

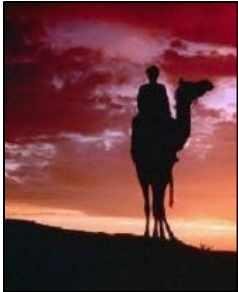
WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 7, 2024

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



WELCOME OUR GUEST MINISTER, Rev. Dick Eick. The scripture is Matthew 2:1-12 and he will share the epiphany story of “The Other Wise Man.”

Pastors Shannon and Andrew are on vacation thru January 7 and there will be **NO Sunday School or Confirmation today.** In case of pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Dick Eick at 651-385-7844.

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.

SIGN UPS FOR TUCSON TRIP ARE DUE TODAY - Email pastorshannon@congoroch.org to save your spot on the June 9-15 trip and get on the group email list. See flyer in Narthex for more information.

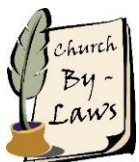
CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Tue	1/9	12:30 PM	Worship Ministry Team - Zoom
		2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
Wed	1/10	4:30 PM	Serve Meal at The Landing - all slots are full!
		5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	1/11	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		-----	NO Chancel Choir
Fri	1/12	9-11 AM	Channel One Volunteer Day



CHANNEL ONE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Our first 2024 group volunteer session at Channel One Regional Food Bank is **Friday, January 12, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.** We’d love to have you join in! 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.

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. If this is the first time you have volunteered, you will need to create a sign-in account first. During account creation, you will 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. For more information, please contact Cheryl Roediger at cnroediger@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!



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.

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.



SNOW TUBING on Saturday, January 20 – ALL AGES are invited to have some winter fun! We will **meet at the church at 9:25 AM and carpool** to Steeplechase at 59468 423rd Ave., Mazeppa from 10:00 AM to Noon. No charge to participate. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Shannon.

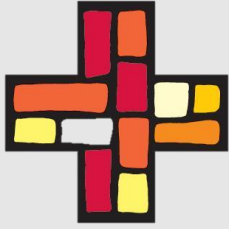
MONTHLY OFFERING REPORT		<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
December	Estimate of Giving	\$29,970	\$32,454	\$21,463
	Non-Estim. Giving	\$6,670	\$11,190	\$2,667
	TOTAL	\$36,640	\$43,644	\$24,130
Y-T-D	TOTAL	\$273,571	\$273,835	\$289,560

SAVE THE DATE

Presentation on Proposed ByLaws	Annual Meeting	Mardi Gras Service	Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday, Jan. 14 & 21	Sunday, Jan. 28	Sunday, Feb. 11	Feb. 14 at 6 PM

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!





WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 14, 2024

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



“MOVED BY THE WORD”

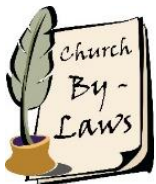
1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

I was at The Landing this week serving dinner with a group of folks from our church. I hadn't been to The Landing in a while and it was great to be there and have the opportunity to be of service to our neighbors struggling with homelessness. I had a moment to think about what brought me back there, and it was an easy answer: it was Katie Lawrence. You see a few weeks ago, Shannon preached a sermon about viewing our neighbors in need with compassion and Katie didn't just hear and agree, she followed up. She met with Shannon and they came up with the plan to have the church start taking volunteer shifts serving dinner at The Landing. And a little over a month later, there I was serving dinner and making plans with Katie for scheduling more dates to serve.

This Sunday we will hear the story of Samuel responding to God's call. We're told at the beginning of the story that the Word of God was rare in those days and visions were not widespread. Apparently, it was so rare that even Eli the priest and his young assistant Samuel were caught off guard when the Word of God spoke to them. When God said "Samuel, Samuel," Samuel just figured it was Eli and went to him. Eli, bewildered, just tells Samuel to go back to bed. The same thing happens twice more, before it dawns on Eli that it might be God calling Samuel. The last time God calls, Samuel responds, "Speak for your servant is listening." Thus begins the career of Samuel as a prophet of God, the one to anoint the great King David, and inaugurate the line that would lead to the Messiah. In a time when few people even believed in such things, Samuel heard the Word of God and responded, and it led to a great change in the life of God's people.

Hearing a word from God and responding to it, is not something that we think about happening in our everyday lives. Yet that's precisely what we are called to do each Sunday morning. We gather to hear the Word of God and to do our best to respond. Katie Lawrence heard a call in Shannon's sermon, and she took the bold step of responding to it. Because she did, six of us gave our Wednesday evening to make sure the hungry in our community had food. Because she did, our congregation has a new spark, and a new avenue for serving God's people. I hope that you will join us some evening at The Landing and I pray that each of us will listen for God's word this Sunday and find a way to respond ourselves.

Pastor Andrew Greenhaw



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 today or next Sunday, January 21** to learn more.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Tue	1/16	7:30 AM	Men's Group – Denny's North
		10:30 AM	Book Group
		2:00 PM	Bible Study – Zoom
		6:30 PM	Cabinet – hybrid. Please review packet before meeting.
Wed	1/17	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	1/18	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		4:30 PM	Serve Meal at The Landing – all slots are full!
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Sat	1/20	9:25 AM	Snow Tubing: meet at church, carpool to Steeplechase

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.



SNOW TUBING on Saturday, January 20 – ALL AGES are invited to have some winter fun! We will **meet at the church at 9:25 AM and carpool** to Steeplechase at 59468 423rd Ave., Mazeppa from 10:00 AM to Noon. No charge to participate. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Shannon.



THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on Sunday, January 28 at 11:00 AM. The purpose of this Annual Meeting will be to consider and vote on a one-year trial of the proposed new governance structure, present updates from various church task forces and our 2024 stewardship campaign, approve our slate of officers, and approve our church budget for 2024.

Materials to review for this meeting, including the 2023 Annual Report and proposed 2024 budget, will be available by January 21 via eblast, link on our church website, or paper copy to pick up at church.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CHRISTMAS FUND for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. Through your generosity, **\$2,230** was received for this special fund. Over 100 years ago the Pension Boards of the UCC created the Christmas Fund to help support clergy and lay church workers in retirement and during times of emergent need. The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship. Thank you for joining with others in the UCC to make the light shine in the darkness for those who have given so much to the 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 is a bin in the Narthex where you can leave your donations each Sunday. Thank you for supporting Beacon Academy's students in need!



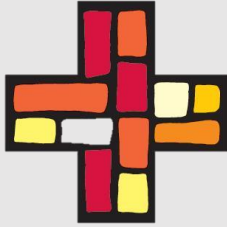
SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 28

Mardi Gras Service
Sunday, Feb. 11

Ash Wednesday Service
Feb. 14 at 6 PM

Soup & Salad Potluck
Sunday, Feb. 25



WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 21, 2024

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

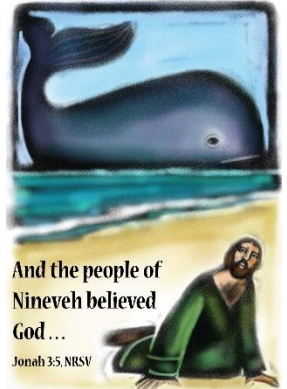
United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902

On Sunday, January 21, Pastor Shannon Smith's message is "Believe" from the scripture reading Jonah 3:1-5, 10. **Communion** will be served by intinction. If you prefer, prepackaged Communion elements are available in the Narthex or from an usher.



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 today** to learn more.



CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Tue	1/23	10:30 AM	Book Group - Hybrid - "The Girl with the Louding Voice"
		2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
Wed	1/24	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	1/25	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir

THE CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING is next Sunday, January 28 at 11 AM, both in-person and Zoom (link will be provided to voting members in a separate email). The purpose of this Annual Meeting will be to approve the 2023 reports, vote on the 2024 slate of officers and church budget, present updates of our 2024 stewardship campaign, and to discuss and approve the proposed governance restructuring.



The 2023 annual report includes all this information and is now available to pick up at church (one per household please), plus a link can be found on our church website homepage. Member Directory is omitted from web version to protect privacy.



SNOW TUBING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED to Saturday, February 3 in hopes of "warmer" weather. Same time and place - meet at church at 9:25 AM and carpool to Steeplechase for snow tubing from 10 AM - Noon. No charge to participate and all ages are invited - mark your calendars and we'll see you then!

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT - Our first fundraiser for this summer's Tucson service-learning trip is coming up! **On Saturday, February 10 from 6 to 9 PM** we will be hosting a parent's night out to raise funds for the trip. For a donation, we will feed the children, play with them and have a movie night. To help us plan, please RSVP by using the SignUp Genius link on our events page: www.congoroch.org/news-events.

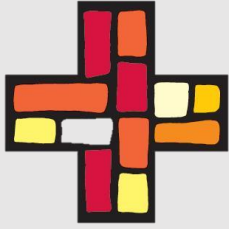


MARDI GRAS SUNDAY on February 11 is a time to celebrate and rejoice before we enter the penitential season of Lent. This service will include a jazz combo and beautiful spirituals sung by the choir. Let us express our joy with great music and worship!

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP on February 14 at 6 PM - This service that begins the Lenten Season will include the imposition of ashes which acknowledges our mortality, along with the celebration of Holy Communion in which we share in the presence of the risen Christ, our hope for eternal life. The juxtaposition of light in the darkness, and life from death make for a beautiful service and a terrific start for our Lenten journey.



ADULT EDUCATION ON IMMIGRATION - Join us on Sunday, February 18 following worship for Adult Education hour with Diane Haines from the MN Conference who will address immigration issues: from border issues, humanitarian aid, legal aid and rights, detention facilities, indigenous rights on the borders, ecological impacts of the wall, and the current immigration environment. Hope to see you in the Parlor after worship!



WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 28, 2024

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



“THE PROVISION OF GOD”

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

As Moses speaks the commandments of God to the people of Israel in the book of Deuteronomy, he also tells them that God will not leave them after his passing. “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.” This provision for God’s people is an incredible blessing. The people of God are never left completely in the dark about God’s will

for them, in every age people are raised up to proclaim the divine will, to guide the Church.

The words of God spoken through the prophets throughout the centuries testified to the coming of the Messiah. In Jesus Christ, our Messiah, God’s Word becomes flesh and dwells among us. God continues to provide for the Church’s life and guidance by Christ’s presence in the Scriptures, in the preached Word, in the gathering of the faithful, and in Holy Communion. And God continues to raise up prophets and teachers in the Church who speak in Christ to faithfully proclaim God’s will to the people.

In the last year we celebrated the 165th anniversary of the founding of our congregation. Over that course of time, God has raised up numerous prophets and teachers to proclaim God’s will in our midst. You have likely come to know some of them. You have heard the words of God spoken through the mouths of children, and elders. You have probably seen God’s will performed by those serving others, worshiping with devotion, and living in love and faithfulness. These siblings in Christ have spoken God’s will to us with their mouths and their actions. They have guided our congregation throughout these last 165 years. As we celebrate another year of ministry at The Congregational Church, let us give thanks for these prophets raised up by God for our wellbeing, and let us pray that we might continue their work and help our congregation to walk in faith for generations to come.

Rev. Andrew Greenhaw



STAY FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING today following worship, both in-person and Zoom. The purpose of this Annual Meeting will be to approve the 2023 reports, vote on the 2024 slate of officers and church budget, present updates of our 2024 stewardship campaign, and to discuss and approve the proposed governance restructuring. **The 2023 annual report includes all this information and is available** to pick up at church (one per household please), plus a link can be found on our church website homepage. Member Directory is omitted from the website version to protect privacy.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Tue	1/30	2:00 PM	Bible Study – Zoom
		4:30 PM	Serve Meal at The Landing
		7:00 PM	Stewardship & Benevolence Team
Wed	1/31	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	2/1	12:00 PM	Bulletin & Announcement info due
		6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Sat	2/3	9:25 AM	Snow Tubing: meet at church, carpool to Steeplechase



SERVE A MEAL TO OUR NEIGHBORS AT THE LANDING – More dates have been added for the opportunity to serve a provided meal at the Landing from **4:30–7:00 PM**: January 30, February 15, March 5, 14, 21, April 4, 11, 19 and 25. Pastor Shannon or Andrew will be there, and 3 more people can sign up for each evening. Please use the SignUp Genius link on our events page: www.congoroch.org/news-events.



SNOW TUBING on Saturday, February 3 – We will meet at church at 9:25 AM and carpool to Steeplechase for snow tubing from 10 AM – Noon. ALL ages are welcome and there is no charge to participate. We'll see you then!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING - As we move toward a different model of organization, many of you might be wondering what our plans are for the ministry with children and youth. **On Sunday, February 4 following worship** Pastor Shannon will present on upcoming programming, share opportunities to pitch in, and take questions. Please come and see all of the good things happening with the youngest in our congregation.



PARENT'S NIGHT OUT - Our first fundraiser for this summer's Tucson service-learning trip is coming up! On **Saturday, February 10 from 6 to 9 PM** we will be hosting a parent's night out to raise funds for the trip. For a donation, we will feed the children, play with them and have a movie night. To help us plan, please RSVP by using the SignUp Genius link on our events page: www.congoroch.org/news-events.



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ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP on February 14 at 6 PM - This service that begins the Lenten Season will include the imposition of ashes which acknowledges our mortality, along with the celebration of Holy Communion in which we share in the presence of the risen Christ, our hope for eternal life. The juxtaposition of light in the darkness, and life from death make for a beautiful service and a terrific start for our Lenten journey.



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SPRING CHURCH LIFE DEADLINE - Articles and upcoming events for Spring Church Life (March-May) are due to Sarah at church@congoroch.org by **Monday, February 19**.

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 **February 20** is “Our Woman in Moscow” by Beatriz Williams and is available in the church office.

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!

