



## “IN THE FIRST PLACE”

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
An Open & Affirming, Green Justice Congregation  
Mankato MN 56001

[www.mankatoucc.org](http://www.mankatoucc.org)

Check us out on Facebook!

### JOIN US ON SUNDAYS:

Worship 9:30 am      Children’s Faith-Learning Community 9:45 am  
Nursery available      Fellowship following Worship

### DECEMBER 2018 WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS

- \* **December 2** *First Sunday of Advent*  
**A time of Hopeful waiting...**  
*Communion*  
*Musicians: Choir*  
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36
- \* **December 9** *Second Sunday in Advent*  
**A time of praying for Peace...**  
*New Member Reception*  
*This morning we will be joined my members of the Mankato Chamber Choir, Musicorum.*  
Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
- \* **December 16** *Third Sunday in Advent*  
**A time of Joyful anticipation...**  
*This morning, along with our Choir, our children and youth offer us Christmas: What Child Is This?*  
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
- \* **December 23** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
**A time of embracing Love**  
*A musical celebration as we anticipate new life.*  
Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10;  
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> *Christmas Eve*

**A time to be born anew...**



**5:30 pm** – A Service of Lessons, Carols, Lights

**10:00 pm** – A Traditional Service with Communion and Candlelight



- \* **December 30** *First Sunday after Christmas*  
*Guest Musician: Clayton Wolf*  
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

## THE CENTERING STRINGS:

The Centering Strings will be getting together for rehearsals, and will be participating in worship this winter. Anyone interested in joining is welcome! Please contact Diana S.

## MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

**ALL SINGERS ARE WELCOME!** The **UCC Choir** would love for you to be a part of the fun! All levels of talent and ability are welcome. All that is truly needed is a love of singing and a desire to raise your voice in praise! Don't worry if you can't commit to all dates. We can be very flexible and welcome you anytime you are able to participate. Contact Angie.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

### BOOK STUDY CONTINUES...

**December 4, Tuesday, 4-5:30 pm** (other dates to be announced!)

*All are welcome to join along the way!*

We're reading **INTERRUPTING SILENCE: GOD'S COMMAND TO SPEAK OUT**  
(Walter Brueggemann) along with text from the scriptures.

## YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

- The Gathering (7th grade) - Wednesday December 5, 6-7 pm
- SYNERGY (5th-7th grade) - We'll meet again on Wednesday, January 23, 6-7:15 pm
- The Faith Forming Community (4th grade) - Wednesday, December 12, 6-7:15 pm

## YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING

**Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 5-6:30 pm, Get-to-know Get-together**

A gathering for young families! We'll share appetizers and then kids will head off for childcare and activities with Pat while parents talk about this holy season. Nothing formal...come kick back and enjoy.

**Please contact Pastor Dana if you're interested in coming.**

## CHILDREN'S FAITH-LEARNING COMMUNITY on Sundays!

DATE	CFLC THEME	SCRIPTURE
December 2 Communion Sunday Children remain in worship with families	Communion Activity Bags	Angel's Visit Luke 1:26-38
December 9	Friends and family celebrate with us when amazing and wonderful things happen!	Mary's visit to Elizabeth Luke 1:39-58
December 16 CFLC Christmas Worship		
December 23	Sometimes when amazing things happen, we just need to be silent and "ponder things in our hearts". And other times we have to sing out loud (like Mary did) and thank God.	Jesus is Born Luke 2:1-20
December 30 - No CFLC		

## **CALLING ALL ACOLYTES:**

The children from the Children's Faith-Learning Community enjoy helping during worship. Families are signing up as Acolytes and helping prepare the congregation for worship by lighting the candles. If you would like a turn to help, please text/call Pat with a date that works for your family. Thank you.

## **MISSION MINISTRY**

**CHECK OUT THE BOARD IN THE NARTHEX FOR A MONTHLY PREVIEW OF EVENTS OFFERED BY OUR WORK GROUPS!**

**EARTHWISE, FAIR TRADE, IMMIGRANT WELCOMING-INTERFAITH**

## **S.S. RESOURCE CENTER OPPORTUNITY...**

S.S. Resource Center, on Front Street in downtown Mankato, is newly opened to provide shelter and resources for homeless people every day in the afternoons. It is filling the gap between Salvation Army noon meal and the Rotating Shelter that opens at 7pm.

On Sundays, the shelter is at St. John's Episcopal Church from 1 to 7pm. In lieu of our providing the noon meal at the Salvation Army on Sundays, we have the opportunity to provide snacks for the homeless people on Sunday afternoons. The Salvation Army still has the noon meal, but these snacks would be in between meals. Light, healthy snacks for around 15 people would be any of the following: **Muffins, bread or bagels with cream cheese, peanut butter, butter or jelly, granola or other nutrition bars, fruits, raw veggies, cheese or meats, etc.**

There is a schedule you can sign-up on at the kiosk that will go through December. This could become an ongoing project. Two people can sign up for each Sunday. You can drop off these snacks at St. John's Episcopal Church at Broad and Warren Sunday after church. If you prefer you can contribute money.

For further information, please contact Jane D. or Pastor Dana.

## **FAIR TRADE BAZAAR**

**We will be having the usual Fair Trade bazaar on Sunday, Dec. 9 and 16th from 10:30 am to noon.** 10,000 Villages products from Mountain Lake will be available to buy. Your purchases guarantee fair prices to artisans in developing countries, allowing them to make a decent living and support their families.

## **FAIR TRADE 10,000 VILLAGES**

Anyone who would like to volunteer at the Fair Trade 10,000 Villages kiosk during December please call Jane D. You can volunteer for 2, 3, or 4 hour slots. You get 10% off the price of any item you buy there if you volunteer. The kiosk is across from H & M and Francesca's in the mall.

## **UCC CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING:**

For many years the Christmas Fund has helped to provide supplemental monies for pension and health insurance premiums for low income retirees. At Christmas, the offering provides gift checks to hundreds of annuitants, but it also provides emergency assistance to clergy and lay employees and their families throughout the year.

An informational letter along with a special envelope will be sent out the first week of December and the offering will be received on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **ANNUAL CRAFT AND BAKE SALE:**

Please keep in mind our **Annual Craft and Bake Sale on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. The proceeds will go to help our youth go on our Guatemala Mission trip.

**Bring your donated craft or bake items to church on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> by 9 am.** Any questions? Contact Kathy T.

### ***A Conversation on Poverty***

***\*\*Hosted by Joint Religious Legislative Coalition***

You may have heard about the community conversation on poverty we hosted in September — just shy of 60 people joined us and brought a lot of positive energy to the discussion. We'd like to continue building this energy (and move some of that energy into action!) with a second event in early December. Please join us to add your voice to the discussion!

**What — A Community Conversation on Poverty, Part II**

**Where — First Congregational UCC Church, 150 Stadium Ct., Mankato, MN**

**When — Monday, December 3, 7-8:30 pm**

**Join us and bring a friend or neighbor with you.**

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

***The Men's Group:* Saturday, December 8, 8:00 am at the WOW! Zone**

***The Women's Group:* Saturday, December 8, 9:00 am at the WOW! Zone**

## **HEALTH MINISTRIES**

If you would like your blood pressure checked, please just reach out to one of the team members and we're happy to check it for you.

### **ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE:**

There are crutches, a walker and a wheel chair available for loan if someone has a need.

## **ALL IN THE CHURCH FAMILY:**

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

We lift up to God's healing presence all those struggling in body, mind and spirit and pray for all caregivers and all those serving to bring peace and justice to our community, our nation and our world.

## **PASTORAL CONTACT:**

**Pastor Dana Mann can be reached at: [dana@mankatoucc.org](mailto:dana@mankatoucc.org)**

**(507) 387-6592 ext.1 or her cell: 1-917-202-373**

## **FROM THE OFFICE COORDINATOR:**

***Church Office Hours:* Monday - Thursday 9 am - noon & 1-3 pm**

**Friday 9 am - noon**

***Church Office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday  
Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>***

**First Congregational United Church of Christ, 150 Stadium Court, Mankato, 56001**

Phone: 507/387-6592 E-mail [katoucc@mankatoucc.org](mailto:katoucc@mankatoucc.org)

Web Page [www.mankatoucc.org](http://www.mankatoucc.org)

**Pastor:** *Rev. Dana J Mann* [dana@mankatoucc.org](mailto:dana@mankatoucc.org)

**Moderator:** *Silas D*

**Choir Director:** *Angie B-H*

**Organist:** *Diana S*

**Director of Christian Education:** *Pat T*

**Parish Nurse:** *Rochelle M*

**Office Coordinator:** *Diane B* [katoucc@mankatoucc.org](mailto:katoucc@mankatoucc.org)

**Financial Secretary:** *Donna S*

# December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Church Christmas Decorating 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM Hilltop Hy-Vee Bell Ringing
<b>2</b> 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship, Communion, Choir, Mission Moment 10:30 AM Fellowship & Stewardship Gathering 10:30 AM HS Girls Christmas Ensemble Rehearsal 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal with Christmas Program Children	<b>3</b> 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM A Community Conversation of Poverty	<b>4</b> 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Book Study with Pastor Dana 6:00 PM Worship Ministry Team @ Boulder Tap	<b>5</b> 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM The Gathering (7 gr)	<b>6</b> 4:30 PM Christmas Dancers Rehearse 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:00 AM Meris Gr @ WOW Zone 9:00 AM Women's Gr @ WOW Zone 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Young Family Gathering
<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Worship, New Member Reception, SS, Musicum, Christmas Fund Offering Rec 10:30 AM Fellowship, Fair Trade Bazaar 10:30 AM HS Girls Christmas Ensemble Rehearsal 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 12:30 PM Staff Gathering	<b>10</b> 4:30 PM Christmas Dancers Rehearse 7:00 PM Deacon Ministry Team @ Weggies	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM The Community (4 gr)	<b>13</b> 6:00 PM DV Quilters 6:00 PM Mission Ministry Team	<b>14</b> 6:30 PM UCC Clergy Dinner	<b>15</b> 2:00 PM Christmas Musicians Rehearse 3:00 PM Christmas Program Practice, Children & Youth
<b>16</b> 9 & 11 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM HS Girls Christmas Ensemble Rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship, Christmas Program with Children 10:30 AM Fellowship, Fair Trade Bazaar, Craft & Bake Sale	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 2:00 PM Parkinson's Support Group 5:30 PM Moms of Multiples 6:30 PM Board of Trustees	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Worship, Choir, Ensembles 10:30 AM Fellowship	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Church Office Closed 5:30 PM A Service of Lessons, Carols, Lights 10:00 PM Traditional Service, Communion & Candlelight	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Church Office Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Church Office Closed	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Worship, Guest Pianist, Pastor's Discretionary Fund Offering 10:30 AM Fellowship	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Church Office Closed					