



Sunday is about that odd pink/rose candle in the Advent wreath - Gaudete (Latin for "Rejoice") Sunday. Advent used to be a more penitential season, so by the third Sunday some relief was in order! Everyone was given a break to experience some Christmas joy. We no longer experience Advent in this way, but a few vestiges remain, such as not singing Christmas carols during Advent. I love the carols so much I could never do that. Arrest me! Send for the liturgical police!



George Frideric Handel by Balthasar Denner

The sermon Sunday is titled "How Can We Rejoice?" and is based upon Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:1-11. I will be using Handel's Messiah as an interpretive lens through which to look at these texts and the hope they provide in tough circumstances. I invite you to refresh your understanding of the Messiah, particularly Part III where Handel seeks to provide Biblical grounding for how we live between "the already and the not yet." Thanks to YouTube, there is a full version from Kings College, Cambridge on the Web.



See you Sunday! Jay

### Stewardship Update

We are still collecting "Estimate of Giving" Cards. Help us plan our budget for 2020. No Pledge is too small.

Click on the link and download your pledge card. Place in the box in Perkins Hall or mail to 216 E. Gurley Street, 86301



	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pledge Units	38	46	64	15
# of Members that Pledged	55	54	47	15
# of Friends & Regular Attendees that Pledged	8	12	17	4
Total Amount Pledged	\$ 65,462	\$ 97,020	\$ 97,274	\$ 50,140





# Holiday Potluck

December 22 at 11:30 after Worship Service  
 Help us Plan ~ Please Sign-Up in Perkins Hall  
 Bring a Dish to Share



**A BIG THANK YOU TO THOSE THAT HAVE SAID YES!**

**This Week: Marti and Paul**



Judaism Class for non-Jews has been a real enjoyable and successful educational experience for us. We have one more week of class. It isn't too late to join us and participate for our last session, Dec. the 19th. For more information, contact Melissa



**The Church Cabinet and the Long Range Planning Committee need your support and input!**

- Please take a few minutes out of your busy life and answer a few questions for the Church.
- Your answers will be used to help build a Mission Statement, give feedback to leadership and help the Long Range Planning Committee shape the next 3-5 years.
- We will have a box on a table in Perkins Hall on the next 3 Sundays during Coffee Hour where you can place your answers, or if you may choose to email your answers to [SandraJohns@gmail.com](mailto:SandraJohns@gmail.com) Your answers will be kept anonymous unless you indicate otherwise.

1. How did you find out about First Congregational Church?
2. What Brought you to First Congregational Church?
3. What keeps you coming back to First Congregational Church?
4. What are you passionate about in terms of the mission and ministry of this congregation?
5. What would enhance your experience of this place in the next 3-5 years?



**Thanks to your support of our November mission project, we have sent a \$600 check to the Coalition for Compassion and Justice!** December mission emphasis is two pronged. Once again we will be supporting the national UCC "Christmas Offering". Donations to this offering will assist low-income retired clergy. Our second option is to support local Christmas programs which will be distributing free

Christmas gifts and gift cards for children and young adults living in low income families. You may make your check payable to the church with a note on the memo line of either "UCC Christmas Fund", or "Local Christmas families". Checks supporting our local outreach need to be received no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>.

As always, thanks for remembering that we have been blessed to be a blessing [Genesis 12:2]. Our Mission Outreach committee members are: Becky/Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda





**Christmas Brunch**  
 Bring a Dish to Share  
 Dec. 22 @ 11:30 after Worship Service  
 Sign-Up Sheet in Perkins Hall



**BIRTHDAYS**

- Helaine Berman 12/15
- Randy Jay Wilcher 12/17
- Pete Norum 12/18
- Jay Eby 12/24
- Dillan Osborn 12/25
- Don Stephens 12/25
- Christopher Hoitt 12/27
- Ralph Wagner 01/01
- Don Hull 01/09
- Brent Walker 01/10
- Darcy Walker 01/10
- Nitaray Thomas 01/15
- Katie Bradstreet 01/19
- Jane Cheek 01/25
- Julie Jaquette 01/28

- **EVERY-WEEK COMMUNION**  
 We have communion each week right after worship at the front of the sanctuary, everyone is welcome to participate.
- **MONTHLY COMMUNION**  
 Our regularly scheduled communion is held the first Sunday of each month. Communion is open to all.
- **PASS MEAL**  
 Once a month, we provide a meal for Prescott Area Shelter Services, the third Wednesday of the month.
- **CABINET MEETING**  
 Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Office Conference Room unless otherwise announced.
- **BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL**  
 We will train you! We meet for rehearsal at 9:00 am. On Thursdays in the Hazeltine Room downstairs.
- **CHANCEL SINGERS**  
 We meet Sundays at 9:00 a.m. before worship service to rehearse. All are welcome.
- **ALTER-NOTES**  
 We meet at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday after Coffee Time in the Sanctuary Chancel. Contact Melissa if you are interested in joining: 207-391-3276
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
 Children may participate with Sunday School downstairs after "Children's Time".