

Congregational Tidings

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



A weekly newsletter



December 23, 2019

**First Sunday after
Christmas**
December 29, 2019
10:30 am

**Pastor Scott Spence will
present the message:**

It Begins with Water

Scripture Reading
Mark 1:1-20

Worship Leader
Barb Mardis

Deacon-In-Charge
Nancy Mahood

Acolytes
Tim Ahrens
Kaden McConnell

December Ushers
Craig Driver
Todd Ellison
Steve Peters

Christmas Eve Handbell Concert

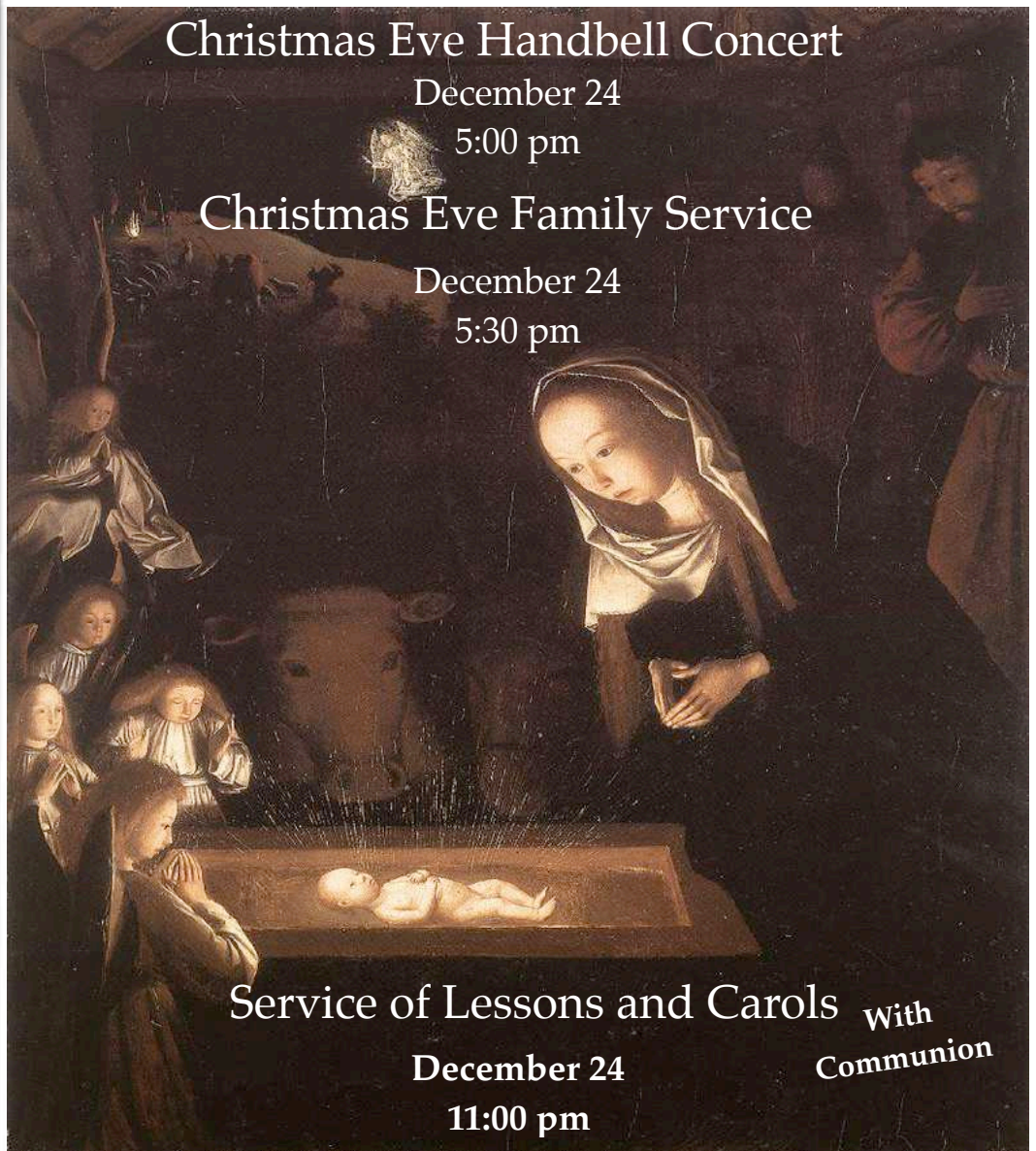
December 24

5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24

5:30 pm



Service of Lessons and Carols *With
Communion*

December 24

11:00 pm

*Scott
Hudson
Kyle*

Merry Christmas!
from your
**First Congregational
United Church of Christ staff.**
Cooper

*Katie
Michelle
Luke*

Christmas Break

The church office, Pastor Scott's office hours and class, choir and bells Practice, Youth Group, and Sunday School are on break until the new year.

Tidings will resume on January 8th.

Bible Study

Make plans to attend our Winter Wednesday Night Bible Study Series! We will be taking a look at the Prophets of the Old Testament. What were they saying to their communities-and how can their words mold our faith today? Class begins at 6:45 on January 8th in the Lounge. See you there!

End of Year Information

Donations postmarked by December 31st are credited for the 2019 tax year.

2020 Offering Envelopes

2020 Offering Envelopes are now under the bulletin board outside the main office.

Advent Decor Removal Sunday, January 5th

We need volunteers to help take down the Advent decorations on Sunday, January 5th following the worship service. It would be nice if we could have some "strong" bodies for lifting and ladders.

Partners in Education

Thank you to Tim Ahrens and Jayne Slaughter who took our Bunger Partners in Education kids for pizza last Wednesday!

If you would like to get involved with this partnership, please see Tim.



Annual Meeting Reports

The Annual Meeting will be held the last Sunday in January. **Attention all Board Chairs** - I would like to have your annual report by Monday, January 13th. Are you working on improving procrastination as a New Year's Resolution? If so, take advantage of this coming break and get it done early. ☺ Thank you!

~ Michelle



Flower Chart

The 2020 Flower Chart is now available in the Crossroads area. Please stop by and sign up now to secure the special dates in your life!

Fleming Closet

Attention- Saturday, January 11 @ 9am, we will begin cleaning out and reorganizing the Fleming Closet (the closet right outside the choir loft). You are welcome to join us, donut holes, coffee and orange juice will be provided. If you have items in the closet that you want to remain, you may contact Michelle in the church office and she will make a list for us.

****Please note--the church history boxes will NOT be touched****

Sunday

December 29, 2019

There will be No Sunday School December 29th. We will resume normal schedule on January 5th

Weekly Events

Tues., December 24

Christmas Eve Schedule:

5:00 - Handbell Choir

5:30 - Family Christmas Eve

Service with pageant

11:00 - Lessons & Carols Service with communion

Wed., December 25

Merry Christmas!

Sun., December 29

10:30 am - Worship

(Pick-A-Hymn Sunday)

We will have 4 opportunities for you to volunteer a Christmas hymn from the red or black hymnal for Hudson to play and you to sing during this service. Start thinking now about your holiday favorites and see you Sunday!

New Year's Open House

Coffee and Cookies Open House at the Spence's Home

New Years Day 2pm to 4pm

151 Lovejoy Ave. Waterloo

All are welcome!

*Jesus Was a Migrant**Issue #974 | December 19, 2019*

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. - Matthew 2:13-15 (NRSV)

December 18 is recognized as International Migrants Day by the United Nations. As it occurs during Advent, it is a perfect time to remember that Jesus himself was a migrant. In fact, the Bible is full of migration stories. Moses, Ruth, and the disciples were all migrants at one point or another. The whole of human history is a story of migration. Migration in search of food, land, water. Migration away from violence, destruction, famine.

Today, our human migration story is one of closed borders and fear. People are leaving their homes because they are afraid, and countries are closing their borders because they are afraid.

Our government is forcibly returning people who claim asylum to "safe third countries" (that aren't very safe) that those migrants have journeyed through to get to the United States. Our government is jailing persons who have come here claiming asylum until their claims are processed. Our government is continuing to separate children from their parents, sometimes deporting parents without their children or deporting children without their parents. Our government is raiding businesses and rounding up everyone who doesn't have legal work authorization, and sometimes those that do.

Our government is doing all of this through administrative rule-making, not through legislative means. Most of these rules are being challenged in the court system. Congress hasn't passed immigration legislation since 1996, and there have been no major changes to immigration laws since 1990. A lot has changed in the past 30 years, and our immigration system has not kept up.

We must live out Jesus' command to love our neighbors, including our migrant neighbors, not only on International Migrants Day but every day. Tell your congressional representatives to support the DREAM Act and humane immigration policies. Support a Global Ministries partner working with migrants around the world. Become an [Immigrant Welcoming Congregation](#).

Find worship and educational resources and more information from [Global Ministries](#), [Justice and Witness Ministries](#), and the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rebekah Choate is Associate for Global Advocacy and Education for the United Church of Christ.

The United Church of Christ has more than 5,000 churches throughout the United States. Rooted in the Christian traditions of congregational governance and covenantal relationships, each UCC setting speaks only for itself and not on behalf of every UCC congregation. UCC members and churches are free to differ on important social issues, even as the UCC remains principally committed to unity in the midst of our diversity.



Ordination and Installation of Hannah Hannover

Sunday, January 19th at 3:00 pm ~ Ames UCC in Ames, IA

A cake reception will follow. An offering will be collected to benefit Ames UCC's Pastoral Emergency Fund.

We celebrate Hannah's completion of the ordination process and Ames UCC's call for Hannah to be officially installed as Associate Minister.

First Congregational UCC
608 WEST FOURTH STREET
WATERLOO, IOWA 50702

Congregational Tidings

Place
Stamp
Here

Create an endowment of love. Please consider including our church in your estate planning.

F I R S T C O N G R E G A T I O N A L U C C

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2020!

Dear Church family – sisters and brothers in Christ

Emmanuel – God with us!

The Lord is good and greatly to be praised! This year was filled with God's presence, faithfulness, purpose and grace. I am thankful and grateful to God for every moment.

I am thankful...for young folks and the blessing to support, care and pray for them, for the opportunity for provide Sunday worship service to incarcerated people, and to serve God among various church ministries.

I am grateful ...to you my Iowa God family (First Congregational Church and United Church of Christ, Cedar Falls) for our covenant through Christ to serve God in love, fellowship, service, and prayer. A huge thank you to each of you for your well wishes and prayers during my four - month odyssey adventure/relocation back to Los Angeles.

During this Advent season, we ponder again with exceeding Joy the gift of Salvation and Redemption has come to us through a Savior which is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest!!!

Here is Los Angeles, I bear witness all around of God's great faithfulness.

I have joy... in my heart and soul knowing my nephew and wife have adopted a six year old little girl. I'm so happy for our family to grow. Bless the Lord!

Also a joy is my siblings, Clinton and Mary that you have prayed many times continue to improve in spite of their chronic illnesses.

I have joy...having each of you in my life as cherished family of God. Until we meet again...Love to all!

Shalom,

Celeste Bembry



January 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Open House at Spence's Home 2 to 4pm (Office Closed)	2	3 7:00 NA Meeting	4
			5 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	6	7 7:30 Men's Bkfst @ Village Inn 10:00 Al-Anon	8 3-5pm - Public Office Hours (POH) 6:00 - Potluck 6:30 - Choir 7:00 - Scott's Class 7:00 - Youth
12 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	13 Community Meals	14 10:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Trustee Mtg.	15 6:00 - Potluck 6:30 - Choir 7:00 - Scott's Class 7:00 - Youth	16 5:30 - Bells	17 7:00 NA Meeting	18
19 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship	20	21 7:30 Men's Bkfst @ Village Inn 10:00 Al-Anon	22 3-5pm - POH 6:00 - Potluck 6:30 - Choir 7:00 - Scott's Class 7:00 - Youth	23 5:30 - Bells	24 7:00 NA Meeting	25
26 9:00 Sun. School 10:30 Worship Annual Meeting following Worship	27	28 10:00 Al-Anon	29 3-5pm - POH 6:00 - Potluck 6:30 - Choir 7:00 - Scott's Class 7:00 - Youth	30 5:30 - Bells	31 7:00 NA Meeting	

Birthdays

1
Joanne Lane
Hildegard Mehlich
Jim Thiele
5
Maxine Clausman
6
Barb Mardis
Julie Thoreen
10
Lois Johnson
David Young

12
Brad Highnam
Cody Koch
13
Ted Martens
14
Megan Panicucci
15
Jesse White
Charlie Mejia
23
Jayne Slaughter
24
Steve Maurer

26
Tara Spence
27
Emile Leighty
28
Dan Hummel
Craig Mahood
29
Connie Stevens
30
Luke Overton
31
Craig Holdiman

Anniversaries

31
Marcos & Jill Grano De Oro

