



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC LEADER
GATHERED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE



Living Nativity Service

DECEMBER 24, 2016
CHRISTMAS EVE 5 P.M.

Welcome

Please silence cell phones upon entering the sanctuary.

Sunday School

Preschool through adult Sunday morning learning is offered during the 9 o'clock hour. FCC is committed to the faith formation of all, so join us for weekly Sunday School in the Christian Education wing located on the lower level. Sunday School is on break Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st. and will return on January 7th.

Sunday Brunch

Please join us for fellowship after worship in the Son Cafe on January 7th. Good coffee and even better conversation is always on the menu!

Interested in Membership?

Contact Pastor Craig, (309)-762-0787 or by email craig@fccmoline.org.

Wi-Fi Password

Welcome!

Resources

Ushers can provide large print bulletins and hearing amplifiers.

Getting connected

Please fill our pew pads to offer us a record of your attendance.

Today
from the life
of the church

Good News; but if you ask me what it is,
I know not;
It is a track of feet on the snow,
It is a lantern showing a path,
It is a door set open.

G.K. Chesterton

Everything beyond a certain distance is dark,
and yet everything is full of being around us.
This is the darkness, heavy with promises
and threats, which the Christian will have
to illuminate and animate with the divine
presence.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

*Orietur sicut sol Salvator mundi:
et descendet in uterum Virginis,
sicut imber super gramen, alleluia*

Like the sun shall the world's Savior rise
and the Lord shall come down to the virgin's
womb like gentle rain upon the grass. Alleluia.

Monastic Liturgy

It is both terrible and comforting to dwell in
the inconceivable nearness of God, and so
to be loved by God that the first and last gift
is infinity and inconceivability itself. But we
have no choice. God is with us.

Karl Rahner

In a flash, at a trumpet crash,
I am all at once what Christ is, since he was
what I am.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Gathering of God's People

PRELUDE

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Because Christ has been born in the world,

People who walked in darkness now live in great light.

Because Christ has been born in the world,

The power to oppress and kill will not stand.

Because Christ has been born in the world,
we respond in wonder:

With the angels, we sing glory to God;

with the shepherds, we share the good news;

with Mary, we ponder the joy that has come into the world.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **God of light, shine upon us this Christmas Eve,
and guide us out of the darkness and into your love.**

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HYMN

#41, *O Come All Ye Faithful* (Verses 1 & 2)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

***LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

Mark and Lori Churchill
Ben (13), Beth (11), Anna (8), John (6)

Let us pray. **Lord of brilliant light, shine in our hearts tonight. Bring us to the manger with such longing for your love, bathed in the light of hope. Remind us that you are our hope and that through you will come peace, which will reign in our hearts forever. Amen.**

***HYMN**

#41, *O Come All Ye Faithful* (Verse 3)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest:

Refrain

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7 BIBLE, PG.55
#9, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer,
Our Spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

LUKE 2: 1-7 BIBLE, PG.832
#25, *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

THIRD LESSON

LUKE 2: 8-14 BIBLE, PG.833

#23 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plain
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be?
Which inspire your heavenly songs?

Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

FOURTH LESSON

MATTHEW 2: 9-12 BIBLE, PG.784

#66 (VS 1 & 5) *We Three Kings*

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia!, Alleluia!,
Sounds through the earth and skies

Refrain

FIFTH LESSON

LUKE 2: 15-20 BIBLE, PG.833

#53, *What Child is This?*

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, one and all to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain

REFLECTION

Rev. Craig Jan-McMahon

Luke 18: 15-17

Responding to the Good News

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Michael Swartz

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever
Amen.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

INVITATION

God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God From whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, Holy One, for the gift of grace that you have given— a child, lying in a manger. Receive these gifts and use them for your glory; in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Service of Light

***SERVICE OF LIGHT**

The light will be distributed from the Christ Candle to the first person seated in the pew. Please share the light with the next person by tipping your unlit candle toward the flame.

#60 Silent Night

Silent Night, Holy Night
All is calm, All is bright
Round yon virgin, Mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia,
"Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!"

Silent night, Holy Night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face.
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at they birth

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing
Alleluias to our King.
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Lights are turned on; candles are blown out.

BLESSING

You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

#40 *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove.
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonder of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love!

BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

Serving in Worship

Readers

Beth Churchill
Lucas Nelson
Caryena Wennkamp
Abe Peterson
Nolan Wandrey

Acolytes

Zach Wynn
Oliva Glenn
Brady Bigford
Noah Suman

Ushers

Kim Fuller
Scott Maranda
Nancy Michl
Sarah Michl
Andrew Michl
Avianna Michl
Daevion Dew

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Craig Jan-McMahon, Senior Pastor
Rev. Michael Swartz, Associate Pastor
Maureen Holmes, Chancel Choir Director
Mason Moss, Interim Organist/Pianist
Gail Glockhoff-Long, Campanella Ringers Director
Jennifer Dailing, Office Assistant
Taylor Anderson, Director of Marketing and Communications
Becca Peterson, Director of Family Ministry
Sara Otta, Finance Manager
Wes Llewellyn, Fellowship Coordinator
Harleigh Jones, Nursery Coordinator
Amanda Peterson, Red Wagon Preschool Director
Mike DeToye and Ron Mahar, Custodians



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gathered to Share God's Love