

First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second St., Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

December 17th, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

Our mission is to embrace people of every age and stage of life and help them become the most loving version of themselves as possible.



"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19

Welcome to the First Congregational United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

**Introit:*
“Candles of Advent: Faith”
Advent Choir
Lighting the Candle of Faith
Joel and Joanie Sietsema

(All will sing)

Advent candles warm and bright, fill the world with radiant light. Help us find the Promised One, guide us to the child who will come.

Call to Worship: (WL = Worship Leader, M = Ministers)

WL: None of us is the body of Christ by ourselves

M: We only reflect Jesus together, as one body with many parts

WL: That’s one reason we worship together and not separately

M: Too often we forget that true faith is a collective endeavor, with the whole being greater than the sum of its parts

WL: The stories we celebrate during Advent bring together old and young, rich and poor, sinner and saint

M: And while we think about Christmas as being about a baby, even that story is dependent on the crucial contributions of elders

WL: Thank you, God, for including all of us in your sacred story

ALL: We’ve come to worship and adore you, but also to recommit to living as Jesus lived.

**Opening Hymn*
Opening Hymn: 193 (R) “O Come, All ye Faithful”

First Scripture Reading
Luke 1:26-38 & 2:19
Ian Hotelling

Thank you, God, for the many ways you still speak to us!

Reflections on the Reading: “Words of Wonder” by Trevor Hudson
read by Duncan Palmer

A Musical Offering
“Mary Did You Know?”
Harrison Kalember

A Time with our Children
“Away in a Manger” & “Sleep, Baby, Sleep”
Performed by our School of Love Children
“What Are You Dreaming Of”
Performed by Some of Our Kidz and Moms

Offertory

(Today we participate in a special UCC Christmas Fund offering to support retired pastors with their pensions, healthcare, and emergency needs.)

Offertory Music

“English Advent Carol” – the Advent Choir

Gage Boughner - saxophone

**Doxology*

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

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 2:36-38

Thank you, God, for the many ways you still speak to us.

Sermon

“A Widow’s Witness”

Toby Jones

A Musical Offering

“Breath of Heaven”

Anna Fry

Prayers of the People & 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.

**Closing Hymn*

168 (R) “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Benediction

**Sung Response*

“Lamb of God”

Advent Choir

*Please note that we have two hymnals, one is red (R), the other is black (B).

*You are invited to stand if you feel comfortable doing so.

SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS:

Organist: Sandra Soderberg

Usher/Greeter: Pete Amar & Mary Fox

Liturgist: Gage Boughner

School of Love: Laura Hotelling, Sallie Anderson

Youth: Brenda Brummel

Deacon: Rokko Jans

Pastor: Toby Jones

Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs.

10:00am-noon or by appt

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Communications Coordinator

Jessica Benoit

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E-mail: office@firstuccgaylor.org

Jessica's Upcoming Schedule:

Tuesday 12/19 8am-11a/12p-2p

Wednesday 12/20 9am-3pm

Moderator: Vicky Rigney

E-mail: vickyrigney@gmail.com



Following worship, please join us in the Fellowship Hall where today's Coffee Hour will be hosted by Mary Evans, Mona Viviano, and Shirley Matevia.

