

June
2022

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

Our series after Easter has us looking at Good Samaritan UMC's beliefs.

June 5 - "Means of Grace"/Pentecost/Graduate Sunday/Communion/Special Music by Chancel Chimes

June 12 - "Walking the Talk"/Special Music includes a combined piece by the Chancel Choir and Homeward Bound

June 19 - "Deep Calls to Deep"/Father's Day

June 26 - "Blessing"



Enjoy an Outdoor Summer Concert (or Two!)

Homeward Bound, your favorite feel-good band, has booked two free outdoor summer concerts we're hoping you'll want to attend:

Thursday June 2, 7:00-8:30 pm: HB Live at Minnehaha Falls!

Come snap a few selfies in front of the falls, maybe grab a beverage and a bite from nearby Sea Salt restaurant, and enjoy two 40-minute sets of music. This performance is part of the Minneapolis Music in the Parks concert series, and this will be the third time we have participated (and the second time in person). We are thrilled to have such a great slot at an awesome location -- with our own sound tech and everything!

Wednesday June 29, 7:00-8:00 pm: HB Live at Centennial Lakes Edina!

This is our favorite outdoor venue, one we've played every summer for nearly a decade now. Bring a blanket, lawn chair, or just enjoy the terraced seating at the Maetzold Amphitheater, on 76th St just east of France Ave. A beautiful setting and a great chance to hear a 60-minute set from HB.

We hope to see you there!



OUR STAFF

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Denomination News



Editor's Note: Some of you have noticed The United Methodist Church in the news lately, and this blog by Bishop David Bard, the interim bishop for the Minnesota Annual

Conference, shares insight into the state of our denomination and our Minnesota Conference. Bishop Bard also serves as resident bishop for the Michigan Annual Conference. Pastor Carol offers this blog in place of the Pastor's Page this month, and is available to discuss with you if you have questions.

April showers bring May flowers. Maybe not so much in Minnesota. In Duluth, the city in which I have spent more of my life than any other place, April showers are often snow showers, and snow showers not infrequently extend into May. One just hopes most of May's showers are rain, and that by the end of the month some flowers can be planted.

Whatever the weather, this May we are heading into Annual Conference May 24-25, 2022. It will be our first in-person Annual Conference since 2019, and our theme will be "Jesus: Healer." It will be a joy, and it will be different from Annual Conferences past. We have reasonable policies in place that promote the health and well-being of all who attend, and the Sessions Team will review our health protocols every week until Annual Conference. I am looking forward to being with you all in St. Cloud.

While Annual Conference is joyful, we also know that we meet in the midst of significant denominational

tensions. Thinking about that, and thinking about the weather, as good Minnesotans often do, I invite us to think about "rain" as we prepare for Annual Conference. We can all show up with our best selves. We can pray and we can be gracious and patient with one another. And "rain" may help.

In this case, I am not talking about precipitation, but about a therapeutic practice. Psychiatrist and neuroscientist Judson Brewer, in his book "Unwinding Anxiety," uses rain as an acronym for a practice "that helps you to stay present so that you don't freak out when an anxiety loop hits":

Recognize what is going on inside of you
and **R**elax into your feelings.

Allow those feelings to be there and **A**ccept them for what they are at the moment.

Investigate your sensations, emotions, and thoughts.

Note what is happening from moment to moment.

RAIN. This practice is intended to slow our thinking/feeling/acting response process so that we respond more than react, so that we can lean into productivity and away from reactivity.

Let's practice, first by acknowledging some current realities in our denomination and our conference.

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Worship



Digital Team Update

Our staff and volunteers continue the work of creating a unique online worship experience. Thank you for supporting our ongoing efforts!

While our online service is an important part of our online mission, we recognize that being church is about more than just weekly worship. We're seeking to create and grow an engaging, safe, and

meaningful online church community. As the next step, we're preparing to launch the "Good Samaritan Online Community" Facebook group. A couple of reasonable questions might be, "Why do we need both a page and a group?" and "What's the difference between them?" Our Facebook Page is a sort of "front porch" that projects who we are out into the world. It's a place to reach out and connect new people to our community. All our posts, comments, and replies are public, for everyone to see.

A Facebook Group is more like our living room. It's a space where we can make announcements, make prayer requests, ask for help within the community, hold group discussions, and ask questions in a more private forum. We are creating the group as a private space, where members are screened, and where we can share more confidentially within our community. Our staff and Digital Team will curate and moderate an engaging space that will be more protected than our public page. We'll have a covenant in the form of Community Guidelines that group members will be asked to follow when they join. We are striving to create a welcoming space, but with the realization the internet can sometimes be a difficult place.

Facebook groups focus more on group interaction and connection than pages do. Members of a Facebook group receive notifications of new posts and they appear in newsfeeds more often than our page posts do. This can be very helpful when we need more urgent communication or when sharing volunteer opportunities.

Our Good Samaritan UMC Community group will also offer the opportunity to access content and important information about who we are and the work we're doing in the world. And we'll be creating new content beyond worship that will help us stay connected. We recognize that social media can be a force for good, and it can be a corrosive place. With your help, we can create an online environment where we continue to live into the mission of being Good Samaritans "in all the places we can."

Stay tuned for more information to come!



Paolo Debuque
Chancel Choir
Director &
Music Coordinator
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Music Season Wrapping Up

We are fast approaching the end of this year's music season, and what a season it's been! After a long period of COVID closure, we hit the ground running, with big Rally Day and Easter services, a new collaborative Lessons and Carols program, our inaugural AAPI month programming, and many, many recording projects along the way!

We have one final project in store: join the Chancel Choir and Homeward Bound **Sunday, June 12 for a collaborative service** as we celebrate a successful year of music and welcome the summer.

Congregational Care

Congregational Care Comment

In recent weeks, I have had the chance and the pleasure of visiting more “Well-Seasoned Samaritans” in their homes. I have gotten to hear more about their lives, their upbringings, and their history with Good Sam. Communion has been shared, tears shed and much laughter expressed (we have hilarious people in this community, did you know that?!?). I even got to witness a pie eating contest!

It has been such a joy to be with one another, to soak in one another's presence, glean one another's wisdom, share one another's love. One of my favorite anchors to return to is “we belong to one another.” In times of heartbreak and pain, confusion and chaos, gratitude and celebration, we belong to one another. It is so good to remember that and to take the time to really and truly be with one another amidst this crazy journey we call life.

This summer at Good Sam, I envision and hope for more opportunities for people to be with one another, whether in small or large groups physically at the church or in each other's homes, at coffee shops, or elsewhere out in the world. I hope that you too take and make the time to truly be with one another and those you hold dear in coming weeks and months. I hope you remember and deeply feel what it is to belong to one another. ~ In light and love, Nikki

A Father's Day Prayer

by Rev. Chuck Currie, adapted

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives.

Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others deeply struggle to fulfill this role in the way their families need.

Nikki Holm (she/her)
Board Certified Chaplain
Director of Congregational Care

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Office Hours (Part-time, 15hrs/week):
Wednesdays 9-4pm and variable
(or by appointment) Tuesdays
and Fridays



We ask for Your blessings for them all – and forgiveness where it is needed. This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways – both big and small – they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So, too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent – grandfathers and uncles, step-fathers and brothers, cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches. We remember and hold in love all those who are grieving the loss of their father or fathers on this day.

Compassionate God, we ask that you especially comfort and embrace those fathers who are grieving the loss of their own child or children on this day as well as those who are grieving the loss of the dream of becoming a father when that vision hasn't come into reality.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You. Help them to feel appreciated and buoyed by the great privilege it is to parent another.

In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. Amen.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Hello Friends,
It is time to reestablish our councils! We will combine Children, Youth and Families Ministries into one council for the next program year. We will plan to start meeting in July. If you have any interest on serving on this council, please contact Jan.



Vacation Bible School

June 27-30, 2022
9:00am-4:00pm

Participants: 3 years old
to 4th grade
Volunteers: 5th grade
to adult!



Register at goodsamaritanedina.mycokesburyvbs.com

ASP Update We are beginning to plan an ASP trip to Appalachia in June of 2023. Stay tuned for more information!



Youth, rising 7th-12th graders, are invited to join in the second annual

Serve MSP
August 3-5, 2022

Register at campminnesota.org/campsessions; scroll to the **Off-Site Programs and Events**; click on **Serve MSP** to read description; then click on **Register** to access the online registration system.

We have invited our college students to "pop" in and see us this summer by mailing microwave popcorn packets with a message of encouragement!



On May 14 we celebrated the beautiful spring weather with s'mores at our fire pit!

Jan M. Russell (she/her)

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

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Confirmation Sunday, May 8, 2022



Congratulations Confirmands!

Norah Bickett, Luke Casey, Sydney Nelson, Lela Sabin and Molly Sabin.

Certificate of Completion

Allie Moran and Vanessa Scharping



Confirmation Field Trip to Lakewood Cemetery on April 23.

Missions

Angels in Our Midst

by Kent Holmes

Editor's note: Kent offered this reflection as an opening devotion at a finance team meeting not long ago. Pastor Carol was present and encouraged him to share his experience with the congregation in an upcoming newsletter, and he was gracious enough to do so here.

I visited my son last October, who is a Major in the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Bliss, El Paso, TX.

Ten thousand Afghan Refugees suddenly arrived at Fort Bliss in August 2021. They lived in a tent city, waiting for processing by the International Refugee Center (IRC) and International Relocation Services (IRS), for relocation somewhere in the U.S. The tents accommodated 20 people per tent. They were air-conditioned and heated but subject to sand accumulating “over everything”, to quote my son, who was involved in managing and running the Tent City.

After relocating 2,500 refugees, 2,500 more refugees came to Fort Bliss, from what one refugee called a “humanitarian city” (always the optimist), but what that really meant was an undisclosed military base in Europe, used as an emergency evacuation center to house Afghans that were airlifted out of Kabul, Afghanistan just hours and days before the U.S. presence ended.

Since I was visiting my son and daughter-in-law one month before Thanksgiving, as I did the previous year, we again decided to have Thanksgiving dinner early, so we could celebrate the holiday, being together, and our many blessings all together (all three of us).

At this dinner, my son (after confirming it was OK with me) invited one of the people he works with from the IRC, and she asked if she could bring along 3 of her colleagues to join us. They were more than ecstatic to get a real home-made meal, a Thanksgiving meal no less, after living in a hotel for months, eating

dinner at fast-food restaurants, and being bused to and from the refugee Tent City, for an unknown period of time, possibly for several more months to go.

These were four extraordinary people, who were truly inspiring, devoted to a cause way bigger than themselves. I was grateful to be a part of this meal of thanks and sharing.

One of them was Jenny. She was devoting several months of her life to come to Fort Bliss to help refugees. She left behind a supportive husband, and two daughters ages 5 and 10.

Another person was Richard. He had received a law degree and passed the bar exam. While waiting for his Law License to arrive in the mail, he decided to work at the International Refugee Center at Fort Bliss, to help refugees. This he did even though he had secured a job with a large law firm, but he was able to delay his start date several months so he could help refugees who badly needed his service.

Their stories opened my eyes to a whole new world - very different and far removed from my own.

On my flight back to MN (via Atlanta), I noticed a dozen people on board with large signs in plastic, hung around their necks that read “International Migration Services”. The captain came on the loudspeaker to announce “There are 60 Afghan Refugees flying with us this evening who have done a lot for us and deserve our respect. So please be patient as we try to accommodate these large families.”

I had the good fortune to sit next to two Afghan children, ages about 4 and 7, while their parents sat in the seats in front of us. Although Afghan was not one of the language options for the onboard movies, I was able to help them navigate to an animated Disney movie, where laughter is the universal language. I was amazed and wondered what they had already gone through, and of course, they had no idea what was ahead of them.

Missions

("Angels in Our Midst" continued)

I am thankful for "angels in our midst", who put others first, way before themselves, who help care for others, many of whom have little more than the clothes on their back, who help guide them and strengthen them, and us, that we can all do our part (no matter how big or how small) to make this world a better place.



serving up smiles

Drivers Please!!!

Meals on Wheels will resume the three-day-a-week delivery schedule the week of July 11. Good Sam is responsible for drivers on the

THIRD and FIFTH Fridays. If you are willing to commit to a few hours a month, have questions, or were previously a driver, please feel free to contact me! Thank you!
Vicki Dunn at 952-930-3431 (H) 641-249-6948(C)
victoria.dunn@q.com



Minnesota Reconciling Congregations Volunteer Opportunities at Pride - June 25 & 26

Join fellow reconciling congregations in showing support for the LGBTQ community at this year's Twin Cities' Pride Festival, June 25-26. Minnesota Reconciling Congregations will have a booth and a group marching at the festival.

Booth - volunteer either day
March (formerly Parade) -
Sunday, beginning at 11:00 am

Contact Don Prestly, don.prestly@gmail.com, to volunteer. Contact Brian Boysen from Good Sam with questions - 612-220-3795.



UMCOR/Ukraine Update

Thank-you for your donations for UMCOR/ Ukraine. Before Easter, Good Samaritan sent \$2,725 to UMCOR to support their efforts in Ukraine, and we have an additional \$1,650 after Easter to send in May. Continued donations can be done through Good Samaritan.

UMCOR has collaborated with the Arlene Campbell Foundation – a Texas-based humanitarian organization focused on Ukraine, Ohio Health – a not-for-profit, charitable, health care ministry of The United Methodist Church, and AEC Parcel, a private shipping company to send 47,895 pounds of medical supplies and equipment worth \$935,000 to three hospitals in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The first shipment arrived at the State Ukrainian Health Ministry Heart Institute in Kyiv on Thursday, April 14. The second shipment was shared between the Heart Institute, the Center for Pediatric Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery Clinic for Children, and the National Specialized Children's Hospital, which is the nation's largest children's hospital, on April 20. The third shipment was scheduled to follow soon after.

"This is the biggest shipment we have ever had," said Dr. Vitaly Demyanchuk, deputy director of the State Ukrainian Health Ministry Heart Institute in Kyiv. "Every box contains useful supplies that give us the possibility of providing high quality medical care to our patients, for wounded individuals and others in our area. We thank all of the American people. Together we are strong."

Source: <https://umcmmission.org/press-releases/umcor-collaborating-to-relieve-the-suffering-of-ukrainians/>

Missions



Beacon Academy: “Unpacking Race and Housing” June 9 & June 16 from 9:00 - 11:00 am

This provides an opportunity to ground ourselves in an understanding of 1) the levels of racism, 2) the way race has been used to oppress communities of color and Indigenous communities, and 3) the impact of that today.

These sessions are offered as a two-part series, so participants have ample time for discussion and reflection. Please attend both to experience the full impact. Please register for this event to receive the login information: www.beaconinterfaith.org/events/



FMSC

Volunteer at the Chanhassen site (18932 Lake Dr E):

**Wednesday, June 8
9:00-10:45am**

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at jane.heimerl@yahoo.com by June 6.

The Mission Team's Experience by Dave Knutson

In dark times it is a popular conception that human beings resort to their baser animal instincts. Examples are *Lord of the Flies* and end-of-times movies. It is an easy theory to accept. However, the experience of the Good Sam Mission Team offers example after example that this theory is not necessarily so.

As some of you know, during the pandemic Good Sam has helped 20 families gain housing or prevent them from losing their housing. Our referrals came from Stonebridge World School, Refugee Services of the Minnesota Council of Churches, and people who have come to know Good Sam. That assistance has been through collections of household items, food and money. In scenes reminiscent of “It’s a Wonderful Life,” in almost every case, when asked how much money each family needed, the family “low-balled” the amount to make sure there was some left for the next family! Amazing!



While it is easy to accept the Lord of the Flies theory as true, real-life experience shows the contrary.

Marketing Team

Are You Ready to Parade?

Good Sam has paraded our Giant Puppets in the Edina July 4 parade for almost 10 years. It is a hit with the audience, especially the children. We would love to have you join us; all ages welcome. This morning parade is short, around one mile.



We need 15-18 participants. The three puppets require three puppeteers each. The other paraders hold signs and rev-up the crowd. If you can help, no experience necessary, please contact: JoAnn Knutson at 612-240-9372 or Dave Knutson at 612-859-2940.



Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

All Church Conference

An All Church Conference will be held June 24, 2022, in the Sanctuary following in-person worship. During this conference, our congregation will receive ministry reports, hear a progress report from Pastor Carol, discern Anne Kadue's call to ministry, and elect leaders for the 2022-2023 program year. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Discerning One's Call to Ministry

The process for becoming a pastor in the United Methodist Church requires a lot of discernment – both individually and as an organization. After a person senses God calling them to ministry, they work with a mentor to individually consider whether or not life as a clergy person is for them.

After careful discernment with their mentor, the responsibility for discernment shifts to SPRC interviewing the person using historic questions created by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. The purpose of this interview is to evaluate their statement of call and to determine whether or not they have the gifts and graces needed as a pastor. After that interview, the local congregation as a whole is invited into the discerning process through an interview and a vote.

After this affirmation by the local congregation, there are more interviews with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the

Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, both of which require fairly extensive written work and demonstration of how their gifts and graces are making an impact on others.

We are blessed to have a candidate for ministry here at Good Samaritan UMC at this time. Anne Kadue recently transferred her membership from Brooklyn UMC in Brooklyn Center to Good Sam. She is a graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul. She has a number of years of experience working as a layperson in the church. She preached here May 1, and was affirmed by SPRC at their meeting May 17, 2022.

The next step is for Anne to come before the congregation to see if you also agree with SPRC that she has the gifts and graces needed as a pastor. We are planning to do this at our All Church Conference meeting Sunday, June 26, following worship. It is a privilege to be involved in this process and walk alongside a candidate who is pursuing their call to ministry. Please plan to come and to be a part of this discernment with Anne.

Finance Team

Financial Update

The table shows Good Samaritan's finances through April 2022. Income and expenses were very even for April, which is great.

Note that while we have had \$12,815 less expenses than planned so far this year, we have also had \$40,113 less income than we planned for. So we're \$27,298 behind our plan so far. We appreciate your continued support – to give towards your pledge, or make a one-time gift, please go to www.good.org/give.

	April Plan	April Actual	Year-to-Date Actual compared to Plan
Income	\$41,957	\$58,683	\$40,113 less income than planned
Expenses	\$61,317	\$59,328	\$12,815 less expenses than planned
Net	-\$19,360	- \$645	\$27,298 less net income than planned

Denomination News

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General Conference has now been postponed until 2024. This is creating a great deal of anxiety and frustration. The Global Methodist Church launched on May 1, 2022, and several churches and pastors within our conference intend to become part of this new expression of Methodism. Yet the way forward is more complicated without General Conference.

The Minnesota Conference currently has one clear path for churches to depart, and that is the process rooted in paragraph 2553 of "The Book of Discipline." That paragraph was approved at the 2019 General Conference, and its intent was to provide a way for individual congregations to disaffiliate. It presents challenges when working with a group of churches. I am committed to working to see what additional pathways there may be, exploring additional parts of "The Book of Discipline." I know there is legislation being proposed for our Annual Conference specifying what some of those additional pathways will be.

I expect the debate about that petition will be lively and vigorous. Whatever the result of the legislative process, I will hold together kindness and fairness with my fiscal and fiduciary responsibilities to the Minnesota Conference and The United Methodist Church. I will continue to be in conversation with conference leaders and with those who may seek to leave. Conference leaders will continue to develop resources for congregational



discernment. I invite you, if interested, to seek out information directly from the Global Methodist Church, which is the best source for learning about its plans, hopes, and dreams.

I am also committed to sharing the ongoing story of The United Methodist Church and the Minnesota Conference. Moving into the future, The United Methodist Church will continue to focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We will be a church that works to include all persons and to make changes so that the church better reflects the beautiful diversity of God's people and builds beloved community. We will continue to have global connections

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Denomination News

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and global impact. We will continue to help people connect more deeply with God through Jesus Christ and be open to new ways of doing that through worship, spiritual disciplines, and building community. Through and following whatever separation will happen, The United Methodist Church will continue to change to meet the needs of new people, new generations, and a changing world. We don't know exactly what that will look like.



We do, however, know that the Minnesota Conference is committed to the creation of more beloved community and committed to making changes, spiritual and structural, so we can better embody

the mission of the church in this day and time. We have a vision for every congregation to be a vital expression of the ministry of Jesus Christ in creating new places for people, helping people grow in love of God and neighbor, and working to heal a broken world. We do this work seeking to embody four values: rooted in Jesus Christ, grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all, and engaged in the work of justice and reconciliation. The Minnesota Conference is clear about who it wants to be within The United Methodist Church and the direction in which we are moving. There will be debates about just what this direction requires, and some of our legislation this year offers specific initiatives for living out our vision. I also expect the conversations about these petitions to be lively.

Lively and vigorous conversation is part of the democratic process of Annual Conference.

The expectation of such conversation in the Wesleyan tradition is high. "Are we convinced how important and how difficult it is to order our conversation right? Is it always in grace? Seasoned with salt? Meet to minister grace to the hearers?" We may not always succeed, but we might be helped by some May "rain." As we prepare for Annual Conference, let's recognize where we are, and perhaps remembering that Russia remains at war with Ukraine will help us keep perspective. Let's accept our current reality of pending separation, even as we also work toward a new future. Before we rise to speak, let us take time to investigate what's going on inside of us so that our speech may be seasoned with salt. Let's lean away from reactivity and toward productivity, producing fruits of the Spirit.

And if this rain practice seems unfamiliar, remember that this kind of mindfulness and thoughtfulness has deep roots in our scriptures. "Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8). "Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger" (James 1:19).

As we gather for Annual Conference, pray for May showers, for "rain," for the living water of God's love to pour forth as we celebrate "Jesus: Healer."



Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
5730 Grove Street
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Nonprofit Organization

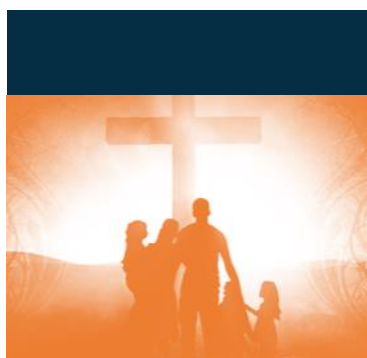
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OUR VISION

INSPIRING
Joyful Faith

BUILDING
a Loving
Community

SERVING
Neighbors Near
and Far

WORSHIP AT GOOD SAMARITAN

Sunday Worship 10:00 am (In-Person and Online)

Nursery Infants - Age 3

**Children's
Sunday School** Children's Sunday School is held during
worship, following the Passing of the Peace.

**Youth Sunday
School** Postponed until Fall.

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Phone (952) 929-0049