

Announcements



Prayer List: The Family of Nancy Cihlar, Rhonda Silence, The Family of Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, The Carter Family, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Congo Ukraine, Sudan, Isreal/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

At home and Care Center: Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, and Tom Hedstrom.

Measure of our Faithfulness:

The First Congregational UCC has yet to adopt a 2024 budget, but will at the annual meeting on January, 28 2024.

This week, budget donations and income for this year are about \$9,000.00

-Kevin R. LeVoir, Treasurer

Notice of 2024 Annual Meeting: We will hold our annual Meeting on January 28, 2024 following the 10:30 AM worship service at First Congregational Church.

This Week at the Church

Sunday, January 14

9:30 – Choir Practice

10:30 AM – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, this is the first parable that Jesus tells in the Gospels and his ministry. It's a story about planting seeds and, depending on the soil/hearer/person/community, how they flourish or die. How many seeds are we sowing, and what kind of soil is our church to grow the seeds of love?

Fellowship to Follow

2:00 PM – Worship at the Care Center

Monday, January 15

11:00 AM - Spring Forest Qigong

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons
Al-Anon is taking a break until March

Tuesday, January 16

12:00 PM - Clergy Cluster

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons
5:00 PM - Board of Directors Meeting
7:00 PM – Exploring the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 17

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons
5:00 PM - Worship Committee
6:00 PM - Confirmation

Thursday, January 18

10:00 AM – Tai Chi
12:00 PM – Women's AA
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

Friday, January 19

7:00 AM – AA

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

7:30 PM - AA

5:30 PM – Potluck and Worship: Friday night service. Many of our younger families, and others, have talked about how Sunday is the only day for them to relax, especially when they live far from Grand Marais. We will be trying a supper and worship on this evening starting at 5:30 pm.

7:30 PM – AA

Saturday, January 20

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons

10:30 AM – Surely Discipleship Group

3:00 PM - 10:00 PM - AA

Sunday, January 21

9:30 AM – Choir Practice

10:30 AM – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus in his travels goes across the Sea of Galilee to preach and heal to the Gentile (non-Jewish) people. He finds a man possessed, who is shackled and kept away from everybody else. He returns this man to himself healthy and whole. The people who are used to blaming him for all that is wrong, now have a hard time accepting that he can change.

Fellowship to Follow.

Peace in Israel-Palestine

Overview of January 9th gathering:

About 12 people gathered in their common concern about what is happening in the Middle East. We decided after discussions and breaking up into groups to pursue three areas:

Education

One Part:

Reading List of books, articles, essays, podcasts to help our community understand what is happening.

Central Website/Google Drive accessible to all in our community

2nd Part:

- Bring in Speakers and Host Video Series to look at four areas. Refugee Crisis
- Learn Different Cultural Perspectives (including about antisemitism and islamophobia)
- Look at the Politics of the world and governments shaping this conflict
- Historical Story of how we got here.

Fundraising

Sharing through churches, finding and creating a list of reputable organizations who are doing the best at helping the refugees.

Political Action

Post Card Event – on the 16th, we will gather to create postcards to send to our elected officials calling for an immediate cease fire.

Create Resolutions to bring the political party caucuses in February

Create Petitions calling for an immediate cease fire.

Rally for Cease Fire. (and against Antisemitism and Islamophobia)

Next Meeting

We will gather back at the First Congregational, 300 2nd Street West, in the Fellowship Hall on Jan. 16, Tuesday at 7:00 pm to work on the Post Card Event and work on the other goals as well. Anyone is invited to come participate and share their voice. You can also join us on [Zoom](#) at:

Meeting ID: 896 5849 5406

Passcode: 450113

Peace