

CONGREGATIONAL CLARION

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

DECEMBER 2017



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

Phone: (801) 487-1357

Email: firstcongo@qwestoffice.net

Website: www.firstcongregationalslc.org



Office Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday: 8:30am – 3:00pm

Friday: 8:00am – Noon

Sunday Worship Services:

Morning Brew at 9:30am

Traditional Worship at 11:00am

Nursery Provided

Senior Minister:	Rev. Marijke Rossi
Moderator:	Tom Simons
1st Assoc. Moderator:	Marge Kimes
2nd Assoc. Moderator:	Wendy Haupt
Treasurer:	Scott Hanson
Financial Secretary:	Mike McIntire
Church Clerk:	Ken Rockwell
Board of Trustees:	Mike McIntire
Board of Deacons:	Carla McIntire
Outreach Board:	Diane Forster-Burke
Christian Education:	Pam Svihart
Membership Board:	Cissy Wolff
Parish Nurses:	Diane Forster-Burke, Marge Kimes, Lynne Calame
Camp Fellowship:	Christine Madsen and Shaun McIntire
Garden of Grace:	Scott & Jeanne Hansen
Choir Director:	Devon Bettolo
Organist:	Teresa Clawson
Church Secretary:	Kristi Hanson



DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

December 3, 2017

1st Sunday of Advent (blue)

Was Jesus' Genealogy important?

Psalm 80 (NIV), Matthew 1:1-17(MSG)

December 10, 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

What Makes Mary so Important?

Psalm 85(NIV), Matthew 1:18-25(MSG)

December 15, 2017 7:00pm

Grief/Healing Service

December 17, 2017

3rd Sunday of Advent

Lessons & Carols

December 24, 2017

4th Sunday of Advent

Wise Men seek Him

Psalm 89 1-4, 19-26(NIV), Matthew 2:1-12(NIV)

December 24

Transforming Light

Psalm 96, Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Eve

December 25

Christmas Day

No Service

December 31

Jesus, The Promised Son

Psalm 148(NIV), Luke 2:22-40(NIV)



FROM THE REV...

Rev. Marijke Rossi

Blessed Advent to all. This is a magical time of year. The Christmas season has always been a source of excitement, comfort and loving presence of God. We will be lighting candles, singing and celebrating. Christmas can also be a time of deep sadness for some who have lost family members and feel particularly lonely and grieving. We will have a service to honor our feelings of loss and loneliness on December 15th, at 7pm in the chapel. This service will be a source of comfort as we use the ritual of candle lighting, sing songs and read scripture. We will come together with the knowledge that we can be comforted in the presence of God and friends.

Let us shine the light of the Divine to all. Blessed Christmas

***NOTE EARLY CLARION DEADLINE**



January Clarion Deadline will be December 13th. You can email your articles or leave them in the church office. firstcongo@qwestoffice.net

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS



The Church Office will be closed December 22nd. December 26th and 27th office closed. Office open in the morning hours on the 28th and 29th. Emails and messages will be checked regularly.

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.

UTAH FOOD BANK – WORK DAY will be December 9th from 10am to Noon.

LESSONS AND CAROLS



On December 17th, 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 17th to share in celebration.

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.

SHARE-THE-WARMTH

This Christmas season share the warmth by donating hats, gloves, coats, scarves or other warm clothing to decorate our Share the Warmth Tree. The tree will be in the narthex throughout the month of December.

SPECIAL ADVENT SERVICES – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As part of December worship, we still need families/individuals to be part of our advent candle lighting. If you would like to volunteer for this, please check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the board room or talk to a deacon.

Advent Worship Schedule

1st Advent – December 3rd – Alternative Gift Market

2nd Advent – December 10th

3rd Advent – December 17th – Lessons and Carols

4th Advent – December 24th

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



ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

The Alternative Gift Market for 2017 will be held one day only in the gymnasium on December 3rd after church. 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.

GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS - Written By Diane Forster-Burke

On December 3rd after church, there will be two opportunities for Christmas shopping in our gym. The Alternative Gift Market (www.alternativegift.org) will be available where you can fund an item that promotes sustainability, health, or education for people in the world through a non-profit organization as a gift for those who already have so much. We will also have Bead for Life (www.beadforlife.org) gift items for sale. This is an organization working with poor women in Uganda to teach them

to make items and to create a business to support themselves and their families. (They are similar to the 10,000 Villages who used to visit us although they have no store front that costs them overhead). Please come and see what is available for purchase through either or both organizations.

Outreach Family Who Needs Support for the Holidays

We have a family for whom we need provide some Christmas gifts. They are from the Granite School District. Their situation is: Mom and Dad have left the family, and brother and girlfriend are raising the children.

8 year old, female, wants Barbie house

7 year old, male, wants remote control cars

4 year old, male wants remote control cars

9 month old baby, male

17 year old, female, has no preference

No preference from the brother or his girlfriend. (What about some gift cards for food or clothing?)

Our challenge is that the deadline to get these gifts (or gift cards) to the Granite Education Foundation is **December 11**. We need all donations in by Sunday December 10. Granite Education Foundation will deliver the gifts.

There will be a poster board put up during the Hanging of the Greens with post it notes of the requests.

Women's Lunch Dec 22nd

Come to a Christmas pot luck lunch with the women of the church at 12pm on Dec 22. This is always a fun time to get to know women in the church and enjoy some delicious food.

December 2017 Outreach - Operation Gratitude

The financial recipient of donations during the month of December will be Operation Gratitude. Operation Gratitude was founded in 2003 to lift the spirits and meet the evolving needs of the U.S. Military and First Responders. More than 95% of all financial donations are devoted to Program Services. Operation Gratitude annually sends 200,000+ care packages filled with food, entertainment, hygiene, and handmade items, plus personal letters of appreciation to Veterans, First Responders, New Recruits, Wounded Heroes, their Care Givers, and to individually named U.S. service members deployed overseas and their families waiting at home. Note that Operation Gratitude also supports disaster relief (such as from recent fires and hurricanes) by being able to quickly deliver needed items to first responders in affected areas. **Since its inception in 2003, Operation Gratitude volunteers have shipped nearly 2 million care packages.**

Merry Christmas



December 2017 FCC Community Movie Schedule

Get ready for Christmas -- Please come and experience the joy of the Christmas Season with some fun, inspiring movies to help motivate us during this busy time of year. As always, popcorn will be served.

Date	Movie	Description
Wed November 29th 6:30 pm	<u>Meet John Doe</u>	This classic 1941 Frank Capra love story stars screen legends Barbara Stanwyck and Gary Cooper. 122 minutes
Wed December 6th 6:30 pm	<u>The Bishop's Wife</u>	Cary Grant, Loretta Young, and David Niven star in this 1947 Christmas Comedy Classic. Is Dudley an angel or a demon? Beautiful music - 109 Minutes
Wed December 13th 6:30pm	<u>Scrooge, the Musical</u>	Don't miss Alec Guinness' portrayal of Jacob Marley as he haunts his old partner, Ebenezer Scrooge (Albert Finney). Beautiful, funny, poignant, and a little scary with messages and beautiful songs of the true meaning of Christmas Spirit – make that 3 Christmas Spirits. 113 minutes
Wed December 20th 6:30 pm	No Movie Tonight Due to Council Meeting	
Wed December 27th 6:30 p.m.	<u>Pocketful of Miracles</u>	Frank Capra remade his own movie, <u>Lady for a Day</u> , in this funny, screwball 1961 comedy set in the Prohibition era just in time for New Year's Eve. Bette Davis, Glenn Ford, Hope Lang, Ann-Margaret (in her film debut) and an all star cast delight in this feel good story. 136 minutes



FROM THE DEACONS

A Joyous Sense of Expectancy



Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30th. This year, Advent begins on December 3rd. The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ.

Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come and that He will come again. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation and anticipation.

Advent has probably been observed since the fourth century. During the Middle Ages it became associated with preparations for the Second Coming. More recently, in the last half century, it is most often thought of as a time of anticipation, joy, and happiness as we await the coming of the King.

The beginning of Advent is a time for the hanging of the greens, the decoration of the church with evergreen wreaths, boughs, or trees that help to symbolize the new and everlasting life through Jesus.

The advent wreath is a popular symbol of Advent. Its origins probably date back to the folk traditions of northern Europe. It is a circular evergreen wreath with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the center. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. It symbolizes the eternity of God and the everlasting life found in Christ.

The evergreens of the wreath represent the hope that we have in God. Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting. The light of the candles reminds

us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring life and hope.

The meaning ascribed to each candle often varies from church to church, but in many traditions the first candle is the candle of hope and the second candle stands for love; the third candle, the pink candle, traditionally represents joy. And the fourth candle represents peace.

The center candle is white and is called the Christ Candle. It is traditionally lighted on Christmas Eve, and reminds us that Christ is the heart of the season, giving light to the world.

The Advent season is about hope, not just hope that the circumstances of individuals' lives might be improved, but that human existence has meaning and possibility beyond our present experiences. If our hope is only in our circumstances, as we define them to be good or as we want them to be to make us happy, we will always be disappointed. That is why we hope in God, so that God will come and come again into our world to reveal himself as a God of newness and possibility.

During the time of Advent we contemplate that hope embodied and incarnated in a newborn baby—the perfect example of newness, potential, and possibility. Maybe that is what hope is about: a way to live, not just to survive, but to live authentically amidst all the problems of life with a faith that continues to see possibility when there is no present evidence of it, just because God is God. That is also the wonder of Advent.

Sources:

<http://www.cresourcei.org/cyadvent.html>

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/advent1.html#ixzz3Fhz0VDCB>

OUT & ABOUT: JCC Artist Series

You are invited to an Art Event. Jeanne Hansen will be the Featured Artist at the JCC December 1-30, 2017. Exhibit on the 2nd Floor.

RECEPTION: Thursday, Dec. 7th, 5:30-8:30pm - w/Light refreshments MUSIC:RYAN HANSEN on vocals and keyboard

Jewish Community Center: 801.581.0098
2 No. Medical Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah
(across & north from the U. Med. Center)

Free art admission & parking: Check in at the front desk w/id.

Hours: mon-thurs 5:00am-10:00pm

friday 5:00am-6:00pm

sat,sun 8:00am-6:00pm

Enjoy- Hope to see you there! Jeanne Hansen 801.209.2823

Sunday School – Pizza Party and filling Luminaries

Saturday, Dec. 16th from 1:00-3:00 - Pizza Party Time! And filling Christmas Eve Luminaries at the church

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT ON CHRISTMAS EVE

On Christmas Eve, the church youth will be involved in certain activities. All youth participating are asked to arrive at the church 45 minutes prior to the service. Activities include: 1.) **All youth** are invited to place luminaries along the sidewalk to the church prior to the Christmas Eve service. 2.) The **Youth** will be performing the **Nativity** as part of the Christmas Eve service and should arrive 30-45 minutes prior to the service in or dress for their parts.

NEWS FROM CE – UPCOMING Sunday School and Youth Events: *The 1st Sunday of each month – Camp Sunday* – FCC Youth participate in the worship service, singing songs and collecting donations for Sunday School and Jayrald. (See “*Noisy Buckets*” description below.)

1st Sunday of each month -- “Noisy Buckets” – Bring your ***loose change*** on the 1st Sunday of each month. The FCC Youth collect loose change for Jayrald, the child from the Philippines whom the youth support through donations and gifts.

(See schedule on bulletin board at church) - Family Sundays - Children join their families during worship service. ***No Sunday School!***

12/2/17 - Hanging of the Greens – Families are invited to help us decorate the church for the Christmas holidays. Cookies & more fun!

12/16/17 – 1:00 – 300 - Pizza Party, and filling luminaries. Meet in the gym.

12/24/17 - Christmas Eve – Arrive 6:30 - FCC Youth & Jr/Sr PF place luminaries along the sidewalk and prepare for the Christmas Eve pageant. ***Arrive 6:30.*** Meet in the Chapel. ***Service at 7:30.***

For the Weekly Sunday School information please see the bulletin board outside the board room.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED - The CE Board is in need of Sunday School teachers. Please see the sign-up form on the bulletin board. You will find the dates that teachers are needed, the lesson of the day, and references to help you plan your lesson. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to talk to Pam Svikhart (801-557-3941) or Patti Garver (801-635-8726).

Health Tip From Parish Nurses

After consultation with Marijke, we decided to have a series on End of Life Care in the next several issues of the Clarion. Marijke is also trying to line up some speakers over lunch. That is TBD.

I wanted to explore Palliative Care vs. Hospice Care as this distinction was made at a recent conference that I attended.

Palliative care is a specialty field of medicine that helps by providing care for quality-of-life issues. It includes treating symptoms like pain, nausea or sleep problems. But it can also include helping you and your loved ones to understand your illness by: talking openly about your feelings, deciding what treatment you want or don't want, and helping you communicate better with your doctors, nurses, and other family members. This care can happen at any time during a serious illness. You don't have to be near death to get this care. This type of care can be provided wherever you're being treated for your illness. You can get it in the hospital, at your doctor's office, in a nursing home, and in your home. Palliative care is paid through Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance if you meet criterion. There is no time limitation on this service.

Hospice care has the goal to help you feel better and to get the most out of the time you have left, but you no longer get treatment to try to cure your illness. The focus is to have a "quality death". Hospice care referral is generally made by your medical provider when it is determined that you have approximately 6 months or less to live. Most hospice care is provided at home, but it also can be provided in an assisted living center, hospital, or a nursing home. We no longer have an inpatient hospice center in SLC. If you are at home, your family becomes the primary caregiver with the support (24 hour availability) of the hospice

team of nurse, social worker, chaplain, doctor, etc. Hospice care is a Medicare benefit. The agency is paid per day that you are “on service”. If you are still living and 6 months has passed, you can re-certify on hospice service. If you decide that this service is not for you prior to the 6 months, you can cancel it at any time.

It is important to understand your choices. Your parish nurses can help you to understand your choices and to find a good hospice agency.

<http://www.differencebetween.com/difference-between-palliative-care-and-vs-hospice/>

<http://www.caregiverslibrary.org/caregivers-resources/grp-end-of-life-issues/hsgroup-hospice/hospice-vs-palliative-care-article.aspx>

TREASURER'S REPORT

For Period Ending October 31, 2017

CHURCH GENERAL FUND	October	Fiscal Year-to-Date
Unrestricted Contributions	\$11,597.39	\$49,069.20
+ Other Unrestricted Revenue	\$4,023.39	\$20,088.53
+ Transferred to General Fund from Designated Accounts, Memorial Fund & FCC Trust	\$458.34	\$1,482.34
= Total Income	\$16,079.12	\$70,640.07
Total Expenses	-\$20,448.90	-\$72,875.80
= <i>Net General Fund Surplus (-Deficit)</i>	-\$4,369.78	-\$2,235.73

Data for comparison

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Contributions	\$52,095.00
YTD Budgeted Total Income	\$72,662.00
YTD Budgeted Total Expenses	-\$77,070.00
Amt YTD Surplus is ahead of (+) or behind (-) Budget	\$2,172.27

DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS

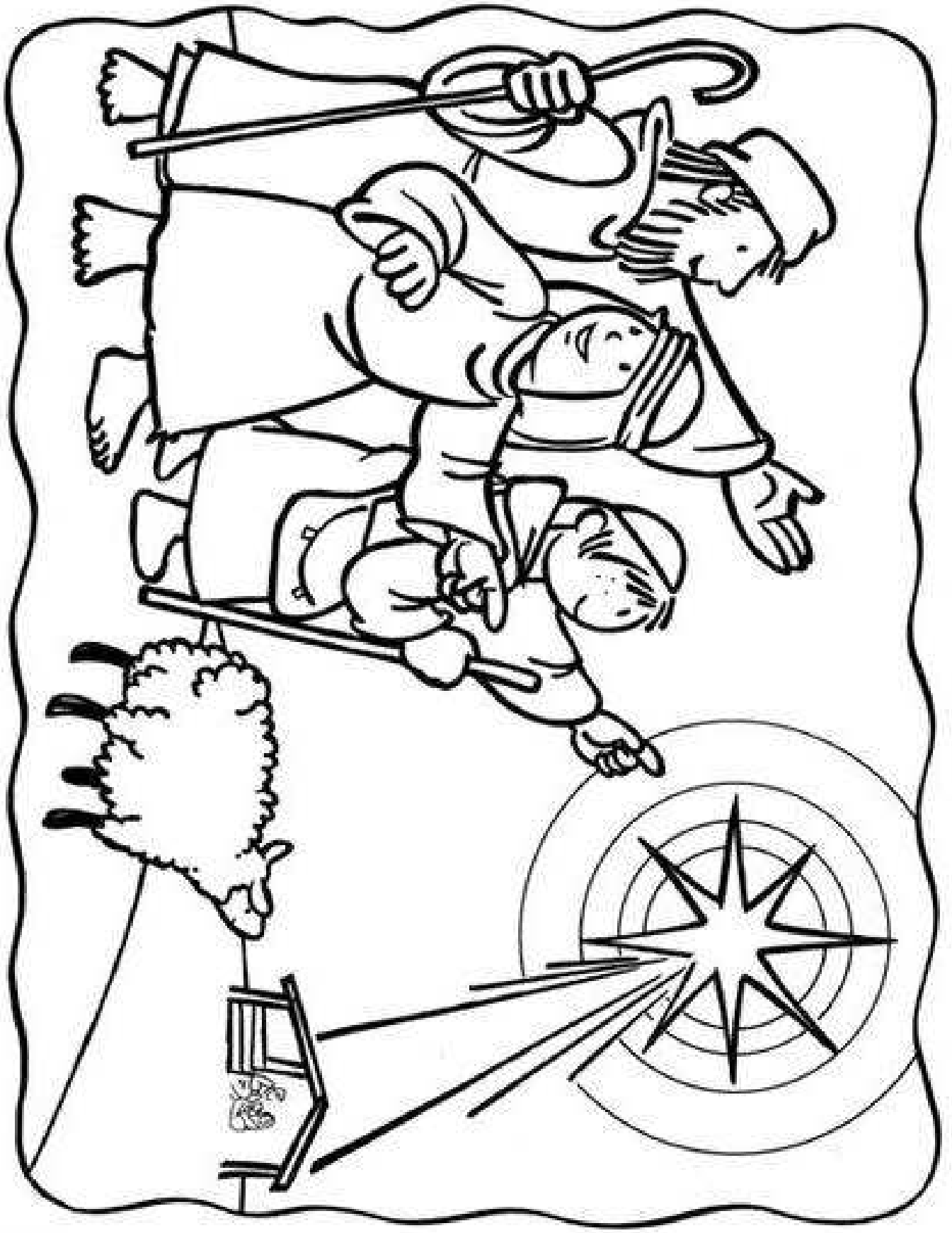
Designated Contributions	October	Fiscal Year-to-Date
All Outreach Contributions	\$1,045.00	\$2,315.00
Other Designated Contributions	\$482.58	\$535.74
= <i>Total Designated Contributions</i>	\$1,527.58	\$2,850.74

December 2017

December 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Morning Brew 9:30am Each Sunday	Traditional Service at 11am Each Sunday				1	2 Hanging of the Greens 9am
3 Camp Sunday 1 st Advent Adult Sunday School 12:30pm Alternative Gift Market and Bead for Life Following Worship	4 AA Meeting 6:30pm Fireside Room	5 Trustees Meeting 7pm Deacons Meeting 7pm	6 Men's Breakfast 7am Community Movie Night "The Bishop's Wife" 6:30pm	7 Book Review Group 1:30pm Heritage Room Choir Rehearsal 7pm Madeleine Choir School Basketball Gym Rental 7-8:30pm	8	9 Food Bank Workday 10am - Noon
10 Communion 2 nd Advent Adult Sunday School 12:30pm	11 AA Meeting 6:30pm Fireside Room 7pm Membership Meeting	12	13 Community Movie Night "Scrooge, the Musical" 6:30pm	14 Book Review Group 1:30pm Heritage Room Choir Rehearsal 7pm Madeleine Choir School Basketball Gym Rental 7-8:30pm	15 Grief and Healing Service 7pm	16 CE – Pizza Party and Filling Luminaries 1pm to 3pm
17 3 rd Advent Lessons/Carols Santa is Coming at 1pm Soup Luncheon following Worship Adult Sunday School 12:30pm	18 AA Meeting 6:30pm Fireside Room	19	20 Council Meeting 6:30pm Clarion Deadline *Due to the holidays I will be printing newsletter Thursday the 21st so all articles need to be in on time	21 Book Review Group 1:30pm Heritage Room Choir Rehearsal 7pm Madeleine Choir School Basketball Gym Rental 7-8:30pm	22 Office Closed Women's Lunch Noon in Fireside Room	23
24 4 th Advent Adult Sunday School 12:30pm <u>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</u> 7:30pm	25 AA Meeting 6:30pm Fireside Room Christmas Day	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed Community Movie Night "Pocketful of Miracles" 6:30pm	28 Book Review Group 1:30pm Heritage Room Choir Rehearsal 7pm Office Open in the morning hours Madeleine Choir School Basketball Gym Rental 7-8:30pm	29 Office Open in the morning hours	30
31 Adult Sunday School 12:30pm						

January 2018

January 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Morning Brew 9:30am Each Sunday Traditional Service 11am Each Sunday	1 AA Meeting 6:30pm Fireside Room New Years Day	2 Deacons Meeting 7pm Trustees Meeting 7pm	3 Men's Breakfast 7am Community Movie Night 6:30pm	4 Book Review Group 1:30pm Heritage Room Choir Rehearsal 7pm Madeleine Choir School Basketball Gym Rental 7-8:30pm	5	6
	7 TAKING DOWN THE GREENS Camp Sunday Adult Sunday School 12:30pm	8 AA Meeting 6:30pm Fireside Room	9	10 Community Movie Night 6:30pm	11 Book Review Group 1:30pm Heritage Room Choir Rehearsal 7pm Madeleine Choir School Basketball Gym Rental 7-8:30pm	12
14 Communion Adult Sunday School 12:30pm	15 AA Meeting 6:30pm Fireside Room	16	17 Council Meeting 6:30pm Clarion Deadline	18 Book Review Group 1:30pm Heritage Room Choir Rehearsal 7pm Madeleine Choir School Basketball Gym Rental 7-8:30pm	19	20
21 Adult Sunday School 12:30pm ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY AND LUNCHEON	22 AA Meeting 6:30pm Fireside Room	23	24 Community Movie Night 6:30pm	25 Book Review Group 1:30pm Heritage Room Choir Rehearsal 7pm Madeleine Choir School Basketball Gym Rental 7-8:30pm	26	27
28 Adult Sunday School 12:30pm	29 AA Meeting 6:30pm Fireside Room	30	31 Community Movie Night 6:30pm			



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2150 S. Foothill Drive

SLC, Utah 84109

December 2017

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED