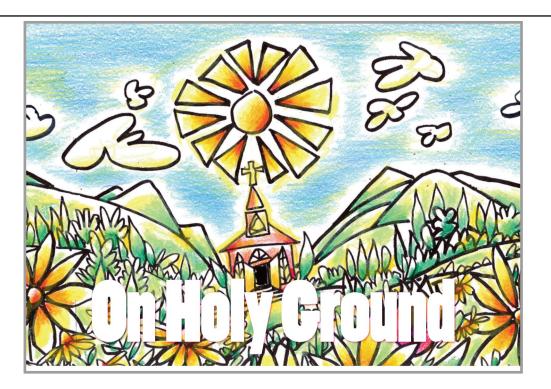
# First Congregational United Church of Christ



PO Box 95 300 West Second Street Grand Marais, MN 55604 Rev. Enno Limvere, Settled Pastor

# The Shining Light-May 2023

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE	2
PASTOR'S MESSAGE/PRAYER OF MONTH	3-4
BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE	4
MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES	5-6
TREASURER'S REPORT-MISSION STATEMENT	7
EVENTS	8-14
SEASONS OF OUR LIVES	15
APRIL CALENDAR	16



#### May Worship

Worship is at 10:30AM in person and on Zoom

### Worship for May

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**, we are in the early days of the church after Jesus has risen and ascended into heaven. The apostles and followers of Christ were growing into what it meant to believe and love their neighbor. They still considered themselves part of the Jewish faith, but some leaders of the Temple, the synagogues, and Sanhedrin were trying to figure out who they were. Stephen, who are called to help make sure there was a fair distribution of resources was brought up on heretical charges and became the first martyr of our faith. But as he was being killed, he reacted with love, not anger. Does this have anything to teach us today in our divided society?

**May 14<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter,** in early days of Christianity, Paul was part of a small sect of Judaism that was a very small part of all the religions in the world. The Roman Empire was based upon polytheism, you could worship your gods as long as you could set up the Roman gods in your communities as well. Paul, when in Athens, uses this to his advantage to lift up the unknown god, who is the Creator God. In our day and age, we have many versions of who God is and how God operates in our country and around the world. What do we really know about God?

**May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter,** to get ready for the day of Pentecost, we hear about the ascension of Christ into the heavens and then the angels who tell the disciples to stop staring at the sky and get busy. So they focused on prayer until the Spirit blew through them. We are very good in this church with meetings, social justice action, and fellowship; but are we being fed with prayer enough to do all of this with the Spirit and with love? We will be doing anointing during this service as well.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday,** it is the day when the Spirit blew through Jerusalem and rested on the disciples so they could share the gospel and began to proclaim, "God is Still Speaking!" Many call this the Birthday of the Church. Let us celebrate this day of being the church, the body of Christ, and siblings in the struggle for peace and justice.

#### PASTOR MESSAGE

We are in the season of Easter, the season of resurrection and new beginnings. The early church struggled with lots of fear, anxiety, and not knowing what to do or how to do it, because in a lot of ways, "They have never done it that way before." But they kept making the small decisions not to go backwards, but to continue to take a step forward, day by day, and year by year.

In our world's journey, there are many who are trying to go backwards to when they were comfortable and they were 'supposedly' in charge. This happens in the church as well. Whether it is nostalgia, focusing on the Biblical, or trying to do the same things done 50 years ago or longer. There are many who are denying the future whether it is global climate change or the acceptance of minorities or the creating a true equality amongst all the people. Some of our church practices have helped support injustice, inequality, and the harming of the planet. As we move forward, we have to make decisions on whether we are going to move forward or try to go backward to when we were in charge (or so we thought).

This church became a Just Peace church in 1987 as a commitment to move forward and step lively. We followed up with becoming Open & Affirming in 2016. With our Rooted and Rising group, we are making strides to deal with Global Climate Change. In the creation of a new Mission Statement, we are signaling, "Forward Ho!".

As we move forward, let us also seek discernment of our mission, theology, and actions that we are not protecting our privilege or using our privilege to keep others from the table or protecting ourselves. May we seek the Spirit that blows through us so we may attentively, courageously, and compassionately to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

Peace,

Pastor Enno

Stripping the Church on Maundy Thursday and resurrection on Easter.





#### PRAYER FOR THE MONTH OF May

Amazing and Merciful God, we give you thanks and praise for abundant life and daily miracles. As our youth grow in completing another year of education, help us grow in our faith. As the trees and flowers grow and mature, help us to grow and mature in our love. Watch over our neighbors across the lake and across the globe. May the peace that passes all understanding enter into our hearts and may we share it. In Jesus' name we pray, who with you and the Holy Spirit, reign eternally. Amen.

#### A Message From a Board Member

#### TWENTY YEARS AND COUNTING

Twenty years ago Barb and I moved to Grand Marais, up the Gunflint Trail on Hungry Jack Lake. We have lived in our home for the longest time either Barb or I have lived in one home in our lives. We live in a place that values community and strives to preserve the natural beauty. We are blessed with God's creation. Every morning when we enter our living space and look out the window we say thank you.

We are also blessed to be in a church community that we truly love. We have made lifetime friendships that we will always value. Our church is progressive and lives out our faith in the community. Our faith beliefs have been strengthened through open non-judgmental discussions. We have been inspired by our pastor who is sharing his wisdom years with us. Our congregation is loving and active in the life of the church. That is why are so happy here.

I tell this story in hopes that it helps you to know us better and will inspire you to also share your story. Peace, John Bottger

#### First Congregational United Church of Christ Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 18, 2023 on Zoom

Board of Directors 4/18/23

Present: Pastor Enno Limvere, Tom Yuhasey, John

Bottger, Kevin LeVoir, Jenny Delfs, Bruce

Tyler, Carol Winter

Unable to attend: Carol Bennett

WE BEGIN TOGETHER

I. Meeting was called to order by TY at 5:05 pm

II. Mission statement was read by TY.

III. Joys and concerns were shared.

IV. Pastor Enno asked a 'question of the month.'

V. Communication agreement was read by TY.

WE ATTEND TO IMMEDIATE AND URGENT BUSINESS/ HOUSEKEEPING

VI. Minutes from March were approved previously.

VII. April agenda was approved as amended. Motion by JD, second by KL.

VIII. Financial report was given by KL. Highlights include that this year to date income has exceeded expenses, the endowment is slowly making some recovery as the market improves, the only 'extra' expenses have been newspaper advertising for staff. Many thanks to those who volunteer at 1st & 2nd and direct their dollars to the church. And thanks to all the other cheerful and generous givers. Report was accepted. Motion by CW, second by JB.

IX. Newsletter note for May will be written by JB. Deadline is roughly 4/24/23.

X. May meeting will be 5pm on 5/23/23. The summer congregational meeting will be following service on Sunday, June 25.

WE ATTEND TO OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

XI. Pastor's report was given. Highlights include a) youth group overnight 4/28, b) Enno will attend festival of homiletics in May, c) he will officiate a wedding in May d) he will attend chaplain training in Buffalo, MN (paid for by sheriff's office) and e) the Earth Day Fair is this coming weekend. Also, f) we still need an office administrator (volunteers can help with some of the tasks) g) we are looking for more people to attend the MN annual conference June 9-10 at St. Benedict's, and h) a choir from Iowa will be staying at the church June 9-11 (they will assist in worship at church and  $_{5}$ at the Care Center).



XII. Mutual Ministry Goals were reviewed. a) Mission statement: looks ready to go after further discussion this past Sunday b) Community building: Two potlucks have occurred in the past week. Perhaps there will be treats after service in May? c) Outreach: There are people giving information about community activities during announcements. The next two Sundays will be covered by JD and JB.

XIII. BOD members were surveyed regarding continued service on the board.

XIV. We are prepared to sign the lease for the childcare center when Hunter gets licensed by the state. The attorney has asked that both parties meet with him to review the document at the time of signing. Many thanks to Pastor Enno and KL for putting so much time and effort into this endeavor.

#### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

XV. Church Life brief reports/updates

a. Pastoral Relations: continues to meet regularly

b. Finance Committee – weekly updates to congregation re actual/ budget status

c. Stewardship Committee – Time and Talent Survey Status-under review

d. Children and Youth life/faith formation - Fundraising Events for Summer Trip (\$1200 raised to date)

e. Memorial Committee: KL will forward the names of those who donated for Bob Carter's memorial so the committee can send thank you's f. Building and Grounds Team – JB reported on a good visit by one architect firm and their proposal for the church building is expected, but has not arrived yet. One or two others have responded to RFP. Many thanks to the Buildings and Grounds team for all the work they are doing on this big and important project.

g. Outreach – WOW, collaborations with Arrowhead Indivisible, Climate meeting, Refugee Resettlement, Food Shelf. Compost bins are on order. Rooted and Rising - BT reported that book discussion is done, rain garden work days will resume in May, and on the raised garden beds

h. Worship Committee – meeting monthly – seeking another member

i. Standing Grievance Committee: Delfs, Mattice, Bennett – has not needed to meet

j. Food Team has done a fine job with potluck and memorial service for Bob Carter

XV WE END TOGETHER and adjourned at 6:27pm Respectfully submitted

Carol Winter 4/19/23

#### **Treasurer's Report for May 2023 Newsletter**

The March 2023 (latest fully available information) Financial Report shows a total income of \$17,512.00 and expenses of \$14,196.06 (See Detail Below). This means the Church's expenses were less than income by \$3315.94.

Income for March 20						
Pledged Donations	\$	5,109.62				
Non-Pledged Donations	\$	2,510.00				
Loose Plate Offering	\$	293.00				
Building Use	\$	457.00				
Bob Carter Memorial	\$	150.00				
Pass Through Donations (Pride)	\$	1,265.00				
Syrian Relief	\$	60.00				
Profit Sharing First and Second	\$	7,663.00				
Youth Fund Offering	\$	-				
Interest Income	\$	4.38				
	\$17,512.00					
Expenses for March 2023						
Pastor	\$	6,823.03				
Staff	\$	910.71				
Business	\$	1,103.67				
Worship	\$	632.26				
Education	\$	65.00				
Building and Grounds	\$	1,612.54				
Parsonage	\$	472.29				
UCC Support (OCWM, Per						
Capita, OGHS, Syrian Relief)	\$	2,148.68				
Thanksgiving Dinner Expense	\$	173.82				
Loan Principle	\$	254.06				
	\$:	14,196.06				
Difference	\$	3,315.94				



#### Notes from the Rooted and Rising Climate Action Group

The Rooted and Rising Rain Garden Project meeting on May 1 will meet in person at First Congregational Church in Grand Marais, and also on <u>Zoom</u>, 6-7 p.m. for an organizational meeting and to view a Climate Change Mitigation video.

The meeting, previously announced for 5 p.m. at the Library Rain Garden, will not be practical; the weather is expected to still be cool and wet and the area will not yet be dried out enough to be workable.

On the agenda will be deciding what days to work on our projects, discussion of additional rain garden rehab projects, and ways to invite other community members to join us in these projects.

The main project will be to prepare and maintain the Library rain garden for the season and what to do about the rain garden in front of the Gunflint Trail sign. Additional items may include rehabbing the rain garden in front of the Log Cabin at the Community Center or other rain gardens in town needing care. Recruiting other interested gardeners will be essential if we are to branch out to take on other gardens. Invite your friends and neighbors to attend this meeting.

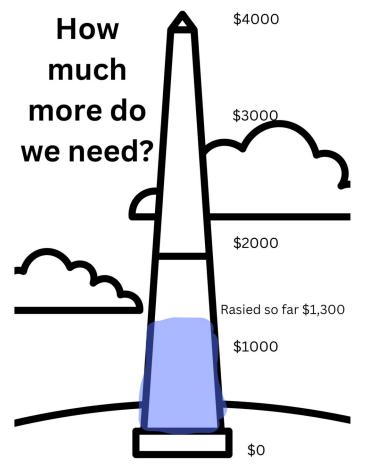
#### Washington D.C. Youth Trip

MJ Wharton

In July 2023, the Grand Marais United Church of Christ (UCC) will send 3 local youth and 3 adults to participate in a youth advocacy trip to Washington D.C. This trip is hosted by the Minnesota and North Dakota UCC's. The youth attending are involved with the Grand Marais UCC 7 -12th grade youth group, called Pizza and Social Justice (PASJ).

This year, the PASJ group has focused on learning about different Social Justice movements and connecting socially motivated youth in our community. So far this year, we've met with many community leaders such as Ann Russ about the Environmental movement and Denny Fitzpatrick on community organizing.

On July 2023 Washington D.C. advocacy trip, participants will meet with state legislators to address issues that are important to youth, a few being the



treatment of the environment and environmental justice, and school safety. This trip is an opportunity for our local community youth to have a real impact, connect with youth from around the region, see the nation's capital, and learn how to go about making change.

Community members are invited to contribute to this opportunity by "purchasing a share of the trip" for \$50, and in return will attend a dinner and presentation hosted by the attending youth and adults. You can purchase a share and support our youth by going to the Grand Marais UCC website and visiting the Washington D.C. trip page.<u>https://www.grandmaraisucc.org/store/share-of-</u> <u>washington-dc-trip</u>

#### Minnesota Annual Meeting & Delegate

Mi Ju Co RE Wo

Protecting God's Gift of Creation – Psalm 24:1

Minnesota Conference 61st Annual Meeting June 9-10, 2023 College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, with a

College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, with an online option

#### REGISTER

We acknowledge the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University occupies the original homelands of the Dakhóta and

Anishinaabe peoples. We honor, respect, and acknowledge the Indigenous peoples forcibly removed from this territory, whose connection remains today.

The Minnesota Conference will gather in June, building on the hybrid model we inaugurated last year of virtual and in-person workshops, meetings, and worship. We seek to engage our youth and young families, our local congregations, our state, and the Spirit to participate in protecting and renewing the Earth, which is God's and the fullness thereof.

The sacred gift of creation entrusted to us by God is being destroyed. As we imagine and live into the church of the 21st century, let us remember, "The earth is God's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1) Let us come, as children of this sacred creation and the enduring body of Christ, as we are being called forward with the charge of protecting God's gift of creation.

We know that the work of conservation and eco-justice is a familiar one to many of us, while others have struggled to find traction or see any other way forward. Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Michael Malcom, ordained in the United Church of Christ and founder and executive director of the People's Justice Council in Birmingham, Alabama. He will share how he created an unparalleled opportunity for faith communities throughout Alabama to unite and raise their voice against environmental racism, economic oppression, environmental injustice, and climate change.

In addition, we will create space for your efforts to be uplifted as well. If you have a "Green Team" or lay leadership at your church who wants to share or learn from what other churches are doing, look out for our online workshop earlier that week. Plus, many other workshops will return in-person this year.

#### Open Position:

#### Office Administrator

First Congregation, UCC, Grand Marais, is seeking a part-time (hours 8-12 a week) office administrator. This position manages the church office and supports ministry and mission of our church. Main duties are weekly bulletin and electronic news, working with website, communications, and monthly newsletter. Maintaining office files, calendar, and office are also a part of the job. There is flexibility of work hours and some may be done from home. Send resume and three references to: First Congregational Church PO Box 095, Grand Marais, MN 55604-0095.

Location: First Congregational Church, UCC, Grand Marais, MN <u>Work Schedule</u>: 8 - 12 hours weekly; actual schedule to be determined <u>Pay Rate</u>: Starting at \$20.00/hour

# This position manages the church office and supports the day-to-day ministry and mission of First Congregational Church United Church of Christ. **Duties include those associated with an office setting**:

- Answering phones and greeting visitors
- Procuring and maintaining office supplies
- Creating content, proofreading, copying, collating, mailing
- Composing and sending electronic communications (MailChimp)

Maintaining a calendar of church/pastor activities

#### Duties also include those specific to First Congregational Church UCC:

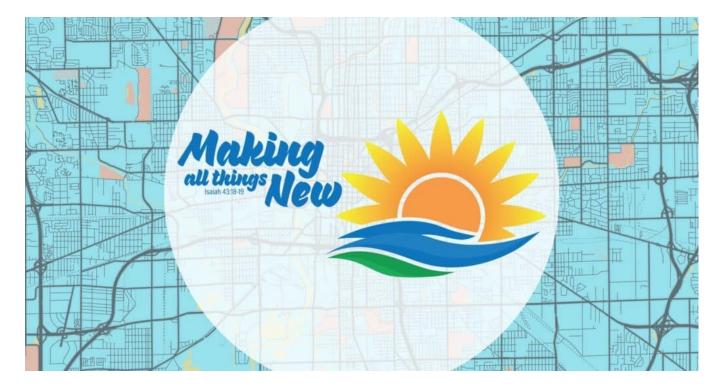
- Maintaining/entering/editing data in "Realm" (church specific software)
- Picking up mail and maintaining filing system (digital and paper).
- Maintaining/creating content for/updating church's website (Square Space)
- Providing support and feedback to the pastor on various aspects of church communications and concerns
- Providing a listening presence in a welcoming, hospitable atmosphere for members and visitors
- Having an awareness of the needs of the congregation and providing necessary support

Keeping the physical space organized and inviting

#### **Accountability**

- The pastor is the immediate supervisor.
- There will be a yearly review of responsibilities, goals, and wage increases.

Office Administrator is asked to give 4 weeks written notice for resignation and will be given 4 weeks written notice in case of job termination unless fired for cause.



By the numbers: Educational Intensives kick off General Synod business June 30

#### by Connie Larkman | published on Apr 24, 2023

Going to General Synod in June? Now's the time to start thinking about how to make the most of the United Church of Christ's biennial gathering.

The <u>agenda at a glance</u> is posted on the <u>General Synod website</u>. Setup time in the <u>Exhibit Hall</u> is slated for Thursday, June 29, so more than **50 vendors** and national and affiliated ministries can to move in and get their space organized. Doors open to visitors Friday, June 30 at noon.

Immediately after, the business of Synod begins. The **677 delegates** representing the denomination's **36 Conferences** start their work on Friday with Educational Intensives at 12:30 pm.

"All intensives will take place at the same time," said the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Synod administrator, noting that the sessions will be in-person and not available for viewing as was the case during the 2021 virtual event. "The resolutions that will have intensives have already been decided by the committee on disposition. Delegates assigned to committees will be required to attend the intensive related to their committee."

14 intensives for 15 resolutions

**Fifteen of the 17 proposed resolutions** coming before Synod have the one-hour educational session scheduled. Delegates are randomly pre-assigned to a committee by the registration system.

On the schedule

After educational intensives, opening worship is scheduled for Friday at 2:30 p.m. Jamar Doyle, the president and CEO of the UCC <u>Council for Health and</u>

Human Service Ministries, will preach.

The gavel comes down on the Opening Plenary immediately following worship.

Synod organizers note that while worship and plenary sessions will be livestreamed — as in years' past — General Synod 34 is not a hybrid event. Like educational intensives, **30 workshops** will be in-person, available to attendees during two time blocks on the afternoon of Saturday, July 1. Look for a list of topics and presenters in mid-May. Over the first four days, between committee work and business sessions there are <u>20</u> <u>optional dining events scheduled</u>, beginning with the <u>Join the</u> <u>Movement</u> fundraiser, "How to Raise Anti-Racist Children," featuring esteemed

author and activist Ibram Kendi. The complete list and ways to register can be found here.

Costs, hotels and parking

Speaking of registration: online <u>Synod registration</u> will continue for most of May. The **cost for delegates, exhibitors and visitors is \$300**, which includes a \$25 Wi-Fi fee. Fees are reduced for youth, seminarians and volunteers. More information <u>can be found here</u>.

Hotel reservations are available through the Visit Indy Housing Bureau. Once registered, visitors will receive a link to contracted hotels and be able to reserve rooms at a discounted rate through the housing bureau. Organizers urge planning ahead since there will be an overlapping convention of the Church of God in Christ at the Indianapolis Convention Center, starting July 3.

A parking package, offered in Indianapolis by <u>Gate 10 Events</u>, will give UCC visitors nearby **parking for \$110 for a six-day pass, \$128 for the week**. The package includes shuttle service and in-and-out privileges. The link to reserve space and prepay is coming soon to the Synod website.

More information on child care, children's programming and a free concert and festival hosted by the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Sunday evening is coming soon.





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## Strengthen the Church

#### Rev. John Dorhauer

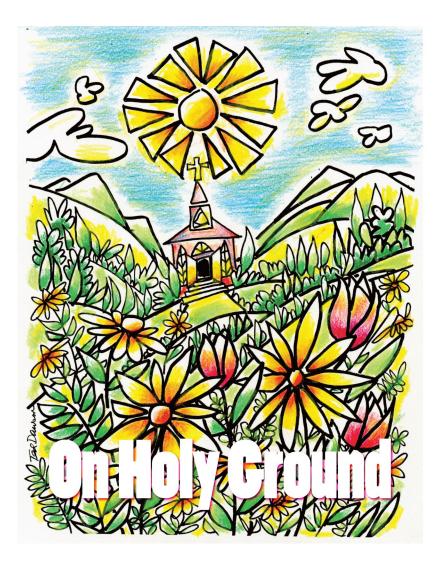
General Minister and President National Ministries of the UCC

#### n the eight years I have

served as General Minister and President, I have worshiped on Holy Ground in sanctuaries across this broad country and around the world.

I have danced with an elderly indigenous woman high in the Andes Mountains in Colombia.

I have knelt at the communion rail of a Mercersburg congregation in rural Pennsylvania.



I have heard a majestic choir in Naples, Florida sing one of my favorite hymns, "We Would Be Building."

I have preached from the pulpit of the Berliner Dome in Germany.

I have sat with leaders from the Rocky Mountain Conference in, well, the Rocky Mountains at Camp La Foret, in Connecticut at Camp Silverlake, and in Rhode Island at Star Island.

I have sat on bean bag chairs and throw rugs at a church in Asheville NC.

In sanctuaries humble and gilded, architecturally traditional and contemporary, stainglass lit and stone-wall structured I have watched and witnessed the stewarding of the ground we call holy. My worship among you has inspired, uplifted, and sustained me.

If I could name one thing that is common on that ground we call holy and where we meet our sacred, it would be that when we gather there lives are changed.

#### SEASONS OF OUR LIVES

For everything there is a season, and a time for every

purpose under heaven.

(Ecclesiastes 3)

Time to Celebrate....

#### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

5/4 Frithjof Wannebo 5/8 Bruce Leonard 5/8 Amy Russ 5/8 Emma Smith 5/12 Stefanie Mitchell 5/17 Rhonda Silence 5/20 Stephen Quaife 5/21 James Ford 5/22 Kirra Lynn White 5/22 Peggy Staples 5/22 David Larsen 5/25 Mindy Silence 5/30 Dan Strayer 5/30 Rhodelle Bockovich 5/31 Jonathan Hedstrom



Please help keep us up to date by letting us know if you'd like to be added (or removed) from our Birthday and Anniversary newsletter announcements.

# **MAY 2023**

#### **First Congregational United Church of Christ**

#### **Grand Marais, MN**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 6:00pm Rooted and Rising 7pm ALANON Pastor Enno's day off	2 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons 7:00pm Zen Meditation (LL)	3 10:00am Ministerial Lectionary Study 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons	4 10:00am TaiChi 11:00am Build- ing & Grounds Mtg 12:00pm Wom- en A A(FS) 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons service	5 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons	6 9:30am-2:30pm Piano Lessons
7 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship	8 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 5:30pm Pride Planning Meeting 7pm ALANON Pastor Enno's day off	9 <b>10:30pm</b> Small Church Collective <b>2:00-6:00pm</b> Piano Lessons <b>7:00pm</b> Zen Meditation (LL)	10 <b>10:00am</b> Ministerial Lectionary Study <b>3:30 Rooted and</b> <b>Rising</b> <b>2:00-6:00pm</b> Piano Lessons <b>5:15pm</b> Pizza & Social Justice	11 9:15am Chaplin Meeting 10:00am TaiChi 12:00pm Women A A (FS) 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons service	12 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons Pastor Enno per- forming wedding up the Trail	13 9:30am-2:30pm Piano Lessons
14 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Care Center Church Service	15 <b>3:00pm-5:00pm</b> Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) <b>5:30pm</b> Pride Planning Meeting <b>7pm</b> ALANON Pastor Enno	16 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons 7:00pm Zen Meditation (LL)	17 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons of Homiletics	18 10:00am TaiChi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS) 12:00pm Echo Preacher mtg 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons _in Twin Cities	19 <b>7:00am</b> AA (FS) <b>8:00am</b> Harbor Watch <b>2:00-6:00pm</b> Piano Lessons	20 9:30am-2:30pm Piano Lessons Spring Clean Up Day
21 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship	22 11:00am Clergy Cluster 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 5:30pm Piano Recital 7pm ALANON	23 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons 5:00pm BOD meeting 7:00pm Zen Meditation (LL)	24 <b>10:00am</b> Ministerial Lectionary Study <b>2:00-6:00pm</b> Piano Lessons	25 10:00am TaiChi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS) 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons 4:00pm Pastor Relations 5:00pm Library Board of	26 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons	27 9:30am-2:30pm Piano Lessons
28 9:30am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship	29 3:00pm-5:00pm Food Shelf Open to the Public (LL) 7pm ALANON Pastor Enno's day off	30 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons 7:00pm Zen Meditation (LL)	31 <b>10:00am</b> Ministerial Lectionary Study <b>2:00-6:00pm</b> Piano Lessons	June 1 10:00am TaiChi 12:00pm Women's AA (FS)	2 7:00am AA (FS) 8:00am Harbor Watch 2:00-6:00pm Piano Lessons	3 9:30am-2:30pm Piano Lessons

FS—Fireside Room SH—Social Hall MR—Media Room SA—Sanctuary N—Narthex/Lobby SR—South Room LL—Lower Level

BOD—our Church Board of Directors AA—Alcoholics Anonymous ALANON—Families and Friends of Alcoholics CODA—Co-dependents Anonymous