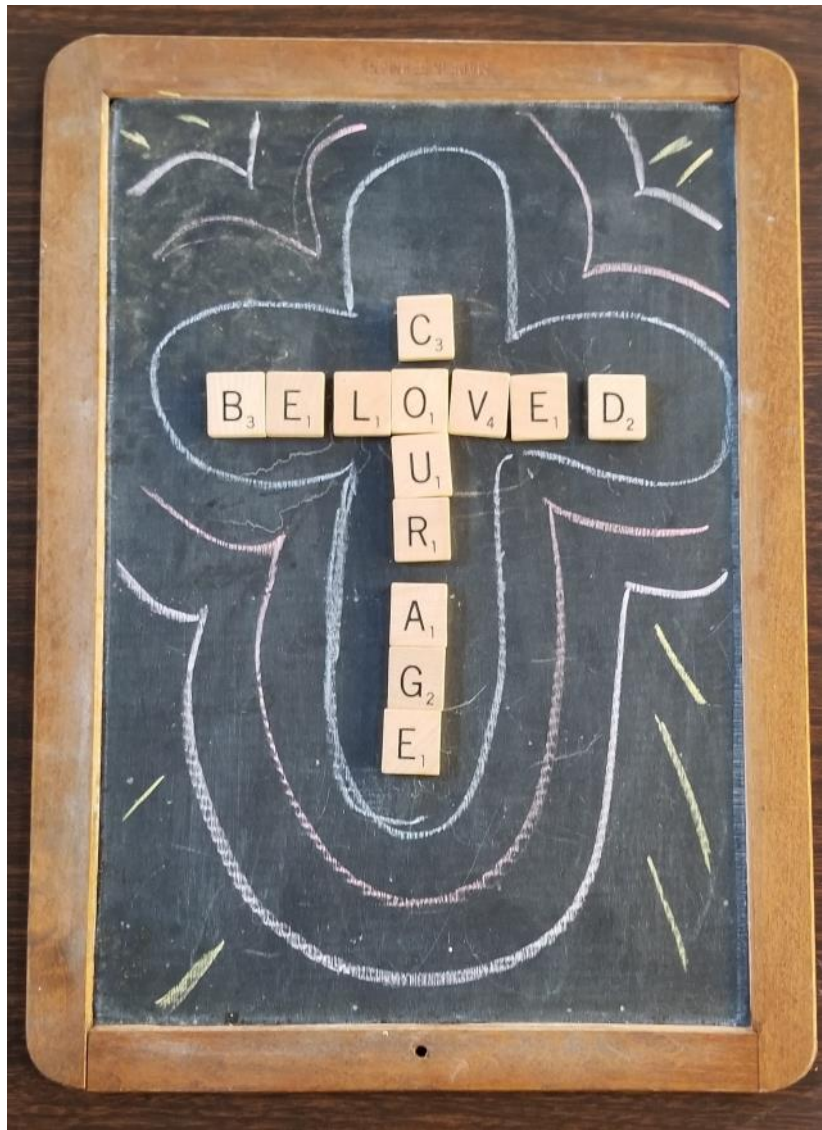


**First Congregational United Church of Christ
Sunday, December 22, 2019
Third Sunday of Advent
“Courage (Love) Can’t Wait”**



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*

101 State Street - Charlevoix, MI 49720 * Phone: 231.547.9122

www.chxuucc.org * Email: office@chxuucc.org

Pastor Greg: pastor@chxuucc.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
Ringling of the Steeple Bell and the Lighting of the Candles

GATHERING MUSIC—David Bowen, Guitar

INTROIT Choral Introit

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are courageous

All: When we are vulnerable.

One: We are courageous

All: When we are honest with ourselves.

One: We are courageous

All: When we extend words of welcome.

One: We are courageous

All: When we invite others to sit with us.

One: We are courageous

All: When we proclaim the love of God to a broken world.

One: We are courageous

All: When we say that love cannot wait.

One: So let us be courageous—

All: Let us worship Holy God.

* GATHERING HYMN #169. The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Voice A: I will wait for the DMV.

Voice B: I will wait for the right moment.

Voice A: I will wait for the fire to grow.

Voice B: I will wait for the popcorn to pop.

Voice A: I will wait for political reform.

Voice B: I will wait for the light to turn green.

Voice A: I will wait to leave a message at the beep.

Voice B: I will wait for my kids to come home.

Voice A: I will wait for the paint to dry.

Voice B: I will wait for the right words to say.

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 a chance to share love.

Voice A: The world needs love. We need love.

Voice B: So today we light the candle of love to remind us to spread love wherever we go. May we be courageous enough to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

<Light the Advent Candles>

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, We long to be as courageous as Joseph— Brave enough to trust your call, and strong enough to hold onto one another.

There are so many places in the world that could use our courage.

You know them, but we do too.

So when fear takes over, forgive us.

When our knees shake and our words fail, forgive us.

When self-hatred is easier than self-love, forgive us.

When walls are more convenient than peace, forgive us.

When pessimism is more convenient than hope, forgive us.

When our comfort is more important than our neighbor, forgive us.

You invite us to be courageous. Forgive us.

Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM— PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 (See center page)

WE PRAISE GOD AND GIVE THANKS THROUGH OUR GIVING

Invitation

Offertory “I heard the Bells on Christmas Day” ar. John Gorka—David Bowen

* 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 “Still Through the Night” D. Wagner—Church Choir

THE MESSAGE

Interim Pastor Greg Briggs

* **HYMN OF REFLECTION** #504. Just a Closer Walk with Thee

***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** #237. The Hands That First Held Mary's Child

* **BENEDICTION**

* **CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE


THE CHRISTMAS FUND
for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

The light shines in the Darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it: John 1:5

The Christmas Fund supports retired pastors and pastors in financial need and is a part of our Christmas Eve services. Any offerings for the Christmas Fund should go in the provided envelopes.

In 2018, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- * Small pension supplementation for 379 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,453,050)
- * Health benefits supplementation for 174 retired clergy and lay employees (\$429,903)
- * Emergency grants for 49 individuals and families (\$60,526)
- * Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 401 retired clergy and lay employees (\$214,100) ***Prayerfully consider your contribution on Christmas Eve***

Special Holiday Worship Services



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



Christmas Eve Services

Family Service, 7 p.m. - an interactive, no rehearsal, worship service for children of all ages, including many ways to be a worship leader.

Candlelight Service, 11p.m. - a service of lessons and carols to usher in the birth of our Savior on Christmas morn.



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

This Week's Schedule

Sunday 12/22	Mon 12/23	Tues. 12/24	Wed. 12/25	Thurs. 12/26	Fri. 12/27	Sat. 12/28	Sunday 12/29
<p>9:00a First Light Service</p> <p>10:30a Sanctuary Worship</p> <p>5:00p Blue Christmas Service</p>	<p>6:00p Baby Diaper Pantry & Personal Care Pantry</p>	<p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>7:00p Family Christmas Service</p> <p>11:00p Candle Light Service</p> <p>2019 Christmas Fund</p>	<p>Church office closed</p> <p><i>Merry Christmas!</i></p> 	<p>Church office closed</p>			<p>9:00 am First Light Service</p> <p>10:30 am Sanctuary Worship</p>



Gifts of Serving

THIS WEEK
DECEMBER 22ND

NEXT WEEK
DECEMBER 29TH

GREETERS/USHER:

Mary Ann Ogden & Lois Lewis

Julia Heddle & Mary Ann Ogden

COFFEE HOUR:

Diaconate

LAY READER:

Julia Heddle

Could be you!

Altar Flowers:

Ingrid Nedwick

Bulletin Sponsorship:

Lucy Witthoeft

Lucy Witthoeft

A special “thank you “to David Bowen for his special music in today’s worship.



Next Sunday, we welcome Dr. David Reimer as our guest musician.



Praise and Prayer Request List

Healing Diagnosed with Cancer	Rev. Ginny Titus 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.) Brody Roberts
Healing	Leah Dice Jane Piccard Marilyn Knapp (Lani Ochs) Delores Cain Jesse Wilcox Rev. Leroy Sutfin Donna Waters Marty Merz Betsy Teeuwissen Anne Banfield 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 Elaine Drury Family of Linda Adkin 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 15 ~ First Light Service: 08 Sanctuary Service: 57
Bible Study, December 17: 10 ~ Advent Conversation, December 12: 12

WORSHIP RESOURCES USED TODAY:

- Cover Art— Greg Briggs. Used with permission.
- Call to worship, Advent Lighting, Prayer of the Day—Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- Psalm—New Century Hymnal

