

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

Epiphany Sunday
Jackie Lowe, Lay Reader

January 8, 2023

Worship 10:30 AM

PRELUDE *We Three Kings of Orient Are* arr. Kevin Costley

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God of Life, like a promised land, You invite us to leave our frantic ways.

People: Like a banquet-laden table, You bid us to restore our empty spirits.

Leader: Like a pool of still waters, You call us to cease our crowded living.

People: Like a bright and shining star, You lead us, and restore our lives of wonder.

*HYMN # 233 *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

*INVOCATION

God of today, tomorrow and yesterday, like the Magi, we are seeking you. Like the Magi, we are bringing ourselves closer to you, step by step and word by word. So today we ask that you would make yourself known to us. Reach into our spirits and give us a boost of confidence that love is real, and we are not alone. We know we're asking a lot for a group that brings very little. We don't have gold or frankincense or myrrh. We haven't spent the last several days traveling here by camel. We're no Magi, but we're yours. Instead, we bring ourselves to this worship service, in hopes of catching a glimpse of you. Speak to us through these star words. Let them be invitations and challenges for the year ahead; let them be like stars above helping us look for you. Holy God, you were the God of yesterday, and we know you'll be the God of tomorrow, for you have loved us from generation to generation. 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 *Bell Carol of the Kings* arr. Philip Kern

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH – STAR WORDS

PRAYER AFTER DISTRIBUTING STAR WORDS *See Insert*

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON *Isaiah 60:1-6* Pg # 651

*HYMN # 235 *Brightest and Best of the Stars*

MORNING PRAYER

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 2: 1-12* Pg # 1

SERMON *Following the Star* Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

OFFERTORY *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* J. S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY # 34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sovereign God, we have signed on to be your people, so we bring gifts that represent our best, that you might bless them and multiply their effectiveness among us and in global ministries in Christ's name. We thank you for times of renewal and blessing, which equip us to give ourselves more fully in the tasks you set before us. Amen.

*HYMN # 350 *The Summons*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *What Star Is This?* Rudy Davenport

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

Call to Worship reprinted from Shine on, Star of Bethlehem, Compiled by Geoffrey Duncan; Invocation adapted and reprinted from SantifiedArt.org: Liturgy for Star Words as Part of Holy Communion; Rev. Sarah Speed; Prayer of Dedication reprinted from Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2 by Lavon Bayler

***Greeters This Morning: Sue Hawkes, Lorena Garmezy
Ushers This Morning: Jim & Karen DeMay, Dan Casellas, Carla DeMeco
Live Stream This Morning: Matt Berry
Coffee Hour Host: Barb Davis, Carla DeMeco***



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

Happy Birthday

1/8 Brian Weeden
 1/9 Carl Mabie
 1/11 Jackie Lowe
 1/12 Jill Wheadon ~ Betsy Barrett ~
 Hannah Morgan
 1/14 Okke Postma

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

Sun Jan 8	11:45	Deacons Meeting
Mon Jan 9	3:00	Called to Care/Hayes Rm
	4:00	Social Action/Zoom
Tue Jan 10	8:00	Men's Group
	10:30	Literacy Volunteers/Social Room
	7:00	Council/Zoom
Wed Jan 11	12:00	PEO/Social Room
Thu Jan 12	10:00	Public Image/Hayes Room
	4:00	Staff Meeting
Sun Jan 15	9:00	Choir
	10:30	Worship In-Person & Live Stream, Sunday School
	5:00	Confirmation Overnight
Mon Jan 16		<i>Martin Luther King Day ~ Office Closed</i>

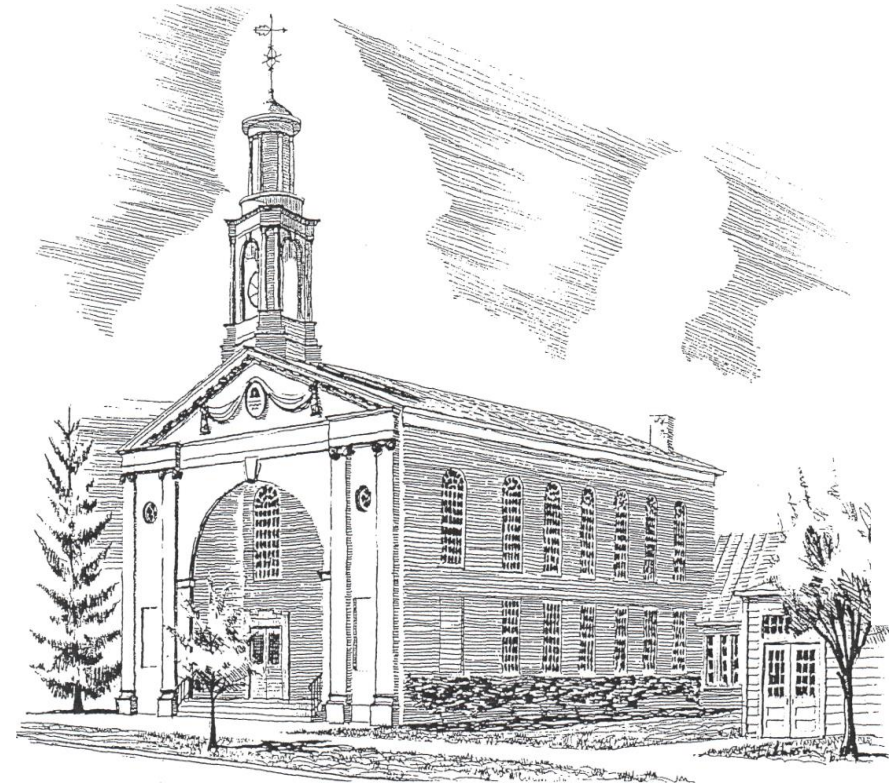
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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.