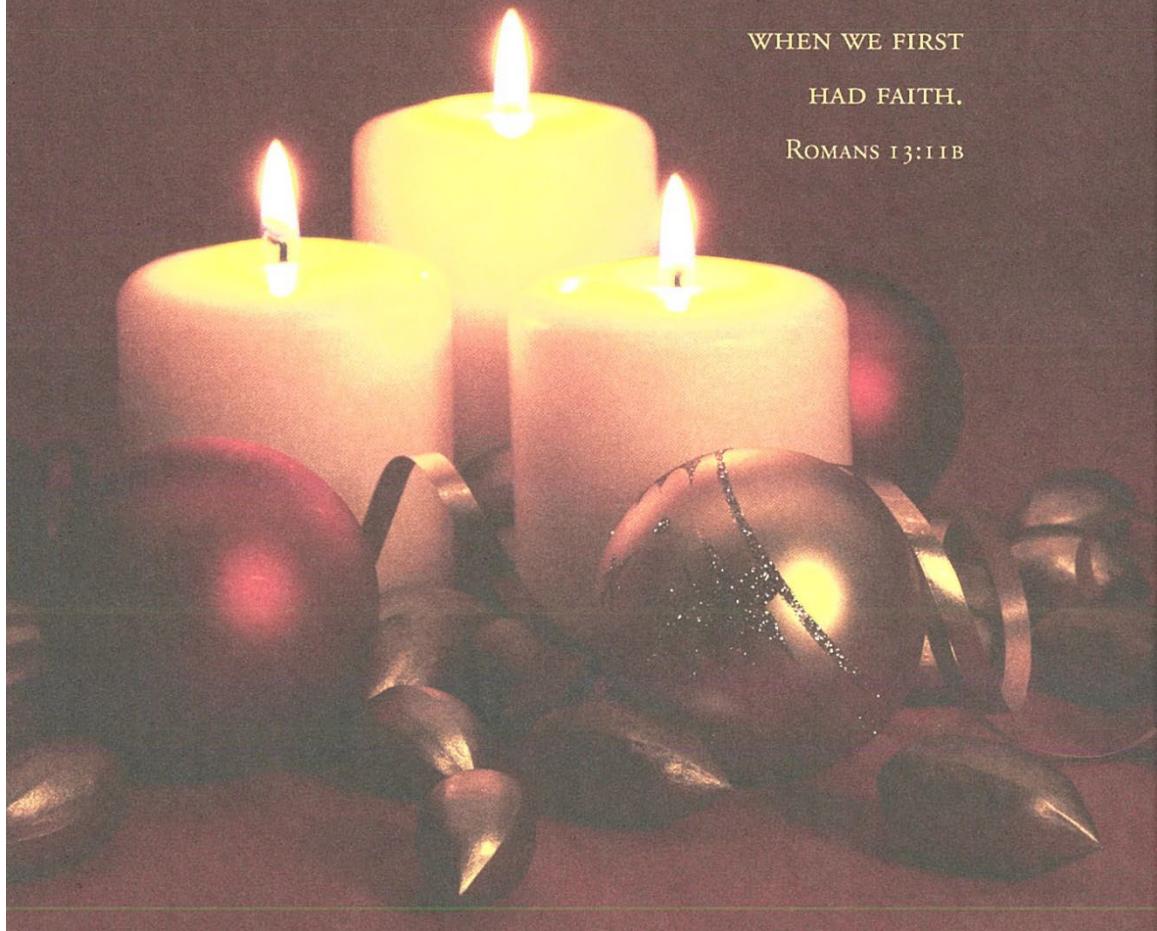


Hope

NOW OUR SALVATION
IS NEARER THAN
WHEN WE FIRST
HAD FAITH.
ROMANS 13:11B



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 27, 2022

The service of worship begins with the first gift to God- music!
May the power of the Spirit of God fill your heart with excitement
as you prepare to praise God.

Please stand as you are able *

Listening devices and Large Print Bulletins are available

Feel free to sing the hymns while wearing your mask

WE ARE CALLED TOGETHER

PRELUDE

PASTORAL WELCOME AND CALL

Leader: The Scriptures were written to teach us;

**People: through their endurance and encouragement we
have hope.**

Leader: May the God who gives endurance and
encouragement give us today a spirit of unity among
ourselves as followers of Christ Jesus,

**People: so we can be God's choir, not just with our voices,
but also with our very lives, singing in harmony in a
stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ.**

Leader: With this hope let us welcome one another just as
Christ welcomed us in order to bring praise to God.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG HYMN 84, STANZA 1**

Comfort, comfort, ye my people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Pastor: Christians around the world begin this day to await the advent of Christ. We join with a joyous and hopeful throng in lighting the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

People: We gather as a people of Hope.

Pastor: Christian people around the world stand today in breathless anticipation of a miracle that has been repeated for hundreds of years, yet that astounds us anew each year.

People: Our hope springs anew, from an ancient vision.

Pastor: As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have received the Promise and the Great Gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

People: We gather expectantly, joyfully, and with deep commitment, for we have heard that a special Child is to come, that God is to be among us, and that soon we will see a new creation on earth. We are a people of hope.

***HYMN 92, stanza 1 "O come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

***WE AFFIRM OUR FAITH (We Pray Together)**

Loving God, you have led us to this time of expectation once again. You have promised that peace will come in its time when we learn to love our neighbor as ourself. You've taught us that love fulfills the law because it does no harm to a neighbor. Wake us up, Lord, with the brightness of our salvation drawing nearer. Bring the night of our dark violence to an end by clothing us with the armor of light. Show us the way you work so we can live the way we're made. Clothe us in the Lord Jesus Christ as we worship you in praise this day. Amen.

***HYMN 89** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

WE BREAK OPEN THE WORD OF GOD

THE GOOD NEWS

Isaiah 9:4-7
"Why Is There No Peace"
Rev. Gene Van Galder, preaching

***HYMN 138** "What Child Is This?"

QUIET PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

WE FOCUS ON GIVING THANKS

INVITATION

(Offering plates are available in the Gathering Space for you to place your gifts either before or after the worship service. Remember, envelopes support the Church's ministry and cash goes directly to missions). Our Mission of the Month is **The Good Shepherd Orphanage in Cameroon**. See further description later in bulletin.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(Sung to the tune of "O Little Town of Bethlehem)

**How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
As God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heaven.
O Holy Child of Advent,
come unto us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in,
gift us with peace today. Amen.**

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 92**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

***BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE

3 fold Amen

DANISH

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Worship Leader	Rev. Gene Van Galder
Guest Pianist.....	Ian Nie
Guest Violinist	Zachary Peterson
Hymn Leader.....	Gloria Halvorsen

First Congregational Church of Beloit

Is a Member of

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
And the Wisconsin Conference of Congregational Churches.

Welcome to First Congregational Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, study, fellowship and services of this congregation.

If you are a guest with us this morning, our ushers are available to assist you. Individual **listening devices** for improved sound for those with hearing needs are available. **Large Print Bulletins** are available for those with sight needs. Our ushers will direct you to both **regular and large print bulletins on the table in the Gathering Space**. **Restrooms** are located to your left as you leave the worship space.



USHERS & GREETERS

GREETING

We thank our Greeters for welcoming all who come to worship and share in fellowship with us this morning.

Travelogue featuring Israel and Jordan with Rev. Gene



Join us today after worship for a light lunch and a multi-media presentation by Gene of his recent trip to the Holy Land. If you have not been to the Holy Land, this presentation will highlight many of the major sites and will also share insights of the region.

This Week at Church

November 28—Staff meeting

December 2—Wedding rehearsal

3—Jessica Henning/Anthony Silva wedding,
3:30 pm, Rev. Gene Van Galder officiating

4—Worship, 10 am, Rev. Gene Van Galder,
Officiating

Prayer for the Church

Loving and Eternal God, you have abundantly blessed us with the power to reach out and make a difference in the world. We ask that you bless our ministry through our Church and increase our love for one another and our community. Help us honor our history and seek your will as we march into our future in Jesus' name. Amen.

MISSION OF THE MONTH



This month's mission is Good Shepherd Orphanage. The Good Shepherd Home for Children is located in the North West Province of Cameroon, an area in West Africa where an estimated 50,000 children are orphaned.

More than 150 of those children have found a home at Good Shepherd where they are sheltered, fed, clothed, educated and most of all, loved.

The home is run by the Benedictine Sisters of Bethany. The home has a dormitory, primary school, fresh water system, bakery, piggery, and chicken farms.

Good Shepherd does not turn any child away and no child is put up for adoption. The children truly live in a loving family environment with over a hundred and fifty brothers and sisters.

Rev. Gene has been to the orphanage many times, and is a witness to the wonderful treatment the orphans receive.