



Announcements

Prayer List: Rhonda Silence, Meredith Eliot (Church-Davison), Vicki Biggs-Anderson, Paulette Anholm, Mike Carlson, Sally Dunn, The Carter Family, All Victims of Gun Violence, Immigrants and Refugees, Countries of Congo, Ukraine, Sudan, Israel/Palestine, and Planet Earth.

At home and Care Center: Jean Ljungkull, Nona Smith, Lou Goodell, Bev Denyes, Nancy Cihlar, and Tom Hedstrom.

Measure of our Faithfulness:

The First Congregational UCC adopted a 2023 Budget at the Annual Meeting on 28 January 2023, showing a need for a yearly income of \$164,110.00.

After fifty-one weeks, the Budget Donations and Income should be \$157,454.68. The Actual Donations so far this year have been \$153,459.44.

-Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

This Week at the Church

Sunday, December 24

9:30 – 11:30 AM – **Brunch at the Limvere's**
402 West 1st Avenue. Bring Muffins, doughnuts, or fruit to share.

No Sunday Morning Service!

5:00 PM – December 24th, 4th Sunday of Advent: Love and Christmas Eve. As Christmas Eve falls upon a Sunday, the church leadership decided to just have one worship service this day, which will be in the evening starting at 5:00. Our Christmas Eve service will be centered around the story as told by the Gospel of Luke, carol singing, and lighting of the candles. We welcome all to join us for this very special service.



Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

7:00 PM – Al Anon

Tuesday, December 26

2:00 – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

Wednesday, December 27

2:00 – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

Thursday, December 28

10:00 AM – Tai Chi

12:00 AM – Women's AA

2:00 – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

Friday, December 29

7:00 AM – AA

8:00 AM – Harbor Watch from wherever you can look outside

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Piano Lessons

7:30 PM – AA

Saturday, December 30

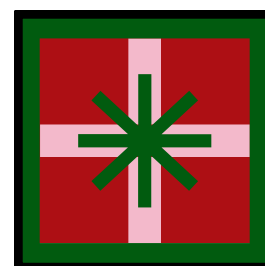
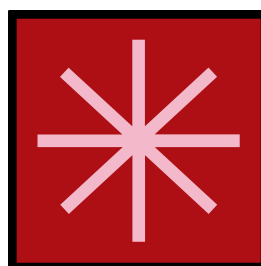
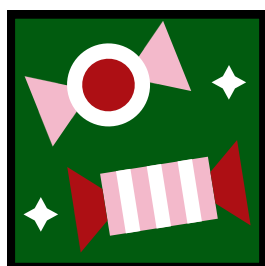
10:00 AM – Surely Discipleship Group

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Piano Lessons

Sunday, December 31

Worship 1st Sunday after Christmas This Sunday will be led by the capable Rev. Rolf Morck who has preached in our service before. As we are in the Narrative Lectionary, we begin in the Gospel of Mark. There is no birth narrative, but the gospel does pack a lot into it.

Fellowship to Follow.





GRACE UPON GRACE.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

(John 1:16)

"KNOWING THAT I HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN."

In this season when we magnify the Lord for the great things God has done through unlikely people and in unexpected ways, we give thanks that we, too, by God's Spirit, can do great things. We, too, can lift up those who are laid low. We, too, can fill the hungry with good things. We, too, through our open-hearted generosity, can proclaim that nothing will be impossible with God.

We can do all of that and more by contributing to the United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross. Our gifts help retired clergy, church staff, and their surviving spouses to pay bills, maintain their health insurance, and meet emergency needs. These servants of the church have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering God's people. Now, through the Christmas Fund, we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them.

Our contributions tell our former servants of the church that they are not forgotten, that they are loved, that they and their ministries are appreciated and remembered. In the words of one recipient, "The financial assistance is greatly appreciated, but just as valuable is knowing that I have not been forgotten by the church I love." For Love's sake, let's give generously.

In 2022, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 218 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,042,726)
- Health benefits supplementation for 86 retired clergy and lay employees (\$181,389)
- Emergency grants for 55 individuals and families (\$138,022)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 479 retired clergy and lay employees (\$278,500)

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Give online at www.christmasfund.org.