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

December 2024

Join Us for the
Heartwarming
Holiday
Children’s
Performance

**"Hark! The
Harried Angel"**

This Christmas season, we invite you and your family to experience the joy, laughter, and inspiration of "Hark! The Harried Angel", a play adapted from the story written by Victoria Schultz.

Follow Hark, a spirited young Angel with a big heart and a tendency to take on too much. From heavenly halls to snowy towns on Earth, she learns about patience, teamwork, and the true meaning of delivering joy. Along the way, she meets a mischievous Harold, a quirky Donkey named Nester, and even braves Jack Frost’s antics - all to fulfill a mission from The Boss Himself.

Come celebrate the season with us and discover how one harried Angel became part of the greatest story ever told. We can’t wait to see you there! **During Worship on December 15th**



Please Join Us!

For A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24th @ 7:00 pm

Advent Wreath Workshop – December 1st

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a fun and faithful time. We’re going to be making Advent Wreaths for you to take home as well as for our members who are not able to make it into church. We’ll have all the supplies to craft the wreath’s along with the opportunity to hand deliver a wreath to our faith family so they too can join in the spirit of the holidays.

“Christmas Fund -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 “Christmas Fund - Veteran of the Cross” offering on Sunday, December 22nd.**

On The Job in December

Deacon of the Month: All Deacon's

In Charge of Altar: Ann Wangerin

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4. Miriam Jungclaus
7. Lily Ann Kottke
13. Howard Bulau
15. Desiree Richardson
16. Erin McNellis
Riva Schwarzrock
Remy Schwarzrock
20. Tom Winn
29. Adam Thompson
30. McKenzie Patnaude
Sharla Defoe
31. Brenda Benson



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!

Thanks to all who gave so many wonderful gifts and money for the residents at the St Peter Treatment Center. We received 9 blankets, 13 T-shirts, 21 Cross Word Puzzle Books, lots of personal items and cash. Gifts were delivered this past Monday by **Ken and Karen Stenzel**. You will make the residents Christmas a little extra special this year, for some of the residents, this is is there only gifts they will receive.

Mission/Stewardship Committee

For Annual Meeting

In preparation for our upcoming Annual Meeting, please review your personal information in the 2024 Annual Report and let me know if you've had any changes (i.e. address, phone, email, etc.). If any changes are needed, please call **Wendy on Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm with your changes!!**

Please let us know if you or a family member chooses to be removed from our membership list. Also, let us know if your birthday dates are being listed incorrectly. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 26th following worship**, so that means I will need your reports for the **Annual Report ASAP or no later than the 3rd of December**. Thank You! Wendy

Poinsettia Order

If you would like to order a poinsettia for \$15.00 in memory or honor of someone for our altar, **please call the church office at 864-3855 by Dec 17th**. Wendy is in the office on on Tuesday or Wednesday. You may take the poinsettia home after our Christmas Eve Service.

Pastor Would Love To Have You Join Him for Bible Study

on **Monday Mornings at 11:00 am**. They are meeting in the ****connecting room of the church****. This is a great opportunity to grow in faith, dive deeper into Scripture, and enjoy fellowship with others. All are welcome - whether you're new to Bible study or have been attending for years. Bring your Bible and an open heart! We look forward to seeing you there!

Interested in Becoming a Member?

No matter who you are or where life's journey finds you, you are welcome here and we would love for you to join our church family! New Member Classes will be held **Wednesday, January 8th and 22nd, 2025 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall**

**Please remember our Shut-In's
this Holiday Season.**

Pastor's Page:**Advent: A Season of Hope, Peace, Joy, And Love**

Dear Church Family,

December is here, and with it comes the Advent season—a time of waiting, preparation, and joyful anticipation. It's one of my favorite times of the year because it invites us to pause and reflect amidst the holiday hustle. Advent reminds us why Christmas matters and helps us focus on the miracle of Christ's birth and His presence in our lives.

For many of us, December is filled with busyness: shopping, decorating, and planning gatherings with family and friends. These are beautiful parts of the season, but they can also distract us from the deeper meaning of this time. Advent is our invitation to slow down, to make room in our hearts for Jesus, and to focus on the hope, peace, joy, and love that He brings into our lives.

Here are the themes of Advent and a few reflections for you to consider:

- **Hope:** Even in uncertain times, Christ's promises remain unshaken. What are you hoping for this season? How can you trust Him more?
- **Peace:** Jesus came to bring peace, not just in the quiet moments, but in the messy, chaotic parts of our lives. Where can you invite His peace this month?
- **Joy:** True joy is not found in perfect plans or presents under the tree - it's found in the presence of Jesus. What brings you joy right now?
- **Love:** God's love is the foundation of Advent, shown so clearly through the gift of His Son. How can we share that love with those around us this season?

Advent is about waiting—not in the rushed, impatient way we often feel - but in hopeful, expectant waiting. We look back to celebrate Jesus' arrival in Bethlehem, and we look forward with hope for His return. As we wait, we're called to live out His love, to be light in the darkness, and to share His peace in a world that so desperately needs it.

As we journey through Advent together, my prayer is that we don't just count down the days to Christmas but truly experience the hope and joy that Jesus brings. This is a season of wonder and expectation, and I pray that you and your family feel God's presence in a fresh way this year.

May the hope of Christ anchor you, the peace of Christ fill you, the joy of Christ strengthen you, and the love of Christ overflow from you this Advent season.

Peace and Advent blessings,

Pastor Adam



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday of Advent 9:15 am Communion Worship Service Advent Wreath Decorating Discipleship Meeting No Confirmation	2 11:00 am Bible Study	3 <u>Annual Reports Due!!</u>	4	5	6	7
8 9:15 am Worship Service Sunday School Confirmation	9 11:00 am Bible Study	10	11	12	13	14 5-7:00pm Live Nativity @ Good Shepherd Church
15 9:15 am Worship Service w/Children's Christmas Program Confirmation	16 11:00 am Bible Study	17 <u>Poinsettia's Ordering Deadline</u>	18 Noon-Resource/Trustee's Meeting 7:00pm Leadership/Church Council Meeting	19	20	21
22 9:15 am Worship Service Confirmation Receiving the "Christmas Fund-Veterans Of The Cross" Offering	23 No Bible Study	24 7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas!!	26	27	28
29 9:15 am Worship Service No Confirmation Worship/Welcome Deacon's Meeting	30 No Bible Study	31 Happy New Year's Eve!!				

2024 LIVING NATIVITY

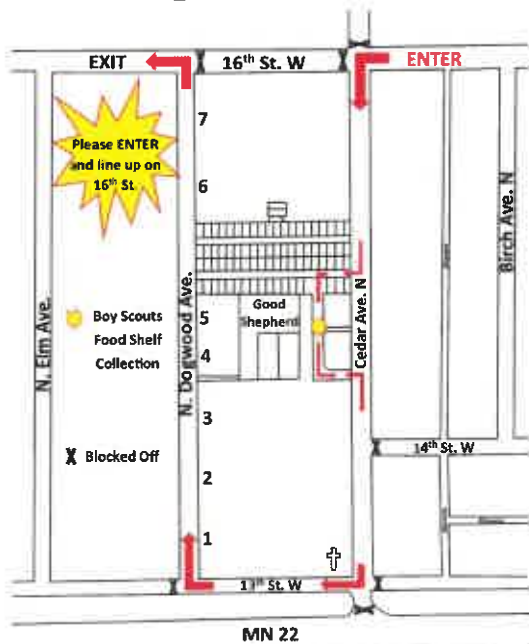


Saturday, Dec 14th - 5-7 pm
Presented by Glencoe Area Churches

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

**Enter from 16th Street - Watch
for signs directing traffic**

**Drive-thru and view a
“Living Nativity” depicting
the Good News of Jesus’
birth on earth. Hand crafted
scenery, live animals,
biblical characters, and
music will provide a
memorable experience for
the whole family!**



FREE ADMISSION

**Boy Scouts will accept
Donations for Food Shelf**

**If inclement weather,
event will be postponed
until Dec 21**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Leadership Team Minutes – November 20, 2024

DRAFT

Attending: Stan Hoof, Carmen Kienenberger, Bridget Kienenberger, Pastor Adam
Absent: Jim Cox, Jan Willand

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Stan at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was given by Pastor Adam.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the October 15th meeting were approved as written.
4. **Pastor Adam's Report/Update**
 - The GSL Ministerial Association, comprised of 6 members met at Maria's Restaurant. Agenda items included the upcoming community Thanksgiving Dinner, Living Nativity, Grace Bible Church (Silver Lake) also attended.
 - On December 1st the Thompson Family will lead members in making Advent wreaths, after church, for our eight "Shut-Ins" as well as others who would like to make one for home.
 - He has submitted his application to the UCC Pension Board.
 - He is continuing to pursue the concept of bring a Pre-School Day Care back to the church, reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce for resources. He is also looking for our past lease information with Wee Friends.
 - Pastor Adam is looking into the idea sharing a part-time Youth Leader with other UCC's. The job would be for 8 to 10 hours per week with 2 hours on Sunday and other days used in the promotion of our church. Bongards has shown some interest, along with Kevin Brown, a youth Associate Pastor.
 - He received a comment from a member regarding the Election email he sent. The person felt there wasn't equal recognition of those whose candidate won.

5. **TEAM LEADER REPORTS**

A. **Resource Team**

	<u>2024 Pledges</u>	<u>Total for Year</u>
October	\$ 3,455	\$ 59,276

This total averages out monthly. To date 14 pledges have been received.

1. **Foster Mechanical**, Mike Sanken – Work is primarily completed and no bill has been received.
2. **Sunday School Bathroom Repair** – The plumber has not gotten back to the church yet. Carmen will follow up again.
3. **Snow Removal for 2024 – 2025**: Neubarth Landscape has been hired for the season for \$2,500.
4. **Internet Issued at the Church** - Pastor Adam expressed his concern for the poor service and reliability of the Century Link internet. The Resource Team at their Nov. 20th meeting approved the transfer of service and equipment to Nuvera Internet Solutions. The price increase will be about \$45.00 per month.
5. **Dan K.** and Pastor Adam are working to get the perpetual light repaired at the front of the church. Foster Mechanical will be asked back to check the gas line situation.

B. Discipleship Team

- Missions – A tentative list has been compiled for our Missions of the Month program and will be finalized in December. .
- Christian Education – A Children’s Christmas Program on December 15th will be held during church.
- Memorials – The church received a memorial gift in memory of Elroy Allan earlier this month. Pastor Adam is still working to reach Julie Wagner.
- Birthday Greeting Cards – Cards were sent to 12 members in October. Next Discipleship meeting is December 1st.
- Student Loans – There are currently two student loans outstanding. Both will be reviewed as needed.

C. Deacons – The Deacons have agreed to pay Alyson Lagergren one Sunday a month for music during the service @ \$50. The remaining \$25 fee would be recouped by not having an organist. Pastor Adam has asked the Deacon of the Month to help with worship & communion with him at Long Term Care. He has also proposed matching up a Deacon with a Shut-In for home visits and phone calls.

D. Worship and Welcome Team - No report.

6. Old Business

- A. Eagle Brook Church concept – Stan said, after further review, he did not feel this church concept would benefit First Cong.
- B. Progress on migrating church data to QuickBooks – Stan, Jim and Bridget met with Pastor Adam and Wendy earlier in the day to get their thoughts with the progress of getting Quick-Books up and running. While there are still concerns, Wendy feels she will be able to balance the books and provide an accurate financial report for our Annual Meeting. If problems still occur, a person will be brought in to mitigate the issues in 2025.

7. New Business

- A. Report on Employee Evaluations – Both Wendy Graf and Ann Wangerin have received their Annual performance reviews. A memo to the Resource Committee will be sent requesting a salary increase for both beginning January 1, 2025.
- B. Approval of Mission, Vision and Core Value Statement – The Team reviewed and approved the wording that Pastor Adam and church volunteers prepared.
- C. Comments on the New Member brochure format -It was recommended that Pastor Adam’s name be added to the brochure and copies be prepared for distribution.

Motion to Adjourn – Carmen motioned and Stan seconded the motion to adjourn at 7:50pm.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00pm

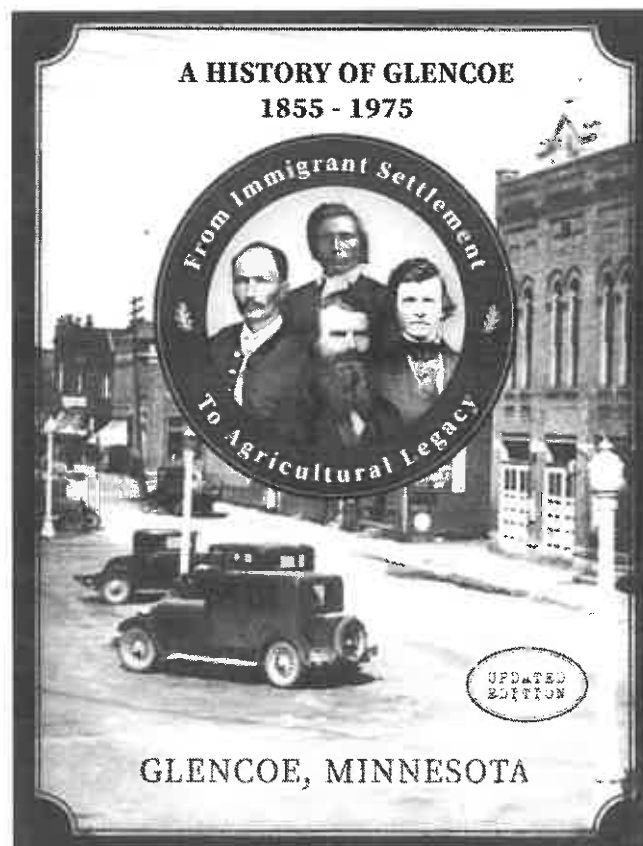
Respectfully Submitted,
Bridget Kienenberger

The History of Glencoe book is here!

It will be available on the following dates at the Glencoe City Center at the Glencoe Historical Preservation Society Room on the first floor:

Saturday, November 23rd at 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Saturday, December 7th at 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM



Books will be available at the City Offices

beginning Friday, November 15th. Cash or checks only.

Make checks payable to the Glencoe Historical Preservation Society

Cost of Book: \$59 - tax included

Book can also be purchased online at glencoehistorybook.com.