Friendship News, March 2023

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Brainerd

An Open and Affirming Congregation

The Church Office Hours: Wednesdays – Fridays from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Pastor Leslie’s Drop-in Hours: Wed. 1:00pm – 3:00pm, Friday 10:00am – 12:00pm

Office phone 218-829-2528 Office E-mail [uccbrainerd@gmail.com](mailto:uccbrainerd@gmail.com) Pastor’s E-mail: [pastorleslieucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleslieucc@gmail.com) Website: [www.uccbrainerdmn.org](http://www.uccbrainerdmn.org)

**Schedule a 1 to 1 (in-person or by Zoom or Phone) with Pastor Leslie:**

[www.calendly.com/pastorleslieucc/1to1](http://www.calendly.com/pastorleslieucc/1to1)

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.*

**Logo

Description automatically generatedA Blessing for the Seekers**

What are you seeking this Lent? New insights?

A deeper or stronger connection with the Divine? Courage to venture into the unknown? Maybe you are simply seeking the strength to put one foot in front of the other.

Our Lenten devotional booklets offer the following questions to ponder throughout the season: What is your soul yearning for? What is holding you back from soulful wholehearted exploration? What do you need to know about God to trust God more fully? Is there a another question your soul needs to ask during this Lenten quest?

As you seek, may this blessing surround your journey…

Blessed are you who turn your face up to the sky, who open your arms to feel the wind, who notice all the things that we should notice.

Blessed are you who are fluent in wonder and familiar with awe.

Blessed are you who, even now, dream dreams, who have not lost hope, who swear the glass is still half-full.

Blessed are you who plant trees and sing the harmony, who tell the children how this world can be magic.

Blessed are you who walk and seek and turn over every stone, pointing out all the corners and colors that God lives in.

Blessed are you.

Amen.

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Description automatically generatedWith God’s love and light,

Blessing Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

**Lent 2023**

**Sundays at 10:00 am** – Worship in-person & live on Facebook

**Saturday April 1st – Pick up palm branches for Palm Sunday**.

**If you are planning to worship online, swing by the church parking lot to take home a palm branch. Branches will be available next to the parking lot door for un-staffed pick up. For those attending in person, palm branches will be given out at the worship service.**

**Sunday April 2nd 9:55 am –** Join us in the narthex (lobby) for a **Palm Procession** into the sanctuary when worship starts at 10am. All ages!

**Friday April 7th 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm Open House Stations of the Cross**

**Sunday, April 9th 10:00 am – Easter Worship in-person & Live on Facebook**

**Moderator’s Musings**

Lots of folks have been asking questions recently about what the different church committees do.  If you were in church this last Sunday, you would have heard Mary Reardon give a summary of the work of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee.  Also, Marcia Ferris talked about what Stewardship does. In the next few weeks, you will be hearing from other committees, departments and/or teams.

In addition, to help answer the “who” of committees, you will want to check the bulletin board in the main hallway on the main floor.  There will be a display, including photos, of the folks who serve on the governing body of the church - the Church Council.

February sure was a short month, and now on into March, a looonngg month!  Enjoy the rest of the winter.  And remember spring is just around the corner.

Peace to all,

Colleen

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**First Congregational UCC News & Updates**

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Description automatically generated**Lent Stations of the Cross Sign-up**

This Good Friday April 7th, Christian Ministry will be presenting Social Justice Stations of the Cross, an opportunity to meditate on each of the stations by contemplating the needs of suffering people in our modern world. We are looking to engage all of you in creating one of these 14 stations (a visual representation and words of reflection) with plenty of guidance/examples provided by Pastor Leslie and the CM committee members. **Please sign up as individuals or groups/committees with Christian Ministry and complete/submit to Pastor Leslie by March 20. The sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex.** We hope both the creating and the Good Friday “pilgrimage” will offer each of us an opportunity for spiritual reflection on a deeper level.

**Annual Connection Letter**

Our church will have the connection letter available for pick-up on **Sunday, March 5th**. For those who typically do not attend service the rest will be mailed out. The connection letter is for those who did not respond last year, and for new members, visitors and friends to our church.

Please fill out the form completely and return it to the office in the envelope provided. This information will help us update our membership list and make informed decisions about programs, and much more. Your response is important to help us better connect with one another and better serve our members and visitors. So, keep your eyes on your mailbox! If you have been inadvertently missed and did not receive a letter and would like one, please contact Terri in the church office. Thank you for your prompt response!

**A red sign with white text

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceProspective Member Classes**

**Starting this Month**

**Wednesdays; March 15th, 22nd, 29th @ 6:00 pm**

**in-person and via Zoom**

**Have you thought about becoming a voting member of First Congregational UCC? Whether you know you definitely want to join or you aren’t sure if joining is right for you, please join Pastor Leslie for the three-session series. You will meet other prospective members, hear each other’s faith journeys, learn about the history and governance of United Church of Christ and the history and culture of our congregation. You’ll also learn about healthy and unhealthy communication in a faith community, as well as what you can expect from your church and what will be expected of you!** The Zoom link is [tinyurl.com/UCCBrainerdZoom](https://uccbrainerd.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7358d6fe5c26410d29dfb93f0&id=c9d249cf01&e=d0e1cab4c2) **Contact Pastor Leslie to sign-up and for more information.**

**A group of balloons

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceMarch Birthdays**

Sharon Carlson March 4

Mary Johnson March 4

Michael Imsdahl March 6

Jan Nelson March 8

Doris Anderson March 13

Marina Grabowski March 16

Tim Anderson March 21

Deb Griffith March 21

Brian Gustafson March 24

Melinda Ellis March 27

Dorothy Lundberg March 27

Karen Ogdahl March 28

Patricia Scott March 29

**Church Office Hours**

**Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

Please call Terri at the office 218-829-2528 or cell 218-537-1636 for further assistance.

**Pastor Leslie’s drop-in hours\* are as follows:**

**Wednesdays 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Fridays 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

*\*To make an appointment outside of the drop-in hours, go to* ***calendly.com/pastorleslieucc/1to1*** *to schedule an appointment, or call or email Pastor Leslie directly.*

**How to watch Sunday worship** The worship service is **broadcasted on the church Facebook page and the church's YouTube channel every Sunday at 10:00 am.**  
To watch worship on Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/uccbrainerd/live>  
Live stream videos are saved and can be viewed at any time.

**Financial Help Available** Your Church Council voted last year to allow the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to be used to assist church members and others in the Brainerd area who are experiencing financial distress during this time. We received many generous donations! If you need assistance, please email, call, or text Pastor Leslie. Let her know what your situation is and how the church might be of help.

**Donate to the church online!**We are now accepting your offerings and donations using **PayPal.** You do not need to have a PayPal account to make an online donation with a credit card. To use PayPal, go to: <https://www.paypal.me/uccbrainerd>

**Church Leadership**

***Get Involved, Give Back, Grow Connections – Volunteer at Church!***

**There are many other opportunities for you to share your talents!**

--**Moderator**, serves a 1-year term (may renew for 3 terms). Contact Colleen LeBlanc for more information 218-251-4065

--**Treasurer,** serves a 1-year term (may renew for 6 terms). The primary role is oversight of bookkeeping, church finances and Executive Committee discussions. This candidate should have a strong background or interest in finance or banking.

--**Council Member-At-Large:**  Attend council meetings, act as a liaison for church members and council, help with nominations, spokesperson for historically underrepresented groups (HUGS).

**Committees needing fresh faces and leadership:**

-Christian Education -Trustees -Stewardship -Memorial

-Music -Arts -Christian Ministry

Call or text Colleen LeBlanc - Moderator, with your nominations: 218-251-4065

**Highlights from the Council Meeting, February 16th, 2023**

**Thursday, 4:00 pm (In-person and Zoom)**

~ These are highlights. If you would like a copy of the full minutes, please contact the church office ~

Present: Colleen LeBlanc, Alvin Velsvaag, Deb Griffith, Marcia Ferris, Marina Grabowski, Karen Ford, Pastor Leslie Moughty - Virtual: Terri Chidester - Absent: Tim Anderson, Lowell Johnson - Guest: Dan Hegstad

**January Council Minutes – Correction:** Change Clerk’s Report to reflect death of Cheri Maxwell on January 3, 2023.

**Report Highlights:**

**Clerk Report** – Karen – No report

**Guest –** Dan Hegsted – Visioning of church future: Should our church continue to exist? We need to track membership and contact those who are not engaged. What products do we deliver? We need a marketing plan. We need a treasurer. These questions and statements need to be discussed in the near future by the congregation.

A. January 2022 Financial Report - Discussion – Filed

B. End of Year – General Fund Dec 31, 2021 - $31, 505.50 Dec 31, 2022 - $7, 407.22

2023 Budget – (20,526) To balance budget – need to increase income by $13,119 or decrease expenditures

**Good News**

Technology Request to Foundation Approved. Funding $3,080 for improving sound system; tabling wish list of $1,350. – Requesting monthly reports of progress.

**Old Business**

1. Facility Policy Update – See attached **–** Motion to accept both internal and external policies with edits and the ability to amend if needed. Approved unanimously.
2. Council Position Nominations – Discussion on process:Talk to current volunteers to ask if they want to continue on the department. Bring information to March meeting with interested people. Invite interested volunteers to consider serving.
3. Steve Newcom request to be named as – “Coordinator of Social Justice”. Approved

unanimously.

**Additional information:**

1. The cooking group is meeting on 2/26 to discuss organizing a silent auction of cooking experiences as a fund raiser.
2. Alvin reported that the Recovery Garden Project will meet at Alvin’s home to discuss the involvement of WISE with Upfront Alano.
3. Pastor Leslie reminded members to read **the Conference Annual Meeting information** for the March meeting.

Adjourned at 5:50pm

***\*\*\*Remainder of agenda items will be discussed at the March Council meeting.\*\*\****

D. Proceeding with department by-laws revisions – **Discussion**

E. Connection Letter – Schedule to do: post in January, data entry complete in March, Council review to confirm quorum number; and create new form for additions/corrections in April. *No progress on this.*

F. Development of Care Team – Pastor Leslie

**Updates**

A. Church Records Organizing Committee - No new information

B. Pastor Review – Committee working on it.

C. Pastor Renewal – Committee working on it.

D. CD’s have been purchased as directed at January meeting.

**New Business**

Who does what? Bulletin Board; Information on work departments do.

**Pastor Report** – Rev Leslie

**Member at Large Report** – Alvin

**Department Reports** – anything new to add to written reports?

1. Trustees – Deb
2. Stewardship – Marcia or Judy
3. Christian Ministry – Marina
4. Christian Education – Lowell

**In the “Parking Lot”**

1. Manual of Church – https://youtu.be/OsNdRYFIHig

2. Social Media - Conference does not have guidelines - What next?

<https://uccfiles.com/pdf/ASF-SocialMediaGuidelines.pdf>

3. Creation Justice - Ensuring all that we can to reduce our waste/improve our interactions with nature Jan Kurtz’s info on Creation Justice - When to start this discussion at Council.

4. Analysis of cost of keeping parsonage in collection of assets versus paying the pastor for housing costs.

Minutes written and respectfully submitted by Karen Ford, Clerk and Secretary to the Council

**Next Regular Council Meeting: Thursday, March 16th, 2023, 4:00 pm**

**in-person and via Zoom** [tinyurl.com/uccbrainerdzoom](http://tinyurl.com/uccbrainerdzoom)

Easter Flowers

2023

**You have the opportunity to give a gift in the name of your loved one(s).**

**We will use the money to purchase flower arrangements for the altar.**

**All memorials will be listed in the Easter bulletin.**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

**Please fill out the following completely.**

# **Amount of Memorial Gift: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

## Write your check to: “First Congregational Church”

**Memo: “Easter Flowers”**

**Leave this form with your check in the offering plate,**

**the church office, or mail it to:**

**First Congregational Church**

**415 Juniper Street Brainerd, MN 56401**

**TheShop Meal with First Congregational UCC**

***March 1st - 3:45 pm church kitchen****.*  
***We meet once a month on the first Wednesday.***

We are working with the young people from TheShop (Brainerd/Baxter's Youth Empowerment Center) and are preparing a meal and serving it at TheShop for the participants in the program. Mary Benson is the new point person. If you are interested in helping, please email Mary at [marybenson75@gmail.com](mailto:marybenson75@gmail.com)

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**March Adult Forums – 11:30 am after worship**

**March 5th:** **“Death With Dignity” -** Dan Hegstad will lead a conversation exploring the Oregon Model for end-of-life options.

**March 26th: “Social Justice Ministry”** - Steve Newcom will give an update on conversations with other local congregations interested in doing Social Justice work and gather input from UCC folks on this work in progress.

**UCC Men’s Group - Every Wednesday at Noon**

**You are invited to a casual fellowship at various locations in the Brainerd Lakes area.**

***A picture containing text, tableware, dishware, plate

Description automatically generatedSchedule 2023***

|  |
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|  |
| First Wednesday:              B-Meri  Second Wednesday:         El Tequila  Third Wednesday:             Dunmire’s East  Fourth Wednesday:           Black Bear  Fifth Wednesday:              Wings Airport Café |

**Contact Jack Kraywinkle for more information 612-396-3480 or email:** [kraywinklej@gmail.com](mailto:kraywinklej@gmail.com)

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Description automatically generated with medium confidenceCooking For Everyone**

This group is OPEN FOR EVERYONE!

Email Lowell [johnsonlowells@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonlowells@gmail.com) and he will add you to the member list so that you will know when and where we will next meet.

**A person with the hand on the chin

Description automatically generated with low confidenceFriday Book Group - 10:00 am**

Via Zoom: [tinyurl.com/uccbrainerdzoom](http://tinyurl.com/uccbrainerdzoom)

We are reading ***“The Book of Hope, A Survival Guide for Trying Times”*** by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams with Gail Hudson.

In this urgent book, Jane Goodall, the world's most famous living naturalist, and Douglas Abrams, the internationally bestselling co-author of *The Book of Joy*, explore through intimate and thought-provoking dialogue one of the most sought after and least understood elements of human nature: hope. In *The Book of Hope*, Jane focuses on her "Four Reasons for Hope": The Amazing Human Intellect, The Resilience of Nature, The Power of Young People, and The Indomitable Human Spirit.

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Description automatically generatedUCC Volunteers for the Warming Shelter**

**Our church volunteer**s at The Bridge on 7th. If you are interested please use the link to the volunteer sign-up page, <https://whocanbethere.com/SignUp/week-of-feb-19ucc/1A4WgptOw4x> which you must use to sign up. If you know of anyone else who may wish to volunteer, please share this information with them. If you have any questions email Deb Griffith at [ranger2949@gmail.com](mailto:ranger2949@gmail.com).

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**Up Front Alano Recovery Garden**

**Saturday, March 4th 3:00 pm**

Work Party at Alvin’s House. Contact Alvin Velsvaag for more information 218-839-0610 or [velsvaag1@gmail.com](mailto:velsvaag1@gmail.com)

**A picture containing logo

Description automatically generatedSpecial Offering Sunday Worship March 26th**

**One Great Hour of Sharing - UCC Missions**

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. Your support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education and so much more. What is One Great Hour of Sharing? One Great Hour of Sharing, part of Our Church’s Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Please send your donation to First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St. Brainerd, MN 56401. Make sure to note on your offering: “Special Offering One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)”.

Or for your convenience use our Paypal account at: [paypal.me/uccbrainerd](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/uccbrainerd)

Be sure to note on your offering “Special Offering One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)”. in comments. Thank you!

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**Hosts, Ushers, Greeters, Scripture-readers**

Sunday morning greeters/ushers and coffee hosts play an important part in making our church a warm and welcoming place for all. Here’s a secret; it’s FUN!! If each household committed to 3 Sundays a year as greeter/ushers and/or coffee hosts, we would have a full complement of participants. Are you ready to take the leap into RADICAL HOSPITALITY? Give it a go and signup below for your first Sunday as the face of the church! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48A9A823A5FFC07-hugs/16034811>

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**First Congregation Food Shelf Collection**

**Our church continues to collect non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Shelf. There is a collection box in the parking lot entry way. Brian Twamley picks up and delivers the food.**

**Please consider bringing items and donating. You may also send a money donation to the church;** First Congregational UCC, 415 Juniper St. Brainerd, MN 56401. Or for your convenience use our Paypal account at: [paypal.me/uccbrainerd](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/uccbrainerd) **Make sure to write in memo “ Food Shelf”. Thank you!**

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**Sunshine Cards – Luann Rice**

**A friendly reminder to send card requests to Luann Rice for those who would appreciate a little sunshine in a card…”Get well, thinking of you”, etc. Contact Luann via email or phone,** **or to Terri in the office at** [uccbrainerd@gmail.com](mailto:uccbrainerd@gmail.com) **with your request.**

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**Calling all singers and musicians!**

**We want to include your voice and instruments during the worship services.**

Please contact Pastor Leslie at [pastorleslieucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleslieucc@gmail.com)

**The Columbarium at First Congregational UCC, Brainerd**

The Columbarium is located in the historic space that once was our church’s front entry way.

How appropriate it is that our Columbarium now marks another entry way into a new life — where the Spirits of Love and Truth are always present!

Should you wish to learn more about the purchase of a niche for your own cremains or for the ashes of a loved one, please call the church office at (218) 829-2528 and a packet of materials will be send you via email or regular mail.

The Memorial Committee has prepared the information packet, and it contains all the details you will need as you consider inurnment here at First Congregational UCC.

Have any other questions? Contact Dawn Stattine at [dawnstattine@gmail.com](mailto:dawnstattine@gmail.com)

**UCC News & Updates!**

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**Outdoor Ministry Announces 3rd Annual Winter Zoom Series**

﻿Join us for the final Zoom gathering focused on environmental justice issues.

### **Mining Pollutants**

March 9, 7:00-8:00 pm CST

Presenter: Paula Maccabee

[**REGISTER**](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=xj4cltcab&oeidk=a07ejjl22ud27a9899b) **here to learn more and receive the Zoom link.**

Mining pollutants have been on the forefront of Minnesota’s environmental conversations for many years. The effects on our water, habitats, and health are well documented. However, the push for copper-nickel is an urgent concern, especially from the PolyMet mine.

**Mark Your Calendars for the Conference's 2023 Events**

**Spring 2023 Youth Gathering** [**REGISTER**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001VjoOToKTDxBsMCkLy7GaBT3hW9rULoKQ7pRowZRHEUUOZZH7CJWJ5FME11HQwHsmfgLZaoVA3oWcu9KO1sKiLS3OL6Q0ygOOiRsAMEiwxK88Tjs-jtoCvYQAJMOsMVxc7ybtPUUuo0DNr6LWPoPnves_7eCpLIY6jyhF8WypUwUnpgekBgD4b9jSy4QNPmcwPRIO8bsGpRVg8o0ROr-yL76LktGx2VVcsaFY-pTYgHhyK1fwLLg2VQP3UFloEjM56DffVYzusZU=&c=iPINOR2ZKZMELdo0MA7tTp6PJk3tB1QMSq-caX9NOgtsSke0i01-Kg==&ch=2inqLPoVVfhKV02QJcgAGgH13V-tj1boEsedZGzqQ5m99pjMWx8woA==)

April 28-30, 2023 | Camp Onomia, Onamia

For youth 6th-12th grades. Lori Alford, a licensed marriage and family therapist and long-time faith formation leader in the Minnesota Conference UCC, will guide youth through activities and experiences that help them listen to their bodies, practice stillness and quiet, open up “heart spaces” for connection, and tap into their innate capacity to know, love, and connect.

**Summer Middle School Camp** [**MORE**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001VjoOToKTDxBsMCkLy7GaBT3hW9rULoKQ7pRowZRHEUUOZZH7CJWJ5FME11HQwHsmfkXUXxCHg-sHssDcaP0ojFO_uYt7A_muABV6NCCJVJCQtn93PWkN1j2OTgJvKhJAUBeUeeRJMxGpfWSHHQXryOLBx2YpDg8cPGgJBhhddrjN-kKWghvtyrEDFqdu98JHGHUOKGjDm8HbsJ_5MHqp2NTi31xxN9tPXQ4IpRSHY83zfrswxeyUdzaVfncyLJgyLtBSy0NIwb8=&c=iPINOR2ZKZMELdo0MA7tTp6PJk3tB1QMSq-caX9NOgtsSke0i01-Kg==&ch=2inqLPoVVfhKV02QJcgAGgH13V-tj1boEsedZGzqQ5m99pjMWx8woA==)

July 5-7, 2023 - Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center, Sandstone

For youth entering 6th grade through 8th grade. Swim, canoe, hike, and meet some birds of prey. Let’s explore the connection of eco-justice and faith while connecting with new friends and eating some great food!

**Summer 2023 Youth Trip to Washington, DC** [**MORE**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001VjoOToKTDxBsMCkLy7GaBT3hW9rULoKQ7pRowZRHEUUOZZH7CJWJ5PVvALgrK_NfT4GjzNBHROIw6X_O2t9sBJD3zLPApnS-Ma9D1K1mRNAQM1L2lSk9DgwDCyJBpYo2jHg1Ieh1bNSh7n-C2qnq9jO6Y4NefIkJtCdabuwTKf09dpTN6liHw-tjQsB07g0uc1gSLO7mAprh1uVdVWce3w==&c=iPINOR2ZKZMELdo0MA7tTp6PJk3tB1QMSq-caX9NOgtsSke0i01-Kg==&ch=2inqLPoVVfhKV02QJcgAGgH13V-tj1boEsedZGzqQ5m99pjMWx8woA==)

July 21-28, 2023 - Students from Conference congregations currently enrolled in grades 8-12 are eligible to participate in this service-learning experience focused on the work of legislative advocacy.

**﻿Fall Youth Conference Event** [**MORE**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001VjoOToKTDxBsMCkLy7GaBT3hW9rULoKQ7pRowZRHEUUOZZH7CJWJ5FME11HQwHsmDJFgOEOqYj7VvBdm4JpPE6eipZroz2fKAea2iLuLLqciziElcMH9idF4kwV8ovu1CGjU8QL444CQb7z5QwW_B47y45OmFEi5HNYG11l_Ea4dpK2wKxVff89BLCCH55RS&c=iPINOR2ZKZMELdo0MA7tTp6PJk3tB1QMSq-caX9NOgtsSke0i01-Kg==&ch=2inqLPoVVfhKV02QJcgAGgH13V-tj1boEsedZGzqQ5m99pjMWx8woA==)

October 6-8, 2023 - Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

Through playful discussions, activities, and music, we will reimagine our “wild and precious life” that speaks to who we are, what we value, and how our faith can guide us in the world.

**Brainerd Lakes Area Information**

**~ Opportunities to Know and Share God’s Love ~**

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**6th Annual Got Plans? Conference**

**Friday, April 14, 2023 – 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Doors open at 8:30 am. Lutheran Church of the Cross

5064 C.R. 13, Nisswa, MN

A light lunch is included. Space is limited for this FREE event. At this event, participants will learn about advance care planning and will have an opportunity to meet with someone on site to write a plan.  They will learn about power of attorney versus a health care agent, advance care directives, and guardianship. Space is limited; pre-registration is required.

Visit https//crowwingenergized.org/event/got-plans-6th-annual-conference/

or contact: [Kara.Schaefer@EssentiaHealth.org](mailto:Kara.Schaefer@EssentiaHealth.org) or [Karen.Johnson@EssentiaHealth.org](mailto:Karen.Johnson@EssentiaHealth.org)

Graphical user interface, text, application, letter

Description automatically generated **Save the Date!**

**Saturday, April 15, 9:30 – 3:30p.m., in the Twin Ports and on-line**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Duluth and **on-line**

Co-presented by:

* EcoFaith Network NE MN Synod
* Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Creation Care
* St. Paul Area Synod Care of Creation

*Keynote speaker: Margot Monson, entomologist and beekeeper*

Through worship, keynote presentation, diverse storytellers, conversations, and engagement sessions, together we will be empowered to be participants in this unfolding plot.

* 10:a.m. Opening
* 10:15a.m. Keynote presentation
* 11:10a.m. Storytelling presentations (6-10 minutes)
* Noon Lunch and time to visit table exhibits
* 1:00-1:45p.m. Engagement session 1
* 2:00-2:45p.m. Engagement session 2
* 3:00p.m. Sending worship
* 3:30p.m. Reception and networking

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| March 2023 Calendar |

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  | Office Closed  Open by Appt. | Office Closed  Open by Appt. | Office Hours10am – 1pm  Pastor Drop-in  1pm-3pm | Office Hours  10am – 1pm | Office Hours10am – 1pm Pastor Drop-in  10am-12pm |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 10am Clergy **1**  Sabbatical Mtg**. Y**  12pm Mens Grp@ B-Meri-**Y**  3:30pm TheShop Cooking in kitchen-**Y**  7pm AA Common-**Y** | **2**  7pm PPRC  Mtg-**Y**&**Z** | **3**  10:30am Book Grp-**Z**  “The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times” by Jane Goodall | **4**  3pm Up Front Garden Work @ Alvin’s Home  8am-Noon LAMF Brd. Mtg.-**Y** |
| 8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y**  **5**  10am Wrship Serv & Communion-**Y&V**  11am Fellowship-**Y**  11:30 am Adult Forum-**Y**  11:30 am PPRC Mtg.-**Y** | **6** | **7**  2pm Emotions Anon- **Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon- **Y** | **8**  12pm Mens Grp@  El Tequila-**Y**  7pm AA Common-**Y** | **9**  8:30am CM Mtg-**Y**  3pm Trustees-**Y**  4pm Exec Team Mtg-**Y** | 9am Foundation **10**  Mtg.-**Z**  10:30am Book Grp-**Z**  Today AAUW decorate Fellowship Hall | **11**  9am-1pm AAUW History Celebration-**Y** |
| 8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y** **12**  10am Wrship Serv-**Y&V**  11am Fellowship-**Y**  11:30am Confirmation Class-**Y** | **13**  1pm AAUW Dir. Mtg**-Y** | 2pm Emotions **14**  Anon-**Y**  5pm Le Mesa Grp-**Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon-**Y** | 12pm Men’s Grp **15**  @Dunmire’s East-**Y**  6pm Prospective Member Class-**Y**&**Z**  7pm AA Common-**Y** | **16**  4pm Council Mtg-**Y**&**Z**  7pm AA Dist-**Y** | **17**  10:30am Book Grp- **Z** | **18**    10am-1pm AAUW in Fellowship |
| 8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y** **19** 10am Wrship Serv-**Y&V**  11am Fellowship-**Y**  11:30am Confirmation Class-**Y** | **20** | 2pm Emotions **21** Anon-**Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon-**Y** | 12pm Men’s Grp **22**  @Black Bear-**Y**  6pm Prospective Member Class **Y**&**Z**  7pm AA Common-**Y** | **23** | **24**  10:30am Book Grp- **Z** | **25** |
| 8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y 26**  10am Wrship Serv-**Y&V**  11am Fellowship-**Y**  11:30 am Adult Forum-**Y**  11:30am Confirmation Class--**Y**  ***Special Offering:***  ***One Great Hour of Sharing***  ***\*\*Newsletter Deadline\*\**** | **27** | 2pm Emotions **28** Anon-**Y**  5pm Le Mesa Grp-**V** 5:30pm Overeaters Anon-**Y** | **29**  12pm Men’s Grp @Wings Air Port-**Y**  6pm Prospective Member Class- **Y**&**Z** | **30** | **31**  5:15pm Stewardship Mtg.-**Y** | **V** or **Z** –**Virtual** Online or our **Zoom**  **C**- Cancelled  **Y**- Yes Mtg. in person  N-None  **? –** No update |