

CONGREGATIONAL CLARION

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

DECEMBER 2019



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:

Traditional Worship at 10:30am

Nursery Provided

Interim Minister:	Rev. Alan Hammond
Moderator:	Wendy Haupt
1st Assoc. Moderator:	Kevin Haupt
2nd Assoc. Moderator:	Carla McIntire
Treasurer:	Paul Kelley
Financial Secretary:	Mike McIntire
Church Clerk:	Ken Rockwell
Board of Trustees:	Scott Haupt
Board of Deacons:	Phil LeHoux
Outreach Board:	Diane Forster-Burke
Christian Education:	Patti Garver
Youth Director:	Molly Connor
Membership Board:	
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

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

1st Advent – December 1st

2nd Advent – December 8th

Alternative Gift Market and Bead for Life Following Worship

3rd Advent – December 15th

Children's Pageant

Caroling at the Ridge and Friendship Manor Following Worship

4th Advent – December 22nd

Lessons and Carols

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



Moderator Moment Nov 2019

We are at a significant crossroads in our church. Our current wonderful interim minister, Al Hammond, will be leaving us after the Dec 24th service. The goal of our pulpit search committee now is to call an intentional interim minister or a settled minister by Easter, or sooner if possible. The Deacons are working hard to fill the pulpit as necessary with members of our congregation after Dec 24.

Fifteen individuals: Council, other members, and friends of FCC attended a retreat at our church entitled Hope Filled Discernment. We spent a day, with a retreat leader, discussing our church's past, present, and future. We expressed many diverse opinions about what direction our church should go, but we all feel a sense of community and support for each other, and we feel we have a unique church in our valley.

Two action plans came out of the retreat. 1) We will actively search for a minister until Easter, recognizing that if we do not find either an interim or settled minister by then, there will be a lot of stress on the Deacons and the congregation to fill the pulpit every Sunday. After Easter, if no minister is called (or in talks to be called), we will have to reevaluate our options for our church. 2) By our February Congregational meeting, we would like to have a shared mission (ministry) that all church members can get behind. Literature suggests that by having a singular focus for our church's mission may help us to feel more connected to feel a sense of purpose. Some groups that we felt have needs for ministry were at risk youth, the elderly, and those dealing with addiction. We ask the whole congregation to think of ideas, charities, or organizations with one of these groups in mind. If you have a group that you think our church could help in a significant way, please let a member of Council know.

Below is a prayer that Elizabeth Guss, our retreat leader, gave us to help in our journey as a church. We ask each of you to pray this prayer for our church.

Prayer for our Retreat

Lord, you have guided us in the Salt Lake Valley for 150 years.

We know you are guiding us still.

This is a time of significant discernment for our congregation.

We ask you for clarity as we plan our future, confident that you will help us know where and how we can best serve you.

We ask for charity and compassion as we consider different views.

Grant us humility and wisdom in abundance.

Keep us mindful of all that we can be grateful for – in our history and in our present community.

Inspire us with innovative thinking as we undertake the great work before us.

Amen.

***NOTE EARLY CLARION DEADLINE**



January Clarion Deadline will be December 11th.
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 24th – December 27th. Office will also be closed January 1st. 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.

LESSONS AND CAROLS



On December 22nd, 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 22nd 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 the Sunday before Christmas Eve or on Christmas Eve, or make arrangements with a member of council. 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.

December Outreach

Morgan Scott Project

The financial recipient of donations during the month of December will be the Morgan Scott Project for Cooperative Christian Concerns in Deer Lodge, Tennessee. This program was established in 1972 to minister to the impoverished residents of the Morgan and Scott counties in eastern Tennessee. The Morgan Scott Project is a mission project for the NACCC. Their motto is "A hand up, not a hand out." <http://morganscottproject.org/>

Twenty-nine percent of families in this area fall below the poverty line. The focus of the Morgan Scott Project is not simply to give handouts, but to help area residents establish a better life for themselves. They serve the elderly, disabled, and unemployed residents. This Project demonstrates the compassion of Christ in action. The Morgan Scott Project provides several needed services to the residents in this part of Appalachia. They offer important services such as: a food pantry; a Good Earth Garden Program helping families to plant, cultivate, and harvest their own vegetables and fruit; emergency aide to pay utility bills especially for senior citizens, home repair, job retraining, a summer day camp for 1st -8thgraders in July, scholarships for educational expenses (books, tuition, travel expenses) for high school seniors going on to college, a thrift store, backpacks for younger students, and a free medical clinic (2 days a month). They are in the process of setting up a low cost dental clinic in an adjacent community.

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.

GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS - Written By Diane Forster-Burke



On December 8th 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.

From the Deacons

A new church year will begin with the traditional Advent season, with a few changes and additions. First on the agenda will, of course, be the Hanging of the Greens on November 30th. Please join us starting at 9:00 am until done (noonish). If you can only make it for part of the time, that's okay too. Warm drink and goodies will be provided.

This year, caroling will also return as an activity, following the worship on December 15th, after reviving this old tradition last year. Although not finalized at the time of writing, it is planned to again serenade the residents (some of whom are members of FCC) at The Ridge and at Friendship Manor. Owing to the early Clarion deadline, the details have not been worked out at the time of writing, but it is hoped that a warm lunch of soup or chili will follow the caroling.

We will also be moving the Lessons and Carols Worship again this year to the fourth Sunday of Advent (December 22nd), in order to better accommodate the children's pageant during the Worship on Third Advent (December 15th). Of course, the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will again usher in Christmas.

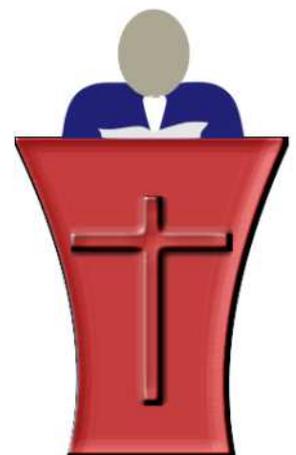
Lighting the Advent candles each Sunday will continue. If you are interested in participating, either as a group, family or individuals, please contact Rev. Hammond. He will have prepared liturgies to use; you do not have to compose your own. Similarly, there will be signups for readers on Lessons and Carols Sunday.



PULPIT SUPPLY

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will also end Al Hammond's commitment to serve as our "Interim Interim" since early fall. We would like to express our thanks for his willingness to rearrange his life and provide his service to us on such short notice. The deacons are in the process of formulating a plan to ensure that we continue to receive heartfelt and inspiring sermons following Christmas. As the Pulpit Search Committee continues to seek out a pastoral candidate to meet our longer-term needs, this will necessitate the scheduling of guest preachers on an ongoing basis. We were heartened by the response to our need to cover for Al's absences due to commitments undertaken prior to his offer to help. The numbers greatly exceeded the Sundays available, and those folks will be offered first choices of Sundays to share their message.

That will still mean that more voices and messages may be needed on an ongoing basis. Do you have a message to share of a story to tell? It need not be a daunting task, as the deacons will continue to provide support as liturgists and can also help with hymn selection. The topic can be chosen to tie into the weekly lectionary readings and theme suggestion or be on a completely unrelated topic or theme. We might even be able to help find appropriate readings to reflect a theme. For more information or to schedule a Sunday, please contact Phil LeHoux.





Health Tip – Our Annual Christmas Reminder

How to Avoid the Holiday Madness and Enjoy Yourself Bring Merry Back to Christmas



Is it not strange that we live in a world that we have a term, “Holiday Madness”? Remember when you were a child? A holiday was simple: less school, more play, which equaled more fun. Then you grow up and something happens. You start turning Christmas into one big to do list.

1. First and foremost! Remember “The Reason For The Season”. Step away from the fracas. Attend some church holiday activities. No bother. No pressure.
2. I must buy presents for everybody. Stop it. We stopped giving presents to adults. None of us need more stuff. We just give to the kiddos. Or if you want to include adults, how about not ALL of the adults in EVERY family.
3. In the area of gift giving – Stick to your budget. Don’t over spend. Christmastime can put you in the poor house.
4. I must send emails, messages, cards, letters, and postcards to everybody. Another added pressure. Postage is now what? Almost 50 cents per card. How about we keep up with our friends and family all throughout the year?
5. I must decorate the tree and the entire house. Slow down turbo! A tree, sure, and a few decorations, not the entire house; inside and out!
6. I must prepare a big and lovely holiday dinner. Does this sound familiar? My sweet, darling sister-in-law, loves to cook and entertain. She took on Christmas dinner for years: 30 hors d’oeuvres, 4 different entrees and at least 15 sides and 10 pies and cakes. The table was set with her magnificent Spode Christmas ware. She cooked for days. We ate for 20 minutes at the most. Then the cleanup began for at least 3 hours after the meal. Washing dishes, as most could not be put in the dishwasher. Pack up the Spode and carry to the attic. Finally we had an intervention. No more. Now we all bring a dish and eat off of “high end” toss away disposables. Cleanup is over in mere minutes. We play charades, board games, laugh and talk!
7. I have to bake all of my traditional Christmas cookies and candies to give to all of my friends, neighbors, and family. Do you? Do you really?
8. I must do charity and help others during this time of giving. It is a great idea, but how about you do this throughout the year and not pile this on NOW?
9. Do this. Finish early! My “all time holiday favorite” activity is to have all decorations finished, baking complete, presents purchased and wrapped, cards and letters out two weeks before Christmas . . . I love to head out to the mall, I walk around and watch the frenetics.
10. I must make the holidays special for the people around me. You are only in charge of “Holiday Happiness” for yourself.

Expect less, do less and enjoy more. Take a good look at the expectations you have for this season. If you’re hoping that your Christmas will be like something from a Hallmark movie, or a Thomas Kinkade painting, you might want to lower your expectations. Instead, hope that everyone is happy, healthy and gets through the day with minimal fall-out! Anything else is a bonus.

Sources: People Skills Decoded, December 9, 2009, Kendria Smith, Christian Culture Center, Tracy Dahl, Canvas Counseling, December 2017, Christmas FM.com

GARDEN OF GRACE



We wish to thank all those who helped us this Fall in the Garden.

Nick & his son, Judson Gilson, Paul Kelley, Jon, Ryan & Scott Hansen. It makes a big difference.

Enjoy the Garden & cut some fresh herbs from it if you need for your Holiday dishes.

Many thanks! Jeanne Hansen

OUT & ABOUT

The Park City Professional Artists Association I am part of is having a Creative Journeys show at the Kimball Art Center. Nov. 15-Jan. 5, 2020. There will be some free talks & art demo's.

Kimball Art Center More info: klmballartcenter.org

1401 Kearns Blvd. 435.649.8882

Park City, Ut 84060. Free parking

You are invited to my solo art show at the Jewish Community Center Sun. December 1- February 2020.

Artist's Reception on Thursday, December 5th, 5-8pm on the second floor. Free admission & parking, just bring a photo ID for the front desk. More info: slcicc.org

JCC

2 North Medical Drive.

SLC, Utah 84113

801.581.0098

Enjoy & call or text me if you have any questions.

Jeanne Hansen

801.209.2823

December Calendar

December 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Camp Sunday 1st Advent Joanna Hart, Preaching Worship Service 10:30am	2 AA Meeting @6:30pm	3 Deacons Meeting @7pm	4 Men's Breakfast @7am	5	6	7
8 Trustees Meeting 2 nd Advent Worship Service 10:30am Outreach Meeting Following Worship Alternative Gift Market and Bead for Life following Worship	9 AA Meeting @6:30pm	10	11 Council Meeting 6:30pm **Due to the Christmas Holiday articles need to be in no later than today. I will be printing on December 17th	12	13	14
15 3 rd Advent Children's Pageant Worship Service 10:30am Christmas Caroling Following Worship Youth Ice Skating Following Worship	16 AA Meeting @6:30pm	17 Office will be printing 4 th Advent bulletin Today	18 Office will be printing Christmas Eve bulletin Today	19 Office will be printing December 29 th Bulletin Today	20	21
22 4 th Advent Lessons and Carols Worship Service 10:30am	23 AA Meeting @6:30pm	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @7:30pm Church office closed	25 Christmas Day Church office closed	26 Church office closed	27 Church office closed	28
29 Worship Service 10:30am	30 AA Meeting @6:30pm	31				

January Calendar

January 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3	4
5 Communion Camp Sunday Worship 10:30am Rev. Joanna Hart, Preaching Trustees Meeting Following Worship in Board Room	6 AA Group Meeting Fireside Room 6:30pm	7 Deacons Meeting 7pm	8 Council Meeting 6:30pm	9	10	11
12 Worship 10:30am Youth Bowling following Worship	13 AA Group Meeting Fireside Room 6:30pm	14	15 Clarion Deadline	16	17	18
19 ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY Worship 10:30am	20 AA Group Meeting Fireside Room 6:30pm	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship 10:30am	27 AA Group Meeting Fireside Room 6:30pm	28	29	30	31	



Did you know Jennie Pond Atwater...

Jennie Pond Atwater was born September 14, 1865 in Oberlin, Ohio. Jennie was the daughter of Congregationalist Rev. Chauncey Northrop Pond. Rev. Pond had a special interest in the efforts of the Oberlin College missionaries in Shanxi Province, China, so it was not surprising that Jennie caught the spirit of the missionary enterprise.

She went with her husband, the Rev. Ernest R. Atwater, as part of the "Oberlin Band" of missionaries. The Atwater's served the Fenzhou station under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. During the four years she was there, she frequently wrote home to her mother and father describing her daily life, her children and her struggle to learn Chinese.

The problems she described were many. The missionaries were illprepared and poorly supplied for their work. The American Board provided \$500 for food, transportation, and other items, but it was insufficient to counter the difficult living conditions. Crowded and unsanitary conditions resulted in disease and death.

Jennie herself died at age 31 on November 25, 1896 of a bacterial infection contracted during childbirth. Her husband, his second wife, Elizabeth Graham Atwater, and Jennie's children - Ernestine (b. 1889), Mary (b. 1892), Celia, and Bertha (b. 1896) - were all killed in the Boxer Rebellion in 1898.

...Was A Congregationalist?

Did you know Lyman Beecher...

Though Lyman Beecher was the founder of a famous family of Congregational preachers, his father and grandfather were blacksmiths. As a student at Yale, Beecher was led to the Lord by Timothy Dwight, president of the college. Ordained in 1799 at age twenty-four, Beecher first served in a Presbyterian church, but he was not a good fit in that denomination, even being tried for heresy for preaching against the hyper-Calvinist doctrine that God has specifically elected certain individuals to go to hell, and they should just accept that. Though he was acquitted of heresy, he still left the Presbyterians to become a Congregational preacher.

During what he called his "continuous revivals," Beecher preached fervently about repentance and faith in Jesus, but also railed at drunkenness, Catholicism, and Unitarianism. He initially supported antidisestablishmentarianism, not wanting Congregational churches to lose their status as the established church of New England. Later, Beecher changed his mind and said that disestablishment was "the best thing that ever happened" to the churches. "It cut them loose from dependence on state support and threw them wholly on their own resources and on God."

In 1827, Beecher preached these words against slavery, crying that the flame of freedom still "burns, and still the mountain heaves and murmurs; and soon it will explode with voices and thunderings and great earthquakes. And then will the trumpet of jubilee sound, and earth's debased millions will leap from the dust and shake off their chains and cry, 'Hosanna to the Son of David.'"

...was a Congregationalist?

Did you know Lloyd C. Douglas...

Lloyd C. Douglas was a Congregationalist pastor who became one of America's most successful novelists in the 1930's and '40's. He grew up in Indiana, the son of a Lutheran pastor. He followed his father's career path in the Lutheran Church until 1915 when he became a Congregationalist, pastoring churches in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Akron, Ohio, and Los Angeles.

In his spare time he wrote a novel that was published in 1929 under the title, *Magnificent Obsession*. It sold millions of copies and was made into a movie in 1935. It is the story of a hedonistic young man whose life is saved after an accident, but causes the death of an eminent doctor. The young man then determines to become a doctor. He dedicates his life to serving others, and in the process, becomes a Christian. With this initial success Douglas resigned from the ministry to write full time. He enjoyed tremendous success as a novelist. Most of his novels became best sellers and several became popular films. All of his novels had moral and religious undertones. Two of his most popular works were set in the time of Christ.

The Robe, published in 1942, is the story of the Roman soldier present at the crucifixion of Jesus who wins the condemned man's robe in a dice game. It takes him on a journey to discover who Jesus really was and to join the Christian movement. *The Big Fisherman* is about the apostle Peter. Both novels were made into very successful movies.

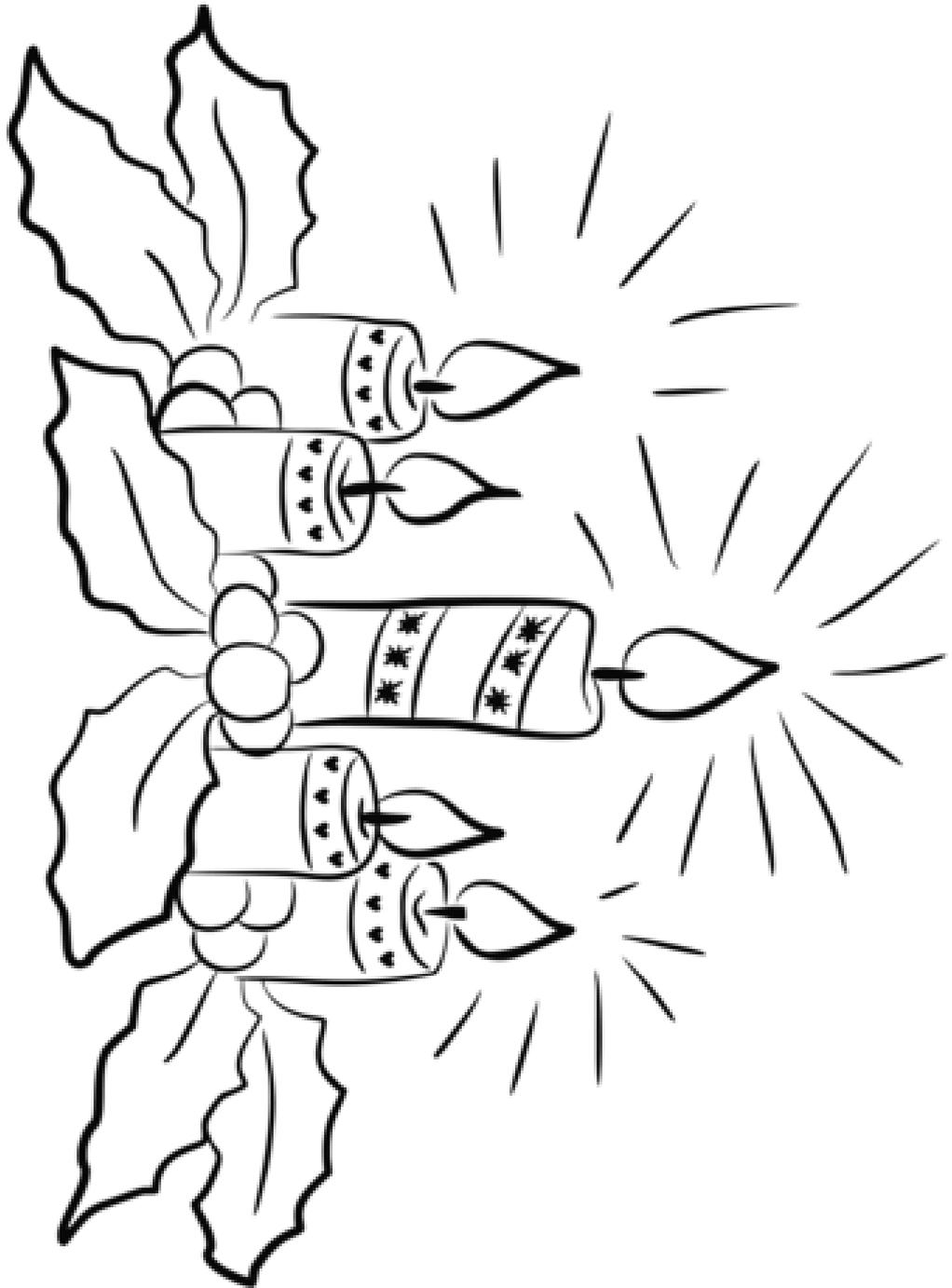
...was a Congregationalist?

Did you know John Eliot...

Our Puritan forebears maintained good relations with the Native Americans until the time of King Philip's War in the 1670's. John Eliot was pastor of the Congregational church in Roxbury, Massachusetts, who had a deep concern for these natives, wanting them to come to know the Lord Jesus. Somehow he became convinced that the American Indians were really the ten lost tribes of Israel.

In 1646, he began mission work among the Mohicans, establishing villages that were ruled by the standards of the Old Testament. Eliot taught the natives to farm, using agricultural methods and carpentry skills that came from Europe. Wanting his native parishioners to read Scripture, Eliot invented an alphabet for their language and translated the Bible into the Mohican (or Algonquian) language. His American Indian Bible was the first Bible published in America, even before there was an edition of the Scriptures in English or in any other European language. Eventually, Eliot founded fourteen towns for his converts, who became known as the "Praying Indians." Each of the villages included a Congregational church, and their government was similar to that of the English-speaking Puritan communities. Inspired in part by Eliot's work, the British Parliament in 1649 would incorporate the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England. That organization was still in existence and able to help Jonathan Edwards in his work among the Native Americans more than a hundred years later.

...was a Congregationalist?





TREASURER'S REPORT

For Period Ending October 31, 2019

CHURCH GENERAL FUND	October	Fiscal Year-to- Date
Unrestricted Contributions	\$13,976.00	\$45,351.12
+ Other Unrestricted Revenue	\$40,344.18	\$59,152.89
+ Transferred to General Fund from Designated Accounts, Memorial Fund & FCC Trust	\$928.00	\$0.00
= Total Income	\$55,248.18	\$104,504.01
Total Expenses	-\$48,826.52	-\$103,369.59
= <i>Net General Fund Surplus (-Deficit)</i>	<i>\$6,421.66</i>	<i>\$1,134.42</i>

Data for comparison

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Contributions	\$46,566.00
YTD Budgeted Total Income	\$71,920.00
YTD Budgeted Total Expenses	-\$84,307.00
Amt YTD Surplus is ahead of (+) or behind (-) Budget	\$13,521.42

DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS

Designated Contributions	October	Fiscal Year-to- Date
All Outreach Contributions	\$615.00	\$2,187.00
Other Designated Contributions	\$48.00	\$26.00
= <i>Total Designated Contributions</i>	<i>\$663.00</i>	<i>\$2,213.00</i>

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2150 S. Foothill Drive

SLC, Utah 84109

December 2019

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED