



**January 14, 2024**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

**1200 Clark Street, Rapid City SD 57701**

**605-342-5787**

**office@rcfirstucc.com    www.rcfirstucc.com**

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-20 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

✠ Invites worshipers to rise in spirit or body as they are able.

PH indicates the New Century Hymnal.

**You may notice there are several elements included in our time of worship. We want you to know this is intentional, as each of us may come for differing reasons; each of us may connect to Spirit in different ways. At First Congregational UCC, we are exploring how LOVE inspires us to create space for one another.**

### ***Join Us Online!***

You can view our worship streamed on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RCFirstUCC>. Copies of the video are

available on our church web site's video tab **[www.rcfirstucc.com](http://www.rcfirstucc.com)**.

**Gathering Music**

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

arr. Aaronson

*What Child Is This?*

setting Raney

Bonnie Edwards and Alan Glover

### **Centering as God's People**

#### **Greetings**

One: "I will not dishonor my soul with hatred, but offer myself humbly as a guardian of nature, as a healer of misery, as a messenger of wonder, as an architect of peace.  
I will honor all life—wherever and in whatever form  
It may dwell—on Earth my home, and in the mansions of the stars." (Diane Ackerman)

**Many: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!**

**Prelude**

*Coventry Carol*

arr. Hughes

#### **Call to Worship** (*Inspired by Psalm 139*)

One: We praise you, O God, for you are our God, and we are your people.

**Many: Wonderful are your works, O God, we know them very well!**

One: Search us and know us, Creator, remove us from shadows into your presence.

**Many: Wonderful are your works, O God, we know them very well!**

One: Place your hand upon us, Gracious One, as we worship you and minister in your name.

**Many: Wonderful are your works, O God, we know them very well!**

**Invocation**

One: Sovereign One, we acknowledge your presence here in this room. Stir up the gifts you have planted among us. Hold us in your care and present a mirror before us so that we may know ourselves as you have known us. Strengthen us in your mercy and let your grace propel us to renewal and hope. Lift us so that we might arise and embody the changes we wish to see. May it be so.

## ✠The Peace

**Hearing God's Word****First Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-20****Pew Bible, OT page 241****A Message for the Young at Heart**

Pastor Erin Erickson

**Anthem***How Far Is It to Bethlehem?*

alt. Hayes

Malinda Ferguson, soprano

**Second Lesson: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18****Pew Bible, OT, page 552****Sermon***The Palace of Our Perceptions* Pastor Erin Erickson**Offerings****Invitation****Offertory***So We Come to Find the Child*

Beall

## ✠Doxology

**NCH 778****Praise God from whom all blessings flow;****Praise God, all creatures here below;****Praise God for all that love has done;****Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.**

## ✠Prayer of Dedication

**Community Announcements****Going Into God's World**

## ✠Benediction

**Postlude***Chorale on "In dulci jubilo"*

J.S. Bach/Ryan

# Events

## Sunday, January 14

- 8:45am: Coffee in the Parlor
- 9:30am: Worship Service/  
Nursery available
- 9:45am: Sunday School
- 10:30am: Fellowship Hour/  
Wellness Wheel/Ron  
Comely's Birthday
- 10:45am: Pastoral/Personnel  
meeting

## Monday, January 15

- 11:00am: Midday Meditation

## Tuesday, January 16

- 11:00am: Midday Meditation
- 12:30pm: Spiritual Practices
- 1:00pm: Craft Day
- 7:00pm: Church Board meeting

## Wednesday, January 17

- 9:30am: Good Morning Circle
- 11:00am: Midday Meditation
- 12:00pm: Interfaith Round Table
- 7:00pm: Bell Choir Practice
- 7:00pm: Choir Practice

## Thursday, January 18

- 11:00am: Midday Meditation

## Friday, January 19

- 9:30am: Watercolor Painting
- 1:00pm: Stained Glass Group
- 1:00pm: PEO Game Day/Barb  
Knight

## Saturday, January 20

- 9:00am: Christmas Tree and  
Décor Takedown

## Sunday, January 21

- 8:45am: Coffee in the Parlor
- 9:30am: Worship Service/  
Nursery available
- 9:45am: Sunday School
- 10:30am: Fellowship Hour/  
Wellness Wheel
- 10:45am: Dept. of Education



# Church News

## Altar Flowers

The flowers on the Communion Table this morning are given by **Harlan Stephens** in honor of his parents and grandparents.



## Poinsettias

If you purchased a poinsettia and haven't taken it home yet, please take it with you after worship today. Any remaining poinsettias will be removed from the Sanctuary after worship on **Sunday, January 21**. Thank you.

# Church News

## Coffee in the Parlor

Starting **January 14th!** Join us at **8:45am** for Coffee in the Parlor before church! Have a latte or a fancy coffee, socialize with friends, and make your way into the sanctuary to enjoy the Gathering Music!

## Birthdays

January 14: **Jeannette Hill**

January 15: **Beth Benusis**

January 16: **Kyle Grauman**

January 18: **Ron Hill**

January 19: **Ron Comely**

January 20: **Velma Speck**

## Birthday Celebration

**Ron Comley** will turn **90** years young on **January 19!** Come have a piece of cake and join the celebration during coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall following worship **today**.

## Midday Meditation

Calling all contemplatives! Starting on **January 8**, each **Monday-Thursday** at **11:00am**, a midday meditation (20-minute-sit) will be offered in the hallway near the Sacristy. Please feel free to invite a friend and pop-in whenever your schedule permits. For more information, contact Pastor Erin.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**Faith Temple Church** would like to invite the members of First Congregational Church to a Martin Luther King Day celebration. Faith Temple is hosting the celebration on **January 15, 2024**, from **noon to 1:00pm**, at the **Downtown Holiday Inn, 505 N 5th Street, Rapid City**. Everyone is welcome to attend, and Pastor Erin is one of the speakers!

## Spiritual Practices

Spiritual Practices is a group of delightful souls who meet to read scripture together and to engage in practices of prayer and meditation. The group is open to all who are interested.

Beginning in **January**, Spiritual Practices will meet on **Tuesday** each week at **12:30-1:30pm** (come as often as you'd like).

Please consider joining the group in the church library. For more information, contact Pastor Erin.

## Stained Glass Group

Come learn how to create beautiful stained glass works of art. The group will meet on **Fridays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm** in the kitchen. Their next meeting will be on **Friday, January 19** at **1:00pm**. For more information, contact **Dave Ledford**.

# Church News

## **Christmas Tree/ Sanctuary Décor Takedown**

The Sanctuary decor remained in place as a backdrop for special music during worship today. The tree and Sanctuary decor will be taken down at **9:00am on Saturday, January 20**. All help is welcome and appreciated!

## **Forum on Homelessness**

A Rapid City Interfaith Council Forum on Homelessness will be held at **9:30am** (9:00am mingle with donuts and coffee) on **Saturday, January 20 at Faith Temple Church**. Communities of faith are aware of and concerned about the services provided to the homeless and unhoused population within our community. The RC Interfaith Council has organized a forum to bring leaders of faith and their congregants together with homeless service providers to learn, discover and be inspired to make a difference. For more information, contact Pastor Erin.

## **Church Chat Updates**

The next meeting will be on **January 23 at 11:30am**. In **February** through **May**, the group will meet on the **first and third Tuesdays**. Contact **Becky Fisher** or **Kathleen Batchelder** to find out information about the book the

group will be reading and discussing.

## **Annual Meeting**

The Church Board has issued the call for the **145th Annual Meeting** of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Rapid City, South Dakota.

The meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 28, 2024** in the church Fellowship Hall following worship and will include the election of officers and department members, receiving reports of the ministries of 2023 and the adoption of the budget for 2024.

All members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to participate in this important meeting. Local church autonomy and lay control of decisions are hallmarks of our church's style of governing ourselves. Mark your calendars now and plan to participate in this important meeting.

## **Annual Reports**

All officers, departments, fellowships, and boards of the church were requested to submit their annual reports to the church office no later than **Friday, January 12, 2024**. Many thanks if you have already submitted your report. If you still have a report to

submit, please write your report in the form of a summary and keep the information as concise as possible.

If a different member from your department, fellowship or board is responsible for submitting an article for the Annual Report, please let the office know.

### **Fellowship Hour Help**

Coffee hosts and dishwashers are needed for the coffee hour following worship. Easy instructions are posted for each volunteer opportunity. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall on the sheets located next to the cookies if you can help. If you need assistance, indicate it on the sheet and someone will help you.

**Thank you!**

### **Prayer Concerns**

Please hold the following members and friends in your prayers:



**Lee Boyles** has ongoing health concerns.

**Kay Daugherty** will be scheduled for a pacemaker as soon as possible. Kay's brother-in-law, **Doug Reeves**, has heart issues.

**Wes Humke** had two successful cataract surgeries in November. Cards are welcome and may be mailed to his address in the church directory.

**Andy and Barb Knight's** son, **John Knight**, was facing serious health concerns as the result of a fall, but is doing much better. They thank everyone for all the prayers.

**Sheila Long's** mother-in-law, **Ann Long**, is fighting cancer.

**Sid Michaels** is cancer free.

**Jodie Thuringer's** father is facing a recurrence of health issues.

**Deb Tompkins** fell and has a broken knee which is improving.

**Deb Tompkins** has a young friend, 12-year-old **Max Green**, who lives in northern Kansas. Max was born with cerebral palsy and many other challenges. He was hospitalized with bacterial pneumonia but now is back home. He enjoyed Christmas!

**Nadine Zeller** had surgery on November 27 for kidney stones.

We also pray for those members of our church family who are in care centers or isolated in their homes, including:

**Evelyn Bradshaw, Vivian Dittmer, Wes Humke, Eunice Johnson, Merrie Miller, Marrelyce Seaman, Dorothy Slingsby, Helen Snyder and Elena Van Pelt**

# Leaders

Erin Erickson, pastor

Becky Fleming, licensed minister

Mary Haan, Christian education coordinator

Alan Glover, choir director, organist

Malinda Ferguson, special music

Michael Bossen, bell choir director

Audrey Fenner, organist

John Fenner, French horn

The Adult Choir

The Bell Choir

Patti Arneson and Laura Switzer, administrative colleagues

Chuck Rounds, moderator

Denise Webster, treasurer

Carol Boyles, Becky Fisher and Jenny Kozel, congregational representatives

Robin Eddy, greeter

Caroline Strampe and Clara Tapper, acolytes

Ron Comely, reader

Dawn Erk and Olivia Erk, coffee hosts

Steve Bareis, dishwasher

Rev. Kathleen Batchelder, pastor emerita

## Credits:

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* - arr. Aaronson

*What Child Is This?* -

*Coventry Carol* - arr. Hughes

*How Far Is It to Bethlehem?* - alt. Hayes

*So We Come to Find the Child* - Beall

*Chorale on "In dulci jubilo"* - J.S. Bach/Ryan

*Doxology*

*Brightest and Best Are the Stars of the Morning*

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

Hope Pub.

setting Raney - Hope Pub.

Lorenz Pub.

Alfred Pub.

Hope Pub.

Lorenz Pub.

Pilgrim Press, 1995

Pilgrim Press, 1958

Pilgrim Press, 1958

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