

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
South Haven, MI

**DIANE VAN DEURZEN
& LISA OTEY in concert!**

*Jazzy bluesy holiday
favorites!*

**FRIDAY
DEC. 17
7pm**

*Donations
accepted*



**First Congregational UCC
651 Phoenix St.
South Haven**

Info, (269) 637-3804



**Third
Sunday
of
Advent**

Worship This Sunday: December 19th

This is the fourth Sunday of Advent and we'll light a candle for love. The

message is entitled: "Who Do You Think You Are?" Has anyone ever said that to you? Have you ever asked yourself that question? Who do you think you are? The sermon will feature the story of Mary.

We'll be singing Christmas carols. We'll hear special Christmas music from Diane and Lisa, Adam Peterson, our Chancel Choir and our Bell Choir. In addition, our children will be singing Christmas songs for us. It will be an amazing service full of music to draw us closer to the Christ who is the reason for this season.

Join us in person (masked) or on Facebook Live at 10:30 on Sunday morning. The service will also be recorded to watch later on Facebook. We're thankful to have dozens of people watch our service online every week.

Advent 4: "Love"

Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:39-55

Christmas Carols:

"Holly and the Ivy"

"Deck the Halls"

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Christmas Doxology sung to the tune of O Christmas Tree (each week)

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday:

Worship at 10:30 in person and on FB

Tuesday:

Prayer Group, 1:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Peace Light, 5 p.m. in the Narthex

Wednesday:

Men's Breakfast, 9 a.m. in FH

Women's Brkfast, 9 a.m. at Six Chicks

Thursday:

Men's Breakfast, 9 a.m. in FH

Friday:

Candlelight Service, 6:30 music, 7 p.m. Service

Monday/Wednesday

10 a.m. to Noon—Food Pantry

Church Office Hours

9:30—1:30 p.m.

Contact the church office if you are interested in joining any of these events.

Young Adult Ministry

Our Second Annual Young Adult Zoom Christmas Event will be on Sunday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. We'll share Christmas memories, hear the Christmas story and sing Silent Night in the candlelight. This is for all adults under the age of 55 and their children. Contact Mike Tupper for Zoom connection information.

Christmas Fund – Veterans of the Cross - This special offering is collected by the Mission Board and is given to the United Church of Christ. Come and hear Tom Ruesink speak about this fund on Sunday.

Special envelopes will be in the pews.

First Congregational Church is hosting the Peace Light, Dec. 21st from 5 to 7 pm

The Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem where Jesus was born holds oil lamps with a flame that is said to have been burning for over 1,500 years. This flame stands as a symbol of the hope that the world will embrace Peace for all.

A ceremony took place at JFK International Airport on December 11th. Austrian Airlines provided a plane to bring the light to North America. That light is now here at First Congregational Church, to be distributed to any who would like to have it in their home. It will also be used to light the many candles at our Christmas Eve Service.

Youth of Scout Troop 188 and Pack 188 will distribute the Bethlehem Peace Light

on the Longest Night of the Year, December 21st from 5 to 7 pm. here at the church. People are invited to bring a candle to be lit or an oil lamp. Candles will be available to attendees for a donation. All are welcome.

No Wednesday Night Adult Class until January 5th.

Children's Ministry

We are now having Sunday School every Sunday morning during the worship service. The children will be singing during worship this Sunday. We thank Sarah Peterson for leading our children's ministry.

Youth Ministry

The youth will be gathering to eat supper and play games on Monday evening, December 27 starting at 5:00 at the church. Rick Olsen will be leading this fun time. It's great to have Rick back with us!

Welcoming Resources

The Welcoming Team has recently placed some new books in the church library. These resources are available to be borrowed as we learn more about inclusion. The library shelves are found in the church lounge. Take a look.



Christmas Eve Worship

**Special Christmas Music
begins at 6:30 pm
Worship Begins at 7 pm**

Our traditional Christmas Eve service will include the singing of all four verses of Silent Night, Holy Night and the lighting of individual candles.

There will be a special time for children, the reading of the Christmas Story and the singing of many Christmas Carols.

Special Christmas music will begin at 6:30 featuring many different musicians. Watch for more information to be announced.

This service is for people of all ages. It will be in person and live on Facebook. Do know you are most welcomed here.

Tuesday Prayer Group

If you have prayer requests, please let the church office know. These will be added to the Tuesday and Sunday lists.

Please hold the following in your prayers:

Joan Gruber

Paul Rood

Bonnie Deke

Dave Wellever

Novella Barden

Chip Harris

Margaret Guimond

Sharon McNicholas

Joy Church

Elsie Hoffman

Please keep in your prayers our brothers and sisters at **Portage UCC (ONA), in Portage.**



Christmas Flower Fund

This year for Christmas we are offering you the opportunity to order a poinsettia that will be used for adorning our Sanctuary during this Advent season. After the Christmas Eve service you are encouraged to take your poinsettia home with you or share it with someone. Please let us know on the form if you will be doing that.

You may order a flower for a donation of \$15 /each, or more, which can be in memory or in honor of someone. A list of donators will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

To make a donation, fill out this form and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by **December 19th**.

Thank you.

I wish to give \$_____ in memory/honor of
(circle one)

I wish to give \$_____ in memory/honor of
(circle one)

I wish to give \$_____ in memory/honor of
(circle one)

_____ Signature

Note: Whatever name(s) that appear for the signature is what will be printed.

I will be taking my poinsettia home with me. Yes or No

First Congregational Church
651 Phoenix Street
South Haven, MI 49090

Pastors

Jeffrey Dick 269-214-8924

Mike Tupper 269-303-3743

Church Office: 268-637-3804

Music Directors: Diane & Lisa VanDeurzen-Otey