



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*"No matter who you are,
or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

Senior Minister
Rev. Tim Vander Haar

Sunday, January 5, 2025

1201 Jefferson Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49441
231-726-3254

www.fccmuskegon.org

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 5, 2025
CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

We Three Kings, by Paul Manz

GATHERING PRAYER

With what shall I come before the Holy One,
and bow myself before God on high?

**God has showed us what is good;
and what does the Lord require of us
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

Blessed be God, our Redeemer, Creator and Sustainer.

And blessed be the reign of God forever.

Let us pray.

**O God, by the leading of a star
you made your Son known to the nations.
Lead us, who know you now by faith,
to your presence,
where we may see your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

Collect for Epiphany, Book of Common Prayer

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

We Three Kings

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far,
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1st Corinthians 12:27; Romans 12:4-5

1st Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

Romans 12:4-5

For as in one body we have many members,
and not all the members have the same function,
so we, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of another.

TIME OF REFLECTION

Presentation of the Search and Call Committee

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright

O Morn - ing Star, how clear and bright, your
Come heaven - ly Bright - ness, Light di - vine, and
beam shines forth in truth and light! My
deep with - in my heart now shine, there
Sov - ereign meek and low - ly! O Root of Jes - se,
make your - self an al - tar! Fill me with joy and
Prom - ised One, my God and Rul - er, you have won my
strength to be your mem - ber, joined e - ter - nal - ly in
heart to serve you sole - ly! You are ho - ly,
love that can - not fal - ter; Long - ing for you
great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, Rich in bless -
does pos - sess me; turn and bless me; Here in sad -
ing, rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing.
ness eye and heart long for your glad - ness.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1598, Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt., Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1598

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition: Leader: Lord in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

. . . ending with 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 debts as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

In Dulci Jubilo, by Paul Manz

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (*Creator*), Son (*Christ*), and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

As with Gladness

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the

star be - hold; as with joy they hailed its light,
 man - ger bed, there to bend the knee be - fore
 rude and bare, so may we with ho - ly joy,
 nar - row way; and when earth - ly things are past,

lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, so, most gra - cious
 him whom heaven and earth a - dore, so, may we with
 pure and free from sin's al - loy, all our cost - liest
 bring our ran - somed souls at last where they need no

Lord, may we ev - er - more your splen - dor see.
 will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy seat.
 treas - ures bring, Christ, to you, our heaven - ly King.
 star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.

WORDS: William C. Dix (1837-1898), alt.
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher (1786-1872)

DIX
 7.7.7.7.7.7.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

As With Gladness Men of Old, by Paul Manz

Today's Service

Search & Call Committee

Dr. Michael Match

John Mattson

David Wikman

Blake Filius

Worship Service Leaders

Music Director/Cantor

Organist

Liturgist/Prayers of the People

Audio and Video

Flowers are sponsored by Stocky Holly in hopes of peace in the world.

*A White Carnation is placed in memory of Ron Nelson who passed away Dec. 29, 2024
Our sympathy and prayers are with his family.*

*A White Carnation is placed in memory of Sue Emmons who passed away Dec. 29, 2024.
Our prayers and sympathy to Dennis Emmons and family.*

Thank you to the search and Call Committee for helping with the service.

Westshore GSA Youth Group will be meeting on Monday, Jan. 6 from 7 to 8 pm.

January Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Those whose last names begin with letters K-N

*The Women's Single Group will meet on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 1 PM. at
The Brunch House, 3065 Henry Street in Muskegon. A signup sheet is at the Welcome
Center or contact Judy Dewall.*

Reminder our church office winter hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10—2.

*Let's Make A Mess! Painting Class will be January 15, 2025 – 1:00 pm. This class is an
Acrylic Liquid Pour Art. Sign up for the class at the Welcome Center if you can join us.
Look for a material list of items to bring to class or contact Nancy Doctor or Barb Kartes.*

*Veterans of the Cross-The Christmas Fund: We collected at our Christmas Eve Service
but there is still time for those who wish to donate.*

The FCC Mobile Food Pantry will be on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 10:00 a.m.

*Popcorn, Treats, And Trivia: Join the Outreach Task Force in Fellowship Hall after Worship on
January 19, for some fellowship, food, and fun On International Popcorn Day!*

*Sunday, Jan. 19 the community is invited to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Commemorative March & Legacy Celebration. Meet at 4:30 pm in Central Methodist parking lot
at 1011 2nd St. to march in unity to the Mt Zion COGOC at 188 W. Muskegon.*

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY

"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love." Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21