

THE CALL TO WORSHIP



The newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Rapid City, South Dakota

December, 2015



A Capital Celebration

Everyone is invited to join us for an evening of Jazz and refreshments to celebrate the successful completion of our Capital Funds drive. The music begins at 7 pm on Saturday, December 5. Pianist Jim Szana will bring a special Capitol Christmas to us with live jazz and beautiful pictures of the South Dakota Capitol adorned with Christmas Trees. Plus there will be a surprise ending that you won't want to miss.

Bring your friends and neighbors and help our church celebrate the goodness of God and the generosity of our members and friends.

“Those who have pledged or donated can use their invitations as tickets.

Tickets are available at the door for a \$15 donation for friends and guests.”

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Advent & Christmas Worship

Worship lies at the core of church life as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child to the world.

The Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 6

As we recall the ministry of John the Baptist and hear his recitation of the prophet's advice to "Prepare the Way," we are invited to prepare a place for Christ in our hearts and in our lives.

A Celebration of Music, Dec. 13

Our bell choir and our adult choir are preparing special music to guide us in our preparation for the season. Special anthems and responses will weave together with scripture and prayer to share the good news of the season.

Children lead worship, Dec. 20

In place of a pageant or a program, it is our custom to teach our children the roles and responsibilities of leading the entire congregation in worship. On December 20 the children of our church school will sing and pray, read scriptures and lead our congregation in worship.

Living Nativity, Dec. 24, 7:00 pm

Our earlier Christmas Eve celebration will feature live actors taking their places at the front of the sanctuary as once again we retell the story of the holy birth with scripture and song. The celebration concludes with a candle lighting ceremony and the singing of familiar carols.

Candlelight Communion, Dec. 24, 11:30 pm

Designed to accommodate the schedules of shift workers, our 11:30 service is a peaceful time of carols and scriptures with the lighting of candles and the sharing of communion. The service concludes with the tolling of the church bell at midnight to celebrate the Christmas morn.

Carols and Lessons, Dec. 27

The first Sunday after Christmas is a time for people of all ages to gather for an informal time of story, scripture and carols. The busy season rarely allows time to sing all of our favorite songs, but we will focus on the joy of singing Christmas carols as we share with the ancients the question of "Who is this Child?"

Christmas Continues, Jan. 3

The wise among us continue to seek the child after his birth. Our worship will enable us to join in that quest as we celebrate communion together.

Taking our Time

It seems as if everything in the outside culture is urging us to rush these days. Hurry or you'll miss the bargain. Rush from event to event. The calendar is so full of concerts and programs and parties and special events.

In contrast to our popular culture, however, Advent offers us the invitation to slow down and to live in expectation. The best is yet to come and God has much more to reveal to us about the graciousness and glory of this season. While all of the rest of the world is rushing from one thing to the next, we are invited to just slow down and remember that we have twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Now is the time to prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually to receive the promise that God will bring peace and justice to our world.

Take time this season. Take a deep breath. Slow down just a little. "Taste and see that God is good!"

—Pastor Ted



Christmas Angel

Annual Meeting

The Church Board has issued the call for the 137th Annual Meeting of First Congregational United Church of Christ to be held following worship on **Sunday, January 31, 2016**. Copies of the annual report of the congregation will be available on the church website as well as in printed form by **Sunday, January 24**.

In order for annual reports to be compiled and prepared for distribution, all officers, departments, fellowships and boards of the church are requested to submit their annual reports to the church office no later than **January 10, 2016**.

Board and Departments

Moderator's Musings by Gerry Boehrs

The relatively mild and long fall has been good for outdoor activities. The Woodchucks have enjoyed good weather for splitting, loading and hauling firewood, with their last delivery just before Thanksgiving, along with the Turkey Taxi. Weather was favorable for the church roof project as well. The shingling has been complete for some time now, but replacing the old wood fascia with more durable material was added to the project and only recently completed. Thanks to Rob Burton, Harold Miller and Dave Ledford for their time and efforts to assure the quality of the roof project. We have been able to pay the complete cost for the roof from Phase II cash received so far, and temporary use of some cash reserves, which will be replenished as more Phase II cash is received. We plan to address other Phase II projects as cash is received, so nothing further will begin before mid-2016, always assuming that the boiler continues to cooperate. Phase I and Phase II are vastly improving the appearance and condition of our church building. I still appreciate the front entrance concrete and new doors every time I come into the building. We are entering a most precious time of the church year, the Advent season. Our entire staff and Worship Dept. are dedicated to making this special time fulfilling for us all. Warm wishes for a blessed and meaningful Advent time, and a Merry Christmas!

Church Board by Eileen Rossow

The UCC Church Board met on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 with Moderator, Gerry Boehrs, leading the meeting. Rob Burton gave the devotions and also provided a special treat of homemade ice cream. The Pledge Drive for the 2016 Budget is in progress. Pledge Dedication Sunday was scheduled for November 22nd. Pledge cards that have not been picked up at church will be mailed December 1. The roof bill has been paid and the fascia work will be completed soon. The rest of the projects will be completed on a "pay as we go" basis. The next project scheduled will be the family bathroom. The Capital Funds Drive is at about \$600,000 pledged. The nominating committee is working on nominations for the 2016 year. If you are interested in serving in a leadership role for your church, please contact Gerry Boehrs, Moderator. The Hospitality Department is working on a new program to provide transportation for those who would like to come to church, but don't have the capability to get to church on their own. This program will require volunteers from the congregation and is expected to be launched after the annual meeting in 2016. The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

Department of Ministries by Pat Wheaton

As the year draws to an end, members of the Department of Ministries wish to thank you for the generous help you have provided this year. Your purchases of grocery cards, donations of food, assistance with the Cornerstone Mission and School of Mines meals, and gifts to UCC Special Offerings are all appreciated. Many residents of Rapid City and beyond have benefited as you remembered those less fortunate than yourself.

News from Church

Christmas Tea

The Christmas Tea will be held on **Saturday, December 5 at 1:15pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendars and bring a friend to this special event!

Bells of the Hills Concert

Bells of the Hills will perform its annual Christmas concert at First Congregational Church on **Sunday, December 6, at 2:30pm**. This year's theme is "Northern Lights." The concert features familiar sacred and secular Christmas carols and songs, including "We Three Kings," "I Wonder as I Wander," "Jingle Bell Rock" and the "Arab Dance" from the Nutcracker ballet. In keeping with the theme of "Northern Lights," Bells of the Hills will perform a piece entitled "Northern Lights" based on the Lakota hymn "Many and Great, O God." First Congregational Church Handbell Choir members **Michael Bossen** and **Ryan Webster** are members of Bells of the Hills. The handbell ensemble will be joined by guest musicians **Alicia Sutliff-Benusis** and **Terry Rathbun**. Admission is free. A free will offering will be taken during the concert.

Bell Choir

The First Congregational Church Handbell Choir will perform during the **December 13** service and will feature "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night," "The Travelers From Nazareth" – an original Advent carol for handbells, vocal choir, flute, and wind chime – "I Wonder as I Wander" which features the singing bell technique, and "Carol of the Bells."

Adult Choir

All who want to sing in the choir are more than welcome. Come join the choir in making a joyful noise, especially during the Advent and Christmas seasons! Contact the director, **Stephen Branch**, for more information, or

Spiritual Practices

Join the Spiritual Practice Group to walk a labyrinth at the **Terra Sancta Retreat Center, 2101 City Springs Road** (formerly St. Martin's) on **Tuesday, December 22**.

Walking the labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice of prayer and peacefulness which will be especially precious in the busy week before Christmas.

We will gather at **1:15pm** to walk the indoor labyrinth, and then we will go to Doris Marie Strom's home for tea and cookies.

All are invited to join us.

For more information, contact **Kathleen Batchelder**.



Why Do We Do That?

A conversation with the Department of Worship

Our church has a long tradition of members of the congregation leading worship and reading scripture. In 2012, we began calling the role "Liturgist" after a discussion of the Department of Worship. Liturgy, another term for worship, literally means "the work of the church." At the time it was felt that one who does the work of the church should be called a liturgist. This would replace the term "Lay Reader" which implied that the role would always be assumed by lay members of the congregation. However, we often have ordained members of the congregation who serve in that role.

The term was confusing to some and the term "Lay Reader" persisted.

At its November meeting, the Department of Worship decided to drop the term liturgist. Our bulletins now simply refer to the role as that of "Reader." Only the name has changed, the important role for members of our congregation remains vital.

just come to rehearsals at 7:00pm on Wednesday nights.

Westhills Bible and Book Group

New book study will begin at Westhills Bible and Book Group on **Monday, December 14**. All are invited to join this lively discussion group from **1:30 to 3:00pm** on the **second and fourth Mondays (except Dec. 28)** of each month in the **Westhills Aspen Room**. On **Dec. 14**, we will begin our study of *Jesus Is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered* by Martin B. Copenhaver, UCC pastor and president of Andover Newton Seminary. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at \$14.50. Plan to participate in this discussion series (living at Westhills is NOT required). Questions? Contact **Kathleen Batchelder**.

Church Chat

Church Chat will resume (no meetings in December) on **January 5 and 19** from **noon to 1:00pm** in the **Fireside Room**. We will begin discussing Kent Nerburn's book, *Neither Wolf Nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder*. If you would like to purchase a book for \$13.50, please contact **Kathleen Batchelder**. Plan now to join us for an important discussion about our South Dakota heritage.

4th Tuesday Ladies' Lunch Group

The Fourth Tuesday Ladies' Lunch Group will **not** meet in **December**, due to the holidays. Do mark your calendars for our next gathering at **11:30am on Tuesday, January 25, 2016 at Minerva's Restaurant**.

For more information, contact **Maureen Dymock**.

Memoir Writing Group

The Memoir group will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be **Thursday, January 28 at 1:30pm** at the church.

Woodchuck Society

All of the planned deliveries have been made for 2015, and the Society members are ready to hibernate for a while. There is still split wood available for delivery, so additional trips are possible later in the winter if the need arises.

The first delivery was to Byron Buffalo at Bridger on October 24, and totaled 12.75 cords. The second delivery, to Mat Iron Hawk at Frazier, was on Halloween and totaled 12.33 cords. The third, on November 14 to Gus Craven at Wanblee, totaled 12.38 cords, and the last delivery of the season went to Eagle Butte on November 21 and totaled 11.45 cords. The Turkey Taxi accompanied the pickup trucks and wood trailers to Eagle Butte and delivered **67** turkeys that were distributed to families by Louie Blue Coat, who stood in for his father, Norman.

Thank you to all who have worked hard on this project in the past season. We have a lot to be proud of, and look forward to continuing and building

Education News

The time from the first Sunday of Advent through Epiphany, the twelfth day of Christmas, is a busy time for many. It's a time when it becomes all too easy to lose focus, rushing around with long lists of things to do. But it is also a time with many opportunities to focus on what it means to believe in a **God who comes to us** and shares our life. The middle school class has been discussing the difference between God donning a human disguise and God becoming human. Incarnation is an amazing concept, one that's "a little confusing," as one youth said last Sunday. It's an idea that is worth revisiting again and again. **God comes to us!** Share in the events of the season and contemplate the old familiar story, which is new and amazing each year.

Saint Nicholas Festival

The annual Advent Fair will be held **Sunday, December 6** following worship. December 6 is traditionally celebrated as St. Nicholas Day in many countries. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra in Turkey, was known for his generosity. In one story, three young women are about to be sold into slavery. Bishop Nicholas, hearing of their plight, tosses gold coins into their shoes, providing money for their dowries and saving them from slavery.

Plan to join us following worship on December 6 to celebrate the Advent season.

- * Hear the story of Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in Turkey.
- * Taste authentic Turkish baklava.
- * Create an Advent wreath for your home.
- * Make a variety of Saint Nicholas crafts.
- * Share in the generous spirit of Saint Nicholas.

The St Nicholas Festival will include a variety of crafts, with something for all ages. This event is a time for the whole church to celebrate Advent together as we prepare for Christ's birth.

Christmas Eve

The youth of the church will portray the story of Christ's birth at the early Christmas Eve worship service on Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 pm. This Living Nativity is one of the special traditions of our church. All youth who are able to come are invited to share in this depiction of the birth of Jesus. Youth are asked to arrive by 6:30pm on Christmas Eve to don their costumes.

Sharing a Spirit of Generosity

At one of the stations at the Advent Fair, participants will pack sack lunches to give to those who need food. Some bags will be distributed to those who come to our church in search of food; others will be donated to downtown churches and agencies that help feed the hungry.

Please help by bringing items for the lunch bags to church on **December 6**.

These items should be packaged individually and require no refrigeration.

Suggested items include:

- ◆ peanut butter & crackers
- ◆ cheese and crackers
- ◆ fruit cups
- ◆ pudding cups
- ◆ juice boxes or pouches
- ◆ protein bars
- ◆ nuts and raisins

Thank you for sharing in the spirit of generosity this season!



Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra

Dinner with Our Neighbors

On November 18, United Church Youth had dinner at the *Gyro Hub* as a part of our Destination Unknown series. This restaurant is run by three sisters from Turkey. After dinner, Orhan, the father of the restaurant's owners, served us his special tea and told us about his country. We learned that Turkey has a large salt lake. "What is the name of the lake?" we asked. "Salt Lake," he replied. We told him that our large salt lake is also called "Salt Lake." We learned that "every kind of fruit" grows in Turkey and that their alphabet has 29 letters, including two forms of the letter S. The timing of our conversation was accidental, but the planning behind it was intentional. Orhan and his daughters are Muslim. Our conversation was part of the ongoing efforts to engage Christian-Muslim dialogue in our community. This effort, started by the late Bill Hughes, helps us treat people of other faiths with respect, recognizing that we share much in common. Our conversation helped to humanize our Muslim neighbors.

ABC: Angels, Bells, Christmas!

Have you heard the sweet sounds of children singing and bells ringing? The children and youth of the church have begun to learn the songs they will share when they lead worship on **Sunday, December 20**. We don't label this a "Christmas program," but rather try to emphasize to the children and youth that they are leading worship. They are leading us all in offering praise to God.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, the children will share the story of the birth of Jesus. They will sing songs, ring bells and dance. They will light candles and read scripture and pray. They will lead us in celebrating the One who comes to us as a child.

All children and youth, age 3 through grade 12, are asked to make a special effort to attend on Sunday mornings to prepare for the service. Everyone will practice during the Sunday School time. Older children and youth, those in grades 3 and older, will also practice in the sanctuary for a short time following worship on December 6 and December 13. **The final practice will be Saturday, December 19 at 9:30 am.** This is an important time to run through the parts in the sanctuary. Please mark your calendars and plan so that your children can attend this practice.

Feast of the Three Kings

The first FAMILY FIRST DINNER of 2016 will be held on Epiphany, **Wednesday, January 6 at 6:00pm.** Epiphany is the last of the twelve days of Christmas and it is the time when we commemorate the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem.

Our Epiphany celebration will include a dramatization of the story of the kings, complete with a "bad guy," the nefarious King Herod. Dinner will be provided for the whole family, along with an opportunity to decorate star-shaped cookies for dessert. Craft activities and storytelling are aimed at children, age 3-11, youth in grades 6-12 and their families.

Mark your calendars and plan to celebrate Epiphany at First Congregational Church.

Stepping Stones

On Sunday, December 27, worship will include the final Stepping Stones presentation for 2015. At this time, we will honor our 2015 babies. There are 4 girls and three boys: Olivia Diedtrich, Gabby Golden, Beth Benusis, Luca Murano, Kain Cruz, Waylon Trana and Caroline Strampe. Plan to share the joy as we honor these little ones!

Member News and Notes

Happy Birthday

The following members and friends have **December** birthdays:

- December 1:** Harlan Gellhaus
- December 2:** Max Maas
- December 4:** Johnathan Nickel
- December 5:** Parker Bartling
Don Deurmier
Travis Eddy
- December 10:** Arnett Dennis
Becky Ledford
- December 13:** Vivian Dittmer
- December 14:** Mark Darrow
Donna James
Barb Knight
Chuck Rounds
- December 16:** Gerry Boehrs
Jared Schnabel
Paul Smith
Alex Van Curen
Nora Wosepka
- December 18:** Jim Dannenbring
- December 22:** Margaret Putnam
- December 23:** Jason Dannenbring
Pat Wheaton
- December 28:** Mary Daughenbaugh
- December 29:** Julie Burton
- December 31:** Dona Cheney

Prayer Concerns

Our prayers and sympathy go out to **Sue and Marty Skovran** following the death of Marty's mother, **Lois Skovran** on November 5; to **Deb Tompkins** and family following the death of her sister-in-law, **Paula Tompkins** on November 17; to **Donna James** and family, following the death of her son, **Rande Robinson**, on November 19; to **Carol Boyles** and family following the death of her father, **George Hammon** on November 20; and to the family of **Norman Blue Coat** following his death on Nov. 21.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Betty Bossen** and her family following her recent cancer diagnosis.

Our prayers are with **Hazel Heil**, who is at Clarkson Health Care, and **Marvin Bitterman** and **Al Dymock** who are recovering at home.

Please hold the following in your prayers as they battle cancer: **Laura Boyd's** brother, **John Winder**; **Carol Boyles' brother, Terry Hammon**; **Jill Kundtz's** sister-in-law, **Mindy**; **Sheila Long's** mother, **Debbie Torrey**; and **Joe Trana's** father, **Dan Trana**.

Other church members are in our prayers including: **Mavis Iverson** at Clarkson Care Center; **John Arneson** at Echo Ridge; **Gordon Magnusson** at New Underwood; and **Ida Muree St. Pierre** and **Shirley Triggs** at Westhills South.

Our prayers are with the following members, families and friends:

Carol Boyles' brother, Rex Hammon; **Rev. Ray Schatz**; **Jane Seaton's** daughter, **Gail Johnson**; **Rev. Don Stoebner**; and **Deb Tompkins' nephew**; brothers, **Bob Hills** and **Joe Hills**; and friend, **Barb Reynolds**.

In Military Service:

Ed and Ginny Ensz's grandson, **Kyle Kloeckl**; **Melanie Moore**, and all serving our country.

Johnathan Nickel has completed his Marine Corps basic training and has returned to California to begin the next step of his training.

Prayer Opportunities

If you are interested in joining a prayer group, this is your opportunity. There is a prayer chain within the church. Everyone is invited to participate, so please feel free to join us by calling **Sue Maynard** at **342-0111**. If you have a prayer request, call Sue and ask her to put any name on the prayer chain. She will then notify the calling tree or send an email to group members and they pass the word. You may also call the church office at **342-5787** with a prayer concern. Prayers **do** make a difference!





Birthday Celebrations

Richard “R.J.” “Dick” Davis will be celebrating his 85th birthday on **December 7**. There will be an Open House from **2:00 to 4:00pm** on **December 7** at **5634 Uranus Drive Rapid City SD 57703**. Come help him celebrate or send a card to his address. No gifts, please.

Everyone is invited to come and celebrate **Irma Becker’s 90th birthday** following worship on **January 3** in the Fellowship Hall. Take this opportunity to wish Irma a happy birthday and enjoy a piece of cake with her.

Thank You

To all who sent prayers, cards and called, I want to thank you. It was deeply appreciated. Blessings to you all.

Patsy Parkin-Valandra

Thank you for all your prayers for my nephew, Josh Houk and daughter, Amanda, in their time of need. They are now on the road to recovery.

Peggy Nielsen

Baptism

Waylon Everett Trana, son of **Lisa and Joe Trana** was baptized on November 22. Waylon was born June 29, 2015. Our blessings to Waylon and his family.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Courtney and Nick Strampe** on the birth of their daughter, **Caroline Grace**, born on **November 30**.

Congratulations to **Elyse Seals** whose poster was selected as this year’s winner for the Red Ribbon Week billboard contest. The billboard with Elyse’s drug free message is located near the Family Thrift Center Express at 3464 Sturgis Road.

Congratulations to **Jorgen Palm** who has graduated the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising with a Visual Communications Professional Designation in Los Angeles. Jorgen’s family wishes to thank his church family for being so nurturing in his development. Best wishes to Jorgen as he pursues his new career.

Library News

Did you know our church library is located in **Room 22**?

Interesting, instructive knowledge awaits you in our 31 sections.

The **MEDICAL ISSUES** section contains helps for **Diabetes, Depression, Alcoholism, Drugs, Violence, and Addictions**.

The **DEATH and DYING** shelf gives advice not only for caregivers but also has fun reading for those of us who are aging---who isn’t?

Looking for **CHRISTMAS** ideas? Look on the **Holidays** shelf.

RELIGIOUS ART books hold inspiring, colorful religious paintings of the world of Christianity.

Delving into **Theology**? Browse our two shelves, including our Charles Lindley Collection.

Women, you are well represented in our **Women’s** and **Worship** sections.

Men, pick up one of our **Fiction**: Richard Evans, Jim Stovell, William Young, or Michael Phillips. Also, check out our **BIOGRAPHIES**.

LARGE PRINT BOOKS, DVDs—look on the shelves.

Check-outs are increasing but we need more of you enjoying the fruits of your church’s tree of knowledge and fun in **Room 22**.



Mission and Outreach

Angels of los Guido

We have maintained a sister church relationship with Pastor Dorotea Yucra and her community church since 2001, and during this time much has changed in los Guido. The first trip introduced us to shacks in a wet and dangerous gully, gravel roads into the area, and some of the warmest and most generous people we have ever met. As time passed, the area that the church serves appears to be more prosperous. Gone are the shacks in the gully; the main streets are paved; there are TV antennas on every roof and cell phones in most households. But the reality is that the families there are struggling as much as they did 14 years ago. Many are from Nicaragua or el Salvador and are not eligible for social help from the Costa Rican government. Drugs, gangs, and teen pregnancies are big problems in the community. Prices have risen drastically in the past two years, especially for food.

It is in this climate that Pastor Dorotea works her wonders. With help from the Angels of los Guido fund here at First UCC, she has been able to assist families with educational expenses such as uniforms and school supply purchases. She is an advocate of healthy physical exercise and uses some of the funds for swim lessons for children from the church. Also funded are small salaries for the youth group leaders, who run a weekly program for teens and pre-teens in the neighborhood. All of these things work to keep the children off the streets and in a safe and loving environment.

Pastor Dorotea keeps meticulous records of her expenditures, and each year sits down with us and shows receipts and accounts for every *colón* spent. She has earned the respect of the families in the neighborhood, who know she will be firm and fair in distributing the aid that she receives. There is a display in the narthex with additional information and photos of activities at the church as well as donation envelopes. A gift to the Angels of los Guido is perfect for that hard-to-buy-for person in your life.

Donations can be made in honor or in memory of the recipient, and thank yous are sent acknowledging your gift. If you have questions about the fund, please see Chuck or Sybil Rounds.

Women and Children's Shelter

As Christmas approaches, please remember the people at the Cornerstone Women and Children's shelter. There are tubs in the Fellowship Hall for donated gifts which will be taken to the shelter to go under their Christmas tree. If you need suggestions for the boys and girls, ages infant to 12 years, please take a list. All purchased gifts should be unwrapped. Should shopping not be your thing, Maureen Dymock will purchase gifts with any monetary donations. Please make your check out to *Maureen Dymock* or *Cash*. The deadline to contribute to this project is December 23. For more information, call Maureen Dymock at 393-5532 or 484-9582.

Thank You

Thank you to **Deb Tompkins** for her donation of her time and talents as a featured baker at this year's Love INC Fall Banquet. Deb's love of baking helped raise funds for Love INC through her contribution of two spectacular cakes to the event's silent dessert auction. Deb's showcase dessert was a Chocolate Italian Cream Cake and a Red Velvet Peppermint Cake was her other donation. Thanks again to Deb for supporting Love INC and representing First Congregational Church so well.



DECEMBER

Fri Dec 4, 2015

1pm Rescue Stained Glass
1pm BH Watercolor Group
5pm Bells of the Hills Set up

Sat Dec 5, 2015

1pm Bells of the Hills Rehearsal
1:15pm Christmas Tea
7pm Jim Szana concert

Sun Dec 6, 2015**The Second Sunday of Advent**

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship
10:30am Fellowship, St. Nicholas
Festival and Quilt Raffle
2:30pm Bells of the Hills Concert

Mon Dec 7, 2015

6pm Evening Rotary Group

Tue Dec 8, 2015

1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practices

Wed Dec 9, 2015

5:30pm Stewardship & Budget
6pm Bell Choir Practice
7pm Adult Choir Practice

Thu Dec 10, 2015

10am Altar Guild Meeting
4:30pm Dept. of Worship

Fri Dec 11, 2015

1pm Rescue Stained Glass
1pm BH Watercolor Group

Sun Dec 13, 2015**The Third Sunday of Advent**

8am Bell Choir Practice
8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship and Sunday
School
10:30am Fellowship
3:30pm The Well

Mon Dec 14, 2015

1:30pm Westhills Bible and Book
Study
6pm -Evening Rotary Group

Tue Dec 15, 2015

1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practices
7pm Church Board Meeting

Wed Dec 16, 2015

9:30am Good Morning Circle
6pm Bell Choir Practice
6:30pm Good Evening Circle
7pm Adult Choir Practice

Thu Dec 17, 2015

10am Cinnamon Hill Program
4:15pm 1st Congregational Trust

Fri Dec 18, 2015

10am Cinnamon Hill Program
1pm Rescue Stained Glass
1pm BH Watercolor Group

Sat Dec 19, 2015

9:30am Children's Christmas
Worship Rehearsal
10am Suicide Survivors Support
Group

Sun Dec 20, 2015**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:30am Worship; Children's
Christmas Worship
10:30am Fellowship
3:30pm Jail Ministry
3:30pm The Well Service

Mon Dec 21, 2015

6pm Evening Rotary Group

Tue Dec 22, 2015

10:30am Staff Meeting
1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practices

Wed Dec 23, 2015

6pm Bell Choir Practice
7pm Adult Choir Practice

Thu Dec 24, 2015**Christmas Eve**

7pm Christmas Eve Living
Nativity Service
11:30pm Christmas Eve
Communion Service

Fri Dec 25, 2015**Christmas Day****Sun Dec 27, 2015****The First Sunday after Christmas**

9:30am Worship; Baptism;
Stepping Stones
10:30am Fellowship
3:30pm Jail Ministry
3:30pm The Well Service

Tue Dec 29, 2015

1pm Craft Day

Thu Dec 31, 2015**New Year's Eve****Fri Jan 1, 2016****New Year's Day****Sun Jan 3, 2016****The Second Sunday after Christmas**

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship For All Ages
10:30am Fellowship—Irma Becker
Birthday Celebration
3:30pm The Well Service

Mon Jan 4, 2016

6pm Evening Rotary Group

Tue Jan 5, 2016

12pm Church Chat
1pm Craft Day
1:15pm Spiritual Practices

Wed Jan 6, 2016

11:30am WF Board Meeting
6pm Bell Choir Practice
6pm Family First Night-
Epiphany Celebration
6:30pm Dept. of Hospitality
7pm Adult Choir Practice

Fri Jan 8, 2016

1pm Stained Glass Project
1pm BH Watercolor Group

Sun Jan 10, 2016**First Sunday of Epiphany**

8:30am Adult Choir Practice
9:30am Worship and Sunday
School
10:30am Fellowship
10:45am Dept. of Education
3:30pm The Well Service



1st Congregational

United Church of Christ

1200 Clark Street

Rapid City, SD 57701



Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

You have the opportunity to be a part of the ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's Christmas Fund Offering.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors, but also provides for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provide Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to low-income retirees.

Our congregation will receive the Christmas Fund Offering on **Sunday, December 20.**

Contact Us

We would love to talk to you and answer any questions you have.

**1st Congregational
United Church of Christ**
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