

WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP TODAY! If you are a guest, we ask you to sign our Guest Register located at the back of the sanctuary. Please join us for refreshments after the service.

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF YOUNG CHILDREN – Jesus welcomed little children into his midst and so do we. However, if you are feeling uncomfortable in worship with your child, please feel welcome to use our Nursery room in which the service can still be heard. Please contact one of our greeters if you need help.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS – Bulletins containing enlarged lyrics to the Psalm and all hymns are available. Please ask a greeter if you would like one.

Ministers	You!	Pastor	Rev. John J. Werner
Lector	Kelly Fuhrmann	Organist	Gary Yost
Greeters	Carol Murphy	Pianist	Sharon Long
Teacher	Miss Betsy	Sexton	Tawnya Busch
		Office Mgr.	Mary Tenan

VISION STATEMENT

Led by the Holy Spirit, we affirm God's love by growing spiritually, pursuing justice and caring compassionately for all.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe God's grace is available to all through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
 We envision ourselves as a community of believers, inspired by the Holy Spirit, united by faith and enriched by diversity in our shared spiritual journey.
 Nurturing each other in this joyful family of faith, we will strive to love and worship God, to honor all people as children of God, to respect all creation as the handiwork of God, and to live as just and peaceable citizens in the world.

	LECTOR	Greeter / Servers	TEACHER
Dec. 16	Judie Sylak	Carol Murphy	Mr. Cameron
Dec. 23	Nancy Hodge	Carol Murphy	Miss Judie
Dec. 30	Matthew Peterson	Carol Murphy	Miss Kelly
Jan. 06			

Coming Up This Week

Mon.	10	8:00 p.m.	A.A.
Tues	11	5:30 p.m.	Weight Watchers
	11	5:30 p.m.	Church Belles Christmas Party
Wed.	12	5:30 p.m.	Advent Study / Supper
	12	7:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	13		Rotary Christmas Party

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
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 Website: www.fcuccjefferson.org
For Pastoral Emergencies: Rev. John J. Werner, 440-213-4745



Hearing Assistance: First Congregational has a Hearing Loop. To use the loop with your hearing aid, your hearing aid must be placed in the "T" position. If you need assistance utilizing the loop, a member of Tech Committee will be happy to help! There are also hearing headsets available for use. For more info on hearing loops please visit: www.hearingloop.org

Like us on facebook www.facebook.com/fcuccjefferson

Follow us on twitter www.twitter.com/Jefferson_UCC

Please direct all announcements for the Church bulletin and items for the Tower Bell to the Church Office (in writing whenever possible). Thank you.

Prayers of Hope and Healing:

Skip and Joyce McClintock, Sue McCune, Hazel Ouillette, Waylon Scott, Sadie Weddle, and Eileen Westfall

Please keep those who are serving in the Armed Forces and Peace Corps in your Prayers.

Church Belles Annual Christmas Party is Tuesday, December 11th, at 5:30 pm. at the home of Kathleen Milford, No. Kingsville. Carpoolers meet at the Church at 5:00 p.m. Bring a dessert or appetizer to share if you wish. Come and have fun and celebrate. If you plan to attend, please email the office or put your name on the sign-up sheet.

Manna: Hello to all the churches. Our December needs which will go with the small hams we are passing out for Christmas are boxes of stuffing, au gratin potatoes, or mashed potatoes, canned sweet potatoes or corn, and applesauce. We will not need cranberries or turkey gravy. **Please have these items in by Sunday, Dec. 9th** so we can pass them out to our families. Thank you so much for your generous giving. Lorna Westlake, Director of the Manna Food Pantry

Quote of the Week:

Martin Luther, 16th century

"This grace of God is a very great, strong, mighty and active thing. It does not lie asleep in the soul. Grace hears, leads, drives, draws, changes, works all in man, and lets itself be distinctly felt and experienced. It is hidden, but its works are evident."

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ADVENT SUNDAY 1 "PEACE"

DECEMBER 9TH, 2018

***Please Rise in Body and or Spirit.**

PRELUDE

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Pastor John

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader One: Our homes and our world are under siege with information:

Television and telemarketing; blogs and texting: So much information often bearing too little wisdom. Angry voices compelling hate; Quiet voices counseling complacency; Mechanical voices offering "deals"--Too much information! Too little wisdom!

People: Confusion surrounds us; Truth gets lost.

Leader Two: We call out in our confusion:

**People: Where is your Wisdom, O God?
Where is the word that leads to life?**

Leader One: We remind ourselves of our ancient story:

John, Zachariah's son, out in the desert at the time, received a message from God. He went all through the country around the Jordan River preaching a baptism of life-change leading to forgiveness of sins, as described in the words of Isaiah the prophet: "...prepare God's arrival! Make [God's] road smooth and straight!"

Leader Two: Let us light this second candle of Advent, a candle of Peace. In its light, let us think, quietly and peacefully, about what voices of true life-change and forgiveness are speaking in our world right now.

In a few words, let's share those voices with each other.

People: Share briefly

Leader One: Let this candle of Advent Peace shine in our hearts all week
And remind us to enter times of quiet and peace in order to listen,
through the noise of our lives, for the call to prepare for the
Holy One.

HYMN: *Savior of the Nations, Come* Insert

MEDITATION AND PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also, with you.**

INTROIT *Little Bethlehem of Judah* Vs. 1 #113

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Oh God, you call us to turn our lives around, and work with patience and diligence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we get discouraged and give up too soon. **Lord, Have mercy.**

Oh God, you call us to collaborate in community to prepare the way your Reign, but we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others. **Christ, have mercy.**

Oh God, you call us to be full of joyful confidence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear. **Lord, have mercy.**

(a moment of silent prayer)

Forgive us, O God, and lead us in the ways of patience, community and joy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor John

***HYMN** *Comfort, Comfort O My People* #101

CALLING UPON GOD TOGETHER

Emmanuel, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in. Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. In the Name of the One who is coming, we pray. **Amen!**

ANTHEM *Surely the Time is Near*, by Lloyd Larson

CALL TO PRAYER *Beautiful Jesus* Vs. 1 #44

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYERS Pastor John

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, and the power and the glory both now and forever. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART Pastor John

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS Baruch 5:1-9 Lector

SONG OF ZECARIAH Luke 1:68 - 79 Pg. 733

***HYMN** *There's a Voice in the Wilderness* #120

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6 Pastor John

SUNG GOSPEL RESPONSE Alleluia #765

MESSAGE Pastor John

OFFERING

***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.*

HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Vs. 1-3 #116

BENEDICTION* Pastor John

Let us go forth with eyes to see and ears to hear and voices to proclaim:
In the work of justice: Emmanuel! In the practice of mercy: Emmanuel! In good news for the poor: Emmanuel! In the vision of peace: Emmanuel! **Amen! Thanks be to God!**

RECESSIONAL *With Joy Draw Water* Vs. 1 #109

POSTLUDE