

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
FIRST REFORMED UCC YOUTH & CHILDREN PLAY

Christmas COLLISION

by Rev. Evan Sieges


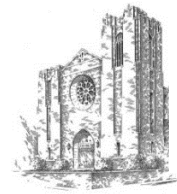
Sunday, December 19 @ 6pm
Fellowship Hall

FEATURING

Ralph & Randy from "A Christmas Story"
The Grinch, as himself
George Bailey from "It's A Wonderful Life"
Ebenezer Scrooge and Ghost of Christmas Past
Buddy from "Elf"
John McClane from "Die Hard"

SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY
Santa Claus

WORLDS COLLIDE, LAUGHTER ABOUNDS,
HEARTS ARE CHANGED

First Reformed United Church of Christ

Where People Discover...

The Love of God...

The Power to Love Others...

The Ability to Love Ourselves.

December 19, 2021
The Worship of God
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

"The Sussex Carol"
arr. Larry Shackley

Christopher Kiser

***Ringing of the Chimes**

Welcome

Rev. Elizabeth Horton

Call to Worship

We are seeking—

deeper faith, a place to belong,
the feeling that God is here in this room.

We are seeking—

joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit,
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

We are seeking—

the freedom to be, the courage to love,
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

We are seeking,

but here in this space,

We are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.

God is here. We are found. Amen.

Joe Browder

***Congregational Hymn**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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Invocation

Joe Browder

Lighting the Candle of Love

Response in Song

"Make of My Heart a Stable"

Ellen Peterson

Children's Church

Rev. Evan Sieges & Cathy Browder

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e-ter-nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an-gels; sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing; Je-

ye; O come ye to Beth-le-hem! Come, and be-hold him,
 of a vir-gin, a mor-tal he comes; ver-y God, be-
 all ye cit-i-zens of heaven a-bove! Glo-ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo-ry given; Word of the Fa-ther,

Refrain

born the King of an-gels!
 got-ten, not cre-at-ed! O come, let us a-dore him; O come, let
 glo-ry in the high-est!
 now in flesh ap-pear-ing!

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

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt.
 MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

ADESTE FIDELES
 Irregular

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Help deliver fruit baskets and Christmas cards to members at home.

You may pick up items from the Fellowship Hall following worship or after the Christmas Program this evening. Fruit baskets have name/address labels on them. Don't forget the bags with cards, too! **PLEASE CHECK THE LIST BESIDE THE BASKETS FOR NAMES THAT DON'T HAVE VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER.**

9:30AM Bible Study: In-Person & via Zoom
 "The Blessing of Home" (Luke 1:3 9-45) Facilitator: June Grubb

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

10:45AM Children's Church (Theater Room) Asst. Cathy Browder

Following Worship:
 Prayer Circle

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23:

4-6:00PM Clothes Closet Workday

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24: **HOLIDAY...CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED**

3:30-5:00PM

Drop off food items in the kitchen for the Saturday Take-out Lunch

7:30PM SPECIAL MUSIC PRIOR TO CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

8:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25: **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

9-10:00AM

Drop off food items in the kitchen for the Saturday Take-out Lunch

11:00AM-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 SERVICE (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

GIFT EXCHANGE...BRING A \$10 GIFT

WAYS TO SERVE OTHERS THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

- **DEADLINE TODAY:** Donate gloves, scarves, toboggans, and socks to worship on Sundays or during the Advent Prayer Walk 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 TODAY:** 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.

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Horton

Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Forgive us for failing to care for others. Give us the vision to see others as you see them. Give us the courage to reach out. In Christ's name, we pray, Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Scripture Reading

Micah 5: 2-5

Joe Browder

As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah, though you are the least significant of Judah's forces, one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you. His origin is from remote times, from ancient days. Therefore, he will give them up until the time when she who is in labor gives birth. The rest of his kin will return to the people of Israel. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They will dwell secure, because he will surely become great throughout the earth; he will become one of peace.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

"God Rest Ye Merry"

arr. Bell

God rest ye merry, one and all, let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God above in heaven a blessed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
and with true love and charity each other now embrace,
the holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!
Comfort and joy!

Gospel Reading

Luke 1: 46-56

Rev. Horton

Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty

one has done great things for me. Holy is his name. He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God. He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.

Sermon	"Close to Home: Seeking Sanctuary"	
Call to Offer Our Time and Talents		Rev. Horton
Prayer for Gifts We Give		Joe Browder
*Benediction		Rev. Horton
Postlude	"Go Tell It on the Mountain" arr. Craig Curry	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.*

MINISTERS: The Congregation of **FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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ADMIN ASST.: Carolyn Robbins (carolyn@frucc.org)
FINANCIAL ADMIN.: Paula Lopp (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: Joe Browder
SOUND TECH: Dave Fulton
DIGITAL MEDIA TECHNICIAN: Jeremy Peterson
USHERS: Ann Hoffman, Doris Sink, Rich Johnson
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)

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: *Ed Leonard (Sylvia Walser's brother), *Miller Abernathy (Sylvia Walser's son-in-law), *Ronald Yates (Eddie Yates' father), Matt Hartle (Casey Hartle's brother), *Evelyn York (friend of Alane Holste), The Family of Ruth "P-nut" Kennedy (friend of Alane Holste), Marc Frye (son of the late Doris Frye, Ashley Thomason (Ron & Heidi Hutcheson's daughter-in-law)

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS:	ANNIVERSARIES:
19th... Maxx Clark	19th... Lee & Mary Jo Jessup
23rd... Parker Horton	
24th... Bella Gentry	
Bryson Gentry	
Tim Potts	
Jay Whitley	