

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen, Pastor  
First Sunday After Christmas  
Debbie Lyon, Lay Reader

December 26, 2021

Worship 10:30 AM

PRELUDE *Danish Carol* H. Alexander Matthews

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When Jesus was born, we looked for a way to follow a star, seeking a treasure to keep in our hearts.

**People: When the child was born, we sang the love of Mary and Joseph, and danced with angels above.**

Leader: When Jesus was born, we witnessed a piece of Heaven on Earth, wondering how God can love us so much.

**People: When Jesus was born, we hoped for life for those without hope, longing for one who would change our world.**

Leader: When Jesus was born we welcomed the child into our lives, marveling at the gift that came to be.

**People: When Jesus was born, we prayed for truth to be known by all, and thanked the one whose grace makes us free.**

Leader: When Jesus was born, we offered our faith to follow God's truth, awaiting the promise of love without end.

**People: When Jesus was born, we understood that we are held in God's love, and we began to trust that we are also gifts.**

\*HYMN # 218 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

\*INVOCATION

**Creator Spirit, who in the beginning hovered over the waters, and at Jesus' baptism descended in the form of a dove; who at Pentecost was poured out under the signs of fire and wind – come to us; open our hearts and minds for the life-giving word in the covenant of baptism, so that we may listen and be renewed by your power. 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

SPECIAL MUSIC *He Shall Feed His Flock* Handel's *Messiah*  
Soloist, Amy Ogden

EPISTLE LESSON *Colossians 3: 12-17*

\*HYMN # 221 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 1: 39-45*

SERMON *A Watery Sign* Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERTORY *Love Came Down at Christmas* arr. Alice Jordan

\*DOXOLOGY # 34

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We are thankful for the love that gave us life, for the mission that gives purpose to our days, and for the peace that Christ grants to us. Keep us from needless anxiety that we may give without counting the cost. We give ourselves as well as our money that your Word may spread where it is not known and take root where it has not been deeded. Amen.**

BAPTISM OF MADELINE MARIE PHILLIPS (insert)

MORNING PRAYER

\*HYMN # 223 *Star-Child*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *O Come All Ye Faithful* Traditional

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

*Call to Worship & Invocation adapted and reprinted from Shine on Star of Bethlehem Compiled by Geoffrey Duncan; Unison Prayer of Dedication reprinted from Gathered by Love by Lavon Bayler*

*Greeters Leaders This Morning: Carla DeMeco, Sue Hawkes  
Ushers This Morning: Guy Burns, Jay Garrett-Larsen  
Live Stream This Morning: Matt Berry*

If you are visiting with us, welcome! Please fill out a green card and place it in the offering plate. If you would like to use our hearing assistance system please see an usher.

## *Happy Birthday*

Dec 27 Alan Lupton, Jessica Gilbert

Dec 30 Rich Morgan

Dec 31 Helen Ellis, Michelle Nevin

Jan 1 Kate Meyer

## *Prayer List*

**Ancy & Kira** (Fred Henry's friend); **Keith Blaker; Brad Bliss; Marjorie Case; Cheryl** (Jennifer Maxfield's sister-in-law); **Judy Clark** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' and Elaine Hilton's friend); **Cathy Coots; Corrine** (Denise & Scott's sister); **Bob DeSantis** (Dorice & Don Raw, Sr.'s friend); **Marilyn DeSmith; Brian Fuscaldo** (Mara Huberlie's nephew); **Max Grossman** (George Herren's friend); **Carin Herren; Mara Huberlie; Barb Iglewski; Peter Ingalls** (Jean Ingall's son); **Jim and Carolyn** (Amy Ogden's friends); **John** (Lin's nephew); **Sue Kotalik; Michelle List** (JoAnn Reed's friend); **Loren** (Jack Radley's friend); **Lynn** (Joan Ryan's friend); **Eileen McCarthy** (Carla DeMeco & Betsy Dresser's friend); **Liz Nelson** (Kathy Ward's friend); **Norman** (Jennifer Maxfield's uncle); **Chris Pritchard** (Rick, Cindy Mullen & George Herren's friend); **Jack Radley; Don Raw, Sr.; Don Raw, Jr.; Sara** (Jack Radley's granddaughter); **Smith/Dworetsky Family** (Okke & Kathy Postma's friends); **Pat Smith; Dr. Steven Smith & Family** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' friends); **Betsey Stout; Gordon Wenner** (George & Carin Herren's friend); **Josh Yeo** (Barb Stahl's friend); **Jason and Linda Zeller** (Kathy Ward's son and daughter); **Jim Ziegler**

## *Calendar*

Mon Dec 27 & Sun Jan 2	Fri Dec 31	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
	9:00	Choir
	10:30	Communion Service: Worship In Person & Live stream, Sunday School
Tue Jan 4	8:00	Men's Group
	10:00	Rug Hookers
Thu Jan 6	10:30	MLK Committee
Sun Jan 9	9:30	Choir
	11:45	Social Action Committee
		Worship Committee removes holiday decorations
	2:00	Current Events Group
	2:30	Brainstorming Team/zoom
	4:00	Trustees/Zoom

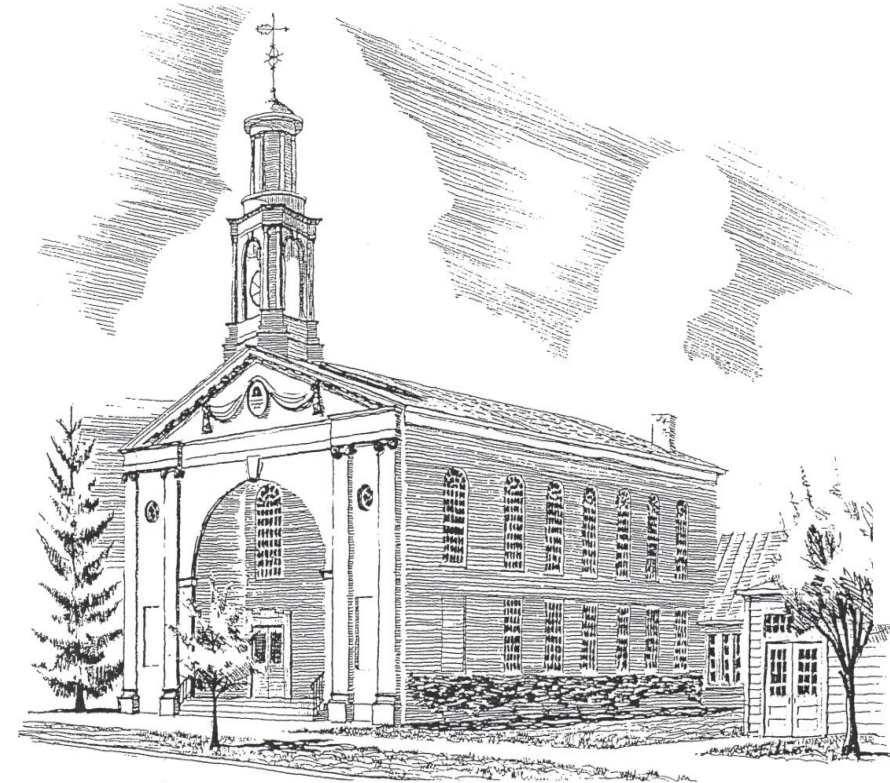
# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

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## We're a Different Kind of Church

- ❖ We value and respect diversity in the ways we express our faith.
- ❖ We enjoy thoughtful dialogue about faith issues.
- ❖ We encourage each other to work for justice and to care for people in need in our community and in our world.