

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen, Pastor**

Third Sunday of Advent
Kay Michelinie, Lay Reader

December 11, 2022

Worship 10:30 AM

PRELUDE *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* arr. Thomas Keesecker

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As farmers wait for rainfall, as prisoners wait for freedom

People: We wait for the coming of God

Leader: As exiles yearn for home, as peacemakers yearn for justice

People: We long for the coming of God

Leader: As travelers search for shelter, as disciples look for answers,

People: We prepare for the coming of God

Leader: Glory in the wilderness, glory in the wastelands

People: Shout and sing for joy

Leader: Strength for the weary, courage for the fearful

People: Shout and sing for joy

Leader: Shelter for the traveler, justice for the hungry

People: Shout and sing for joy

*HYMN # 179 *Joy to the World*

*INVOCATION

We know that God wants us to be happy. May we enjoy God's love gladly and with great hope. We know that God wants us to be bold. May we drink of God's love deeply and with great joy. God of the Dance, Storyteller, Joy of our joy, bless us with laughter and glory in all the light and darkness of our days. Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI # 734

ANTHEM *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* arr. Shaw-Parker

CHILDREN'S MOMENT CRECHE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Bill & Sue Blaker,
Samantha Eddinger Podgers

ADVENT CANDLE SONG

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON *Isaiah 35: 1-10* Pg # 627

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS (insert)

*HYMN # 184 *What Child Is This?*

MORNING PRAYER

GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 1: 47-55* Pg #52

SERMON *Choose Joy* Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERTORY *Still, Still, Still* arr. Martha Mier

*DOXOLOGY # 34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We lift up our gifts so that people who are bowed down by life's burdens may be lifted up to new hope. May there be justice for the oppressed and food for the hungry, freedom for the enslaved and wholeness for the blind, lame, deaf and suffering. We pray that all we share will strengthen our ministry to one another and to many of fearful hearts in every land. Amen.

*HYMN # 200 *While By the Sheep*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Christmas Day in the Morning/In Dulci Jubilo* arr. Thomas Keesecker

***Please stand if you are able.**

Call to Worship and Invocation reprinted from Candles & Conifers, Ruth Burgess; Prayer of Dedication reprinted from Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2 by Lavon Bayler

*Greeters This Morning: Jackie Lowe, George Herren
Ushers This Morning: Bill & Sue Blaker, Samantha Eddinger Podgers, Cheryl Boots
Live Stream This Morning: Matt Berry
Coffee Hour Hosts: Karen DeMay and Marty Daniels*



**If you are visiting with us, welcome!
Please fill out a green card and place it in the offering plate.**

Happy Birthday

- 12 Gwen McCausland
- 13 Sue Blaker
- 15 Patrick McAlpin
- 16 Jordan Johnson

Prayer List

Ancy & Family (Fred Henry's friend); **Carol Birx** (friend of the Casellas Family); **Marjorie Case**; **Cheryl** (Jennifer Maxfield's sister-in-law); **Judy Clark** (friend of the Casellas Family); **Abby Coons** (Carl & JoAnn Reed's friend); **Cathy Coots**; **Bob DeSantis** (Dorice & Don Raw, Sr.'s friend); **Marilyn DeSmith**; **Kade Dolan** (Bonnie & John Maguire's son); **Steve & Diane Fuchs** (Karen's friends); **Max Grossman** (George Herren's friend); **Carin Herren**; **Linda Hudick** (Karen's friend); **Barb & Wally Iglewski**; **John** (Lin's nephew); **Sue Kotalik**; **Lu Krahl**; **Dennis Maxfield**; **Paul** (Dennis Maxfield's brother); **Bernard** (Karen Maxfield's uncle); **Frank McAlpin** (Patrick McAlpin's father); **Norine** (Marilyn DeSmith's friend); **Kathleen Piper** (friend of George and Carin Herren); **Chris Pritchard** (Rick, Cindy Mullen & George Herren's friend); **Don Raw, Sr.**; **Adam Robb** (Barb & Milan Kutner's nephew); **Ruth** (friend of Jim & Elaine Hilton); **Pat Smith**; **Dr. Steven Smith & Family** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' friends); **Robin Wisniewski** (Alicia Francis' mom); **Josh Yeo** (Barb Stahl's friend); **Jason Zeller** (Kathy Ward's son); **Jim Ziegler**

Calendar

Sun Dec 11	11:45	Christmas Pageant
Mon Dec 12	2:30	Nominating Committee/Hayes Room
Tue Dec 13	8:00	Men's Group
	10:00	Rug Hookers
	4:00	Trustees (one date/time change)
	7:00	Council/Zoom (one date/time change)
Wed Dec 14	6:30	Bell Rehearsal
Thu Dec 15	10:00	Adult Education/Advent
	6:00	Recording Christmas Day Service
Sun Dec 18	11:45	Christmas Eve Angel Rehearsal
	1:00	A Christmas Carol