

December 6, 1981

Fellow Council Members:

As lay representatives for our Church at First United U.C.C. Church, on their 130th anniversary, I am happy to make this report.

Being most warmly welcomed at First United by Audrey Noelst - Choir director & organist, and Pastor Eugene Bartell, we were put at ease quite quickly. After only a brief chat with Audrey and some of her fourteen senior choir members, we felt right at home. We realized that all choirs must have some disorganization preparing for a special event. It was quite refreshing to know that we are not the only choir that runs into snags from time to time. First United also has a junior choir consisting of 14 to 15 members.

The excitement of the special occasion could be felt by everyone, and enthusiasm filled the atmosphere. You could not help but be caught up in it yourself. Also there were members

of our own congregation present, and numerous friends & relatives of our choir who are members of 1st United. So huge and warm wishes were flowing everywhere.

We saw one of the Sunday School Young Adult classes busily preparing decorations for this advent season. The decorations would be completed and brought into the Sanctuary on December 20th. Something similar to our own Tinsel Sunday. We saw "The Holy Rollers", bowling alley, and were informed they bowl on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. We were then offered coffee by the men & women who were busy preparing the noon meal in the kitchen.

We then processed from the back of the Chancel and formed a line across the front of the Chancel, and finally processed by two's down the Center aisle to the front of the Church, up the stairs to the balcony.

First United uses the

United Church of Christ Hymnal. The hymns selected this day were in conjunction with the festive occasion.

During the lighting of the Second Advent Candle, Pastor Bartell along with the children in the congregation approached the chancel for a special children's sermon, concerning the reason for the advent candle. Then we sang a song appropriate for children during the advent season, and then we sang it in sermon, or at least tried to.

The Anthem we participated in was "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Lord", by Hal. H. Hopson. That was followed by 1st United's senior choir doing "I Wonder", by John Lee & Bill Nichols.

The sermon for the day was given by a lay person and also somewhat the Church historian, Mr. Henry Jackson. He spoke of the "Perils of Pauline", which I am told was a movie serial a few years back. He then compared

the biblical Parable of Peckla for us. He also spoke to the subject of Luther's Legacy to us, and our own German Heritage. We certainly enjoyed the sermon due to the fact that Mr. Lawson is a most remarkable spokesperson.

Pastor Bartell recognized Retired Pastor Wiley - former Pastor of 1st United from 1955 - 1961, and also the wife of Pastor Wentley - former Pastor of 1st United from 1962 - 1966.

In conclusion a special thank you was given to Peter Hengen, Stephen Hengen, Elizabeth Dunbar, and Jim Taswell of the "Brass Ensemble" for their musical participation in the service. The choir of United Evangelical was sincerely honored and happy to share their time & talent with our Mother Church on this very special occasion.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret & Will Myrick
Lay Representatives



God comes
with might