# GLAD TIDINGS!

*February 2025*

Gathered by the lake,
we are
Embraced by God
to **grow**
Empowered by Christ
to **care,**
Enriched by the Holy Spirit
to **celebrate**



**Congregational United Church of Christ Neenah / Menasha**

Hello church!

Lent and spring are just around the corner, but before all of that we must deal with February. While the shortest month of the year I argue the bitter cold makes it feel like one of the longest. To defeat the darkness, as the days slowly get a little longer with every sunrise, I suggest we focus on what we can do to bring about a more peaceful and just world.

One way to do this is to join us for our Tuesday morning or Wednesday night discussion groups inspired by Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book Life Together (Offered both Tuesdays at 11 AM, Jan14- Feb 18; and Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, Jan 15 – Feb 19). Bonhoeffer created a daily list of spiritual practices to help the seminarians under his tutelage live a more faithful life as followers of the way of Jesus. These spiritual practices are community, solitude, service, and confession/ The Lord's Supper. You don't need to read the book to join the conversation for one night or the entire study. Join us, won't you? "Life together is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship." I believe our conversations about how to structure our days inspired by our faith and Bonhoeffer's observations will help us to discover the "peace that passes all understanding" the Book of Philippians famously proclaims.

Another way to bring about peace on earth is to accept my invitation to join me and my friends from the newly formed Neenah Menasha Ministerial Association, along with their member churches, for a community prayer vigil for peace. In response to our world ravaged by war and violence (Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, Ukraine, Somalia, Israel- Palestine, Afghanistan- Pakistan, to name a few) we will come together as a community to express our desire for peace through prayer, song, the lighting of candles, and the fellowship we find with each other, as a public act of solidarity to call for an end to violence and promote harmony through spiritual means. This event will provide a space for individuals to come together, reflect, and seek divine intervention for peace. We believe that when we come together in prayer good things happen. May it be so.

This event will take place February 23 at 2PM at St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church (900 Geiger St, Neenah, WI 54956).

A well-known quote about peace is "Peace begins with a smile," attributed to Mother Teresa. This

(Continued on next page)

quote emphasizes the idea that even a simple act of kindness, like a smile, can be the first step towards creating peace in the world.

Join us Sunday February 23rd and let our smiles and prayers come together to make a new way for peace to manifest in our world for all people.

As the old hymn calls out: *"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."* These are some exciting, albeit cold, days at the church by the lake. Check out our newsletter and our website and join us as we find our way together as followers of the Prince of Peace, to create a more peaceful and just world for all people.

Amen and alleluia,



Pastor Rob




2/06 Rayleigh Balogh
2/06 Len Hoehne
2/09 Don Kleist
2/09 Betty Curtis
2/11 Paul Swatscheno
2/14 Adam Chaffin
2/18 Annabeth H.
2/26 Brandon Oakley-Janness
2/28 Dawn Welling

**Wedding Anniversaries**

**February 8th**
Rev John and Carol Tschudy

We would like to wish all a happy birthday or anniversary. If your birthday or anniversary was omitted , or you would rather not have it published, please contact church office.




Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Melanie Nault
Shirl Alix
Gerry Benthein
Tiffany Williams
Jerry Hupe
**Homebound**:
Judy Doornbos
Carol Wilcox




**CHOIR NEWS!**

**Choir rehearsal will be moving to Tuesday evenings in 2025!**

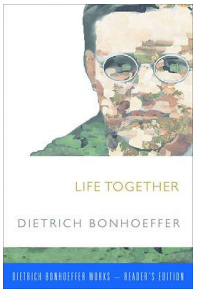
Come join us Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm, . This would be a great time to join the choir ! . Any questions contact Jill Rosenthal jellenrosen@gmail.com




COMMUNITY TABLE will be **February 18th.** Thank you to everyone that signed up to work, donate or help at St. Paul's




**New Adult Education Opportunity**
**Wednesdays 6:30 -7:30 PM**
**Feb 5 – Feb 19, 2025**




A conversation about Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *Life Together*. A 6-week study giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups.

"Life together is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship."

We will also offer this same study and conversation in our corresponding Tuesday morning weekly bible study Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb 4,11, & 19th, in the church lounge.

Both conversations will be available on Zoom with the meeting link being provided in the weekly Friday email. Any copy of this book will do. We are using the Dietrich Bonhoffer Works-Reader's Edition for this study (122 pgs. Fortress Press. Nov. 1, 2015). A quick read, we will spend one session talking about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the remaining 5 session are dedicated to each of the 5 chapters in this book.

**SCRIPTURES FOR**

**FEBRUARY**

**Feb 2:** Jerimiah 1:4-10 - The Call of Jerimiah. Communion Sunday. Scout Sunday. Annual meeting after worship.

**Feb. 9:** Luke 5:1-11 - The "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" Hymn - Text.

**Feb. 16:** Luke 6:17-26 - Sermon on the Plain Part 1. Camp Sunday.

**Feb. 23**: Luke 6:27-38 - Sermon on the Plain Part 2.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING FEBRUARY




Sunday School is during worship Sunday, the youth will be excused to their classrooms with their teachers after Children's Moment.

**PreK-1st** grade will start in worship at 10:15am. Pick your child up in room 4.

**2nd-5th** grade will start in worship at 10:15am. Pick your child up in room 6.

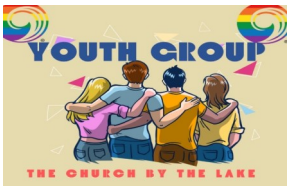
**6th-8th** grade will start in worship at 10:15am. Your child will be in room 7.

**High School** on the 2nd-4th Sunday youth will meet at 9:00-10:00am at Sweet Lair in Menasha. On the 3rd & 5th Sunday of the month the youth will meet at church working on Community Service projects.




**FEBRUARY IS CAMP MONTH** here at CUCC-NM, and that means our annual Silent Auction is in full-swing! Silent Auction raises money to help cover costs for youth, adults and families to attend camps and retreats, along with youth mission trips. Camp experiences develop confidence and create lasting friendships in an outdoor setting through fun experiences grounded in spiritual values. Mission trips offer opportunity to put those values to work here at home and around the country. Thanks to your generosity, our congregation continues to a large number of youth to camps and retreats every year. A few families have gone over the last few years, too. You'll hear from some of these folks throughout the month of February. We hope their stories inspire you to take a walk through the auction, put a bid (or two or three) on your favorite item, and continue to help church members grow in confidence, faith, and relationship with Jesus and others.

## YOUTH GROUP




**Friday, February 14th** the youth, grades 6th-8th & 9th-12th, will have a great time singing and dancing to their favorite music while making gifts for the high school seniors (shh, it's a secret…). Bring your favorite songs to share, enjoy a delicious meal, and have a lot of fun! All are welcome, so please bring your friends!

**YOUTH GROUP FUTURE DATES**

6:00-8:00pm, dinner is provided.
6th-8th grade &
9th-12th grade

Friday, March 14th
Friday, April 11th
Friday, May 9th

## CAMP SUNDAY

**On February 16th** we will be having our Annual Camp Sunday, come enjoy a delicious camp breakfast, a fun worship with camp songs, a camp moment and hear what UCCI has to offer from Daycholah Center's very own Kelli Sager. The youth will be enjoying camp games during Sunday school, led by favorite camp counselors, Kelli & Ethan as well as some of our own youth who love attending camp at Daycholah Center!

Wear your favorite tie-dye shirt and be ready to have some fun!



## YOUTH MISSION TRIP




**Coming Summer of 2025**, the youth and the congregation are invited to work together at our first Hometown Mission Trip! Stay tuned for dates and events.

**Coming Summer 2026,** the High School Youth will be heading to Colorado Springs, CO for a Mission Trip. Stay tuned for dates.

## Hey Campers of ALL ages!

Now is the time to start thinking about camp registration. A complete camp schedule and registration online can be found at www.ucci.org. Camp is open for campers as young as 4 and families! Registration is open now. A camp personalized calendar was made and emailed to each family, helping you to know what camps are right for your youth's ages. If you have any questions about camps, please ask Alanna.

Scholarships are available for all campers. Once your camper is registered, please email me a copy of the registration so I can start the scholarship process. Email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org.

## SUMMER CAMP




Speaking of camp… the summer camp schedule will be out in early January on the website! https://ucci.org/ Go visit the site and see what camp your kiddo, you or your family may want to attend this year. Camp is not just for the kids… there are adult camps and "& Me" camps (kids ages 4- 2nd grade and an adult) and family camps. Last year we had 13 kids, and 3 adults go to camp, let's see if we can beat that this summer! Camp is a great way to learn while having fun, so much fun that you don't even know you're learning! Meet new friends, have new adventures and try new (very tasty) food. Here at CUCCNM we feel camp is so important that we will give up to a 50% scholarship to members and friends of the church who apply & participate in the life of the church as well as the fundraisers that are raising the funds to support them. (apply by emailing your camp receipt to Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org).

## HOMEMADE PIZZA FUNDRAISER




There are still some yummy homemade pizzas available for purchase. Either stop by the table in the hallway after church on Sundays or email Alanna ce@cuccnm.org to pick some up during the week. All proceeds will go to the Faith Development Fund (FDF) to support anyone going to camp, a retreat or mission trip.

**For Just $8 You Get:** handmade 12-inch pizza with your choice of toppings: cheese, cheese & pepperoni, or cheese & sausage.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On **Sunday, February 9th,** It's an annual event where communities come together, inspired by the Super Bowl, to tackle hunger locally. For over three decades, the Souper Bowl of Caring has empowered individuals, organizations, and schools to raise food and funds for food banks and community-based charities.

As millions of people tune in to watch the Super Bowl, we're also tuning in to the needs of our neighbors. The Souper Bowl of Caring is about taking action to fight hunger at the local level, ensuring that no one has to go without the food they need.

Help us reach our goal of making a difference in our communities. Whether you're a sports fan or not, it's a chance to be part of something bigger. Let's make this year's Souper Bowl of Caring the most successful one yet!

All collections will be donated to the Community Table. If you would like to donate online follow this link Give - Congregational United Church of Christ, Neenah/Menasha Click on the "Fox Valley Community Table" (where it asks if you want your donation to go to a specific fund) Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

**THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY TABLE VOLUNTEERS**




This is a message sent by the site director about the program last year.

Dear FVCT Partners,

Look at what we have done. In 2024 we worked together to serve 7,286 meals. That's 7,286 times someone had a good nourishing meal prepared by people who care about them. 7,286 times someone had relief from their struggles and were reminded of their importance. That is a lot of care and cooking!

In 2024 we served 102 days and averaged 71 guest meals each time. The year before we averaged 56. That's quite an increase. We have new guests every time we serve, and many of them return and become regulars, thanks to all you talented cooks! Good job! It's unfortunate that more folks need our meals, and it's so good that they're finding us.

The community part is as important as the meal. Your welcoming kindness puts people at ease. They have a break from their burdens and can enjoy conversation while enjoying the meal. Through this comes sharing ideas and helping each other. People learn ways to improve their situations and find friendships. We share flyers and resources, but the true gift is people caring for each other.

Thank you for your smiling service, to the meal planners and cooks, everyone who provided part of a meal, funding, food donations, gas cards and bus passes. We can do so much together, your partnership is important and very much appreciated!




On behalf of our Board of Directors, and myself, thank you for caring for our neighbors through Fox Valley Community Table!

Chrissy Goethel
FVCT Site Director

# VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Upon receiving the schedule, please review it to ensure you are available when scheduled. If you are unavailable, please use the contact information to find a replacement for yourself. Please notify the church office **office@cuccnm.org** with the schedule change. Thanks to all for your continued support and service as volunteers! **If you would like to be added to the schedule please contact the church office. We are always looking for substitutes !**

| TASK | 2-2-2025 | 2-9-2025 | 2-16-2025 | 2-23-2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| **LITURGIST** | Nicky Banks | Pat Rosenak | John Tschudy | Cheryl Humleker |
| **HEAD USHER** | Sue Dollhopf | Terri Flesburg | Gay Dickson | John LaPrairie |
| | | | | |
| **USHER 2** | Kerry Fox | Kerry Fox | Mary Liesch | Sherri Jischke |
| **USHER 3** | Pat Mahoney | Alan Gear | Wendy Remmel | Pat Mahoney |
| **USHER 4** | Colin Stewart | Nicky Banks | Laura Kleist | Colin S. |
| **ACOLYTE** | Evie J | Cece L. | | |
| **SINGING BOWL** | Chole R | Henry L | | |
| **YOUTH READER** | Sophie R | Henry L | | |
| **REFRESHMENTS** | John LaPrairie | Mary Liesch | Ginny Stutzman | Jenn Abing |
| **COMMUNION** | Sherri Jischke | | | |

**<u>YOU</u> CAN HELP SERVE!**




As our church gets back into the swing of things for winter the Ministry of Spiritual Life would like to continue to offer a time for fellowship and snacks after worship each "O" through "R" to bring in 1 dozen cookies, bars (need not be homemade) or a gallon of juice sometime during the month you are assigned. Label the item "Fellowship" and take to the kitchen freezer/or bring them to the lounge .Your contribution is much appreciated! Watch for your turn to share as your "letter" comes up! Questions contact Terri Flesburg .Here is the schedule:

**March:** S, **April:** T-V, **May**: W-Z



## ANNUAL MEETING

## FEBRUARY 2ND




The 174th Congregational Meeting of Congregational United Church of Christ Neenah/Menasha will be held **February 2nd** after worship. Please plan on attending to vote on our 2025 Budget.




**2025 Envelopes** are ready to be picked up. They are located by the church office. If you would like some please let the church office know.

## DIFFERENT WAYS TO GIVE TO CUCCNM

1.Cash or check in the offering plate or by mailing it to the church.

2. Have your bank send an electronic check. (Bill Pay)

3. Use our QR Code that is linked to our website. Your giving will be taken through Pay Pal were you will use your credit card. *This option charges a fee to the church.*

If you have any questions, please contact Melanie in the church office. office@cuccnm.org or 920-725-4873

# Accountant's Corner

| | December | Year to Date |
|---|---|---|
| Giving Income | $ 33,245 | $ 234,330 |
| Interest + Rents | 3,255 | 30,716 |
| Other Income | 1 | 7,144 |
| Total Income | $ 36,501 | $ 272,189 |
| Expenses | 29,906 | 228,556 |
| Expenses | **$ 6,595** | **$ 43,633** |




We were in the **Black** at the end of the month, and in the Black for the Year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed**!**

**Church Information**
**1511 Nicolet Blvd.**
**Neenah Wi 54956**
**920-725-4873**

**Website: www.cuccnm.org**

**Pastor**
pastor@cuccnm.org

**Church Office**
office@cuccnm.org

**Christian Education Director**
ce@cuccnm.org

**Wider Church Contacts:**

**www.ucc.org**
(United Church of Christ)

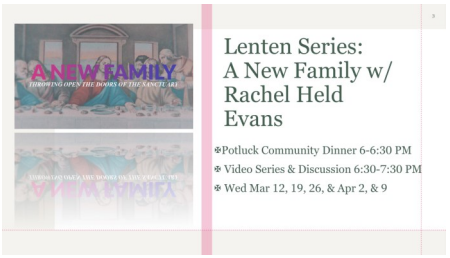
**www.neaucc.org**
(Northeast Association )

**www.wcucc.org**
Wisconsin Conference

**CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEENAH MENASHA (CUCCNM)**
**2025 LENTEN SCHEDULE**

*All events at CUCCNM unless otherwise noted.*

**MARCH 5 – ASH WEDNESDAY**
6PM Potluck
7PM Service of Imposition of Ashes




**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP**
A New Family: Opening the Doors of the Church –
A Five-Film Series with Rachel Held Evans
5 Wednesdays: **March 12, 19, 26, & April 2, 9**
6-6:30PM Potluck
6:30-7:30PM Video Series & Discussion
Let's talk about what the church is and what the church can be, as a place, as a community, as a way of life that lives inside of us, wherever we go. Rachel Held Evans was quoted as saying: "The folks you are shutting out of the church today will be leading it tomorrow. The future is in the margins." If we are resurrection people, are we willing to let the ways of doing Church that do not serve God, ourselves, or our neighbors, die? If God throws open the doors of the church, who are we to monitor them, or worse, close them? When the doors are locked and requirements for inclusion are narrow are we willing to follow Rachael's example and become sanctuaries ourselves?

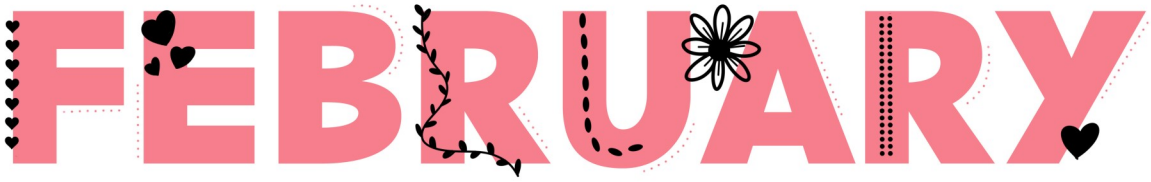
**SUNDAYS IN LENT** (10:15AM WORSHIP)
A Sermon Series: Hearing God's Call. We Embrace a new spiritual practice each week to help us hear God's call in our lives.
**March 9** – Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (Spiritual Practice – Gratitude)
**March 16** – Psalm 27 (Spiritual Practice – Patience/ Perseverance
**March 23** – Luke 13:1-9 (Spiritual Practice – Confession
**March 30** – Luke 15:1-311b-32 (Spiritual Practice – Surender)
**April 6** – Isaiah 43:16-21(Spiritual Practice – Trust)
**April 13** (Palm Sunday) – Lk 23:1-49 (Spiritual Practice – Love)

**HOLY WEEK AT THE CHURCH BY THE LAKE:**
*No event Wednesday April 16.*
*This year Congregational UCC Neenah Menasha will host a joint Maundy Thursday service with St. Paul's ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America), Neenah, and St. Paul's ELCA Neenah will host a joint Good Friday service with Congregational UCC Neenah Menasha.*
o *Our hope is to share these two Holy Week services every year on a rotating basis.*
o *This means that in 2026 St. Paul's ELCA Neenah will host the Maundy Thursday service and Congregational UCC Neenah Menasha will host the Good Friday service.*

**April 17** – **MAUNDY THURSDAY** Service **at Congregational UCC Neenah Menasha** (service at 1511 Nicolet Blvd. Neenah, WI 54956), **6:30PM**, joint service with St. Paul's ELCA Neenah. Last Supper Reenactment with the CUCCNM Youth.

**April 18** - **GOOD FRIDAY** service **at St. Paul's ELCA Neenah** (200 N. Commercial St. Neenah, WI 54956), **6:30PM,** joint service with Congregational UCC Neenah Menasha.

**Sun Apr 20** – **EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION** (10:15AM - regular Sunday worship time)




| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | **1**<br>**7-8:30pm**<br>Horizon II AA |
| **2**<br>**Annual Meeting**<br>**Boy Scout Sunday**<br>Silent Auction Starts<br>**NO Sunday School**<br>**10:15 am**<br>Worship : | **3** | **4**<br>**8:30 am**<br>Discussion Group<br>**11:00 am**<br>Bible Study<br>**6:30 pm**<br>**Adult Choir** | **5**<br>**6:30-7:30**<br>**Adult Education class** | **6**<br>**12:00–2:00pm**<br>Bags to Benches<br>**6:30 pm**<br>Ministry Council | **7** | **8**<br>**7-8:30pm**<br>Horizon II AA |
| **9**<br>**9:00am**<br>H.S. S.S. at Sweet Lair<br>**10:15 am**<br>Worship :<br>**10:15 am**<br>PreK- 8th grade S.S.<br>**11:30-1:30pm**<br>Confirmation Chip/ Dip Potluck | **10** | **11**<br>**8:30 am**<br>Discussion Group<br>**11:00 am**<br>Bible Study<br>**6:30 pm**<br>**Adult Choir** | **12**<br>**6:30-7:30**<br>**Adult Education class** | **13** | 14<br>**6-8:00pm**<br>Youth Group | **15**<br>**7-8:30pm**<br>Horizon II AA |
| **16**<br>**Camp Sunday**<br>**9:00 am**<br>**Camp Breakfast**<br>**9:00am**<br>H.S. S.S. at Church<br>**10:15 am**<br>Worship :<br>**10:15 am**<br>PreK- 8th grade S.S. | **17** | **18**<br>**8:30 am**<br>Discussion Group<br>**NO** Bible Study<br>**10:30am,**<br>Community Table<br>**6:30 pm**<br>**Adult Choir** | **19**<br>**6:30-7:30**<br>**Adult Education class** | **20**<br>**12:00–2:00pm**<br>Bags to Benches | **21**<br>**1:00 pm**<br>Needlers | **22**<br>**7-8:30pm**<br>Horizon II AA |
| **23**<br>**9 :00am**<br>H.S. S.S. at Sweet Lair<br>**10:15 am**<br>Worship :<br>**10:15 am**<br>PreK- 8th grade S.S.<br>**6-8:00pm**<br>Confirmation w/ Mentor | **24** | **25**<br>**8:30 am**<br>Discussion Group<br>**11:00 am**<br>Bible Study<br>**6:30 pm**<br>Adult Choir<br>Min of Stewardship | **26** | **27** | **28** | |



**DISCUSSION GROUP**
**Tuesdays at 8:30-9:30 am**
We meet at Four Seasons Restaurant in Neenah for breakfast and lively discussion about current events and faith trends
1104 South Commercial Street, Neenah
Everyone is Welcome!



**NEEDLERS**

Share Fellowship and do Needlework
All who like to do (or learn to do) any type of needlework.

**Meet Friday February 21st at 1:00pm** in the lounge to visit and work on needlework such as knitting, crocheting, etc. Invite your friends and share in the conversation and creation!

Sunday Worship is in person.
Services will be broadcast **live on FB** every Sunday morning and later put on our website.

Click below to find our FB page
https://facebook.com/CongregationalUCCNeenahMenasha/
It will be posted on the church website later in the day.
www.cuccnm.org.




**Book Club :**
**Stay Tuned**
**For more information on our Next Book .**
Info not available at time of printing.

**BAGS FOR BENCHES**

**TUESDAY FEB 6TH & 20TH**
**12:00-2:00 PM**



Want to be a part of our recycling program and have fun at the same time? Come and fellowship while we and sort plastic bags for our next bench. Questions contact Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org






**Ministry Council**

**Moderator:**
Scott Olson

**Vice Moderator:**
Signa Meyers

**Secretary:**
Jenn Abing

**Accountant:**
Dave Zernicke

**Ministry of Faith Development**
Dawn Welling

**Ministry of Service:**
Mary Janness

**Ministry of Spiritual Life**
Terri Flesburg

**Ministry of Stewardship**
Jeff Nichols

**At Large**:
Sue Dollhopf
Connie Regazzi
Sherri Jischke

**Church Historian:**
Mowry Smith

**Communication Coordinator**
Marilyn Kostrzak

**Time and Talent Coordinator:**

**Personnel Committee**
Scott Olson
Marilyn Kostrzak

**Pastoral Relations Committee**
Kerry Fox, Sue Knuth,
Patty Hoehne, Bob Nault

**Rev. Rob Van Ess** Pastor,
pastor@cuccnm.org
**Melanie Nault,** Admin. Assistant,
office@cuccnm.org
**Alanna Smith,** Christian Ed. Dir.,
ce@cuccnm.org

**Congregational United Church of Christ**
**of Neenah / Menasha**
**1511 Nicolet Blvd.**
**Neenah, Wi 54956**
**920-725-4873**
**www.cuccnm.org**
**office@cuccnm.org**




| | |
|---|---|
| **FEB 2ND** | ANNUAL MEETING<br>BOY SCOUT SUNDAY<br>SILENT AUCTION STARTS |
| **FEB 6TH** | BAG TO BENCH |
| **FEB 14TH** | YOUTH GROUP |
| **FEB 16TH** | CAMP SUNDAY<br>CAMP BREAKFAST |
| **FEB 18TH** | COMMUNITY TABLE |
| **FEB 20TH** | BAGS & TO BENCHES |

MORE INFORMATION INSIDE