

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 12/15/24

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

ADVENT SEASON:

- SMILE** and say Merry Christmas! An area has been set up 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. A word search was placed in your mailbox two weeks ago 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 two weeks ago, there was 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.

NEWSLETTER:

- All articles for the January/February Newsletter are due by today.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REMINDER:

- Program:** Our program is part of our morning service on Dec. 22. We will begin with a prelude by students. The three- and four-year-olds will lead off the service, followed by the Advent Candle lighting. Later, the K-8th grades will lead us in a celebration of the names of Christ, developing our Advent theme.
- Practices:** We are not having any Saturday practices to respect your schedules, so attendance on the Sundays leading up to it are so important. Thank you for your encouragement of all generations worshipping Jesus!

CAROLING:

- Instead of a PM Service on Sunday, Dec. 22, we will be Caroling in the community. We plan on meeting at First CRC at 4:30 p.m. and beginning our Caroling at select destinations around 4:45 and finishing at church by 6:00 p.m. Please sign-up on the sheet on the Information Center Table if you plan to join us.

THE "HALLELUJAH CHORUS" ON CHRISTMAS DAY:

- Plans** for our Christmas Day Service on Wednesday, December 25, at 9:30, involve the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus" which means we need our "ALL IN" Choir to lead the congregational singing.
- Rehearsal** will be on Sunday, Dec. 22, immediately following the conclusion of the Sunday School Program. Music will be provided. Please come and be a part of the joy!

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

- Tonight:** Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 22:** Sunday School Program at 9:30 a.m.; Caroling at 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 25:** Christmas Service at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 29:** AM Service at 9:30 a.m.; PM Service at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 5:** Winter Worship (Church, SS, Potluck, 12:45 Church) begins.

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.

DIRECTORY PICTURES:

- **Directory Pages:** Directory pages are in the hallway. Please look them over carefully and if you need to make changes use the red pens provided. If you sent in your picture after Wednesday, the 11th, it is added on the computer and will show in the new directory. I'm just not reprinting the pages every time. If your information is correct, please put "OK" by your name. The pages will be out through Jan. 5.
- **Directory Pictures:** Just a reminder that if you would like to add/change your picture in the directory that you will need to email (firstcrcosky@gmail.com) a copy to me by Jan. 6. I cannot accept hard copies. Thanks ☺

YEARBOOK:

- If you are interested in ordering a 2025 Yearbook of the CRC, please let Sue know by Sunday, Jan. 5. They are \$11 for regular and \$13 for spiral bound.

INFORMATION CENTER UPDATES:

- 1) De Young's Prayer Letter 2) Huysler's Prayer Letter – Dec.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Dec. 16 = Ralph & LaVonne VD
- Dec. 17 = Deann DG, Wyatt DR (Kyle), Kristina G (Joel), Mack J (Mike), Joyce S
- Dec. 18 = Jan B, Pat DB
- Dec. 20 = Jaren DB (Kurtis), Natalie P (Sherwin)
 Jay & Diane B
- Dec. 21 = Henry VA

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:**
 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:

FROM PELLA CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS:

- Pella Christian Schools invites you to enjoy the sounds of the Christmas season at their upcoming Christmas Programs. As we celebrate the birth of a Savior, may we also live in anticipation of His second advent. Merry Christmas from the Pella Christian family to yours!

 ~ *Pella Christian High School Choir and Band Christmas Concert:* Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 7:00 p.m.

 ~ *Preschool through 5th Grade Spanish Immersion Christmas Program:* Thursday, Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m.

 All concerts will be held in the PCHS Vermeer Auditorium.

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.

FROM CRCNA:

- You are doing more than you know. Thank you! The agencies and institutions of the Christian Reformed Church in North America are so grateful for your gifts to the Ministry Shares Program. Together, we are doing what God called us to do - proclaim the gospel and disciple new believers in Christ here at home and around the world. Learn more at www.crcna.org/ministryshares.

FROM CRC NEWS:

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**
 - ~ *Groundwork: Jesus – Our Everlasting Father*: Isaiah continued to reveal the nature of the Messiah when he called Him the “Everlasting Father”. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 63:15-16, John 14:6-14, 1 John 1:1-4, and 1 John 3:1-3 to better understand how this revolutionary title reveals the nature of Jesus and discover the comfort and belonging offered to us in Jesus, our Everlasting Father. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.
 - ~ *Kids Corner: Advent Week 3 – The Baby*: Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. In Luke 2:11-14, the long-awaited Messiah has come. The prophecy from the prophet Isaiah has happened. On that blessed night, the hope God promised so many years ago was born into the world. He came as a baby - not just any baby - He was the Son of God. Check out all the great content at www.kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast The Journey of the Wise Men.
- **From World Renew – The Gift of Christmas**: Next week, we celebrate the gift of Jesus, who left His heavenly home to offer us the hope of eternal life with Him. Your gift for World Renew this season gives hope to people who live with poverty, disaster, and injustice worldwide. Put families in need on your Christmas list this year by giving generously in the World Renew offering. Traveling over the holidays? You can give at www.worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972.
- **From Calvin University**: Visiting Grand Rapids? The Prince Conference Center and Hotel offers guests a peaceful yet professional retreat. Whether you’re looking for a wedding venue, convention space, or simply a quiet place to stay, our friendly staff and comfortable accommodations will have you coming back again and again. Come enjoy beautiful natural surroundings while being minutes from the shopping district of 28th Street, Frederik Meijer Gardens, and downtown Grand Rapids. www.calvin.edu/prince-conference-center
- **From CRC Heritage Fund**: Year-End Giving Reminder – Many of you will be giving a special year-end gift to your church or favorite charity. If you plan to give from your IRA, remember those gifts need to be received and deposited by December 31 to count for 2024 taxes. Plan your giving ahead. To learn more about giving from your IRA or other ways to give to the CRC, please visit www.crcna.org/heritagefund.
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip**: This coming week marks the winter solstice – the “longest night” of the year. For many, the Christmas season can be a particularly difficult time. How might God be calling you to minister to people who struggle? How might you remind them that the dark of night will gradually give way to the light of day? Brought to you by Thrive: www.crcna.org/Thrive

My three-year-old son, Grant, told me he learned a new song in children's church about goats on the mountain when Jesus was born.
I hadn't heard that one before, so I asked him to sing it.
He began, "Goats tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Goats tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born."

Debbie Harmon, Wichita, KS. Today's Christian Woman, "Heart to Heart."