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## January 2020 In The First Place

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming, Creation Justice,  
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation*  
Mankato MN 56001

[www.mankatoucc.org](http://www.mankatoucc.org) • Check us out on Facebook!  
Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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### January 26, 2020 – Annual Meeting

After worship, in Fellowship Hall, with coffee and donut in hand we will begin our church's Annual Meeting. Come have a look at what we have been up to and where we are heading.

2019 Annual Reports will be available by January 10<sup>th</sup>, on the table at the entrance to the Sanctuary. If you need to have one mailed to you, or e-mailed, please call the office and let us know.

### Border Trip Conversation – Sunday, January 12

After worship in Fellowship Hall join in conversation with members who traveled to the border in Arizona this past November. They'll share what it's like to sit in court and witness Operation Streamline, spend time with migrants in two shelters, walk the desert and speak with a border rancher, a Sheriff and humanitarian aid workers.

## Join Us on Sundays

9:30 a.m. -- **Worship / Nursery Available**

9:45 a.m. -- **Children's Faith-Learning Community (3 years through Grade 6)**

10:30 a.m. – **Fellowship**

## January 2020 Worship Highlights and Common Lectionary Texts

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### **January 5** *Epiphany Sunday* -- **Communion**

**Musicians:** Choir

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-10, Song of Solomon 10:15-21, Ephesians 1:3-14 and John 1:1-9, 10-18

### **January 12** *The Baptism of Christ*

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

### **January 19** *Second Sunday after Epiphany*

**Musicians:** Choir

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, I Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

### **January 26** *Third Sunday after Epiphany*

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, I Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

## Looking Ahead...

### **February 2** *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

**Communion**

**Musicians:** Choir

Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, I Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

### **February 9** *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12), Psalm 112:1-9 (10), I Corinthians 2:1-2 (13-16), Matthew 5:13-20

### **February 16** *Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

**Musicians:** Choir

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

### **February 23** *Transfiguration*

Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2 or 99, II Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

**Wednesday, February 26th**

**Ash Wednesday**

**Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.**

**and Worship at 7:00 p.m.**

## The Centering Strings

The Centering Strings will be participating in worship during the Winter and Spring months. Anyone interested in joining is welcome! Please contact Diana Stoll.

## **Make a Joyful Noise!**

The **UCC Choir** is back rehearsing with a change in rehearsal schedule that may allow more people to participate. On the days that the choir participates in the service, the rehearsal time will be from 8:30 to 9:15 am. The other Sundays the rehearsal will be at 11:00 am. Please consider joining the choir, especially if this rehearsal schedule fits your schedule a little better. Don't worry if you can't read music or attend every rehearsal or performance. Contact Angie Braunwarth-Hartwell with any questions. Hope to see you at a rehearsal soon!

## **Book/Bible Study**

### **Advent Book/Bible Study**

We will resume in late February! Details to follow...

## **Youth Faith Formation**

### **Synergy (6th through 8th Graders)**

Wednesday, January 8th  
6:00 to 7:15pm

### **The Gathering (7th and 8th Graders)**

Wednesday, February 12th  
6:00 to 7:00pm

### **The Faith Forming Community (4th and 5th graders)**

Wednesday, February 19th  
6:00 to 7:15pm

This evening we'll journey to bring Advent hope to members in our community.

## **Children's Faith-Learning Community on Sundays**

*One Small Action...One Single Person...Makes a Difference!*

**Join us for Children's Faith Learning Community this January 2020. Using the Spark Bible Stories listed, we will learn how Jesus wants us to live in Community.**

## **January 5, 2020**

Communion Sunday

Children attend the Rite of Communion Service with their family.

## **January 12, 2020**

Theme – Baptism calls us to a new life, a new way of living.

Spark Bible Story – Jesus' Baptism

Matthew 3:13-17

Mark 1:4-11

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## January 19, 2020

Theme – Martin Luther King

People can live freely and together. Jesus has come to teach us how to be together.

Spark Bible Story – Free from Slavery

Exodus 5:1-6:13

## January 26, 2020

Theme – Jesus helps all of us to be part of a community.

Spark Bible Story – Teaching and Healing

Mark 1:21-28

## 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 Thompson with a date that works for your family. Thank you.

## Mission Ministry

Dear First Church UCC Family,

Thank you everyone for supporting this year's Advent Project of Gift Cards for students of MSU who are also part of the Cultural Diversity Center. This group of people represent many factions of our society that are often marginalized and even though these students are already on better footing than most they also represent a conduit to people that we may never be able to reach. Our hope is that these cards find their way to people and provide the recipient a moment of comfort and reflection knowing that there are essentially anonymous individuals with the single goal of making our life among each other a bit better than we found it and by that single act of kindness they too will repeat that process in their lives.

We are well into this Advent Project and your generosity has been greatly appreciated. We will be providing these cards to the Cultural Diversity Center mid-January when school is back in session and look forward to the potential that these small gifts of gratitude may instill among the next generation.

Thank you for your kindness

The Mission Ministry Team

Gus, Harriet, Kathy, Bob, Jane, Jan and Pastor Dana

## More information from our Mission Ministry Team

In January our mission focus is on **Justice and Witness** Ministries of the UCC, seeking a just, compassionate and peaceful world that honors all of God's creation. The JWM invites members to support the "Peace Fund" through its annual campaign. These funds support state and local Justice events and education.

The offering for this mission will be received on Sunday, January 19.

### **Note of thanks –**

- Thanks to all who furnished and purchased food and craft items at our annual bake and craft sale. The money raised will be used for the future Guatemala Mission trip.
- The Christmas Fund offering will benefit our active, retired clergy and lay employees with their needs, throughout our UCC denomination.
- Pastor's discretionary fund will help Pastor Dana assist people in need throughout the year, in our church and our community. Gift cards for groceries and gas, and monetary gifts will help when emergency requests (confidential) are received.
- Christmas at CADA House -- Slipper socks for adults for adults were purchased and given to our neighbors at CADA House.

**The Guatemala Mission Trip** has been rescheduled for the summer of 2021. We are looking for interested volunteers. Please contact me ASAP for more information. You will help build a home, help in school, and have the chance to visit a sponsored student. No firm dates have been set as I need to know if anyone is interested in going. We need to reserve a date on Common Hope's calendar. Contact Kathy Taylor.

## **Creation Justice Activities**

### **Organic Recycling**

**Organics recycling** is back in operation in our community. **You may have noticed our elegant new trash, recycling and compost bins.** We have already had positive feedback on how beautiful they are and you all seem to be doing a pretty good job of figuring out what goes where. The most common miss thrown items in the trash are napkins. Napkins are compostable. The most common miss thrown items in the recycling are plastic bags. Plastic bags can't be put in regular recycling. Please be sure to wash out recyclable items first.

#### **For those of you needing further clarification:**

**All plant based items are compostable:** All food including meat, bones and dairy; all food soiled paper such as napkins, Kleenex, paper towels; all paper plates that have no plastic coating; all of our disposable coffee cups, drinking glasses and utensils; flowers; pizza boxes; wooden stir sticks; coffee grounds; paper hand towels from the bathroom.

**Items that are not compostable:** All plastics or products that have plastic in them such as plastic bags, plastic creamers; plastic coated boxes; anything that can be recycled such as non-soiled paper and cardboard; shredded paper (can be recycled at Ponderosa Landfill).

**Regular Recycling** includes anything that does not have food on it such as bottles, cans, paper, cardboard, plastic items with #1, 2 and 5 on the bottom.

**Not included in regular recycling** are shredded paper, plastic bags (can be recycled at grocery stores), textiles, food scraps.

Thank you all for doing the right thing and keeping items out of the landfill. Turning organics into compost is one very valuable thing we can do to address climate change.

## Congregational Life

**The Men's Group:** Saturday, January 11, 8:00am at the WOW! Zone  
**The Women's Group:** Saturday, January 11, 9:00am at the WOW! Zone

### January Dinner Out

**Saturday, January 18, 5:30 p.m.**

Place: WOW Zone, Mankato

Hosted by Abby Frantsen – sign up on the Kiosk in the Narthex.

### 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. Rochelle Major, Marlys Daly, Amy DeMaster, Ava Adams-Morris or Theresa Sedivy.

### 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**

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