

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WINTER PARK



Third Sunday of Advent

God is still speaking,

*"a traditional and nurturing church celebrating God's grace through reason, education,
diversity, inclusion, and social justice"*

We are an Open and Affirming Church

DECEMBER 15, 2024

WELCOME

*This is the day that the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice because we are glad to be here!*



Sign the red attendance pad that is located in the pew seat near the center aisle and pass it to the next person.

We want to know that you were here!



Visitors may complete a “Let’s Get Acquainted” card, located in the pew racks, and place the card in the offering plate.

We are here to answer your questions!



SILENCE your technology but still “check-in” and use social media and share our website and portions of our worship that inspire you!



Continue to help us reduce our carbon footprint. If you are not receiving the bulletin via email, and would like to, please contact the church office – 407-647-2416. The bulletin can also be found on our website, fccwp.org. Go to the tab labeled “Bulletin” and locate the appropriate pdf file.



Continue to open up your ‘What’s Happening’ newsletter emails to keep up-to-date on all of the weekly and monthly events. Or visit our website at www.fccwp.org. There is a lot happening in the life of this church and you do not want to miss a thing!



If you have a **prayer need or a joy to share**, please fill out the white prayer request card located in the pew pockets and drop it in the collection plate. We will place your prayer need on our confidential prayer chain. If you wish to have a joy or a need announced in church, permission must be given by calling the church office.



Kindly silence all cell phones during worship

* All who are able to do so comfortably, please stand

Preparing to Hear God's Word

PRELUDE

"O Christmas Tree"

Traditional

*Vocals: Suzy Park Piano: Ed Krout, Bass: Chuck Archard
Please refrain from applauding*

WELCOME

Rev. Shawn Garvey

* **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Garvey

People: "We seek time to embrace the joy."

* **OPENING HYMN**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Insert

* **OPENING PRAYER**

* **LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**

The Candle of Joy

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

All children please come forward for Young Church.

YOUNG CHURCH

Kerry Weisner

"The Lord's Prayer or Prayer of Our Savior"

*Age four years through kindergarten may leave for Sunday school in the LIBRARY.
Grades 1-5 and 6-12 may leave for Sunday school in the UPSTAIRSs Fellowship Hall.
Childcare for infants through 3 years old is available in the PARLOR located at the back of Fellowship Hall.
Please check your child out with the teacher. Children are only released to the parent.*

**** SONG OF SUPPORT**

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.
Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors and made their tiny wings.*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Amy Wareing, Board of Membership

Minister: Let us, members of the First Congregational Church of Winter Park, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of this church. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we grow together in faith and be witnesses to the love of God and the peace of Christ.

HEBREW

Isaiah 12:2-6

Rev. Garvey

Minister: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Peace"

Michael McDonald

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

Rev. Garvey

Minister: This is the Word of God.

People: **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE

"Advent Trifecta"

Rev. Shawn Garvey

John's preaching in this passage contains three points of focus: a warning against coming judgment, a call for compassion and justice towards others, and a confession of the coming Messiah. Do we as the church embody all three of these strands of John's message? Do we embody them in our living, as well? If so, how?

Responding to God's Word

CALL TO PRAYER/JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Garvey

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYERS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

Offertory

"Christmas Time is Here"

Vince Guaraldi

Please refrain from applauding

*Doxology (Old Hundredth)

**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. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Garvey

*CLOSING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Vs. 1,2&4)

Insert

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Garvey

POSTLUDE

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" Hugh Martin/Ralph Blane

The Food Pantry Needs our Help!!



The holidays are here, and children will be home alone. A lot of the items listed below will make it easier for the children to prepare their own meals while their parents are at work.

Next time you go grocery shopping consider donating to the food pantry! Shop the BOGO's and specials!

PULL TOP lids are very helpful for the homeless.
Please only donate items that have not expired.

- Children's juice boxes (various flavors)
- Pancake mix and maple syrup
- Boxed cereal
- Canned fruit, vegetables, soup, chili, spaghetti, ravioli
- Canned meals – think Dinty Moore Beef Stew
- Snack pack pudding or jello (shelf stable)
- Microwavable mac and cheese
- Regular jars of spaghetti sauce plus pasta
- Peanut butter and Jelly
- Snack crackers (filled with cheese or peanut butter, etc.)
- Crackers
- Tuna fish
- Fruit cups or applesauce
- Rice and Beans
- Snack packages of dried fruit or nuts (try to avoid peanuts)
- Cookies 😊

If you shop COSTCO – buy a case of microwavable mac 'n cheese, Chef-Boyardee spaghetti or ravioli, canned meals, etc. (Remember, there are a lot of children that prepare their own meals while their parents are working.)

YOUR DONATIONS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE! *Thank you.*



Christmas Flowers 2024

The Flower Guild will be decorating the church with flowers of the season for the month of December. For the holidays a special flower fund has been set up. You may donate (any amount) to the fund in memory of a loved one or in honor of a family member or friend.

Christmas flower dedications received in the church office by Wednesday, December 18th, will be listed in the Sunday, December 22nd bulletin.

Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church. memo line should read "Christmas Flower Dedication."

You may place your check in the offering plate or return it to the church office. Thank you.

Flower dedication given by:

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

Phone: _____ email: _____

In honor of:

In memory of:

You may also email your dedication to mtaylor@fccwp.org
Please place Christmas Flower Dedication in the subject line
Your donation may be made online – fccwp.org – donate page

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D. with Refrain

Felix Mendelssohn, 1800-1847

Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of right - eous - ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings,

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!" A - men.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin: John F. Wade, 1711-1786
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irregular
John F. Wade's "Cantus Diversi," 1751

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
We would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord! Amen.

CHURCH GUEST WIFI

PASSWORD:

LetMeInPlease!



You can access our weekly bulletin through our website:

fccwp.org

Look for the tab labeled "Bulletin"

Help us reduce our carbon footprint and use your smart technology!

🌀LOOKING AHEAD🌀

TODAY! Sunday December 15th

**All Church Celebration
In Fellowship Hall after Worship**

AND

New Member Sunday

Sunday December 22

Town-Hall Preliminary Meeting

Tuesday December 24th

**Christmas Eve Services:
Family Service at 5:00PM
Lessons and Carols at 9:00PM**

Sunday January 19th after Worship

Town Hall (Budget Review) Meeting

First Congregational Church • United Church of Christ of Winter Park
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Shawn Garvey, Senior Minister
Megan Taylor, Office Administrator
Jacki Churchill, Finance Administrator

Kerry Weisner, Faith Formation Director
John V. Sinclair, Music Director
Chris Olivent, Organist