



Life Line

Tell me, what is this innumerable throng –
 Singing in the heavens a loud angelic song?
 They're they who come with swift and shining feet –
 From round about the throne of God - the Prince of Peace to greet.

O, who are these that hasten beneath the starry sky,
 As if with joyful tidings that through the world shall fly?
 They're faithful shepherds, those who greatly were afear'd –
 When, as they watched their flocks by night, the heavenly hosts appeared.

Who are these that follow across the hills and chills of night –
 A star that westward, leading them along, by brightest beams of light?
 They're wise men from the east, who myrrh and treasures bring –
 To lay them at the feet of him, their Lord, the Christ, and king.

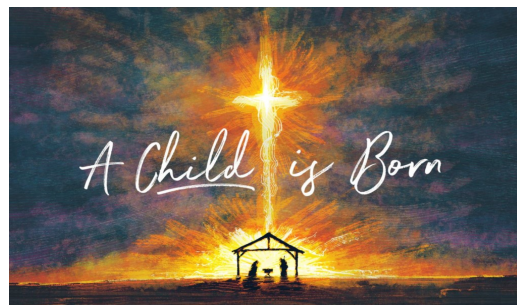
What babe new-born is this - that in a manger sleeping lies?
 As nearby, the humble mother – lifts to God thankful, joyful cries.
 O, see! the affirmation by Shepherds, Wise Kings, and Heralding Angel wings –
 That born this starlit eve - is infant God - earths long awaited King of Kings.

Tell me, how may I join in, this holy feast –
 With all the kneeling world, and I of all the least?
 Fear not, O faithful heart, just bring what most is meet;
 Bring love alone, true love alone, and lay it at his feet.

Based on Richard Wilder Gilder's "A Christmas Hymn" and modified somewhat by yours truly.

What can we bring Him? Our hearts briming with appreciation, love, and praise. That all that He desires of us. The first commandment is all about love for God, and the second is love for our neighbor. Why make it so complicated when it is really so very plain and simple. God first loved us, even when we were far from him. God seeks us out only to shower His love upon us and help us to love others around us.
Love is the reason for the season!!

Pastor Paul



DECEMBER 2024



Children's Sunday School meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month.

Choir Practice

Choir practice will meet each week on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm. Please contact Vicki Will, Choir Director, at 262-343-1326, if you would like to join and sing or you have any questions.

Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday in Advent. 10:00 am Worship Hour. Lighting of the First Advent Candle. JoAnne Potter will be in the pulpit. The Choir will be singing.

Friday, December 6- The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at our church will be at 6:30 pm with carols and candlelight. The Waterford Union High School Madrigal Singers will be performing at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served following the event. All are welcome!



Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday in Advent. 10:00 am Worship Hour. Our Guest Speaker will be Pastor Rae Ellen Preuss. Special Music TBD. Children's Sunday School. Coffee Hour following the service.

Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday in Advent and Communion Sunday. 10:00 am Worship Hour. Our Guest Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Barry Szymanski. The Choir will be singing.

Monday, December 16 - 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting.

Friday, December 20 - 11:00 am Ladies Luncheon at Chances. The luncheon will be followed by cookie packing at the church. Please let Mary Krall know if you are planning on joining the luncheon. Small cookies and bars are needed and can be brought to the church that Friday morning. There is a sign up sheet in the entry way of the church. Or you can call 262-492-6523.



Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday in Advent. Worship is at 10:00 am. Steve Dolphin will be in the pulpit. Special Music by Joni Konecke. Children's Sunday School. Please join us for a Coffee Hour following the service.

Tuesday, December 24 - 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Wednesday, December 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!



***Sunday, December 29 - First Sunday after Christmas.** 10:00 am Worship Hour. Vicki Will will be in the pulpit and lead us in Carols and Stories. After the Service we will have a New Year's Potluck luncheon and "Robber Bingo". Please bring a dish to pass. All are welcome!

Lectionary Readings



12/1 *Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36*

12/8 *Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6*

12/15 *Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18*

12/22 *Micah 5:2-5; Luke 1:46-55; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrew 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55*

12/29 *1 Samuel 2:18-20,26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52*





**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ROCHESTER**

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Email: pastor@fccrochesterwis.org

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there I am in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20*

www.fccrochesterwis.org

DECEMBER 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 10:00 am Church</p> <p>JoAnne Potter is in the pulpit. Choir singing.</p>	2	3	4	<p>5 7:00 pm</p> <p>Choir Practice</p>	<p>6 6:30 pm</p> <p><u>The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at our church.</u> will be at 6:30 pm with carols and candlelight. The Madrigal Singers will sing at 7:00 pm. Refreshments afterwards.</p>	7
<p>8 10:00 am Church</p> <p>Our Guest Speaker will be Pastor Rae Ellen Preuss. Special Music TBD. Children's Sunday School. Coffee Hour</p>	9	10	11	<p>12 7:00 pm</p> <p>Choir Practice</p>	13	14
<p>15 10:00 am Church</p> <p>Our Guest Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Barry Szymanski. The Choir will be singing.</p>	<p>16 6:30 pm</p> <p>Church Council Meeting</p>	17	18	<p>19 7:00 pm</p> <p>Choir Practice</p>	<p>20 11:00 am</p> <p>Ladies Luncheon at Chances. The luncheon will be followed by cookie packing at the church.</p>	21
<p>22 10:00 am Church</p> <p>Steve Dolphin will be in the pulpit. Special Music by Joni Konecke. Children's Sunday</p>	23	<p>24 7:00 pm</p> <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight</p>	<p>25</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</p>	26	27	28
<p>29 10:00 am Church</p> <p>Vicki Will will lead a Hymn Sing. Following the service, Potluck luncheon and Robber Bingo.</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>	<p>January 1st</p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p>			

First Congregational Church of Rochester

Poinsettia Order Form

2024

Poinsettias are only available in the colors of **red** or **white** this year. The large size Poinsettia (four-quart size) is **\$10.00 per plant**.

Please use the below form to order the number of Poinsettias you would like.

Payment is due by Monday, December 16th.

Please hand your order form and money into the offering plate or the Church Secretary's desk.

Color: Red _____ White _____

Total number of Poinsettia's _____ X \$10.00 = _____

We are planning on having them in the front of the service for **Tuesday, Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve)**.

Those who purchase poinsettia(s) can take them home after the Christmas Eve service.

Name: _____

Donor notes: Please indicate who you are honoring with your poinsettia:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

