

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
1405 State Road 67
P.O. Box 438
Plymouth, WI 53073

Phone: 920.893.3411
FAX: 920.893.5045

Website:
www.1congoucc.org

September— May
[Worship Schedule](#)
Learning Community 9 a.m.
Confirmation 1 & 2 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

June — August
[Worship Schedule](#)
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

**December
2009**

The JoyLine

First Congregational Church Founded 1855 Incorporated 1903

*Our Mission Statement: "To be a visible witness and an active presence of
God's radical and all-inclusive welcome"*

Christmas Eve Worship Services

We will hold two Christmas Eve services on Thursday December 24. The 4:30 p.m. service will include Family Carols & Readings and Pew communion. At the 10 p.m. service the Chancel Choir, directed by Keith Falk, will present a Christmas cantata, "Joy To The World". Pew Communion will be served.

Christmas Fund Offering, December 20

Gifts to the Christmas Fund Special Offering will help Veterans of the Cross, who dedicated their lives to the ministry of the church in their years of active service.

Your gifts will:

- provide resources for the Emergency Fund, which offers assistance to those who serve the church today,
- provide Pension and Health Premium Supplementation to lower income retirees and gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.

During these tough economic times we have become accustomed to hearing stories of declining donations; however the amount raised by the Christmas Fund has increased each year for the past five years! This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

Contribution envelopes were included with your third quarter giving statements and are also available in the narthex. Our offering will be received on Sunday, December 20.

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 24, 2010

The deadline for church officers, MAC's, and meeting delegates to submit their annual reports to the church office is Monday, December 14, 2009.

Financial reports are due as soon as possible after the end of the year statements are available.

Reports can be e-mailed to:
congoucc@excel.net.

The Annual Report will be available for the membership to review before the Annual Meeting in January 2010.



Congregational Life

Ministry Area
Coordinator:
Lora Jacoby

**Women's Potluck
Dinner, December 14**

The December Women's Potluck Fellowship will be held on **Monday, December 14, at 6 p.m.** at the home of Mary Richter, 811 Cattail Court (Tall Grass Condos).

All women are invited to attend. You are asked to bring an appetizer to share. Dessert will be provided by Mary Richter and Ruth Casadonte. Please sign up at the kiosk to let us know if you are planning to come or call the church office at 920-893-3411.

**First Friday,
December 4**

First Friday will be held on **Friday, December 4 at 7 p.m.** Fun and games for all ages – bring a friend.

Congregational Life is hosting this fellowship opportunity to be held in the Meeting Hall.

**Thank You to Fall
Bazaar Workers**

Workers - - from set up to take down, everyone involved is due **thanks, thanks, thanks, and more thanks!**

**** Missing ****
Round tablecloths – where are they?

Kitchen
In addition to the donation of all those wonderful soups, the buns, cider, milk, butter, etc. was all donated. Thanks to all of you generous people! And thanks to Sargento for the cheese.

If you bought jelly or jam and have no use for the empty jars, they can be returned to church. Put them on the corner counter to the left of the stoves.

Displays and Collections for Next Year?

Did you see and admire the impressive doll display that Sue Hellmer set up? It was a popular place

for customers to look and buy from. It gave us the idea that maybe others have collections that are just taking up space and they are ready to give up for Bazaar 2010. We already have two such offers and more would be welcome. Advertising collectibles could turn into a big draw for customers next year.

Grandma's Attic and the Book Corner helped to fill up space and draw people's attention. It was certainly not a skimpy display this year. The more to look at could mean more interest in buying. Keep that in mind when thinking about what to offer for 2010. Any ideas for a themed table?

The remaining books have been put into the Eggert Room on makeshift bookcases and are available for anyone to buy (price tags are still on) or borrow if you prefer. More books were temporarily put into the basement and may be one of the Learning Community rooms has a place for them.

Once again, thanks to all who helped with this very successful Bazaar 2009.



All prayer requests should be directed to either the church office, 893-3411, during office hours or to Rev. Bill, 627-1976, at other times.

Bazaar Financial Report

Lunch	\$ 617.00
Quilt	990.00
Silent Auction	1,900.00
Crafts/Bakery	<u>3,540.32</u>
Total	\$ 7,047.32
Start up cash	\$ 300.00
Advertising	320.00
Quilt	100.00
Miscellaneous expense	<u>52.00</u>
Total	\$ 772.00
Net Profit	\$ 6,275.32

Silent Auction Winning Bidders

Packer Football	<i>Eileen Lueck</i>
Wood Chips	<i>Diane Knoener</i>
Landmark, 2 nights	<i>Nancy Slaughter</i>
Sweet Basil	<i>Laurie Volkomener</i>
Painted Basket	<i>Laurie Volkomener</i>
4 Dinners for 4	<i>Jami Scott</i>
Liquid Silver Necklace, 27 "	<i>Diane Knoener</i>
Liquid Silver Necklace, 22 "	<i>Lora Jacoby</i>
Wreath	<i>Janice Hovey</i>
Cornucopia	<i>Beth Mrozinsky</i>
Pumpkin Centerpiece	<i>Debbie Lefebre</i>

Games Basket	<i>Ruth Casadonte</i>
Reading Basket	<i>Ruth Casadonte</i>
Movie Night Basket	<i>Pam Wilhelmsen</i>
Concrete Leaf	<i>Lora Jacoby</i>
Bread-of-the-Month	<i>Betty Nicodemus</i>
Dessert-of-the-Month	<i>Kelly Haefs</i>
Soup-of-the-Month	<i>Laurie Volkomener</i>
Christmas Entertainment	<i>Lil Pipping</i>
Papa's Bench	<i>Linda/Tom Phillips</i>
Paint a Room	<i>Laurie Volkomener</i>
Door County Photo	<i>Connie Wittkopp</i>
Spaghetti Basket	<i>Laurie Volkomener</i>
Pancake Breakfast Basket	<i>Kelly Haefs</i>
Pamper Basket	<i>Nancy Eberhardt</i>
Pumpkin Centerpiece	<i>Sheri Bohnhoff</i>
Evening for Two Basket	<i>Laurie Volkomener</i>
Maple Grog Basket	<i>Sheri Bohnhoff</i>
Cozy-up Basket	<i>Van DeZwarte</i>
Bird Lover's Basket	<i>Nancy Eberhardt</i>
Christmas Tote	<i>Diane Knoener</i>
Wrapped in Love Shawl	<i>Lora Jacoby</i>
Bathtime Luxury Basket	<i>Steve Klock</i>
Stained Glass	<i>Lora Jacoby</i>
Painted Milk Can	<i>Laurie Volkomener</i>
Mardi Gras Bracelet	<i>Lora Jacoby</i>
Comfort Basket	<i>Margaret Medinger</i>
Gift Certificate Stocking	<i>Betty Nicodemus</i>
Antique Sled	<i>Laurie Volkomener</i>
Baby Blanket	<i>Bev Schellhaass</i>
Afghan	<i>Bev Schellhaass</i>
Indulgent Basket 1	<i>Sheri Bohnhoff</i>
Indulgent Basket 2	<i>Debbie Lefebre</i>
Antique Bedspread	<i>Mary Hilbelink</i>

UCC Equal Exchange Coffee Cart

Check out the selection of coffee, tea, and chocolate on the Coffee Cart in the foyer. Please fill out an order form if you would like items that we do not stock.

Equal Exchange is a democratically organized worker-owned cooperative founded in 1986. Purchases of fairly traded products develop more environmentally sound business practices, provide high quality food products, and support sustainable farming practices for farmers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Dorcas Chapter

By: Ruth Haucke

Dorcas Chapter had flowers and candles ready for RaeAnn Beebe's Ecclesiastical dinner on November 8. We will be offering our services to deliver poinsettias to the shut-in members of our church. Our Annual Report will be ready on December 14.

We are wishing you the gift of faith,
The blessing of hope,
And the comfort of His love,
At Christmas and throughout the New Year.

The Christmas Party will be at Loretta Schroeder's home on **Monday, December 7, at 12 p.m.** with Ruth Haucke assisting.

December Birthdays

Waitman Slaughter	December 1	Julie Luedtke	December 24
Reed Eilert	December 1	David Reichardt	December 27
Maren Rishel	December 1	Ruth Haucke	December 28
RaeAnn Beebe	December 3	Madeline Haucke	December 28
Micah Falk	December 4	Cooper Gosse	December 31
Chris Mohr	December 4		
James Haucke	December 4		
Richard Paul	December 8		
Rodney Pearsall	December 12		
Rosie Miller	December 13		
Alex Pearsall	December 16		
Steve Klock	December 16		
Sue Hellmer	December 16		
Rev. Bill Rishel	December 17		
Cassidy Klemme	December 18		
Mason Rishel	December 18		
Heather Wittkopp	December 20		
Cindy Backhaus	December 22		
Elliot Jasso	December 24		

December Wedding Anniversaries

Darren & Cindy Munson	December 5
Susie & Gary Bournoville	December 11

Note: If your birthday or anniversary has not been included in the *Joyline* or is incorrect, please notify the church office at 893-3411.

Intergenerational Learning Community

College Care Packages

These are the college students who will be receiving Care Packages from the church during exam week: Tyler Erickson, Cassandra Reilly, Ryan Beebe, Randy Beebe, Adam Azzalino, Theresa Falk, Tasha Scott, and Kimberly Arndt. If I missed anyone, please let me know as soon as possible. Treats, homemade cookies, a Script card, or a donation to cover costs would be appreciated. They need to be in the office **by Friday, December 4th**.

The Mitten Tree

Cold weather is coming! The Mitten Tree is set up in the foyer next to the fireplace. This is your chance to purchase new mittens and hats for those in need. Place them on the tree, and they will be given to the Salvation Army. Thank you for making someone warmer through the winter season.

Gifts for Bridgeway House

Bridgeway House has given us the ages of fourteen children. You can make their Christmas a happy one by purchasing a gift for them. A small Christmas tree, also located by the fireplace, contains this information. If you take a card off of the tree, write down on the list which one you have. Then, buy a gift (or a Script card for them) and return it to the office **by December 15. Do not wrap gifts.**

Learning Community

Children and adults continue to meet at 9 a.m. each Sunday. They are currently following a new program, *Seasons of the Spirit*, which is lectionary based. *Seasons of the Spirit* multi-age material will be used from Advent to the end of May. Come to see what this fun group is doing.

The people who have been planning and leading the Learning Community include: **Kelly Haefs, Lora Jacoby, Letha Haucke, Mari Falk, Julie Luedtke, Debbie Zimmerman, and Bev Schellhaass.** We thank them for their time and commitment to the Learning Community.

Education

Ministry Area
Coordinator:
Bev Schellhaass

Family Christmas Eve Worship

The Learning Community students and the Confirmands will be participating in the 4:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve worship service. They will be practicing at 9 a.m. on Sundays during the Learning Community.

Adult Learning Community

Beginning in mid-January, Adult Learning Sessions will be offered on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. More information will be coming on these great opportunities.



First Congregational Lock-In for Elementary Students, December 18

First Congregational will be hosting a Lock-In for elementary students on **Friday, December 18 at Plymouth High School from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.** The funds raised will go to support UCC camp scholarships for members of our church.

Registration forms will be sent home with students through the Plymouth Area elementary and parochial schools. Students from other school districts are also welcome to attend the Lock-in.

We are in need of approximately 40 volunteers to help with preparation work:

- Delivering donation letters
- Distributing flyers
- Purchasing supplies
- Recruiting volunteers
- Pre-registration

Also needed are chairpersons to help the night of the Lock-In in these areas:

- Food
- Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Swimming – Dorothy Rose
- Gym
- Registration
- Hall monitors
- Movies

Donations of snack items (chips, pretzels, apples, bars, juice, and cookies) will also be needed. Sign-up sheets for donations and volunteers who can work the night of the Lock-In are posted on the kiosk.

Last year we gave out 15 scholarships totaling \$1,500. Please help make this year's Lock-In a success! If you have questions or need registration forms, contact Kelly Haefs (e-mail: snkhaefs@wi.rr.com).

Eggert Room Volunteers

For the month of December our volunteers are:

Candy Durdin
Kay Magnus

The Eggert Room was established to provide temporary emergency shelter to individuals in need. Our on-call volunteers check to see that the Eggert Room is clean and ready for occupancy. After the room has been used they are responsible for washing the linens and restocking the food and supplies.

If you would like to help with this ministry of the church, please contact the church office.

The Welcome Table Meal

A free meal is served every Tuesday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the basement Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Plymouth (next to the Post Office).

First Church will be responsible for preparing and delivering the meal on **Tuesday, December 15, 2009.**

If you want to learn more or would be willing to help with food donations, preparing food, transporting the meal, greeting guests, or serving in the kitchen or dining room, please contact Diane Knoener, Mission - Ministry Area Coordinator, at knoenerdl@lakeland.edu.

Mission

Ministry Area
Coordinator:
Diane Knoener

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

Need Knows No Season

The Salvation Army is here in Plymouth year round providing temporary emergency assistance to those in need. Other services that they provide are: summer camping experiences, disaster services, visits to the elderly, back to school projects, etc.

Much of this would not be possible without the funding they receive through the Red Kettle Campaign. This year has seen a tremendous increase in their requests for assistance.

The Red Kettle Campaign relies on help from community volunteers to staff the Red Kettles.

They are in need of individuals, families, youth groups, Confirmations students, etc. who would be willing to ring bells for 2 or 4 hour shifts between November 27 and December 24.

If you would be willing to help the Salvation Army this holiday season by being a bell ringer, please call Deb at 920-528-8465 or e-mail: deb_schalk@yahoo.com.



Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

Bridgeway Meal Hosts

First Congregational UCC, Plymouth is scheduled to serve the meal at Bridgeway on the **second day of each month**.

Please call Bonnie Wassell at 457-7272, ext. 15, the day before you are scheduled to serve as a meal host, to confirm that you are needed.

SCIO Needs

- Bleach
- Dryer sheets
- Q-tips
- Bubble bath
- Stain treater
- Floor cleaner
- Diapers (size 3.4.5.6)
- Alarm clocks
- Canned fruit
- Deodorant

Volunteer Needs

- Drivers for our Transportation Program.
- Volunteer Daycare help during lunchtime.
- Volunteers for a Building and Grounds Committee.

Needed this month for Bridgeway and Beyond:

- Over-the-counter medications (all types) - for infants, children through adult, as well as Pedialite and boxes of assorted bandages.

Winter Farmers Market

First Congregational Church
310 Bluff Avenue, Sheboygan
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
November 28, 2009
December 12, 2009
January 16, 2010
February 13 & 27, 2010
March 13 & 27, 2010
April 10 & 24, 2010

Nourish – A New Program of SCIO

Nourish enables collaboration between local farmers and volunteers to bring meals inspired by fresh, locally grown ingredients to struggling families that deserve to eat well.

Nourish is a three-fold experience in which groups go to a local farm to harvest the vegetables, prepare these vegetables with homeless guests and then share a meal together.

To learn more about Nourish call 920-918-0251 or e-mail: nourishfarms@att.net or go to www.noursihfarms.org.

News From the Pews

Rosie Miller suffered an apparent stroke recently while in her apartment in Glen Ellyn, IL. She will be going to a rehab center in the area for therapy and then returning to her apartment in the future. Her address will remain:

Rosie Miller
The Meadows of Glen Ellyn
60 N. Nicoll Way, Apt. 331
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Bob Ames, spouse of Glenda Ames had out-patient surgery to remove a basal cell cancer. All of the cancer was removed. Bob is at home.

We mourn the death of **Tom Casadonte's** mother, *Bernice Casadonte*, on Thursday October 29. The funeral was held on November 6 in Brookfield. Bernice was a guest at First Church many times over the years.

Julia Feldner, daughter-in-law of **Emmitt Feldner & Teresa Hartle-Feldner**, has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. *Julia* is the spouse of *Alex Feldner*.

Cindy Backhaus is scheduled for knee-replacement surgery in the near future.

Scott Haefs is scheduled for back surgery in December.

Also keep in your daily prayers:

Tyler Bein
Shar Karnitz
Elaine Jung
Glenda Ames
Pam Wilhelmsen
Linda Suemnicht
Evelyn Hofschield
Peg Stahlman
David Reichardt
Carl Cihlar

Keep in your prayers our homebound members:

Wes TenHaken
Floyd Payne

To Contact Rev. Bill

Phone 920-627-1976

E-mail: brishel@excel.net

Advent, Christmas Resources for the Home

A booklet has been assembled with prayers, devotions, and activities for use during the Advent and Christmas season. An Advent Sharing calendar is also included.

Please pick up a booklet and take it home to use in preparation for the holidays. The booklets are on a table in the narthex.

New Member Classes



If you are interested in becoming a member of First Congregational Church, please speak to Rev. Bill on Sunday or contact the church office at 893-3411.

You will be notified when a date for New Member Orientation is scheduled.

Notify the church when hospitalized

Please contact the church office at 920-893-3411 or Rev. Rishel at 920-627-1976 if you want the church to be informed that you or a family member is hospitalized.

Thank you Notes

From: RaeAnn Beebe

November 8th was a great day! I had worried so much about how my Ecclesiastical Council would go and it went extremely well. I was awestruck and humbled by the number of people who attended. I cannot thank First Congregational and all the people who made that day happen enough.

Any words that I say just do not seem adequate to express my gratitude to all of you. The food was delicious and the tables beautiful. I know a lot of hard work went into all the planning and preparations. I am also grateful for the thoughts and prayers from all of you over the years. I would not be where I am today without the love and support of First Congregational UCC.

I will take you with me where ever I go. Thank you again for making my Ecclesiastical Council such a memorable day.

God bless you all.
RaeAnn

From: Northeast Association

Dear Friends at First Congregational UCC,

Thank you for supporting the mission of the Wider Church through your contributions to OCWM. Because of your gifts, you make possible important ministries in the Wisconsin Conference and the national church.

We are grateful for your contributions during these challenging times.

Shalom,
Rev. Art Willie
Northeast Association Minister

From: Salvation Army

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your donation of assorted food items in response to our request for help with our Christmas food boxes.

Because of your generosity we will again be able to provide a little extra holiday cheer by providing a special meal to some of our seniors this Christmas season.

A kind gesture lasts a life time! I pray that life brings each one of you a reflection of the kindness you have shown to others.

May God bless you and your families for your giving spirits. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Ginger Weimer
Director, Salvation Army
Bread of Life Assistance Center
110 E. Mill Street
Plymouth, WI

From: Cookie Cart Team

Thank you to **Barb Grier** for making and serving cookies at the Plymouth Care Center on October 31. I also appreciate that Barb's friend volunteered to assist her in serving the cookies.

Marilyn DeBruine
Cookie Cart Team Leader

From: Office Staff

Thank you to:
Marilyn DeBruine
Barbara Grier
Betty Nicodemus
for volunteering to assemble the third quarter giving statements mailing.



SCRIP NOTES: From: Pam Wilhelmsen

It's the time of year when we reflect and review the past year and make plans for the new year. 2009 has been a financially challenging year for everyone however, we are optimistic going into 2010. First Church feels the same financial constraints as our individual households. Our Scrip program budgeted a contribution of \$10,000 to the General Fund for 2009. By the beginning of November the Scrip contribution is \$7,000. Although we are headed for the busiest Scrip shopping season and may meet that goal, we need your continued support.

The Scrip program is an opportunity for you to support your church by purchasing gift cards for everyday expenditures and special giving. The church purchases gift cards at a discount and you purchase them at face value. Even as we all "tighten our belts" and monitor our discretionary spending, we still need groceries, gas, prescriptions, and other miscellaneous purchases.

For example,

- the purchase of a \$50 Kwik Trip (10%) card is a profit of \$5 for the church,
- the purchase of a \$100 Piggly Wiggly (4%) card is a profit of \$4 for the church,
- and the purchase of a \$50 Kohl's (5%) card is a profit of card \$2.50 for the church.

Reminder, you can pay your Kohl's credit card with Scrip cards.

Keep in mind other opportunities to order gift cards for everyone on your list. The Scrip desk carries cards for local retailers in inventory. A complete list of retailers is available on the Scrip desk or may be seen at www.glscrip.com. All profits are accumulated and passed to the First Congregational UCC General Fund.

The Scrip desk is open prior to and after Sunday church services. Scrip is also available in the church office, during regular office hours (Monday- Thursday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.).

We welcome each of you to participate in the Scrip program. Our Scrip desk volunteers, Pam Wilhelmsen, or Renee Panzer (Administrative Assistant) will be happy to answer your questions and get you started.

Scrip news! Just in time for your holiday giving. On-line shopping is now available through the Great Lakes Scrip Center group. Access is through shopwithscrip.com. After registration, you may shop at your leisure. Retailers include our local merchants (Citgo, Culver's, Pick 'n Save, etc.). Your payment is via Presto Pay, similar to a PayPal account. The fee for payment is \$.39 per order. Orders created by Sunday morning will be ready for pick up by the following Wednesday or Thursday, or on the next Sunday. There are no changes to shopping at the Scrip desk or the church office. If you are interested, packets of material are available or contact Pam Wilhelmsen at pwilhelmsen@wi.rr.com or 892-6615.

Thank you for your support.

End-of-year Giving Due by Dec. 31

From: Denise Mohr,
Financial Administrator

2009 Giving Deadline

All contributions must be received in the church office by December 31, 2009 to be included on your 2009 Giving Statement.

Reminder for Electronic Givers

If you give electronically and you plan to change your contribution amount in 2010, please contact the church office

to fill out a new form. Complete the form and return it to the church office. Changes take the bank approximately 30 days to process.

Gifts of Stock

Have you considered donating a gift of stock to the church? Stock gift forms are available in the church office or call 893-3411 and we will be glad to mail a form to you.

In order for stock gifts to be included as part of your 2009 giving, stock transactions must be completed and received in the church office by December 31, 2009.

Administration Ministry Area Coordinator

Pam Wilhelmsen

Administration Teams:

Gary Haucke	Building & Grounds
Kay Magnus	Finance
Sarah Erickson	Memorials
Deb Klock	Personnel
Sue Hellmer	
Pam Wilhelmsen	SCRIP

Church Council:

Moderator	Mary Arenberg
1 year	Gary Hueppchen
2 Year	Alan Ambrosius
3 Year	Letha Haucke
4 Year	Laurie Volkomener
5 Year	Steve Klock

Ministry Area Coordinators

Administration	Pam Wilhelmsen
Congregational Life	Lora Jacoby
Education	Bev Shellhaass
Mission	Diane Knoener
Worship	Connie Wittkopp

Meeting Minutes Available in the Church Office

The full report of all Church Council or Administration Team meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the church office.

**Next Church Council Business Meeting:
Tuesday, December 8,
2009, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Date of Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 24, 2010**

**Summary of the Minutes of the Church Council
Minutes from November 10, 2009**

Motion to approve minutes of last meeting. Diane Knoener was in attendance. Lora Jacoby will take another year as Congregational Life MAC. **Motion passed.**

Financial Report

The Financial administrator reports a checkbook balance of - \$6,587.00.

Ministry Area Coordinators Congregational Life

- The Fall Bazaar, held on Saturday, October 17, 2009, included a quilt raffle, soup lunch, craft room, bake sale, and Silent Auction. Thank you to everyone who helped and who donated crafts, supplies, soups, and auction items.

Bazaar Financial Report printed on Page 3 on this *Joyline*. Checkbook balance as of 10-31-09 = \$7,353.35 (Some bazaar expenditures not yet subtracted.)

Savings balance = \$213.34

- First Friday Game Night has been successful with 8-15 people attending. We would like to plan some winter activities and encourage new people to attend.
- Thanksgiving Eve worship hosted by First Church. Chair needed to organize pumpkin pie and refreshments time.

Education

- Adult Learning sessions to be offered on Sunday mornings in January along with the Family Learning sessions.
- The Mitten Tree will be set up for donations of hats/mittens and another tree will have Christmas gift requests for Bridgeway.
- *Seasons of the Spirit* multi-age material will be used from Advent to the end of May.
- There will be no Advent Workshop.

Mission

- Eggert Room protocol is being revised.
- First Church will host The Welcome Table on December 15.
- Prayer Shawl ministry will be reviewed.

Worship

- Poinsettias will be ordered for Christmas and two small trees will be decorated.

Administration

- Trust accounts are being reviewed.
- SCRIP has given \$7,000 of its \$10,000 goal to the church this year.
- The possibility of on-line SCRIP sales is being explored.

Pastor's Report

- **Motion** to approve vacation time November 21-22 and November 25-29 – includes two Sundays. Letha Haucke will preach on Nov. 22 and Rev. Becky Johnston on Nov. 29. **Passed.**

Stewardship

- Fall Stewardship program, "Changing Lives: That's Our Mission". Eleven packets are circulating to 81 households.
- **Motion** to designate the Christmas Fund offering to fulfill our original commitments to SCIO and Rainbow Kids with the remainder going to Our Church's Wider Mission as a second mile offering over and above the \$10,558 budgeted. **Passed.**
- **Motion** to use proceeds of Advent Giving Sharing Calendars for the mosquito netting project. **Passed.**
- **Motion** to designate Thanksgiving Offering to Plymouth Food Pantry. **Passed.**

Worship

Ministry Area
Coordinator:
Connie Wittkopp

December Time Stewardship

December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Worship..... 10:15 a.m.

- Table Communion
- Chancel Choir sings
- Plymouth Food Pantry Collection

Lectionary Readings

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Liturgist: Kay Magnus

Ushers: Team 5 – Diane Gahagan Family

Communion Servers: Team 4

Dennis & Sandy Doebert

* Scott & Kelly Haefs

Greeters:

Screen Technician:

Nursery:

Tellers: Barbara Grier & Diane Knoener

SCRIP Desk: Connie Wittkopp

December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

Worship..... 10:15 a.m.

- Chancel Choir sings

Lectionary Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Liturgist: Betty Nicodemus

Ushers: Team 1 – Gary Hueppchen, Scott Haefs,

Julie & Kyle Luedtke Erickson

Greeters:

Screen Technician:

Nursery:

Tellers: Sue Hellmer & Steve Klock

SCRIP Desk: Tammy Michaels

** Indicates you are responsible for Communion set-up and clean-up, and getting the Communion bread.*

December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship..... 10:15 a.m.

- Chancel Choir sings, Baptism
- Christmas Fund offering received.

Lectionary Readings

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 **OR** Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Liturgist: Dorothy Rose

Ushers: Team 2 – Gary, Jim, & Michael Haucke

& Terry Schram

Greeters:

Screen Technician:

Nursery:

Tellers: Glenda Ames & Jami Scott

SCRIP Desk: Deb Klock

December 24, Christmas Eve

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14,(15-20)

Readings & Carols

Pew Communion 4:30 p.m.

Ushers: Team 3 – Penny Gosse, Waitman,

Nancy & Lane Slaughter

Communion Servers: Team 5

Steve & Deb Klock

* Gary Hueppchen, * Emmitt Feldner

Christmas Cantata..... 10 p.m.

Pew Communion

“Joy To The World”, Directed by Keith Falk, performed by the Chancel Choir

Ushers: Team 4 – Dennis & Sandy Doebert,

Steve Klock, Nick Erickson

Communion Servers: Team 6

Barbara & Roger Grier

* Dorothy Rose, *Cathy Azzalino

Screen Technician:

Tellers: Barbara Grier & Glenda Ames

December 27

First Sunday after Christmas

Worship10:15 a.m.

Lectionary Readings

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

- Liturgist: Bev Schellhaass
- Ushers: Team 5 – Diane Gahagan Family
- Greeters:
- Screen Technician:
- Nursery:
- Tellers: Dan & Laurie Volkomener
- SCRIP Desk: Diane Knoener

Please Fill Out Welcome Pads on Sunday

The Worship Team asks that everyone attending Sunday worship sign their name on a Welcome Pad. The Welcome Pads are found on the pew chairs by the center aisle. Please take a moment to fill it out and pass it on to the person seated next to you. The last person will pass the pad back to the starting point. Note the names so that you can greet any visitors who are attending the service.

Giving Envelopes

For your use, giving envelopes are included in the Welcome Pads and are also available in the baskets at the back of the Meeting Hall or in the narthex.

Christmas Week Church Office Hours

I will be out of the office during Christmas week. Volunteers will be staffing the office from 9 a.m. – 12 noon on Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, (Dec. 21, 22, & 23).

The church office will be closed on December 24 & 25.

Renee Panzer
Administrative Assistant



In case of inclement winter weather on Sunday mornings, please listen to News radio 620AM WTMJ, 94.5 FM LAKE, or TODAY'S TMJ4 (Channel 4 TV) for cancellation of the worship service or Learning Community. The cancellation decision will be made by 6 a.m. and will be called in to the radio and TV stations before 7 a.m.

Always use your best judgment when deciding to venture to worship during snow/ice conditions.



The Joyline is the monthly newsletter of
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 Church Office E-Mail: congoucc@excel.net
 Financial Administrator E-Mail: congouccfinance@excel.net

Church Staff

Rev. Bill Rishel, pastor
 Mary Arenberg, moderator
 Renee Panzer, administrative assistant
 Denise Mohr, financial administrator
 Glenda Ames, organist
 Keith Falk, director of music
 Gordon Wieck, custodian
 Linda Suemnicht, housekeeper

The deadline for submitting articles for the
 newsletter is the second Sunday of each
 month.

Events in December

First Friday	December 4
Plymouth Food Pantry Collection	December 6
Dorcas Chapter	December 7
Women's Potluck Fellowship	December 14
LaLeche League Meeting	December 15
First Church, Welcome Table meal	December 15
Lock-In	December 18
Christmas Eve Worship	December 24
Church Office closed	December 25
No Learning Community,	December 27
No Confirmation	December 27

Meetings in December

Church Council Open Meeting	December 8, 7:30 p.m.
Church Staff, Head Start	December 9, 9:30 a.m.

Joyline deadline

Sunday, December 13

Please submit your articles for the newsletter to the
 church office or e-mail: congoucc@excel.net.