



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Daniel, John August Swanson

November 24, 2024

10:15 a.m.

27th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome!

Welcome to our guests! Thank you for being here. It is such a joy to worship with you. Please speak to any member of the Pastoral Team if you would like to explore how our church may become your spiritual home. As an **Open and Affirming** congregation we seek to extend the extravagant welcome of God to all people, all the time. Regardless of your race, class, ancestry, gender identity, marital status, ability, age, immigration status, or sexual orientation, you are always welcome at First Church. We affirm your inherent dignity as a child of God. God created you just as you are and loves you just as you are. We do, too!

Children's Ministries: Children's Ministries: Babies are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship. We also have a nursery (accessible through the "baby breezeway" in the back of the Sanctuary). First Church offers child care (for ages 3 months to 3 years) with professional nursery staff on Sundays @ 9:45am-11:45am. Sunday School classes are known as "Disciple Road" (age 4 through 5th grade) and "Middle Road" (6th grade and up). We also have a children's choir. Reach out to Kim Feeney (kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org) for more information about our children's ministries & faith formation programs.

We have a **hearing assist system** for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids available and also have receivers with earpieces available. Please speak to an usher for assistance.

Leading Us in Worship

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Kim Feeney, Director of Disciple Road

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Chancel Choir

Deacon: Greg Jefremow

Ushers: Alan Fuehring & Heather Hodgeman

Worship leaders speak the text in regular type.
All the People of God speak the text in boldface.

Italic Text provides explanation or instruction.

* Please stand if you are able

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prelude *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* arr. Matthew Corl

Welcome and Announcements and Friendship Register

Introit *Uyai Mose (Come, All You People)* Alexander Gondo

***Call to Worship**

One: This is a time for giving thanks; a time to be mindful of the good that encircles us.

All: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

One: Friends and family encourage and care, and this community shows us God's loving ways.

All: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

One: We find a home in God's creation and the earth gives us good food to help us thrive.

All: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

One: The seasons change. Sunshine comes and goes, yet your loving care for us is eternal.

All: Thank you, God, for all you have given us! Be with us as we worship you together!

***Hymn** *We Gather Together* 21 *Pilgrim Hymnal*

***Prayer of Invocation and the Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Children's Sermon

***Passing the Peace**

One: May the peace of God be with you!

All: And also with you!

We greet one another with a sign of peace

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

***Hymn of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

Scripture

Psalm 126, Matthew 6:24-34

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

***Hymn**

Now Thank We All Our God

419 *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers are given by the Trupp family to the Glory of God and in remembrance of
Andrew J. Trupp (Drew) who is thought of today and every day.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

God, Whose Farm Is All Creation

Larry Long

God, whose farm is all creation,
take the gratitude we give;
take the finest of our harvest,
crops we grow that all may live.

All our labour, all our watching,
all our calendar of care,
in these crops of your creation,
take, O God: they are our prayer.

Take our ploughing, seeding, reaping,
hopes and fears of sun and rain,
all our thinking, planning, waiting,
ripening into fruit and grain.

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

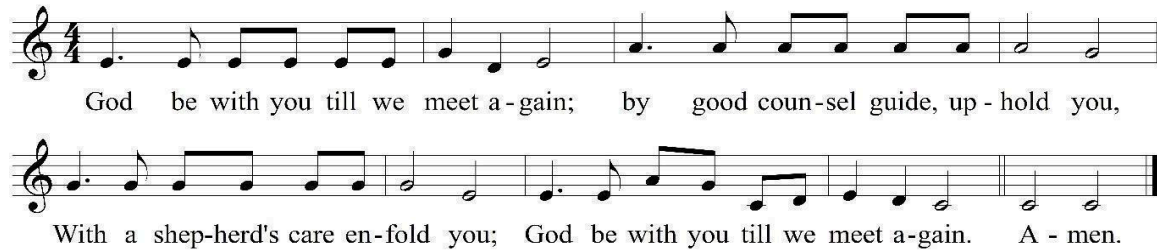
***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn**

O God, Beyond All Praising
(Please See Bulletin Insert)

***Benediction and Response**

God Be With You



God be with you till we meet a-gain; by good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
With a shep-herd's care en-fold you; God be with you till we meet a-gain. A - men.

Postlude

Nun Danket Alle Gott

Bach, arr. E. Power Biggs



Calling All Bakers
for the 3 Kings Bazaar bake sale!

**COOKIES, BARS,
CAKES, BREADS, PIES**
ANYTHING YOU LIKE TO BAKE!

Please leave in the Eunoia kitchen on Friday 12/6 or Saturday 12/7 by 1PM

Questions contact Cathy at 203-257-2276

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Disciples at First Church: We pray for Christian Bassett; Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Dan Christianson; Linda Corby; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destruge; Gloria Evans; Charlotte Jefremow; Christy Jefremow; Nancy Jones and family; Cathy Kane, her brother Scott and great niece Amelia; Adelaide Kitchen; Jerry Krenke; Penny Stevens; Joann Van Esselstyn; Kathy Verdier; Andrea Wakeman; Elinor Wilber; and Edith Zambo. We hold in our prayers all those who face living with memory loss and Alzheimer's disease and we pray for their caregivers.

Serving in the military: James Classy, Sam Classy, Trevor Dawson, David Elmore, Andrew Holms, Charles Ikeda, Kelcy McKenzie, and Christopher Muschett.

Family and Friends: Connie Accomando (Jim's mom); Tracy Bloom (sister of Michael Traum); Diane Studwell Crawley; Brandon Deedon (Pertrinea Cash's son); Paul Douglas (Rita Skog's cousin); Lynelle Dupuis (sister of Bethany); Carter Faustini; Kimberly Fetteri (friend of the Gindek family); Anthony Gentile, Nate Gifford (Connie Sargent's cousin); Greenawalt and Darnall Families (Gindek family); Bill Fry (Penny Stevens' brother-in-law); David Green (friend of David McKinnis), Catherine Grover; Walter Haenn (brother of Madeline Lee); Yochai Harel, Melanie Rainbow-Harel and family (friends of Michelle Walker); Peter Hey (brother of Lin Clayton); Christina Holms (Connie and Bill Sargent's niece); Erol Kephalas (cousin of Rita Skog); Nancy King (Friend of Paul Cahill); Janice Klein and the family of Lillian Klein; Susan Labas (friend of Patty Bilotto); Peter Maloney; Verne Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's mother); Lila (friend of Beth McKinnis); Heather McNicholl (friend of Charlotte Dyslin), Dorothy Michalowski (friend of Connie and Bill Sargent); Andre Mirkine; Barbara Peterson (friend of Ted and Judy Andre); Artie Quinn; Dick Reese (father in law of Melissa Stanhewicz); Patty Roberts (cousin of Connie and Bill Sargent); Rosalie Rutkauskas (Jessie's Grandmother); Darlene and Bobby Scaia (Pat Bilotto's cousins); David Skog (son of Rita Skog); Stephen Stenberg (son of Jeanne Reed's college friend); Danielle Taal, daughter of Joe and Lauren Strickland, and their five grandsons in Libya; Hayder, Nada, Ali, and Leith Tawfiq (friends of First Church), John Anderson (David McKinnis' uncle); Mark, Crystal and baby Selene (friends of Beth McKinnis.); and John Walsh.

Permissions

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come arranged by Matthew Corl. © 2015 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., St. Louis, MO. *Uyai Mose (Come, All You People)* by Alexander Gondo. Arrangement by Alexander Gondo and John Bell. © Text © 1986 World Council of Churches and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music. Arrangement © 1994, WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. *God Who's Farm is All Creation* Tune: © 2006, Augsburg Fortress Text: © Timothy Arlott, admin. Augsburg Fortress. *O God, Beyond All Praising.* Text © 1982 Mrs. Beatrice Perry (admin. The Jubilate Group/Hope Publishing Company) Music © 2007 Hope Publishing Company. Livestreamed/reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net #A-731937. Call to Worship from the Iroquois-Matilda Pastoral Charge website.

A festive flyer for a cookie decorating class. The background is light green with white wavy borders. It features illustrations of a gingerbread man, a snowman, and a Christmas tree. The text is centered and includes the title, description, instructor, date, location, and contact information.

*First Night of Advent
Cookie Decorating Class*

Christmas cookie decorating for
Disciple Road & Middle Road families!

Instruction provided by
Jen Hinkle of "Hinkle's Twinkles"

 Sunday, December 1st, 5:30pm
 Wakeman Hall Kitchen
 Questions: kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org

Three Kings Bazaar



at First Church of Fairfield,
Saturday Dec. 7 from 3 to 8 p.m.

Email office@firstchurchfairfield.org for details

Covenant to Care

Holiday Gift Drive

Sign up & take gift tags at our Sunday, Dec. 1 & Dec. 8 services for delivery to social workers by Dec. 15

Help make the holiday season brighter by joining us to purchase gifts in the \$30 range for children in need this holiday season.



For more details contact the church office.

Christmas Eve Pageant 2024



Sunday Nov. 24 is the last day for children to register for our Christmas pageant. Please email Kim Feeny at kfeeny@firstchurchfairfield.org Rehearsals begin Dec. 1