

December 3, 2023

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**United Church of Christ** 

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



# THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

In the season of Advent, we hear a lot about God's grand plans for the future; specifically, we hear about the return of Jesus Christ, what Paul in our reading from Corinthians refers to as "the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ." This revealing of Jesus Christ upon his return is described with all sorts of beautiful imagery: a new heaven and new earth, the end of all injustice and unrighteousness, and the defeat of death. While this imagery is meant to be comforting it can also be somewhat anxiety producing. Are we ready for this change? Will we be prepared to be a part of it? Will we be able to welcome the coming of the kingdom as good news?

In his first letter to the Corinthians Paul begins by giving thanks for the grace that God has given to the members of the church at Corinth. This grace has greatly enriched the congregation, strengthening their testimony, and providing them with every spiritual gift that they need. It is God who has called us to a life of faith and God who has provided for us all that we need to live it out.

When we look to the future coming of God's kingdom, we should remember that God is faithful. The God who called us into this life of faith will provide for us all that we need to meet every moment. We can be confident that we will have all we need to participate in the coming of God's kingdom, for it was our faithful God who called us to this task. Hear it once in Paul's words, "He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." The good news of Advent is not only hope in God's coming kingdom, but also our trust in God's promise that we will be made ready to welcome this kingdom and participate in its fullness. May we all find reason to hope in the faithfulness of our God.

Rev. Andrew Greenhaw

**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	12/3	9:15 AM	Christmas Play practice
		11:15 AM	Confirmation
Tue	12/5	10:00 AM	Men's Group - church
		12:30 PM	Worship Team - Zoom
		2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
Wed	12/6	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	12/7	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
Fri	12/8	9-11 AM	Channel One Volunteer Day



CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE BEGINS - 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 <a href="https://www.congoroch.org/how-did-we-get">https://www.congoroch.org/how-did-we-get</a>.

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

**CONGO ROCH RECEIVES GRANT FROM MN CONFERENCE!** We are excited to share that we have been approved to receive a \$1,000 grant to begin our disability ministry in 2024. This money will be used to pay for supplies to make our worship services more accessible, para professionals to provide childcare and for educational opportunities for the congregation as we seek to welcome more disabled people into the full life of our church. If you are interested in pitching in with this new ministry, please contact pastorshannon@congoroch.org.



**CHANNEL ONE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Our next group volunteer session at Channel One Regional Food Bank is **Friday, December 8, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM,** and we need you!!! We usually re-pack bulk foods into smaller packages for distribution throughout the Channel One network or pack 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 <a href="https://corfb.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need\_id=823703">https://corfb.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need\_id=823703</a>. Click on the "Respond" button to begin. Every volunteer must 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 <a href="mailto:cnroediger@gmail.com">cnroediger@gmail.com</a>. Hope to see you there!



**WOMEN'S SHELTER COLLECTION THRU DECEMBER 10** - 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.

<u>Christmas Wish List</u> (new & unwrapped): Gifts for teenage boys; infant and toddler toys; multicultural Barbies, dolls & toys; trucks and matchbox cars; Legos/Duplo's; Lincoln Logs; teen makeup kits; educational toys; jewelry making kits. <u>Ongoing Needs & General Donations</u> (new & unwrapped): socks, women's and children's pajamas; baby wipes; diapers (size 5) and pull-ups (size 3-4T, 5-6T); bath and hand towels, wash cloths; twin size sheets and blankets; new pillows; Kleenex, toilet paper, napkins, paper towels; eco-friendly plates, bowls and cutlery; new pots, pans, kitchen utensils; full size bottles of shampoo and conditioner; adult color/activity books & colored pencils; school supplies; gift cards (Visa, Target, Walmart, Hy-Vee, Kwik Trip); kids activities gift cards (movie passes, bowling, bounce house, arcade, pizza, Dairy Queen, McDonalds).



**ADVENT FESTIVAL FOR ALL AGES - Join us on Sunday, December 17** for worship full of Christmas cheer followed by our annual Advent celebration for all ages. Following worship we will **decorate Christmas cookies, make ornaments,** and celebrate the incredible gift of Immanuel - God with us.

**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 **December 19** is "The Lost Apothecary" by Penner and is available in the church office.



**BLUE CHRISTMAS** - The Christmas season is often a time for joyful celebration with family and friends. As joyous as the season is, it can also be a time of deep grief and pain. We do not always feel happy at Christmas and it can be hard to find time to be honest about our struggles during this joyful season. Our Blue Christmas worship is a time for us to honor where we are and to give voice to our struggles. Our **Blue Christmas worship will be on Thursday, December 21 at 6:00 PM** in the sanctuary.

The service will be livestreamed on Facebook and our website.



#### 2 SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

**10 AM** - Join us for an upbeat and spirited worship service as we sing carols and celebrate the gift of Jesus. Plan to stay after for fellowship time with coffee and treats.

**6 PM** - Join us in the evening for a traditional service with music, carols, and hearing the story of the birth of Christ. The service will include an impromptu pageant, beautiful music, the preached Word and candlelight singing of Silent Night.

<b>MONTHLY</b>	OFFERING REPORT	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	<u>2023 Budget</u>
November	<b>Estimate of Giving</b>	\$24,655	\$18,816	\$21,463
	Non-Estim. Giving	\$2,750	\$1,805	\$2,667
	TOTAL	\$27,405	\$20,621	\$24,130
Y-T-D	TOTAL	\$236,931	\$230,191	\$265,430

**YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS DUE BY DECEMBER 31** - Thank you to all who contributed to the support of our church in 2023 through estimates of giving and special offerings. If you would like your giving and gifts recorded for the year 2023, they must be received via Sunday offering, PayPal or mail delivery by **Sunday, December 31.** 

SEE BACK PAGE FOR INFO ON TUCSON SERVICE RETREAT JUNE 9-15! Sign-ups are needed by January 7.

# Se The NEYGHBOR

## **TUCSON TRIP INFORMATION**

June 9-15, 2023 BeTheNeighbor.org

We will be flying to Phoenix on Sunday, June 9 and returning on Saturday, June 15. The curriculum will cover Monday through Friday morning. Friday day and night will be spent exploring Tucson. Pastors Andrew and Shannon will both be attending. All who have completed 8th grade and older are welcome to participate.

We will stay at a host church in Tucson, 60 miles from the border. We will sleep on the floor of the church with breakfast and lunch provided. Each night we will cook and eat together.

Curriculum of the week includes daily Bible to frame our day with a variety of activities including a desert walk, direct service with local non-profits, and learning from immigrants about their experience. This is a non-partisan trip, but we will be learning about the causes of the current immigration crisis in the world. We ask that before the trip every attendee participate in immigration education offered during Sunday School hour sometime during the spring.

The Church has a healthy scholarship fund and good support from the wider congregation.

As such, please do not let cost prohibit you from participating.

Be the Neighbor Camp Cost \$385 Flight on Southwest \$306

TOTAL \$691 per person

## Mark your calendars for upcoming fundraisers.

A future email with sign-ups will be sent from the church office.

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast - March 24
Shareholders - sell stock, dinner and presentation upon return
Parent's Night Out/Childcare – Saturday, Feb. 10 and Saturday, April 20
Hire youth to Easter Bunny a yard
Snow removal help - maybe a Saturday and clear out stuff
May Baskets on May 1
Flocking with flamingos - early May
Early spring clean-up help - April/May

## FINAL SIGN UPS NEEDED BY JANUARY 7, 2024

It's going to be a great trip! Please email <a href="mailto:pastorshannon@congoroch.org">pastorshannon@congoroch.org</a> to save your spot and get on the trip email list. Once we have final numbers in January, we will meet as a group to fine tune details. If you have more questions, get in touch with Pastor Shannon.



December 10, 2023

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**United Church of Christ** 

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**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT IS PEACE** - Pastor Shannon Smith's message is "Good News" from the scripture reading Mark 1:1-8, plus the Bell Choir with joyous carols ringing.

## **CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sun	12/10	11:15 AM	Adult Ed Video - "How Did We Get?"
		11:15 AM	Confirmation
Mon	12/11	6:30 PM	Governance Task Force
Tue	12/12	2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
Wed	12/13	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	12/14	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir



"HOW DID WE GET...?" VIDEO SERIES CONCLUDES TODAY – We will watch the last video from Dr. Sarah Ruble, "How Did We Get to Theological Liberals and Conservatives?" during our adult education hour from 11:15-12:15 following worship. Copies of the curriculum materials will be available. You can also find these documents and all the videos on our website under the "How Did We Get" at the top of the page, or at <a href="https://www.congoroch.org/how-did-we-get">https://www.congoroch.org/how-did-we-get</a>.



**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17** - During worship, our youth will have their **Christmas play** and re-enact the birth of Jesus. Following worship there will be an **Advent Festival** for all ages as we decorate Christmas cookies, make ornaments, and celebrate the incredible gift of Immanuel - God with us.



**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 **December 19** is "The Lost Apothecary" by Penner and is available in the church office.



**BLUE CHRISTMAS** - The Christmas season is often a time for joyful celebration with family and friends. As joyous as the season is, it can also be a time of deep grief and pain. We do not always feel happy at Christmas and it can be hard to find time to be honest about our struggles during this joyful season. Our Blue Christmas worship is a time for us to honor where we are and to give voice to our struggles. Our **Blue Christmas worship will be on Thursday, December 21 at 6:00 PM** in the

sanctuary. The service will be livestreamed on Facebook and our website.



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**10 AM -** Join us for an upbeat and spirited worship service as we sing carols and celebrate the gift of Jesus. Plan to stay after for fellowship time with coffee and treats.

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**SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS AT THE LANDING -** We've been thinking and talking about homelessness in Rochester, now we have an opportunity to serve! We will be serving a provided meal at The Landing on **Wednesday**, **January 10 and Thursday**, **January 18 from** 

**4:30 – 7:00 PM**. Please use the SignUp Genius link on our events page: <a href="www.congoroch.org/news-events">www.congoroch.org/news-events</a>. Due to space constraints, a maximum of 6 can sign up for each evening. If you are unable to serve, but would like to in the future, please contact <a href="maximum.org">pastorshannon@congoroch.org</a>.

**SAVE THE DATE: Snow Tubing at Steeplechase** on Saturday, January 20

DATE CHANGE: Soup and Salad Potluck (advertised for Feb. 18) has been rescheduled to Sunday, February 25



## **TUCSON TRIP INFORMATION**

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Curriculum of the week includes daily Bible to frame our day with a variety of activities including a desert walk, direct service with local non-profits, and learning from immigrants about their experience. This is a non-partisan trip, but we will be learning about the causes of the current immigration crisis in the world. We ask that before the trip every attendee participate in immigration education offered during Sunday School hour sometime during the spring.

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December 17, 2023

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## **JOY CHOSE YOU**

by Donna Ashworth

Joy does not arrive with a fanfare, on a red carpet strewn with the flowers of a perfect life. Joy sneaks in, as you pour a cup of coffee, watching the sun hit your favorite tree, just right. And you usher joy away, because you are not ready for it. Your house is not as it must be, for such a distinguished guest. But joy cares nothing for your messy home, or your bank-balance, or your waistline, you see. Joy is supposed to slither through the cracks of your imperfect life, that's how joy works. You cannot truly invite her, you can only be ready when she appears. And hug her with meaning, because in this very moment, joy chose you.





During worship, our youth will have their **Christmas play** and re-enact the birth of Jesus.

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

Following worship there will be an **Advent Festival** for all ages as we decorate Christmas cookies, make ornaments, and celebrate the incredible gift of Immanuel - God with us.

CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS BAKERS! We are planning to have home-baked goodies for Coffee Hour following the morning worship service on Christmas Eve. If you would like to contribute some cookies or bars, you can drop them off this Sunday or this coming week during Sarah's office hours (Tues, Thur, and Fri. from 9-3) and we will freeze them. OR you can bring them to church on Christmas Eve morning about 30 minutes or earlier before the service so that we can place the goodies on trays.

- Nurture Team

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	12/17	11:00 AM	Advent Festival
		11:15 AM	Confirmation
Tue	12/19	7:30 AM	Men's Group – at Denny's North
		10:30 AM	Book Group -Hybrid: "The Lost Apothecary" by Penner
		2:00 PM	Bible Study – Zoom
		6:30 PM	Cabinet - in person. Please review packet before meeting.
Wed	12/20	12:00 PM	Early Bulletin Deadline for Dec. 24 & Dec. 31
			NO Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	12/21	6:00 PM	Blue Christmas service
			NO Chancel Choir



BAUE CHRISTMAS - The Christmas season is often a time for joyful celebration with family and friends. As joyous as the season is, it can also be a time of deep grief and pain. We do not always feel happy at Christmas and it can be hard to find time to be honest about our struggles during this joyful season. Our Blue Christmas worship is a time for us to honor where we are and to give voice to our struggles. Our Blue Christmas worship will be on Thursday, December 21 at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. The service

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A SPECIAL OFFERING TO THE CHRISTMAS FUND for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund will be collected **Sunday**, **December 24**. This fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. In 2022, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 218 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,042,726)
- Health benefits supplementation for 86 retired clergy and lay employees (\$181,389)
- Emergency grants for 55 individuals and families (\$138,022)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 479 retired clergy and lay employees (\$278,500)

Please give generously as you are able (be sure to write Christmas Fund in the memo of your check or your PayPal contribution).

#### STAFF ON VACATION AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE:

Pastors Shannon and Andrew: December 25 - January 7

Sarah Struwe: December 25 - January 1

## In case of pastoral emergency:

contact Rev. Dick Eick at 651-385-7844 **Bulletin Deadline:** Dec. 20 for Dec. 24 & 31

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## **MINISTRY TEAMS & COMMITTEES:**

Annual Reports are due to the office by Wednesday, January 3, 2024



**SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS AT THE LANDING** - We've been thinking and talking about homelessness in Rochester, now we have an opportunity to serve! We will be serving a provided meal at The Landing on **Wednesday, January 10 and Thursday, January 18 from 4:30 – 7:00 PM**. Please use the SignUp Genius link on our events page: <a href="https://www.congoroch.org/news-events">www.congoroch.org/news-events</a>. Due to space

constraints, a maximum of 6 can sign up for each evening. If you are unable to serve, but would like to in the future, please contact <a href="mailto:pastorshannon@congoroch.org">pastorshannon@congoroch.org</a>.

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

Presentation on Proposed ByLaws

Snow Tubing at Steeplechase Saturday, January 20 Soup and Salad Potluck

Sunday, January 14 & 21 S.

Now Sunday, February 25

**SIGNUPS ARE NEEDED BY JANUARY 7 for the Tucson service retreat on June 9-15.** For more information, please see previous weekly announcements or Sunday worship bulletin.

**BEWARE PHISHING EMAILS** - Many of you have received emails claiming to be from one of our pastors asking for gift cards or cash assistance that are fake. If you ever receive such an email, we encourage you to ignore it or call the pastors to check. You will never be asked to give money or gift cards by email.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR WOMEN'S SHELTER DONATIONS -** This picture does not indicate the numerous and many items so greatly donated because they are packed, bagged, and ready for pickup! Your generous donations will make a difference to the lives of women, men and children, our sisters and brothers, at this very difficult time. Thank you for your gifts given in the spirit of Christmas!





**THANK YOU TO CHANNEL ONE VOLUNTEERS!** Many thanks to the 10 people who made up the crew for our group volunteer session on December 8: Janet Bartz; Ellen Bolterman; Vicki Couch; Annie Kramer; John and LuAnn Nicholson; Bob and Cheryl Roediger; Cathy Swessel (not pictured); and David Walters.

We put twelve cans, each containing 16 ounces of refried beans, onto trays, put a label on each can and put the completed trays, weighing 13.5 pounds each, on storage

pallets. In an hour and 15 minutes we processed **1,992 cans on 166 trays, totaling 2,241 pounds!** These trays 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**, **January 12 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**. You must use our unique page on the Channel One volunteer site at <a href="https://corfb.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need\_id=823703">https://corfb.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need\_id=823703</a>. Come join us!

**THANK YOU** for the generous check I received from The Congregational Church after speaking to the youth on November 1 about Hawthorne Helps and Asylum Seekers. I am happily donating the money to the Asylum Family that our church friends and others are trying to help.



- Sandy MacLaughlin



December 24, 2023

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ 974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



## A SAVIOR NOT BORN OF MEN

The last few months I've been reading the Chronicles of Narnia to my daughter Ruth at bedtime. There is a moment in the final book of the series, "The Last Battle," when the characters are describing the magic of a particular stable. When you enter this small stable, the inside becomes an entirely different world; you're standing outside with a blue sky above you and a whole world all around you. Somehow the inside of the stable is bigger than the outside of the stable. On hearing this comment, one of the characters, Lucy, says, "Yes, in our

world too, a stable once held something inside it that was bigger than our whole world."

We tell the story of this stable each year on Christmas Eve; how in the time of Caesar Augustus the very Word of God was born as a human infant and laid in a manger in Bethlehem. The Word who was in the beginning with God, and was God, and through whom all things were created, including that stable in Bethlehem, chose to be born as a human child inside that very stable.

Apart from it being a neat little paradox, why do we tell this strange story every year? Why do we believe that it is good news? In this season, as the sun sets earlier and earlier, we are especially aware of the darkness in the world. In this season we are reminded of the darkness of our human nature by the violence that surrounds Bethlehem at this very moment. In a world where darkness feels ubiquitous, trusting that the source of all light and life, love itself, chooses to be with us is a revolutionary thing. Knowing that God chooses to be with and for humanity, chooses to journey with us and share our common lot is a comfort beyond any other. It is the source of our hope, our peace, our joy, and our love. What happened in that stable has given us reason to trust that light ever shines in our darkness and that the love which triumphs over all has chosen to dwell among us. May we cherish and celebrate that good news this Christmas.

- Rev. Andrew Greenhaw

**MORNING SERVICE AT 10 AM** will be upbeat and spirited worship as we sing carols and celebrate the gift of Jesus. Plan to stay after for fellowship time with coffee and treats.

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - Join us in the evening at 6:00 PM** for a traditional service with music, carols, and hearing the story of Christ's birth. The service will include an impromptu pageant, beautiful music from our choirs, the preached Word and candlelight singing of Silent Night.



A SPECIAL OFFERING TO THE CHRISTMAS FUND will be collected today for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. This fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each

December to our lower-income retirees. In 2022, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

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Please give generously as you are able (be sure to write Christmas Fund in the memo of your check or your PayPal contribution).

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun	12/24	6:00 PM Christmas Eve service	
			NO Confirmation
Tue	12/26		NO Bible Study
Wed	12/27		NO Bell Choir, NO Youth Group
Thu	12/28		NO Chancel Choir

## STAFF ON VACATION

Pastors Shannon and Andrew: December 25 - January 7. Sarah Struwe: December 25 - January 1.

There will be NO Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group or Bible Study during this time.

In case of pastoral emergency contact Rev. Dick Eick at 651-385-7844.

Dec. 31 Guest: Sana DelCorazon, UTS student and MN Conference member in discernment.

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SAVE THE DATE				
Presentation on	Snow Tubing	Annual	Soup and Salad	
Proposed ByLaws	at Steeplechase	Meeting	Potluck	
Sunday, Jan. 14 & 21	Saturday, Jan. 20	Sunday, Jan. 28	Sunday, Feb. 25	

**BOOK GROUP selection for Wednesday, January 16** is "The Girl with the Louding Voice" by Abi Dare and is available in the church office.



# December 31, 2023

## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902

**WELCOME OUR GUEST, Sana DelCorazon,** student at United Theological Seminary and MN Conference member in discernment. Her message is titled "Even Jesus Changed" based on the scripture from Matthew 15:21-28.

**PASTORS SHANNON AND ANDREW ARE ON VACATION THRU JANUARY 7.** There will be NO Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group or Bible Study during this time. In case of pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Dick Eick at 651-385-7844.

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Mon	1/1		Office Closed
Tue	1/2	10:00 AM	Men's Group - church
			NO Bible Study - Zoom
Wed	1/3	12:00 PM	Annual Reports due
		5:15 PM	Bell Choir
			NO Youth Group
Thu	1/4	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir

**SIGN UPS FOR TUCSON TRIP NEEDED JANUARY 7 -** Email <u>pastorshannon@congoroch.org</u> to save your spot on the June 9-15 trip and get on the group email list. See flyer in Narthex for more information.



**SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS AT THE LANDING -** We've been thinking and talking about homelessness in Rochester, now we have an opportunity to serve! We will be serving a provided meal at The Landing on **Wednesday**, **January 10 and Thursday**, **January 18 from 4:30 – 7:00 PM**.

Please use the SignUp Genius link on our events page: <a href="www.congoroch.org/news-events">www.congoroch.org/news-events</a>. Due to space constraints, a maximum of 6 can sign up for each evening. If you are unable to serve, but would like to in the future, please contact <a href="maximum.org">pastorshannon@congoroch.org</a>.

**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 **January 16** is "The Girl with the Louding Voice" by Abi Dare and is available in the church office.



**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED NEW BY-LAWS** - New things are happening! In an effort to make our organization better reflect our current size and increase ease of participation, we are considering new By-Laws. Please plan to stay after worship on **Sunday, January 14 and 21** to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE				
Presentation on	Snow Tubing	Annual	Soup and Salad	
<b>Proposed ByLaws</b>	at Steeplechase	Meeting	Potluck	
Sunday, Jan. 14 & 21	Saturday, Jan. 20	Sunday, Jan. 28	Sunday, Feb. 25	