

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

Second Sunday After Christmas  
Debbie Lyon, Lay Reader

January 1, 2023

Worship 10:30 AM

PRELUDE *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* arr. Edwin McLean

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Through Christ, the firstborn of all creation,

**People: we pray for respect for the earth.**

Leader: Through Christ, Prince of peace,

**People: we pray for peace for earth's peoples.**

Leader: Through Christ, King of love,

**People: we pray for love in our lives.**

Leader: Through Christ, Lord of the dance,

**People: we pray for delight in the good.**

Leader: Through Christ, divine healer,

**People: we pray for forgiveness for past wrongs.**

Leader: Through Christ, Morning Star of a New Year

**People: we pray for the grace to make a new start for ourselves and for our world,**

Leader: and may God bless us and keep us, today and every day.

**People: Amen**

\*HYMN # 409 *God of Our Life*

\*INVOCATION

**We give you thanks for the year that has passed. We thank you for the many ways in which you have touched us, in the moments of great happiness or in deep distress. You have been present in Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. We thank you for the people who mattered to us, near and far, who have given themselves to us and through whom you have been present to us in their love. We thank you for your church, the community of faith in whose company we have journeyed, whose friendship we value, whose challenge we welcome, and whose wide boundaries are not defined by time, by space or by death. As we move on into this New Year, give us grace to leave behind our regrets and our failures and any sense of guilt, to let go of the past with gratitude, and to leave in your hands the future in faith – to live each moment in joyful discipleship, in the company of him who is always “Emmanuel, God with us. 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

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON *Psalm 148* Pg #557

\*HYMN # 247 *Sing of God Made Manifest*

MORNING PRAYER

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 2: 13-23* Pg # 1

COMMUNION MEDITATION *God is our Refuge* Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERTORY *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

\*DOXOLOGY

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION We, your children, return to you, Gracious God, for the work of your church some of the blessings we have received from your hands. Your face shines on us. You have set your way before us. You have embraced us with your love. Now we invest these offerings and ourselves in the joyous work of sharing the good news with the world. Amen.**

\*COMMUNION HYMN #389 *Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table, Consecration, and Sharing of the Bread and Cup, Thanksgiving  
*(The communion bread is gluten and nut free so that all may partake together)*

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

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Go, Tell It On the Mountain* arr. Timothy Brown

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

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

***Greeters This Morning:***

***Ushers This Morning: Guy Burns, Jim DeMay, Peggy Hollister & Dave Sauter***

***Live Stream This Morning: John Maguire***

***Coffee Hour Host: Fred Henry, Debbie Lyon***

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

***Happy Birthday***

1/2 Don DeSmith  
Larry Rowles

***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 Iglewski**; **John** (Lin’s nephew); **Sue Kotalik**; **Lu Krahl**; **Dennis Maxfield**; **Paul** (Dennis Maxfield’s brother); **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***

Mon Jan 2	<i>Office Closed in Celebration of New Year’s Day 2023</i>	
Tue Jan 3	8:00	Men’s Group
	10:00	Rug Hookers/Hayes Room
	10:30	Literacy Volunteers/Social Room
Wed Jan 4	10:00	Tops/Assembly Room
Thu Jan 5	10:00	Restoration Committee/Social Room
	10:00	Literacy Volunteers/Hayes Room
Sun Jan 8	9:00	Choir
	10:30	Worship In-Person & Live Stream, Sunday School
	12:00	Deacons Meeting/Loc TBD

**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.