



First Christian Church

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The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

December 21, 2025
10:00 A.M. Worship Service
Pastor Jeff Seger

Welcome

*Opening Hymn - #171 - Joy to the World!

**Passing of the Peace*

Advent Wreath Reading and Lighting of the Candle of Love

Luke, chapter 1, verses 26 through 38 By: Connie Blackketter

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Light candles of Hope and Peace and the pink candle of Joy,
and the candle of Love.**

Let Us Pray: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself. O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the redemption of the world in the coming of the Savior. Make our hearts leap with joy, and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce the glad tidings of peace, and welcome the Christ child in our midst. Amen.

Prayer Hymn - #168 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Prayers of the People

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, the power and the glory forever.*

AMEN

Please continue to remember in prayer...			
- Our Church Family	- Cole Dunlap	- Barbara McVicker	- Sharon Arnold
- Nancy Justice	- Nancy Dunlap Sr.	- George Cover	- Kayln Hall
- Bethel Ford	- Meg Smith	- Marsha Gastineau	- Luke Smith
- Larrinda Wolf	- Kate DeWees	- Jan Merritt	- Mia Berarducci
- Patti Coons	- Vianne Lewis	- Audrey Parmele	- Rick Williams
- Phil Lewis	- Tonya Todd-Barker	- Betty Malone-Lintner	- Sandra Schauer
- Shirley Maxwell	- Dan Wood	- Madison Clark	- Diana Fleming

Scripture Text: Matthew 1: 18 – 25 (NRSV)

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. **19** Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. **20** But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **22** All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
 and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” 24 When
 Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took
 her as his wife 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to
 a son, and he named him Jesus.

Scripture Readings - Matthew 1: 18 – 25 (NRSV)

Sermon - “*The Birth of Jesus the Messiah*” — Pastor Jeff Seger

Invitation to Generosity and Presentation of the Gift

*Doxology

*Prayer for the Gifts

Intro to Communion - #178 - O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Words of Institution

Prayer for the Bread and the Cup - Distribution of both Bread and Cup

OFFERTORY & COMMUNION

The bread and the cup are distributed together.

Please hold until you are invited to partake together.

*Hymn of Invitation - #180 - What Child is This, Who Laid to Rest?

*Benediction

Leader: Our service is ended, go into the world, you are the body of Christ.

And may the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

be with you now and even forevermore.

People: Thanks Be To God.

Todays Meeting:

10:00 a.m. - Sunday Worship Service - Pastor Jeff Seger

6:00 p.m. - Night of Peace Worship at Trinity UMC

Weekly Meetings:

Wednesday, December 24th

7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service at FCC

Sunday, December 28th

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service - Pastor Jeff Seger

Beginning Balance As Of 12-15-25	5472.77
Expenses/Payroll x3	1344.46
Weekly Offering	421.00
Difference	-923.46
Ending Balance	4549.31

Announcements:

Week of December 7th - Attendance: 36 ; Live Stream Views: YouTube Live: 5
 Approx. Views: 8 - 44

Scripture Readers Needed: We are still in need of a few families, groups or
 individuals are needed for Christmas Eve Scripture Readings. There is a sign
 up sheet in the narthex if you are interested in reading(s) or feel free to call the
 church office.

Night of Peace: A worship gathering of Rensselaer Area Churches, Sunday,
 December 21st at 6:00 p.m. hosted at Trinity UMC, 107 E. Angelica Street.
 Come Find Rest, Find Calm, Find Peace.

Holiday Office Hours: The office will be closed Wednesday, December 24th and
 Friday, December 26th. The office will close at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday,
 December 31st and will be closed all day on Friday, January 2nd.

Memorial Ornaments



IMO - Larry Ploughe

By: Betty Ploughe

IMO - Robert & Imy Jenkins

By: Betty Ploughe

IMO - Jerry Lefler

By: Jim & Dorrie Lefler

IMO - Woody Slade

By: Barbara Slade & Family

IMO - Arnie Gilbert

By: Jim & Dorrie Lefler

IMO - Mary Ellen Johnson

By: Jim & Dorrie Lefler

In Honor Of - Ron & Betty Lintner

By: Jim & Dorrie Lefler

IMO - Frank & Imogene Maxwell

By: Helen Putman & Family



IMO - John Putman

By: Helen Putman & Family

IMO - Edward & Margaret Putman

By: Helen & Family

IMO - Bill & Hazel Holt

By: Jane Zebendon & Mary Ellen Fassbender

IMO - Ralph & Violet DeKock

By: Dick & Karen Wiseman

IMO - Ken & Fay Wiseman

By: Dick & Karen Wiseman

IMO - Rich DeKock

By: Dick & Karen Wiseman

IMO - Mike Rients

By: Dick & Karen Wiseman

IMO - Chloe Rayburn

By: Ron & Betty Lintner

Poinsettia Memorials

- Given In Memory Of: Bill & Hazel Holt
by: Jane Holt Zebendon & Mary Ellen Holt
Fassbender
- Given In Memory Of: Jim & Peggy Lefler
by: Jim & Dorrie Lefler
- Given In Memory Of: Ralph & Goldie Gilbert
by: Jim & Dorrie Lefler
- Given In Memory Of: Otis & Marguerite Wood
by: Ote & Marcia Wood
- Given In Memory Of: Chris Wood
by: Ote & Marcia Wood
- Given In Memory Of: Bill & Mary Ann Jackson
by: Craig & Lisa Jackson