

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
Sunday, December 8, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent
“Repentance (Peace) Can’t Wait”**



Every member is a minister in the community

*Greg Briggs, Interim Pastor Leah Dice, Office Manager
Roger Waters, Music Minister Shelley Fisher, Music Minister
Lynette Webb, Childcare Supervisor Larry Minch, Custodian*

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Pastor Greg: pastor@chxucc.org, * 616.283.2971 cell

Office Hours 9 a.m.— 3:30 p. m. Mon—Thurs

Welcome to our church family!

You are invited to join us today for refreshments in our Fellowship Hall following the worship service. If you are a guest, please feel free to use the welcome cards available in the pew and place in the offering plate.

(indicates that all who would like and are able are invited to stand. **Bolded** text is to be read by the entire congregation. Traditional unison prayers are in italics and are also read in unison.)*

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Words of Welcome, Announcements, and Signing of the Fellowship Pads,
Ringing of the Steeple Bell, and the Lighting of the Candles

PRELUDE

INTROIT Choral Introit

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Prepare the way!

All: Deck the halls and light the candles.

One: Prepare the way!

All: Open the doors and sing a song of hope.

One: Prepare the way!

All: Make space in our hearts for a new kind of love.

One: Christ is coming.

All: Prepare the way!

* GATHERING HYMN #156. On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Voice A: I will wait for the sky to clear.

Voice B: I will wait for the plot to thicken.

Voice A: I will wait for vacation to arrive.

Voice B: I will wait for snow to fall.

Voice A: I will wait for dinner to be ready.

Voice B: I will wait for you to be confident.

Voice A: I will wait for my child to walk.

Voice B: I will wait for the leaves to change.

Voice A: I will wait for the dust to settle.

Voice B: I will wait for the lab results.

Voice A: I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

Voice B: I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for peace.

Voice A: This world is rampant with division, walls, grudge-holding, and self-doubt.

Voice B: I do not want to be a passive bystander in this division.

Voice A: We do not want to be passive bystanders in this division.

Voice B: So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder that we have a role to play.

<Light the First and Second Advent Candles>

Voice A: May the desire to sow peace kindle in us like a light in the darkness.

All: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Creator God—

Not a day goes by when you do not invite us to be peacemakers and advocates, Listeners and good Samaritans.

Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be a friend to a stranger and a neighbor to those in need.

Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be the people you call us to be, And yet, day after day, we lose sight of your hope for this world.

Forgive us for walking a different path, and grant us the strength to prepare a new way—*Your* way—here.

Gratefully we pray, Amen

RESPONSIVE PSALM— PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 (See insert)

WE PRAISE GOD AND GIVE THANKS THROUGH OUR GIVING

Invitation

Offertory

* Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

ANTHEM “The Narrow Way” K. Lee Scott

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

Page 1076

Matthew 3:1-12

Page 1499

THE MESSAGE

Interim Pastor Greg Briggs

* **HYMN OF REFLECTION** #174 Prepare the Way of the Lord - Sung repetitively

*GOD'S PEOPLE IN PRAYER

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of our Savior

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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

* **HYMN OF PARTING** #191. It Came upon the Midnight Clear

* **BENEDICTION** Choral Response

* **CHORAL RESPONSE**



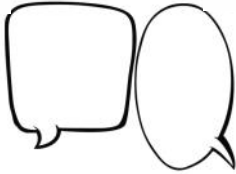
*** TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY TO DONATE ***



Community Christmas Project. 2019

This project is a community-wide effort that provides food, winter clothing, teen items, and children's toys to area families in need. Last year we provided necessary items to more than 250 families. Our church has been asked to supply 50 jars of jam/jelly and socks. **The project needs "no show" (short type) socks and also socks for small children.** Collection boxes are in the Fellowship Hall. We are taking these items to the distribution site (Bethany Lutheran Church on US-31) today after church. Distribution date is Friday December 13, 2019. We could use a few more delivery people in the morning on this day.

If you are willing and able to help with deliveries, please contact Marty Trubilowicz 231-675-8850 or mtubitz@gmail.com



How to Have Better Conversations

What's Getting in the Way of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

Enjoy a simple soup supper and join us for our Advent conversation where we will discover ways to

Have Better (and calmer) Conversations!

Just in time for the Holidays.

December 5th, 12th and the 19th

5:30 – 7:00

First Congregational Church

**Advent Daily Devotionals - two options (\$5.00)
What Can't wait *or* A New Earth UCC Devotional
*We have extra copies!***



Blue Christmas Service

EVEN IN WORRYING TIMES, GOD IS WITH US

EVERYONE IS WELCOME


SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND, 5:00 P.M.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UCC

101 STATE ST.

CHARLEVOIX MI., 49720

This Week's Schedule

Sunday 12/08	Mon 12/09	Tues. 12/10	Wed. 12/11	Thurs. 12/12	Fri. 12/13	Sat. 12/14	Sunday 12/15
<p>9:00 am First Light Service</p> <p>10:30 am Sanctuary Worship</p> <p>Final Day to donate to the community Christmas Fund</p>	<p>6:00pm Baby Diaper Pantry & Personal Care Pantry</p>	<p>10:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>3:00 pm Search Committee Meeting</p> <p>Poinsettia Orders Due</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>		<p>5:30 pm Advent Conversation & Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00 pm Church Choir Practice</p>			<p>9:00 am First Light Service</p> <p>10:30 am Sanctuary Worship</p>

STAFF CHRISTMAS FUND

It's that time of year again! The entire staff has been hard at work all year helping our church reach it's goals. Consider contributing to the Staff Christmas Fund as a way of showing your appreciation. Please place your gift in a sealed envelope and address it to "Staff Christmas" . You can place the envelope in the offering plate or bring it to the office.

Thank you~ Diaconate

Gifts of Serving

THIS WEEK

DECEMBER 8TH

NEXT WEEK

DECEMBER 15TH

GREETERS/USHER:

Dave and Joan Robinson

Susan Fowler & Lucy Witthoeft

COFFEE HOUR:

Cookie Walk Committee

LAY READER:

Could be you!

Tina Bowen

Altar Flowers:

Liz Mielke

Bulletin Sponsorship:

Lucy Witthoeft

Lucy Witthoeft

Praise and Prayer Request List

Healing Diagnosed with Cancer	Rev. Ginny Titus Jan Smith Loretta Hasley (Julia Heddle) Jack Lehmkuhl Robert Rowe Ruby Hayward Tina Bowen	Michelle James Evelyn Schwartz (continued healing) Ann Chappelle Olsen (Alice P.M.) Donna Waters Jill Ostrum (Alice P.M.) Elaine Drury (MaryAnn Chew) Brody Roberts
Healing	Marilyn Knapp (Lani Ochs) Delores Cain Jesse Wilcox Rev. Leroy Sutfin Marty Merz Betsy Teeuwissen Anne Bandfield Verna Truman Robin Messing	Caitlyn Cruzak (John Young) John McKown Jerry Corley Judy Willey Aurora Sargent Brook Bixby (Gay Kiteley) Connie Doan (Chris Gengle) Chris Kenney (Betty Renton) John Peterman Amy Meyer (Alice P.M.)
Prayer	Birth of Bri'lyn Carpenter First Responders Immigrants and Refugees Faith Leaders and World Leaders	Victims of Natural Disasters Those living with Mental Illness Roger & Donna Waters Susan Denomy (Betty Wadland)
Prayer	U.C.C. Church of the Month	First Congregational UCC—Cheboygan, MI
Grieving	Family of LaRue Kenney Family of F. James "Doc" Stewart Family of Lillian Calvin	Family of Don Wadland Family of Dana Gibbons-Amley Family of Carolyn Mackenzie
Military	Nate Powell Joshua Wojan Wesley Moulden SGT Ian Tompkins	SFC Alex Weller SGT Adam Soldan Captain David Knowles Jr. EMN3 Cary Tompkins (Linda Moore)

Please be sure to sign any Care Letters in the vestibule outside the Sanctuary. This is a tangible way to share our care, concern, and love with those who could use it.

Worship Attendance December 1 ~ First Light Service: 05 Sanctuary Service: 31
Bible Study, December 3– 11

WORSHIP RESOURCES USED TODAY:

- Cover Art– Photo by qinghill on Unsplash <https://unsplash.com/photos/x8MZ2MoEKLE>
- Call to worship, Advent Lighting, Prayer of the Day—Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- Psalm—New Century Hymnal

a SIGN to the PEOPLE

