

*Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.  
Our door is open to you at whatever point you are in your journey of faith.*

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## **Donating to First Congregational UCC**

If you are enrolled in automatic contributions, you may still participate in the weekly offering by submitting a Giving Card, found in the pews. Pledge cards are available in the pews and may be placed in the offering plates at any time. Checks can also be mailed to the church.

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

## **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**

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](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream).

Video recordings of our live stream services can be found at: [www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/previous-livestream-services/](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/previous-livestream-services/)

Written transcripts of the sermon can be downloaded at: [www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/sermon-transcripts/](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/sermon-transcripts/)

# December 12 Highlights at First Congregational

**TODAY:** Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra Present “The First Nowell” ..... p. 15  
**TODAY:** Membership Exploration Class: 10:45–12:00 PM (Chapel)  
**TODAY:** Alternative Christmas Market (Fellowship Hall)  
**TODAY:** ACM Bake Sale and Kenya Craft Sale (Fellowship Hall)..... p. 17  
**TODAY:** Poinsettia Sunday ..... p. 17  
**TODAY:** Gifts of Food ..... p. 16  
**TODAY:** Back Bay Shrimp Sale ..... p. 16  
**December 15:** Rehearsals Begin for Christmas Eve Choir..... p. 15  
**December 16:** Advent Service of Healing and Hope at 7:00 PM ..... p. 16  
**December 19:** Youth Handbells Ring in Worship

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## Flowers

The flower arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning was designed by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

## Communion

All are welcome to receive communion the first Sunday of each month. We currently use TrueVine prefilled communion cups and gluten-free wafers.

## Baptism

Baptisms are held on the third Sunday of each month.

If you would like to be baptized or have a child baptized, please request a baptism registration form from the church office or download and print one from [www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship/baptism](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship/baptism). Please return baptism registration forms to the church office a month ahead of your desired baptism date.

### Upcoming Worship Schedule

December 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent – Bell Sunday Rev. Steve Savides  
Livestreaming at 9:30 AM  
Readings: Isaiah 40:1-9; Luke 2:1-5 “Words of Comfort, Not Comfortable Words”  
Music: Youth Handbells; Children’s Choir (*recorded*); Sanctuary Choir  
Lay Reader: Faye Binsfeld

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021

9:30 AM

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

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## PRELUDE

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

tune by J. Walter and Martin Luther,  
adapt. from plainchant

setting by Ferruccio Busoni based on  
J. S. Bach BWV 659 organ prelude

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

## RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

## WELCOME

## \*RESPONSIVE INVOCATION

Leader: O God, this Advent season is a time when your light radiates through the world.

**People: Inasmuch as we can, let us be bright for you.**

Leader: Shine your light through us as though we were pieces in a stained-glass window.

**People: Flow through us into others as the warm glow of colors seeps into a church.**

Leader: Fill us with your light as though we were lighthouses on the shore.

**People: Use us to guide others and to keep them from danger.**

Leader: Set us aflame with your light as though we were candles, even candles in a storm.

**People: Enable us to burn steadily with your fiery Spirit and push aside all forms of darkness.**

Leader: Turn us on with your light as though we were Christmas bulbs all connected to one another.

**People: Help us as a community of faith to celebrate the sparkling good news of your Child's coming birth.**

**All: Be present with us, God, throughout the Advent season as we live and worship in our wait for the One who is the world's light. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #122

*Now Bless the God of Israel*

FOREST GREEN

trad. English melody, arr. R. Vaughan Williams

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

The Piepenburg Family

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES

READING OF SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:9-11 (NT, p. 292)

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER

**O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person – babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were healthy, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in this Advent season and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE (see bulletin, p. 13)

*Light the Candle of Love*

text by Jaroslav J. Vajda  
music by Carl Schalk

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (OT, p. 1073)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Comfort Ye and Every Valley Shall Be Exalted from Messiah*

G. F. Handel

(Isaiah 40:1-4)

Preston Parker, *tenor*

(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).

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-25 (NT, p. 1)

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

(You are welcome to submit your prayer requests throughout the week to the church office, email to a pastor for confidentiality.)

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.**

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MASTERWORKS IN WORSHIP

*"The First Nowell"*

*(see notes on the work, p. 15)*

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
(1872-1958)

**Prelude - Solo and Chorus**

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas day,  
To save our souls from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray.  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface:  
And it's tidings of comfort and joy.

**Solo** Tyler Nanstad, *bass*

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love,  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all both rich and poor.

**Solo** Quinn Vincent, *tenor*

The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create;  
The next thing which to you I'll tell —  
Woman was made with man to dwell.

**Chorus**

And we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose;  
And so a promise soon did run  
That he would redeem us by his son.

**Solo** Quinn Vincent, *tenor*

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way,  
Be pleas'd to hear what he did say.

**Solo** Dana Abbo, *soprano*

Angelus ad virginem,	<i>Gabriel from Heav'n's high king</i>
Subintrans in conclave,	<i>Came unto the maiden lowly,</i>
Virginis formidinem	<i>Brought to her blissful tidings</i>
Demulcens, inquit "Ave!	<i>And salutation holy.</i>
Ave, regina virginum;	<i>"Hail be thou, Mary, virgin bright;</i>
Coeli terraeque dominum	<i>For God his Son, that heav'nly light,</i>
Concipies et paries intacta	<i>Conceive thou shall And bear withal in season,</i>
Salutem hominum;	<i>'Gainst death and hell to fight.</i>
Tu porta coeli facta,	<i>Thou art the door of Heaven,</i>
Medela criminum."	<i>and gateway to delight."</i>

**Chorus - The Salutation Carol**

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
This is the salutation of the angel Gabriel.  
Tidings true there be come new,  
Sent from the Trinity  
By Gabriel to Nazareth,  
City of Galilee.  
A clean maiden, a pure virgin,  
By her humility  
Shall now conceive the Person  
Second in deity.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
This is the salutation of the angel Gabriel.  
Hail virgin celestial,  
The meek'st that ever was!  
Hail, temple of the Deity!  
Hail, mirror of all grace!  
Hail, virgin pure!  
I thee ensure,  
Within a little space  
Thou shalt conceive, and him receive  
That shall bring great solace.

**Solo**

Casey Kollman, *soprano*

Eia mater Domini,  
Quae pacem reddidisti  
Angelis et homini,  
Cum Christum genuisti  
Tuum exora filium  
Ut se nobis propitium  
Exhibeat, et deleat peccata:

*Mary, mother of the Lord,  
Who Christ our King conceivest,  
Man, with angels, at thy word  
His peace and joy receivest.  
O pray thy blessed Son that he  
To all mankind may show mercy;  
Forgive them all both great and small their  
transgressions  
Against his high decree;  
And lead them all to Heaven,  
After this outlawry.*

Praes tans auxilium  
Vita frui beata  
Post hoc exsilium.

**Chorus - The Cherry Tree Carol**

Joseph was an old man,  
And an old man was he,  
He married sweet Mary  
The Queen of Galilee.

Joseph and Mary  
walked through an orchard green,  
Where was berries and cherries  
As thick as might be seen.

O then bespoke Mary  
With words so meek and mild,  
'Pluck me one cherry, Joseph,  
For I am with child'.

O then bespoke Joseph,  
With answer most unkind,  
'Let him pluck thee a cherry  
That got thee with child'.

Then bowed down the highest tree  
Unto the Virgin's hand.  
Then she cried 'See, Joseph,  
I have cherries at command'.

'O eat your cherries, Mary,  
O eat your cherries now,  
O eat your cherries, Mary,  
That grow upon the bough'.

**Solo** Casey Kollman and Dana Abbo, *sopranos*

As Joseph was awalking,  
He heard an angel sing:  
'This night there shall be born on earth  
Our Heavenly King;  
He neither shall be born  
In housen nor in hall,  
Nor in the place of Paradise,  
But in an ox's stall'.

'He neither shall be clothèd  
In purple nor in pall,  
But all in fair linen  
As wear the babies all.  
He neither shall be rockèd  
In silver nor in gold,  
But in a wooden cradle  
That rocks upon the mould'.

**Solo** Preston Parker, *tenor* (**and Chorus**)

O, Joseph being an old man truly,  
He married a virgin fair and free;  
A purer virgin could no man see  
Than he chose for his wife and his dearest dear.

They lived both in joy and bliss;  
But now a strict commandment is,  
In Jewry land no man should miss  
To go along with his dearest dear

Unto the place where he was born,  
Unto the Emperor to be sworn,  
To pay a tribute that's duly known,  
Both for himself and his dearest dear.

The king of all power was in Bethlehem born,  
Who wore for our sakes a crown of thorn.  
Then God preserve us both even and morn  
For Jesus' sake, our dearest dear!

### **Chorus**

In Bethlehem City in Judea it was  
That Joseph and Mary together did pass,  
All for to be taxed when thither they came,  
For Caesar Augustus commanded the same.

#### *Refrain:*

Then let us be merry, cast sorrow aside,  
Our Saviour Christ Jesus was born on this tide.

But Mary's full time being come as we find,  
She brought forth her first born to save all mankind;  
The inn being full, for the heavenly guest  
No place could she find to lay Him to rest. *Refrain*

Then they were constrained in a stable to lie,  
Where horses and asses they used for to tie.  
Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn,  
But against the next morning our Saviour was born. *Refrain*

### **Solo - The Sussex Carol**      J.D. Jicha, *bass* (and Chorus)

On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring;  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.

All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night,  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night;  
'Glory to God and peace to men,  
Peace, Now and forevermore, Amen'.

### **Chorus**

Tidings true there be come new,  
Sent from the Trinity  
By Gabriel to Nazareth,  
City of Galilee.

A clean maiden, a pure virgin,  
By her humility  
Shall now conceive  
the Person Second in deity.

### **Chorus - How Brightly Shone the Morning Star**

How brightly shone the morning star,  
Which led the three Kings from afar,  
Rejoicing in its brightness;  
Rich gifts they brought to his presence  
Of gold and myrrh and frankincense,  
As tokens of his greatness.

*Refrain:*

Hail, King! Hail, King!  
Thus we greet him  
And salute him:  
'Glorious art thou  
King of men and  
Lord of Angels'.

Now when these Kings their gifts had given  
The star still shone for them from heaven,  
To light them on their journey.  
So home they went in hope and joy;  
The star shone bright to show the way  
That led to their own country. *Refrain*

### **Solo - The First Nowell**      Dana Abbo, *soprano* (and Chorus)

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
In a cold winter's night that was so deep:

*Refrain:*

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night: *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star,  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wheresoever it went: *Refrain*

**ALL - Congregation to join on cue.**  
**Then let us all with one accord**  
**Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,**  
**That hath made heaven and earth of naught,**  
**And with his blood mankind hath bought: *Refrain***

## CLOSING PRAYER

### \*CLOSING HYMN #137

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN  
arr. D. Willcocks

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Il est né (He is Born)*

French Carol  
setting by Richard Hudson

**Thank you to Heidi Erstad for serving as our lay reader this morning!**

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## TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Sanctuary Choir (see next page)

String Orchestra (see next page)

John Aaholm, *timpani*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

## Sanctuary Choir (active roster) Fall, 2021:

### Soprano

Dana Abbo\*  
Kristy Albrecht  
Cheryl Benzschawel  
Kelly Gingerich  
Kris Glenn  
Heather Hallett  
Elizabeth Keggi  
Gale Korth  
Jennifer Kosloski  
Hazel Plamann  
Meredith Plamann  
Veronica Plamann  
Ann Stein  
Tavi Thatai\*

### Alto

Marilyn Askari  
Carman Danz  
Ellen Darcourt  
Cheryl Foster  
Brenda Gabrielson  
Annette Grunseth  
Pat Hansen  
Tami Johnson  
Hannah Jones\*  
Casey Kollman\*  
Karen Leigh-Post  
Elizabeth Melchert  
Shelley Nulton  
Nancy Stanelle  
Beth Vercouteren  
Phyllis Zeiss

### Tenor

David Cook  
Paul Eggen  
Preston Parker\*  
Adam Piepenburg  
Roger Spindler  
Quinn Vincent\*  
Bernie Wydeven

### Bass

Daniel Boyd\*  
Jesse Bright  
Max De May  
Phil Gabrielson  
Terry Gottfried  
Steve Hirby  
Joel Jicha  
Jeff Murphy  
Tyler Nanstad\*  
Joel Schlabach  
Skip Wilson

\*LU Music Scholars

## String Orchestra:

**Violin I:** Greg Austin, *concertmaster*,  
Kara McCanna, Marissa Zintel

**Violin II:** Eric Leveille, *principal*,  
Matthew Piper, Beth Fryxell

**Viola:** Matthew Michelic,  
Asher McMullin

**Cello:** Laura Kenney Henckel,  
David Veum

**Bass:** Ryan Erdmann

An Advent Candlelighting Carol

# Light the Candle

Jaroslav J. Vajda  
Gently

Carl Schalk



Light the can-dle of LOVE to-day, the Gi-ver of love is



here! \_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the love we live and die for, but



on - ly Christ can give. \_\_\_\_\_ Flick-er and flame and



glow \_\_ with love, light up the world a - round you.



Flick-er and flame and glow with love, light up the world a -



round \_\_\_\_\_ you. \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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.**

Jill Anthony's sister  
Jill Anthony's nephew, Darryl  
Sherry Bassett  
Paul Bauman  
Katie Behl  
Barbara Ann Behl, Katie's sister  
Aidan Bero  
Arlene Beyer  
Clair Brown  
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother  
Olive Bopp  
Don Brittnacher  
Christine Calhoun and Paul Siket  
Dick Casperson  
Steve Chapin  
Norman Clay  
Colton and Misty, friends of Trudy Reilly  
Lynn Cook  
Dani, Fred's sister-in-law  
Michael, Dick and Kathy Devries' son-in-law  
Tom Dix  
Jim Edwards  
Helen Joan Evans  
Family of William Francis upon his death  
Friend of Pat Severin who is facing a serious health issue  
David Galow  
Dave Gamm  
Steve Gehrt, son of Esther  
Ken Geiger  
Judy Hanson  
Maggie Hendrick  
Ken Hocking

Family of Doris Horback upon her death  
Bill Hordinski  
Jean Jepson  
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law  
Lindsey, friend of Kristen Scheuerman  
Mike Mathews  
Drew Michyeta, Eilene Hoft-March's uncle  
Sue O'Neill  
Gerald Otto, brother of Stephen Otto  
Mory, Anthony Padilla's son  
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher  
Mary Rowland  
Larry Schiedermayer  
Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie  
Jim Sheetz  
Nancy Sieg  
Jake Smasal  
Cole Stoffel  
Sue, friend of Mark Yonan  
Gloria Tate  
Jack Thiel  
Peter Thiel  
Dolores Timm  
James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke  
Beverly Trombla  
Don Utschig  
Jean Van Wagenin  
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter  
Dave Williamsen  
Siri Witt

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# Worship and Music

*A diverse community practicing faith,  
finding spiritual connection and experiencing  
the Holy through artful sound*

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## Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra present “The First Nowell”

Our Sanctuary Choir, string orchestra, organ, and soloists from our Lawrence University Music Scholars present Ralph Vaughan Williams’ “The First Nowell” (Concert version) in 9:30 AM worship TODAY, December 12.

Written to accompany a nativity play adapted from Medieval pageants, this concert version presents a sequence of traditional carol arrangements and orchestral music that begins with “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen” and concludes with “The First Nowell.” The texts of some of these carols are jarring to our 21<sup>st</sup> century sensibilities (i.e. male pronouns, “brotherhood,” “mankind,” the depiction of Joseph and Mary’s relationship in “The Cherry Tree Carol,” etc.), but reflect the original poetry and the composer’s intent at that time.

*We celebrate that Christ came for ALL!*

The year 2022 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, also known for his symphonic repertoire (including the “Sea Symphony,”) solo literature, and choral works, as well as the treasured hymns “For All the Saints” and “Come Down, O Love Divine.”

## Come Sing in the 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Choir!

Rehearsals for additional vaccinated and masked singers begin **Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 PM**

Our Sanctuary Choir will welcome *additional vaccinated and masked high school age through adult singers for our 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols.*

Each year we include familiar carol arrangements, as well as some exciting new music. Returning college students, young adults, family members, spouses and partners of choir members, members and friends who love singing, etc. . . . *all are welcome!* We ask that you join us for 7:00 – 8:15 PM rehearsals on **Wednesday, December 15 and Wednesday, December 22** to learn the music. (Your **attendance at BOTH rehearsals is preferred**, of course, but let me know if only one of the dates is possible for you.) Additional instrumentalists will make music with us, too.

Interested? Questions?

**RSVP via e-mail to John Albrecht at [jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org)**, call John at the church, 920-851-8097, or speak with John or Nathan Birkholz **so that a choir folder can be prepared for you.** Thank you!

## Advent Service of Healing and Hope

Thursday, December 16  
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Many holiday preparations focus on joyful gatherings, bright lights and carols. For those grieving, struggling, or feeling otherwise, it becomes easy to think the Christmas message isn't for them.

On Thursday, December 16, we will offer an Advent Service of Healing and Hope at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Here you'll find quiet time for worship, light candles in hope, renew your spirit, and prepare yourself to hear the good news that Christ is born for *you*.



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## Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,  
pursuing justice.*

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### Gifts of Toys

Thank you to all who donated and participated in the toy collection on December 5. There were 100 toys collected, along with books, personal hygiene items, gift certificates and stocking stuffers!

## Advent Extravaganza

Sundays during Advent

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

(those attending worship will drop off or purchase items after the service)

### TODAY, December 12:

**Gifts of FOOD:** Donations go to St. Joe's

Suggested non-perishable items to bring (no glass containers, please):

- Canned chicken or tuna in water
- Canned low salt vegetables
- Peanut butter low sugar, low salt
- Trail mix/other nut/grain snacks
- Breakfast/protein bars
- Unsweetened cereal
- Canned fruit in 100% juice
- Spaghetti sauce low sugar
- Hamburger/tuna helper
- Canned beef stew, low salt soups
- Special request for sugar-free canned fruit and jam/jelly.

Monetary gifts are also welcome and will be passed on to St. Joe's Food Program.

### Also happening TODAY:

- **Alternative Christmas Market:** Visit Fellowship Hall to purchase your alternative Christmas gift.
- **Back Bay Shrimp Sale:** \$15 per 1-lb packages. Proceeds go directly to Back Bay Mission to support the needs of the homeless in the community of Biloxi or to support the repair of homes in the areas of Biloxi and Gulfport, MS (located in the Narthex).

- Alternative Christmas Market Bake Sale (located in Fellowship Hall). Proceeds from the bake sale will benefit Afghan refugees.
- Kenya Craft Sale (Fellowship Hall)
- Christmas music from Karma's Mailbox (Fellowship Hall)

### **Sunday, December 19:**

**HOME:** Hygiene supplies donated to LEAVEN. Large bath towels will be donated to Pillars.

Kiara West, our LEAVEN representative, has given us a specific hygiene list to use (see below) and Pastor Jane Anderson has provided a list of specific needs for our Afghan neighbors. Download this list at: <https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Afghan-clothing-drive.pdf>

### **LEAVEN's Wish List:**

Deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, small bottles of laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet cleaner, cleaning wipes, bar soap, shampoo and conditioner, kitchen trash bags, liquid hand soap, and knit gloves (one size fits all so they can be put in hygiene kits).

## **Diversity Book Drive**

Looking for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ books to fill 2 Little Free Libraries for a Girl Scout Gold Award. Collection bin is located under the TV in the Narthex and will run until December 20. The more books the better!

## **Poinsettia Sunday**

Poinsettias and addresses will be available to deliver to our home-bound and older members. Don't forget to include one of the cards made by our middle school students!

Drop off one or more on your way home from church on TODAY, December 12. The poinsettias are located in the Narthex.

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# **Administration**

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## **Christmas Eve Helpers Needed**

With the return of in-person Christmas Eve services this year, First Congo is in need of some extra helpers.

Duties include set-up and take-down between worship services, keeping the walkways clean of snow and floors mopped to prevent accidents.

We are looking for the helpers to begin work around 10:30 AM and finish around 10:30 PM after the last service. This is a paid position. Please contact the church office at (920) 733-7393 if interested.

## Hanging of the Greens 2021

Thank you to everyone who helped with and participated in this year's Hanging of the Greens service. We had a great turnout with approximately 75 folks attending!

