

February 4th 2025

Church Happenings

**South Parish Congregational
Church UCC 9 Church St. Augusta
Me 04330**



Take a moment from your busy week to find encouragement and lift your spirit. Every week, Pastor Nathan Richards shares his thoughtful and inspiring message, offering reflections that will touch your heart and soul. Dive in, feel renewed, and find strength in his words. Don't miss out on the comfort and wisdom Pastor Nathan brings. Join us on this journey of faith and community.

🙏 Stay connected. Stay inspired.

Pastor Nathan Richards

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." **(Luke: 5:10)**

When Jesus told Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people," it seems He was kickstarting the first-ever outreach program! Simon might have been thinking, "Well, I guess it's time to trade in the nets for some good conversation and a smile!"

Peter and the fisherman had done nothing to warrant Jesus' call to them to become his disciples; to "catching people". Regardless of what Jesus may have seen in the character of the fisherman, to contend that he called, or calls, the most capable or most qualified persons to follow him would contradict an important element of the Gospel story. The fishermen were not called because of their qualifications, character, or potential for service.

However, what we can glean from the story is that God's call to each of us is as often unpredictable as it seems unmerited.

Pastor Nathan Richards Delivers Opening Prayer at The Maine Senate Meeting

On a Tuesday February 4th for the legislative session, Pastor Nathan Richards was honored to deliver the opening prayer at The Maine Senate. This event marked a moment of reflection and unity as lawmakers prepared to engage in important discussions and decision-making processes.

A Moment of Reflection

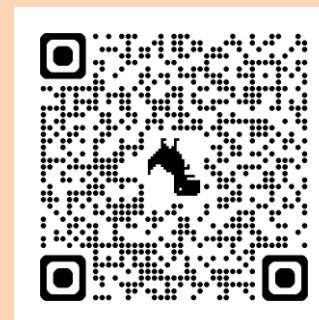
Pastor Richards, known for his compassionate leadership and dedication to his community, began the session with a prayer that invited those present to seek wisdom and guidance. His words emphasized the importance of collaboration, understanding, and the collective goal of serving the people of Maine.



Themes of Unity and Service

In his prayer, Pastor Richards highlighted themes of unity and service. He prayed for strength and clarity for the senators as they tackled the challenges ahead, urging them to work together with integrity and a shared purpose. His message resonated with the values of dedication and commitment to public service.

Scan QR Code to watch.



Community and Faith

As a respected figure in his community, Pastor Richards' participation in the Senate's opening prayer underscored the role of faith and spirituality in public life. It served as a reminder of the diverse voices and perspectives that contribute to the legislative process in Maine.

Conclusion

Pastor Nathan Richards' invocation was a meaningful start to the session, setting a tone of cooperation and hope. His words served as a guiding light for those in attendance, reminding them of their responsibilities and the impact of their decisions on the citizens of Maine.

 **A Grateful
Heart from
Pastor Nathan**

Dear Beloved Church Members,

In moments like these, I am profoundly reminded of the incredible spirit that binds our community together. My heart overflows with gratitude and joy as I witness the countless acts of kindness and selflessness demonstrated by each one of you. Without a single request or prompt, you have stepped up to help those in need, embodying the true essence of our faith and values.

Your actions speak volumes about the love and compassion that reside within our church family. Whether it's lending a hand to a neighbor, offering a comforting word, or simply being there for one another, you have shown what it means to be a true follower of Christ.

I am humbled and deeply thankful for the way you have embraced the call to serve and support each other. Your generosity and unwavering commitment to doing good inspire me and fill our church with hope and strength.

Let us continue to walk this path of love and kindness together, knowing that every small act of help can make a world of difference.

With a heart full of gratitude,

Pastor Nathan

Episode One

Trusting God in Leadership

This Week's Video:
Trusting God in
Leadership
Video Session 1
Duration: 7 Mins
Speaker: Ricky
Dickson

Discover Pastor Nathan's Weekly Video Choice Embark on an inspiring journey with Pastor Nathan!

Each week, Pastor Nathan selects a captivating video from the RightNow Video Library to share with you. These handpicked selections are carefully chosen to uplift, educate, and inspire you on your spiritual path. Don't miss out on these enriching videos that promise to bring light and encouragement into your life.

🌟 Tune in every week and be inspired! 🌟

Ready to be uplifted? Join us and watch this week's choice! 🎬

Get Free Access

1. Check your email for the invite from RightNow Media.
2. Or scan the QR code here:



A Special Thank You to Our Safety

Heroes

Dear Church Family,

Today, we come together to express our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the remarkable individuals who have gone above and beyond to ensure the safety and well-being of our beloved church.

Don Keneage, Richard Kimball, Julia Stone, Tom Johnson, Trustees and Church Council—your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have made our church a safer place for everyone. From securing the necessary grants, implementing a fire alarm system, installing a sprinkler system, setting up security cameras, and meeting countless other building code requirements, you have truly been our pillars of strength.

Your hard work and commitment have not only fulfilled crucial safety standards but have also provided us with peace of mind and a sense of security. The time, energy, and passion you have poured into these projects are deeply appreciated by all of us.

We are incredibly fortunate to have you as part of our church family. Your generosity and selflessness inspire us every day, and we are eternally grateful for everything you have done.

With all our love and appreciation,

The Church Community

Christian Ed Update



BEACH DAY RESCHEDULED TO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, AFTER CHURCH!

Unfortunately, the Weather People are forecasting snow all day this coming Sunday. Although that would be the ideal day for a Beach Party, there probably is little sense in having one if no one can drive in. At Reverend Nate's suggestion, we will reschedule to Sunday, February 16th. See you then, in your Hawaiian shirts!

Kathy Petersen

(P.S. Of course, you know that now the forecast will change and it will be sunny and bright on Sunday...)

Join Our Engaging Bible Study Group!

Are you seeking a deeper understanding of the scriptures? Do you want to connect with others who share your interest in exploring the profound messages of the Bible? Look no further! Our Adult Bible Study Group warmly welcomes you to join us every Tuesday at 5:00 PM for an enriching journey through the Word of God.

Join Us This Tuesday!

To join online, simply use the following Zoom details:

•**Zoom ID:** 870 6936 3772

•**Password:** welcome

Whether you are a seasoned Bible reader or new to studying the scriptures, our group is open to everyone. We look forward to welcoming you and exploring the divine teachings together. Don't miss out on this opportunity to enhance your spiritual journey and make lasting connections!

Why Join Our Bible Study?

1. Expand Your Knowledge: Delve into the scriptures with thoughtful discussions led by Pastor Nate. Discover new perspectives and insights that will enhance your spiritual growth.

2. Community Connection: Build meaningful relationships with fellow members who are passionate about exploring faith together. Whether you join in person or online, you'll be part of a supportive and welcoming community.

3. Flexible Participation: We offer two convenient ways to join our sessions:

1. In Person: Engage directly with Pastor Nate and other members in a friendly and inclusive environment.

2. Online: Participate from the comfort of your home with our easy-to-access Zoom meetings.

4. Interactive Sessions: Our studies are not just lectures; they are interactive sessions where your thoughts, questions, and contributions are valued. Engage in lively discussions and share your insights with others.

5. Spiritual Growth: Strengthen your faith and understanding of the Bible. Our group provides a nurturing space for spiritual reflection and growth.



Envisioning a community in which everyone is given the opportunity to thrive and live with dignity.

Addie's Attic Clothing Bank Centralized Helping Fund Everyday Basic Essentials Pantry Resource Connection & Support

209 Eastern Avenue Augusta, Maine 04330 207-248-1782 btgaugusta.org

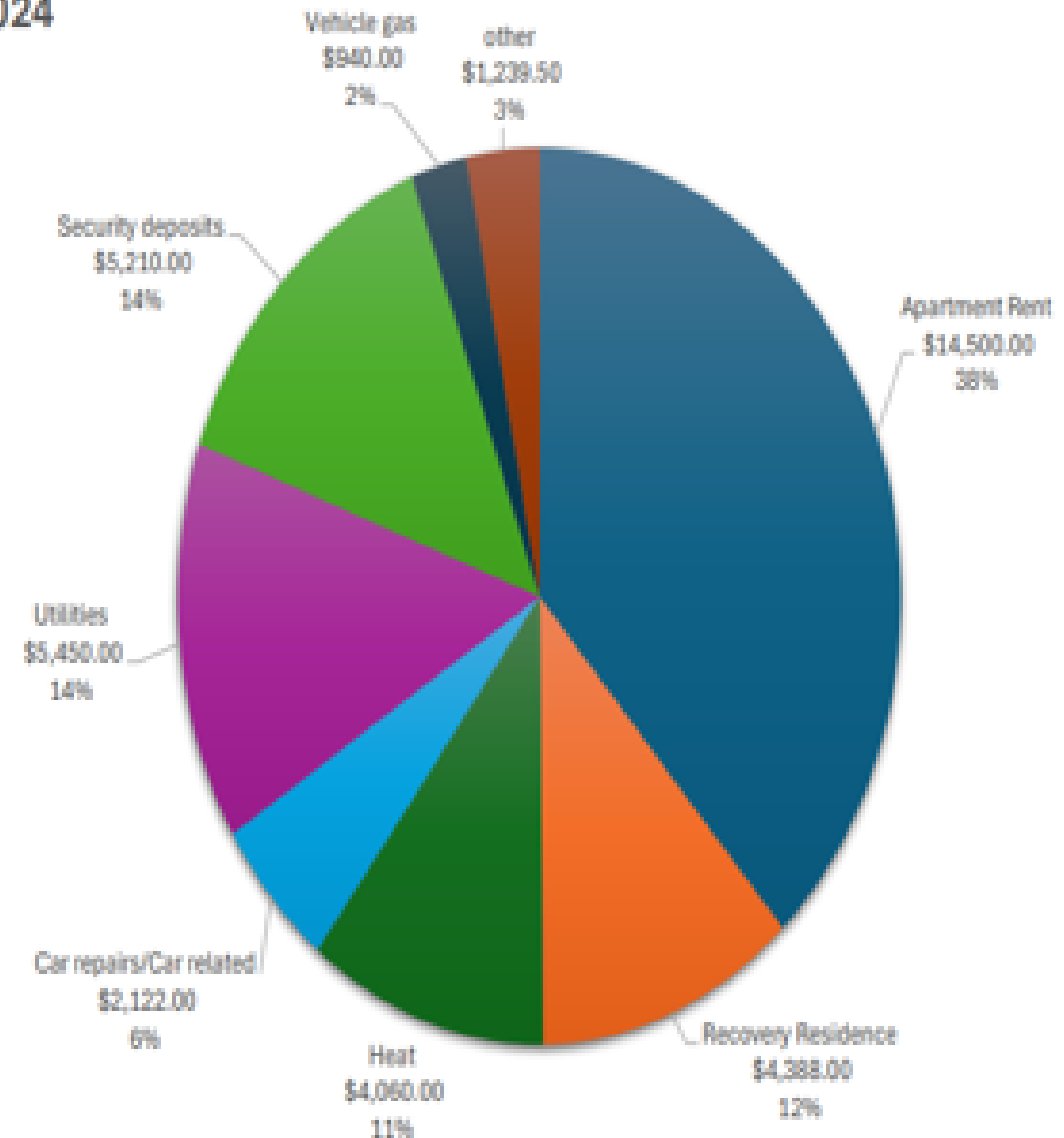
The Centralized Helping Fund (CHeF) was launched at the beginning of 2022 to streamline financial support to individuals in the greater Augusta area and throughout Kennebec County. Major contributors to the CHeF include faith communities, foundations and the United Way of Kennebec Valley. In 2022, BTG distributed \$28,500 to support requests for assistance. BTG distributed close to \$40,000 in 2023 and again in 2024.

🌟 Support the CHeF Fundraiser! 🌟

Join us in making a difference by supporting the CHeF fundraiser. We have set an ambitious goal of raising \$5,000, and we need your help to reach it. Your contribution, no matter the size, will go a long way in supporting our cause and helping those in need. Together, we can make a positive impact. Let's come together and show our support for this important cause. Every dollar counts! 💪 ✨
Thank you for your generosity and support! 🙏

Support Our Community: Join the CHeF Fundraiser

CHeF 2024





BRIDGING THE GAP

Addie's Attic Clothing Bank Centralized Helping Fund Everyday Basic Essentials Pantry Resource Connection & Support

209 Eastern Avenue Augusta, Maine 04330 207-268-1782 btgagusta.org

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Every dollar counts! 💪 🌟

How to Donate

You can make a donation in several convenient ways:

- Mail:** Send your donation to South Parish Congregational Church, 9 Church St, Augusta, ME.
- Online:** Visit our website to donate easily and securely online.
- Phone:** Call us to donate by credit card over the phone.

Thank you for your generosity and support! 🙏 Every contribution helps us get closer to our goal and make a meaningful difference in the community.



Scan the QR Code with your camera and it will bring to the Campaign Donation Page.

You can pay using paypal or any major credit/debit Card

https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=JJ6WSMZ6J4L78



Echoes of Hope: Voices of Augusta's Unhoused

To read more stories about the unhoused, please visit the following link: Explore More Stories.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571363322648T>



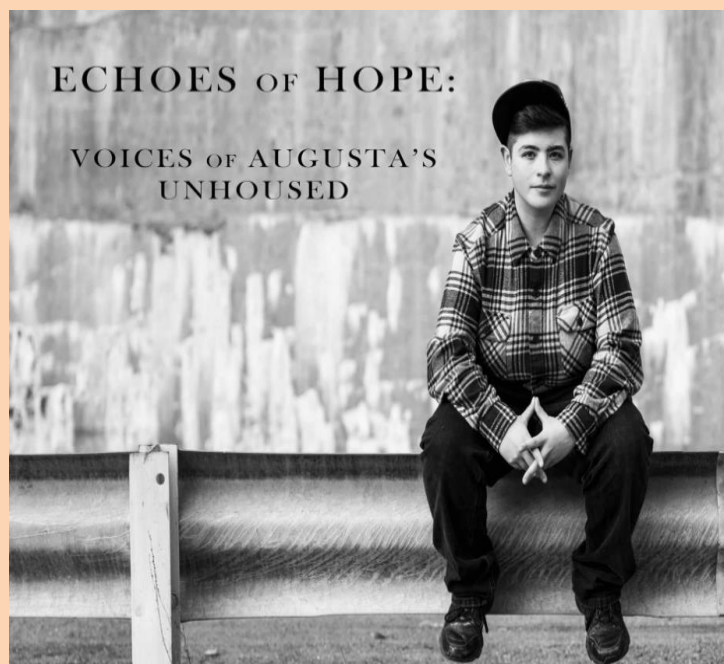
Scan the QR Code for More Stories of the Unhoused

Nephi

"A couple of things people don't know about me or are surprised to learn is that no, I am not Asian and I also have lived in Augusta all of my life. My name (Nephi) is an ancient name that comes from Jerusalem thousands of years ago and means goodly or fair. I like spending my days cooking food for me and other homeless people at the LINC Center. People say they like my cooking. I go to the food bank and sometimes they have food from Bread of Life at LINC. One of the biggest challenges is if there is a lack of oil. Sometimes I have to take peanut butter and use that as peanut oil on the surface for cooking. Two of the more interesting things I've cooked that I'm not going to be doing again are the beef tongue and beef cheek because it takes a lot of time and there's simply not enough time to get that cooked and prepared at the LINC. It's fun doing it when everyone says it tastes very good. There's just not enough time. So, it was fun once, but I won't be doing it again. They have certain hours they're open and have to be closed by and those dishes push the limit. I've seen beef tongues and beef cheeks at the food bank a few times since, but I've had to pass on them. One thing I want to do more than anything is more fishing. This past summer I've been sleeping out towards Togus with an intent that I could use fishing as a good source of food, but it just never worked out. I would need transportation for carrying the fish. Otherwise, it would be like a three hour walk into town in the hot sun and the fish would be bad by then. So, I simply could not use fishing as a food source over the summer. I used to fish with my dad at Togus but he passed away about three years ago.

My biggest struggle right now is the snow. It limits so much. In the summer I travel a good 12 miles a day but now with the snow I've got to travel as little as possible.

There is a trick to it that the homeless do and that is walking in the road when the sidewalks aren't clear. You do have to give cars the right of way and move over." ~Nephi



Join Us for Community Meals

1st Saturday of the month 4:30 pm
South Parish Congregational Church UCC
9 Church St. Augusta

Served by UU Community & Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church

2nd Saturday of the month 4:30
South Parish Congregational Church 4:30 pm
9 church St. Augusta,

Served by The South Parish Congregational Church UCC

3rd Saturday of the month 4:30 pm
South Parish Congregational Church
9 Church St. Augusta

United Community Living Center (UCLC)

At our Community Meals, we extend a loving hand to those in need within our community. We believe that sharing a meal is more than just nourishment for the body; it's a chance to connect, support, and uplift one another.

Each meal is prepared with care and compassion, aimed at providing comfort to those who may be facing difficult times. Come as you are and know that you will be welcomed with open arms and a warm heart.

4th Saturday of the month 4:30 pm
Penney Memorial 393 Water St. Augusta,
Served by Penney Memorial Baptist Church

5th Saturday of the month 9 Church St. 4:30 pm
South Parish Congregational Church 9 Church St
Augusta,
Served by St. Michael's Parish and Temple Beth-El.

**We invite you to join us and be part of this special moment of togetherness and kindness. Let's share the love and make our community stronger, one meal at a time. ✨
Together, we rise. ❤️**



Weather-Related Service Cancellations

Dear Church Members,

In the event of a snowstorm or heating system failure, the Council Chair and the Pastor will determine whether church services should be canceled. This decision will be based on the safety of the church parking lot and surrounding streets.

Whenever possible, the decision about whether to cancel Sunday services will be made the evening before, so that you can make your plans accordingly and not have to wake up wondering if there's a service that day.

Please note that even if the service is not canceled, we encourage you to use your own judgment regarding the safety of your individual situation.

Stay safe and warm!

Notification Methods:

- Email
- Television
- Facebook
- Web Page
- Church Answering Machine

Television Broadcast Details:

- TV 6 WCSH6 Website: wcs6.com
- TV 8 WMTW8 Website: wmtw.reportclosing.com
- TV 13 WGME Website: wgme.com
- Radio Stations:
- WABK
- 92 Moose

During the week, if Augusta schools are canceled, assume the church office is closed as well.

Stay safe and warm!

Blessings, The Church Administration

Stay Informed with Real-Time Updates

We are excited to introduce a new service to enhance communication with our church community. This service allows us to send important text messages directly to your phone, ensuring you receive vital information promptly. To start using this service, we need your consent.

Our Verified Toll-Free Number

+1-833-571-8642

This number will be used to send real-time updates, including:

- Church cancellations
- Upcoming events
- Other urgent notices
- Send Prayer Requests: Share your prayer needs easily through a text message.
- **Schedule Appointments:** Arrange meetings with Pastor Nathan with just a few taps on your phone.

How to Get Started: To include all church members in this service, we need your help. Please follow these steps:

1. Respond to this email with a "yes."
2. Include your current phone number.

By participating, you help us improve our connection with you and the entire congregation. Your support is invaluable as we strive to serve you better.

Thank you for being a vital part of our church community. We look forward to keeping you informed and engaged!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10am - Greent UMC 10am - SPCC UCC 11:30am - Deacons	27 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - Line Dancing	28 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting	29 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St UMC	30 6:30am - Men's 7am - AA Meeting 10am - Green St. UMC 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St UMC	31 12pm - AA Meeting	1 4:30pm - Community
2 10am - Greent UMC 10am - SPCC UCC	3 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - Line Dancing	4 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Trustees	5 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St UMC	6 6:30am - Men's 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting	7 12pm - AA Meeting	8 9am - Pet Pantry 4:30pm - Community
9 10am - Greent UMC 10am - SPCC UCC	10 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - Line Dancing	11 7am - AA Meeting 10am - Nathan 12pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Green St UMC	12 7am - AA Meeting 10am - Nathan 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St UMC	13 6:30am - Men's 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting	14 Valentine's Day 12pm - AA Meeting	15 4:30pm - Community
16 10am - Greent UMC 10am - SPCC UCC	17 Presidents' Day 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - Line Dancing	18 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Council Meetin	19 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St UMC 7pm - ASO Auditorium	20 6:30am - Men's 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting	21 12pm - AA Meeting	22 9am - Geent st. UMC 9am - Green St UMC 7pm - Contra Dance
23 10am - Greent UMC 10am - SPCC UCC 11:30am - Deacons	24 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting 1pm - Bridge Club 6pm - Line Dancing	25 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting	26 7am - AA Meeting 10am - Nathan 12pm - AA Meeting 4pm - Green St UMC	27 6:30am - Men's 7am - AA Meeting 12pm - AA Meeting	28 12pm - AA Meeting	1 4:30pm - Community

PLEASE STAY FOR A COFFEE

after the Service. Marge Gover Room



We warmly invite you to stay for a coffee after the service. Let's connect and share in fellowship together. At the same time, you'll be able to fill out a short survey for the **Holly Mart**, so we can improve it from last year. We look forward to your recommendations and suggestions. See you there! ☕ 🙏