GLAD TIDINGS!

October 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

October Worship Series: The Heart of Faith

"In the falling of leaves, we see the shedding of ego, making room for the spirit to bloom." – Unknown

Hello church!

Autumn is a season that speaks in quiet, sacred tones. The trees, once full and vibrant, begin to release their leaves in a slow, graceful surrender. In this shedding, we witness a spiritual metaphor: the letting go of ego, of pretense, of all that no longer serves. It is a time when nature models for us the beauty of release—making space for something deeper to emerge.

As the days grow shorter and the nights stretch longer, many of us find ourselves turning inward. The rhythm of the season invites reflection, transformation, and renewal. It's a time of harvest—of gathering what has grown in us over the past months, and also of pruning, of asking what we're ready to let go of. In this sacred pause, we begin to ask the questions that matter most:

- Where do I find meaning in my life?
- How does my faith feed my spirit?
- What kind of faithful person am I becoming?

This October, we invite you to journey with us through a four-week preaching series titled "The Heart of Faith." Each week, we'll explore a different story from the Gospel of Luke that challenges and inspires us to live with a faith that is authentic, humble, and deeply rooted in relationship with God and one another.

Series Schedule:
- October 5 – Faith That Obeys (Luke 17:5–10)
  A reflection on humble service and the quiet strength of obedience in faith.

- October 12 – Faith That Gives Thanks (Luke 17:11–19)
  A story of healing and gratitude, reminding us that thanksgiving is a spiritual practice.

- October 19 – Faith That Persists (Luke 18:1–8)

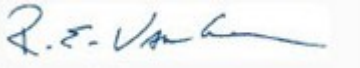
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A parable of persistence and prayer, encouraging us to trust in God's justice.

- October 26 – Faith That Humbles (Luke 18:9–14)
A lesson in humility and mercy, showing us the posture of a heart truly open to God.

So come, bring your questions, your gratitude, your persistence, and your humility. Join us as we seek to live into a faith that blooms in the quiet spaces of our lives—just as the Spirit blooms in the shedding of ego and the turning of the season.

Amen and alleluia,



Pastor Rob



Melanie Nault will be on vacation October 10th until October 17th. She will be back in the office on Oct 20th.

Alanna Smith will be out of the office Oct 14th-16th at a CE conference (Glauce)



10/02 Kathy Mahoney
10/04 Abigail Borgen
10/05 Amy Boehnlein
10/06 Mary Liesch
10/06 Steph Kellnhauser
10/10 Terri Flesburg
10/12 Lily B.
10/12 Cassandra S.
10/14 Noah Jones
10/15 Jenny Blankenfeld
10/21 Ana G.
10/25 Wendy Remmel
Drew Benthein
10/27 Erv Wegner
10/28 Claudia A.
10/30 Bert Protsman
Samantha Swatscheno
10/30 Pat Katzman
10/31 Rob Van Ess

October 3rd
Dean and Pat Katzman
October 9th
Mike and Steph Vrabec
October 16th
Nicky Banks & Rob Van Ess
October 19th
Amy and Steve Boehnlein
October 20th
Jerry Hupe and Karen Behle
October 28th
Josh and Stephanie Groom

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:

Ongoing Prayers:

Dave Zernicke, Larry Olson, Crystal Lingenhag, Shirl Alix, Tiffany Williams, Dar Schuff,

Homebound:

Jerry Hupe, Judy Doornbos in California, and Carol Wilcox.

CHOIR PRACTICE



Choir practices are held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, This is a great time to join the choir. We have a lot of fun! Please reach out to Jill at jellenrosen@gmail.com if you have any questions.



CUCCNM is responsible for the Community Table on 3rd Tuesday every other month

COMMUNITY TABLE
Tuesday, October 21st

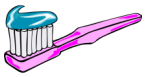
We need cooks for tater tote casseroles, rolls, milk, juice and cookies for this meal and volunteers to help serve and clean up. We are at St. Paul's Lutheran Church from 10:45-1 for a meal that feeds around 100 community members. Please check your calendar to see if you can help in some way and sign up on the board in the hallway. Questions…email Gay at anne dickson dickson.anne5@gmail.com

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY: Let's Do It Again In November!

We had a spectacular turn out at our first gathering in September. Thank you to everyone who attended; it was wonderful to see so many of you engaged in conversation about our church's future! You can still get involved even if you weren't able to come to the first meeting. Our next gathering will be from 3-8:00 PM on Saturday, November 15. This session will focus on the Discovery step of our process. We'll begin identifying our strengths, achievements, opportunities, and assets. This is one of our longer events, so dinner will be served. Childcare will also be provided. Click here Appreciative Inquiry to reserve your spot today!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER…….
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DECEMBER 13th





We will again this year be participating in the Community Christmas Dinner which serves a holiday meal for anyone in our community. We serve this festive sit down meal at St. Paul's and there are also home deliveries to those who are unable to be present for the dinner.

Our church will be providing toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss for the 170 gift bags that go to the guests. We will also be donating 15 fleece lap blankets to be part of the gift table. Our part in the meal will be to donate 6 pies which can be homemade or from Cosco or Sam's club. We will also be asking for 12 dozen holiday cookies.



Sign up sheets will be up in October for donations and to work. It's a fun day full of holiday spirt! Mark your calendar early and come have fun helping others enjoy the Christmas season. Questions…email Gay at dickson.anne5@gmail.com

CHURCH EXTERIOR KEYS CHANGED TO FOBS



We are changing our exterior keys to key fobs for a more secure building. If you have a exterior key, please bring it to Kevin Shumann or church office, you will be given a key fob. The outside keys will be rekeyed soon so make sure you are not locked out! This is **ONLY** for exterior keys. The interior keys will still work.



Veteran's Day is Tuesday Nov. 11th.

A Veterans tree will be set up in the Narthex starting Oct 26th Blank ornaments will be available to write the pertinent information about the veterans in your life on an ornament and hang it on the tree. It's a great way to remember our veterans.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HANGING OF THE GREENS November 30th, Everyone is invited to stay after Church to help with Hanging of the Greens on **Sunday, November 30th.**

The more people we have helping, the quicker we'll get done.

DONATION OF STOCKS TO CUCCNM



If you choose to give stocks to CUCCNM as a part of your donation please make that your let the church office know of your donation. I can give you the information that you will need. Melanie Nault office@cuccnm.org



CUCCNM CRAFT AND VENDOR SHOW

Please join us **Saturday October 25 from 9am -2 pm** for a fall / winter craft fair.

There will be a variety of crafters/ vendors who will have created one of a kind items for sale - great time to start your holiday shopping or spoil yourself!

Free entry and open to the public(tell all your friends) We will also have Martha's doughnuts available for purchase!

Hope to see you all there!



For the month of August we had a total income of $36,180 and our expenses were $18,165. This gives us a positive of $18,165 for the month of August. For the year to date, we have received $164,524 in total income and our expenses were $184,101. These expenses to include the concrete repair that was completed in the parking lot and the replacing of the tables in fellowship hall and to help subsidize this we used $25,000 from the Forever Facilities Fund to help with the cost. Given the movement of these funds we are showing a positive of $5,423 for year-to-date financials.

Thank you for your contributions to realize a positive.

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

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.wcucc.org
Wisconsin Conference

LISTENING TO OUR CONGREGATION



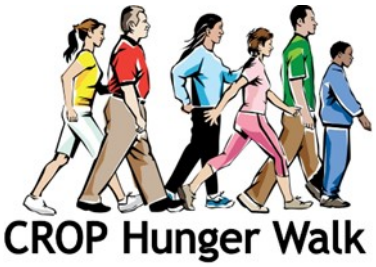
As we move into October, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our first congregational conversation and look ahead to the future. Last month, your church council launched a new initiative to open up a space for us to listen to you, our incredible congregation. It was a joy to see some of you at our first "meet and greet" after church, and your willingness to share was truly inspiring.

Some of you came with great ideas for new activities, while others expressed a potential willingness to volunteer in the future. We also had some wonderful questions about how our church leadership is structured and what the church council does. These conversations are so valuable because they help us understand what is important to you.

This is just the beginning. As we continue to seek growth for our church, we want to hear your voices and understand what your priorities are. We invite you to join us on the **second Sunday of every month** after our service for our next congregational conversation. Whether you have an idea, a question, or just want to listen, we welcome you to the conversation.

Signa Meyers, Moderator

CROP WALK COMING OCTOBER 5



As you might remember, the regional Fox Cities CROP Walk in Appleton has been cancelled indefinitely. But that hasn't stopped our awesome CUCC from having a great CROP of our own!

Again this year, we'll have a special walk in the neighborhood to raise money for Church World Service's disaster work, hunger assistance, and grass-roots development aid - both overseas and in the USA. (CROP stands for "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.") Ukraine; Gaza; and fires, floods, and hurricanes in the USA will certainly be featured. CWS also returns a portion to local food pantries here in the Fox Cities.

Walkers and sponsors who donate can sign up in the narthex on September 21 or 28, and also on the walk day October 45.

So MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Sunday, October 5, to either walk or donate to our walkers.

After church we'll walk together around the block for about 1 mile. There's a good chance we'll see an amazing Halloween object. Then we'll have a lunch together back at church, made specially for us.

We had a wonderful time last year, and we expect a fun walk again! EVERY-ONE is invited, including dogs.



For questions, contact Marcy Fry



SUNDAY SCHOOL

3k-8th grade attend Sunday School from 10:30am-11:15am, while 9th-12th grade will attend Sunday School from 11:30am-12:15pm. Youth in 3K-8th grade will start the morning off in church with their parents and will be excused to class with their teachers following The Way, the children's message. Youth ages 3K-5th grade need to be picked up in their classroom (room 4 & 6) by their guardian. Older youth will be excused to the lounge after class. To register for Sunday School, email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org

There are a few new changes in our Sunday School program for this year.

The **1st Sunday of every month** will be What's the Scoop? A one-room classroom for youth 3K-12th grade, in Fellowship Hall. Youth will return to worship for Communion.

Classrooms will be divided as follows:

- **3K-2nd grade**- in room 4, taught by high school youth, during worship
- **3rd-5th grade**- in room 6, taught by a rotation of adults, during worship
- **6th-8th grade**- in room 7, taught by 2 adults, during worship
- **9th-12th grade**- in room 7, taught by a rotation of adults, AFTER worship
  - 1st Sunday- No after worship class for high school
  - 2nd Sunday- Gospel Project
  - 3rd Sunday- Crosswalk
  - 4th Sunday- Gospel Project or Story Corp Faith Edition
  - 5th Sunday- No after worship class for high school

UNICEF/Halloween Party

All Are Welcome!



Our annual UNICEF Halloween party will be **Sunday, October 19th from 11:30-1:30 in Fellowship Hall.**

Come dressed in your Halloween costume and enjoy a pizza lunch! (A free-will donation will be collected to help offset the cost of dinner; any additional funds will be donated to UNICEF).

Lunch will be followed by Halloween games, crafts, costume contest, and, of course, pumpkin decorating. (pumpkins are provided)

Some decorations will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Your decorated pumpkins may be taken home with you on Sunday, October 26th following worship.

****Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, October 12th**



Don't forget your change!!! You can vote for your favorite pumpkin on **Sunday, October 26th** by dropping change into the box in front of your favorite pumpkin(s). All proceeds will go to UNICEF.

What is U.N.I.C.E.F.?

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is the world's leading children's organization. It may surprise you to learn that in 60 years of operation, UNICEF has saved more children than any other humanitarian organization in the world. Working in over 150 countries and territories, including right here in the United States. UNICEF is the only organization that confronts the whole range of interrelated issues that impacts children's health and wellbeing. From nutrition to protection, emergency relief to education, no other organization surpasses UNICEF's vast experience, extensive resources, global presence, and perspective in helping save children's lives.

We hope that you will join us in the fight for child survival by attending our UNICEF/Halloween party and making a donation. Every activity in support of UNICEF has an impact! Thank you for your kind and courteous attention, and for your support of our kids and UNICEF!

YOUTH GROUP



Join us on Friday, October 3rd from 6:00-9:00pm, for another fun youth group! Grades 6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade will head off to a Haunted Hayride & house at Fright Night in Greenville. RSVP needed, please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org

YOUTH'S MUSICAL TALENTS



Does your youth have a musical talent that they would be willing to share with the congregation? We would love for them to share it, either as an individual or as a group. Please contact Alanna or Jill at jellenrosen@gmail.com or sign up here to set up a time to share their talent in worship.

FUNDRAISERS FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT FUND

Ministry of Faith Development feels it is extremely important to everyone's faith journey to be able to participate in the wider church and the activities they have. Summer Church Camps, Year-Round Retreats, and Youth Mission Trips are an essential part of learning about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, our community and the world God created. We believe that ***everyone*** who wants to go to a camp, retreat or youth mission trip should be able and that it is the church's responsibility to make sure they can.

A minimum of 25% and up to 50% scholarship is given to every-one who applies for Summer Church Camp and Retreats.

A 100% scholarship is given to *Required* retreats, such as confir-mation retreats.

A 90% scholarship is given to Youth Mission Trip participants.

In order to make these scholarships possible, the Ministry of Faith Development estimates the need to raise around $19,000. Cur-rently there is $17,000 in the Faith Development Fund. We are well on our way! As our youth program grows, so will the need for scholarships. The funds we make this year will help support our growing need for camp scholarships.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Faith Development Fund and all that it serves!

FUNDRAISER COMMITTEE

MoFD organized a Fundraiser Committee made up of 5 mem-bers; Chair: Becky Nichols, Kevin Katzman, Sue Knuth, Shanna Krueger, and Teri Meylink. The committee looked at fundraisers MoFD had previously done and made a Fundraiser calendar for 2025/2026.

MoFD had set a goal to cut 50% of fundraisers by September 2025, at this time only 10 out of 24 fundraisers will occur this year. (note; not all fundraisers benefit our youth, some benefit the greater community). To see the list of current and past fundraiser, please follow this link: MoFD list of fundraiser past and present

Life of the Church Youth Opportunities

Acolyte Sign Up (3rd grade & up): https://signup.com/go/BmsHdox

Singing Bowl Sign Up (any age): https://signup.com/go/ouBnEQZ

Read in church (4th grade & up): https://signup.com/go/MerrYVS

Communion Shepard (any age): https://signup.com/go/bwYDRnu

Musical Talent (any age): https://signup.com/go/eNLSCBZ

LAST MONTH'S FUNDRAISERS AND COMMUNITY WORK

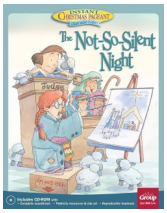
We held another successful Parents Night Out (PNO) on Saturday, September 20th with 17 young children attending, 9 teenagers babysitting and 2 adult supervisors. PNO gives parents the opportunity to go out for a much-needed adult night out. We reached 8 fami-lies, 5 families from our church and 3 families from the community, raising just under $350.00!

FUNDRAISERS AND COMMUNITY WORK FOR OCTOBER

Sunday, October 5th:
Homemade Pizza sales ends

Wednesday, October 29th:
Culver's in Neenah 5-8pm

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



This year's Youth Christmas Program *The Not-So-Silent Night* *will be held* ***on Sunday, December 14th*** *during* worship (10:15-11:15). We will have **3 practices** leading to the performance. **Please mark your calendar for Saturday, December 6th 9:00-12:00, Saturday, December 13th from 9:00-12:00**. We will also ask the youth to be at church for a final run-through on Sunday, December 14th at 9:00am. Please email Alanna if your youth would like a part in the program, speaking & non-speaking parts are available.



MISSION TRIP

June14-19, 2026 the high school youth (finishing 9th grade) will be heading to Colorado Springs, CO for a Youth Mission Trip! (with travel dates: June 13-21). If your youth is interested in joining us, please contact Alanna now. Registration for Colorado Springs, CO is happening now!



KNOCK KNOCK CAMP

KNOCK KNOCK-
WHO'S THERE?
CAMP.
CAMP WHO?

Don't you want to go to camp ***November 21st-23rd****?*
Knock Knock is an awesome retreat for 6th-8th grade students at Daycholah Center. Throughout the weekend, youth will explore the challenges and opportunities middle school youth face through the lens of faith. We'll focus on navigating changes in relationships (family and friends), dealing with the "tough stuff" today's teens experience, exploring the influence we have on those around us, and we'll enjoy some fun and games! Rev. Jacob Nault will inspire and encourage us through music and worship.

Check-in for the retreat begins at 7 pm on Friday, Nov. 21st. The program will begin at 8 pm. The retreat ends at 11:30 am on Sunday, Nov.23rd.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: November 5, 2024 ($250/person)

If your youth is interested in attending email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org and following this link to register. **Knock Knock Registration**

Here at CUCCNM, we believe camps and retreats are a VERY important part of our Christian Faith. So much so that we will help pay up to 50% of the registration fee! Let me know if your child is interested in this awesome camp.

Note: Rev. Jacob Nault, who is leading music and worship, is one of our own, he grew up in this church- just like you are!

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	10-5-2025	10-12-2025	10-19-2025	10-26-2025
Liturgist	Stephanie Vrabec	Marilyn Kostrzak	Sue Knuth	Arthya Puguh
Head Usher	Gay Dickson	Sue Dollhopf	Pat Mahoney	Mary Janness
Usher 4	Alan Gear	Nicky Banks	Marcia Fry	John LaPrairie
Usher 2	Jack Fry	Cindy Anderson	Wendy Remmel	Wayne Dickson
Usher 3	Ginny Stutzman	Sue Knuth	Laura Kleist	Mary Liesch
Refreshments	Laurie Kleist	Sue Dollhopf &	Mary Janness	John LaPrairie
Acolyte	Garrett L.	Dylan L.	Christopher S.	Evie J
Singing Bowl	Dylan L.	Garrett L.	Colin S.	Chloe R.
Youth Reader	Carmen T.	Maddie L.	Norah H.	Sophie R.
Communion Shepherd	Homan's			
Communion Prep	Gay Dickson			



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

As our church gets back into the swing of things for fall, the Ministry of Spiritual Life would like to continue to offer a time for fellowship and snacks after worship each Sunday, but needs your help. We are asking those with surnames starting with "D" through "G" 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:

November: H-J,

December: K-L, **January**: M-N,

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



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 **6:30pm** Adult Choir	**2** **6:30 pm** Ministry Council	**3** **6:00pm- 9:00pm** **Youth Group**	**4** **6:00-7:00pm** Horizon II AA
5 **10:15 am** **Worship:** Bible Sunday What's the Scoop **11:30 am** **CROP WALK**	**6**	**7** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**8** **6:30pm** Adult Choir	**9**	**10**	**11** **6:00-7:00pm** Horizon II AA
12 **10:15 am** Worship S.S. 3K- 8th **11:30am-12:15pm** **H.S. SS S** **Congregation Conversation** **12:00pm** **Book Club**	**13**	**14** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**15** **6:30pm** Adult Choir	**16** **12:00–2:00pm** **Bags to Benches**	**17** **1:00 pm** Needlers	**18** **6:00-7:00pm** Horizon II AA
19 **10:15 am** Worship S.S. 3K- 8th 11:30 am **All Church** **UNICEF Party**	**20**	**21** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **NO** Bible Study 10:30 am Community Table	**22** **6:30pm** Adult Choir	**23** **11:30 am** **Grief Group**	**24**	**25** **9:00am -2:00** **CUCCNM Craft Fair** **6:00-7:00pm** Horizon II AA
26 **10:15 am** Worship S.S. 3K- 8th **11:30am-12:15pm** H.S. SS Crosswalk	**27** **6:00pm** Fun Committee Meeting	**28** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Min of Stewardship	**29** **6:30pm** Adult Choir	**30**	**31** **Halloween** 	



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.

Needlers meet the 3rd Friday of the month.
October 17th at 1:00pm

LIVE

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.



BOOK CLUB
THE SCHOOL OF ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS
BY
ERICA BUERMEISTE
OCTOBER 12TH
at Sweet Lair after Church 12:00pm

BAGS FOR BENCHES
3rd Thursday of month
October 16th
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 sort plastic bags for our next bench. Questions contact Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org





Ministry Council

Moderator:
Signa Meyers

Vice Moderator:
Sue Knuth

Secretary:
Chris Parson

Ministry of Faith Development
Becky Nichols

Ministry of Service:
Mary Janness

Ministry of Spiritual Life
Terri Flesburg

Ministry of Stewardship
Jeff Nichols

At Large:
Connie Regazzi
Sherri Jischke
Chuck Luebke

Church Historian:
Mowry Smith

Communication Coordinator
Marilyn Kostrzak

Time and Talent Coordinator:

Personnel Committee
Scott Olson
Marilyn Kostrzak

Pastoral Relations Committee
Kerry Fox, 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



OCTOBER 5TH
CROP WALK
CONGREGATION CONVERSATION AFTER WORSHIP

OCTOBER 12TH
BOOK CLUB

OCTOBER 16TH
BAGS TO BENCHES

OCTOBER 19TH
ALL CHURCH UNICEF PARTY AFTER WORSHIP
WEAR FOUR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN COSTUME

OCTOBER 21ST
COMMUNITY TABLE

OCTOBER 23RD
11:30 AM GRIEF GROUP

OCTOBER 25TH
9-2:00 PM CUCCNM CRAFT FAIR