

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 12/1/24

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

A TIME FOR PRAYER:

- You are invited to a time of prayer before our worship service every Sunday morning from 9:00-9:10 a.m. in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to join us.

FROM THE DEACONS:

- Monthly Offerings:** We would like the congregation to know that you may give at any time during the month to any of the causes we have scheduled. You DO NOT need to send separate checks each week, but one check with the offerings and other causes noted that you want the money to go towards would be fine.

December Offering Schedule:

Date	A.M.	P.M.
12/1	Love, INC (In the Name of Christ)	Cadets, International
12/8	Many Hands of Haiti	Missionary Support
12/15	Missionary Support	IGNITE Youth Group
12/22	Therefore Go Ministries	ReFrame Ministries
12/25	Bible League	
12/29	Gideons	Joshua Christian Academy

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

- This morning, Dec. 1, there will be no Adult Sunday School. Instead, the men of the congregation are invited to the Music Room to discuss with Pastor Jon and Pastor Erik the possibilities of a Men's Group starting up in January 2025. Please come with ideas or suggestions of focus, opportunities and times that such a ministry could happen.

ADVENT SEASON:

- SMILE** and say Merry Christmas! An area has been setup towards the back of the fellowship hall for you to get out the phone camera and snap some memorable family Christmas photos! If you need to update your directory photo for 2025 this would be the perfect spot!
- A-Z NAMES of JESUS Word Search:** This Advent season we will be focusing on the many names of Jesus found in the Bible. This theme will be carried out in our advent readings, our sermons, and our children's Sunday School Christmas program. You'll find a word search in your mailbox to familiarize yourself with the many names of Jesus. Extra copies available on the information table as well as the answer sheet. Have fun with it and be reminded that in this Christmas season, Jesus is the only gift we need. He meets all our needs from A-Z.
- Advent Countdown!** In your mailbox, you'll find an Advent Countdown -The 25 Names of Jesus. It's another way to take one of His names and focus on different characteristics of Jesus as we prepare to celebrate His coming on Christmas.

FROM IGNITE:

- Will you be attending Oskaloosa's Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 7? If so, the Ignite Youth Group of 1st Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa will be selling Hot Chocolate and Hot Wassil on the Southwest Corner of the Square. We will be serving from 5:30-7:30 p.m. (or until gone). Stop by our tent and warm up with a hot cup of hot chocolate and/or hot wassil. We hope to see you there. All proceeds will be going to future activities and mission trips.

SS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

- We would like to have a number of students play the piano for the Christmas program prelude on Sunday, Dec. 22. If you are willing to participate, please let Cheryl know by Dec. 8.

NEWSLETTER:

- All articles for the January/February Newsletter are due by Sunday, Dec. 15.

ARE PUZZLES YOUR THING?

- If you enjoy a good puzzle, one has been set up in the Fellowship Hall. If you arrive to church early or are waiting on a family member, please occupy yourself by finding a few pieces to the puzzle. Let's see if we can get the nativity scenes "ALL IN" their globes by Christmas Day.

FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE:

- We now have a few puzzles available for checkout. Please put the date you are checking them out on the card, along with your name. If you find two or more pieces of the puzzle are missing, please put a note on them with the number

of missing pieces and put them in the box marked “Puzzles” in the library. If you would like to donate a puzzle, please make sure all pieces are accounted for and place them in the box marked “Puzzles”. Thank you!

INFORMATION CENTER UPDATES:

- 1) Schering’s Pacific Island Ministries
- 2) LOG-STO Forms
- 3) Love, INC Newsletter
- 4) Werner’s *From Sunrise Land*
- 5) Helfer’s *On Mission*

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Dec. 1 = Mike & Lori B
- Dec. 3 = Eldon L

DIRECTORY UPDATE:

- Please update your directories for the following: Pastor Erik & Jacque
6996 Highway F 36 W
Newton, IA 50208

ADVANCE NOTICE:

- As we go into the holiday season, just a reminder that we will be printing a new directory shortly after the first of the year. If you need/want to update your family picture, this would be a great time to take one.

OFFICE NEWS:

- **Christmas Cards:** Just a friendly reminder that if you have Christmas cards, etc. to please 1) leave them on the table in the office by Friday morning and I will stuff them after I put the large things in, or 2) wait until Friday afternoon to do it yourself and please remember that boxes are below the name. Thanks!
- **Upcoming Deadlines:**
 - Candlelight Service = rough draft by Monday, Dec. 9, final corrections by Dec. 12 at noon
 - Sunday School Program = as soon as possible so that I can have a proof copy to you for practices
 - Jan. – Feb. Newsletter = Sunday, Dec. 15
 - Christmas Bulletin = Monday, Dec. 23, at noon
- **Church Use:** Just a reminder as we go into the holiday season that if you wish to use/rent the Fellowship Hall and/or Kitchen to please make arrangements through the office. Thanks!
- **Holiday Hours:** The office will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Wednesday, Jan. 1, in observance of Christmas and New Years.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LADIES HOLIDAY LUNCHEON:

- The Mahaska Chamber & Oskaloosa Main Street would like to invite the community to a Ladies Holiday Luncheon. Join us on Friday, December 13, 2024 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for a time of festive fun, food and fellowship at Debbie’s Celebration Barn, 2162 262nd St., Oskaloosa. Advance tickets are required. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased by Monday, Dec. 2. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber office located at 222 1st Avenue East or you can call the office at 641-672-2591.

SOUP SUPPER:

- The Leighton CRC Youth Group is having their annual Soup Supper the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Soups on the menu will be Cheesy Broccoli, Potato, Chili, Chicken, and Beef Barley. We will also be serving Sloppy Joes & Hot Dogs. We will have homemade desserts too. Free-will offering. We hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL CONCERT:

- Please join us on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Penn Central Mall Center Court for “One Twinkling Star” Gospel Concert. Featured Artists will be The Granddads and the Holiday Harmonizers. This concert is sponsored by the Oskaloosa Community Evangelism Committee.

FROM THRIVE:

- On Thursday, Dec. 5, at 8:00 p.m. EST, join Thrive and Exodus World Service for an informational webinar as we explain the new refugee resettlement opportunity for U.S churches called the Welcome Corps Program. We will break down the process and discuss how Exodus World Service is equipped to guide CRC churches and individuals interested in engaging in this faithful missional work of welcome. We will also cover all the steps to get started and answer any questions or concerns that you may have. [Register today!](#) The webinar will be recorded, but to access the recording, you still have to register. Let me know if you have any questions or reach out to Andrew Oppong (aoppong@crcna.org).

FROM OSKALOOSA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:

- **Cookie Decorating:** Mark your calendars to join the Christmas Cookie Committee for a fun morning of decorating cookies on Friday, Dec. 6. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the gym. We will not be able to offer childcare again this

year. All skill levels are welcome; you do not need to know how to frost cookies. We need people willing to sprinkle, sort cookies, and organize cookies as well! Please come out for some great fellowship as we work together to help make this fundraiser a blessing for our school!

- **Oskaloosa Christian Bake Sale and Vendor Fair!** Get an early start on your Christmas baking and shopping! Plates of goodies will include Decorated Sugar Cookies, Dutch Letters, Fudge, Popcorn Cakes, Peanut Brittle, Ginger Snaps, and so much more! There will also be around 20 vendors and crafts present at the same time as the bake sale for your shopping convenience!

WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 7, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Oskaloosa Christian School gymnasium, located at 726 North E Street in Oskaloosa.

See you there!

LEGACY OF GRACE DONATIONS:

- The Legacy of Grace Student Tuition Organization (LOG/STO) is once again actively seeking donations. LOG-STO is in its 18th year of existence for the purpose of raising funds to help families who are not currently eligible for a State of Iowa Education Savings Account. (For example, at Oskey Christian, the Transitional Kindergarten students are not eligible because they attend a fewer number of days in the school year.) This year the state of Iowa has given our LOG-STO an opportunity to raise \$559,683.00 with a **75% tax credit on all donations** to this great cause. You can also increase the 75% benefit of your gift by donating stock, grain, and any possible Required Mandatory Distributions (RMDs) if you are at least 72 years of age. The donation form was emailed out earlier this week and there are also copies on the Information Center Table. Questions? Contact Joel Groenenboom at 641-295-2003.

ADVENT MEANS HOPE:

- With World Renew's 2024-2025 Gift Catalog, you can help a family with a filter for clean water to drink, give a child the food they need to grow with a nutrition kit, or provide shelter to a disaster survivor. Choose a gift that gives someone who is poor and hungry the opportunity for a better life today and hope for the future. Gift Catalogs are available on the Information Center Table, you may give at www.worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972 to order.

THANKS:

- Dear Pastor Jon and the FCRC church family,
Our hearts are overwhelmed by your continued generosity. We promise to steward every penny of your gift so that more marriages might find freedom through God's word. Thanks for your investment into DGR.

Sincerely, Ebon Carter

Executive Director, Developing Great Relationships

FROM CRC NEWS:

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**
 - ~ Groundwork: Jesus – Our Wonderful Counselor: The prophet Isaiah calls the coming Messiah a "Wonderful Counselor." Join Groundwork as we explore Isaiah 9:6, Proverbs 1:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:18-24, and Colossians 1:15-19 to discover what this title communicates to us about Jesus and its connection to the biblical wisdom tradition. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.
 - ~ Kids Corner: Advent Week 1 – The Prophecy: Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. During this Advent season, we can remember God's faithfulness and our hope in Jesus, our Lord. Think of the names of Jesus in Isaiah 9:6: "*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*" How do these names bring us hope? How do they express God's faithfulness? Check out all the great content at www.kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast The Story of the Prophets.
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip:** Advent is a season of waiting. We wait expectantly for the birth of Christ, and we wait with hope for His coming again. Yet this season is often marked by hurried consumerism and overfilled calendars. How might you practice "waiting" in new ways this Advent season? Brought to you by Thrive: www.crcna.org/Thrive

Live simply. Give generously.
Care Deeply. Speak Kindly.
Leave the Rest to God.