
Tue	10/3	7:30 AM	Men's Group – Denny's on S. Broadway
		2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
		6:30 PM	Book Study 5 th Stream of the UCC - Zoom
		7:00 PM	Stewardship & Benevolence Ministry Team
Wed	10/4	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	10/5	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		2:00 PM	Worship Ministry Team - Zoom
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Fri	10/6	11:00 AM	Sherry Lawrence Memorial Service & Luncheon
Sat	10/7	1:00 PM	Confirmation Retreat at church

YOUTH BELL CHOIR UPDATE (6th-12th grade) – **Rehearsal TODAY**, October 1 & October 8, immediately following worship; ring during worship on Sunday, October 15.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (PreK-5th grade) - Rehearsal after church will begin Sunday, October 15, 22 & 29 from 11:15-11:45 AM; sing during worship on Sunday, November 5.



A MEMORIAL SERVICE for Sherry Lawrence will be at The Congregational Church on **Friday, October 6 at 11:00 AM with livestream available** on our website and Facebook page.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED – Consider **how you can serve** when our church will host the service and reception in celebration of the life of our member Sherry Lawrence. Help is especially needed to assist with cleanup including running the dishwasher - training will be provided if this is your first time assisting in that way. Please use the SignUp link at www.congoroch.org/news-events to indicate your participation, OR contact the church office. Please prayerfully consider how you can assist. If you have questions, contact Cindy Swessel Hofer or Janet Bartz.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED FOR OCTOBER 8

Pastor Shannon will be worshipping this morning with Wayzata Community Church to observe their Parables ministry and we need someone to teach our kids! A lesson plan will be provided with all the supplies and you will be joined by one of our nursery helpers to pitch in. If you can help out, please contact pastorshannon@congoroch.org.



LAST CALL FOR CHANNEL ONE'S EMPTY BOWLS TO-GO!

The **ordering deadline** is **Wednesday, October 4 at 7:00 PM** for Channel One Regional Food Bank and Food Shelf's 19th annual Empty Bowls fund-raiser! Gourmet soups and bread provided by local restaurants are pre-ordered online and then picked up on the days of the event, with an option to get a free hand-painted bowl and purchase specialty artisan-made bowls. **Pickup is Tuesday, October 10 and Wednesday, October 11, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Powers Ventures Catering, 2112 2nd St SW.**

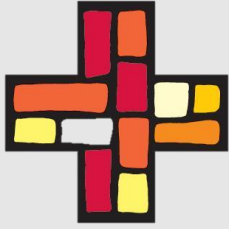
See the 8 soup choices, place your order and purchase specialty bowls at:

www.helpingfeedpeople.org/empty-bowls/order/.

If you prefer not to order soup or a bowl, you can still participate by making a monetary donation at:

www.helpingfeedpeople.org/donate/donate-paypal/.

Participating in Empty Bowls To-Go is an easy way to add variety to your take-out options and help others at the same time. All funds raised from Empty Bowls will directly benefit those who are facing food insecurity. In July 2023, Channel One served more than **25,000 households** in the 14 counties it serves. Thank you for participating!



WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 8, 2023

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

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*I press on
toward the goal to
win the prize for
which God has
called me
heavenward
in Christ
Jesus.*



Philippians 3:14

“PROGRESS, NOT PERFECTION”

Philippians 3:4b-14

One of the few mathematical concepts that stuck with me from my early education was the idea of approaching infinity. One cannot reach infinity, but you can approach it. If you start counting from zero you will never get to infinity- you'll just keep counting forever. However, after an hour of counting numbers, you will certainly be a lot further away from zero than when you started. You haven't reached infinity, but you have made some progress in approaching infinity.

Towards the end of his letter to the Philippians, Paul speaks about his own progress in righteousness in a manner quite similar to the idea of approaching infinity. First, Paul wants to be clear that any progress he made before Christ, was not actually progress at all. “For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.” Paul could not justify himself before God through his own works, he had to simply accept God's love in Christ. However, Paul did not believe that meant there was no progress he could make in righteousness, no progress to be made towards the Christian goal of union with God. Giving up on his own attempts to earn righteousness and accepting God's grace was precisely what enabled him to make progress towards this goal. In Christ he could grow towards God, he could actually progress in righteousness. Paul didn't think he would ever attain full union with God in this life. That ultimate goal, the consummation of our union with God, awaits us beyond this life in eternity. Yet not being able to reach the goal does not mean you can't make progress towards it. Listen to Paul describe it, “Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”

We also can do nothing to earn the love of God. We too must accept God's love as a free gift. Yet we must remember that that acceptance is merely the beginning of our journey with God and towards God. After giving up our own quests for self-righteousness, we may make slow, stuttering progress towards real righteousness through our life in Christ. We won't reach perfection in this life, we won't be fully united to God on this side of eternity, but we can certainly make progress. Infinity may not be reached, but we may, through the grace of God, make progress in approaching it. Thanks be to God for that. Amen.

Rev. Andrew Greenhaw

FIRST SHOWING OF OUR “HOW DID WE GET...?” VIDEO SERIES BEGINS THIS SUNDAY

The Congregational Church UCC has teamed up with Dr. Sarah Ruble of Gustavus Adolphus College to produce an educational video series examining the history of important developments and doctrines in the Christian Faith which we will be viewing for the first time this Sunday, October 8 following worship. The series is titled, “How Did We Get...?” and consists of the following 6 videos: →

- How Did We Get the Trinity?
- How Did We Get Christology?
- How Did We Get Original Sin?
- How Did We Get the Separation of the Church from Judaism?
- How Did We Get Justification by faith?
- How Did We Get “Conservative” and “Liberal” churches?

Each video examines the particular doctrine or development in its historical context, identifying the major ideas in each, and relating them to our present context. The goal is not so much to get everyone to believe in these doctrines, but rather to help us understand them as parts of our history that continue to shape our present. All the videos come with an outline, study-guide and discussion questions, as well as a glossary of important terms. These documents, and the videos themselves, can be accessed on our website under the “How Did We Get” heading at the top of the page, or at this address: <https://www.congoroch.org/how-did-we-get>.

We will watch the first video, “How Did We Get the Trinity,” together during our adult education hour from 11:15-12:15 this Sunday, October 8 following worship. Subsequent videos will be shown on Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Nov. 5, Nov. 19, and Dec. 10. All the curriculum materials will be available in printed form on the days of each class.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	10/8	11:15 AM	Adult Ed Video – “How Did We Get...?” Youth Bell Choir NO Confirmation
Tue	10/10	2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
		6:30 PM	Book Study 5 th Stream of the UCC - Zoom
Wed	10/11	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	10/12	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Fri	10/13	9-11 AM	Channel One Volunteer Day



CHANNEL ONE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Our next group volunteer session at Channel One Regional Food Bank is **Friday, October 13, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**, and we need you!!! Our group will be working in the Food Bank, usually processing bulk foods into smaller packages for distribution throughout the Channel One network or packing boxes for the CSFP program. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old. We work hard but have fun too!

Signing up to volunteer must be done via [our unique page](https://corfb.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=823703) on the Channel One volunteer site: https://corfb.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=823703. Please click on the “Respond” button to begin. Every volunteer needs to have a sign-in account, which can be created the first time you sign-up. During account creation, you will also electronically sign a waiver and view a 5-minute civil rights video. Once your account is created, you can complete the sign-up.

Our sign-up page contains all the monthly dates that we have scheduled, so you can sign up for as many as you’d like at one time. If you’d like more information, please contact Cheryl Roediger at cnroediger@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

TRUNK OR TREAT RETURNS OCTOBER 29 - Plan to join us in welcoming the children of Rochester to Congo Roch for Trunk or Treat on **October 29 after worship**. Our third annual trunk or treat looks to be an exciting time! **What you do:** bring candy, wear a costume, park in the lower lot, and after worship go give candy to the children. This is one of our largest attended community events of the year and always proves to be a fun time. Please plan to stick around to hand out candy. You can also **sign up** at www.congoroch.org/news-events to help plan and execute the event at. Don’t forget to invite the kids in your life!





THANK OFFERING DINNER TO CELEBRATE STEWARDSHIP ON NOVEMBER 12 –

The Stewardship and Benevolence Ministry Team will be hosting a Thank Offering Luncheon following worship on Sunday, November 12. The luncheon is to celebrate our successful stewardship campaign and say thank you to all who have turned in Estimate of Giving cards for 2024. The menu will include roasted pork and chicken sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw and dessert. Gluten free buns will be available. **Please sign up by November 6**, either by adding your name to the poster in the Narthex or online at www.congoroch.org/news-events. We are truly grateful for all that you give to continuing the ministry of our church.

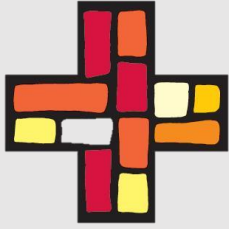
165TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WAS A BLAST! Thank you all for celebrating the 165th Anniversary of our congregation last Sunday! We had a terrific Sunday with excellent music from our bell choir, Cathy Benscotter on violin, and guest musician Amy Adamson on cello. We had 88 people in worship including 18 under the age of 18! We also had a delicious potluck lunch enjoyed by all. A big thank you to the Worship Ministry Team for planning this event and organizing the potluck! Here’s to 165 more years of transformational Christian ministry!

WE ARE INVITED TO ISALIAH’S SUMMIT AND PARTIAL AGENDA REVEAL, OCT. 22. ISALIAH is a coalition of faith communities that organize people of faith in Minnesota around ensuring that our democracy works for all our neighbors. Over the last few months ISALIAH has been building a people’s agenda by holding over 300 one to one conversations about social and environmental justice. On **Sunday, October 22nd from 2:30- 4:30 PM** at Rochester Math and Science Academy (415 16th Street SW) is their “Summit and Partial Agenda Reveal.” Our congregation is invited to hear how these conversations have shaped ISALIAH’s 2024 legislative agenda so far, and to offer our own input as the final agenda is created. This will be a chance to let your voice be heard, along with your neighbors, your community leaders and your elected officials, all who have been invited. **RSVP** by using this QR code. →



ISALIAH is hoping for at least 300 people to be there and help with the final agenda items. Come and share your input or concerns and see what the people in Rochester and surrounding communities have been thinking about. From the late Paul Wellstone, “We all do better when we all do better!”

<u>MONTHLY OFFERING REPORT</u>		<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
September	Estimate of Giving	\$22,495	\$13,782	\$21,463
	Non-Estim. Giving	\$1,470	\$640	\$2,667
	TOTAL	\$23,965	\$14,422	\$24,130
Y-T-D	TOTAL	\$195,114	\$187,684	\$217,170



WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 15, 2023

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902

THIS SUNDAY, October 15, Pastor Shannon Smith’s message is “Forgotten” from the scripture reading Exodus 32:1-14. **COMMUNION** will also be served by intinction. If you prefer, prepackaged Communion elements are available in the Narthex or from an usher.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR - Hey kids! After worship, meet Karmen up front to learn fun songs to sing during worship.

“HOW DID WE GET...?” VIDEO SERIES CONTINUES TODAY - The Congregational Church UCC has teamed up with Dr. Sarah Ruble of Gustavus Adolphus College to produce an educational video series examining the history of important developments and doctrines in the Christian Faith to help us understand them as parts of our history that continue to shape our present. Today we will watch the second video, “How Did We Get the Christology,” together during our adult education hour from 11:15-12:15 following worship. Subsequent videos will be shown on Oct. 22, Nov. 5, Nov. 19, and Dec. 10. All the curriculum materials will be available in printed form on the days of each class. These documents, and the videos themselves, can also be accessed on our website under the “How Did We Get” heading at the top of the page, or at <https://www.congoroch.org/how-did-we-get>.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	10/15	11:15 AM	Adult Ed Video - “How Did We Get...?”
		11:15 AM	Children’s Choir
		-----	NO Confirmation
Tue	10/17	7:30 AM	Men’s Group - Denny’s on S. Broadway
		10:30 AM	Book Group -Hybrid: “Adult Assembly Required”
		2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
		6:30 PM	Cabinet - Hybrid. Please review packet before meeting.
		-----	NO Book Study - Zoom: “5 th Stream of the UCC”
Wed	10/18	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	10/19	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir



FRIENDS - As many of you know, our son Samuel has autism and that Colleen Hoffer is his favorite person. He loves church and connects this place with being loved. Our experience is exceedingly rare for people with autism and their families. This is true for all folks with disabilities: very often it’s just too hard to find a place where they can actually be a welcome part of the community as they are. The most current research tells us that 1 in 32 children born in the United States will be diagnosed as having autism. This number is startling alone, but if we begin to add those who deal with other types of neurodivergence and physical disabilities to that number, we begin to see that our society has a lot of disabled young people. These are people churches need to be serving.

Wayzata Community Church is a UCC congregation that is doing great work in serving the disabled people in their community. On October 5, I spent the day with Rev. Lindy Purdy and the staff that run the Parables Disability Ministry learning about how this ministry was built from the ground up. Ten years ago, they introduced a worship service tailored for disabled people and have slowly built a ministry that honors and nurtures the relationship each person has with God, just as they are, throughout life. Take a look at <https://wayzatacommunitychurch.org/connect/special-needs-ministry/> to see the amazing things they are doing.



I believe that we can also be a community that ministers to and with disabled people. In the coming months, I will continue to explore options of how we might best do this, and I want to invite any of you that might feel called to this service to join me in this exploration. It is through our shared labor that new life is given a chance to be born in this place and I'm excited about the possibility. If you are interested in helping me explore, please contact me at pastorshannon@congoroch.org so we can find a time to talk and dream about the amazing things God is calling us to.

Peace,
Pastor Shannon Smith



TRUNK OR TREAT RETURNS OCTOBER 29 - Plan to join us in welcoming the children of Rochester to Congo Roch for Trunk or Treat on **October 29 after worship**. Our third annual trunk or treat looks to be an exciting time! **What you do:** bring candy, wear a costume, park in the lower lot, and after worship go give candy to the children. This is one of our largest attended community events of the year and always proves to be a fun time. Please plan to stick around to hand out candy. You can also **sign up** at www.congoroch.org/news-events to help plan and execute the event at. Don't forget to invite the kids in your life!

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE is Sunday, November 5. Each year we read aloud the names of friends and members of the church and ring a bell in remembrance of them. The church has a record of members that have died in the past year, but we'd like to give you all the opportunity to submit names of friends, family, or other important people in your life to be read aloud during worship. **Please send the names** of those you'd like us to remember by **Thursday, November 2** to the church office at church@congoroch.org.



THANK OFFERING DINNER TO CELEBRATE STEWARDSHIP ON NOVEMBER 12 - The Stewardship and Benevolence Ministry Team will be hosting a Thank Offering Luncheon following worship on Sunday, November 12. The luncheon is to celebrate our successful stewardship campaign and say thank you to all who have turned in Estimate of Giving cards for 2024. The menu will include roasted pork and chicken sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw and dessert. Gluten free buns will be available. **Please sign up by November 6**, either by adding your name to the poster in the Narthex or online at www.congoroch.org/news-events. We are truly grateful for all that you give to continuing the ministry of our church.

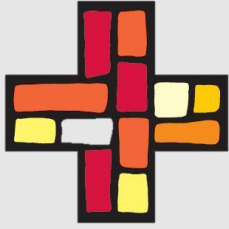
BACKPACKS FOR BEACON - To help out Beacon Academy and their students in need, we are continuing our drive for food and personal care items. They are specifically asking for food and snack items that do not require much preparation such as macaroni and cheese boxes, cans of soup, cereal items, granola bars, and crackers and cheese. Personal care items needed are deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, soap, and feminine hygiene. There will be a large Tupperware bin in the Narthex marked "Backpacks for Beacon" where you can leave your donations each Sunday. Thank you for supporting Beacon Academy and their students in need!



SPECIAL EVENT AT THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY THROUGH OCTOBER 30 - The Justice and Peace Ministry Team invites all to visit the photo gallery recently opened at RPL: **"Testify: Americana Slavery Today."** This exhibit was created by former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice and NFL Hall of Famer Justice Alan Page and his family in 2018 which highlights the family's collection of African American art and artifacts related to slavery and segregation. There is a physical collection, but this version is large-format, high-resolution photos of the art and artifacts. A quote from Justice Page, "Before reconciliation, there must be truth and the truth can be ugly, but we cannot reconcile and move forward if an increasingly louder group of people continue to deflect, minimize and sweep history under the rug." The gallery is traveling between different libraries all throughout the state, and now it's in Rochester.



EMPTY BOWLS - A big "Thank You" to all those who helped their neighbors by participating in Channel One Regional Food Bank's 19th annual Empty Bowls event. In just two days of this year's To-Go version on October 10 and 11, \$81,400 was raised to help Channel One support more than 26,700 monthly household visits to community food shelves in the 14 counties it serves. Thank you!



WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 22, 2023

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



“THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD” - Exodus 33:12-23

There is a moment of great uncertainty in the Exodus story following the people’s idolatrous worship of the golden calf. Until God delivered them the people of Israel were not a people, they were merely a group of oppressed slaves. It was their covenant with God that made them the people of Israel. Now that they had violated that covenant- what would become of them? Would their existence continue? Would God continue to be present with them? Or was this their undoing?

When Moses presses God about who will go with him if he continues leading the people into the promised land, God gives a remarkable promise to them, saying, “My presence will go with you and I will give you rest.” Even though they have broken their covenant in the most flagrant of ways, God promises to remain with them. God’s plan for them, for the world, and for the salvation of all, will not be deterred by the failings of human beings. God will be faithful to God’s promise and purpose always.

We believe that every second of our existence is possible because of God’s faithfulness. It is God’s gracious and free choice to create that sustains the existence of all creation in every moment. More than this, we also believe that God’s promise to be present with God’s people and to give them rest remains valid for us. God does not just sustain our existence, God journeys with us and God is present to us. God guides us into fullness of life and salvation and eventually to eternal rest in God. God remained faithful to this promise with the people of Israel through all their struggles and their failings and their sin. God remains faithful to this promise for us as well. The good news is that despite our many failings, the promise and purpose of God will never be deterred.

Pastor Andrew Greenhaw

CHILDREN’S CHOIR - Hey kids! After worship, meet Karmen up front to learn fun songs to sing during worship.

“HOW DID WE GET...?” VIDEO SERIES CONTINUES TODAY - The Congregational Church UCC has teamed up with Dr. Sarah Ruble of Gustavus Adolphus College to produce an educational video series examining the history of important developments and doctrines in the Christian Faith to help us understand them as parts of our history that continue to shape our present. Today we will watch the third video, “How Did We Get Original Sin,” together during our adult education hour from 11:15-12:15 following worship. Subsequent videos will be shown on Nov. 5, Nov. 19, and Dec. 10. All the curriculum materials will be available in printed form on the days of each class. These documents, and the videos themselves, can also be accessed on our website under the “How Did We Get” heading at the top of the page, or at <https://www.congoroch.org/how-did-we-get>.

IMMIGRATION, BORDER ISSUES & WORK PERMITS - The Justice and Peace Ministry Team and Youth Group invite all adults and older youth to join us **Wednesday evening, November 1 at 7 PM** to hear from Sandy MacLaughlin from UU Church to learn about immigration issues, the border crisis, and what we can do to facilitate their work as legal immigrants.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	10/22	11:15 AM	Adult Ed Video – “How Did We Get...?”
		11:15 AM	Children’s Choir
		11:15 AM	Confirmation
Tue	10/24	2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
		6:30 PM	Book Study - Zoom: “5 th Stream of the UCC”
Wed	10/25	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	10/26	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Fri	10/27	8:00 PM	Youth Group Lock-In

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE – Sarah Struwe will be on vacation November 6-10. Bulletin content and announcements **for Sunday, November 12 are due Thursday, November 2.**



TRUNK OR TREAT RETURNS NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 - Plan to join us in welcoming the children of Rochester to Congo Roch for Trunk or Treat on **October 29 after worship**. Our third annual trunk or treat looks to be an exciting time! **What you do:** bring candy, wear a costume, park in the lower lot, and after worship go give candy to the children. This is one of our largest attended community events of the year and always proves to be a fun time. Please plan to stick around to hand out candy and **sign up** at www.congoroch.org/news-events to help plan and execute the event at. Don't forget to invite the kids in your life!

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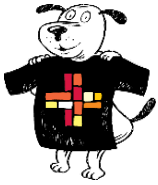


THANKOFFERING DINNER

THANK OFFERING DINNER TO CELEBRATE STEWARDSHIP NOVEMBER 12 - The Stewardship and Benevolence Ministry Team will be hosting a Thank Offering Luncheon following worship on Sunday, November 12. The luncheon is to celebrate our successful stewardship campaign and say thank you to all who have turned in Estimate of Giving cards for 2024. The menu will include roasted pork and chicken sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw and dessert. Gluten free buns will be available. **Please sign up by November 6**, either by adding your name to the poster in the Narthex or online at www.congoroch.org/news-events. We are truly grateful for all that you give to continuing the ministry of our church.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - Respond with Your 2024 Estimate of Giving. Results to date are: 24 responses with \$95,436 generously committed towards our goal of \$325,898. **Please return** your estimate to the church office by **November 26**, so we can achieve our goals and support our 2024 ministry plans. Extra cards can be found in the chair pockets or church office. You can also use the online form on the church website at www.congoroch.org.





YOUTH GROUP SELLING CONGO ROCH MERCH! The Congregational Church's Youth Group will be selling hooded sweatshirts and t-shirts to fundraise for our service-learning trip to Tucson, Arizona in June. You can sign up to order your Congo Roch merch **after worship on Sundays in November** or by emailing an order to church@congoroch.org. Sweatshirts are \$50, T-shirts are \$25 and each are available in sizes small through extra-large. We've worked to create fun styles that you will see and hope you'll enjoy, that you might consider making a purchase. Anything you are able to buy is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!

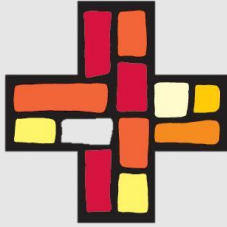
BACKPACKS FOR BEACON - To help out Beacon Academy and their students in need, we are continuing our drive for food and personal care items. They are specifically asking for food and snack items that do not require much preparation such as macaroni and cheese boxes, cans of soup, cereal items, granola bars, and crackers and cheese. Personal care items needed are deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, soap, and feminine hygiene. There will be a large Tupperware bin in the Narthex marked "Backpacks for Beacon" where you can leave your donations each Sunday. Thank you for supporting Beacon Academy and their students in need!



THANK YOU - OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) special offering on Sunday, October 1 totaled **\$1,100**. As you may recall, this special mission of the United Church of Christ supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants that are awarded to UCC churches and organizations that are doing justice work in their communities. Thank you for your generous support!

THANK YOU TO CHANNEL ONE VOLUNTEERS! Many thanks to the 8 people who bravely volunteered their time and energy in the Food Bank last Friday the 13th: Janet Bartz; Ellen Bolterman; LuAnn and John Nicholson; Cheryl and Bob Roediger; Cathy Swessel and David Walters! They assembled, filled and stacked **110 boxes** containing 1,870 items of shelf-stable food **in less than an hour!** These boxes will be joined by boxes of perishable refrigerated items and all will be delivered to three low-income senior living high-rises on October 26. Food Shelf shoppers are welcome to come once a week, but some have difficulty getting there. Those high-rises have partnered with Channel One for a monthly delivery for their qualified residents. This ensures that those who have challenges with transportation receive food at least once a month. For other weeks of the month, those residents can have a proxy come to the Food Shelf and shop for them if they are unable to get there themselves.





WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 29, 2023

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



“THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT” - Matthew 22:34-46

In this week’s text from Matthew, Jesus gives his condensed summary of the Scriptures. He claims that the entirety of the law and the prophets is contained within two great commandments- To love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your mind... and to love your neighbor as yourself. According to Jesus this is the entire point of all scripture; what we are meant to learn from the Word of God is to love God and love our neighbors.

Knowing from Jesus Christ himself that what God wants us to learn, more than anything else, is to love God and Neighbor means that we have a standard by which to judge all our actions as the church. Is our reading of a scriptural text encouraging love of God and neighbor? No? Then we must be reading it wrong, because we know that is what God wants to teach us. Is our worship leading us to greater love of God and neighbor? Do our acts of service, mercy, and generosity increase our love for God and neighbor? All of our ministry has these two commandments as their goal- we work to increase our love for God and neighbor.

As we worship together this Sunday, try to pay attention to what stirs love for God and neighbor in yourself. Is it the child earnestly and intently lighting the altar candles? Is it a turn phrase in a hymn or in a psalm that strikes you? Is it hearing about God’s love for us in the sermon or feeling the presence of Christ in communion? This Sunday, and all the Sundays to follow, let us remember the aim of our worship and let us open ourselves to the possibility that each moment of worship may be a means of deepening our love for God and neighbor.

Pastor Andrew Greenhaw



TRUNK OR TREAT TODAY! Immediately following Sunday worship, we will set up Trunk or Treat for the public to arrive at 11:30 AM. The event will include trunks with loads of candy, lawn games, grilled hot dogs, and bounce house! Everyone is encouraged to decorate your cars, wear costumes and get into the spirit as we have a fun morning serving the children of Rochester.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR - Hey kids! After worship and before Trunk-or-Treat, meet Karmen up front to learn fun songs to sing during worship.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	10/29	11:15 AM	Children’s Choir
		11:30 AM	Trunk-or-Treat
Tue	10/31	2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
		-----	NO Book Study - Zoom: “5 th Stream of the UCC”
Wed	11/1	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
		7:00 PM	Presentation: Immigration, Border Issues & Work Permits
Thu	11/2	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		2:00 PM	Worship Ministry Team - Zoom
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE – Sarah Struwe will be on vacation November 6-10. Bulletin content and announcements **for Sunday, November 12 are due Thursday, November 2.**

FALL BACK! Daylight Saving Time ends November 5 – remember to turn your clocks back!

PRESENTATION: Immigration, Border Issues & Work Permits - The Justice and Peace Ministry Team and the Youth Group invite all adults and older youth to join us **Wednesday evening, November 1 at 7 PM** to hear from Sandy MacLaughlin from UU Church to learn about immigration issues, the border crisis, and what we can do to facilitate their work as legal immigrants.

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE is next Sunday, November 5. Each year we read aloud the names of friends and members of the church and ring a bell in remembrance of them. The church has a record of members that have died in the past year, but we'd like to give you all the opportunity to submit names of friends, family, or other important people in your life to be read aloud during worship. **Please send the names** of those you'd like us to remember by **Thursday, November 2** to the church office at church@congoroch.org.



“HOW DID WE GET...?” VIDEO SERIES resumes next Sunday, November 5. We will watch the fourth video, “How Did We Get Judaism and Christianity?” during our adult education hour from 11:15-12:15 following worship. Subsequent videos will be shown on Nov. 19 and Dec. 10. All the curriculum materials will be available in printed form on the days of each class. These documents, and the videos themselves, can also be accessed on our website under the “How Did We Get” heading at the top of the page, or at <https://www.congoroch.org/how-did-we-get>.



CHANNEL ONE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Our next group volunteer session at Channel One Regional Food Bank is a different day and time than usual, **Monday, November 6, at 5-7 PM**, and we need you! Our group usually re-packs bulk foods into smaller packages for distribution throughout the Channel One network or packs food boxes for the CSFP or the high-rise delivery programs.

Volunteers must be at least 13 years old. We work hard but have fun too!

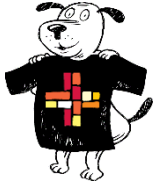
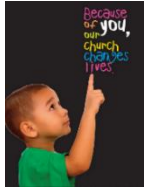
Signing up to volunteer must be done via our unique page on the Channel One volunteer site at https://corfb.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=823703. Please click on the “Respond” button to begin. Every volunteer needs to have a sign-in account, which can be created the first time you sign-up. During account creation, you will also electronically sign a waiver and view a 5-minute civil rights video. Once your account is created, you can complete the sign-up.

In December we revert to our usual day and time, **Friday December 8, 9:00 - 11:00 AM**, which is also available on our sign-up page. For more information, please contact Cheryl Roediger at cnroediger@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!



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WINTER CHURCH LIFE DEADLINE- Articles and upcoming events for **Winter Church Life** (December-February) are due to Sarah at church@congoroch.org by **Monday, November 20**.

BOOK GROUP meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 10:30 AM at church, plus a Zoom option for those who wish to join us from home. Book selection for **November 21** is "The Undocumented Americans" by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio and is available in the church office.

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