

THE LAMPLIGHTER

DECEMBER



The Advent Season at FCC continues throughout December before concluding December 24, 2021 with Christmas Eve. Here are the things we have planned as we continue preparing for the celebration of the coming of the Christ child.

HIDDEN CHRISTMAS

As has been the case for seven years now, the Pastor has written a book of Advent devotions for FCC this year. "Hidden Christmas," is a col-

lection of brief devotions focused on the perceived tension between sacred and secular during Advent. For gener-



ations followers of Jesus have been pompously offended by merchants who wished them, "Happy holidays," and pro-

claimed "Merry Xmas," in store displays, while non-believers were terrified of baby Jesus in a Nativity, or children singing "Silent Night," in a school pageant. Both are incorrect ridiculous. Christmas is the one holiday that transcends sacred and secular and Jesus is woven so tightly into its fabric that he cannot possibly be removed. This series of devotions begins there and continues through the four weeks of Advent making note of biblical, *Continued on p. 2*

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

FCC loves to involve as many people as possible in our Sunday Worship Celebrations. If you wish to serve as Liturgist, Greeter, Usher, or Nursery Attendant on an upcoming Sunday sign up at the Literature Table. Here is the schedule of those who have already volunteered for November. Thanks!

December 5, 2021

Liturgist: Sherry Dean
Ushers: (vacant)
(vacant)
Acolytes: Mark Russell
Linda Russell
Kid's Worship: Lori Childs
Nursery: Trudy Nicks

December 12, 2021

Liturgist: Linda Russell
Ushers: Cindy Stull
Penny Caverly
Acolytes: Nancy Grumley
(vacant)
Kid's Worship: Sherry Dean
Nursery: Heather Costigan

December 19, 2021

Liturgist: Jim Schuyler
Ushers: Brett Bruner
Amanda Bruner
Acolytes: (vacant)
(vacant)

Kid's Worship: Dobbs
Nursery: Tina Wilhelm

December 26, 2021

Liturgist: (vacant)
Ushers: (vacant)
(vacant)

Acolytes: Doreen Clark
Dennis Younkin

*no kid's Worship today
Nursery: (vacant)



**"In-Person" AND
online**

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

**SUNDAYS
10:00am**



Follow the Pastor's
Twitter feed at:
PastorSteveFCC

CHRISTMAS AT FCC

(continued from p. 1)

historical, and traditional aspects of Christmas all of which point directly and obviously to Jesus. The book is available free of charge at FCC. It is also being featured each morning in our "Café Devo" broadcasts.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

An FCC tradition that goes back over a century and draws participation from the whole community, the 125th Annual Christmas Eve Wor-

ship Celebration will take place Friday, December 24, 2021 at 7:00pm. After being forced to hold last year's service virtually because of a surge in COVID-19 cases, FCC is thrilled to hold this year's service in-person, opening our doors to our family, friends, and neighbors and celebrating with all the precious traditions that have been part of this service for over a century. Help us get the word out — FCC's Christmas Eve Service is back!

Because of spiking COVID-19 cases throughout Michigan and especially in Shiawassee County, FCC respectfully requests everyone wear a mask covering the nose and mouth for all church gatherings. THANK YOU!

LADIES CHRISTMAS DINNER

December 5, 2021 - 4:00 pm

FCC ladies are invited to a fun afternoon of dinner and fellowship in the church Social Room. We will need about 6-8

ladies to be table heads and invite 6-8 ladies to join them for dinner. Responsibility of table heads will be to decorate their table, and invite friends and family to join them. It's a great opportunity to invite friends and family you have wanted to introduce to our church family. Sign up sheet is on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Any questions contact Lori Childs.



WEDNESDAY
NITE
LIVE STREAM
WEDNESDAYS - 7:00PM
The Book of
REVELATION
A Simplified, Expository Study
zoom
f LIVE
LIVE STREAMING



PRAYER MINISTRY

CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If you have a prayer concern we would be glad to pray for you. Just call the Church Office at (989) 288-6684 and your need will be communicated through our Prayer Chain.

- To participate in our Prayer Ministry by receiving prayer updates and remembering to pray over them, please text "@fccprayerc" to: 81010.
- To receive updates and information from FCC by email go to: <https://www.remind.com/join/fccprayerc> and follow the instructions.

Opportunities to Be Involved

2022 NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is nearing completion of their work to positions on boards and committees. For those who have been invited to serve and are considering a position, Here is a short description of each board and committee:

- **DEACON BOARD:** Together with the pastor, they support Sunday services. They fill the positions to make the service run smoothly. They reach out to the people of the congregation that are ill and need uplifting. They also plan extra activities like the Annual picnic.
- **TRUSTEE BOARD:** Receive and disburse all funds of the church. They are in charge of financial planning and oversight. 3 subcommittees, personal, church property, financial planning.
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD:** Outline and promote Church wide Christian education. Specifically Sunday School, (including nursery) and youth group, along with Vacation Bible School.
- **MISSIONS BOARD:** Oversee all funds and disbursements of money for mission work, as well as raise money for such endeavors.
- **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:** Implementation of programs for kids leaving Sunday School thru high school.
- **LIVING MEMORIAL TRUST:** Oversight of monies invested for perpetuity for the support of the church long term.
- **GIFT AND MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:** Oversight and disbursement of money received from memorials.
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** They shall fill vacancies of boards and committees at the end of each year to be presented at the Annual Meeting.
With the 2022 Annual Meeting coming up in January next year our current Nominating Committee is responsible to fill these positions and a few others. If you

are interested in becoming more involved by serving in one of these areas, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (Sherry Dean, Mary Jane Edwards, Shirley Polen, George Polen, Janet Young) or call the Church Office.

Because of spiking COVID-19 cases throughout Michigan and especially in Shiawassee County, FCC has suspended our Sunday Social Time for the remainder of 2021



Do YOU devo?!

Cafe DEVO

Devo daily @ 6:00am

THROUGH THE BIBLE

First Congregational Church is taking a different approach to reading through the Bible in 2021. This Bible reading schedule is thematic or connective in nature. Our goal is to make as many connections as possible between the different parts of Scripture while still reading individual books of the Bible from start to finish. In this way we will see the themes and connections that tie the Old Testament and New Testament together and gain a greater appreciation for the inspired nature and unity of the Bible. Here are October's readings. Join us in the adventure of reading through the entire Bible in 2021!

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Dec. 1 - Nehemiah 8-9; Acts 21 . Dec. 2 - Nehemiah 10; Acts 22 . Dec. 3 - Nehemiah 11; Acts 23 . Dec. 4 - Nehemiah 12-13; Acts 24 . Dec. 5 - Esther 1-2; Acts 25 . Dec. 6 - Esther 3-5; Psalms 10; Acts 26 . Dec. 7 - Esther 6-7; Psalms 9; Acts 27 . Dec. 8 - Esther 8-10; Acts 28 . Dec. 9 - Micah 1-4; Psalms 46; Revelation 1 . Dec. 10 - Micah 5-7; Psalms 130; Revelation 2 . Dec. 11 - Isaiah 1-2; Psalms 146; Revelation 3 . Dec. 12 - Isaiah 3-6; Revelation 4; Psalms 93 . Dec. 13 - Isaiah 7-9; Revelation 5; Psalms 150 . Dec. 14 - Isaiah 10-13; Revelation 6 . Dec. 15 - Isaiah 14-16; Revelation 7; Psalms 23 . Dec. 16 - Isaiah 17-21; Revelation 8 . Dec. 17 - Isaiah 22-24; Revelation 9 . Dec. 18 - Isaiah 25-28; Revelation 10 . Dec. 19 - Isaiah 29-31; Revelation 11 . Dec. 20 - Isaiah 32-35; Revelation 12 . Dec. 21 - Isaiah 36-38; Revelation 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Dec. 22 - Isaiah 39-41; Revelation 14 . Dec. 23 - Isaiah 42-44; Revelation 15 . Dec. 24 - Isaiah 45-48; Revelation 16 . Dec. 25 - Isaiah 49-52; Revelation 17 . Dec. 26 - Isaiah 53-55; Psalms 65; Revelation 18 . Dec. 27 - Isaiah 56-59; Revelation 19 . Dec. 28 - Isaiah 60-64; Revelation 20 . Dec. 29 - Isaiah 65-66; Revelation 21-22 . Dec. 30 - Zephaniah 1-3; Psalms 147 |
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YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

ATTENTION TEENS! We haven't meet in awhile, hope you can make these activities!

- . December 17, 2021 - 6:00 pm Meet at the church for baking and decorating
- . cookies to sell on Sunday, December 19.
- . January 20 or 21, 2022 (TBA). Defy trampoline park. More info to come.

**All activities subject to change depending on participation.*



NAME THAT CAROL

See how many of these reworded Christmas Carols you can name. Answers are on p. 4.

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|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quadruped with crimson proboscis 2. 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. without noise 3. Miniscule hamlet in the far east 4. Ancient benevolent despot 5. Adorn the vestibule 6. Exuberance directed to the planet 7. Listen, aerial spirits harmonizing 8. Monarchical trio 9. Yonder in the haystack 10. Assemble, everyone who believes 11. Hallowed post meridian 12. Fantasies of a colorless December 25th 13. Tin tintinnabulums | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. A dozen 24-hour Yule periods 15. Befell during the transparent bewitching hour 16. Homo sapien of crystallized vapor 17. I merely desire a pair of incisors 18. I spied my maternal parent osculating a fat man in red 19. Perambulating through a December solstice fantasy 20. Aloft on the acme of the abode 21. Slumber in ethereal quiet. 22. Hey there! The announcing celestial beings carol. 23. O greetings of ease and happiness. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24. On commencement of Yuletide my honey bestowed upon me. 25. Decorate the passage with branches of evergreen sprigs. 26. Once upon a misty night prior to Christ's birthday. 27. Ooh, celestial body of marvel, celestial body of strength. 28. With a vegetable stem smoker and clothes fastening snout. 29. It's a fluff-ball sphere in the cold season. 30. Come on, come on, come on, get moving. 31. O scared darkness, the asterisks are brilliantly shimmering. |
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DECEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream)	2	3	4 <i>Morgan Wilhelm</i>
5 10:00am WORSHIP / Worship(stream)	6	7	8 <i>Janet Fries</i> 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream)	9	10	11 <i>Hunter Wilhelm</i>
12 10:00am WORSHIP / Worship(stream)	13	14	15 <i>Gerald Childs</i> <i>Josh Pratt</i> 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream)	16	17 <i>Melanie Wood</i>	18
19 10:00am WORSHIP / Worship(stream) 11:15am Deacons	20	21 7:00pm Trustees	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY <i>Evan Ritter</i>
26 10:00am WORSHIP / Worship(stream)	27	28 <i>JoDee Merrell</i>	29	30 <i>Bev Schindler</i>	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	

NAME THAT CAROL (continued from p. 3)

32. It's fixin' to appear extremely similar to December 25th.
33. Small children with their optical aids entirely illuminated.
34. Loyal buddies that are important to ourselves collect closely to ourselves again.
35. Boppin' while circling the Tannenbaum.
36. Royalty of royalties always and always.
37. O approach, y'all devoted happy and victorious.
38. Urban walkways, congested walkways, trimmed in a festive manner.

39. Ah! The atmospheric condition beyond is terrific.
40. Percussion instruments jingle, are you harking.
41. Remarked the evening breeze to the tiny sheep.
42. Wishing your dates be gleeful and intelligent.
43. Harmony on the planet, kindness to Homo sapiens.
44. Hop in the sack, hide your noggin, since the fat man comes this evening.
45. Ourselves bid yourselves a joyous Noel and a cheerful neoteric 365 days.

ANSWERS:

1. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
2. Silent Night
3. O' Little Town of Bethlehem
4. Good King Wenceslas (or some say Jolly Old St. Nicholas)
5. Deck the Halls
6. Joy to the World
7. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
8. We Three Kings
9. Away in a Manger
10. Come All Ye Faithful
11. O Holy Night
12. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
13. Silver Bells
14. The Twelve Days of Christmas
15. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
16. Frosty the Snowman
17. All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth
18. I Saw Momma Kussin' Santa Claus
19. Walking Through a Winter Wonderland
20. Up on the Rooftop
21. Sleep in heavenly peace... "Silent Night"
22. Hark! the Herald Angels sing
23. God rest ye merry gentlemen
24. On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me... (The Twelve Days of Christmas)
25. Deck the halls with boughs of holly.
26. Then one foggy Christmas Eve (Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer)
27. Ooh star of wonder, star of might... (Star of Wonder)
28. With a corncob pipe and a button nose...)Frosty the Snowman)
29. It's a Marshmallow World

30. Giddyap, giddyap, giddyap let's go... (Let is Snow)
 31. O Holy Night
 32. It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas
 33. Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow... (The Christmas Song)
 34. Faithful friends who are dear to us, gather near to us once more... (Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas)
 35. Rockin' 'round the Christmas tree
 36. King of Kings, forever and ever... (Hallelujah)
 37. Oh Come All Ye Faithful
 38. City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style... (Silver Bells)
 39. Oh, the weather outside is frightful... (Let it Snow)
 40. Sleigh bells ring, are you listening... (Walking in a Winter Wonderland)
 41. Said the night wind to the lamb... (Do You Hear What I Hear)
 42. May your days be merry and bright... (White Christmas)"
 43. Peace on Earth, goodwill toward men... (I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day)
 44. Jump in bed, cover up your head, 'cause Santa Claus comes tonight... (Here comes Santa Claus)
- We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.... (We wish you a Merry Christmas)

