



CHANTICLEER

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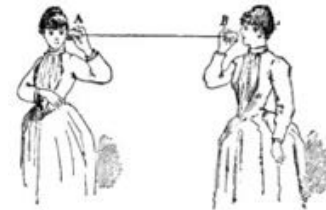
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Charlotte, MI uccCharlotte.org

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Issue 12

Still Listening

Matt Slot, Communications Committee Chair



Change can be hard.

Moving away from the familiar, the *comfortable*, and on to new ground. That's why, when we first started talking about renaming the newsletter, it wasn't an easy decision. There's history, there's tradition... and there was a name that not many of us could easily define, but that we all knew what it stood for. Thank you all for your thoughtful and honest comments throughout this process. I want you to know that you've been heard.

After some soul-searching, some head-scratching, and several rounds of feedback, we've selected a new name for the newsletter: **Still Speaking**. It's a title that invokes ministry and faith, and stepping into the new challenges facing our church. If we are to be "God's Love in Action," then we need to listen to what God is saying.

This last September, we rebuilt our website to better serve our members and reach new audiences. Starting in January, we will refresh our branding, starting with the front page of our monthly newsletter. And as we move forward into 2023, we will continue to realize our message of good news and extravagant welcome in new ways.

Please stay tuned!

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Still Speaking 9

Jody Betten

We serve a still-speaking God.

This language is used regularly in the United Church of Christ to describe a God who didn't quit communicating to us when the Canon closed at the end of the book of Revelation. This adjective for God was popularized in the ad campaign of the UCC which began in 2004. It is described in the excerpt from a sermon by Reverend Philip L. Blackwell, pastor of the downtown Chicago United Methodist Church, also known as the Chicago Temple, on June 11, 2006*:



"God's Comma" (based on John 3:1-17)

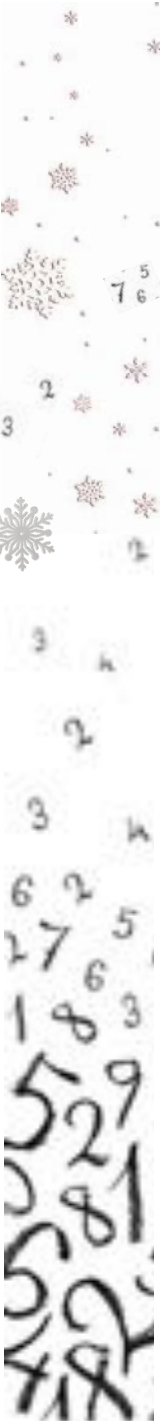
"I am wearing a comma lapel pin that was given to me by my good friend and United Church of Christ minister, Chuck Wildman. The comma is part of the most recent advertising campaign of the UCC. The punch line is, "Don't put a period where God has put a comma." That's a good line. I asked Chuck who said that, which famous theologian. He replied, "Gracie Allen." Some of us remember Burns and Allen. Gracie Allen, wife of George Burns, at her theological best, "Don't put a period where God has put a comma. God is still speaking."

The television ads accompanying this advertising campaign for the United Church of Christ were rejected by the major networks – CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX. "Too controversial," some said. "Too religious," others judged. Imagine, something religious being controversial. What the video shows is a traditional church family sitting in a traditional church. A woman nearby struggles with a crying baby, the traditional family glares disapprovingly, and then they push an ejection button and the mother and crying child are jettisoned from the church. Then the family ejects a poor person, a gay couple, and a Middle Eastern-looking man. Finally, the voice over said, "God doesn't reject people. Neither do we."

The networks did not want anything that provocative on television. Imagine all that we see each day on the screen, and the message that God does not reject us is too much.

The essential truth of that spot is our point: God continues to reveal new truths to us. God continues to build new communities for us. God continues to reach out to us so that no one is left out of the family of God. So, let us not dare to put a period where God has put a comma. God is still speaking."

* The transcription became available via Reverend Dr. Jane Fisler Hoffman, Illinois Conference Minister.



Advent Calendar

by Rowan Williams

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.



A Poem

From the Desk of
Pastor Jody Betten



“Happy New Year!”

I know it seems weird to say that at this time of year. There are so many other things going on; Thanksgiving, Bazaar, Festival of Trees, Advent Sundays, Christmas decorating, cookie baking, shopping and gift wrapping, partying... please don't make me think of another thing!

The Church Year Seasons, or what some call the Christian year, is a reorienting of our attention.

We begin with Advent, the season before Christmas. It's a season of preparing, of watching and waiting in anticipation. Our preparing for Christmas involves putting the activities of the season in a certain perspective.

We long, like the ancients did, for a Messiah to come and save us – to save us from despair and boredom, from frantic searching and paralysis, from our own ego and selfishness. This One comes to show us a way of life filled with meaning and mercy and freedom and love and all the things that help us thrive as people on a spiritual journey connected with our universe.

We journey in preparation with those who went to Bethlehem.

We follow the creatures who provide the resources for life and livelihood, who remind humanity of interconnection and dependence.

We follow the shepherds, outcasts of the world, those who live on the edge and who first know the real significance of the baby.

We follow the Holy Family, a bit trepidatious wondering what God's plan is for them.

We follow the angels with a message of hope and joy.

We follow the star like the Wise Ones, the outsiders who bring gifts and then are rerouted.

As we are reminded of the meaning of the season, our activities take on new significance.

Planning for gifts gives us pause regarding the special nature of the one we are buying for.

Preparing for a party reminds us to bring joy into our lives whenever we can.

The luxury of shopping for what we need and more may encourage us to remember those whose income provides no cushion even for basics.

Decorating with lights and creativity brings delight and happiness into a world that can be drab and feel trite.

As we journey to Bethlehem, possibility beckons – to see God’s dream for us and our world with fresh eyes and hearts. We will arrive at the manger where a vulnerable baby shows us the way. We see how mystical and magical and brilliant and wonder-filled this world is that we live in as people of God. Our preparations fill us with hope, faith, joy, peace and love which we can bring to the world.

2022 - A Year in Review The Annual Report

With 2022 coming to a close, we enter a time of reflection, individually and as a congregation. We remember what have done, celebrate the good things, and imagine where we are going in the new year. Our annual reports will be a record of our achievements and goals.

We encourage everyone - teams, committees, financial managers, officers, to participate in this process. **Submission deadline is January 8.** Send to Editor@uccCharlotte.org.

As you write your report, please consider how your group activity is a reflection of our values: “Love in Action: Inclusion, Outreach, Creativity, Diversity, Community, Education” and fit within our pillars, Unity (Build Relationships), Growth (Embrace Change), Healing (Embody Grace), Outreach (Inspire Love in Action), and Sustainability (Plan for the Future).

A Blue Christmas

Jody Betten

The holiday season is a sad time for many. Loss of loved ones, divorce, illness, joblessness are a few of the many factors that make it difficult to be jolly when others are joyful.

First Congregational United Church of Christ will be holding a Blue Christmas service on December 11 at 4 pm.

A Blue Christmas service is a time of worship, of coming into God's presence together, when it's okay to not be happy. It is a more quiet and reflective service where introspection and even tears are okay. Feelings of sadness and pain, grief and doubt can be expressed in a safe place. During this service, there will be in scripture and liturgy and prayer, moments of quiet for reflection; many reminders that God is within us and among us even when we are not experiencing what seems to be the normal joy of those around us.



We don't know who needs to know about this service, so we are asking that friends who use Facebook simply share from the Church Facebook page to your page in a gentle, non-confrontational quiet way.

This service of reflection and healing and acceptance will take place on Sunday, December 11 at 4pm in the Lounge. All are welcome to attend. Come as you are, no expectations. The service will also be live streamed for those who can't come out; and will be recorded for watching at a later time when it feels appropriate.

If you have questions about this service or what to expect, please feel free to talk with Pastor Jody at Pastor@uccCharlotte.org

We don't know who needs to know about this service, so we are asking that if you use Facebook, would you simply share from the Church Facebook page to your page in a gentle, non-confrontational, quiet way?

Advent

12/4 2nd Sunday of Advent

Mary will be our guide. Faith will be our theme.

12/11 3rd Sunday of Advent

Joseph will be our guide. Joy will be our theme. Reverend Daniel Plasman will be preaching.



12/11 Blue Christmas Service –

At 4:00 pm in the Lounge we will gather for reflection and meditation. Included will be quiet music, contemplation, candle lighting, and prayers for loved ones or concerns.

12/18 Family Christmas Pageant

During this Sunday service, we will remember the story of those who were present on that first Christmas in a way that people of all ages can enjoy. We will reflect, learn, and celebrate the true meaning of the birth of the baby in a manger. The Advent candle will be the candle of peace. The shepherds will guide our way.

12/24 Christmas Eve Service

At 8 pm, this traditional service will include Christmas Carols, the Christmas story, reflecting on the meaning of the season, choir anthems, and solos ending with candle lighting – passing the light among the congregation during the singing of Silent Night. The Advent candle theme will be love. The angels will be our guides.

Christmas Season

12/25 Christmas Day Sunday Service

This 10 am service will include lighting of the Christ Candle, singing Christmas Carols, and celebrating the Christmas Story of Immanuel, God With Us. The baby Jesus will guide us. Love will be our theme.



1/1 2nd Sunday of Christmas

As we celebrate the turning over of new year, we will reflect on the significance of baby Jesus, Immanuel, God With Us, as the one whose way guides our lives. Our theme is sustaining love.

1/8 First Sunday of Epiphany

To wrap up the Christmas story, the Wise Ones bringing precious gifts will guide us to meet Jesus the Child. They are the outsiders who can see what those who were close couldn't see. And, they were threatened for their awareness, so they went home by another way. When we are threatened for our message of love, we need community and nourishment to sustain us. We will celebrate Holy Communion during the worship service.

The Tuesday Night Class

Caryn Hansen with Curt Scott and others

The Tuesday night class, also known affectionately as “Curt Scott’s Class,” enters year 2023 with a new goal: class broken into a series of 6-week subsections - bite-sized morsels, as Curt calls them. The current class, Actual Jesus, where Curt invites attendees to meet the Historical Jesus and ending December 20, will give way to a look at the first 90 years, the early days of the Church (see description below).

The class which has the feel of a seminary class room, listening to speakers from around the world, runs about 20 attendees with room for many more.

“I have learned so much in his class,” Diane Hudson shared during coffee hour one week.

When asked later to expand on that thought, she wrote, “I have always loved history, and Curt's class is history in glorious array. I have learned more from him than any other history teacher, ever. Our group is faithful, and we always [learn] something obscure before we leave.” She went on to say that it’s a class for people who “are interested in Ancient history, religious history, and recent history ... it’s thought provoking and exciting.”

As a follow up, Mary Kohmuench shares that, “Curt’s class has given me an appreciation and understanding of how world history and key individuals have contributed to religion today.”

From Running to Revelation: the first 90 years

January 3 – February 7

Tuesday Night Bible Study will explore what happened immediately following the execution of Jesus by Roman order. We’ll begin with Peter running as the cock crowed, and end with John banished to the Isle of Patmos. In between, sober people see the risen Jesus and are transformed. They create the first Christian writings.

Besides persecution, what did following Jesus mean to the first two generations, within the context of the Roman Empire? *How* did they follow Jesus? From Mary Magdalene waiting at the tomb to *and the word was made flesh and dwelt among us*, will be the topic for January, divided into 6, easily digestible slices.



The Holy Practice of Consistency: Pub Theology in 2022

Adam Droscha

Looking back on Pub Theology this year, I remember many things. I can remember new and interesting visitors, many good questions and thoughtful answers, and several constructive and insightful conversation topics. But what stands out to me the most is the consistency — the consistency of our effort, the consistency of our project.

The project of Pub Theology is to find commonality through conversation, and its end goal is peace with our neighbors. Spiritual enlightenment, divine revelation, and commonality of belief are peripheral to the effort of peace making, or, rather, they're secondary. Learning to understand, see, accept, and affirm one another in the name of God is why we gather and why we converse.

But in this age of fast gratification, instant downloads, and short tempers combined with quick retorts, the consistency of our effort is what I remember from the last year, and what I think really matters. We tend these days to want things fast, but listening to and learning about each other often takes time and energy, especially if it's someone we already know we disagree with.

While members of First Congregational Church were the core of the Pub Theology gatherings, we still saw many an outsider join, listen in on, and stumble upon our conversations. Those are the folks we go out for, not to evangelize or convert them to our way of being church, but to show who we are and learn about them as well — to create the conditions under which we have the opportunity to hear each other and heal.

We could also say that one of Pub Theology's primary goals is novelty. We're looking for the conversation about God, spirituality, and faith that is uncommon and original — not heard nearby in other faith communities. But the very act and event of Pub Theology, that consistent gathering and attempted lowering of barriers, is often the novel factor in and of itself, especially in a time and culture where ignoring and avoiding each other is considered a solution to disagreement and division.

I don't know that there was an especially unique theme or thread running through all our Pub Theology events. They all had special moments in their own ways. But the regular act of coming together, that consistent practice of being around a table and listening to one another over drinks and food, was as important as any question, any answer, or the content of any conversation.

The Next SEJ Book Read

Social and Environmental Justice

Improving best practices is on the top of everyone's minds as we enter the new year afresh. To that end, Ramona Kime is committed to providing book details at least a month - or more, prior to the book discussion starting to allow more time for ordering and reading.

To that end, the next book on our list is (with excerpts from the inside cover)::

I'm Still Here –

Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness

By Austin Channing Brown

From the cover, *"I'm Still Here* is an illuminating look at how white middle-class Evangelicalism has participated in an era of rising racial hostility, inviting the reader to confront apathy, recognize God's ongoing work in the world, and discover how Blackness – if we let it – can save us all."

"In a time when nearly all institutions (schools, churches, universities, businesses: claim to value diversity in their mission statements, *I'm Still Here* is a powerful account of how and why our actions so often fall short of our words. Austin Channing-Brown writes in breathtaking detail about her journey to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice, in stories that bear witness to the complexity of America's social fabric – from Black Cleveland neighborhoods to private schools in the middle-class suburbs, from prison walls to the boardrooms at majority-white organizations."



Author's background: "Austin Channing Brown's first encounter with a racialized America came at age seven, when she discovered her parents named her Austin to deceive future employers into thinking she was a white man. Growing up in majority-white schools, organizations, and churches, Austin writes, "I had to learn what it means to love Blackness, a journey that led to a lifetime spent navigating America's racial divide as a writer, a speaker, and an expert helping organizations practice genuine inclusion."

Watch for details regarding the exact dates and place of the discussion in *Still Speaking*, the newsletter!

Films for Your Viewing Pleasure!

Ramona Kime

The Social and Environmental Justice (SEJ) movie series is taking a break in December and January, but if you still want to watch some good films, here are four possibilities for you, found on Netflix and Amazon Prime Video.

The Prom (2020)



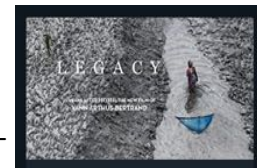
A troupe of fun, self-obsessed theater stars swarm into a small conservative Indiana town in support of a high school girl who wants to take her girlfriend to the prom. It features a star-studded cast, including Meryl Streep, James Corden and Nicole Kidman. Available on Netflix

Dumplin' (2018)



A heartwarming story about a plus-size teenage daughter of a former beauty queen (Jennifer Aniston) who signs up for her mom's Miss Teen Bluebonnet pageant as a protest. Other contestants follow in her footsteps, revolutionizing the pageant and their small Texas town. The young woman ultimately calls on her drag queen friends to prepare her for the pageant. Available on Netflix

Legacy (2021)



This brilliant and highly rated documentary on climate change shows—through amazing photography—the changes that are happening to the earth. The photographer/director reveals a suffering planet and the ecological damage caused by humans, but ultimately invites us to reconcile with nature and proposes several solutions. Available for free on Amazon Prime Video

Mission: Joy—Finding Happiness in Troubling Times (2022)



This beautiful, heartwarming, and joyful film explores the remarkable friendship between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It consists largely of never-before-seen footage shot over 5 days at the Dalai Lama's residence in Dharamsala.

Inspired by New York Times bestseller “The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World”, it is especially significant because this is the last time the two friends will see each other. The Archbishop Desmond Tutu passed away on Dec. 26, 2021. Available to rent/buy (from \$3.99) on Amazon Prime Video

Volunteer Spotlight

Amy Frost, an Inspiration

Caryn Hansen



I have one life and one chance to make it count for something... My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference. – Jimmy Carter

Amy Frost's earliest and biggest influencer in loving through action was her father who volunteered throughout his life, in church, city government, services clubs, schools boards. But it is Jimmy Carter's words that have become her measure: "... where I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can... I have to try to make a difference."

On her way to work, she calls congressmen. In addition to being president of the Church Council, she serves on Mission Team, Communications Committee, Social and Environmental Justice Committee, and the Commons Committee. She also has seasonal projects: in the Summer, our Children's Reading program; in the winter, Festival of Trees to raise money for winter boots.

"I love Christmas!" her whole face lights up as she says this.

Amy started attending First Congregational United Church of Christ 13 years ago when she and David started dating. She became a member soon after. Twelve years ago, the Festival of Trees was started by Kate Jones. Amy started helping that very first year. When Kate stepped back a few years later, Amy naturally took over. Under Kate, the fundraiser portion of the festival was intended to raise money for the church. Under Amy's vision, focus changed so that the fundraiser became a donation to the Eaton Clothing and Furniture Center's Winter Boot drive.

One Candle Lights Another - Amy's candle warms a village

This year, the festival raised \$2808 for the boot drive.

Any big project brings in a lot of helpers, volunteers. Amy's annual vision is contagious, inspiring many to assist. This year, church and community contributors to the festival include the Eaton County Journal Staff, Friends of Chrystal, Boy Scout Troop 45, Michigan Nordic Fire Fest, Katy Shumaker, Blanche Moyer Circle, Jeanne Hudson, Audrey Kepler, Jan Shall, Mary Normand, Cindy Russell, Carole Brown, Peggy Heinze, Barb Rhodes, Larry Taylor, Cindy Southworth, Cindy Wilbur, Dan Plasman, Carol Ranville, Ramona Kime, Arcadia Porter, Shawn Porter, Sharon Oatman, Sylvia Bittner, Diane Sowle, Deanna Rendel, Chris Reist Rush, the UCC Social and Environmental Justice Team, the Missions Team, Cooper Frost, Mary Roessler. In addition, Matt Slot provided the online auction support and Cooper Frost organized the QR codes. Our community is blessed to have so many caring and creative people. **Thank you, All.**

Putting Good Things Out Into the World



Annie Dodds Retires

After 34 years of employment with Big Boy Restaurant in Charlotte, Annie Dodds retired on November 11, 2022.

Skilled in the art of cross stitch, Annie looks forward to using her extra time to create quilts with her parents, Dale and Jan. Annie cross stitches and ties them, Dale and Jan sew them. Well done, Annie!

Cooper Frost - Making Waves

✓ Graduates from university. ✓ Moves back to home town. ✓ Buys childhood home. ✓ Gets job with a global company. ✓ Wins distinguished award for work in the community. ✓ Wins prestigious performance award from employer for which he travels to the other side of the world to receive.

During the first week in November, Cooper Frost was noticeably absent from activity at FCUCC. When he resurfaced, he had amazing pictures from Bali and stories of riding a bamboo bicycle in the Philippines. His employer, Western Digital, chose Bali for a corporate meeting and acknowledged Cooper's innovative work with a special award. Kudos to Cooper!



Adam Slot, Our Buddy

During the month of November, while some of us found ourselves snowed in, Adam Slot was wowing audiences at Charlotte Performing Arts Center (CPAC) with a truly stellar performance in the title role for the musical Elf (Buddy, the Elf).

A talented entertainer, Adam also loves performing his trumpet/cornet in the CHS's Symphony Band, Jazz Band and Marching Band. He is also a member of the Charlotte Community Band. He enjoys singing and playing the piano, violin, and guitar. Adam's other interests include reading, writing and composing. Adam one day aspires to be a professional conductor/director and composer.

Pastor Search Committee for First Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 27, was the first Sunday of Advent heralding our season of Hope.



In keeping with Hope, as part of the service, we held a commissioning service for our new Pastoral Search Committee. We are grateful for these people who have been nominated by the congregation and agreed to serve.

Ron Field
Diane Hudson
Jeannine Scott

Amy Frost
Bill Oatman
Matt Slot

Cooper Frost
Todd Rockhill
Bren Wood

Watch for updates of their work in the Still Speaking Newsletter. And, please keep them in your prayers as they take on this important ministry.

Membership Class

Have you been considering joining First Congregational United Church of Christ?

We've heard you! Several of you have asked about becoming a member; or for more information about what membership involves. According to the Bylaws, "Membership in this Church shall be open to any person who desires to lead a Christian life." Or, what we like to say, "no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!"

On January 22, after the Sunday morning worship service there will be a luncheon where all your questions can be answered and more information about the process will be shared. There is no obligation if you attend. It's simply a time to find out more. Please plan to attend.

If you have more questions, please talk to Pastor Jody (pastor@uccCharlotte.org)



Mission Moment

Mary Normand, Chair

Winter Coat Project: This is ongoing. 62 coats have been purchased so far. \$920 has been collected for additional purchases plus Meijer has given us a \$300 gift card to purchase coats. The coats are divided between SIREN/Eaton and Eaton Clothing and Furniture Center. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far and to Meijer for their generous gift card. On Black Friday, the Yerkes were able to buy one, get 2 free at Meijer. Along with the Santa bucks and the special deal, they were able to purchase coats at a significant discount.

Health kits have been completed. Bill Yerkes talked with agencies who help the homeless as well as an individual who was homeless at one time and put together the kits based on the information they gave. After donations, the Mission Board purchased 72 kits and distributed 24 kits each to Housing Services, SIREN/Eaton, and ECFC. The kits consisted of the following: comb, toothbrush and toothpaste, razor, deodorant soap, nail clippers, emery board, shower cap, Kleenex, shampoo, antibiotic woodman wipes that could be used if clean water is not available, and a zip loc sandwich bag that could be used for items that may be used again like the soap.

We have adopted 3 families for this Christmas. Check the credenza downstairs for items still needed for purchase.

The Giving Tree for December is warm winter hats, mittens and gloves. They can be left in the Bess Fulton Room or in the little alcove in the annex around the corner from the mailboxes.

United in Love is a new project of the Michigan UCC Conference that partners with a company called *RIP Medical Debt* out of New York. As the name implies, the company's sole purpose is to eliminate medical debt. The Michigan Conference acquired \$4 million in Michigan medical debt that can be wiped out at 100:1 ratio which means that for every \$1 donated \$100 in medical debt is eliminated. The Mission Board is donating \$1000 toward this project and will be challenging the congregation to match it. It will be our Giving Tree for January and February. We are hoping to complete this by March 26. Please watch for more information.

Wishing all of you a most Blessed Christmas and New Year.

Stay Tuned

Charlotte's Merry Little Christmas



**A FREE Christmas concert
for the whole family!**

FEATURING

Charlotte Community Band
Charlotte Community Jazz Ensemble
Charlotte UCC Choir
Brass Ensembles
Clarinet Choir
Tuba Christmas
Caroling
Themed Gift Baskets
A Visit from Santa Claus



FREE ADMISSION

7:00PM—Saturday, December 10th

Charlotte Performing Arts Center

What If

By Marchae Grair

Director of Public Relations and Outreach
at the Unitarian Universalist Association

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. – Psalm 124:8 (NIV)

*What if Martin didn't stand up?
What if Rosa didn't sit down? ...
What if Maya didn't speak out?
What if Langston Hughes didn't write it down?*

In India Arie's song "What If," she asks what would have happened if Black change-makers wouldn't have sought liberation. I love how the chorus connects this curiosity with a call to present-day action.

*We are the ones we've been waiting for
We can change the world
Our love can change the world*

In our current political climate, I witness people searching for the next change-makers who will save us all. I even find myself reading and scrolling through Facebook trying to identify the next great hero instead of wondering what kind of hero lives in me.

Advent is a time when we think about the coming of Christ and the promise that this arrival brings. Waiting is a key tenet of the liturgical season.

But the danger of Advent is resigning to inaction as we wait.

Some treat Advent as the time we wait for the one who will save us; however, Advent is the time we wait for the one who gives us the blueprint to save ourselves.

We already know the ending to the story, and thankfully, Emmanuel will come to show us the way. The coming Christ will speak truth to power, even when it challenges those in power. The coming Christ will embrace those who would otherwise be discarded and disregarded.

"God with us" is the compass. It is up to us to not let the promise of an eternal heaven distract us from our responsibility to strive for a collective salvation and liberation on earth.

Prayer

What if I let my actions in the waiting honor the spirit of your coming? I can't wait to find out the answer. Amen.

Leaders and Staff of the Church

Council President 3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm	Amy Frost	Frosta@pennfield.net
Vice President	Curt Scott	CurtisJScott@hotmail.com
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Financial Secretary	Don Johnson	DonJohnson106@mac.com
Treasurer (Finance Team)	Kathie Cook	crkcook@hotmail.com
Endowment Team	Mike Fulton	mjfulton@sbcglobal.net
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Buildings and Grounds	David Frost	Black_ice@att.net
Business Team Leader	Bill Oatman	Oatman701@att.net
Education Team Leader 1st Sunday, 11:30 am	Judy Johnson	Johnsoj@ameritech.net
Mission Team Leader 3rd Sunday, 11:30 am	Mary Normand	DavidNormand@att.net
Worship Team Last Sunday, 11:30 am	Dennis Cates	DWCates55@yahoo.com

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***The Chanticleer** is the monthly newsletter distributed to members and friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Charlotte. We welcome most comments and articles.*

***Editor:** Editor@ucccharlotte.org*

Chanticleer monthly deadline is the 18th to inform us of intended articles.

All articles are due on the 25th.

When We Come Together . . .

Sunday Worship: 10 am In Person, on Facebook,com/[ucc48813](https://www.facebook.com/ucc48813). and website ucccharlotte.org

Faith Groups

Adult Bible Study	Sundays, 8:15 am, Annex/LMR	Dale Dodds vdd6@att.net, Sundays, 8:15 am
Contemplation, Meditation, Prayer	Sundays, 7:30 am, 8 am, 8:30 am	Adam Droscha Adam.Droscha@gmail.com
Godly Play (Children)	Sundays, 10:10 am, Church/Floor 2	Sarah Cook scook@olivetcollege.edu
Prayer Group	1st and 3rd Thurs, 10:30 am	Sandra Field yourstrulycollection@hotmail.com
Prayer Shawls	1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9 am, Lounge	Amy Krizek Mom_Krizek@hotmail.com,
Pub Theology	2nd & 4th Thursday, 7 pm, Riedy's	Adam Droscha Adam.Droscha@gmail.com
Tuesday Night Study	Tuesdays, 6:30 pm, Annex	Curt Scott curtisjscott@hotmail.com

Music

Senior Choir	Wednesdays, 7pm, Lounge, September—May	Ramona Kime Ramona.Kime@gmail.com
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Committees and Groups

Art Committee	Mondays, 1 pm, once a month	Sandra Field yourstrulycollection@hotmail.com
Blanche Moyer	2nd Monday, 6:30 pm	Judi Cates JudithCates68@gmail.com
Care Committee	1st Wednesday, 10 am	Pam Rinckey rinckey1@hotmail.com
Commons Comm.	Times Vary	Matt Slot MattSlot@gmail.com
Communications	3rd Monday, 6:30 pm, Annex/smr	Matt Slot
Personnel Committee	As needed	Terry Davis tdavis@msu.edu
Social and Environmental		
Justice Committee	2nd Sunday, 11:30 am	Ramona Kime Ramona.Kime@gmail.com
Women's Group	As needed	Mary Normand, DavidNormand@att.net Rachel Harvitt, rrharv4953@gmail.com



THE CHANTICLEER

First Congregational United Church of Christ –
517.543.1310
106 South Bostwick - Charlotte, MI 48813
office@uccCharlotte.org www.ucccharlotte.org

Office Hours
Tues - Wed & Fri 9am - 2pm
517 543 1310
Worship Service 10 am
Sunday In Person,
Facebook & YouTube



Some of the special days celebrated in December:

December 1 – World AIDS Day
December 3 – Make a Gift Day
December 17 – National Ugly Sweater Day
December 18 to December 26 – Hanukkah
December 21 – Winter Solstice
December 24 – Christmas Eve
December 25 – Christmas
December 26 to January 1 – Kwanzaa

