Friendship News, June 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.*

*A picture containing art, watercolor, sketch, drawing

Description automatically generated“When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.”*

These first words of the Bible (in the NRSVUE translation) capture one people’s poetic description of the beginning of our world. God creating order out of chaos, beginning to form the necessary conditions for human and animal life to thrive. UCC Minnesota Conference Minister, the Rev. Shari Prestemon wrote in her most recent “Commantary” article “As people of faith, we’re moved to give thanks for God’s incredible gifts, and reminded that God has called us to be mindful stewards of this precious and vulnerable earth.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

The United Church of Christ is embarking on a new campaign called “Climate Hope” in which congregations across the country will be collecting thousands of postcards (printed with the winning art) to urge the Environmental Protection Agency to update Federal pollution rules. These strengthened protections would save thousands of lives, address societal inequalities, and put the United States on a path to meet its climate goals. Steve Newcom and I will be sharing more about our congregation’s participation in this nationwide effort.

There are two other opportunities to engage with the topic of protecting God’s precious creation that are coming up right away as part of the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting. The first is a Green Team Forum on Zoom on Sunday, June 4 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm and is open to everyone whether you are registered for Annual Meeting or not. Use this link to participate in the forum: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2126827931>

The second opportunity is the Annual Meeting itself. The second day of the meeting (Saturday, June 10) includes a workshop time with choices from topics like Environmental Racism, The Cosmology of Surfing (living a practice of spending time, interacting on a spiritual level with the natural world), A Playbook for Political Action in the Progressive Church, and “Climate Hope” from Coping to Leading on Climate. In addition to these workshop options (and more that were not listed) the keynote speaker for this year’s meeting is 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.

Everyone is invited to participate in all or part of this year’s Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting. Steve Newcom and I will be there in person and will do our best to bring back some of what we experience. If you are interested in attending a workshop (only available in-person), or are interested in attending other parts of the meeting including the keynote address (via Zoom or in-person), there’s still time to register. Go to the following link for more information: https://www.uccmn.org/2023/05/01/2023-annual-meeting-is-june-9-10

The mission of the Minnesota Conference of the UCC is to “equip a courageous Church alive with Christ’s transforming love.” May we be courageous enough to transform the world.

Text, whiteboard

Description automatically generatedWith peace,

**Moderator’s Musings**

Last Sunday, at the congregation’s annual meeting, a report on paper of the year’s activities was handed out.  We did not go through that report, but I am encouraging you today to do so.  Throughout my year on the Council as moderator, I often heard folks comment that they had only a vague idea of how the church is governed.  They know there is a Council, but say “What does it do? Who is on it?”   Reading the annual report might help answer those questions.

If you’d like a copy of the report, please give Terri in the office a call at 218-829-2528.  
  
As I finish my year as Council Moderator, I am passing the gavel to your newly elected Moderator, Mary Reardon.  I will continue working on several “projects” which I was part of starting.  Thank you everyone for the encouragement and help you gave me during these past two years.  Peace and God bless.  
  
Colleen

**First Congregational UCC News & Updates**

0

0

**Pastor Leslie’s New Workday Schedule**  
**>> Sunday through Thursday (Days off are Friday and Saturday) <<**

**Pastor’s Drop-in Hours\***

**Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00pm Thursdays 11:00am – 1:00pm**

\*Drop-in hours are times set aside for “drop-in” conversations, much like a professor’s office hours. Pastor Leslie is typically working at the church the rest of the week, but it is possible that she may be in meetings, at a community event, or working off-site.

Pastor Leslie typically works off-site on Mondays for sermon research and writing.

Everyone is encouraged to make an appointment if the above times are not convenient.

You can go to [www.calendly.com/pastorleslieucc](http://www.calendly.com/pastorleslieucc/) and select a day and time that works for you, or you can email Pastor Leslie at [pastorleslieucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleslieucc@gmail.com) or call/text at 218-656-0096.

**Text

Description automatically generated**

0

**Summer Office Hours**

**Church Office Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm (extended for the summer)**

Please call Terri at the office 218-829-2528 or

cell 218-537-1636 for further assistance.

**A yellow background with white text

Description automatically generated with low confidenceNew Members to First Congregation!**

0

**Please welcome three new members to our church! Greta Norlander, Jon Howard & Pam Wible.**

**They will be officially received in the June 4th during Worship Service.**

**A picture containing graphics, graphic design, art, colorfulness

Description automatically generated**

0

**New Church Council Members!**

Mary Reardon – Moderator

Cynthia Janes – Clerk

Member-At-Large – Kay Cox

**New Committee Members!**

Christian Education – Kathy Ogden

Christian Ministry – Maria Bertram

Trustees – Holden Hollister

Stewardship – Maggie Anderson

PPRC – Dan Hegstad & Joe Stattine

Foundation Board – Sharon Carlson, Charlotte Goedsche & Dan Hegstad

0

A group of animals next to a white background

Description automatically generated with low confidence

0

**Sunday June 11th**

Furry, feathery, scaly – all God’s critters are welcome! Bring your pets (stuffed animals are also welcome) to be blessed by Pastor Leslie during our annual Blessing of the Animals. Is your pet a little shy or doesn’t play well with others? Bring a collar or a photo or some other representation of your beloved companion. The fun and casual service will be held indoors during our normal Sunday worship time. Tell your friends and neighbors! The more the merrier!

0

**A picture containing background pattern

Description automatically generatedTheShop Meal with First Congregational UCC**

**New Project - Fun with Food and Friends!**

A ***new project at the church*** will be happening once a month from ***June - September***.

**\*\*\*Mark your calendars! Thursdays, June 29, July 27, August 24. September date TBD.**

We need UCC adult and youth volunteers to participate and spread the word about this free learning and community give back experience. Please consider volunteering for this exciting new project.

Organized by the Region 5 Economic Development Commission and Sprout, we will start by receiving 10 CSA boxes of local organic vegetables delivered to the church. Youth from TheShop, and any other youth we can get to attend, will learn about how to prepare that month's vegies, prepare a meal and enjoy eating together. The youth would like to have the adults bring their favorite music from the old days, and they will bring their favorite more modern music. The extra food not eaten that evening will be distributed to hungry folks.

**A wooden crate full of vegetables

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGarden Gleaning**

0

**A Biblical (and environmentally) inspired activity**

This is how it works: Gardeners and plant people bring in their “gleanings” to share. This ranges from rhubarb in the spring to daffodil bulbs in the fall. A table, poster and donation basket are in Narthex entrance. Enjoy the fruits of our labors! It’s RHUBARB time!

All are welcome to help themselves – no charge! All monetary donations are given to the Food Shelf.

*Historical note:  Begun here circa 1988 when our church began Hunger Action outreach, Central America updates and global food connections.*

Note:  Using our resources, recycling, re-purposing, and not wasting our food are all acts of Creation Care and Justice. Garden Gleaning is an Easy-Peasy way to put words into action.

0

A red and black text

Description automatically generated with low confidence

**Summer/Fall FUNraisers**

**Coordinated by the "Cooking for Everyone" church group**

Let's get together, have fun and raise money for our beloved church. Our **Cooking for Everyone** group has brainstormed a number of "food related" occasions where this can happen.

When each event is advertised in the church announcements, a location, ticket price and coordinator and their phone number will be listed. Please call that person with your RSVP. Most events will have a limit on the number of participants. Payments can be made at the time of the event. Join us for one or all and share a fun time with church members and friends.

*We are excited to start our Summer/Fall FUNraisers with…*

**JUNE FUNraisers!**

**Event #1** “**SUCCULENT SHRIMP DINNER for 6”**

This fabulous dinner includes wine, appetizers, shrimp entree and dessert.

**Hosted by Jan Morton and assisted by Deb Griffith**

**Saturday, June 17th 5:30 pm.**

**11398 Wonderland Park Circle, Brainerd**

**COST - $25.00/person 6 tickets available (individually or two)**

**Call 218-829-5092 for reservations!**

**Event #2 “SWEDISH MIDSUMMER CELEBRATION”**

*Midsummer*is synonymous with Scandinavia, where it is observed as a national holiday in **Sweden,** Fika is a big part of every Swede’s everyday life. It means making time for friends and colleagues to share a cup of coffee (or tea) and a little something to eat.

Join us in celebrating *Midsummer/Fika* by enjoying a menu of tea sandwiches and numerous Scandinavian pastries. The afternoon will also include a program by Sharon Carlson as she shares ideas for organizing your home, sharing ideas from “The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleanin”g by Margareta Magnusson.

Come by yourself or bring a friend. You will be warmly welcomed.

**Hosted by Lena (Sharon) and Hilda (Itty) and Assisted by church members**

**Tuesday, June 20th 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

**UCC First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall**

**COST - $20.00/person Limited tickets available**

**Call 218-828-1581 for reservations!**

**Coming in July and August:**

* **House Concert** featuring the singer-songwriter folk duo - the Boston Imposters at the Bennett home. July 15th.
* **Outdoor BBQ Picnic** at the home of Mary Reardon - co-hosted by Shon Bowman
* **Pontoon Ride** followed by Root Beer Floats - hosted by Dave and Jean Schaefer.
* **Cooking with a Pro** - The Art of Smørbrød (Scandinavian open-faced sandwiches) - demonstration and luncheon by Sharon Carlson
* **"New to Me"** Kitchen Equipment and Cookbook Sale coordinated by Kay Kraywinkle.
* **Pontoon Ride** on Sylvan Lake hosted by Cynthia, Charlotte and Marina.

**Coming this Fall; Chili Cookoff, Harvest Dinner, & "Soup's On"**

*Remember, information will be listed and updated in the church “This Week’s Email” and the “Sunday Bulletin”. If you would like to help with any of the events, or would like to host one yourself, call the event host, Lowell Johnson or Sharon Carlson.*

0

**A picture containing text, font, graphics, logo

Description automatically generated2023 W.I.S.E. Resolution:**

**Study of mental illness and the WISE program**

First Congregational UCC Brainerd will devote time during the next 12 months learning about mental health issues to become a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged around mental health) Congregation registered with the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network.

After a year of study and raising awareness around mental health, a vote will be taken at our annual meeting in 2024 to reconfirm our WISE Covenant which will allow us to be designated as a WISE Congregation in the United Church of Christ.

Stay tuned for upcoming study dates.

A picture containing text, font, graphics, graphic design

Description automatically generated

0

**June Birthdays**

Eric Lukanen June 2 Becky Twamley June 10

Patrick Kalinoski June 2 Maggie Anderson June 14

Paul Thompson June 2 Lowell Johnson June 20

Erik Lukanen June 2 Dawn Stattine June 22

Linda Tossey June 5 Patrick Bertram June 23

Sarah Jo Armstrong June 5 Claire Steen June 25

Ryan Kelley June 8 Steve Waller June 25

Shelly Trimble June 8 Nancy Gould June 27

Barb Stokke June 10 James Flath June 27

Becky Twamley June 10 Gale Landem June 28

0

**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>

0

**Church Leadership**

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

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

--**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 -Music -Arts

Call or text Mary Reardon - Moderator, with your nominations: 612-201-2967

0

**Highlights from the Council Meeting, May 18th, 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: Pastor Leslie, Colleen LeBlanc, Alvin Velsvaag, Marcia Ferris, Lowell Johnson, Cynthia Janes, Karen Ford, Kay Cox, Marina Grabowski. Online: Deb Griffith, Terri Chidester, Tim Anderson, Mary Reardon.

**April Council Minutes –** any corrections to the written attached minutes? Motion approved to change the wording of those who are absent to: *Meeting was inaccessible.*

**Clerk Report** – Karen - None

**Financials**

March 2022 Financial Report – **Discussion**: Trustees and Office supplies are over budget. Income is up slightly. Report placed on file.

**Old Business**

A.Annual Meeting – Sunday, May 21, 2023. Packets have been emailed. Quorum is established at 25 members.

B. Congregation/Pastor Assessment Summary – Tim Anderson will prepare a summary to be presented at the annual meeting.

C. Three Reports to dovetail – Moving Forward on a., b., and c. Further discussion on the process to be discussed at the June Council meeting.

a. Congregation/Pastor Assessment

b. Situational Support Recommendations

c. Steve Newcom Report in June

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

1. Trustees – Deb – Spring cleanup and other outdoor tasks to be completed.
2. Stewardship – Marcia or Judy – Mary Reardon will work with Dan Hegstad to update the handout originally created for the 150th anniversary in 2022. Deadline for completion is June 1 which will make the updated handouts available for summer festivals, etc.
3. Christian Ministry – Marina – Nothing to add
4. Christian Education – Lowell – Department is preparing for Fall program.

**Member at Large Report** – Alvin – To increase knowledge of W.I.S.E. Alvin would like to see an explanation of “extravagant welcome” presented to the congregation. Alvin will call for a motion at the annual meeting to continue the process of becoming a W.I.S.E. congregation for an additional year. Approved verbally by council. Alvin also reported that the Upfront project is moving forward. The board of directors of Upfront will be requested approval for the Council to visit the project. Lowell or Alvin will manage this process.

**Pastor Report** – Rev Leslie – Nothing additional

**New Business**

Discussion ofCare Team work reporting process: It was determined that the mission of the Care Team be explained to the congregation and that monthly reports to the Council on activity of the team. Leslie will contact Barb Hoeft to determine how the monthly reports would be handled.

**Adjournment: 5:30 pm Respectfully submitted by** Karen Ford

**Next Regular Council Meeting: *Thursday, June 15th, 2023, 4:00 pm***

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

0

Icon

Description automatically generated**New Hearing Loop System Installed!**

Sanctuaries don’t always have the best acoustics for people with hearing loss.

If you have a T-coil enabled hearing aid, you can now utilize the church’s new telecoil hearing system. The system will work best in the front section of the sanctuary. Your hearing aid must be enabled to receive the audio signal. Please contact your supplier if you need help in activating this feature.

**Diagram

Description automatically generated**

0

**Adult Forum**

***Adult Forum will resume in the Fall.***

***Contact Lowell Johnson if you have an idea for a presentation.***

[***johnsonlowells@gmail.com***](mailto:johnsonlowells@gmail.com)

0

**Text, whiteboard

Description automatically generatedUCC Women’s Fellowship**

Two times are scheduled each month to include as many as possible: one weekday and one Saturday. 

**Saturday, June 10th at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall** for coffee and goodies. Contact Marcia Ferris for Saturday gatherings.

**Thursday, June 22nd 11:30 am at Earnies on Gull.** Contact Joy Persall for the weekday gatherings.

All updates will be posted on the Connections Facebook Group and RSVP’s may be made in the comments under the post at: [www.facebook.com/groups/uccbrainerd](https://www.facebook.com/groups/uccbrainerd)

0

**A picture containing text, sign, brick

Description automatically generatedUCC Men’s Fellowship - Every Wednesday at Noon**

0

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

***Schedule 2023***

First Wednesday:              B-Meri

Second Wednesday:         Four Seas in Brainerd

Third Wednesday:             Dunmire’s East

Fourth Wednesday:           Black Bear

Fifth Wednesday:              El Tequila in Baxter

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | |
|  | |

Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

0

**Friday Book Group - 10:00 am**

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

We continue to read **"Water Always Wins:  Thriving in an Age of Drought and Deluge**by Erica Gies.  
“A hopeful journey around the world and across time, illuminating better ways to live with water".

0

**Special Offering Sunday Worship** **June 25th – WeAre**

Advocates for Reproductive Education (WeARE) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, organized in 2015 around a commitment to promote and provide comprehensive reproductive education and healthcare services for youth, young adults, and the underserved in Brainerd, MN and the surrounding community.

Our vision is that everyone in the Brainerd Lakes Area have access to accurate and evidence-based reproductive education and healthcare. Through community collaboration, led by compassionate healthcare professionals, the underserved living in the Brainerd Lakes Area are empowered to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

Please send your donation to 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 note on your offering **“*WeAre Special Offering”***. Thank you!

**Text

Description automatically generated**

0

**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>

0

0

**First Congregation Food Shelf Collection**

0

**Our church continues to collect non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Shelf. There are two collection boxes: one in the parking lot entry hallway, the other in the Narthex. 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!**

0

**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 sent 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)

0

**Jean & Deborah Wedding Reception**

**June 10th 4:30pm Social Hour**

**5:45pm Dinner Buffet**

**Dance Following**

**Greysolon Ballroom Duluth MN**

**Skyway/Superior St. doors open at 4:00pm**

**For more information & RSVP:**

**Jean Gustafson** [jean@guslaw.net](mailto:jean@guslaw.net)

218-454-2039

0

**Brainerd Lakes Area Information**

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

**A picture containing graphics, graphic design, font, colorfulness

Description automatically generatedThe Shop Youth Pride Event at Gregory Park**

**Saturday, June 17, 1 PM – 5 PM**

**♦ Games ♦ Music ♦ Facepainting ♦ Tie dye (Bring your own item to dye) ♦ Youth Drag Show And much more!**

**Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generatedYouth for Understanding**

**Host Families Needed**

There are 13 German high school students, both male and female, needing host families through the Youth for Understanding organization, which I represent.  If you or anyone you know of would be able to host one of these students next year ontact Pat Scott @ [patwak@charter.net](mailto:patwak@charter.net)

For more information:

**Kendra Leigh**

**Community Manager | IA, MN, ND, SD**

**Youth For Understanding USA**

**(p) (202) 505-6068 |**[**yfuusa.org**](http://yfuusa.org/)

**Need your colors!**

**Weaving Community Project!**

A couple of years ago, the ***Lakes Area Guys network (LAGN)*** built and gifted looms to various sites under its Weaving Community project. A number of you contributed strips of cloth and other weavable items to seed the project.

Three of those looms are permanent outdoor looms and those looms need a refreshing of materials due to weathering. If you have strips of colorful fabric, old neckties, or other beautiful items that would be suitable for weaving on a loom, ***please bring them to the church during May and put them in the bin marked Weaving Community***.

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**The Brainerd Lakes Pride Weekend.**

**Pride in the Park Picnic is September 9th 10:00 am – 4:00 pm in Gregory Park.**

**Follow their Facebook Page for other Pride Activities that weekend.**

**Facebook.com/BrainerdLakesPride**

**UCC News & Updates!**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A picture containing circle, plate, globe, earth  Description automatically generated |  |

**Join the Green Team Forum June 4th**

All churches and members are invited to participate in a Green Team Forum Sunday, June 4, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm on Zoom, in advance of our Annual Meeting. Rev. Sheri Nelson and Rev. Dwight Wagenius will host the forum. It is a time to brag about your church and what it is doing, to ask questions about what more you can do, and be inspired by all that is being done in our Conference and state to bring God's Earth back into balance. You do not have to be registered as a Minnesota Delegate to participate.

[**Join the forum through this link**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001sSxrybbpUY5-4AFWdgjJjpW4GlTz_aG7dlk4_ohGF2VqZHWkBeaLvBqD5AgOksbPg9UU1d74UuHjVRsxdeKUioFDVp21U4LnCPc5xhlqJWnsHrVWHJAE-Kuwv4-4DGNyxTHEzNGZDL0UPBMi9qLArftuLm09eNDL&c=LZ3cVhD3lxxb8vhmixSX68gjBH6xNL6Vpmk_DCKy9SczKIzHbRjhMQ==&ch=BBDAcAJqbB4X_Y7cp46893m7w2jkeI7qaX5jl7Eh_9_8jZ1n5AAFXQ==); no registration required. Sandy has set up a zoom link for the Green Forum on Sunday, June 4th.

**Annual Meeting 2023: Protecting God's Gift of Creation**

We are excited to welcome you to this year's Annual Meeting ***June 9-10***, where we will gather at the College of St. Benedict. Our theme is "Protecting God's gift of Creation." An online option will also be available. Workshops will be offered in person during the afternoon on Friday, June 9, for those attending in person.

[**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**](https://uccbrainerd.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7358d6fe5c26410d29dfb93f0&id=c78212a875&e=494f20fc23) for more details including our keynote speaker, the agenda, and access to the newly opened registration link.

**Upcoming Conference Events**

* **June 8:**[Anti-Racism/Diversity Training](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ju-nnCTNK6XfoFfZHj6S9laZ0G8mLq8_LVGh559P7ITyXdYI_FRBZ4qytOazaNg4xir-FKKM08L1h-mjuMznw7-Gl6nf74QhnKiHuFsi4YLAe1RyhIDojP1VGxYyJxPrNmjwzQV62xgZoKKheb-GN-7CKWcQERo-mZC_9LWByf01QRcIKpOzVuD3DCqtM0M4Vli3DlfYxG8=&c=6AS7e4FZDzigbE4qxG9bMr9PpW8g3fhEBCCvUoZXhgckB9kn9nLdpg==&ch=gM200aqcAPlAFkrW9rVfrlLoSWSQvIgzqpl6EXjjxwpNeKW_oyq_3A==)
* **June 8:**[Power & Boundary Training](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ju-nnCTNK6XfoFfZHj6S9laZ0G8mLq8_LVGh559P7ITyXdYI_FRBZ26e7c53aqVdG9dDfHpGPYiKma92pPOYr3IRY7TsmNxFIvLtuiAcTQa39QGapP9EpMWJlMt2ofQlZGCBEhadcv2V99pR4DXb7GvY2yrvi_xWdFpMW2UOT9456EwU-s39yL4Dugs75B4A&c=6AS7e4FZDzigbE4qxG9bMr9PpW8g3fhEBCCvUoZXhgckB9kn9nLdpg==&ch=gM200aqcAPlAFkrW9rVfrlLoSWSQvIgzqpl6EXjjxwpNeKW_oyq_3A==)
* **June 9-10:** [Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference UCC](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ju-nnCTNK6XfoFfZHj6S9laZ0G8mLq8_LVGh559P7ITyXdYI_FRBZxVwDF8Vdv4tzywbQyPK3o1hiQgq6oUHhX84hp1bJAfBRsTqPRqtoAshRv8p7Cdl82jSopaiIwCoY0-jowBmQNc2aJ9e230o1PMBpHRy7ZnTwAlbDAsfYSLn1X6fgiQ2ghATwg3Bwt94H1SRLmDaG5GehLAoeW2EOw==&c=6AS7e4FZDzigbE4qxG9bMr9PpW8g3fhEBCCvUoZXhgckB9kn9nLdpg==&ch=gM200aqcAPlAFkrW9rVfrlLoSWSQvIgzqpl6EXjjxwpNeKW_oyq_3A==)
* **July 5-7:** [Summer Youth Camp](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ju-nnCTNK6XfoFfZHj6S9laZ0G8mLq8_LVGh559P7ITyXdYI_FRBZ6ISJqDzV-zSS6-PudA8WMIo16NWbORdC5C0HjBbpMRtCvLskUXdscmTveUATNUr6dfB6QeTD6cXUD5PSQYBZOlklHZovRNMdsLMnFYpIHTfjfFYdoSX6NvWXU2rN0-CNpp2uFzjRthpbC98E1Xsy44=&c=6AS7e4FZDzigbE4qxG9bMr9PpW8g3fhEBCCvUoZXhgckB9kn9nLdpg==&ch=gM200aqcAPlAFkrW9rVfrlLoSWSQvIgzqpl6EXjjxwpNeKW_oyq_3A==)
* **August 5:**[One-Day Family Day Camp in Bayport](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ju-nnCTNK6XfoFfZHj6S9laZ0G8mLq8_LVGh559P7ITyXdYI_FRBZxCOvKmFsd-MDMoCKz26-cQNGHvDBCyaEE7UDsFMCGe_vsJ_hwtTHNWItEL6sCFYjsZe6gort6kmOe2y_6b3TNi0B2_Nq-Lji7yJb4gv7nJXD7x-reVw9KSQIhKU0q3luQ==&c=6AS7e4FZDzigbE4qxG9bMr9PpW8g3fhEBCCvUoZXhgckB9kn9nLdpg==&ch=gM200aqcAPlAFkrW9rVfrlLoSWSQvIgzqpl6EXjjxwpNeKW_oyq_3A==)
* **August 6:**[One-Day Family Day Camp in Mankato](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ju-nnCTNK6XfoFfZHj6S9laZ0G8mLq8_LVGh559P7ITyXdYI_FRBZxCOvKmFsd-MXLTXq9d5nIPAKMK72fCrCwPvGhJUv7Az2RUKIEg6rsPiGOpX9H6s4-toKCDBv2O-4PezdxSWl_LX8nwaGSNBuU1JGtVQz9FS60LKY73AQPFXxPfj1cqa3w==&c=6AS7e4FZDzigbE4qxG9bMr9PpW8g3fhEBCCvUoZXhgckB9kn9nLdpg==&ch=gM200aqcAPlAFkrW9rVfrlLoSWSQvIgzqpl6EXjjxwpNeKW_oyq_3A==)
* **September 8–10**: [Women's Retreat](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ju-nnCTNK6XfoFfZHj6S9laZ0G8mLq8_LVGh559P7ITyXdYI_FRBZ8VMHQlaYo4r8LAOFZAO24rUsk3m2O_jlFXJmZuUwpyTY1YL-zN8sl54aCznlN1e9d6Yf-9IIUUuySrCdyUexYD9G0jm7RrL3f6q5l_RBawuZ8olkS1Ke-aaqqNXhE22qg==&c=6AS7e4FZDzigbE4qxG9bMr9PpW8g3fhEBCCvUoZXhgckB9kn9nLdpg==&ch=gM200aqcAPlAFkrW9rVfrlLoSWSQvIgzqpl6EXjjxwpNeKW_oyq_3A==)
* **September 22-24**: [Women's Wilderness Walk: From the Inside Out](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ju-nnCTNK6XfoFfZHj6S9laZ0G8mLq8_LVGh559P7ITyXdYI_FRBZxCOvKmFsd-MxeLc2_1q7OiFEtIxLu3JW9BO6QSC-3nuti-xEBv_Y9cxl5wmqPFogQ2NEEiiBDVCz-OJ8abNIUuMoDlPFogrXioZkVrmRshlitk7Ai0xQD5OiO9qHwkYrcnRg5ColLk3gkRZ65SHUhyqHIaDdB1A7Q==&c=6AS7e4FZDzigbE4qxG9bMr9PpW8g3fhEBCCvUoZXhgckB9kn9nLdpg==&ch=gM200aqcAPlAFkrW9rVfrlLoSWSQvIgzqpl6EXjjxwpNeKW_oyq_3A==)
* **September 29–October 1:**[**2023 Queer Walk**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ju-nnCTNK6XfoFfZHj6S9laZ0G8mLq8_LVGh559P7ITyXdYI_FRBZxCOvKmFsd-MsemxdeYEgSUmm6tKzreznxkntX7oP2d_KNqmQ148TgYliQS1GbcWl8UZnB2ki6UsfJy5sNVq_ZTZ2ffiZXYIvTLZsX6TWweEDGGFzA3n1xeMi6LLHj4er1pBYwBvVzIv&c=6AS7e4FZDzigbE4qxG9bMr9PpW8g3fhEBCCvUoZXhgckB9kn9nLdpg==&ch=gM200aqcAPlAFkrW9rVfrlLoSWSQvIgzqpl6EXjjxwpNeKW_oyq_3A==)
* **October 6-8**: [Fall Youth Conference Event](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ju-nnCTNK6XfoFfZHj6S9laZ0G8mLq8_LVGh559P7ITyXdYI_FRBZ6ISJqDzV-zS1DsGpko_Mu5MazmfQCMTDi5rNvB70-PPUaTX6X4cj2WLlX968qNbHiG9i4l43Gxcy8bNMuWx_fiNeIkyqG6mYOwIkJrOB9GHb8x0hi_i5jQEsncpZ6ZqyWmbd6wyKerq&c=6AS7e4FZDzigbE4qxG9bMr9PpW8g3fhEBCCvUoZXhgckB9kn9nLdpg==&ch=gM200aqcAPlAFkrW9rVfrlLoSWSQvIgzqpl6EXjjxwpNeKW_oyq_3A==)
* ﻿**October 22-24**: [Faith Formation Leader Retreat](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Ju-nnCTNK6XfoFfZHj6S9laZ0G8mLq8_LVGh559P7ITyXdYI_FRBZxCOvKmFsd-MC6H_J9oFvtXxUF1koqKL216Cy1mEGrA7TCM-tUOppxN_0krm_-FifreejH3gdy7fvx6koQ57SOJb4p7eggrHydfG_rZO_VI_MjUjn3ijYp8LXXUlNTOXzlUAgFvXYGjc0m4IY0er4EY=&c=6AS7e4FZDzigbE4qxG9bMr9PpW8g3fhEBCCvUoZXhgckB9kn9nLdpg==&ch=gM200aqcAPlAFkrW9rVfrlLoSWSQvIgzqpl6EXjjxwpNeKW_oyq_3A==)

|  |
| --- |
| JUNE 2023 Calendar |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Leslie Workday | Leslie Workday | Leslie Workday | Office Hours10am – 2pm  Pastor Drop-in 2pm-4pm | Office Hour  10am – 2pm  Pastor Drop-in  11am – 1pm | Office Hours10am – 2pm |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Foundation No Mtg.**  **Memorial No Mtg.**  **LeMesa Grp-Meets a couple Tuesdays Gregory Park w/church backup** | **Pastor Leslie at Annual Mtg. MN Conference & Training-8th thru 10th** |  |  | **1** | **2**  10:30am Book Grp- **Z** | **3** |
| **Mental Health Sunday**  **4**  8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y**  10am Wrship Serv & Communion-**Y&V**  11am Fellowship-**Y** | **5** | 2pm Emotions **6**  Anon- **Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon- **Y** | **7**  8:30am CM Mtg**.-Y**  12pm Mens Grp-**Y** @  B-Merri  5:30pm Trustees-Y  7pm AA Common-**Y** | **8**  Pastor Drop-in Hrs.-**Cancelled**  4pm Exec. Mtg-**Y**  7pm BLUE-in Park-**Y**/church backup | **9**  10:30am Book Grp.- **Z**  . | **10**  9:30am Women’s Fellowship-Y Fellowship Hall |
| **11**  8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y**  10am Pet Blessing Wrship Serv-**Y&V**  11am Fellowship-**Y**  11:30am Confirmation-**?** | **12** | 2pm Emotions **13**  Anon-**Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon-**Y** | **14**  10am Care Team-**Y**  12pm Men’s Grp  @ 4 Seas-**Y**  7pm AA Common-**Y** | **15**  4pm Council Mtg-**Y**&**Z**  7pm AA Dist-**Y** | **16**  10:30am Book Grp- **Z** | **17**  1-5pm Youth Pride in Gregory Park-Y  5:30 Shrimp Dinner Funraiser-Y |
| **18**  8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y** 10am Wrship Serv-**Y&V**  11:30am Fellowship-**Y** | **19**  Set-up for Solstice Tea Party tomorrow | 2pm Swedish  **20** Midsummer Celebration Funraiser–**Y**  2pm EmotionsAnon-**Y**  5pm LeMesa-**Y** in Park/church backup  5:30pm Overeaters Anon-**Y** | **21**  12pm Men’s Grp-@ Dunmire’s East**-Y**  7pm AA Common-**Y** | **22**  11:30am Women’s Grp @Ernies on Gull-**Y**  6:30pm Dist.7 AA-Y | **23**  10:30am Book Grp- **Z** | **24** |
| 8:30am Bnrd Frnds-**Y 25**  10am Wrship Serv-**Y&V**  11am Stewardship Volunteer Recognition Brunch-**Y**  11:30 am Adult Forum-**Y**  ***Special Offering: “WeAre”***  ***\*\*Newsletter Deadline*** | **26**  5-9pm AAUW-Program Mtg. Fellowship-**Y** | 2pm Emotions **27** Anon-**Y**  5:30pm Overeaters Anon-**Y** | **28**    12pm Men’s Grp @ Black Bear Grill-**Y**  7pm AA Common-**Y** | **29**  12pm-8pm TheShop/Sprout CSA Basket/ Fun With Foods Cooking & Dinner-Y | **30**    10:30am Book Grp- **Z** | **V** or **Z** –**Virtual** Online or our **Zoom**  **C**- Cancelled  **N**-None  **? –** No update  **Y**- Yes Mtg. in person |

1. https://www.uccmn.org/2023/05/03/miracles-arising/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)