

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

December 31, 2023

Worship 9:30 AM

PRELUDE *Danish Carol* H. Alexsander Matthews

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Here on the heels of Christmas,

**People: We all speak of love.**

Leader: We speak of joy.

**People: We speak of candlelight and fireside.**

Leader: We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

**People: We speak of “glorias” and angel choruses.**

Leader: We speak the words, “Do not be afraid”.

**People: Here on the heels of Christmas, we are called to speak, for the world needs a light**

Leader: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

**People: Let us worship and listen. Then, let us speak. Amen.**

\*HYMN # 189 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

\*INVOCATION

**God of today and tomorrow, we know that your fingerprints are all over this world. And we know that those who dream cannot keep silent. So today we pray, give us eyes to see you. Give us courage to trust you. And give us lips to speak of you in our midst. Gratefully we pray, 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

BAPTISM OF DAISY JEANNE LEASURE

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON *Psalm 148* Pg # 557

\*HYMN # 196 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

MORNING PRAYER

GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 2: 22-40* Pg # 54

SERMON *Those Who Dream Will Not Keep Silent*  
Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERTORY *What Is This Lovely Fragrance* Paul Manz

\*DOXOLOGY # 34

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**With joyous praise, we return to you a portion of all you have given to us. May our giving exceed the demands of the law. You have invited us to sacrifice befitting our blessings. You have asked us to care for those less privileged. What we offer in these moments is a beginning. We will ponder again your amazing grace in granting us life, in offering the child Jesus to bring us back to you, and I giving us the name “Christians.” Praise be to you, O God. Amen.**

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

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Noel* Louis Claude Daquin

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

*Call to Worship and Invocation reprinted from Sanctified Arts by Sarah Are;  
Prayer of Dedication reprinted from Led by Love by Lavon Bayler*

*Greeters This Morning: Charlie Aguanno, Jerry Cruz, Laurie Stoutz  
Ushers This Morning: Jean Landes, Don and Marilyn DeSmith and Carolyn Hotchkiss.  
Live Stream This Morning: Mike Ryan  
Coffee Hour Host: Trustees*



**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

12/31 Helen M. Ellis  
1/2 Don DeSmith ~ Bonnie Haaland  
Eliza Young

## Prayer List

**Molly Bailey's mother; Connie Barrett; Carol Birx** (friend of the Casellas Family);  
**Guy Burns, Marjorie Case; Hector Casellas** (Dan's father); **Cheryl** (Jennifer Maxfield's sister-in-law); **Abby Coons** (Carl & JoAnn Reed's friend); **Carol & Kent** (Karen's friends); **Cathy Coots; Glenn & Karen DeHond; Scarlett Emerson** (Elaine Hilton's sister); **Max Grossman** (George Herren's friend); **Carin Herren; Anne Jensen** (friend of Jim & Connie Fredericks-Malone); **John** (Lin's nephew); **Ron & Lu Krahl; Michelle List;** (friend of Joann Reed); **Dennis Maxfield; Paul** (Dennis Maxfield's brother); **Frank McAlpin** (Patrick McAlpin's father); **Joan Piorkowski,** Paul Piorkowski's mother; **Okke Postma; Chris Pritchard** (Rick & Cindy Mullen and George Herren's friend); **Helen Rudolph** (Kurt's Mom); **Alexander Saxby** (Son-in-law of Phil and Kathi Nevin); **Judy Silvestrone** (Kathy Postma's sister), **Pat Smith; Dr. Steven Smith & Family** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' friends); **Barb Stahl; Josh Yeo** (Barb Stahl's friend); **Jason Zeller** (Kathy Ward's son); **Jim Ziegler; all those who struggle with poverty and homelessness, especially those who receive food and gas card support**

## Calendar

Mon	Jan 1		<i>New Year's Day ~ Office Closed</i>
Tue	Jan 2	8:00	Men's Group
		10:00	Rug Hookers/Assembly Room
Wed	Jan 3	10:00	TOPS/Assembly Room
Thu	Jan 4	12:00	Bridge
Sun	Jan 7		<i>Star Words</i>
		9:00	Choir
		10:30	Worship In-Person & Live Stream, Sunday School
		11:45	Worship Committee De-decorating/Sanctuary

# 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.