

## Preparation for Obedience in the World

- \*Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 108
- \*Responsive Call to Dedication  
Leader: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"  
**People: Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."**
- \*The Benediction
- \*Postlude "In Dulci Jubilo" Martin
- \*Those who are able please stand**

**WE WELCOME VISITORS** who are attending our service of worship today. **EVERYONE** is requested to sign the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. We request visitors also to note their addresses and telephone numbers.

**USHERS:** Walter Hoffman, Ann Hoffman, June Grubb, Doris Sink

**PLATE ATTENDANT:** John Potts **ACOLYTES:** Ashley Johnson and Kalyssa Hutchens

**GREETERS:** Mark and Nicole Smith

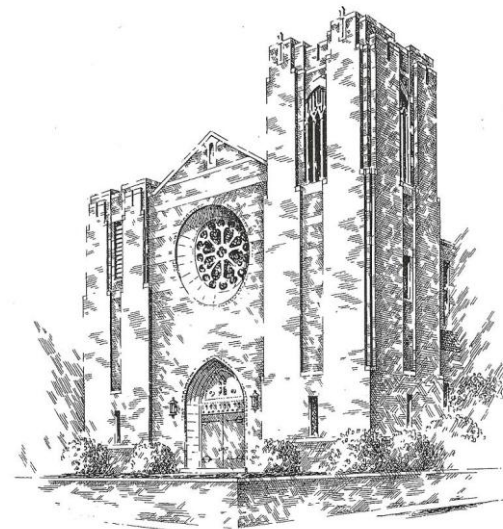
**NURSERY {Birth through 6 years-old}:** Amy and Birke McNeill

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Ethel Bailey, Sadie Bailey, Rita Tussey, Ronnie Durham, Arlene Swing, Margaret Trexler, Jacqueline Leonard, Frances Leonard, Joel Reece, Juanita and Henry Beck, Ernestine and Henry Kennedy, Willie Ruth Leonard, Johnny Sink, Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), Van "Buster" Conrad (Gray Family), Melvin Evans (Paul Freeman's Uncle), Ernie Bonner, Jacob Berrier, and Susan Cadwallader (Anne Fletcher's Mother). To place a name on the prayer chain, please call Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sunday, December 20 9:00 a.m. ----- BAKE SALE {Fellowship Hall}  
9:45 a.m. ----- SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR EVERYONE  
11:00 a.m. ----- WORSHIP SERVICE (FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT)  
6:00 p.m. ----- **COVERED DISH DINNER & CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**
- Monday, December 21 Noon----- Morning Glory Circle Christmas Lunch {Price Home}
- Wednesday, December 23 7:00 p.m. ----- ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE
- Thursday, December 24 **9:00 p.m.----- CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**
- Friday, December 25 Christmas Holiday
- Sunday, December 27 9:45 a.m. ----- SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR EVERYONE  
11:00 a.m. ----- WORSHIP SERVICE (**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**)  
Noon----- **CONGREGATIONAL WELCOMING LUNCH {FH}**

# First Reformed United Church of Christ



*Where People Discover - - -*

*The Love of God*

*The Power to Love Others*

*The Ability to Love Ourselves*

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*Sunday, December 20, 2009*

# Service of Divine Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2009

## Preparation for Worship

Prelude "He Is Born" French Carol  
\*Chimes Sounding the Hour  
\*Time of Greeting  
Announcements  
Choral Call to Worship  
Solemn Declaration and Choral Amen

## Praise to God

\*Hymn "Behold A Branch Is Growing" No. 113  
\*Responsive Call to Worship  
Minister: How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
**People: So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven;**  
Minister: No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
**People: Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.**  
\*Gloria Patri  
Invocation

## Confession of Sin

Call to Confession  
Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin  
**Gracious and tender God, forgive us as we so easily substitute our "busyness" of the season for the needful preparations of quiet, focused, gentle meekness and humility. You tell us that only meek souls will receive the Christ Child, and yet too many of us lash ourselves with frenzied capitalism, mounting debt and cultural diversions of every sort. We gather as families and speak of everything but the meaning of the birth of Jesus, Lord at His birth, exchanging the wisdom of God for the foolishness of the world. We lack the generous spirit of Mary, who heard your call in humility and assented without question. We lack the graciousness of Elizabeth, whose baby leapt for joy in her womb at the sound of Mary's arrival. In this coming festival of the night, grant it, Lord, that our eyes may grow accustomed to the darkness through which Your Light may shine so brightly, illuminating us with the Light of Christ, that we may become like Him even as He becomes like us. In the Name of Jesus, Lord at His birth, we pray. Amen.**

The Kyrie and Assurance of Pardon - - - Amen Sung

## Witness of Faith

Fourth Advent Wreath Liturgy --- LOVE Frank, Beth, Mary Lloyd, Annabell, and Abbie Callicutt

Liturgist: We have lit a candle of HOPE.  
(Light the first Advent candle.)

**People: We welcome the easing of despair and darkness with the light of HOPE.**

Liturgist: We have lit a second candle of PEACE.  
(Light the second Advent candle.)

**People: We welcome the calming and growing presence of God with the light of PEACE.**

Liturgist: We have lit a candle of JOY.  
(Light the third Advent candle, pink.)

**People: We welcome our strong need to sing, to dance, to raise our voices in jubilation and in praise of our God who is coming to us as a little Child with the light of JOY.**

Liturgist: We now light a fourth candle of LOVE.  
(Light the remaining purple candle.)

**People: We now open our hearts in humility to the Christ who seeks to enter us and to complete us, as Mary did so long ago, with the light of His LOVE. Amen.**

The Pastoral Prayer

Children's Moment

Anthem "A Tiny Child Will Come" Besig

## Proclamation of the Word

The New Testament Reading Luke 1:39-56 (Page #932 of Pew Bible)

Sermon "MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD..."

## Response Through Dedication

Invitation to Give

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

\*The Doxology and Offertory Prayer

## Holiday Bake Sale

Women's Life Fellowship is sponsoring a bake sale **TODAY** beginning at 9:00 a.m. Pound cakes, cookies, tea mixes, cookie mixes, etc. are available. These will make wonderful gifts for teachers, neighbors, etc. Items are being sold before Sunday school, between Sunday school and worship, and immediately following the worship service. If there is anything left over it will be available for purchase at the children's Christmas program tonight.



## Veterans of the Cross Offering

Envelopes are provided in your bulletin to donate to the "**Veterans of the Cross**". This offering is an expression of love and thanks to those clergy and their families who have served and continue to serve the United Church of Christ. The offering helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.



## Church Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party for the congregation will begin at **6:00 p.m., TONIGHT** with a covered-dish dinner. Bring your favorite dish to share with friends. Drinks are provided. After dinner the children will delight us with a wonderful Christmas program. This evening is a great tradition of fellowship with family and friends here at First Reformed United Church of Christ. Remember to bring your camera...Santa will be on hand to check his Christmas list!



December 13, 2009 Attendance (Worship 229)  
December 14, 2008 Attendance (Worship 232)

Offering Received \$5,334.00  
Needed each Sunday to meet Budget \$5,574.00

### Church Staff

Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D., Intentional Interim Minister  
(Cell #336-420-2728 Home #336-632-1985)  
Lee Ann Peele, Organist

Amy McNeill, Director of Christian Education  
Paul Freeman, Choir Director  
Paula Lopp, Administrative Asst

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



The church will be aglow with candlelight at our annual Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight and Carols at **9:00 p.m. Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**. Come celebrate this evening of wonder with family and friends.

## New Member Sunday

### December 27<sup>th</sup>

First Reformed UCC will be welcoming new members: **Darren, Betty, Cameron, and Peyton Barr, Ernie Bonner, and Adam McKerlie** Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Following the worship service a welcoming luncheon will be served in the fellowship hall.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**



Yarborough's Restaurant will provide a delicious meal. Donations will be accepted at the door. Please come get to know our new members and enjoy Sunday lunch with your church family.

## Tree of Angels



The **tree of "angels"** is in the breezeway of the education building again this year. Make a donation (your discretion) to place an angel on the tree in honor or memory of someone. Donations will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for assistance to needy individuals/families. Please fill out the form and place in the offering plate or contact the church office.

In **Memory** of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

In **Honor** of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_