

CONGREGATIONAL CLARION

2150 FOOTHILL DRIVE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
801-487-1357

DECEMBER 2014



2014 WORSHIP PLANNING – December

DEC 7 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT & COMMUNION

SERMON – “IN THE WILDERNESS”

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

HYMNS – 35 – Morning Has Broken

699 – Let Us Break Bread Together

153 – Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

DEC 14 – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS AT 11:00 AM

DEC 21 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHILDREN’S PROGRAM DURING WORSHIP

LUNCHEON FOLLOWING

SERMON – “TO BEAR A SON”

SCRIPTURE – Psalm 89:1-4 & Luke 1:26-38

HYMNS – 179 – Joy To The World

184 – What Child Is This

203 – Away In A Manger

DEC 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT 7:30 PM

DEC 28 – 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

SERMON – “HALLELUJAH”

SCRIPTURE – Psalm 148 & Galatians 4:4-7

HYMNS – 189 – Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Christmas Hymn Requests

**First Congregational Church
2150 S. Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84109**

Phone: (801) 487-1357

Fax: (801) 466-1331

Email: firstcongo@qwestoffice.net

Website: www.firstcongregationalslc.org



Office Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday: 8:30am – 3:00pm

Friday: 8:00am – Noon

Worship Hour: Worship Hour at 11:00am

Nursery Provided

Minister:	Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum
Moderator:	Carol Price
1st Assoc. Moderator:	Ron Sawdey
2nd Assoc. Moderator:	Ted Stephenson III
Treasurer:	Paul Kelley
Financial Secretary:	Sandra Shipman
Asst. Fin. Secretary:	Pam Dropek
Church Clerk:	Ken Rockwell
Board of Trustees:	Mike McIntire
Board of Deacons:	Phil LeHoux
Outreach Board:	Robin Smith
Christian Education:	Emily Weibel
Membership:	Kathy Souba
Parish Nurses:	Diane Forster-Burke, Marge Kimes
Camp Fellowship:	Christine Madsen and Shaun McIntire
Garden of Grace:	Scott & Jeanne Hansen
Choir Director:	Devon Bettolo
Organist:	Bob Dobson
Church Secretary:	Kristi Hanson

REFLECTIONS FROM THE REV.....

Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum

THE TIME OF ADVENT

Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation. It is a time of not yet. Historically, we live in the reality that Christmas, as in the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ, has already come; we are now looking back in time almost 2000 years. Spiritually, though, we live looking forward to the hope of Christmas that is still to come. During this season of Advent, I invite you to prepare yourself spiritually for the season.

In Isaiah 2:1-5, one of the Biblical texts for the Season of Advent, the prophet wrote:

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

**the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.**

**³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."**

**For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.**

**⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.**

**⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD**

If you had the opportunity to have a wish granted, and be guaranteed that it would come true, what would your wish be? Would it be a strictly personal desire? Would you wish for something for a loved one? Would your wish focus on health or wealth? Would it take a more global reach? With the ongoing reality of terrorist attacks, bombings, shootings, and the like, our wish might be for peace to come to all people.

That is at the heart of this reading from the prophet Isaiah. God has given him a vision of universal justice and peace that will be ushered in by God's reign over all the earth.

Sometime, in an unspecified future time, all the nations on earth will make a pilgrimage to the dwelling place of God. There will be so many people going to seek God's counsel that the text describes it as a flood moving toward God's habitation. Why do they go? They will journey to that mountain where God is because they will receive instruction and correction directly from God. There is no mediator – prophet, priest, or king – involved.

After the people have encountered God, they will act for the good of all people. Again, looking at the text, the people will “hammer their swords into plows and their spears into pruning hooks.” This reverses the call made in Joel 3:10. Weapons of destruction will become implements for creating life in the earth.

In response to this vision of the future, Isaiah calls the people of Israel to walk in the light of God **now**. Rather than being an excuse to do nothing while we wait on God, this vision becomes the motivation for us to be God's people in the world at this very moment. May we also heed this call.

Grace and Peace, Michael

***NOTE EARLY CLARION DEADLINE**



January Clarion Deadline will be December 10th. You can email your articles or leave them in the church office. firstcongo@qwestoffice.net

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS



The Church Office will be closed on December 24, 25, and 26. On December 30 and 31 the office will be open in the morning hours as needed. January 1 and 2 the office will be closed.

LESSONS AND CAROLS



On December 14, our church will be celebrating the Christmas season with a service of Lessons and Carols. Our membership looks forward to this joyous Sunday every year. Because the music and readings on this day make the holidays extra special, we would like to share it with others. We are asking members to invite someone you haven't seen in church lately or another friend to church on December 14th to share in celebration. A special coffee hour will be provided by the Membership Board and other volunteers (who are great cooks and bakers) after the service.

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.

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 on Christmas Eve. Thank You.

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. 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.

POINSETTIA ORDERS



Have you let the church office know if you would like a Poinsettia. If not, **NOW** is the time. Please come in or call in and fill out an order form (available in narthex) or send your information to the Church. Please indicate how many Poinsettias you would like and how you would like your dedication to read. Need your order no later than December 7th. Price for each Poinsettia is \$8.00.

SHARE-THE-WARMTH



The Share-the-Warmth Christmas tree will be awaiting your donations of new clothing and household items for the Road Home shelter during the month of December. Please donate new or gently used coats, hats, gloves/mittens and scarves. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

SPECIAL ADVENT SERVICES – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As part of December worship, we still need families/individuals to be part of our advent candle lighting for Christmas Eve. If you would like to volunteer for this, please contact the church office.

Advent Worship Schedule

1st Advent – November 30th

2nd Advent – December 7th - Poinsettia Orders Due

3rd Advent – December 14th – Lessons and Carols

4th Advent – December 21st – Children's Program and Soup

Luncheon Following

Christmas Eve Service – December 24th at 7:30pm



ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

The Alternative Gift Market for 2014 will be held one day only in the gymnasium on December 14 after church. The "Gifts Inspiring Change" catalog describing the gifts available for purchase this year can be found in the Narthex. Alternative gifts are gifts of peace and justice, gifts that are sustainable and that build security. These alternative gifts multiply and grow, sometimes exponentially, and offer hope and new life to people facing grave crises and need. They challenge the trivia of our modern culture. These are authentic gifts that people really use and cherish. They always fit and are never thrown away. Watch for information posters in the gym beginning in December. Please call Robin Smith if you have questions.

DECEMBER OUTREACH - will go to Ministering to Ministers organization. MTM serves individual ministers, their families and church organizations. The foundation is an advocate for ministers and their families in all faith groups who are experiencing a personal or professional crisis due to deteriorating employment or congregation-minister relationships. It works as a mediator to reunite minister and congregation when resolution of issues is needed.

UTAH FOOD BANK – WORK DAY will be December 13th from 10am to Noon.

FROM THE CE BOARD

We are looking for budding stars for the annual Christmas play. The play will be performed on December 21 during the church service in place of the Children's message. We will practice for the play during our regular Sunday school time on December 7 and December 14. Any youth in the church that would like to take part in the play please contact Pam Svikhart at 801-557-3941 or sign up at Sunday School on December 7th. Please be to church at 10:30 am on December 21 if you plan to be in the play. A special guest will be visiting after the service.

Any PF-age youth (6th grade+) that would like to be in the Christmas Eve Nativity Scene please e-mail Keli Burdette at burdko@aim.com. It is a tradition you don't want to miss. Please arrive by 6:30 pm on December 24 to prepare for the 7:30 pm service.

DONATIONS TO FCC

First Congregational Church relies on the financial generosity of the congregation for its support. Unrestricted giving pays for nearly eighty percent of budgeted expenses. Outreach spending comes entirely from contributions to church outreach projects.

Most gifts to the church are check or cash donations. FCC also welcomes gifts of stocks and bonds. Contributions can be tax deductible for donors who itemize deductions. The income tax treatment of stock and bond transfers may make such donations advantageous for some donors compared to check or cash gifts. A tax professional can help you determine which type of contribution is best for you. If you decide to donate stocks or bonds to the church, please contact the FCC Treasurer, Paul Kelley, for instructions.



While FCC may accept in-kind donations of property, be aware that the church reserves the right to decide whether it wishes to accept the property. The income tax treatment of in-kind donations to charities can be complex, and the responsibility of complying with tax regulations falls on the donor. If you are considering such a gift, please contact the church first.

Unless noted otherwise, contributions are deposited in the church's general fund and are used for budgeted items and unanticipated expenditures that Council or the Trustees approve. Designated gifts are deposited in specified accounts, and are used for the named purpose. From the perspective of fiscal management, unrestricted gifts are preferable, because they give the church flexibility in budgeting and responding to unexpected needs.

Contributions to FCC in memory of a deceased person receive special treatment. They are held in a special Memorial Fund account separate from the General Fund, and are used at Council's direction to fund major projects around the church. FCC used the Memorial Fund, for instance, to help pay for the new electronic sign and to install the lift between the sanctuary and lower floor of the church. Each donor receives an acknowledgement from the church, and a plaque with the deceased person's name is placed on the Memorial Board when donations exceed \$100.

Members and associates of the church who would like to make a contribution beyond what is needed to address the current budget of FCC may wish to consider a gift to the First Congregational Church Trust. The FCC Trust was created fifteen years ago to replace the FCC Endowment Fund. It is intended to be a source of funding for major financial needs of the church. Trust funds may be used only to pay for renovation, repair and expansion of church facilities and for start-up costs of new programs. The Trustees invest donations with an eye on growing

the trust to meet future needs while being prepared to respond to church requests for help with projects that exceed its current resources. In the past, the FCC Trust has provided funds to defray a major part of the costs of reroofing the sanctuary, installing the lift and purchasing the electric sign.

FROM THE DEACONS

As FCC catches up to the rest of society and gets into the “Christmas spirit”, which by retail standards started the day after Halloween (bypassing Thanksgiving entirely), it is comforting to know that our traditions are pretty well established. For starters, we didn’t bypass Thanksgiving entirely, though the Deacons were so focused on Christmas planning that we forgot the cornucopia for the first Sunday of November (did anyone notice?). It starts off with the traditional Hanging of the Greens the Saturday after Thanksgiving, in order to have the Sanctuary and Narthex decorated for the First Sunday of Advent on November 30. The calendar is a rigid taskmaster, and it is unfortunate that the Thanksgiving weekend is conflated with the transition to Advent most years. That tradition deserves to stand on its own (O Canada...). The rest of our FCC traditions follow and are intertwined in rapid succession: advent candle lighting, Alternate Gift Market, Lessons and Carols, decorating the Warmth Tree, and culminating in the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. These traditions are well-established within our congregation, but they still need constant nurturing, rejuvenation and support. This is helped along by the most important aspect: participation. How you ask? Well, come out for Hanging of the Greens if you can; sign up for ushering, hosting a coffee hour or liturgizing; light an Advent candle; write some cards; or, more simply, resolve to attend all Advent Sundays. Nothing says “festive season” like a larger crowd; it’s a great gift to yourself and everyone else who feels a bit more upbeat when looking around and seeing more

faces and sharing the opportunity to catch up about people's lives at coffee hour. Like most folks here at FCC, our church family is all that's left with whom to celebrate the entire season, owing to far-flung children and siblings, whom we may be lucky to see for a few days around Christmas. Let us all resolve to make an extra effort to support each other this year within our church family tradition.

Phil LeHoux

Chair, Board of Deacons

JOYCE GORDON'S CENTENARIAN BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Sunday, December 7th, 12:15pm First Congregational Church
Fireside Room during Coffee Hour

Mardi Gras Theme: Wear a mask if you like.

Your gift is your presence.

Joyce Gordon's 100th Birthday celebration will be held at Highland Cove Assisted Living Center on December 12th, 2014 between 5 and 8 PM. The center is located at 3750 South Highland Drive, Salt Lake City. The party will be an informal reception and all are invited. Please come and celebrate with her friends and family this monumental event.

Cards can be mailed to:

Joyce Gordon

Highland Cove, H-159

3750 S. Highland Dr.

SLC, Utah 84106



FCC Post Office – Address the envelope and place it in the appropriate slot to be picked up. Please remember to put a return address on the envelope in case the card does not get picked up. Remember to check the box for your Christmas cards. It is a fun way to exchange cards and saves you a stamp. If you wish to donate please do so to Camp Fellowship 2015.

GARDEN OF GRACE



We worked on the Fall Garden Renewal. A special shout out to Paul Kelley for his garden assistance over the years. Many thanks to him and others whom have helped us along the way.

Please help us complete the OLD TESTAMENT PATHWAY in Celebration of our 150th Anniversary and the NACCA meeting coming in June 2015.

Any questions contact Jeanne & Scott Hansen 801.583.0500 or at hansatel@comcast.net

Yes, I would like to Make My Mark in the Garden of Grace. The stepping stones are 1 ft x 1 ft. square, engraved with black letters. Each stone holds 35 letters including FCC at the top. Please print.

Options: A Old Testament Pathway – Book Stones \$30 Each Quantity _____

B Favorite Quote Stones - \$35 Each _____

C Personalized Stones - \$35 Each _____

D Garden of Grace Donation optional amount \$ _____

Helps buy plants and mulch

Total Quantity _____ Amount Enclosed _____ Date _____

Donated by _____ Phone# _____

Please make checks out to FCC – Garden of Grace

2150 S. Foothill Drive

SLC, UT 84109

Name _____



TREASURER'S REPORT

For Period Ending October 31, 2014

CHURCH GENERAL FUND	October	Fiscal Year-to-Date
Unrestricted Contributions	\$17,147.65	\$54,487.96
+ Other Unrestricted Revenue	\$3,940.07	\$16,141.45
+ Transferred to General Fund from Designated Accounts, Memorial Fund & FCC Trust	\$1,839.00	\$3,329.86
= Total Income	\$22,926.72	\$73,959.27
Total Expenses	-\$20,808.35	-\$74,566.29
= <i>Net General Fund Surplus (-Deficit)</i>	\$2,118.37	-\$607.02

Data for comparison

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Contributions	\$55,088.00
YTD Budgeted Total Income	\$75,373.00
YTD Budgeted Total Expenses	-\$78,367.02
Amt YTD Surplus is ahead of (+) or behind (-) Budget	\$2,387.00

DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS

	October	Fiscal Year-to-Date
Designated Contributions		
All Outreach Contributions	\$853.29	\$3,914.69
Other Designated Contributions	\$55.00	\$287.00
= <i>Total Designated Contributions</i>	\$908.29	\$4,201.69

December Outreach – Ministering to Ministers

~ December 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA Meeting 6:30pm	2 Deacons Meeting 7pm Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	3 Men's Breakfast 7am	4	5	6
7 2 nd Advent Communion	8 AA Meeting 6:30pm	9 Trustees Meeting 7pm Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	10 ** EARLY CLARION DEADLINE	11	12	13
14 3 rd Advent Lessons and Carols Alternative Gift Market Following worship CE Meeting before service Outreach Meeting following Worship	15 AA Meeting 6:30pm	16 2015 NACCC Host Committee Meeting 7pm Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	17 Council Meeting 7pm	18	19	20
21 4 th Advent Children's Program During 11am worship Luncheon Following	22 AA Meeting 6:30pm	23 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm	25 Christmas Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28	29 AA Meeting 6:30pm	30 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym Church office Open during morning hours	31 Church office open during morning hours	Notes:		

~ January 2015 ~

~ January 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3
4 Communion	5 AA Meeting 6:30pm	6 Deacons Meeting 7pm Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	7 Men's Breakfast 7am	8	9	10
11 CE Meeting before service Outreach Meeting following Worship	12 AA Meeting 6:30pm	13 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym Trustees Meeting 7pm	14	15	16	17
18	19 AA Meeting 6:30pm	20 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	21 Council Meeting 7pm Clarion Deadline	22	23	24
25 Anniversary Sunday Rev. Dr. Doug Lobb Preaching	26 AA Meeting 6:30pm	27 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	28	29	30	31

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2150 S. Foothill Drive

SLC, Utah 84109

December 2014

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED