

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9:30AM Bible Study: In-Person & via Zoom**  
"The Day is Surely Coming" Facilitator: Smithie Parrish  
Luke 21: 25-36
- 10:30AM Worship Service** In-Person and Livestreamed Online ([YOUTUBE](#))
- 10:4AM Children's Church** (Theater Room) Asst. Smithie Parrish
- Following Worship:**  
**Prayer Circle**
- 6:00PM Youth Group** (Fellowship Hall)

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30:

- 12:00PM 2CFAR Crucial Conversations of Faith and Race** via Zoom

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1:

- 5:00PM Staff Meeting**
- 5:30PM Confirmation**
- 6:30PM Youth Group** (Youth Room) Asst: June Grubb  
**Children's Fun & Activities** (Fellowship Hall) Asst: Jeremy Lovell & Renee White  
**Choir Practice** (Chapel Annex)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2:

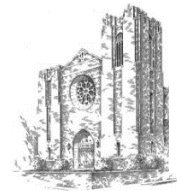
- 9:00AM Meals on Wheels Meeting with United Way** (Fellowship Hall)
- 4-6:00PM Clothes Closet Workday** with Kidz Dream Klub

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4:

- 12:30PM Carry-Out Lunch Ministry**

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT...HOLY COMMUNION

- 9:30AM Bible Study: In-Person & via Zoom**  
"The Fear of Home" Facilitators: Jay and Cathy Whitley  
Luke 3: 1-6
- 10:30AM Worship Service** In-Person and Livestreamed Online ([YOUTUBE](#))
- 10:4AM Children's Church** (Theater Room) Asst. Cathy Browder
- Following Worship:**  
**Prayer Circle**
- 11:45AM Consistory**
- 6:00PM Youth Group** (Fellowship Hall)



### First Reformed United Church of Christ

*Where People Discover...*

*The Love of God...*

*The Power to Love Others...*

*The Ability to Love Ourselves.*

November 28, 2021

**The Worship of God**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

#### Prelude

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"  
[arr. Larry Shackley]

Christopher Kiser

#### \*Ringing of the Chimes

#### Welcome

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

#### Call to Worship

John Maze

Can one be homesick for something you've never known? We are homesick for a just world,  
**for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.**

Yes, we are homesick—  
for joy that is contagious,

**for nations that feel like neighbors, and for hospitals that run empty.**

We are homesick for the world God promises.

**We are homesick, but we are on our way.**

God is here. God is still creating.

**Let us worship Holy God.**

#### Hymn

"Come Thou Long Expected, Jesus"

Ellen Peterson

#### Invocation

John Maze

#### Lighting the Candle of Hope

#### Children's Church

Rev. Evan Sieges & Smithie Parrish

#### Prayer of Confession

Rev. Horton

Gracious God,

Each day, we find ourselves with two options —

to believe in the world You had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win.

**Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?**

**Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?**

**Forgive us when we give up on You and on each other.**

**Forgive us when we let negativity rule our hearts.**

**Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.**

**Gratefully we pray, amen.**

#### Assurance of Pardon

#### Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Horton

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.

## Anthem

“Prepare Ye the Way”  
[arr. Michael Barrett]

Prepare ye the way, the way of the Lord. Prepare ye the way, the way of the Lord.  
Make straight in the desert a highway for God. Prepare ye the way of the Lord. (repeats)  
Prepare ye the way.

Church of faith, rise up and sing of the great and glorious King.  
You are strong when you feel weak; in your brokenness, complete.

Shout to the north and the south. Sing to the east and the west:  
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up people of the truth; stand and sing to broken hearts.  
Who can know the healing power of our awesome King of love?

Shout to the north and the south. Sing to the east and the west:  
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth. (repeats)

Prepare ye the way, the way of the Lord...

## Gospel Reading

Luke 21: 25-36  
(Common English Bible)

Rev. Horton

“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.”

Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God’s kingdom is near. I assure you that this generation won’t pass away until everything has happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

“Take care that your hearts aren’t dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don’t let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One.”

## Sermon

“Closer to Home: Homesickness”

## Prayer of Dedication

John Maze

## Invitation to Give and Serve in the Life of the Church

## \*Benediction

## Postlude

“Sing We Now of Christmas”  
[arr. Diane Bish]

Christopher Kiser

~ Please remain seated until the ushers direct you to exit. ~

After the service, you are invited to join in the Prayer Circle in the front of the sanctuary.

## FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION.

We welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people, regardless of ability, age, education, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, income, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. At the baptismal font and at the communion table, from the nursery cribs to the church leadership, whether you were raised in a church or have never, before attended one, you are welcome here.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

**LITURGIST:** John Maze

**DIGITAL MEDIA TECHNICIAN:** Jeremy Peterson

**SOUND TECH:** John Gray

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH:** Smithie Parrish

**ACOLYTE:** Emma Hartle

**BIBLE STEWARD:** Jacob Hartle

**USHERS:** Doris Sink, Eddie Yates

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Edgar Miller (recovering from surgery), Marge Doty, Lee Ann Peele (recovering from surgery at home)

Peggy Bates, Sherry Bonner, Lee & Ellen Bouchard, Ruth Essick, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Gerri Hill, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Merle Hodges, Jeff Hutchens, Myrtle Latimer, Marguerite Leonard, Deanna Michael, John Potts & Janette Neal, Lib Sink, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall, Carolyn Yocum

**OUR FRIENDS:** Lacy Belcher (Cathy Waitman’s aunt), Glenda Kiser (Christopher Kiser’s mother), Nicole Holste (Alane Holste’s sister-in-law), Joe Carpenter and Chuck Woodson (neighbors of Eugenia Holste), Mike Frick (friend of the church), Marc Frye (son of the late Doris Frye), Ashley Thomason (Ron & Heidi Hutcheson’s daughter-in-law)

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**November 30...**Irvin Sink    **December 1...**Ann Johnson Crandell...Buddy Lohr...Jerry Smith  
**2...**Beverly Sandifer  
**3...**Brandi McCarn Gerew...Keri Lovell

## OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THOSE IN NEED THROUGH SATURDAY TAKE-OUT LUNCH PROGRAM:

Help the Boards of Evangelism and Community Outreach fill **100 “Treat Bags.” Donate by December 17<sup>th</sup>.**

- Make a **monetary donation** to the church. (Donate cash in envelopes marked “treat bags”, online through the church website, or by check with “Treat Bags” on the memo line.
- **Bring socks, gloves, toboggans and/or gloves** to the baskets in the sanctuary beginning November 28<sup>th</sup>. This is part of the Advent Prayer walk December 15-17.

Pastor Evan, with our Youth and Children, will assemble the bags prior to Christmas Day.

**MINISTERS:** The Congregation of **FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE:** Rev. June Grubb ([jarubb3@triad.rr.com](mailto:jarubb3@triad.rr.com) #336-248-5668)

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