



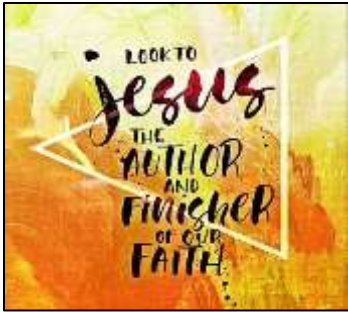
WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 14, 2024

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

974 Skyline Drive SW • Rochester, MN 55902



“JESUS, THE AUTHOR OF LIFE” – Acts 3:12-19

During the season of Easter, the common lectionary replaces the weekly Old Testament lessons with lessons from the book of Acts. So each week in the season of Easter, instead of stories from the Old Testament, we hear the stories of the apostles after the death and resurrection of Jesus. These stories are important for us to hear because they testify to the ongoing power of Jesus Christ, a power still active and present among his followers long after his crucifixion.

When we think of Jesus as merely a historical personality, as an inspiring and human leader, but a purely human one, we don't allow much room for his continuing presence and power in the world. In this week's text from Acts chapter 3, Peter uses an interesting phrase to refer to Jesus: he calls him the Author of Life. This elevated phrase takes Jesus' identity well beyond that of a mere human being, it equates him with the Word of God that creates the world. This expands our thinking about Jesus beyond his earthly life- Jesus, was in the beginning with God, all things came into being through him. If Jesus is the incarnate Word of God, the Author of all life, then surely his presence and power are still active in the world. If the Jesus who loves us and forgives us and calls us to life is also the omnipotent God then we have reason to hope for all things.

In our story from Acts chapter 3, Peter has restored a sick man to health through the name of Jesus. He then tells all those present, that even though they participated in the killing of Jesus, if they repent, they too can be restored to new life. This was true of Peter's audience in first century Jerusalem. If we are willing to enlarge our understanding of the person of Christ, if we can open our minds to the possibility that Jesus is indeed the Word of God, it is true for us as well. The Jesus who wishes to forgive us, and heal us, and walk with us into eternal life, is nothing less than the very Word of God. Thanks be to God for that!

Rev. Andrew Greenhaw

NEW CHURCH SIGN IS HERE!

Our Cabinet approved a design and proposal for a new permanent sign from Schad Tracy that was installed last week. Our previous sign, the white letters on the horizontal brick facing the highway, had deteriorated and needed to be replaced. Due to the barriers along the highway, the sign on the horizontal wall was only partially visible from the highway and we felt that it was important for the new sign to be fully visible. The new sign is placed on the vertical brick wall of the sanctuary, next to the column of poured concrete with the stained-glass crosses, about two-thirds of the way up the wall, making it easily visible from each direction of the highway. The sign itself consists of white letters much like the previous one and will be illuminated by lighting from the ground. The horizontal wall of our previous signage will now be used to hang seasonal banners.



CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Tue	4/16	7:30 AM	Men's Group - Denny's North
		10:30 AM	Book Group - Hybrid
		2:00 PM	Bible Study - Zoom
		6:30 PM	Cabinet - Hybrid
Wed	4/17	5:15 PM	Bell Choir
		6:30 PM	Youth Group
Thu	4/18	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Sat	4/20	6-9 PM	Parent's Night Out

Out of the Office: Sarah Struwe will be on vacation April 15-19.



SHARING IN MINISTRY - Many Hands Make Light Work

Jodi Williamson

We all have unique talents that can be used to serve God, our church and the community. Continuing through the month of April, we are asking everyone to fill out the **Sharing in Ministry survey**. Pick one, two or more areas that use your talents, or maybe you want to try something new! Drop the survey in the box in the Narthex or in the church office. You can also access the survey on our church website, under Outreach. Any questions, please let me know.

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 **April 16** is "Good Eggs" by Hardiman and is available in the church office.

SERVE A MEAL TO OUR NEIGHBORS AT THE LANDING - 2 slots are available to serve at the Landing on **April 19 from 4:30-7:00 PM**. Please use the SignUp Genius link on our events page: www.congoroch.org/news-events.



PARENT'S NIGHT OUT on Saturday, April 20 from 6-9 PM - As a fundraiser for this summer's Tucson service-learning trip, we will be hosting a parent's night out. For a donation, we will feed the children, play with them and have a video game party. To help us plan, please **RSVP by using the SignUp Genius link** on our events page: www.congoroch.org/news-events.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES - We are inviting all friends and visitors to learn more about The Congregational Church UCC, the UCC as a denomination, and how we approach church, theology, and the Bible. 3 classes will be held **after Sunday worship on April 21, April 28 and May 5**. Childcare will be provided.

We will welcome new members into the life of The Congregational Church during worship on **Sunday, May 19 and have a Potluck during Fellowship Time**. If you are interested in joining or know someone who might be, contact pastorandrew@congoroch.org.



UCC ANNUAL EARTH SUMMIT, APRIL 20 - The celebrated writer and activist Bill McKibben will deliver the Jim Antal Keynote Lecture for the UCC's second annual Earth Summit on **Saturday, April 20 at Noon**. This two-and-a-half-hour **online webinar event** will additionally feature a panel of award-winning grassroots leaders who are currently in a David-versus-Goliath struggle against Formosa Plastics, one of the world's largest producers of plastics. If you would like to register to attend, contact Nancy Zaworski at namzr79@gmail.com. As a denomination wide event, the UCC Earth Summit serves as a moment to highlight and lift-up those who have been doing incredible work within our denomination to advance climate justice and will showcase collective efforts to bring about change. A new video will present the uplifting work of our host congregation, the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College. Finally, we will celebrate all of the Climate Hope Fellows, Creation Justice Churches, and green teams across the country who have been making a difference during this past year.



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING - Before and after worship on Sunday, April 21, we will be accepting electronics for recycling in honor of Earth Day 2024. Bring them to church and help keep electronic items out of our landfills! **Items accepted:** Anything with a cord or a battery. (Donations not required however, freewill donations accepted for any monitors)

BEING ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE AND OUR URBAN FOREST - Join us **Sunday, April 21** immediately after worship in the Parlor for a discussion of our Urban Forest and all that it has to offer for our environmental outreach as well as for our spiritual development. This will mirror the Sunday School students' visit to the Urban Forest during Sunday School.

CHANNEL ONE APRIL VOLUNTEER DATE CHANGE - Channel One has had to change our April volunteer date to **Friday, April 26, 9:00 - 11:00 AM**. This is the same day and time as usual, just two weeks later. Please consider joining us by signing up at our unique page on the Channel One volunteer site, accessible at www.congoroch.org/news-events. If you have questions, contact Cheryl Roediger.

ROCHESTER PRIDE SIGN UP: All are invited to sign up to represent our congregation at our booth at Rochester Pride on **Saturday, May 18 from Noon to 5:00 PM** (with set up and take down before and after). Sign-up using the link on our events page: www.congoroch.org/news-events. Shifts are 1 hour long but feel free to sign up for as many slots as you wish. This is a very family friendly event so children and youth are welcome also in the booth! We are considering t-shirts so sign up right away! If you have any questions, email Nancy at namzr79@gmail.com.