

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST: The family of Denny Pechacek, Rhonda Silence, Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Gwen Dornfeld, Sally Dunn, Family of SueEllen Kruse, for Levi Axtell and Family, Family of Lawrence Scully, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Ukraine, Sudan, and Planet Earth.

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

MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2023 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2023, showing a need for a yearly income of \$164,110.00.

After thirty-four weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$104,815.57. The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$107,514.02.

Thank you for your Support!

Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, August 24

No Tai Chi

12:00 PM – Women's AA

FRIDAY, August 25

7:00 AM – AA

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

SATURDAY, August 26

1:00 PM – Celebrating the Life of Evalyn Carlson at 121 Casper's Hill Road

SUNDAY, August 27

9:30 AM – Pick-up Choir Practice

10:30 AM Worship Service – INSIDE AND ON ZOOM 13th Sunday after Pentecost, often when talking about civil disobedience, we look the Henry David Thoreau, or Mahatma Gandhi as those who began the non-violent resistance movement. The story in Exodus tells the story of midwives who disobeyed a Pharaoh's order for the purpose of thwarting a genocide. One of those who were saved was a baby named Moses.

MONDAY August 28

5:00 PM Rooted and Rising: Rain Gardens down by Grand Marais Public Library

7:00 PM – AI-Anon

Pastor Enno on Vacation until September 1st

TUESDAY, August 29

Heal Our Planet not Meeting this Tuesday

7:00 PM – Zen Buddhist Meditation

WEDNESDAY, August 30

6:00 PM – Sing-Along

THURSDAY, August 31

10:00 AM Tai Chi

12:00 PM – Women's AA

FRIDAY, September 1

7:00 AM – AA

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch

SATURDAY, September 2

SUNDAY, September 3

9:30 AM – Choir Practice

10:30 AM Worship Service – Inside AND ON ZOOM, 14th Sunday after Pentecost, on this Labor Day Weekend, we uplift Rev. James Kyle, a Congregational minister who as a Senator, helped create Labor Day as a federal holiday. Paul's letter to Rome tells us to work to contribute to the needs of the people, may we continue to do this in our day and age.

11:30 AM – Washington DC Luncheon: ALL Are Invited

12:00 PM – Washington DC Presentation in Sanctuary



August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Be Transformed

A new king rose to power. This king did not understand the past or remember that it was Joseph's wisdom and God-given insight that had saved his people in generations gone by. Instead, like many in power, he began to be afraid of Joseph's many children and grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. What if they join my enemies, he wondered, in the event of war? So, he conscripted and enslaved the people, forcing them into hard labor. Our Book tells us that Pharaoh and his slave drivers were ruthless, imposing harder and harder tasks upon God's people. He could force them to work, even to build great cities, but he could not steal their joy and love. And so, God's people grew in numbers.

Then Pharaoh called the midwives, the women who attended the births and brought the babies, squalling and slimy and so preciously alive, into the world. The midwives must have wondered if they would be killed when they went cautiously before the terrible ruler, but Pharaoh instead commanded them to do something horrible. He commanded that the women, called by God to bring life into this world, would instead kill the boy babies they helped birth.

The midwives left Pharaoh's presence breathing a sigh of relief. They knew just what to do. Instead of killing the babies, they lied to Pharaoh about the birth process, something he obviously knew nothing about.

God's preference for those on the margins is shown strongly throughout the scriptures, but perhaps nowhere as strongly as this story. How can the midwives help you find your power against those who would abuse or oppress? What skills do you have that keep giving life, even times and place that ask you to deal in death?

