

## DECEMBER CALENDAR OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 10:00AM** **Christmas Music Celebration by the Center Street Saxophone Quartet and Organ/Piano Duets** (Sanctuary)  
**10:30AM** **Worship**  
**6:00PM** **Youth Group: Christmas Program Practice** (Fellowship Hall)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15:

- 4-7:00PM** **Advent Prayer Walk and Holy Communion** (Sanctuary)  
**6:30PM** **Youth Group: Christmas Program Practice** (Youth Room)  
**Children's Fun Night** (Fellowship Hall)  
**Choir Practice** (Chapel Annex)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16:

- 4-7:00PM** **Advent Prayer Walk Stations and Holy Communion** (Sanctuary)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17:

- 4-7:00PM** **Advent Prayer Walk Stations and Holy Communion** (Sanctuary)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18:

- 9AM-12:00PM** **Advent Prayer Walk Stations and Holy Communion** (Sanctuary)  
**2:00PM** **Christmas Program Practice** (Fellowship Hall)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19: DEADLINE TO BRING CARDS FOR OUR MEMBERS AT HOME

Help deliver fruit baskets and Christmas cards to members at home. You may pick up items from the Fellowship Hall following morning worship or after the Christmas Program in the evening. **Sign up ahead of time by contacting the office.**

- 10:30AM** **Worship**  
**6:00PM** **Youth and Children's Christmas Program: "Christmas Collision"**  
(Fellowship Hall)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE

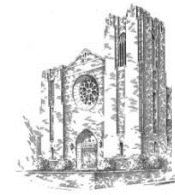
- 3:30-5PM** **Drop off food items in the kitchen for the Saturday Take-out Lunch**  
**7:30PM** **SPECIAL MUSIC PRIOR TO CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
**8:00PM** **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

- 9-10:00AM** **Drop off food items in the kitchen for the Saturday Take-out Lunch**  
**11AM-1:30PM** **CHRISTMAS DAY TAKE OUT LUNCH AND TREAT BAGS** (Kitchen)  
**All Volunteers Are Welcome!**

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26: DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP & FUN!

- 10:30AM** **WORSHIP (FELLOWSHIP HALL)**  
**FOLLOWING WORSHIP**  
**GIFT EXCHANGE...BRING A \$10 GIFT**



### First Reformed United Church of Christ

*Where People Discover...  
The Love of God...  
The Power to Love Others...  
The Ability to Love Ourselves.*

**December 12, 2021**  
**The Worship of God**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

### **10:00 Christmas Music Celebration** **Center Street Saxophone Quartet**

Dylan Misenheimer (soprano) Michael Price (alto)  
Derrick Misenheimer (tenor) Noah Bissell (baritone)

**Organ & Piano Duets**  
Christopher Kiser & Laurie Klaus

**10:30 Prelude** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. Joel Raney  
Christopher Kiser & Laurie Klaus

### **\*Ringing of the Chimes**

**Welcome** Rev. Elizabeth Horton

**\*Congregational Hymn** "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" (see page 2)

**Invocation** Rev. June Grubb

**Lighting the Candle of Joy** Alane & Eugenia Holste

**Response in Song** "Make of My Heart a Stable" Ellen Peterson

**Children's Church** Rev. Evan Sieges

**Scripture Reading** Zephaniah 3: 17-20 Rev. Grubb

The LORD your God is in your midst—a warrior bringing victory.

He will create calm with his love;

he will rejoice over you with singing.

I will remove from you those worried about the appointed feasts.<sup>[a]</sup>

They have been a burden for her, a reproach.

Watch what I am about to do to all your oppressors at that time.

I will deliver the lame;

I will gather the outcast.

I will change their shame into praise and fame throughout the earth.

At that time, I will bring all of you back,

at the time when I gather you.

I will give you fame and praise among all the neighboring peoples when I

restore your possessions and you can see them—says the LORD.

## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1, 2, 3. Good Chris- tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and  
 voice! Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!  
 voice! Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Joy! Joy!  
 voice! Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!

Je - sus Christ is born to - day. Ox and ass be -  
 Je - sus Christ was born for this! He hath o - pened  
 Je - sus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and

fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: Latin, 14th-century, trans. John Mason Neale 1853, alt.  
 Music: German melody, harm. Gary Alan Smith 1988  
 Harmony copyright © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.

IN DULCI JUBILO  
 Irregular

### WAYS TO SERVE OTHERS THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

- **DEADLINE DECEMBER 19:** Donate gloves, scarves, toboggans, and socks to worship on Sundays or during the Advent Prayer Walk (December 16, 17, 18) for the Christmas Day Treat Bags for Saturday Lunch recipients

OR

- Contribute money toward the Christmas Day Treat Bags for the Saturday Lunch recipients
- **DEADLINE DECEMBER 19:** Bring a Christmas Card to church for our members who are sick, homebound, or in Care Facilities (names can be found in the Prayer List in the bulletin)
- Volunteer to deliver fruit baskets and Christmas cards to our members at home. Pick up cards and baskets either after church December 19 or after the Youth Christmas Program that evening
- Bring a side dish or dessert for the Christmas Day Lunch Ministry.  
**(Drop off times: Friday, December 24 between 3-5:00PM or December 25 9-10:00AM)**
- Give Alternative Gifts for Christmas **OR** place an angel on our Angel Tree to support our church benevolences
- December 19: Donate to The Christmas Fund (*formerly The Veterans of the Cross and The Emergency Fund*)
- Volunteer to **serve or cook** for Saturday Lunch Ministry
- Sort clothes or fill orders in Clothes Ministry

**Contact the church office if you have questions. More details may be found in the December 2021 Newsletter.**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30AM **NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK**

10:00AM Special Music prior to service  
Performances this morning by:

Center Street Saxophone Quartet and  
Organ/Piano Duet with Christopher Kiser and Laurie Klaus

10:30AM **Worship Service** In-Person and Livestreamed Online ([YOUTUBE](#))

10:45AM **Children's Church** (Theater Room) Asst. TBD

Following Worship:

Prayer Circle

6:00PM **Youth Group** (Fellowship Hall)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15:

4-7:00PM **Advent Prayer Walk & Holy Communion** (Sanctuary)

6:30PM **Youth Group** (Youth Room) Asst: Dave Fulton

**Children's Fun & Activities** (Fellowship Hall) Asst: Jeremy & Renee White

**Choir Practice** (Chapel Annex)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16:

4-6:00PM **Clothes Closet Workday** with Kidz Dream Klub

4-7:00PM **Advent Prayer Walk and Holy Communion** (Sanctuary)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17:

4-7:00PM **Advent Prayer Walk & Holy Communion** (Sanctuary)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18:

9AM-12:00PM **Advent Prayer Walk & Holy Communion** (Sanctuary)

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

2:00PM **Dress Rehearsal for Youth & Children's Christmas Program** (Fellowship Hall)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### **DEADLINE TO BRING CARDS FOR OUR MEMBERS AT HOME**

Help deliver fruit baskets and Christmas cards to members at home. You may pick up items from the Fellowship Hall following morning worship or after the Christmas Program in the evening. **Sign up ahead of time by contacting the office.**

9:30AM **Bible Study: In-Person & via Zoom**

"The Joy of Home" (Luke 3: 7-18) Facilitator: Rev. June Grubb

10:30AM **Worship Service** In-Person and Livestreamed Online ([YOUTUBE](#))

10:45AM **Children's Church** (Theater Room) Asst. TBD

Following Worship:

Prayer Circle

6:00PM **Youth and Children's Christmas Program: "Christmas Collision"**  
(Fellowship Hall)

### Prayer of Confession

Rev. Horton

Ever-loving and Eternal God,

Forgive us for closing our ears to the cries of the suffering.

Forgive us for judging others instead of sowing seeds of grace.

Forgive us for ignoring the outcast and for hoarding what we have instead of sharing out of love...

Help us to be bold enough to practice what we preach...with hope, we pray. Amen.

### Words of Forgiveness

#### Special Music

"Carol of the Bells / God Rest Ye Merry"

arr. Matt Riley

Christopher Kiser & Laurie Klaus

#### Gospel Reading

Luke 3: 7-18

Rev. Horton

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire."

The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized to collect."

Soldiers asked, "What about us? What should we do?"

He answered, "Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay."

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

#### Sermon

"Close to Home: A Home for All"

<b>Special Music</b>	"Mary Did You Know?" Christopher Kiser & Mike Price	arr. Jack Schrader
<b>Call to Offer Our Time and Talents</b>		Rev. Horton
<b>Prayer for Gifts We Give</b>		Rev. Grubb
<b>*Benediction</b>		Rev. Horton
<b>Postlude</b>	"Joy to the World" Christopher Kiser & Laurie Klaus	arr. Joel Raney
<b>Finale</b>	"Sleigh Ride" Center Street Saxophone Quartet	

~ 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.

**MINISTERS:** The Congregation of **FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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**PASTOR:** Rev. Elizabeth Horton ([elizabeth@frucc.org](mailto:elizabeth@frucc.org), cell/text #336-972-8895)  
**MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE:** Rev. June Grubb ([jgrubb3@triad.rr.com](mailto:jgrubb3@triad.rr.com) #336-248-5668)  
**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES:** Rev. Evan Sieges ([evan@frucc.org](mailto:evan@frucc.org))  
**CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Ellen Peterson ([ellenrpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:ellenrpeterson@gmail.com))  
**ORGANIST/PIANIST:** Christopher Kiser ([cdkiser94@gmail.com](mailto:cdkiser94@gmail.com))  
**ADMIN ASST.:** Carolyn Robbins ([carolyn@frucc.org](mailto:carolyn@frucc.org))  
**FINANCIAL ADMIN.:** Paula Lopp ([paula@frucc.org](mailto:paula@frucc.org))

## 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:** Rev. June Grubb

**SOUND TECH:** Dave Fulton

**DIGITAL MEDIA TECHNICIAN:** Jeremy Peterson

**USHERS:** Ann Hoffman, Doris Sink, Eddie Yates

**ACOLYTE:** Lucas Peterson

**BIBLE STEWARD:** Ethan Lovell

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

\*Jeremy Lovell (recovering from surgery), \*Alisa Johnson (recovering from surgery), Edgar Miller (recovering from surgery at home), Marge Doty, Lee Ann Peele (recovering from surgery at home)

J.W. Bates, 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:** \*Matt Hartle (Casey Hartle's brother), \*Evelyn York (friend of Alane Holste), \*The Family of Ruth "P-nut" Kennedy (friend of Alane Holste), Amanda Fulton and Nancy Zimmerman (daughter-in-law of Dave and Glenyce Fulton and her sister whose mother passed away on November 29), Lacy Belcher (Cathy Waitman's aunt), Nicole Holste (Alane Holste's sister-in-law), Joe Carpenter and Chuck Woodson (neighbors of Eugenia Holste), Marc Frye (son of the late Doris Frye, Ashley Thomason (Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's daughter-in-law)

## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS:

**12<sup>th</sup>...**Donna Coe

**14<sup>th</sup>...**Marge Doty...Merle Hodges

**16<sup>th</sup>...**Clayton Leonard

**17<sup>th</sup>...**Christina Grzech

### ANNIVERSARIES:

**12<sup>th</sup>...**Susan Morris & Charyl Clark

**18<sup>th</sup>...**Doug & Barbara Sink