

CONGREGATIONAL
CLARION

First Congregational Church
Salt Lake City, UT

DECEMBER 2008



Away in a Manger.....

WORSHIP SERVICES

**Worship Service and Sunday School at 11:00am
Nursery Provided**

December 7 -- Second Sunday of Advent

COMMUNION

“A Voice”

Isaiah 40:1-5 & Mark 1:1-8

December 14 -- Third Sunday of Advent

LESSONS & CAROLS

December 21 -- Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Announcement”

Psalm 89:1-3 & Luke 1:26-33, 38

December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

Service at 7:30pm

“Christmas Gift”

Isaiah 9:1-6 & Luke 2:1-14

December 28 -- First Sunday After Christmas

“Now What?”

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 & Luke 2:22-40

First Congregational Church
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84109



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Web Address: www.firstcongregationalslc.org

Email: firstcongo@qwestoffice.net

Church Hours: Tuesday – Thursday: 8:30am - 3:00pm

Friday: 8:00am - Noon

Worship Hour: Sundays at 11:00am

- Minister Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum**
- Moderator Wendy Haupt**
- 1st Assoc. Moderator Paul Kelley**
- 2nd Assoc. Moderator Scott Brown**
- Treasurer Jerry Pala**
- Financial Secretary Herb & Sandra Shipman**
- Asst. Fin. Secretary Pam Dropek**
- Church Clerk Cathy Rockwell**
- Board of Trustees Scott Haupt**
- Board of Deacons Judy Weibel**
- Outreach Board Carol Price**
- Stewardship Board Pam Dropek**
- Christian Education Robin Smith**
- Membership & Church Development
Brad Ericson & Cissy Wolff**
- Parish Nurses
Diane Forster-Burke & Marge Kimes & Lynne Calame**
- Sunday School Superintendent Annette Tomlinson**
- Camp Fellowship for Youth Mary Wittke & Tom Hohler**
- Garden of Grace Scott & Jeanne Hansen**
- Choir Director Devon Bettolo**
- Organist..... Edna Hamilton & Bob Dobson**
- Church Secretary..... Kristi Hanson**

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR....

Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS - MAGICAL TIMES

Remember what this season of the year was like for you when you were a child?

The weeks leading up to Christmas were filled with excitement. You counted down the days to Christmas with growing anticipation. Your thoughts were filled with the possibilities and prospects of what Christmas would bring. Then, on Christmas Eve, you were at such a fever pitch of excitement that you just knew you would not ever be able to go to sleep, despite your parents' threats and admonishments.

I suspect that things are different for you now as an adult.

The weeks leading up to Christmas are more likely filled with tension as you battle the crowds in stores and dodge the manic drivers. You count down the days to Christmas with growing stress because your lists of tasks to complete are growing ever longer. Your thoughts are filled with shopping lists and party plans and social commitments. On Christmas Eve, you may not be able to go to sleep, despite your exhaustion, but it is because of a host of tasks still needing to be completed and not excitement.

Let me encourage you to take a step back during this season (even if it means that you don't buy that extra present for your second cousin twice removed whom you never see anymore) and reflect on the significance of the season of Advent, which the Church has established as a time to prepare ourselves for the worship of the coming Christ child and to ponder the mysteries of the love of God. Let me encourage you to set aside a time on Christmas Day to remember God's great gift to us all with your family.

Remember, "For unto us is born this day in the city of David, a savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Wishing you and your family a Joyous Advent and Christmas,

Grace and Peace, Michael

FROM THE SECRETARY

By Kristi Hanson

JANUARY CLARION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 14, 2008

*** Please note early deadline due to the Holiday**

PLEASE HAVE YOUR ARTICLES IN ON TIME

SHARE THE WARMTH TREE

Share the Warmth – Baby, it’s cold outside! The Share the Warmth tree will be available for you to drape your new knit hats, gloves, scarves and blankets for the Road Home beginning November 30th through the month of December.

There is also a need for new underwear and socks.

Thank you for your generosity!



CHRISTMAS EVE DONATIONS



The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches Ministerial Assistance and Enrichment Fund will be the recipient of a portion of the Christmas Eve donations.

LESSONS AND CAROLS



Once again the third Sunday in Advent will feature the message of Christmas in our celebration of Lessons and Carols. The Chancel Choir will offer beautiful music. Plan to worship with us on Sunday December 16th at 11:00am.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Everyone is invited to join us this Christmas Eve as we welcome the Christ Child with our traditional service of carols and candlelight. The service will begin at 7:30pm. We will hear the traditional words of Christmas from the gospel of Luke. We will observe the nativity scene as portrayed by our Pilgrim



Fellowship youth. And finally, we will celebrate Christmas with candlelight sweeping through the sanctuary as we sing “Silent Night.” A time of coffee and fellowship will follow the worship service.

COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE – COFFEE HOUR

As you are doing your holiday baking, please set aside some cookies for the Christmas Eve fellowship hour following the service. Please bring your baked goods to the church kitchen before the service on the 24th. Thank You.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Christmas is in the air and soon we’ll be casting parts for the Sunday School Christmas play. Children can sign up for speaking or non-speaking parts on the bulletin board in the gym. Parts will be assigned after everyone has signed up. Rehearsal will be held December 19th from 6-8 p.m. Pizza will be served prior to the rehearsal, and we will be fitting costumes afterward. A soup lunch will be held after church on December 21, and the program will begin at 12:45 p.m. following lunch.

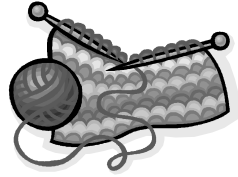
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

Bill and Lottie Felkner will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary at an Open House on January 3, 2009 from 2 to 4 PM, at 1785 South Wasatch Drive (about 2700 East). Everyone is invited to stop by for light refreshments. No gifts please.

KNIT ONE- PURL TWO CALLING ALL KNITTERS

By: Glenda LeHoux

For some time now, Jane Johnson, myself and others have been interested in starting a "prayer shawl" ministry at FCC. This ministry would involve knitting or crocheting shawls/throws/wraps to be delivered with our prayers, our love, and our well wishes to members of the congregation who are shut-in or ill. On a smaller scale, we also hope to produce scarves, mittens and hats for our annual share the warmth tree and other charities. We are looking for other people who would like to join us in friendship and fellowship and fun to create this ministry. We welcome all levels of knitters from beginners to advanced. At this time, we have only the idea and no format for our ministry; that would be a group decision. If you are interested in participating, please contact either Jane Johnson (jjohnson2163@hotmail.com) or Glenda LeHoux(lehoux1@msn.com) or speak with either of us any Sunday at church. In the meantime, keep on knitting!



ORATORIO SOCIETY "MESSIAH" **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th**

The Oratorio Society of Utah will present its 93rd rendition of Handel's Oratorio "Messiah" at Libby Gardner Hall on the University of Utah campus at 7:00pm. The society was founded in 1915 and has presented the "Messiah" every year since then. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the box office or at the door. Bob and Pat Zancanella are members of the society chorus.

CLARION OPTIONS

We continue to need to know how you would want to receive the CLARION. So far, we have only heard from about 33% of the folks who receive this publication. We do not have enough responses to know how to proceed. Let us know your preference of: Having the CLARION e-mailed to you, Picking it up at the church; or Continuing to receive it by USPS.



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THE CLARION

Please check the box of how you would like to receive the Clarion and return to the church office. Thank You

Name _____

- I would like to continue to receive the Clarion by mail.
- I would like to pick up a hard copy of the Clarion at the church
- I would like to receive the Clarion by email

TRUSTEES

By: Scott Haupt

Progress in the fireside room is almost complete. Please thank Scott and Jeanne Hansen amongst others for their efforts to complete the project. A new counter top in the kitchen is next. After that we will start to tackle the bathrooms one at a time. Building access is always a difficult decision. We think it is best to limit the number of keys. We are exploring a keypad lock so that we can control access better.

Finally, we have no designated maintenance person. As a Trustee, I know you all see small and large projects that need tackling. It is too difficult a task for the Trustees to complete all of these. Neither is it right to ask it of a few individuals to take on all of these as it is all of our church. The Trustees will create a task board for people to enter projects, small and large, that they see could use attention, but also each of you can sign up for these projects. This would be a great help to the Trustees and great Church service.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC RESULTS

ABYSMAL! Have you people lost your minds? If you have been prescribed Blood Pressure medication get that prescription filled! If you take Blood Pressure medication TAKE IT DAILY, not occasionally. Blood pressure refers to the force exerted by circulating blood on the walls of blood vessels. Your blood pressure should be 120/80. Think of it this way, the top numbers refers to the heart at work, the bottom number represents the heart at "rest". You do not want the bottom number to approach the top number. That would mean the heart at rest is working as hard as it is at work. P.S. The ONLY person whose blood pressure was normal was Susan Olson.

In Good Health, Your Parish Nurses