



April 20-21, 2024  
Exodus 35:21-29



THRIV'ERA  
CREATIVE

As image bearers of the Divine, we are designed to be creative.

We thrive as creative people by discovering our identity and purpose in the world, exploring our Sacred impulses, and reveling in the wonders of imagination and the power of innovation.

### WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

House of the Lord

This is God's  
Wondrous World (9:00 only)

God of Wonders

Wonder (10:30 only)

Message: Paul Dean

O Come to the Altar

O God Beyond  
All Praising (9:00 only)

Go as a spirited child of God,  
bringing some good to each moment,  
something better to each day,  
and our best to each other.

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

#### Thriv'era Sermon Series

If you'd still like to purchase a *Welcome the Seasons | Thriv'era* book, contact Amy Kalsow at [akalsow@popmn.org](mailto:akalsow@popmn.org).

#### Unselfie: The Musical

Experience the POP Praise Choir spring musical during the 5:30 pm service on April 27 and the 10:30 am service on April 28.

### JOIN US IN CELEBRATION

Join us after all services this weekend to bid Mark Slaughter and Jody Slaughter farewell and celebrate their ministry.

### JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY

#### Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS): Anniversary Celebration Date Change!

Join us in the Community Room on **Sunday, April 28** as we celebrate MOPS' significant years of ministry!

### JOIN US IN GENEROSITY

Your gift supports mission and ministry. Thank you!



## CONNECTION CARD

Please place this card in the offering bag or hand it in at the Connect Desk as you leave.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of person who invited you, mailing, website, etc.)

☐ Guest

☐ Desire to Join

☐ Desire to Volunteer

☐ Contact Update

☐ Contact Me

See reverse side for  
Spiritual Care request



Rummaging through old boxes of family memorabilia, we inevitably run across works of art from days gone by. The handprint turned into a turkey, the red Valentine's Day hearts accompanying a handwritten poem, each treasure speaking volumes of love and making us wonder, "Where did that creative impulse come from?"

We might also ask, "Where did it go?"

**There comes a time when we must reclaim our creative impulse.** In the ancient book of Psalms, buried deeply in the Hebrew scriptures, the writer uses the moment of creation to connect us with the Source of all things. Eugene Peterson translated part of Psalm 139 in the Message Bible this way:

"Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, God — you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration — what a creation! You know me inside and out; you know every bone in my body; you know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something."

Here we find a Creator gathering elemental particles and holding them all together. Holding *us* all together; cradling, shaping, molding, and breathing the oxygen of creative life into us. As the Creator breathes life and aliveness into dust and dirt, we, all of us dirt creatures, become animated, enthused, and inspired by the breath and creativity of God. We are filled with a generative impulse that begins in the first moments of creation and continues with each breath we receive. Through that ongoing, generative impulse, we participate in the ongoing re-creation of the world.

- *What sparks your creativity? Have you ever considered the parallel between the divine act of creation and your creative endeavors? Does making that connection change how you feel about your own creativity?*
- *Researcher Bréné Brown says that unexpressed creativity eventually comes out as rage or depression. Why do you think that is? Why is suppressing your creative impulse so damaging? What does that say about your connection to God?*
- *What is one small and enjoyable way you can express your creativity today? Whether it's a doodle, a short poem, or a simple rearrangement in your living space, how does it feel to participate in creation?*

## SPIRITUAL CARE REQUEST

Please place this card in the offering bag or hand it in at the Connect Desk as you leave.

**Prayer Request:** Prayer Ministers will pray for your request(s) listed below.

### IS THIS PRAYER REQUEST CONFIDENTIAL?

- ☐ Yes. Share with the prayer team only. ☐ No. First name can be shared on the congregational prayer list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### I Would Like:

- ☐ To pray with someone over the phone or in person.
- ☐ Someone from the Spiritual Care Team to contact me.