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**“At First”**  
**First Congregational UCC**  
**1400 North Elliott Avenue, Glencoe, MN 55336**  
**Church phone: 864-3855**  
**Adam Thompson; Pastor**  
**Church Website: [firstcongochurch.org](http://firstcongochurch.org)**  
**Facebook Page: [First Congregational Church, Glencoe](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchGlencoe)**

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**December 2022**



Plan to join the festivities as the Sunday School Children present the **“Christmas Story”** on **Dec 18th**. Shepherds, Angels and Kings will join Joseph and Mary at the birth of baby Jesus.

Christmas cookies baked and served by the Confirmands, will add sugary delight to our day of celebration.

**Please Join Us!**

**For A Candlelight  
Christmas Eve**

**Service of Hymns**

**December 24th @**

**7:00 pm**

### **A Heartfelt Thank You**

to members of the First Congregational Church family for your generous support of the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. The amazing effort of the team doing all the prep work, cooking & set-up demonstrated commitment to serving Christ.

Thanks to First Congregational and other donors, 140 meals were prepared and close to \$2000 was donated to the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf. God bless you all!

Blessings! Barb

### **“Veterans of the Cross”**

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

You have blessed the Christmas Fund with your generosity for many years. Your compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

**We will be receiving “Veteran of the Cross” offering on Sunday, December 18th.**

**Merry Christmas!**

## We Welcome into our Church Family

... Shirley Westall, who joined on Sunday, November 20, 2022. Please take time to introduce yourself.

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## On The Job in December

Deaconesses: Miriam Jungclaus

Deacon of the Month: Dan Kottke

In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin

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4. Jill Alsleben,  
Miriam Jungclaus
7. Lily Ann Kottke
13. Howard Bulau
15. Desiree Richardson  
Riva Schwarzrock  
Remy Schwarzrock
16. Erin McNellis
18. Mara Gould
19. Peyton Gould
20. Tom Winn
28. Kyle Robb
29. Adam Thompson
30. McKenzie Patnaude  
Sharla Defoe
31. Brenda Benson  
Dylan Dahlke

## A Very Special Christmas

This time of the year should be a time of peace and joy, as we recall that special night and that baby boy who was born in a manger on that starry night.

For the shepherds and wise men, can you imagine that sight! The love they shared could surely be felt.

As one by one they came to the manger and knelt beside the babe all wrapped and quiet on that very, very, special Christmas night!

By his birth we are given a special love, sent from the Father who reigns above.

So enjoy the festivities, food and gifts, too.

But remember his birth was meant especially for you.

Make this Christmas special and share that peace and joy. That came about by the birth of that baby boy named Jesus.

## White Christmas

### Thank-You's!!

A big thank you to all those who gave several wonderful gifts and money to the residents at St. Peter Treatment Center. Gifts and checks were delivered by Ken and Karen Stenzel.

For many of the residents, your gifts are the only gifts they receive at Christmas.

Mission/Stewardship Committee

Thank You! So much for generous donation of clothing, hygiene and cash. We are so grateful! Bonnie Zobel, Volunteer

## New to First Congregational – Online Giving!!

This quick and easy way to give is found on our website at, [www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/](http://www.firstcongochurch.org/serve/online-giving/) You can choose to support the church, the UCC, and/or our mission partners!



# Fellowship @ First

fel-low-ship | \ 'fe-lə-,ship

1: community of interest, experience, or activity

## SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

**December 14th - 5:30-7pm**

**Free Dinner  
Friendly Fellowship**

**Christmas  
Song**

# Sing - A - Long

*\*Just like caroling, but you don't have to be outside!*



**First** United Church of Christ  
**Congregational**

**First Congregational Church**  
1400 Elliott Ave N., Glencoe, MN 55336  
[www.firstcongochurch.org](http://www.firstcongochurch.org)



## **Advent 2022**

**Well...Advent, as a seminarian and a pastor, is a challenging and busy time. With over 40 pages of final papers and another 40 minutes of final presentations due in the coming weeks, Advent is not only a time of preparation and celebration of the coming Christ, but a time of prepare then celebrate the end of the semester. As I was doing more preparing, this time for the December newsletter article, I came across an article that took the words right out of my mouth, or rather, my page. So, instead of reinventing the wheel, I'd like to share this article by Asheritah Ciuciu.**

**It's the most wonderful time of year, isn't it? And while some scoff at carols being sung on the radio before December 1, Christians throughout history have embraced this season of spiritual preparation using Advent readings—short Bible passages read during the lighting of the Advent wreath. This sacred time invites us to slow down from all the holiday preparations and parties, take a deep breath, and remember the reason for the season: the eternal Jesus Christ taking on human flesh.**

**If you've ever struggled to keep the four Sundays of Advent straight, you're not alone. For hundreds of years, faithful Christians have observed the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day as a special time to prepare their hearts, but these practices have changed over time and place.**

**The first mention of Advent is found in ancient writings dating back to the sixth century, with some anecdotal mentions as early as AD 380 at the Spanish Council of Saragossa! So not only is it an old Christian practice, but it's also a very personal one, as churches have adapted the practice to suit their local parishes.**

**So, while there's no authoritative guide to Advent, we can find some commonalities in the ways churches have practiced the observance of Advent throughout history.**

**Generally, the themes and Gospel passages from Year A in the Lectionary that correspond to each week fall into these categories:**

**Week 1: Hope – Matthew 24:36-44**

**Week 2: Peace – Matthew 3:1-12**

**Week 3: Joy – Matthew 11:2-11**

**Week 4: Love – Matthew 1:18-25**


**Week 5 (Christmas Eve): Adoration**

**While the differences in weekly Advent themes may be confusing, we can unite in our desire to quiet our hearts during a hectic holiday season and worship Jesus. And the good news is that there is no right or wrong way to observe Advent as long as you're coming to God with a sincere and open heart.**

**With hope, peace, joy, and love,**

***Pastor Adam***

# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Deacon: Dan Kottke Deaconesses: Miriam Jungclauss Altar: Ann Wangerin</p>				1	2	3
<p>4 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Confirmation 10:40 am CE Group Leaders Mtg</p>	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>11 9:15 am Worship Service 9:30 am Sunday School Confirmation</p>	12	13	14 5:30-7:00pm Fellowship @ First Special Holiday "Sing-A-long" Edition	15	16	17
<p>18 9:15 am Worship Service w/ Children's Christmas Program Confirmation 9:30 am Sunday School Deacon's Meeting</p>	19	20	21 Noon-Trustee's Meeting 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	22	23	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
<p>25 9:15 am Worship Service No Confirmation <b>Merry Christmas!!</b></p>	26	27	28	29	30	31
						



## 2022 Living Nativity

Saturday, Dec 10th – 5 to 7

*This Christmas come and visit a “Living Nativity” presented by Glencoe area churches and community volunteers. Drive-thru Oak Leaf Park and view six different scenes depicting the Good News of Jesus’ birth on earth. Hand crafted scenery, live animals, biblical characters, and music will provide a memorable Christmas experience for the whole family!*

**Saturday, December 10th**

**5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

**Oak Leaf Park, Glencoe, MN**

**Enter from Southern-most Entrance and turn left at Vollmer Field  
FREE ADMISSION**

**Boy Scouts will accept Donations for MEFS (McLeod Emergency Food Shelf)**

**Event support provided by Thrivent Financial Action Team program**

*(If inclement weather, event will be postponed until Sat, Dec 17)*

# AWAKEN YOUR HOLIDAY *Spirit*

*A benefit in support of 2 local charities*

*United Way of McLeod County - Dolly Parton's Imagination Library  
and Common Cup Ministry - Hunger Free McLeod*

**Thursday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

***River House Kitchen + Drinks***  
***122 Main St. S., Hutchinson, MN***

***Social Hour 6:00 p.m. (Cash Bar)***

***Dinner 7:00 p.m.***

Live Holiday Musical Performances by  
Mona Hjerpe and "The Awaken Band":  
Adam Krumrie, John Rodeberg, Steve Olcott,  
Jon Lindekugel, Ronda Eckhart, and Brian Brosz

**\$60 per person**

Reserved seating available upon request. Seating is limited.

Choice of Dinner Entrees

- Apple Meatloaf
- Parmesan Crusted Walleye
- Chicken Alfredo with Bruschetta

Meals include mixed green salad, fresh bread, and dessert.

Tickets available Nov. 1 – Nov. 23 at River House Kitchen + Drinks

For additional information contact:

Cheryl Dooley 320-583-7512, [cdooley@hometownmn.com](mailto:cdooley@hometownmn.com) or

Kathy Silvernale 320-292-2619, [katemsilver@gmail.com](mailto:katemsilver@gmail.com)

Benefit sponsored by the BGB's (Joey Willmert, Kay Haag,

Kathy Silvernale, and Cheryl Dooley)

Hosted by River House Kitchen + Drinks

*Singing Friends Chorus*

*Christmas Concerts*

*2022*

*Saint Pius Catholic Church*

*2pm Saturday December 3rd*

*1014 Knight Ave. N. Glencoe, MN*

*All Saints Lutheran Church*

*2pm Sunday December 4th*

*511 Merger St., Young America, MN*

*Church of Peace*

*2pm Sunday December 11th*

*424 Franklin St. N.*

*Norwood, MN*





FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# LUNCH, BAKE & CRAFT SALE

Hosted by LWML & Quilting Ladies

SAT. DEC. 3RD | 9 AM - 1 PM

(Lunch until 12:30 pm)

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM EVENT



Baked Goods, Quilts,  
Wall Hangings,  
Art, Gnomes,  
Holiday, Dish Towels,  
Table Decor,  
Handmade Crafts,  
and more!



925 13TH STREET E. GLENCOE



PASTRY & COFFEE - \$4  
LUNCH MEAL - HOT TURKEY  
SANDWICH, SALAD,  
PICKLE, COOKIE OR PASTRY,  
COFFEE - \$10