



Life Line

Come let us
Adore
Him



Celebrating the True Meaning of Christmas

Friends and Families of First Congregational Church of Rochester,

As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, my heart is filled with gratitude and anticipation. This special time of year invites us to pause, reflect, and rejoice in the greatest gift ever given—the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a season marked by hope, love, and peace, reminding us that God’s light shines brightest in the midst of darkness.

This year, many of us have faced challenges and moments of uncertainty. Yet, the story of Christmas reminds us that hope is always within reach. When the angels announced Jesus’ birth to the shepherds, they proclaimed “good news of great joy for all people.” No matter our circumstances, this message offers comfort and assurance that we are never alone. Emmanuel—God with us—brings hope to our hearts and homes.

Christmas is also a time to reflect God’s love to those around us. Whether through acts of kindness, words of encouragement, or simply sharing a smile, we have countless opportunities to make Christ’s love visible in our community. I encourage each of you to reach out to someone in need, offer a helping hand, or invite a neighbor to join us during our Christmas services. Small gestures can make a big difference and help others experience the joy of the season.

Let us not forget to celebrate! Gather with family and friends, sing familiar carols, and create cherished memories. Christmas is a season for rejoicing, for giving thanks, and for anticipating the blessings of a new year. As we celebrate together, may our hearts be filled with the joy that comes from knowing Christ and sharing His love.

As we prepare to step into a new year, let us carry the Spirit of Christmas with us. Let us be people of hope, bearers of love, and messengers of joy. I pray that God will bless each of you with health, happiness, and peace as we continue to walk in faith together.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

With peace and blessings,

Pastor Joe and Chris

December 2025



Worship Hours And Upcoming Events In the month of December

Monday, December 1 - 4:00 - 5:00 pm Advent Bible Study at Honey Creek Community Baptist Church.

Tuesday, December 2 - 9:00 - 10:00 am Tai Chi

Tuesday, December 2 - 11:00 - 12:00 pm Advent Bible Study at FCC Rochester, WI.

Friday, December 5 - 6:00 pm The FCC of Rochester, WI Community Christmas Tree Lighting followed by the Madrigal Singers. Join us afterwards for a Coffee Hour and refreshments.

Sunday, December 7 - 10:00 am Worship Hour. Sermon, Rev. Joe Hackett. Choir singing. Coffee Hour following the service.

Tuesday, December 8 - 4:00 - 5:00 pm Advent Bible Study at Honey Creek Community Baptist Church.

Tuesday, December 9 - 9:00 - 10:00 am Tai Chi

Tuesday, December 9 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Advent Bible Study at FCC of Rochester.

Friday, December 12 - 11:00 am Ladies Luncheon at Chances. Come join us for lunch! Followed by cookie packing at the church. Please let Mary Krall know if you are planning on joining us for lunch. There will be a sign-up sheet in the entryway of the church. You can also call Mary Krall at 262-492-6523. Small cookies and bars are needed and can be dropped off on Friday morning.



Sunday, December 14 - 10:00 am Worship Hour. Communion Sunday. Sermon, Rev. Joe Hackett. Children's Sunday School. Special Music by Vicki Will. Coffee Hour following the service. (*Communion Helpers, Tom and Sue Beach and Ruth Frost*)

Tuesday, December 15 - 4:00 - 5:00 pm Advent Bible Study at Honey Creek Community Baptist Church.

Tuesday, December 16 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Advent Bible Study at FCC of Rochester.

Tuesday, December 16 - 9:00—10:00 am Tai Chi

Sunday, December 21 - 10:00 am Worship Hour. Sermon, Rev. Joe Hackett. Choir singing. Council Meeting following the Service.

Tuesday, December 22 - 4:00 - 5:00 pm Advent Bible Study at Honey Creek Community Baptist Church.

Tuesday, December 23 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Advent Bible Study at FCC of Rochester.

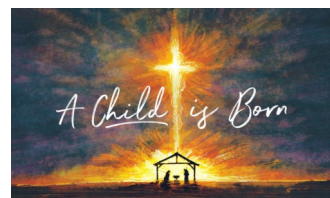
Tuesday, December 23 - 9:00—10:00 am Tai Chi

Wednesday, December 24 - 7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Sermon, Rev. Joe Hackett. Christmas Eve Program with the Choir.

Thursday, December 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

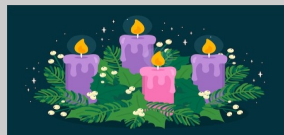
Sunday, December 28 - 10:00 am Worship Hour. Congregational Songs. Following the service we will have a Potluck Dinner and BINGO!

Tuesday, December 30 - 9:00—10:00 am Tai Chi



PLEASE SEE PAGES 4 AND 5 FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE ADVENT BIBLE STUDY, CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, THE COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB, AND TAI CHI CLASSES.

Prayers and Concerns



Victims of Terrorism	Oscar Jacobs
Victims and volunteers of natural disasters worldwide	Elizabeth Joseph Audrey Koeper
God's Providence for Israel and the Middle East	Tom and Lynn Koeper
Our Nation's Leaders	Dan Medkalf
All military personnel and their families	Stephanie Mutz
Casa Bernabe Orphanage	Matthew Olson
Ashley Clark	Julie Pagan
Tom Eckert	Torin Philips
Morton Zimmerman	Reid Shamus
Lori Haley - hospice	Nancy
Morgan Haley	Viveca Persson, Agenta's sister
Daniel Hays	Rigmor Alexander, Agneta's sister

Lectionary Readings

12/7 Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12.

12/14 Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 (Luke 1:46-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

12/21 Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

12/28 Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrew 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23



COUNCIL MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS (Next Church Council Meeting is Sunday, December 21)



Pastor's Report

Poinsettias will be displayed on the alter beginning November 30. Pastor Joe will be picking up the poinsettias on Black Friday in Delavan and he will see to their watering.

Advent booklets will be delayed until the first week in December.

The side door in the entry area has been left open several times due to not closing it firmly when used. Please check to make sure it is securely closed and locked when you leave the church.

Treasurer's Report

OCC donations toward shipping costs totaled \$307.00. Mark will go ahead and see that Samaritan's Purse receives that money and it is applied to shipping costs. **Deposits for the month were \$7,439. * Disbursements for the month included: -\$1,272.50** to Love Inc (half of the proceeds from the Fall Rummage Sale) -\$1,272.50 to Transitional Living Center (half of the proceeds from the Fall Rummage Sale) -\$399 transferred from Memorials to Daily Checking for the toilet purchase.

Next month the Finance Commission will begin budgeting for 2026. Input can be made by email to Mark or passed by the other commission members.

Worship

Music is set through January 2026.

Education

Advent Bible Study at FCC begins December 2 on Tuesday 11:

Fellowship

November 23 - Thanksgiving Pot Luck meal following the church service.

December 5 - 6:00 pm Christmas Tree Lighting on the FCC grounds followed by Waterford H.S. Madrigal Singers in the sanctuary. Refreshments will be served following the performance.

December 7 - Coffee hour following church

December 12 - 11:00 am **Ladies Luncheon at Chances**. Cookie packing to follow for shut-ins and others. Mary Krall will be calling for cookie bakers and bars.

December 14 - Coffee hour following church. (Advent Communion Service)

December 28 - Pot Luck Bingo

Missions

Operation Christmas Child - We were able to collect **187 shoeboxes** in total for children in hard to reach places around the world.

Adopt a Family (Love Inc) kicked off November 9th. We are sponsoring 3 families. All gift tags have been taken from the tree and the gifts with the designated tags will be brought back to church by November 30th. Sue will take all the family gifts to Love Inc the following week. Love Inc meal is scheduled for November 24th. A Thanksgiving menu is planned.

Checks from our fall rummage sale were presented to Love Inc and Transitional Living Center. Each received \$1272.50.

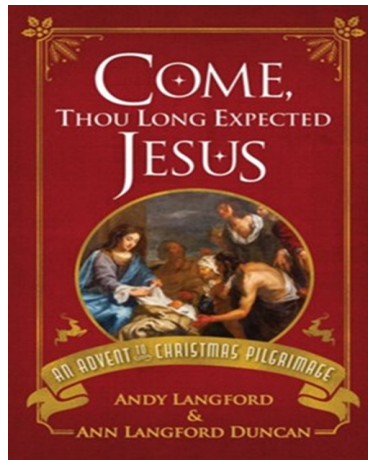
Buildings and Grounds

Don Ketterhagen has relinquished his roll on the commission. Steve Dolphin will resume his roll.

Steve thanked Jay and Wayne for keeping up with the leaves.

The commission will get together to prioritize the maintenance needs of the church. .

IT/Marketing - Mark Dahms * Advertising for Thanksgiving and Christmas has been taken care of.



Join us for this 4-week study during Advent.
We will have two times and days for this journey.
Mondays from 4pm-5pm at Honey Creek Community Baptist Church
&
Tuesdays from 11am-Noon at First Congregational Church of Rochester
Mondays – December 8, 15, 22
Tuesdays- December 9, 16, 23
Cost is \$10.00

Children's Sunday School

December 14: Advent and Why is Jesus our Christmas present?
December 28: NO CLASS



The Sunday School Scoop – Spring 2006

Starting in January, the young people's Sunday School will begin again. The curriculum is set and the teaching team is raring to go! On the designated Sundays (see dates below), we will gather in the lower level of the church at 10:00 am to explore the bible and foundational concepts to our faith. We will also be asking our young people to attend the Ash Wednesday service and possible one Wednesday Service during Lent. All young people from 3rd grade through high school are welcome to join us. Bring a friend! There is no cost for this class.

Please contact Chris Hackett, 414-416-9444 or chackett3913@outlook.com with questions.

Dates / Topics

January 11: Church Basics – Bible review, church seasons/colors, Vestments, Lectionary, Order of Service
January 25: People of the Bible – Some of the stories we love!
February 8: Baptism – Water in the Bible; Rite of Baptism
February 18: ASH WEDNESDAY – place/time of service to be announced
February 22: What is Lent? Review 10 Commandments, Forgiveness
March 8: Communion, Bread
March 22: Holy Week
April 5: EASTER- See you during Service~
April 12: Acts- building a church
April 26: Prayer Beads Project; Ways to pray
May 17: Pentecost; Last day of class

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROCHESTER

Everyone is welcome!

The dates and books for the Community Book Club are listed below.

The Book Club will meet in the church parlor at 6:30 pm.

(please use the side entrance with the ramp)

Monday, December 8, 2025 Christmas Book Exchange/Party



Title	Author	Meeting Date
The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife	Anna Johnson	January 26, 2026 Monday
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan	Lisa See	February 23, 2026 Monday
The Oysterville Sewing Club	Susan Wiggs	March 23, 2026 Monday
Remarkably Bright Creatures	Shelby Van Pelt	April 27, 2026 Monday
All the Children are Home	Patry Francis	May 27, 2026 Wednesday
At Home in Mitford	Jan Karon	June 22, 2026 Monday
We were the Lucky Ones	Georgia Hunter	July 27, 2026 Monday
The Life We Bury	Allen Eskens	August 24, 2026 Monday
Everything I Never Told You	Celeste Ng	September 28, 2026 Monday
The Burning Girls	C.J Truder	October 26, 2026 Monday
Winter Garden	Kristen Hannah	November 23, 2026 Monday



Tai Chi is here!

Staying in motion is a great way to block ailments, and Tai Chi is an excellent way to move!
Join us and generate better balance and stronger lungs, lessen your pain, smile more and sleep better with a weekly practice of Tai Chi, ("motion breath") by matching movements with our own breathing.

I have been practicing for almost a decade, and plan to continue for the great experience of back pain relief and renewed agility and mobility.

We will meet every Tuesday from 9:00 - 10:00 am on the lower level of the church.

The class is free.

(An offering basket will be available)

Your Instructor is Hannah Gnas

If you have any questions or want to know more, please contact Sue Pope.



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ROCHESTER**

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PH. (262) 534-6582

Email: pastor@fccrochesterwis.org

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there I am in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20*

www.fccrochesterwis.org

December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 6:00 pm Choir Practice	5 6:00 PM Christmas Tree Lighting, & Madrigal Singers	6
7 10:00 am Church Choir is singing	8 6:30 pm Christmas Book Exchange Party	9 9:00 Tai Chi	10	11 6:00 pm Choir Practice	12 11:00 am Women's Luncheon @ Chances, followed by cookie packing @ FCC	13
14 10:00 am Church Communion Children's Sunday School Special Music,	15	16 9:00 Tai Chi	17	18 6:00 pm Choir Practice	19	20
21 10:00 am Church Choir singing/ Church Council Meeting at 11:15 am	22	23 9:00 Tai Chi	24 7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 	26	27
28 10:00 Church Congregational Songs	29	30 9:00 Tai Chi	31			