

WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 5, 2023

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.' - Matthew 5:5

Our world doesn't leave much space for grief. Grief is treated as a private thing, that we only show publicly for a few days after death until the funeral is over. It's not enough. Since COVID, how we gather in those few days after death has really changed. Funerals have gotten much smaller than they were before. Often, we don't have a funeral for weeks or months after the death, fundamentally changing how and when we grieve communally. Grief isn't fun, no one enjoys going to a funeral but it's part of the human experience and we are not meant to grieve alone.

It's because of these changes, that I value our All Saints Service so much. One of the things Church gets to do is to be a blessing to those who mourn. We don't hide from grief, rather we acknowledge it and offer comfort. This Sunday, we will say the names of those in our community who have died this year and honor our grief, remembering our ultimate hope in Jesus who defeated death and calls us to him in eternity.

See you Sunday!
Pastor Shannon Smith

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

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	11/5	11:15 AM	Adult Ed Video - "How Did We Get...?"
		11:15 AM	Confirmation
Mon	11/6	5-7 PM	Channel One Volunteer Day
Tue	11/7	10:00 AM	Men's Group - at church ← NOTE: time & location change
		2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
		7:00 PM	Stewardship & Benevolence Ministry Team
Wed	11/8	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	11/9	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir

Out of the Office: Sarah Struwe will be on vacation Nov. 6-10.

"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 fourth video, "How Did We Get to a distinction between Judaism and Christianity," together during our adult education hour from 11:15-12:15 following worship. Subsequent videos will be shown on Nov. 19 and Dec. 10. Copies of the curriculum materials will be available 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" at the top of the page, or at <https://www.congoroch.org/how-did-we-get>.



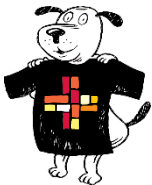
THANK OFFERING DINNER TO CELEBRATE STEWARDSHIP NOVEMBER 12 - Today is the last day to sign up, either by adding your name to the poster in the Narthex or online at www.congoroch.org/news-events. Hosted by the Stewardship and Benevolence Ministry Team, the luncheon is to celebrate our successful stewardship 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. 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: 45 responses with \$187,956 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.



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.



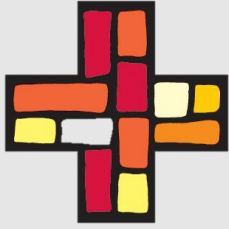
YOUTH GROUP SELLING CONGO ROCH MERCH! Youth Group are now taking orders for hooded sweatshirts (\$50) and t-shirts (\$25) to fundraise for their service trip to Tucson, Arizona in June. Available in men's and women's sizes S-XL, you can view the designs and **sign up after worship** or email your order to church@congoroch.org. We've worked to create fun styles that we hope you'll enjoy and anything you are able to purchase is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!

SUMMER TRIP TO TUCSON! We are excited to be travelling to Tucson, AZ June 9-15 for a service/learning trip centered around immigration issues. **Middle schoolers and UP are welcome on this trip and we hope you will consider joining us.** Join Pastor Shannon and the Youth Group in the Chapel for a **planning meeting on Wednesday, November 29 at 6:30 PM**. You can learn more about the organization hosting the week at www.betheneighbor.org. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Shannon.

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 is a bin in the Narthex where you can leave your donations each Sunday. Thank you for supporting Beacon Academy's students in need!



<u>MONTHLY OFFERING REPORT</u>		<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
October	Estimate of Giving	\$12,060	\$21,091	\$21,463
	Non-Estim. Giving	\$2,352	\$795	\$2,667
	TOTAL	\$14,412	\$21,886	\$24,130
Y-T-D	TOTAL	\$209,526	\$209,570	\$241,300



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November 12, 2023

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



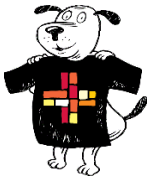
FOLLOWING WORSHIP, JOIN US FOR A THANK OFFERING DINNER. Hosted by the Stewardship and Benevolence Ministry Team, the luncheon is to celebrate our successful stewardship campaign and say thank you to all who have turned in Estimate of Giving cards for 2024. The menu includes roasted pork and chicken sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw and dessert.

Gluten free buns will be available. We are truly grateful for all that you give to continuing the ministry of our church!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	11/12	11:15 AM	Confirmation Thank Offering Dinner
Tue	11/14	2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
Wed	11/15	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	11/16	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir

“HOW DID WE GET...?” VIDEO SERIES resumes next Sunday, November 19. We will watch the fifth video, “How Did We Get Justification by Faith?” during our adult education hour from 11:15-12:15 following worship. The last video will be shown on December 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>.



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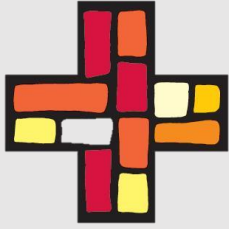
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WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 19, 2023

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

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“DESTINED FOR VICTORY” - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

I admit that I've been a little weary and worn down by the news of the world lately. With Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine and the terrible violence in Israel and the Gaza Strip, it's easy to feel like humanity is careening towards our own self-destruction.

In times of gloom and doom such as these, it is worth taking a look at what our Christian faith says about the world's end. Christianity proclaims that there is indeed a beginning and end to the world. What's more the beginning and the end are the same, the Alpha

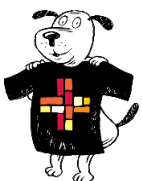
is the Omega, we come from God and to God we return. The Apostle Paul states it this way when reminding the church at Thessalonica of their ultimate destiny, “For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” God's purpose and goal for us is salvation- our end is in the love of God.

There is sometimes a concern that holding a “pie-in-the-sky” belief in the afterlife keeps us from engaging in the present and struggling for peace and justice in the here and now. In my experience, the opposite has been true. The good news that our destiny is in the hands of a loving God working for our salvation is what helps me to break through the despair and disappointment that so easily befall us. Trusting that God is working for our ultimate good and salvation are what provide the hope, faith, and love necessary to engage in the present, to really work for God's kingdom in spite of all that works against it. So if the news has you down, take heart in the knowledge that the end is still in God's hands and allow your faith in the ultimate triumph of God's love to inspire your actions today. With faith in God we can, in the words of Paul, “encourage one another and build up each other” for the facing of this hour. Amen.

Pastor Andrew Greenhaw

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

“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 fifth video, “How Did We Get Justification by Faith?” during our adult education hour from 11:15-12:15 following worship. The last video will be shown on December 10. Copies of the curriculum will be available 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” at the top of the page, or at <https://www.congoroch.org/how-did-we-get>.



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CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	11/19	11:15 AM	Adult Ed Video - "How Did We Get...?"
		11:15 AM	Confirmation
Mon	11/20	9:00 AM	Winter Church Life deadline
Tue	11/21	10:00 AM	Men's Group - at church
		10:30 AM	Book Group -Hybrid: "The Undocumented Americans"
		12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
		6:30 PM	Cabinet - Hybrid. Please review packet before meeting.
Wed	11/22	-----	NO Bell Choir & NO Youth Group
Thu	11/23	-----	Office Closed, NO Chancel Choir
Fri	11/24	-----	Office Closed

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THE BELL CHOIR WILL BE RINGING at "The Wonder of the Nativity" event on **Saturday, December 2 from 4:00-5:00 PM** at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 2300 Viola Road NE. This is a wonderful event where you can view beautiful nativity sets, have delicious treats and to hear the Bell Choir ring and it's all FREE!! Come and enjoy!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - Respond with Your 2024 Estimate of Giving. Results to date are: 56 responses with \$210,136 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.



THANK YOU - The Stewardship and Benevolence Ministry Team we would like to thank everyone that joined us for the Thank Offering Dinner on November 12th. It was nice to share a meal and celebrate our successful stewardship campaign.

THANK YOU TO CHANNEL ONE VOLUNTEERS! Many thanks to the 11 people who made up the crew for our group volunteer session on November 6: Janet Bartz; Ellen Bolterman; Pat Espeset; John and LuAnn Nicholson; Lauren Nickels; Bob and Cheryl Roediger; Maren Unterholzner; David Walters and Mark Young!

We repackaged two huge containers of O-shaped oat cereal into **631 bags containing one pound each**, assembled boxes and placed 8 filled bags in each box, for a total of one bag shy of 79 full boxes! These boxes will be added to Channel One Food Bank's inventory. Some will be used locally at Channel One's Food Shelf; others will be available for the participating agencies in the 14 counties served by the Food Bank.



Our next group session in the Food Bank is **Friday December 8 from 9-11 AM**. Sign up on our unique Channel 1 page at https://corfb.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=823703

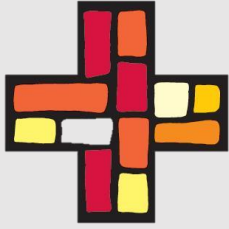


WOMEN'S SHELTER COLLECTION DURING ADVENT - This Advent season we will be collecting for the Women's Shelter and Support Center, who provides temporary shelter and services to abused women, individuals and families while transforming our communities through education and leadership for social change. Their vision is for women, individuals, and families to have the freedom and dignity to live safely in our communities. As we remember and celebrate the birth of Christ, let us be a blessing to the people at the Women's Shelter. There will be a collection box in the Narthex where you can leave donations over the Advent season to be donated at Christmas.

<p>Christmas Wish List (New, Unwrapped) Gifts for teenage boys are especially needed this year Infant and Toddler toys Multicultural Barbies & clothes Multicultural dolls & doll toys Trucks, Matchbox/Hot Wheels Legos/Duplos, Lincoln Logs Teen Makeup kits Educational toys Jewelry making kits</p> <p>Children's Program Size 5 Diapers and Wipes Baby Monitors Sippy Cups Bottles and Brushes Baby wash, shampoo, and lotion Infant and Toddler toys</p>	<p>Ongoing Needs & General Donations (New, Unwrapped) Socks Women's pajamas Children's pajamas Baby Wipes, Pull-ups (size 3-4T, 5-6T) Towels-Bath, hand, wash cloths Twin size sheets and blankets, new pillows Brooms and dustpans, cleaning supplies Kleenex, toilet paper, napkins Paper towels, garbage bags Eco friendly plates, bowls microwaveable and cutlery New Pots & Pans, Kitchen Utensils Small Appliances (Coffee pots, mixers, can openers) Full size bottles of shampoo and conditioner Gift cards: Visa, Target, Walmart, Hy-Vee, Kwik Trip Adult color/activity books & colored pencils School Supplies Kids Activities gift cards i.e. Movie passes, Bowling, Bounce House, Dairy Queen, McDonalds, Pizza, Arcade</p>
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November 26, 2023

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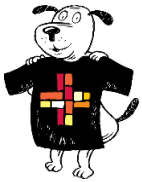
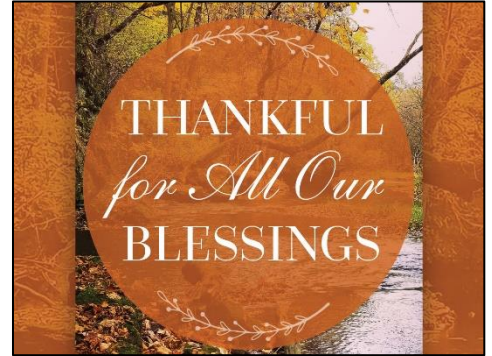
United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902

THIS SUNDAY, November 26, Pastor Shannon Smith's message is "Serving Christ" from the scripture reading Matthew 25:31-46.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	11/26	-----	NO Confirmation
Tue	11/28	2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
Wed	11/29	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Service Trip Meeting & Youth Group
Thu	11/30	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Sat	12/2	4-5 PM	Bell Choir at "The Wonder of the Nativity"



YOUTH GROUP SELLING CONGO ROCH MERCH! Youth Group are now taking orders for hooded sweatshirts (\$50) and t-shirts (\$25) to fundraise for their service trip to Tucson, Arizona in June. Available in men's and women's sizes S-XL, you can view the designs and **sign up after worship** or email your order to church@congoroch.org. We've worked to create fun styles that we hope you'll enjoy and anything you are able to purchase is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support!

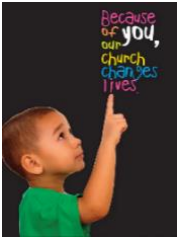
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CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY- On Sunday, December 17, a Christmas play will be presented during the worship service. Anyone - of any age - who wants to participate in this year's reenactment of the birth of Jesus is welcome! All participants in the play are asked to come for **play practice with Pastor Andrew on Sundays, December 3 and December 10 at 9:15 AM.**



"HOW DID WE GET...?" VIDEO SERIES resumes Sunday, December 10. We will watch the last video, "How Did We Get to Theological Liberals and Conservatives?" during our adult education hour from 11:15-12:15 following worship. All the curriculum materials will be available in printed form on each class day. These documents, and the videos themselves, can also be accessed on our website under the "How Did We Get" at the top of the page, or at <https://www.congoroch.org/how-did-we-get>.



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN - Respond with Your 2024 Estimate of Giving. Results to date are: 58 responses with \$213,336 generously committed towards our goal of \$325,898. **Please return** your estimate to the church office by **TODAY, 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.

MEN'S GROUP met and decided to meet **monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 10:00 AM** (Dec. 5) at church for coffee and doughnuts; and on the **3rd Tuesday at 7:30 AM** (Dec. 19) for breakfast at Denny's North (286 17th Ave. NW). Please join us!



WOMEN'S SHELTER COLLECTION DURING ADVENT - This Advent season we will be collecting for the Women's Shelter and Support Center, who provides temporary shelter and services to abused women, individuals and families while transforming our communities through education and leadership for social change. Their vision is for women, individuals, and families to have the freedom and dignity to live safely in our communities. As we remember and celebrate the birth of Christ, let us be a blessing to the people at the Women's Shelter. **Deadline is Sunday, December 10** so that donations can be distributed before Christmas – please find the collection box in the Narthex.

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