

Ministers: The Congregation • Organist: Mary Heath
 Deacons: Hale Kringlie, Susan Kringlie, Kandy Hartson, Roxanne Rogers
 Dr. David Hartson ~ Pastor & Teacher – (701) 293-0151 • davidhartson@cableone.net

Congregational United Church of Christ of Valley City
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Website: www.cuccvc.org Check Out Our Facebook Page: Valley City Congregational United Church of Christ

Serving followers of Jesus Christ in Valley City since 1881. Voted to join the United Church of Christ in 1960.

☪ Schedule ☪

Sunday	December 24, 2017	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight	(Sanctuary)
		Worship Service with Communion	
	5-6:30 p.m.	Community Dinner	(St. Catherine's Church Dining Hall)
Sunday	December 31, 2017		
	9:30 a.m.	Choir Practice	(Fellowship Hall)
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship & coffee	(Nugent Hall)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship	(Sanctuary)
Tuesday	January 2, 2018		
	9:00 a.m.	Ministerium Meets	(Sheyenne Care Center)
Sunday	January 7, 2018		
	9:30 a.m.	Diaconate Meets	(Fellowship Hall)
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship & coffee	(Nugent Hall)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship & Sunday School with Communion	(Sanctuary)
Sunday	January 14, 2018		
	9:30 a.m.	Choir Practice	
	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship & Coffee	(Nugent Hall)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship & Sunday School Keith Mills, Conference Minister delivering the sermon	(Sanctuary)

~ Remember to bring loose change for the noisy offering ~

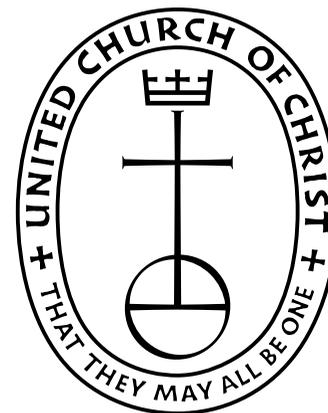
*NOTE: If anyone has information for the website, please let
 Connie and/or Alex Reiten know so they can make revisions or additions.

Remember our church's food drive!

☪ In Our Prayers ☪

At Home: Ron, Garland, Doris J., Kathy M., Harve B.
 West Fargo: Meryl, Riley Moorhead: Hulda
 Sheyenne Care Center (Valley City): Lois B.

Please tell our minister if you wish to have someone added to this list.



Congregational United Church of Christ

Changing Lives: That is Our Church's Wider Ministry



*This is your church
 No matter who you are, where you are on life's journey,
 or what defines you –*

*This is your church
 If you are abundantly welcoming, radically inclusive,
 and theologically courageous –*

*This is your church
 If you want to understand your faith not only with your heart
 but also with your mind –*

*This is your church
 If you want to come in and join the others who are on their journey to the
 Beloved Community of the People of God –*

*Welcome Home!
 This is your Church*

December 24, 2017

*Order of Evening Worship ~ Dr. David Hartson, Presiding
Christmas Eve December 24, 2017 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon*

Prelude

Welcome

*Hymn: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"Black 131

IN UNISON On this Christmas Eve, we are gathered as the people of the Empire of God to celebrate again what the coming of Jesus means to the world.
We join with people all over the world who are celebrating tonight.

Call To Worship

Liturgist Those who once walked in darkness have seen a great light
And their joy has been increased

People The yoke of their burdens is broken
The rod of their oppressor shattered

Liturgist For to us a child has been born
To us a Son is given
And all authority rests upon his shoulders

People His name will be called "Wonderful Counselor,
Prince of Peace"

Liturgist He will establish the Empire of God among us
And uphold it with justice and love

People At his coming, the world will be filled with rejoicing
And the faithful shall witness it together

Special Performance "O Holy Night" Victoria Hammel

READING OF THE FIRST WORD.....Hale Kringlie

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the
greatness of his government and peace here will
be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over his
kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and
righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish
this.

Communion

*Hymn: "Away in a Manger"..... Black 124

We Offer Our Gifts

* **Doxology:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication:

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve others throughout the world
Who live and die in poverty and hunger.
Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread,
And by our understanding love, give peace and joy

-Mother Teresa

Choir Anthem

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE..... The Lerud Family

IN UNISON Jesus is the greatest gift who makes all the other gifts possible.
So, we light the Christ candle now,
As we think about what his birth means to each of us.

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS LIT

PRAYER OF CHRISTMAS - ALL

We are thankful
For the gift of Jesus to the entire world
And all who live upon it
We thank you for the hope, peace, love and joy
For every living creature in the world
Encourage us to do our part
To bring good will, kindness,
justice, and love to all the world
Now let your spirit put us in touch with you
Through our words and music
that we hear tonight

Piano Solo..... Kandy Hartson

READING OF THE SECOND WORD Hale Kringlie

Luke 2:1-14 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee into Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

SERMON

LIGHTING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CANDLES

Please join together in singing "**Silent Night**" **Black 134** as we light our candles and leave the sanctuary

***Please rise if able.** Black ~ The New Century Hymnal. **Monies raised in the Birthday and Special Occasions Church Bank go towards the Congregational United Church Scholarship Fund.
This Scholarship is for members of our church going to college.