



Happy May!

This is a great time in the church. We have experienced the reflection of Lent, the pondering of Holy Week and the great hope and promise of the resurrection on Easter morning. We are experiencing the fresh rebirth of nature as it comes out of its winter nap. The hope of what is to come is everywhere.

Eastertide is also a reminder that we are not alone on our life's journey. We have some examples from scripture that give us hope; the women huddled by the tomb bring witness to the resurrection, the disciples gathering and waiting for what is to come next together. We are called to be a community of faithful followers to pray, listen lead, follow, wait wonder and encourage each other. After all, Christ is risen, and Pentecost is just down the path.

As a congregation, we need to look at where we are going both inside and out in the community. One question we should be asking is 'why?' The author and leadership expert, Simon Sinek has leaned into this why question in his book *'Start with the Why'*.

"Any person or organization can explain what they do; some can explain how they are different or better; but very few can clearly articulate why. Why is not about money or profit- those are results. Why is the thing that inspires us and inspires those around us."

At the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches Ministers Convocation, I attended at the end of April, this 'why' question was tweaked a bit. One of the speakers suggested we need to start asking God questions rather than Church questions. God's dreams for us is the 'Why' question, the Holy Spirit at work is the 'How' question and the 'What' is us as the Church.

As we enter into summertime and this Eastertide, I encourage us to start with the Why of God's dream for us.

Peace

Pastor Joe

MAY 2025



Choir Practice

Choir practice meets each week on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm. After Sunday, May 18th, the Choir will break for the Summer.

Please contact Vicki Will, Choir Director, at 262-343-1326, if you would like to join and sing or if you have any questions.



Children's Sunday School

Sunday School will have their last session on May 11th at 10:00 am. Sunday school will break for the summer and start up again in September.

Sunday, May 4 - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Choir singing. Following the service we will have our Spring Meeting. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall. We will also have a Coffee Hour.

Sunday, May 11 - Mother's Day, Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Children's Sunday School. Special Music by Phil Peters.



Sunday, May 18 - New Membership Sunday, Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Choir will be singing.

Saturday, May 24 - Spring Rummage Sale is from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. HELP! Volunteers are needed!



*Rummage Sale notes: Please have all items gently washed before you bring them to the church.

Big items should be delivered on Saturday morning before the rummage sale begins.

The big items will be displayed in the church yard. (Couches, tables, etc.) And we will continue to NOT take any clothes. We will start accepting rummage on May 1st. Thank you to everyone who will be donating and volunteering.

Sunday, May 25 - Memorial Sunday, Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Special Music by the Jubilee.



Monday, May 27 - MEMORIAL DAY Observance at the Rochester Cemetery at 12:00 pm. Pastor Joe will lead the prayer. The Church will host a luncheon from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. We will also have a Pie sale! This year the church will have a historical tour. We will have brochures for this event as well.



Adult Bible Study

June 24 - July 20

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

For more information, please see page 4 in the newsletter.

The Community Book Club is here!

The first meeting will be on Wednesday, May 28th.

The Book Club will meet in the Church Parlor at 6:30 pm.

For a list of books and dates please see page 4 in the newsletter.



Lectionary Readings

5/4 Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelations 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

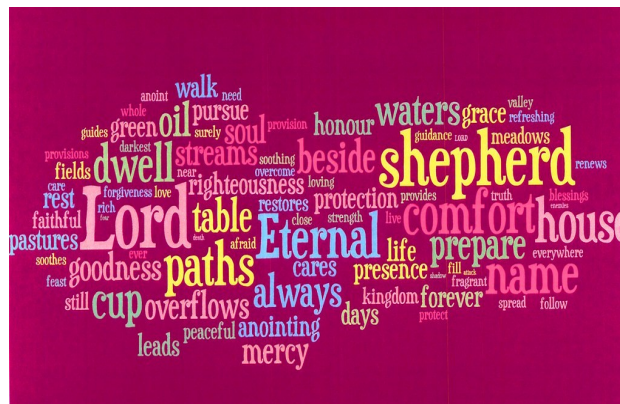
5/11 Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelations 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

5/18 Acts 11: 1-18; Psalm 148; Revelations 21:1-6; John 13-35

5/25 Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelations 21:10; John 14: 23-29

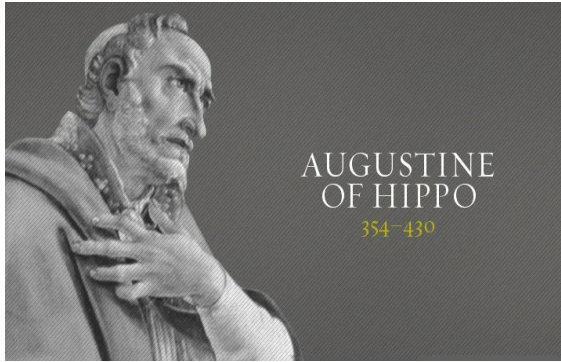


Daniel Hays



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The Heritage of Faith



Christians everywhere share a faith grounded in common roots: belief in God and the salvation of His Christ, truth as expressed in the Bible, and doctrines developed in the early church. Many don't, however, know much of where those last two came from. That is what we are going to explore.

This short 6-week course will start with a basic timeline of where our Bible came from and continue with exploration of the development of five of the universal church's root doctrines concerning creation, original sin, sacraments, predestination, and the Trinity. We will do this using original source material, principally the Bible and the writings of Augustine, then comparing how the doctrines have developed into modern use. The study's purpose is not to promote any specific denominational position, but to better understand from where various positions have grown, how they do or do not agree with what we have been taught, and provide room for us to better understand our own beliefs.

All inquiring hearts and minds are welcome:

Place: First Congregational Church of Rochester

Time: 11AM to 1PM Tuesdays

June 24 to July 29

Materials required: None, unless you want to bring your own bible

A light lunch will be provided so pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

There is a sign-up list in the back of the church or call/text JoAnne Potter 608-604-3137 or email mrspotts51@hotmail.com.

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

**The dates and books for the Community Book Club are listed below.
The meeting place is still in the church parlor at 6:30 pm.**

Title	Author	Meeting Date
When Crickets Cry	Charles Martin	May 28, 2025 Wednesday
Lessons in Chemistry	Bonnie Garmus	June 30, 2025 Monday
Summer of Light	W. Dale Cramer	July 28, 2025 Monday
The Only Woman in the Room	Marie Benedict	August 25, 2025 Monday
The Persian Pickle Club	Sandra Dallas	September 22, 2025 Monday
I am Malala	Malala Yousafzi & Christina Lamb	October, 27, 2025 Monday
Small Great Things	Jodi Piccoult	November 24, 2025 Monday
Christmas Book Exchange/Party		December 8, 2025 Location TBD

**IRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there I am in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20*

[www.fccrochesterwis.org]

May 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 PM Choir Practice	2	3
4 10:00 am Church Choir singing/ Spring Business Meeting following the service in the Fellowship Hall.	5	6	7	8 7:00 PM Choir Practice	9	10
11 Happy Mother's Day! 10:00 am Church Children's Sunday School Special Music by Phil Peters	12	13	14	15 7:00 PM Choir Practice	16	17
18 10:00 am Church Choir will be singing.	19 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	20	21	22 7:00 PM Choir Practice	23	24 Rummage Sale 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
25 10:00 am Church Special Music by Jubilee Band	26 Memorial Day Rochester Cemetery at 12:00 pm. Pastor Joe will lead the prayer. 11:00am—1:00 pm Church Luncheon, Church Tours, & Pies!	27	28	29 7:00 PM Choir Practice	30	31