

January 3 Highlights at First Congregational

- TODAY: Virtual Fellowship with Rev. Steve Savides..... p. 4**
TODAY: Drive-thru Communion from 11:00 AM–12:00 PM in main parking lot
TODAY: “Sunday School at Home” Kit Distribution p. 4
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Donating to First Congregational UCC

You are invited to donate via virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click “Give” to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256. Checks can also still be mailed to the church.

References to God

References to God in traditional prayers, readings, and hymns in our worship may sometimes be gender specific. As we pray and sing together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of the spirit of God.

Land Acknowledgement

Our church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee Nation. We acknowledge this indigenous community who stewarded this land throughout the generations and pay respect to their elders past and present.

Online Streaming and Podcasting

Audio and video recordings of our sermons and a written transcript are accessible at www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons.

You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on [Facebook.com/1stCongo](https://www.facebook.com/1stCongo) or at www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream.

Online Documents and Information

Official documents of First Congregational and links to announcements, news and other information reside on our website: www.firstcongoappleton.org.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2021

9:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Rev. Laurie Lyter Bright, Interim Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions

PRELUDE

Two French Carols

arr. Brant Adams

Shelley Nulton, *piano* Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Loving Jesus, compassionate friend and gentle guide, you call us in all the seasons of life. In darkness and in light, in joy and in sorrow, you beckon us to follow you. Yet we hold back. We question how we know your voice. We make excuses of things we have to do or skills we lack. We look for the grand task, and you give us the common work of loving and caring for those near at hand. Loving Jesus, compassionate teacher, take us by the hand and lead us into your future assured by your presence and encouragement. We pray this in your name, using the words you taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN (see bulletin, p. 5)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)

ELDERKIN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

"The Twelve Days of Christmas"

Pastor Steve and members of the congregation

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 56:1-8

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:13-23

MEDITATION

"The Blessings of Exile"

Rev. Steve Savides

MUSICAL REFLECTION (see bulletin, p. 6)

Rock-a-Bye, My Dear Little Boy

ROCKING

St. 1 introduced by Max Muter, bass

St. 1 & 2 repeated by the congregation

(During this time, you are invited to a virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click "Give" to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256).

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(liturgy written by Maren C. Tirabassi)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Leader: Let us share the bread.

Unison: It is the gift that reminds us of our gifts.

Leader: Let us drink deeply.

Unison: So that we may always travel on.

(You are invited to share the elements you have prepared at home or to receive the elements at "drive-thru" communion in the church parking lot from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM this morning.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(based on Howard Thurman's "The Work of Christmas")

God, we thank you that when the star in the sky is gone, the kings and princes are home, the shepherds are back with their flocks, and we are tempted to pack the story away, this very Bread and Cup gives us the hope and courage to begin the true work of Christmas. Help us to find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, release the prisoner, rebuild the nations, bring peace among all, and make a heart-music so that everyone can dance. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin, p. 7)
As with Gladness Those of Old

DIX

CLOSING WORDS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow

arr. Lloyd Larson

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Shelley Nulton, *assistant organist*

Max Muter, *LU Music Scholar bass*

Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, # A-714899. All rights reserved.

**Join us for a Zoom Fellowship and Talk Back with Rev. Steve Savides
immediately after worship today at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86093385402>

“Sunday School at Home” Kit distribution will take place TODAY, January 3 from 11:00 AM until 12:00 PM in the First Congo main parking lot. You will use the items from the kit for “Sunday School at Home” via Facebook Live at 10:30 AM on January 10, January 17 and January 31.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

January 10, 2021 First Sunday after Epiphany / Baptism of Christ

Livestreaming at 9:30 AM

Rev. Laurie Lyter Bright

Scriptures: Mark 1:4-11, Acts 19:1-7

Music: Shelley Nulton, *assistant organist*; LU Music Scholar

Lay Reader: Eilene Hoft-March

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, Je - sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Je - sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear - er of God's peace! Je - sus, the light of the world;

Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring, Je - sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri - umph of the skies, Je - sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Word, Je - sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness! Je - sus, the light of the world.

Refrain

We will fol - low the light, beau - ti - ful light, come where the

dew - drops of mer - cy are bright, Shine all a - round us by

day and by night, Je - sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 George D. Elderkin
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

Rock-a-Bye, My Dear Little Boy

1. Rock - a - bye, my dear lit - tle boy, dear lit - tle boy,
 2. Lit - tle Je - sus, In - fant Di - vine, In - fant Di - vine,

won - der of won - ders, my bless - ing and joy; slum - ber as I
 one with the Fa - ther, yet born to be mine; as I rock you

gen - tly hold you, let my ten - der love en - fold you; gift of God to
 calm - ly sleep - ing, an - gel guards their watch are keep - ing; pre - cious child, one

me and the world, here in my arms lies so peace - ful - ly curled.
 day we shall see what love has des - tined for you and for me.

WORDS: Czech carol; trans. by Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1987
 MUSIC: Czech carol; arr. by Martin Shaw, 1928

ROCKING
 Irr.

Trans. © 1987 Jaroslav J. Vajda; music by permission of Oxford University Press

As with Gladness Those of Old

William C. Dix, 1861; alt.



1 As with glad-ness those of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly man-ger bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore One whom heaven and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when mor-tal things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



So, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev-er-more your splen-dor see.
So may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo-ry hide.



After reading the Epiphany gospel, William C. Dix penned this hymn. Dix, the manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted hymnwriter. Among his many fine contributions is "What Child Is This."

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7.7.
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Members of our church family benefit from our prayers, support, and words of encouragement as they celebrate special times or struggle with difficulties in their lives. Please keep these people in your prayers and greet them with a loving word when you see them.

If you are in the hospital, please let the church know, as we are not always notified. In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call (920) 810-2600.

All pregnancies to be safe and guided by our faith in God
Jill Anthony's sister
Jill Anthony's nephew, Darryl
Sherry Bassett
Paul Bauman
Katie Behl
Barbara Ann Behl, Katie's sister
Arlene Beyer
Clair Brown
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother
Olive Bopp
Alyssa Villarreal Brooks
Don Brittnacher
Charlie and Britt Carlson and infant son, Miller
Stephen Carlson
Sara Companik
Dick Casperson
Steve Chapin
Lynn Cook
Karen Crawford
Dana and Tony who are battling cancer
Michael, Dick and Kathy Devries' son-in-law
Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder
Jim Edwards and Rachel DeMoss Edwards
Friend of Pat Severin who is facing a serious health issue
Esther Gehrt
Ken Geiger
Joan Gruenstern
Lynn Hanna
Jayne Heinrich
Maggie Hendrick
Ken Hocking
Ron Hurm
Jean Jepson

Our Kenyan partners and friends
Allen Korth
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
Jennifer Lemmert
Lindsey, friend of Kristen Scheuerman
Mike Mathews
Bob McClory and his family upon a recent COVID-19 diagnosis
Shari Mitchell
Mory, Anthony Padilla's son
Diane Ragus
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Ken Rheingans
Sharrie Robinson
Don Roehrborn
Mary Rowland
Frank Severin
Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Jake Smasal
Cole Stoffel
Richard and Samantha Stratz upon the adoption of baby Sophie
Sue, friend of Mark Yonan
Jack Thiel
Peter Thiel
Brenda Timm
James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke
Beverly Trombla
Don Utschig
Jean Van Wagenin
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter
Jean Wegner
Paris Wicker
Jennifer Wild
Family of Michael Wroblewski upon his death

Stewardship

*Putting faith into action with our time,
passion, skills and financial gifts.*

Stewardship Report: We're Getting There!

We continue to see very encouraging support for this year's Stewardship campaign. Donations and pledges from 281 donors now total \$902,042 – over 90% of last year's results. And remarkably, nearly 120 of you have increased your pledge from last year! What a blessing. Thank you to all who have so generously supported this effort.

We know that approximately half of the nearly 80 individuals or families we have yet to hear from are auto-givers. We are very hopeful they will continue to support First Congo as they have in the past. There are still a good number of our regular donors we are waiting, and needing, to hear from. Please, now is the time to let us know what you will do for the coming year. We know that personal circumstances change from year-to-year and that this past year was challenging for many folks. We just ask that you thoughtfully consider what you can do and then let us know as soon as possible what your commitment will be. It's getting time to joyfully put this year's campaign to bed!

May we all be blessed with God's grace and love,

- Your Stewardship Team

Gifts for a Home Update

Our final Advent Mission Extravaganza: *Gifts for a Home* was a total win! Our generous congregation provided Project NOAHH, Pillars and Harbor House with bedding, toiletries, laundry supplies and furniture. Specific wish lists for the large items were collected before the event and First Congo provided almost everything that these organizations asked for. This congregation's generosity never ceases to amaze and inspire!

So where did all the stuff go? Pat Hauser, our church liaison for Project NOAHH, collected some of the larger items including a bed frame, mattress and chest of drawers. County social workers will then distribute these items to foster families. A case manager from Pillars took the other large items. Pillars and Harbor House will collaborate to decide which items will go to which facility. Shelley Nulton and her family filled two cars with the smaller items to be given to Pillars.

Our Mission and Service team will stay in communication with these and other organizations to determine future needs. A HUGE thank-you to everyone who provided donations and volunteered their time in order to make the event such a success.

Habitat for Humanity Build 2020

Habitat's 2020 Faith Build home on West Packard Street is finished and ready for its new home-owners! Volunteers from First Congo along with other faith communities worked on the home and a wonderful noon meal was provided by our church

members in October. The home is scheduled to be dedicated on **Wednesday, January 6 at 2:00 PM** and you are invited to attend via Facebook live at Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FoxCitiesHabitat/>. We hope you will join us in celebrating this year's successful Faith Build!

Thank you to First Congregational, our great volunteers and our faithful supporters who embrace Habitat's goal of providing safe, affordable housing.

A Bible Exploration of the Book of Romans.

Coming to a Zoom near you!

When: Beginning Thursday, January 14 from 6:30 PM–8:00 PM and continuing for four weeks.

We will be looking at Paul's letter to the Romans. Karl Kuhn, in his book *Having Conversations with God*, states, "Paul's letters are written to encourage, instruct, warn, rebuke and express thanks to Christian communities that Paul himself established or wished to develop a relationship."

Although Paul was writing to a specific audience in his letter to the Romans, there are many parallels to what was happening at the time of Paul's letter and what is happening in our society today. His letter helps us understand the gospel and how it is important to be living a life of Christian Faith. The sessions will cover both general background information on Paul, characteristics of Paul's writing, understanding an Epistle as well as

looking closer at passages in the Book of Romans.

If you would like to participate you can sign-up on Realm - there is a registration link for the class under the *Events* section.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jo Dees at dees2119@gmail.com or (920) 915-0177.

Administration

Did Your Donation Go to the Right Fund?

To ensure that your donation is applied to the correct fund, please remember to indicate in the memo on your check or offering envelope what the donation is for. Examples include "2020 pledge," or "Christmas offering." When entering donations, we follow this rule of thumb: if a check or cash is placed into a seasonal or special offering envelope, unless noted on the memo line, the contribution is credited to the mission indicated on the envelope.

End-of-year statements will be coming out soon. Although we are careful to enter donations as indicated, we encourage you to look your statement over to make sure that the funds were applied to the correct accounts.

You can also check your giving history through Realm at any time to confirm all your donations have been received.

Thank you all for your generous donations and for helping us to keep your records up-to-date and accurate!