

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 12/8/24

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

- November Special Offerings** were as follows:

World Renew	\$ 3,299.50	Youth for Christ	\$ 1,736.50
Mobility Worldwide	\$ 2,129.50	ReFrame Ministries	\$ 654.50
Resonate Global Mission	\$ 1,007.50	Rehoboth Chr. School	\$ 1,103.50
Angel Tree Fellowship	\$ 1,179.50		

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. Last week, a word search was placed 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 last week, 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.

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 today.

GEMS:

- Our Christmas party will be this Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 2:15-7:00 p.m. Your counselors will make arrangements with your parents for picking you up from your school and getting you to our church.

GENERATION GEMS:

- You are invited to our GEMS Christmas party at 5:30 p.m. this Wednesday, Dec. 11, in our Fellowship Hall. We will be having a time of supper, games, fellowship, and Christmas caroling. Please contact Linda (295-4848) or Crystal (660-2214) if you have any questions. We hope to see you then!

CADET CHRISTMAS PARTY:

- The Cadet Christmas Party will be held this Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 2:30-7. Please note the following details:
 - ~ Boys will be picked up by their counselors from Oskaloosa Christian Grade and Oskey Middle School
 - ~ Oskey Elementary, Pella, EBF & North Mahaska boys, please get to the Oskaloosa Bowling Alley as soon as possible
 - ~ Please pick your boys up from the Cadet House at 7:00 p.m.
 - ~ Have a very Merry Christmas and we'll see you on Jan. 8, 2025!

NEWSLETTER:

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

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. Further details will be coming.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

- **Sunday, Dec. 15:** 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.

INFORMATION CENTER UPDATES:

- 1) Werner's *From Sunrise Land* 2) Helfer's *On Mission* 3) Huyser's Prayer Letter
- 4) De Young's Prayer Letter

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Dec. 9 = Kandy (VK) H
- Dec. 10 = Roger DG, Nicole S (Mark)
- Dec. 11 = Marilyn B, Kim H
- Dec. 14 = Anna DB (Doug), Pastor Erik, Delores R

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:

FROM PELLA CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS:

- **Celebrate the Birth of our Savior with 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 Early Education Christmas Program: Thursday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m.
 - ~ 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 CRC NEWS:

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**
 - ~ *Groundwork: Jesus – Our Mighty God:* The prophet Isaiah next calls the coming Messiah “Mighty God.” Join Groundwork as we explore Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 10:21, Acts 1:6-8, and Revelation 5:6,11-14 to discover what this title communicates to us about Jesus. Together, we’ll discuss how His presence as a helpless baby displays the awesomeness of God’s power and gives us hope as we anticipate His return. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.
 - ~ *Kids Corner: Advent Week 2 – The Servant:* Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. This week, read the story of Mary in Luke 1:26-45. God had an important role for Mary. She responded, “*I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said.*” Whatever God has for us to do, let our reply be the same as Mary’s. No matter how young or old we are, God will give us everything we need to be a faithful servant. Check out all the great content at www.kidscorner.net, like the Bible Story Podcast The Birth of Jesus.
- **From Calvin University:** The January Series of Calvin University returns January 20 through January 31. From Paralympians to historians, adventurers, and innovators, we have a topic for you to deepen your curiosity. Join us in the Covenant Fine Arts Center on the campus of Calvin University or online. More information can be found at www.calvin.edu/january-series.
- **From Resonate Global Mission:** A Unique Mission Trip for Teenagers – Join a group of teenagers from multiple countries on a trip across three Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala) to learn more about these countries’ histories and learn how local ministry leaders are working to meet the needs of communities in difficult realities. This is a great opportunity to grow in your faith and understanding of mission! Learn more and apply online at www.resonateglobalmission.org/encounter.
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip:** “Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.” This refrain from the beloved Advent hymn “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” calls us to rejoice – not because of our immediate circumstances but because of the promises we have in Jesus Christ. Ponder a few things that cause you to rejoice. Offer them up to God in gratitude. Brought to you by Thrive: www.crcna.org/Thrive.

It’s not what you gather,
but what you scatter that tells
what kind of life you have lived.

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa, IA
Notes of Council Meeting held Monday, December 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

All members were present except Joel De Bruin.

- Chairman Paul Van Donselaar called the meeting to order, read from Acts 16:16-40 & Philippians 1:26, and opened with devotions and prayer.
- November 4, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes were *approved*.
 - ~ Update – Tyler Helpers now has a vehicle for the month of December.
- Old Business: None
- Items Added to the Agenda:
 - ~ 2025 Care Groups – Brent & Luke are working with Sue on the updates.
- Deacon Reports (November):
 - A. Deacon Josh Van Donselaar reports for the General Fund:
 - 1. November Budget envelopes \$ 19,220.80
 - 2. November Balance \$ 15,275.93
 - B. Deacon Adam De Bruin reports for Benevolent and Enduring Gifts:
 - 1. Benevolent Fund \$ 13,058.38
 - 2. Enduring Gifts \$ 658.87
 - C. Deacon Brennan Plate reports for the Building Fund: \$ 5,170.45
 - D. Deacon Trent Meyer reports for Special Offerings: \$ 25,692.24
 - E. Deacon Mitchel Veenstra reports for Christian Education Fund:
 - 1. Balance on hand \$ 54,706.39
 - 2. Tuition owed to schools \$ 48,848.85
 - OCSI \$ 21,490.54
 - PCHS/PCGS \$ 27,358.31
 - F. All financial reports were given and *approved* by adopted motion.
 - G. Minutes of the November 4, 2024 Deacon's meeting were received.
- January Deacon Report (given for information only):
 - A. Deacon Trent Meyer reports for the January offering schedule:

	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
1/5	Areopagus	Missionary Support
1/12	Developing Great Relationships	Crossroads Prison Ministry
1/19	Pacific Island Ministries	Teen Challenge
1/26	Christian Opportunity Center	Freedom House
- Committee Reports:
 - A. Building & Grounds:
 - ~ Snow Removal has begun
 - B. Technology:
 - 1. MCG is going to review our internet speed.
 - 2. WiFi Access to be addressed after the speed issue.
 - C. Education & Library:
 - ~ Still actively looking for a new Christmas Program Coordinator
 - D. Worship Committee:
 - 1. Minutes of 10/20/24 meeting included for information & the upcoming worship schedule was reviewed.
 - 2. Motion made to have Kristin Boender organize the Praise Teams. *Approved*.
 - 3. Gloria De Bruin & Marilyn Vos will be retiring.
 - 4. January 5, 2025 is Installation Sunday for the new Elders and Deacons.
 - 5. January 5, 2025 will be the start of our Winter Worship schedule.
- Next Meeting: Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
- Motion to adjourn prevails.
- Deacon Chris Pierson closed in prayer.