

JANUARY 2023



# *The*Visitor

EPIPHANY

Come and See!

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Dedication  
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A Community in the Model of Christ

## From the Pastor...

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

A new year is upon us, and there is hope and adventure on the horizon for Our Redeemer's! 2022 was intense in many, many ways. We saw the retirement of Pastor Kathy, pledged to retire our mortgage, and witnessed the return of worship in person for most of our members. Many beloved people moved away, and many dear souls moved into the great beyond. We have had scores of visitors in worship, and piles of new folks finding a faith home among us. We have seen the return of beloved traditions – Holden Village, Confirmation, Luciafest, Swedish Pancakes, and more. We look forward with joy to the Earthcare Retreat in April for the first time since 2018.

By far the most dynamic changes are that of our structure as a congregation, in staffing and volunteer ministers. Our congregation has entrusted the process of transition into the hands of our Transition Team, lead by Pastor David Hahn. They have been doing the faithful and prayerful work of asking questions, processing answers, leading conversations, and helping to discern the next steps of the congregation as we lean in to God's calling to ministry. The next few months will be vital to our process as we move to a creating a "call team," and return to a fully staffed church.

Here's the scary part - it may look very different than it has in the past – and actually, it must!

We are not who we were before the pandemic. We are not who we were even six months ago. To look

to our past organization as a guide for the future would be a mistake; like putting new wine into old wineskins. Instead, as we continue the process of adaptive change as a community of faith, we become stronger, healthier, and better able to say "yes!" to the life-giving ministries we are called to, and "no!" to those things that suck the energy of the congregation without positive effect.

Sometimes, these changes feel like they're slower than molasses, and sometimes it feels as if they have been sprung upon us with no warning.

**As we move into the new year, and feel the forward motion in our individual lives, I ask that you pray regularly and sincerely for the health and future of Our Redeemer's.**

Pray for the transition team. Pray for the council. Pray for the new people finding their way into this congregation. Pray for the staff. Pray for me. Pray with joy and with concern. This is a beautiful and vigorous congregation, and I am absolutely inspired about our life together moving forward! It's not always easy, but it is indeed always good. Just like God is always creating something new, so we too are renewed. Thanks be to God!



Blessings to you all,

Pastor Gretchen

## Celebrating January Birthdays!

2	Ryan Brady	12	Charlie See	21	Lynne McNeill
2	Carleen See	13	Carole Trigstad	22	Dorothy Egaas
5	Erica Prentice	14	Joshua Liljenstolpe	22	Paul Wallstrom
5	Miah Wander	14	*Arlene Templin	25	Janice LaBrash
8	Annelise Glover	15	Dave Pelto	27	Jonah Hlastala
9	Brenalee Campbell	15	Oskar Somm	27	Lars Sveum-Hanson
9	Paula Hlastala	16	Kim Ward Barowicz	29	Elisabeth Parker
12	Marie Nordquist-Lessard	17	Miriam Neu	30	Annette White-Yetter

\* Birthday blessings to Arlene Templin who is celebrating a 90 + Birthday this month.

*We give thanks for the life of Don Simpson - December 01, 2022 (b. January 29, 1935).*

# This Month at Our Redeemer's

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## OUR REDEEMER'S STAFF

- Gretchen Mertes, Pastor  
pastor.gretchen@ourredeemers.net
- David Hahn, Transition Facilitator  
pastordavid@ourredeemers.net  
(651)587-4417
- Phillipa Dugaw, Volunteer  
Coordinator  
volunteer@ourredeemers.net
- Jordan Holt, Nursery Attendant
- Karen Lee, Traditional Worship &  
Music Director  
karen@ourredeemers.net
- Debbie Lematta, Communications  
communications@ourredeemers.net
- Mandy Neill, Welcome Minister  
welcome@ourredeemers.net
- Karie Stearns, Parish Administrator  
administrator@ourredeemers.net

Phone: 206-783-7900

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10am-3pm

OUR VISION: In the model of Christ and for the life of the world, we are an inclusive, devoted, caring, and spiritual community that accepts challenges, takes risks, and grows.



### January 1, Sunday

10 AM - Worship

January 3, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting

January 4, Wednesday

6:30 PM - Kid's Choir  
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

January 5, Thursday

7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal

January 6, Friday  
Epiphany

7 PM - ORGAN DEDICATION CONCERT

January 7, Saturday

9 AM - Liturgical Arts Team

### January 8, Sunday

9 AM - Informal Worship

Sprouts: 9 AM | In-Person  
10 AM - O-ROCK Youth Classes & Confirmation | Downstairs  
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

11 AM - Traditional Worship

4 PM - Madonna's Book Group | Our Redeemer's

January 10, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting  
1 PM - Bible Study-Epiphany Psalms | Our Redeemer's  
6:30 PM - Executive Team

January 11, Wednesday

10:30 AM - Bible Study with Carolyn | Zoom  
6 PM - Facilities Team  
6:30 PM - Kid's Choir  
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

January 12, Thursday

7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal

### January 15, Sunday

9 AM - Informal Worship

Sprouts: 9 AM | In-Person  
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

11 AM - Traditional Worship

2 PM - Ballard Sunday Dinner | Ballard First Lutheran

January 16, Monday

MLK Day - Church Office Closed  
7 PM - Adult Faith Formation Book Study | Zoom

January 17, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting  
1 PM - Bible Study-Epiphany Psalms | Our Redeemer's  
7 PM - Church Council

January 18, Wednesday

10:30 AM - Bible Study with Carolyn | Zoom  
6:30 PM - LiVE Project: Interrogating Privilege | Zoom  
6:30 PM - Kid's Choir  
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

January 19, Thursday

7 PM - Ensemble Rehearsal

### January 22, Sunday

9 AM - Informal Worship

Sprouts: 9 AM | In-Person  
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

11 AM - Traditional Worship

January 23, Monday

7 PM - Adult Faith Formation Book Study | Zoom

January 24, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting  
1 PM - Bible Study-Epiphany Psalms | Our Redeemer's

January 25, Wednesday

10:30 AM - Bible Study with Carolyn | Zoom  
6:30 PM - Kid's Choir  
6:30 PM - LiVE Project: Interrogating Privilege | Zoom  
7 PM - Choir Rehearsal

### January 29, Sunday Healing Service

9 AM - Informal Worship

Sprouts: 9 AM | In-Person  
10 AM - Adult Forum | Fellowship Hall

11 AM - Traditional Worship

January 30, Monday

7 PM - Adult Faith Formation Book Study | Zoom

January 31, Tuesday

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting  
1 PM - Bible Study-Epiphany Psalms | Our Redeemer's



# Worship and Music

## Epiphany Theme: “Come and See”

John 1:35-39

<sup>35</sup>The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup>He said to them, “Come and see.”

**For the month of January we will be exploring the Epiphany theme of “Come and See!”  
From the magi traveling on faith by a star, to the calling of the disciples who were  
seeking the Messiah, Jesus invites us to “Come and See.”**

Come and see Christ among us! Come and see the love we share as a church and community. Come and see what living in the truth of God’s image looks like. Come and see what it means to be called to serve others. Come and see the beauty of God’s creation in the rich darkness and the multi-faceted light. Come and see justice, humility, and learn how to walk with God.

**From the Baptism of Jesus to the Transfiguration on the Mount, the season of Epiphany encourages us to explore and grow as children of God. Come and see!**

## Thank You!

**Your offerings provide the spiritual leadership, pastoral care and basic provision that allows Our Redeemer’s to meet the needs of the community we lovingly share. There are several ways you can give:**

**ONLINE GIVING:** Go to [ourredeemers.net](http://ourredeemers.net), and click on the “Giving” tab,  
OR call (206)783-7900 x101.

**MOBILE GIVING APP:** Download the free “Vanco” app and search for  
“Our Redeemers Lutheran Church”.

**MAIL A CHECK:** Send checks made out to Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church  
and mail to 2400 NW 85th St., Seattle, 98117.

**DONATE STOCK:** Go to [ourredeemers.net](http://ourredeemers.net), and click on the “Giving” tab  
and find “Give...via Donation of Stock” link.

**SET UP OR UPDATE YOUR AUTOMATIC GIVING:** Contact Administrator Karie Stearns  
([administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net), 206-783-7900 x101). She is happy to help you and  
answer all your giving questions.



# Worship and Music

## Luciafest December 11th



## At our Christmas Pageant December 18th





# Living Generously

**Our Redeemer’s current Fiscal Year 2022–2023 financial report for your information.**

**Our Redeemer’s Mission Budget**  
**Fiscal Year 2022–2023 | Thru 11.31.22**  
 (41.67% thru the fiscal year)

<b>Income</b>	<b>2022–2023 Approved Budget</b>	<b>Year to Date Income as of 11.30. 22</b>	<b>% of Budget Year to Date</b>	<b>Over (Under) Budget</b>
Envelope & Loose Offerings	520,073	173,770	33.41%	(42,927)
Church Use	85,000	40,460	47.6%	5,043
*Special Giving	-	202,282	-	-
Total Regular Income (without Special Giving)	\$632,073	214,447	33.9%	(48,917)
<b>**TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$632,073</b>	<b>416,729</b>	<b>65.9%</b>	<b>\$153,365</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2022–2023 Approved Budget</b>	<b>Year to Date Expenses as off 11.30.22</b>	<b>% of Budget Year to Date</b>	<b>Over (Under) Budget</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$642,689</b>	<b>\$ 213,138</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>(54,649)</b>

\* *Special Giving* denotes a one-time gift that was outside of regularly giving.

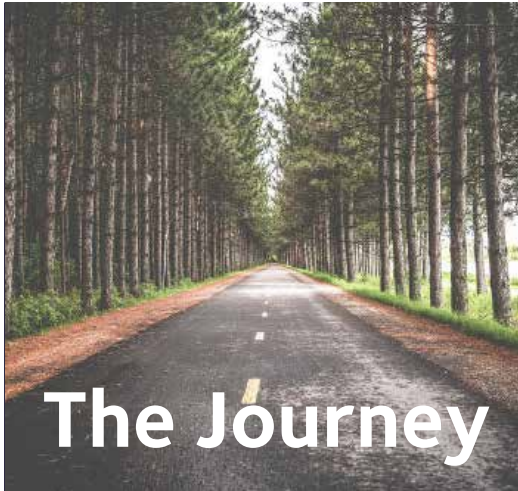
\*\*The income line associated with the auction is removed as it will happen in February, the anticipated income from the auction is reflected in the total income budget.

Regular giving is below budget. Expenses are also below budget and are mostly contributed to understaffing while we work through the transition process. Removing the special once-time gift, the church’s expenses and income are almost equal with a positive net balance of a little over \$1,300.

For questions/concerns–please contact Parish Administrator, Karie Stearns, and Treasurer, Erin Miller, at [administrator@ourredeemers.net](mailto:administrator@ourredeemers.net).



# Faith Formation



## You Are Invited to The Journey

In this time of getting closer to “back to normal,” many families and folks have been exploring Our Redeemer’s as a faith community. We are so excited to have new people among us, finding life and faith together. If you are one of those new people, or if you’ve been here for years but never attended, we encourage you to be a part of The Journey. **The Journey is a class and a conversation, prayer and information, and a chance to ask questions and learn more about what being Lutheran means.** Participants meet in large and small group settings during the season of Lent (Mid-February through early April). At Easter, folks are invited to become official members of Our Redeemer’s, if it seems like God is calling them to do so.

Each week, we focus on a different area of ministry, theology, and growth as people of faith. **From the basics of how Lutherans interpret scripture**

**and why we worship the way we do, to an introspective look at our individual faith stories, this experience presents an opportunity to explore this community from the ground up.** Representative people from the many different areas of ministry in our congregation will come share what they do with us, how they do it, and how you could be a part of it. Over the course of five weeks, using grace as our anchor, we will delve into the following emphases:

- Week 1: God’s Grace: Keeping the main thing the main thing.**
- Week 2: Grace in the Flesh: Jesus Christ**
- Week 3: Grace Made Sensory: Baptism & Communion**
- Week 4: God’s Grace is a Living Word: The Bible**
- Week 5: Living in Grace: Faith Practices – Generosity, Worship, Community.**

At the end of the Journey, we extend an invitation to those who are not yet members of Our Redeemer’s to affirm their faith at the Sunrise Service on Easter morning at Carkeek Park. Regardless of whether you become a member or not, the Journey is a wonderful way to become more fully involved in this church family. No strings attached.

To register to participate, please contact Mandy Neill, our welcome minister, at [welcome@ourredeemers.net](mailto:welcome@ourredeemers.net).



**THE LiVE PROJECT**  
living into vocational engagement

**The LiVE Project** is a networked lay learning community discerning God’s call; theologically thoughtful, culturally responsive, and communally engaged; connecting churches and forming Christian public leaders; a flexible, hybrid model of learning: Zoom and face to face.

## The LiVE Project Update: Upcoming Offerings [Learn More https://rb.gy/yyfzcc](https://rb.gy/yyfzcc)

**Interrogating Privilege: Wednesdays 6:30–8:00 pm, January 18, 25, February 1, 8, 23, March 2, 9 and 16** \*during Lent, the course will meet on Thursdays

This 8-week course is designed for all those interested in anti-racist work as individuals and congregations. The course invites transparent, and honest conversations around the ways privilege shapes and impacts our lives and communities of faith and persons. The course invites participants to engage exercises that deepen communal commitments in anti-racist work. If you’ve read anti-racist books, and are looking for the next, best steps as individuals and congregations this course offers additional ways to moving forward in the conversation. Email pastor David ([pastordavid@ourredeemers.net](mailto:pastordavid@ourredeemers.net)) if you are interested and he will help you to get involved.

Led by two of the ELCA’s prominent leaders of Strategic Team for Authentic Diversity, pastor Priscilla Paris Austin, and Rev. Dr. Beverly Wallace (PhD) professor of womanist studies at Luther Seminary and leader of the ELCA’s womanist initiative.



# Faith Formation

This bright and lively group of children always has a new perspective to share, and it's wonderful to watch these kids build their own little community within the larger church.

We've been lucky to have **Katherine Staples** and **Tad Anderson** join as teachers this year (in addition to **Pamela Altman**, **Betsy McGregor** and myself).



- A Robust Pre-school and Early Elementary Program!
- Confirmation Classes for our Teens!
- Great classrooms!

## O-Rock Kids Grow Into Church by Meagan Minus

Most Sundays in O-ROCK we spend time talking about our week since we saw each other last, connecting over the kids' experiences, and how these relate to the lesson of the week, typically with a question prompted by the theme of the week. So far this year lessons have covered: Kindness, Faith, Forgiveness, Gratitude, and Prayer. The kids also participated in a service project for the church making table decorations for the Swedish Pancake Breakfast and helping to clear plates and clean-up during the meal. Currently we're talking about the season of Advent and the different themes of this season in Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

The kids have benefited by getting to know other caring adults within the church. These are great introductions to, and relationships within, the church community and help the kids to feel more a part of the congregation. We're excited to continue to build our knowledge, relationships, and welcome more kids into the O-ROCK crew throughout the year.



*O-Rock Kids and Teacher Tad Anderson*



## Youth Faith Formation Classes

**Sprouts:** Sundays, Ages 3-5 during 9 AM service and online at 10 AM on Zoom. Children explore an age-appropriate Bible-based curriculum. Contact Pastor Gretchen for Zoom information.

**O-ROCK:** Our Redeemer's Outstanding Church Kids is our version of Sunday school. After the 9 AM service, we welcome kids from kindergarten to 5th grade to explore Bible stories, get to know each other and caring adults, and invite questions about God, life, and everything they can imagine.

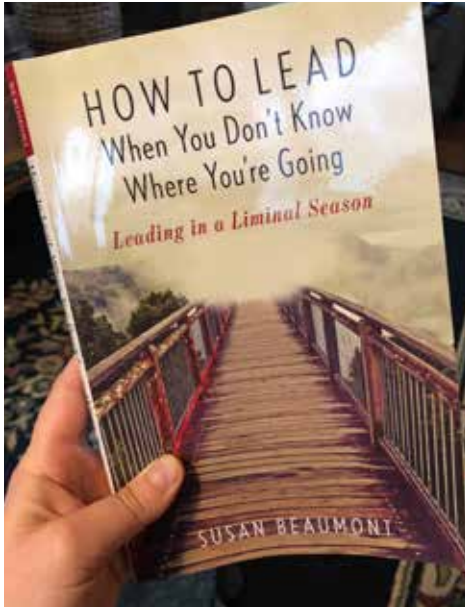
**Middle School Hang Out:** A time for 6th and 7th graders to get to know each other, and about how God's love makes a difference in our lives and around the world.

**Youth Confirmation:** For 7, 8, and 9th graders. Fun, faith, and service, preparing to publicly say "yes" to God. Includes retreats, summer camp, and visits to other faith communities.





# Faith Formation



## Adult Forums in January

**Sundays, January 8, 15, 22, 29, 10 AM**

What Does it Mean to be Church? This month we continue our conversation about what does it mean to be church. Specifically, we will look at how various spiritual practices of discernment form us as God's people, and how they focus our attention to participating in the movements of God's life among us. **This month we engage chapter 4, "Deepening Group Discernment: Seeing What God is Up To", in Susan Beaumont's book, "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season."**

- Jan. 8 **What is Discernment?** An Exploration of the history and purpose of discernment
- Jan. 15 **Deciding Versus Discerning:** This week we make distinctions between a deciding versus a discerning approach-part 1
- Jan. 22 **Deciding Versus Discerning**-part 2
- Jan. 29 **Elements of a Group Discernment Process:** This week we will explore and experience some of the various elements for engaging a group discernment process.

### Adult Faith Formation Book Study starts January 16th

Continuing our conversation from the fall on how and why we read the Bible, we'll be studying **Brian McLaren's book "We Make the Road by Walking.** McLaren's book provides a generous overview of the whole Bible, as well as teaching us new and surprising details found in the common Bible stories we think we've heard a hundred times, all in McLaren's very accessible writing style. Starting January 16th, we'll meet via Zoom 3 Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm for 30 minutes in a discussion of that week's short chapter, **facilitated by Mandy Neill.** You can purchase your book ahead of time in order to read along by [CLICKING HERE.](#)



## Epiphany Psalms

**Tuesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31 & February 7, 14, 1 PM**

On Tuesday afternoons meet at the church to read and discuss—using the LECTIO DIVINA style—a Psalm each week. Class will meet at 1:00 pm on January 10, 17, 24, 31 and February 7 and 14, 2023. We will teach each other, as the Holy Spirit guides us. This is an in-person class that will meet at the church. Just show up, or if you have a question, contact [Stephanie Running](mailto:Stephanie.Running) (ewrunning@earthlink.net).

### Carolyn's Bible Study Is Back Wednesdays starting January 11, 10:30 AM - Noon | Zoom

Carolyn Swanson is planning to resume Wednesday Study on Wednesday, January 11, via Zoom, at 10:30 am. It's a cool opportunity to study the Bible from Genesis to Revelation with highly qualified people. It's FREE!

Let Carolyn Swanson (206-390-7732 or [cdkswan@gmail.com](mailto:cdkswan@gmail.com)) know if you are interested or just think you might be interested.





# Community



## "One Love" Auction Saturday, February 11, 5 PM

What better time to celebrate our ministry together and pretend we're in the tropics than February! **island attire will be entirely appropriate.** There will be fun for people of all ages, and a live auction supporting the ministry and mission of our church. **If you have an item or experience to donate to the auction** (class, meal, vacation spot, activity, service, or fun idea) please contact Erin Miller, [erin@millercentral.com](mailto:erin@millercentral.com).



### Sharing Your Time and Talents

Learn how you can help out at church by clicking [HERE](#) or using the QR code at right. Once on the volunteer page you can toggle between the various needs using the tabs at the top of the page. Questions? Contact Phillipa at [volunteer@ourredeemers.net](mailto:volunteer@ourredeemers.net).



## Madonna's Book Group

Sunday, January 8, 4 PM at Our Redeemer's

The book to be discussed in the new year is **MILLERS VALLEY** by Anna Quindlan.

All are welcome to join in! *Madonna's Book Group meets to review books, support each other, and share personal journeys. Contact [buckomcneill@yahoo.com](mailto:buckomcneill@yahoo.com) (Lynne) if you wish to join in.*



# Social Justice



## Ballard Sunday Dinner in 2023

Ballard Sunday Dinner had a wonderful impact on our community, serving more than 325 meals in 2022! Each time we host, it takes a team of 5-10 people and we so couldn't do it without all of you. Thanks to all of our volunteers for helping us to turn our values into actions for the life of the world! In 2023, our mission will continue, partnering with other area churches to ensure neighbors who may be struggling have access to a hot meal on Sunday nights. If you have any of the following skills (planning, cooking, serving, greeting, opening doors, cleaning), we want you to come join us - sign up here and come have some fun! <https://rb.gy/dkvefb>



## Upcoming Earth Day Celebrations

Spring Earth Day celebrations to brighten your winter day!

**April 21-23 Ocean Beach Cleanup** coordinated by Washington Coastsavers. Lodging is at Pacific Dunes Resort, Copalis Beach. Housing options include bungalows, tiny houses, glamping and RV sites with housing cost for two nights ranging from \$330 (glamping, 3 people) to \$440 (tiny House, 4 people). You determine your housing costs by sharing a unit or going solo, (additional fees for dogs).

Please sign up on the wait list link below if interested; lodging assignments from December deposits will be done in January so some lodging may be available.

**CLICK TO GET ON THE WAITING LIST** (<https://rb.gy/hrj1ey>)

Questions? Contact co-chairs Pamela Altman, [altmanp64@gmail.com](mailto:altmanp64@gmail.com), or Connie Sandstrom, [conniesandstrom05@gmail.com](mailto:conniesandstrom05@gmail.com).

Other upcoming events:

- Neighborhood E-cycle and Styrofoam Roundup - start saving your electronics and Styrofoam!
- A hike in the woods or to a beach, maybe local...or to the mountains.
- A special experience to learn about the local Indigenous people and place names.

## Sleeping Bags Provided Warmth, Comfort, Caring

Thanks to your generosity Our Redeemer's was able to give sleeping bags to those in need at Thanksgiving. The bags help those who spend the colder months outside and provide a way for us to supply some kind of shelter to those who need comfort in their lives. The bags are gratefully received each year, along with the many hats knitted and donated by Janet Woodfield!

**Thank you to everyone who donated to support the purchasing of the bags.**



*Lisa Thompson took extra sleeping bags to the Bridge Care Center in December.*

*Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church*



2400 NW 85th Street  
Seattle, WA 98117

[www.ourredeemers.net](http://www.ourredeemers.net)  
206-783-7900

**return service requested**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**9 AM Informal Service**

in-person

**11 AM Traditional Service**

in-person & online

Stream Online at 11 AM

Facebook: [facebook.com/OurRedeemers](https://www.facebook.com/OurRedeemers)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/822691346>

**Church office hours:**

Monday-Thursday

10 AM - 3PM

*Organ Recital*  
**DEDICATION  
CONCERT  
& Reception**  
Friday  
**January 6  
7 pm**

Please join us for this wonderful and long-awaited community event featuring two celebrated guest organists.



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