

June
2023

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

National Parks
& Monuments
Worship Series

June 4 - "Beginnings"
(Acadia) / Senior
Sunday / Communion

June 11 - "Adaptation"
(Joshua Tree)

June 18 - "Faithfulness"
(Yellowstone)

June 25 - "Darkness"
(Mammoth Cave)

Creation's Wisdom and Healing

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.
(Jeremiah 17:7-8)



This summer we will explore sacred themes with a National Park Series during both online and in-person worship. Come each week as we celebrate creation and the wisdom she brings us.

We are also planning a few opportunities to gather to enjoy and experience the sacred together. While these plans are still falling into place, there is an opportunity in June you might be interested in.

Rev. Jerad Morey is certified by the Association of Nature and Forest Therapies, and also a colleague and friend of Pastor Carol. Jerad is offering a River Bend Forest Therapy Walk in Faribault on June 10 from 9:30-12:00 that is open to the public.

Forest Therapy is a practice based on forest bathing – a Japanese method that is all about immersing people in the natural environment around them to improve their overall health. Studies suggest this practice can significantly lower cortisol levels. Each forest therapy session ends with a cup of tea made from nature, with ingredients Jerad knows are safe.

Please note: This experience is not an extended hike, however you will be invited to traverse unpaved and uneven ground. Cost is \$60 per person. Grab a friend and register at <https://tinyurl.com/goodsamforest>.

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Pastor's Page

During a recent in-person worship service, we sang, "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together..." It was a fitting culmination of our Easter People series that ran between Easter and Pentecost, as each of those weeks we took a closer look at one or two characters from the early church as a way to explore what it means to be people of faith today. We learned how members of the early church supported widows in the community, led prayer meetings down by the river, and helped facilitate a lot of the transformation God was doing. This series served as a reminder that God relies on us to be active in our faith and witnesses to what God is doing.

Our newsletter often provides many invitations and opportunities to be active here at church. This edition is no exception, so please take a look at each page to see if there is an opportunity meant for you...from attending the Thursday Afternoon Book Club, or becoming a new AV Tech, or providing supplies needed for VBS or helping the missions team.

I want to share a couple upcoming opportunities to be aware of:

All Church Conference

An All Church Conference will be held June 25 in the Sanctuary following in-person worship for the purposes of receiving ministry reports, to hear a progress report from Pastor Carol (including some exciting developments related to the Leadership in Social Justice Program), to hear an update regarding Anne Kadue's call to ministry and where she is serving, and to elect leaders for the 2023-2024 program year. All are urged to attend.

Memorial Scholarship

A number of people have asked for more information about honoring Amanda Richards following her death on May 20. Amanda's husband, Rev. Steve Richards was Associate Pastor at Good Samaritan UMC from 1990-1998. Memorial designations are preferred to the Amanda C. Richards "Change the World" scholarship at Metro State University (www.metrostate.edu/give/give-now). Steve said, "Amanda formed deep and lasting relationship with many during the eight years that I served at Good Sam." He offers his thanks for your prayers and care.

One of the most important lessons we learn from the earliest disciples is that each person has an important role to play in what God is doing to transform the world. I suppose we're still learning this important lesson every time we sing, "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together." Look for your special purpose—and jump right in.

Seeking to be
faithful with you,

Pastor Carol



Welcome New Members

Matthew

Matthew prefers to be called Matzu, and joined Good Samaritan UMC on April 16 as our newest teenage member. Matzu regularly comes with dad, Dean, and likes talking about current events, while adding, "I'm very philosophical about things. The little things change everything." Matzu also shared, "I'm a musician, linguist, and orthographer." Please extend a warm welcome, and



strike up a conversation with Matzu on a Sunday morning.

Kiernan and Anika with Jan and Pastor Carol on Confirmation Sunday, May 21.



Music

Homeward Bound Gigs This Summer

- Monday, June 26, 6:00-8:00 pm: HB Live at the "Music on Marschall" Festival, First Presbyterian Church, 909 Marschall Road, Shakopee MN 55379

This is an outdoor festival with food, music, and a farmer's market, just 20 minutes from Good Sam. The band played a similar festival there last fall, and this is our return engagement.

- Wednesday, July 5, 7:00-8:00pm: HB Live at Centennial Lakes Amphitheatre, 7499 France Ave S, Edina MN

This is our annual gig at the Maetzold Amphitheatre on beautiful Centennial Lakes in Edina. We have performed there every summer for nearly a decade and always enjoy it. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a beverage of your choice, and enjoy an hour of feel-good music from your favorite band.

- Wednesday, July 12, 7:30-9:00pm: HB Live at Lake Harriet Bandshell, 4135 W Lake Harriet Pkwy, Minneapolis MN



HOMeward BOUND
homewardboundband.com



The band is *thrilled* to announce our debut at the biggest free music concert venue in the state, the beautiful Lake Harriet Bandshell. We have participated in the Minneapolis Music in the Parks series for several years, "paying our dues" with online performances (during the pandemic) and shows at smaller Minneapolis park venues. Now your favorite band has finally arrived at the biggest non-paying gig in the Twin Cities! Come early to get a good spot, either on one of the many state fair-type benches available or just on the lawn. Refreshments are available as well, or feel free to bring your own. The band is nervous but excited to make their debut on this large and beautiful stage!

All of these performances are FREE and OUTDOORS (weather permitting of course) -- please save these dates on your calendars, and we look forward to seeing our Good Sam friends this summer!

Worship

Worship Updates

As we enter summer, I find myself reflecting on our past program year at Good Samaritan. **We've had some challenges, but we've had even more successes.** The special seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, as well as our recent AAPI concert have been opportunities for collaboration across disciplines and **teams.** **We've worked to bring beautiful worship experiences** in both the online and in-person settings, and worked to reach out into the community. I'm grateful for the way Good Sam can pitch in to get things done, and for all of the support the community has offered this ministry.

AV Open House

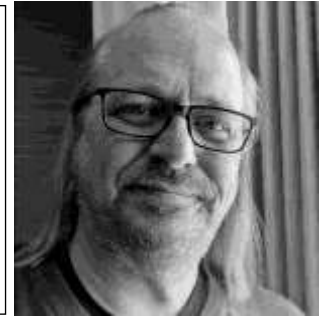
After in-person worship on Sunday June 11, there will be a no-obligation time to check out our sanctuary AV system, to see how it works and determine if being a volunteer AV tech is right for you. We need some more people to help us in this ministry. It's much easier than it looks.

Sharing on Facebook: a simple way you can help

Facebook has been a valuable tool for Good Samaritan's outreach. While spending money to advertise on the platform is really cost-effective, **we've also seen that your sharing of our events, ads, and videos makes a huge difference.** The more we like, share and comment, the more visible Facebook makes our content to a broader audience. With our advertisement for in-person Easter worship, we spent \$12 and had five shares. Through the paid ad we reached 737 people, but our organic unpaid reach was 592. That organic reach came largely because we shared this event. That video was viewed over 1100 times by people in our local community. We had a similar experience with our video ad for our "A Thousand Tongues" AAPI concert, where we reached 6,543 people. 5,203 people were reached through the paid ad, but 1,267

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(he/him)

Coordinator of
Worship Arts &
Online Engagement
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came through organic spread. We paid \$16 to boost our Easter Worship on Facebook and had 7 shares. Together, the impact was that our online worship reached 6,608 people with more than 2,800 views on Facebook alone. From April 7 to May 4, through our combined efforts of strategic advertising and working together to create organic growth, nearly 15,000 people saw our content as they scrolled through their Facebook feeds - an increase of over 400%.

Apr 7 - May 4, 2023

14.9K ↑410.5%

Facebook Page Rea...

They may not have all clicked our content, but they saw our name, our logo and saw just a tiny bit of

who we are. Facebook has many problems, but it can be a powerful medium to share who we are and what we do. One of the easiest ways you can help our outreach is to share our content on Facebook. Thank you to all who have shared!

This past program year, we've created worked together to make beautiful content, meaningful worship experiences (both online and in-person), and have reached far beyond our walls. I'm grateful for all the work we've done together, and I look forward to the work ahead.

Congregational Care

Congregational Comment: Change

Visual examples of change are perhaps at their highest for us in Minnesota during this time of year. Everywhere we look, new things are sprouting, things are being planted, life is bursting forth. For most, this type and time of change is welcome, much anticipated and hoped for, to be appreciated and savored. And yet, with every change comes a leaving behind of something else. Recently, for example, my daughter, Lydia, lamented the loss of winter and snow, of time spent outdoors sledding and bouncing around in the soft fluff of it all. Change is, as they say, bittersweet.

With all of that in mind, I reflect on my own upcoming bittersweet change of life. It is my hope that as of this reading, the entire congregation has been made



aware that my time working for Good Samaritan UMC is coming to a close with my last day being Friday, June 2. Even as I write this, I do so with tears in my eyes. While challenging at times (as most of the best things are), I have delighted in my just over two years of tending to this community. I have been buoyed by deep conversations, genuine compassion, shared growth, and inspired commitment to do better and be better in the world. The opportunity to share in worship with you, in person and virtually, and in so doing to laugh, cry, reflect, and pray together has been healing and empowering. Visiting one-on-one or in small groups and thereby being invited into your personal stories and realities has been humbling, life-giving, and gratifying, to say the least. Watching you all embrace and love my little ones and in turn, watching my little ones come to embrace and love this community has touched my heart most deeply.

It is important for me that you all know that this decision wasn't one my family and I took lightly or easily. Those of you who have come to know me in more intimate ways, know that I am a strong advocate of healthy self-disclosure and authenticity. As such, I will share that juggling so many things, two to three part-

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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



time jobs as well as three little kids, is simply not sustainable over time. The opportunity to increase my hours as a chaplain at Allina Health EMS mid-August will minimize my being pulled in so many varying directions. This transition, while not free from grief, will overall benefit my sanity. Given that, I have decided to leave Good Sam a few months early so that I can spend a bit more intentional time with my kids this summer. They are only little for so long, after all, and with Lydia heading to kindergarten in September it feels all the more important to savor this time with them now.

In recent weeks, I have been committed to doing what I can to help you all transition well and intentionally to whatever and whomever comes next. I trust that my leaving will open the pathway for deeper discernment regarding what needs are most essential for my replacement to fulfill. As I entered this community at a time of virtual everything, this presents an opportunity to reconsider what "caring for the soul of this congregation" looks like in its next season. I will be keeping you all in heart and prayer as you thoughtfully, creatively, and lovingly explore what that could be. I would ask that you all allow yourselves and each other the grace to feel whatever is genuine within you regarding my transition while simultaneously holding hope for what blessings are to come in my wake.

I want to thank you for allowing me to be with you in this capacity these last couple of years. While I know my offering was imperfect, I like to believe that some beautiful, transformative, healing, and grace-filled things transpired together, at least a time or two. Thank you for honoring and trusting me with your presence and your sacred moments. I will be forever grateful.

With high regards, in light and in love,
Nikki Holm

Congregational Care

Friday Men's Breakfast Group

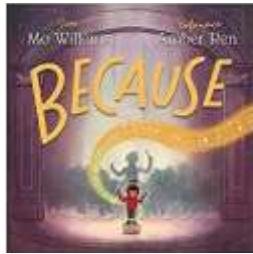
Now Open to All

Our Friday Men's Breakfast Group has decided not to be a men's group any more...so everyone is welcome to the conversation! They will meet at Jerry's for breakfast at 8:30 am on the first and third Fridays of each month. This is a great opportunity for you to come and bring a friend.

Support the Good Samaritan Library

A new program has started - an opportunity to donate a new book to the Good Samaritan Library. The Library Group - Vicki Dunn, Joan Hursh, Mary Lewis, and Marcia Willett - have established a list of books that would be good for the library to have available for the congregation for checkout.

The list of books to choose from is online (tinyurl.com/ydp33v3a), and displayed in the library. If you would like to donate and have purchased the new book, it can be dropped off in the reception area by the Church Office.



Please include a note with your name and contact information so we may send you a donation receipt and a thank you. If you have questions, please contact anyone on the library group. Thanks for your help as we try to stretch out the budget with new and current books.

Thursday Afternoon Book Group



Mark your July calendar! Thursday Afternoon Book Group will meet on July 13 at 1:00pm in the Fireside Room. We will discuss *Chronicles of a Radical Hag* by Lorna Landvik. Contact Vicki Dunn with questions - victoria.dunn@q.com or 651-249-6948.

VBS Donations Needed

Several donations are needed for Vacation Bible School for the week of June 26-29. A drop-off basket is in the Narthex if you can help. Thank you!



- cardboard tubes (any size)
- plastic grocery bags
- flat-bottomed cake ice cream cones
- fruit skewers
- 3 cases of 12 oz. sodas (any variety) for a science experiment
- 5 empty 16 oz. plastic bottles
- We need to borrow an infrared thermometer for Thursday.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season
and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant
and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill
and a time to heal;
a time to break down
and a time to build up;
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones
and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace
and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek and a time to lose;
a time to keep and a time to throw away;
a time to tear and a time to sew;
a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
a time to love and a time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

ASP Updates

Harlan County, here we come!

During our ASP Culture Night on April 19, we spent time talking about the county in Kentucky where we will be working this summer. A documentary is available to view about the location. This county has been deeply effected by coal mining and the strikes that are still fresh in many residents minds. You can find it on YouTube at youtube.com/watch?v=qhvTD2dSwVM.



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For each ASP family that is chosen, there are so many more applicants. We participated in an exercise that gave our work crews a taste of how hard it is to decide whose house gets a work crew. It was an eye-opening experience for everyone.

The other component of Culture Night is taking time to think about different scenarios that we might find ourselves in. Thinking ahead of time about how to ask questions respectfully, answer question appropriately, and how to be aware of our surroundings in will help us be better neighbors to our new friends.

Fund raising update

Our flower box fundraiser with Lake Harriet raised over \$4,000.00 towards our ASP trip! It was more work that we believed it would be, but it was incredibly successful! We had great adult leadership in John Richmond, Terry Stevens and Bill Simmonds. Thanks to all who participated.

Next fundraising opportunity will be the gas sale on July 9! Help us fill the gas cans with cash and checks! Thanks for your support!



Adaptive Vacation
Bible Camp
August 7-10, 2023
Contact Jan to register.

VBS Hero Hotline! June 26-29, 2023

Registration - good.org/event/vacation-bible-school-vbs/

Ready for some fun with the ultimate hero team? Hero Hotline VBS invites children to answer the call to serve God together. Join the Professor and Super Meer as young Heroes learn to strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up. This VBS opens kids' eyes to the countless ways God provides for Bible Heroes through teams of supporting Bible Heroes who help make the mission possible through following Jesus, Helping Others, Working Together, Listening to God, and Showing Grace. Bring a friend, reconnect with your friends, and make new friends, too!



Hennepin Ave UMC will be our co-hosts as we move our VBS outdoors and explore all of the outdoor space that Good Sam has to offer! This adventure is for kids ages 3 years-4th grade. We welcome kids 5th grade and older as Youth Leaders, and we need Adults Helpers, too! Participants will need a water bottle and a sack lunch. Cost for VBS is \$55 for 1 child -\$100 for a family. Scholarships are available.

Missions

Easter Offering Update

Thank-you so very much for your generosity in giving to our Easter offering! In May, the Good Samaritan Missions Team was able to support Joyce Food Shelf with \$1,205, Edina's ABC (A Better Chance) educational program with \$1,500, and \$1,000 to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) for their work in Ukraine. We also sent \$500 to the Hearts and Hammers program. In addition, we sent \$1,500 to the UMC Minnesota Annual Conference designating \$500 for UMCOR's disaster buckets and \$1,000 for the 2023 Love Offering that will support churches and organizations focused on mental health services, education, and advocacy. Thanks again for all your support for the Missions Team!

~ Janet VanBenthuisen
& Pat Deckas Becerra

Keeping Families out of Homelessness

It often takes just one crisis to push families into the risk of losing their homes. We've partnered with the inner-city Stonebridge World School for over 15 years and their social worker informs us of families in crisis. In May, the Missions Team helped prevent two families with children who attend Stonebridge from falling into homelessness by giving each family \$1,500 for their rent. For one family, the single mother had to stop working for a while to care for her son. And although she is back at work now, she fell behind in her rent and was facing eviction. As for the other family, their car was vandalized – broken windows and slashed tires. This single mother works two part-time jobs, but the expense of car repairs and loss of transportation put the family at risk. The help from Good Samaritan to cover a month's rent for each family eased their crisis tremendously and helped them to stay in secure housing. Thank you for your gifts that allow us to do this work!



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~ Janet VanBenthuisen
& Pat Deckas Becerra

Earth Sunday Thank-You



Thanks to all for your support of the April 23 Earth Sunday celebration. You are invited to build on that enthusiasm.

Big News on Housing Initiatives

The Bring It Home, MN bill at last report was moving toward becoming law; watch for further developments. And thank you for all your support, including the postcards delivered to the legislature on March 20.



In other great news, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative has broken ground in Hopkins on Vista 44, a multi-family affordable apartment building that will offer on-site support services.

The many years of support by Good Samaritan and its volunteers for programs such as Families Moving Forward and Beacon convenings helped to build the foundation in Minnesota where in 2023 more than 30 organizations have been supporting Bring It Home, MN, and powerful testimony and advocacy punctuated legislative hearings. Thank you to all for the support for safe and affordable housing initiatives.

~ Brian Boysen

Missions

Reconciling Updates

Thank you to those who were able to participate in the March 2, 2023, remote program featuring Rev. Dana Neuhauser (she/her) speaking on "Intersectional Justice: Why LGBTQIA+ and Racial Justice Can't be Siloed" and Minnesota Reconciling Congregations Spring Social Gathering on Saturday, April 29, 2023, featuring author and theologian Austen Hartke (he/him) sharing his experience coming out as a transgender Christian, from his childhood in non-affirming churches to his years in seminary, and now as an educator for faith communities worldwide.



Recordings from both presentations is now available on the Minnesota Reconciling Congregations website at: www.mnrcumc.org.

~ Brian Boysen

2023 Twin Cities Pride

Minnesota Reconciling Congregations are participating in the 2023 Pride festivities and volunteers are needed:

- Friday, June 23 - setting up their booth
- Saturday, June 24 - staffing the booth
- Sunday, June 25 - staffing the booth, marching in the Pride March, and taking down the booth



Please contact Brian Boysen (bteam@earthlink.net or 612-220-3795) if you have questions and are interested in volunteering.

Anahita's Story

A documentary has been made about the young mother we have been supporting who escaped from Afghanistan when the Taliban captured Kabul. Hear about her journey to Minnesota and the challenges she has been facing. Find PBS air dates or watch the video at tpt.org/anahita.



Service Opportunity

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

Wednesday, June 14—9:00-10:45am

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at jane.heimerl@yahoo.com by Jun 12. Space is limited!

Noisy Offering Success

Editor's Note: On Sunday, May 14, Good Sam collected a "Noisy Offering" with the help of our children passing metal buckets to collect change that our worshipers brought in. It was a great success! Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$585.27 just that morning. This offering will go toward purchasing beans to supplement the meals at the Ormsby School in Baiwalla, Sierra Leone. More money is still coming in and you can still contribute.

Below is an email to JoAnn Knutson from Ann Carlson, Coordinator: The Baiwalla Sierra Leone Ministry, OC Ministries: The United Methodist Church of Minnesota:

"Thank you!
Thank you!
Thank you for organizing the noisy offering to collect cash and beans



for the school feeding program at the Ormsby School in Baiwalla, Sierra Leone. School lunch is a critical component of the school program as it feeds children who live with food insecurity a nutritious meal every school day."

The Good Samaritan Foundation

Foundation Update

The Board of Directors of The Foundation held their Q2 meeting on May 18. The balances of the three funds of The Foundation were:

- Outreach Fund \$259, 672
- Cornerstone Fund \$77,163
- Evergreen Fund \$269,920

The Cornerstone Fund will be tapped to pay for fascia repair to the church building in the amount of \$3,152. The Finance Committee expects to request their annual draw, this year \$13,000, late this summer or early fall depending on the cash flow through the summer months.

Three grants were approved. One to AVIVO, a non-profit in Minneapolis. The second to Bountiful International, a non-profit located in Minneapolis that creates opportunities across Africa for rural farmers and entrepreneurs to improve farming methods and distribution of crops. And the third to provide the remaining funds needed to purchase and install a defibrillator in the gym area of the church building.

Don't forget about the generous offer by a church member to match donations to any of the funds of The Foundation up to \$10,000. Donations to the Evergreen Fund help support our operating budget. Donations to the Cornerstone Fund support maintenance of our building and grounds. And donations to the Outreach Fund support those in need locally, nationally, and globally. To contribute, indicate which Foundation Fund you wish to support on the memo line of your check, or give securely online at good.org/give/give/the-foundation. Thank you for joining the effort to build the funds that sustain Good Samaritan in the coming years.

~ Claudia Boysen

Finance Team

Finance Update

Below is our table of financial results through the end of April. As mentioned before, our church often starts the year with pledges received the prior year (2023 pledges paid at the end of 2022), inflating our YTD numbers while giving us a "cash cushion" for the first half of the year. We are managing expenses well – and have solid income from Facility Use fees. We are, however, short on Pledged Income to budget. If you have not yet turned in a 2023 pledge card – it is NOT too late, Go to good.org/give/make-a-pledge/. Thank you to all for your continued support of Good Samaritan.

	April Actuals	April Plan	Year-to-Date
Income	\$62,000	\$67,005	\$257,420
Expense	\$51,930	\$59,201	\$220,141
Net	\$10,070	\$7,804	\$37,279

Trustees

Maintenance Minute: Finished at Last!

I cannot tell you how excited I am to finally have the sanctuary roof replacement job complete! It was an ongoing issue for at least six years with the leaking and cleanup needed. Most of that roof is at a slope except for all four corners, where the slope comes down to a small flat roof. The major spot that was leaking was the northeast corner.

Dan Green
(he/him)
Building Engineer
danrg@good.org
612-889-4015



Roughly four years ago we had all of those flat roofs replaced. The roofing company at the time thought this would remedy the situation. After getting them replaced it still leaked! They tried other various things, but could never fully pinpoint where it was coming in. One of the biggest issues for me with this was when the water traveled down the beams, it would collect the lacquer finish that covers the beams, and by the time it made it to the floor, it was not only water, but a mix of water and lacquer. This looked a lot like coffee when it was on the ground and when it would dry, it would harden like tree sap. It was very difficult to get this off the ground and especially the pew fabric!

As soon as the roofers finished with the very last piece of tin roof, we had a couple days of pretty hard rain. From that time up until today, the new roof has not leaked a drop! I always have a handful of collection containers on hand for roof leaks that may come up, but I'm hoping these containers don't need to be brought into the sanctuary for many years to come!





Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
 5730 Grove Street
 Edina, MN 55436

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OUR VISION

INSPIRING
 Joyful Faith

BUILDING
 a Loving
 Community

SERVING
 Neighbors Near
 and Far

SUNDAYS

Worship
 10:00am (In-person and Online)

Nursery
 9:45-11:30am, Infants - Age 3

Sunday School (Children & Youth)
 Held during worship following
 Children's Time. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAYS

(Nursery open from 5:45-9:00pm
 thru June 7. Program year calendar
 resumes September 6 with nursery,
 Chancel Chimes & Chancel Choir
 Rehearsals, and Youth Group.)

6:00pm

- Caregivers (2nd Wednesdays)

7:00pm

- Chancel Choir Reh (6/7 only)

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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