

The Tower

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Madison, Wisconsin

LXVIII

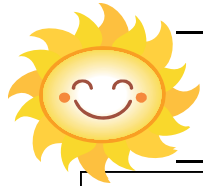
December 25, 2011

No. 44

Merry Christmas!
From the staff at First Congregational



Christmas Eve Services: 5:00pm Family Oriented Service, 9:00pm Candlelight Service
Christmas Day 10:00am Service of Lessons and Carols



JOIN US FOR MORNING SERVICE

Sunday, December 25, 2011 Lessons & Carols

On Christmas morning the focus of the service will be Lessons and Carols. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a format for a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols.

The format was based on an Order drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve (24 December) 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10pm service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden shed serving as his cathedral and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve.

The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world.

The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College, Cambridge.

MUSICAL NOTES

There will be no choir rehearsals from December 25 through January 4, 2012. All choirs will resume their regular schedule starting Sunday, January 8.

In addition, all interested youth are invited to meet with Don immediately following the youth musical auditions on January 8, to organize the Celebration Ringers to play on Youth Sunday. The Celebration Ringers is open to any youth (grades 7 through 12) who wish to participate. If you have any questions, talk with Don or Jeff.

The Cherub Choir will be singing in worship on January 8. Cherubs, and their parents, are reminded to meet in the sanctuary for a short rehearsal at 9:30am on the 8th, before singing in worship.

The Chancel Choir will meet at 9:00am on Sunday, January 8 for rehearsal.

Sunday, January 1, 2012

Worship at 10am in the Sanctuary Scripture Readings: Isaiah 61:10-11, John 1:1-5, 10-14, 16-18

The passage from Isaiah is part of the prophet's song of praise to Zion. The prophet is rejoicing in God's action for people: *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation.* The specific situation was probably the people's return to Israel and Jerusalem after 60 years in exile, but those words can feel appropriate in any situation when God brings justice and peace in our world: *As the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.*

The passage from John is that Gospel's setting the stage for God's relationship with humankind: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... All things came into being through him.... What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

FIRST CONG YOUTH

Youth Musical Auditions will be held after worship on Sunday, January 8 for this year's youth musical *DONKEY TALES!*, which brings to life three donkey stories from the Bible. (The musical will be presented in worship on Sunday, February 19) All Youth (7th – High School) are invited to participate. Yes! Friends are welcome! Contact Jeff Rabe with questions.

The All-Youth Winter Retreat will be held January 20 – 22. Leave Friday evening for a weekend at Bethel Horizons near Dodgeville. The theme for this year's retreat is *WORD!* Linda Hancock will be a guest artist at the retreat! Watch for more information.

Attention all High School Youth! The date and location has been set for the **2012 Summer Mission Trip**. July 8 Youth will head out for a week of work at Camp Courageous near Monticello, IA. Camp Courageous is a year-round respite care and recreational facility for individuals of all ages with disabilities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contributions for 2011 IRS regulations state that in order to be deductible for 2011, contributions to the church MUST be postmarked by December 31st or hand-delivered to the church office in 2011. The office will be open until 4:00pm on December 28th, and 29th, and until noon on December 30. All contributions received in worship on Sunday, January 1st, will be recorded as 2012 donations. The church office WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, December 26th, Tuesday, December 27th, and Monday, January 2.

Men's Fellowship All men are invited to an hour of fellowship on Sunday, January 8, 8:30am. Gallup Coffeehouse, 1859 Monroe St. No RSVP necessary. Contact info: Tom Syring, tjsyring@tds.net, 843-2234.

Nursery & Sunday School Due to Christmas Day and New Years Day landing on Sundays, there will be no Nursery Care nor Sunday School Classes on December 25 and January 1. Classes/Nursery will resume on January 8.

ALL CHURCH ICE SKATING PARTY! All members of First Cong are invited to lace up their skates and head to the ice at Tenney Park on Sunday, January 29 from 1 – 3pm. Skates can also be rented at the new shelter. Kristin Kanitz will be hosting the party with snacks and hot cocoa rink-side along Marston Ave. (look for the church sign).



Community Meals Day is Thursday, January 5. Please have your donated items to the pink kitchen by 10:30am that day. This gets the volunteers enough time to get the Spanish rice over to Luke House in enough time to get it in the oven for the 11:30am meal service. Thank you for your contributions to Community Meals.

WE COLLECT NONPERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS the first Sunday of every month and donate them to a local food pantry. Since the first Sunday in January is New Year's Day, you may also bring them on January 8; please place them in the basket under the table in the narthex. Thank you for helping to alleviate hunger in our community.

WHAT WAS IN THE BOX? A Porcupine!

The Fable of the Porcupine: *It was the coldest winter ever. The porcupines, realizing their situation, decided to group together for warmth, but their quills wounded their closest companions. After awhile, they decided to distance themselves to avoid hurting each other. But they soon learned that they would freeze if alone. Wisely, they chose to go back to being together. This way they learned to live with the wounds from their companions and still support each other with warmth. When Mary was approached by the angel Gabriel to give birth to, and raise, Jesus, she must have had an idea of the wounds that would be inflicted on both her and her son. But also knowing the warmth and love they would be able to share she told the angel "I am the Lord's servant. Let it happen to me just as you have said." Mary's response was a great example of spreading God's love in an imperfect world. Everyone, despite their best efforts, has wounded and has been wounded by someone else. No one is perfect. But still God loves us. And calls us to do the same.* The crocheted porcupines were made by several members and friends of the Congregation including several prisoners from Fox Lake Correctional Institute as part of the Prison Ministry Project.



New Member Orientation If you are thinking about joining First Congregational UCC or would like to know more about the church, please join us for New Member Orientation sessions. The next three-week session has been scheduled for January 15, 22 and 29. We meet in the Student Lounge from 9:00-9:45 am. We will get to know each other and some current members, learn about the UCC, and more specifically about First Congregational Church. Childcare will be provided. Please let Eldonna know if you will be attending, or if you have any questions.

Church Calendar December 25, 2011-Jan. 8, 2012

Sunday, December 25

10:00am Sunday Worship ~ S

Monday December 26

Church Office Closed

Tuesday December 27

Church Office Closed

Wednesday December 28

10:30am Staff Meeting ~ MS

Thursday December 29

8:00pm AA ~ Room 301

Friday December 30

Saturday, December 31

Sunday January 1

10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary

Monday January 2

Church Office Closed

Tuesday January 3

12noon Bible Conversations ~ SL

5:15pm NA Women's ~ Room 301

6:30pm Boy Scouts ~ YR, DR

7:00pm NA ~ Room 301

7:00pm con Vivo! Rehearsal ~ S

Wednesday January 4

9:30am Worship Planning ~ MS

10:30am Staff meeting ~ MS

Thursday January 5

Community Meals Day

7:00pm Mad Area Jugglers ~ DR

7:30pm AA ~ Room 301

Friday January 6

5:00pm Schneider Wedding

Rehearsal ~ S

5:30pm Madison Table Tennis

Club ~ DR

Saturday January 7

2:00pm Schneider Wedding ~ S

Sunday January 8

9:00am Chancel Choir ~ S

9:30am Cherub Choir ~ S

10:00am Sunday Worship ~ S

10:15am Sunday School

10:15am BBQ ~ YR

11:15am Cherub Choir

~ Room 301

11:30am Prison Ministry

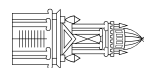
Luncheon ~ DR

11:30am Youth Musical

Auditions ~ C

1:00pm Celebration Ringers Organizational meeting ~ Room 301

BBQ ~ Mid High Bible Study
 Big K ~ Big Kitchen
 BOUNCE ~ Mid High Youth Group
 C ~ Chapel
 DR ~ Dining Room
 FIGS ~ Families Including God and Stuff
 FR ~ Fellowship Room
 GAS ~ Sr. High Bible Study
 LRC ~ Learning Resource Center
 MS ~ Minister's Study
 S ~ Sanctuary
 SAGE ~ Sr. High Youth Group
 SL ~ Student Lounge
 SR ~ Salad Room
 YR ~ Youth Room



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1609 University Avenue
 608-233-9751 (phone)

Madison, Wisconsin 53726

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship attendance on
 Sunday, December 18, 2011 was 247.

Staff:

Curt Anderson, Senior Minister
 Eldonna Hazen, Associate Minister
 Jerry Hancock, Director of Prison Ministry Project
 Donald J. DeBruin, Director of Music Ministries
 Jeff Rabe, Director of Christian Education for
 Children & Youth

Rob Eagle, Bookkeeper
 Jill Farnsworth, Church Secretary
 David Krantz, Building Manager

Office Hours: 8am-12:30pm, 1:00pm-4:00pm,
 Monday -Thursday; 8am-noon Friday.

Phone: 608-233-9751

Fax: 608-233-7180

E-mail: office@firstcongmadison.org

Web Page: www.firstcongmadison.org
 Facebook.com/firstcongo

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES: Curt Anderson's phone is 836-1321, Eldonna Hazen's phone number is 241-8117 and Jerry Hancock's phone is 658-6630.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 MADISON, WI
 PERMIT NO. 1395

JANUARY 2012

Sunday January 1

10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary

Monday January 2

Church Office Closed

Tuesday January 3

12noon Bible Conversations ~ SL
5:15pm NA Women's ~ Room 301
6:30pm Boy Scouts ~ YR, DR
7:00pm NA ~ Room 301
7:00pm con Vivo! Rehearsal ~ S

Wednesday January 4

9:30am Worship Planning ~ MS
10:30am Staff meeting ~ MS

Thursday January 5

Community Meals Day
7:00pm Mad Area Jugglers ~ DR
7:30pm AA ~ Room 301

Friday January 6

5:00pm Schneider Wedding Rehearsal ~ S
5:30pm Madison Table Tennis Club ~ DR

Saturday January 7

2:00pm Schneider Wedding ~ S

Sunday January 8

9:00am Chancel Choir ~ S
9:30am Cherub Choir ~ S
10:00am Sunday Worship ~ S
10:15am Sunday School
10:15am BBQ ~ Youth Room
11:15am Cherub Choir ~ Room 301
11:30am Prison Ministry Luncheon ~ DR
11:30am Youth Musical Auditions ~ C

Monday January 9

5:30pm Stewardship Board ~ FR
5:30pm Table Tennis Clubs ~ DR
7:00pm All Boards ~ Chapel
8:00pm SA ~ Room 301

Tuesday January 10

12noon Bible Conversations ~ SL
5:15pm NA Women's ~ Room 301
6:30pm Boy Scouts ~ YR, DR
7:00pm NA ~ Room 301
7:00pm Piano Tech Guild ~ FR

Wednesday January 11

9:30am Worship Planning ~ MS
10:30am Staff Meeting ~ MS
6:30pm Coventry Ringers ~ Room 301
7:30pm Chancel Choir ~ C

Thursday January 12

7:00pm Mad Area Jugglers ~ DR
7:30pm AA ~ Room 301

Friday January 13

5:30pm Madison Table Tennis Club ~ DR

Saturday January 14

10:30am Wichlei Memorial Service ~ C, SL

Sunday January 15

9:00am New Member class ~ SL
10:00am Worship ~ S
10:15am Sunday School
11:15am Cherub Choir ~ Room 301
12noon SAGE ~ YR

Monday January 16

Church Office Closed

5:30pm Madison Table Tennis Club ~ DR
8:00pm SA ~ Room 301

Tuesday January 17

12noon Bible Conversations ~ SL
2:00pm Service at Oakwood
5:15pm NA Women's ~ Room 301
6:30pm Boy Scouts ~ YR, DR
7:00pm NA ~ Room 301

Wednesday January 18

9:30am Worship Planning ~ MS
10:30am Staff Meeting ~ MS
6:30pm Coventry Ringers ~ Room 301
7:30pm Chancel Choir ~ C

Thursday January 19

7:00pm Mad Area Jugglers ~ DR
7:30pm AA ~ Room 301

Friday January 20

All-Youth Winter Retreat

5:30pm Madison Table Tennis Club ~ DR

Saturday January 21

All-Youth Winter Retreat

Sunday January 22

9:00am New member class ~ SL
10:00am Worship ~ S
10:15am Sunday School
10:15am GAS ~ YR
11:15am Cherub Choir ~ Room 301

Monday January 23

5:30pm Madison Table Tennis Club ~ DR
6:00pm Executive Council ~ FR
8:00pm SA ~ Room 301

Tuesday January 24

12noon Bible Conversations ~ SL
5:15pm NA Women's ~ Room 301
6:30pm Boy Scouts ~ YR, DR
7:00pm NA ~ Room 301

Wednesday January 25

9:30am Worship Planning ~ MS
10:30am Staff Meeting ~ MS
6:30pm Coventry Ringers ~ Room 301
7:30pm Chancel Choir ~ C

Thursday January 26

7:00pm Mad Area Jugglers ~ DR
7:30pm AA ~ Room 301

Friday January 27

5:30pm Table Tennis Club ~ DR
5:30pm BCL Movie Night

Saturday January 28**Sunday January 29**

9:00am New member class~ SL
10:00am Worship ~ S
10:15am Sunday School
11:15am Cherub Choir ~ Room 301
1:00pm All Church Ice Skating party
~ Tenney park

Monday January 30

5:30pm Madison Table Tennis Club ~ DR
8:00pm SA ~ Room 301

Tuesday January 31

12noon Bible Conversations ~ SL
5:15pm NA Women's ~ Room 301
6:30pm Boy Scouts ~ DR, YR
7:00pm NA ~ Room 301

GREETERS-

First Sunday Team:

Dana Chabot (even-numbered months), Amy Smith

Second Sunday Team:

Jane Deyo, Fannie Hicklin, Austen Wygocki

Third Sunday Team:

Steve Lerdahl, Kathy Gansner, Betta Owens

Fourth Sunday Team:

Mary Ellen Gerloff, Karen Gussert, Irene Ilgen, Judy Whipple

Substitutes & Fifth Sunday:

Beth Cannestra, Robin Craig, Annette Ellstrom, David Ewing, Mark Rzchowski, Jackye Thomas, Mark Thomas, Jody Varney, John Ehlke

USHERS

First Sunday Team:

Jane Deyo, Cathy Easter, Vicki Lovely, Janet Pugh, Kathy Gansner

Second Sunday Team:

Bob Burns, Jeanne Marshall, Janet Schrieber, Elizabeth Armstrong

Third Sunday Team:

Dorothy Brown, Ellsworth Brown, Ed Hasselkus, Tom Rickner, Samantha Rickner, Carol Toussaint

Fourth Sunday Team:

Katrina Dwinell, Kathy Gansner, Fred Wileman, Lance & Cheryl Bentley

Fifth Sunday Team:

Katrina Dwinell, George Elder, Josh Feyen

Subs:

Robin Craig, John Ehlke, David Ewing, Mark Rzchowski, Greg Ullstrom

OFFICE HOSTS

First Sunday: Fannie Hicklin

Second Sunday: Barb Williams

Third Sunday: Barb Williams

Fourth Sunday: Fannie Hicklin

Fifth Sunday & Sub: Janet Schrieber

SOUND SYSTEM

First Sunday: Rob Hetzel

Second Sunday: Mark Rzchowski

Third Sunday : Gary Pine

Fourth Sunday: Bob Burns

Fifth Sunday & Sub: Tom Pugh

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 **Jean Freese**, Christine Thomas
- 2 Noelle Livingston, Claire Weesner
- 3 Carolyn Horton, Austen Wygocki, Louis York
- 4 Dana Chabot
- 6 Andrew Lewis
- 7 Rita Kehl, Erin Jones
- 8 Dave Frisinger, John Haslam, Kara Hooper
- 9 Jason Bittner, Sandra Statz
- 10 Sophie Ellen Shaw, Ben Ringle
- 12 Katherine Whipple-Lepore
- 14 Ava Counts-Cannestra, Sarah Counts-Cannestra, Katharine Gansner, Cathy Noth, Alison Pharo
- 15 Rich Fluechtling, **Ken Friou**
- 16 William Tortat Sr.
- 18 Noah Flanum, Heidi Nemet
- 19 Xander Beachy, Anna Jones, Audrey Marquardt, Scott McKinney, Gwen Parker
- 20 Jessica Flowers, Terry Johnston
- 22 Liz Michaels
- 23 Owen Fennema, Haslyn Hunte, Henry Kremer
- 25 Joan Provencher, William Bryn Taylor
- 26 Sarah Kraus
- 27 Melinda Pine
- 29 Matthew Christianson, Megan Coleman, Marcos Davis, Kent Forsberg, Elena Lanier
- 30 Hannah Conner
- 31 Tim Kehl

Those celebrating 90+ birthdays are in listed in bold.

