

News From First Congregational Church UCC

South Haven

December 12, 2021

Project Christmas Hope and Teen Tid-
ing gifts are due back at the church
this Sunday. Thank you!

Worship This Sunday: December 12

This is the Third Sunday of Advent. We will
light the third candle in our Advent wreath,
the candle of Joy. If worshipping at home,
you might want to have an Advent Wreath
of your own to light.

Diane and Lisa Van Deurzen-Otey will be
leading our music each Sunday during Ad-
vent and Christmas Eve. It is so exciting to
have our Chancel Choir back with us. They
will be singing again this Sunday and so will
Adam Peterson. Nancy Nelson will be play-
ing flute.

There will be a special Children's Moment
that Sarah Peterson will be leading.

Pastor Dick is preaching on Isaiah chapter 12
including these words: "Sing to the Lord,
who has done glorious things; proclaim this
throughout all the earth. Shout and sing
for joy..."

You are invited to join us in person or on Fa-
cebook this Sunday at 10:30.

Advent 3: "Joy"

Scriptures: Isaiah 12:2-6 and Luke 3:7-18

Christmas Carols:

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

"How Great Our Joy!"

"Joy to the World" and "What Child Is
This?"

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:

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

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

Mission bd. mtg., 6 p.m. (Zoom)

Trustee mtg., 7 p.m. (Zoom)

Wednesday:

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

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

Adult Bible Class, 7 p.m. (Zoom and
Lounge)

Thursday:

Thursday Night Suppers, 6 p.m.

Friday:

Holiday Concert, 7 p.m.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

10 a.m. to Noon—Food Pantry

Church Office Hours

9:30—1:30 p.m.

Contact the church office if you are inter-
ested in joining any of these events.

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 **St. John's UCC, in Niles.**

Congratulations to Tom & Karen Ruesink on the birth of their grandson, Tye Thomas, who was born December 6th.

Congratulations also to Victoria Henry, our Office Manager, who is enjoying the birth of her 11th grandchild, Jakob Alan, this week. His parents are Kristina & Jim Lindemulder.

ADOPT A DAY

In honor of Theresa Gleason. Thanks for the computer instruction. Given by Elaine Fluck.

Christmas Fund – Veterans of the Cross - This special offering is collected by the Mission Board and is given to the United Church of Christ. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants,

supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Special envelopes are in the pews or you can send a gift to the church, just make a note for the Christmas Fund.

Young Adult Ministry

Our Second Annual Zoom Christmas Event will be on Sunday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. Contact Mike Tupper for Zoom connection information.

Thank you to Women's Fellowship for their dedication and cookies. We appreciate your kindness of thinking of us at this time of year.

God bless, Jim & Sue Mears

We Care Train Display

Pastor Dick, Tom Feeney and Erika Morrison have put together a fabulous Train Display in the lower level of City Hall. It is open Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7:30 pm, Saturdays Noon to 7:30 pm and Sundays 2 to 6 pm. This is a FREE Event for all ages. There are 3 train clubs (including a Lego Train Set) on display and other individuals (including Pastor Dick) running trains. In addition, there are dozens of decorated Christmas Trees that can be bid on.

Greeters Needed: We are still in need of some greeters on Friday, Dec. 17th). Contact Pastor Dick if you can help.

**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 solemn ceremony will take place at JFK International Airport on December 11th. Austrian Airlines has provided a plane to bring the light to North America. The Catholic Committee on Scouting, Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens is working on plans for the distribution ceremony;

That light is now coming to South Haven, MI 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.

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.

First Congregational Church

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Pastors

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Music Directors

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