

Many thanks to those of you who have helped beautify the sanctuary with poinsettias this Christmas season:

Gary Waldon in memory of Linda Waldon;

Tim & Vicki Ahrens in memory of Connie Garkow and in honor of dear family and friends;

Rich & Kay Thuesen in memory of family;

Erin Brock-Medhus (2 poinsettias) in memory of loved ones in Heaven;

Greg & Anne Hoekstra in memory of Jake & Billie Hoekstra and Wayne & Opal Schroeder;

Greg & Anne Hoekstra in honor of our sons, Peter, Tim & Chris, and their families;

Craig & Karen Jensen in honor of our family;

Craig & Karen Jensen to welcome Brandyn and Mackenzie to our church family;

Terri Even-Miller in memory of Abbey O'Connell;

Terri Even-Miller in memory of Chris & Carol Detje;

Greg & Michelle Wolfe in memory of their daughter, Kalli Corwin;

Peter & Diane Morris Colver in loving memory of Dick & Judy Morris;

Peter & Diane Morris Colver in loving memory of Rick Colver;

Cindy & Jeff Thompson in memory of Cindy's mother, Marlene Marmann;

Paul & Gina Greene in memory of Tyler Greene - Love You Always;

Paul & Gina Greene in memory of Great Grandma Greene;

Paul & Gina Greene in honor of Great Grandpa Greene;

David Zellhoefer in memory of Richard & Helen Zellhoefer;

Roger & Joanne Lane in memory of Earle & Alpha Lane;

Roger & Joanne Lane in memory of Norman & Hanna Nelson



If you ordered a poinsettia, you are welcome to take it home with you after the service tonight. Any leftover poinsettias will be available on Sunday.

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

Christmas 
EVE WORSHIP

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Waterloo, Iowa December 24, 2024

Prelude		Touch of Brass Handbells
Welcome		Brandyn Miller
Proclamation of Good News	Isaiah 9:2-7	Barb Mardis
*Carol	Joy to the World	#132 (NCH - Black)
*Call to Worship (responsive)		Eli Lennox
We gather in the darkness of evening to celebrate the newborn Light.		
With family and friends we worship and adore the Christ-child.		
With Mary we will ponder these things in our hearts.		
With Joseph we will give thanks to the Lord for God's steadfast love.		
Lift up your hearts in thanksgiving, for a child, the Child, has been born!		
We gather to worship him and welcome his peaceful kingdom.		
His name will be blessed among all the earth; His reign shall have no end!		
Our wait is finished! Let us worship the newborn King!		
*Carol	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	#132 (Pilgrim - Red)
Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candle		Stevenson Family
Family: Tonight we light all the Advent candles. <i>(four candles are lit)</i>		
Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).		
Congregation: Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).		
Family: <i>(Lighting the Christ candle)</i> We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.		
*Carol	<i>Angels We have Heard on High</i> vs. 1-3	#125 (NCH - Black)
Prophecy of the Messiah	Jeremiah 33:10-11, 14-16	Anne Hoekstra
Choral Anthem	<i>For to Us a Child is Born</i>	Chancel Choir

*Prayer of Invocation (responsive)		Gina Greene
Son of God and Son of Man, in real time, you were conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary. Deity and humanity were inseparably joined together in you.		
We thank you for the way Christmas reminds us that faith is both material and mystical.		
Jesus Christ, our newborn King: you came among us in all your glory, taking on our life so that we might share in yours. You made your home among us today and always.		
We praise you that in your conception and birth you've come to remove our sin and deliver to us the hope of new life. Amen.		
Prophecy of Celebration	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Greg Holt
Choral Anthem	<i>While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks</i>	Chancel Choir
The Good News	Luke 2:1-7	Kay Leary
*Carol	<i>Away in a Manger</i> (Children are invited up to the front)	# 124 (NCH - Black)
Celebration of Good News	Luke 2:10-14	Connie Jo Peirce
*Carol	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	#144 (NCH - Black)
Christmas Meditation		Brandyn Miller
Choral Anthem	Bogoroditse Devo	Chancel Choir
Christmas Prayer		Brandyn Miller
Candle Lighting Service		Brandyn Miller
Jesus came as the Light of the World. As we light our individual candles from the flame of the Christ Candle, let the light remind you of the Christ who comes to us and whose presence dispels the darkness in our lives. You will also pass this light on to the person seated next to you, symbolic of our need to share Christ with others.		
<i>Please EXTINGUISH your candle before exiting the sanctuary.</i>		
*Carol	<i>Silent Night! Holy Night!</i>	#138 (Pilgrim - Red)
*Exit of the Christ Candle into the World		