Merry Christmas!

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Restrooms are located down the hall on the main floor.

All Gender Restrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary and downstairs in the Fellowship Hall (which is accessible).

Changing tables are located in the Nursery on the main floor and at the back of the sanctuary.

*An asterisk is an invitation to rise, in body or spirit. Bolded text is an invitation for the congregation to read or sing in unison.

Please take a candle from one of the ushers at each entrance to the sanctuary to be lit during the singing of "Silent Night." We have glow sticks for the children.
9:45 pm Festive Prelude

"Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming"  
Johannes Brahms

"O Thou That Tellest" from *The Messiah*  
G. F. Handel

"Ding Dong! Merrily on High"  
arr. J. Bruce Ashton

"Noel nouvelet"  
arr. J. Bruce Ashton

"Bring a Torch"  
arr. Alfred V. Fedak

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"  
arr. Alfred V. Fedak

Introit  
"African Noel"  
Liberian Folk Song  
arr. André J. Thomas

*Passing of the Peace and Christmas Offering*

As you pass the peace, we invite you to place your offerings into one of the offering plates the ushers are holding at the front and the back of the sanctuary.

*Hymn*  
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
Music 18th Century

Text translated by F. Oakeley

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin’s womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created. *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv’n!  
Word of the Godhead, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader: In a world where so many experience violence, God lights a candle of peace in our hearts.
People: And so we have lit the Advent candle of Peace.
Leader: In a world where so many despair, God lights a candle of hope in our hearts.
People: And so we have lit the Advent candle of Hope.
Leader: In a world where so many are sorrowful, God lights a candle of joy in our hearts.
People: And so we have lit the Advent candle of Joy.
Leader: In a world where so many experience hatred, God lights a candle of love in our hearts.
People: And so we have lit the Advent candle of Love.
Leader: In a world where so many wait in darkness, light comes into our hearts through a baby born in a manger. He is Immanuel, God With Us!
People: May the light of the Christ candle remind us of the light of God within each of us, now and always. Amen.

Christmas Prayer

Anthem

"The Heavens Delight"  Gwyneth Walker
Text by Josiah G. Holland, alt.

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's sweet prayer and a baby's soft cry!
And the stars rain their fire while the Heavens delight,
For the child of God is born this night.
There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
for our dear, sweet boy has blessed the earth.
And the stars rain their fire while the Heavens delight,
For the child of God is born this night.
In the light of the stars comes a beauty unfurled,
as the song from afar has swept over the world.
Every heart is aflame with the beautiful song.
In the homes of all nations, salvation has come!
We rejoice in the light, we rejoice in the song.
We sing through the night with a voice of one.
We shout to the brilliant Heavenly light,
the Prince of Peace, the Hope of all Ages is born this night.
And the stars rain their fire and the Heavens delight!
Proclaiming the Word

The First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1–4

The One In Whom God’s Soul Delights

Emily Stokes

Choir Carol

"O Radiant Dawn"

James MacMillan

Text from the O Antiphons

(6–C Italian)

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of justice:
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
Isaiah had prophesied,
“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone.”
Amen.

The Second Lesson: Isaiah 49:1–6

The One Given as a Light to the Nations

Molly Paterson

Choir Carol

"Salvation Is Created"

Pavel Tchesnokov

Text from the Church Slavonic Liturgy

Trans. Al. Tolstaff

Salvation is created for all nations,
So now we praise Thee, Lord God Almighty, O Lord over all.
Alleluia.

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 52: 13–53:9

The One Who Has Borne Our Infirmities

David Greenhaw
Choir Carol  "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"  John Gardner
Text English Traditional

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance;

Refrain: Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance,
Thus was I knit to human's nature
To call my true love to my dance. Refrain

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
So very poor, this was my chance
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass
To call my true love to my dance. Refrain

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Parent's voice heard I from above,
To call my true love to my dance. Refrain

The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary
Congregational Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Text Phillips Brooks
Tune by Lewis H. Redner

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing, and voices ring,
with peace to all on earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:1, 3–7

Jesus is Born

Lydia Aiken
Choir Carol
"Still, Still, Still"
Austrian Carol
arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow,
for all is hushed, the world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, ‘tis the eve of our Savior’s birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
close your eyes, let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, ‘tis the eve of our Savior’s birth.

Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

The Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:8–20
Bruce Bryan
Shepherds Come to See What God Has Done

Congregational Carol
"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"
Music by Felix Mendelssohn
Text by Charles Wesley

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Refrain

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Refrain
The Seventh Lesson: John 1:1–14

God's Promise Fulfilled

Valerie Jackson

Congregational Carol "Joy to the World"

Music by G.F. Handel
Text by Isaac Watts

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

*Blessing

Leader: Go forth to sing and bless God's name.
People: Glory to God in the highest!
Leader: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.
People: Alleluia! Praise the Lord!
A Ceremony of Lights

The ushers will light the candles of the people on the aisles. Please pass the light down the pew, making sure that the person with the unlit candle tilts into the flame of the lit candle. The children may crack their candle glowsticks.

*Congregational Carol  "Silent Night"

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
’round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav’nly hosts sing: “Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Please extinguish your candles following the final verse of "Silent Night"

Postlude  "Fanfare on 'Joy to the World'"
"In dulci jubilo, BWV 729"  arr. Sarah Rimkus
arr. J. S. Bach
Thank you to those serving tonight:

**Ushers:**
Bert Merrell, Bob O'Neil, Mike McKee, Chrissy Paterson, Molly Paterson

**Choir:**

**Soprano**
Marty Black
Karen Branding
Mary Brown
Megan Glass
Janine Norman

**Alto**
Alison Fox
Carol Klein
Marty Mallett
Sheila Merrell
Stephanie Ruggles

**Tenor**
Dan Brodsky
Aiden Smith

**Bass**
Paul Black
John Glass
Jim Kemp
Dave Piston
Nathan Ruggles

**Instrumentalists:**
Jonathan Brodsky, Percussion
Tony Brown, Clarinet
Jennifer Garrison Brown, Flute
Worship Services: Sundays at 10:00 AM
In Person and Streaming Online

All are invited to join us for worship each Sunday at 10:00 AM, both in person and online. We livestream our services to our website, YouTube, and Facebook.

Radical Inclusion Adult Formation Series

This year we began a Radical Inclusion Adult Formation Series. The series will continue in 2022 with a study of the book "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Robin Diangelo. Jim Hartley will lead the study, beginning with an introduction on Sunday January 23. The study will continue for four weeks on Tuesdays: Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22. All discussions will take place via Zoom. Please contact Hannah Rice in the church office if you would like to participate.

2022 Mission Trip

Emily Stokes is leading a mission trip to the Hinton Center in Hayesville NC from June 12–18, 2022. All ages are welcome (youth under age 12 must have a parent present). We will serve on a Healthy Home Repair project in the local Appalachian community. The total fee for the all-inclusive experience: $450/person. Talk to Emily Stokes for more information and register by January 15.
Piano Trio Concert  
Sunday January 23, 3:00 PM

All are welcome at a piano trio concert in our sanctuary, featuring Daniel Schene (piano), Wanda Becker (violin), and Andrew Ruben (cello).

Early Music @ 1st:  
FCC's concert series in partnership with Early Music Missouri


Sun. March 13, 3 PM – Gaelic Song and Dance

Sun. April 24, 3 PM – Music for Viola d’Amore by Haydn, Stamitz & Others

2022 Pledge

Thank you to those who have turned in your pledge cards for 2022. Extra pledge cards are available at each entrance to the sanctuary.

Christ Candle litany adapted from "Litany for Advent Candle Lighting", carolpenner.typepad.com, November 24, 2015

Scan these QR codes to learn about these events and to give online. (Open your phone's camera and point it at the codes)
Poinsettias

Ken and Celeste Blumer, in memory of Millicent Hubby, Leo and Dixie Blumer
Paul, Clare, and Joe Brady, in memory of all of our church members
Michele and Bruce Bryan, in honor of their grandchildren,
    Charlotte and Finn Grant
Carol and Ward Klein
Mary Lou Mellish
John and Chrissy Paterson, in honor of Molly S. Paterson
Hannah Rice, in celebration of Shaun, Shayla, and Shamdon
The Wurst Family, in celebration of Melissa Wurst's nephew, Jack Keeven;
    and in celebration of Jeanruie Neil

The Molly Suzanne Beavers Scholarship Fund
Educational assistance for FCC members

Ken and Celeste Blumer, in honor of Erin and Kerri Blumer
Paul, Clare, and Joe Brady
Michele and Bruce Bryan
Carol and Ward Klein
Mary Lou Mellish
Sheila and Bert Merrell, in memory of Dad, Mom, Carol & Steve Olson
Robert M. and Barbara Kelley-O’Neil, in memory of Jane Briner Beavers
    and Dr. Paul Evensen
John, Chrissy, and Molly Paterson, in honor of Suzanne K. Forsyth,
    Carrie Sayers, Mary Paterson Hinze, Pastor Mia White & FCC Staff;
    and in memory of Kenneth Biddle, Carol Duhme, Bill Mellish, Ann Homan,
    and Mary Claire Schultz
The Rezny Family
The Wurst Family, in appreciation of Lucy and Gunnar Wurst
The Clara B. & Paul S. McElroy Scholarship Fund
Providing scholarships for students at Eden Seminary

Paul, Clare, and Joe Brady
Carol and Ward Klein
Sheila and Bert Merrell, in celebration of the Joe Rezny Family
Robert M. and Barbara Kelley-O’Neil, in memory of John W. and Dorothy Merrell
O’Neil and Dr. Robert W. and Helen Kelley
The Rezny Family, in memory of Barbara Rezny
The Wurst Family, in memory of Hank Sinatra

The Tevis Huber & William Stanley Mellish Scholarship Fund
Providing scholarships for students at Eden Seminary

Paul, Clare, and Joe Brady
Carol and Ward Klein
Mary Lou Mellish
Sheila and Bert Merrell, in memory of Bill Mellish
Robert M. and Barbara Kelley-O’Neil, in memory of Bill Mellish, Dr. Stan and
Tevis Mellish; and in honor of Mary Lou Mellish
The Rezny Family, in memory of Bill Mellish
The Wurst Family, in memory of Hank Sinatra

The UCC Christmas Fund
Supporting UCC clergy in times of financial or other crisis

Michele and Bruce Bryan
Carol and Ward Klein
Mary Lou Mellish
Hannah Rice, in honor of her grandparents, Rev. Dr. Orval and Ruth Willimann
Our Ministry Team:

Dr. Sarah Bereza (MM, MA, PhD), Minister of Music  
(sbereza@firstcongregational.org)

Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance

Hannah Rice (MDiv), Minister of Administration and Membership  
(hrice@firstcongregational.org)

Emily Stokes (MAPS), Minister of Children & Families  
(estokes@firstcongregational.org)

Rev. Mia White (MDiv, MATS), Senior Minister  
(revmia@firstcongregational.org)