

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 12/23/18

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

LETTERS:

- Allen Groenenboom -- Joel Huyser Doug Groenenboom -- Eric Schering
Heather Groenenboom -- Justin Van Zee

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 COUNCIL:

- **From the Elders:** If you would like to attend a Christmas Eve service, there are a couple of local options:
~ Good News Chapel, 603 South "H" St., 9:30 p.m.
~ Lifeshouse Community Church, 1513 S. Market, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with McLellan strings mini-concert, contemporary drama, caroling, and communion.
- **From the Deacons:** We will be closing the books following our Dec. 30 worship services. Please plan accordingly. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS CHOIR:

- By request, the "Praise Teams as One"/Choir is planning to lead the congregation in praise on Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25, at our 9:30 a.m. service. Our final practice time will be today from 10:45 - 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. You are sure to enjoy the uplifting, easy-sing, Christmas songs that have been chosen - Please come and share in the JOY of CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:

- Join us for a Christmas Luncheon at 11:30 on Christmas Day. The meat will be furnished. If you would like to come, please sign-up on the sheet in the hallway and bring a dish to share. Of course, you may just show up and enjoy the food and fellowship.

FAMILY PICTURES:

- There is an easel in the Fellowship Hall to pin family pictures on – like the type some people mail out as Christmas cards this time of year. We thought it would be nice for you to see the extended families of those in our church. It will be there for a month or so. – The Building Committee

WINTER WORSHIP FOR 2019:

- **Schedule:** We will be starting our Winter Worship schedule on Sunday, Jan. 6.
~Morning service – 9:30 a.m.
~Sunday School
~Potluck Lunch
~Afternoon Service – 12:45 p.m.
- **Morning worship and Sunday School** will continue as usual. We will then have a potluck lunch followed by the second service at 12:45 p.m. Single people of any age are encouraged to stay without commitment to bring food.
- **Paper Products:** The church will provide paper goods. Care Groups will take turns with set up, drinks (water and coffee), and clean up. A list of instructions is in the kitchen.
- **Care Group Assignments:** Since there will be new Care Groups we would appreciate anyone helping where they are able.

January 6	- Care Group 7	January 13	- Care Group 8
January 20	- Care Group 9	January 27	- Care Group 10
February 3	- Care Group 1	February 10	- Care Group 2
February 17	- Care Group 3	February 24	- Care Group 4
March 3	- Care Group 5		

SUMMER 2019 CHURCH WORK-TRIP:

- Summer of 2019 plans are being made for another all-church work trip to impact our local community. There will be opportunities in Oskaloosa with Habitat for Humanity and local charities. One major project we are planning is a Maintenance Building at Lake View Camp. This building would allow Lake View Camp to use the buildings

they now have for day camps. Some of the lumber needed is already on site and a local builder has steel available at half price. We have an opportunity to be used by God to change children's lives for eternity. Estimated cost at this time is \$12,000. If you feel God calling you to donate to this project, the funds can be given to the deacons or placed in the offering plate. Please designate them to the Mission Fund "Lake View Maintenance Building".

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Dec. 23 = Johnathon Jackson (Mike)
- Dec. 25 = Daryl Sytsma
- Dec. 26 = Ashli Van Donselaar (Jeff)
- Dec. 27 = Maggie Collins (Matt), Trenton De Bruin (Doug), Matthew Spoelstra
Paul & Shirley Van Donselaar
- Dec. 28 = Levi Roberts (Marty)
Gene & Sue De Bruin
- Dec. 29 = Lacey (Veenstra) Gay

INFORMATION CENTER UPDATES:

- 1) Justin Van Zee Prayer Letter 2) Hope Haven Horizons Annual Report

DIRECTORY PICTURES:

- **Directory Pictures:** Just a reminder that if you would like to add/change your picture in the directory that you will need to email a copy to me by Jan. 8. I cannot accept hard copies. Thanks ☺
- **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. The pages will be out through Jan. 8.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WORLD RENEW CATELOGS:

- Today is your last chance to pick up a World Renew gift catalog from the counter at the Information Center. You can give the gift of hope to someone in need of a hand up, through your choice of a gift. Choices range from \$2 to \$200.

FROM PELLA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL:

- If you have not yet responded to the PCHS Annual Financial Drive please prayerfully consider giving a gift by Dec. 31 and help to provide Christ-centered learning for our covenant young people. Donations are tax-deductible and can be dropped off or mailed to 300 Eagle Lane, Pella, IA 50219.

THE DISTINCTIVELY HEALTHY CHURCH ANNUAL EVENT:

- You are invited to a one-day equipping conference on the life-changing impact of connecting the generations in your congregation to each other. We'll explore what each age group brings to the table, as well as what they need from their church family. We'll also discuss how intentional intergenerational ministry can be a catalyst for community outreach and church growth. Opportunities for discussion and ministry planning with your team are built into the day! Dr. Syd Hielema (formerly a ministry professor at Dordt; now leader of Faith Formation Ministries) will present a keynote address, and several workshops will be offered. (This event is put on by the Connections Project and Faith Formation Ministries.)
 - ~ Where? Faith CRC (409 E. University St, Pella, IA 50219)
 - ~ When? Saturday, Jan. 12, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM (Doors open at 8:30AM.)
 - ~ Who? People who love their church! (Bring your church leadership team or a group of key leaders.)
 - ~ Cost? \$35/Individual or \$30/ individual in a group of 4 or more (Fee includes light breakfast, lunch, snacks and materials.)
 - ~ How do I sign up? RSVP to Trudy Ash by email (tash@crcna.org) and pay at the door. (Or mail your name and registration fee to: Trudy Ash, 13362 100th Ave, Milaca, MN 56353. Make checks payable to Trudy Ash. Registration deadline is January 10.)

WORK TRIP:

- World Renew Disaster Response Services will have a mission/work trip Jan. 19-26, 2019 to Hammond, LA., due to flooding. Please contact Harold Van Wyk at 641-891-2038 or haroldtwyla@yahoo.com

FROM CRC NEWS:

- **From Back to God Ministries International:**

~ Christmas Remixed: Did you know the book of Revelation tells the Christmas story? It's true. Complete with dragons and intense drama. Study Revelation 12 with Groundwork see the cosmic perspective on Christ's birth and purpose revealed through the Apostle John's vision. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and

subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

~ Mary's Miracle: The birth of Christ is the incarnation of God in human history. Kids Corner presents this dramatic presentation of the miracle of Jesus as seen through the eyes of Mary! Subscribe for free at www.getkidscorner.com. Free Giveaway: Kids Corner's "Know Your Bible Activity Book, Part 4!" Can you figure out all Kids Corner Christmas puzzles? www.kidscorner.net.

• **From Calvin College:**

~ 2019 January Series: The award-winning, free, liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekly, lunchtime lectures. This year the series begins on January 3 and continues weekdays through January 23 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. EST with topics such as technology and faith, the church and disabilities, restorative justice, cancer research, the #metoo movement, and so much more, by top experts in their fields. Thousands in west Michigan will join us on Calvin College's campus; others will watch the live feed at more than 50 remote webcast sites, while others listen online. For information about speakers, topics, remote sites, and listening options, go to www.calvin.edu/january

~ Calvin Symposium on Worship: Join us January 24-26, 2019, at Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary. The three-day conference brings together a wide audience of artists, musicians, pastors, scholars, students, worship leaders and planners, and other interested worshipers. Excellent rates for students and groups from churches. All worship services are free and open to the public. See www.worship.calvin.edu/symposium/ for information and registration.

• **From World Renew:**

~ Group Volunteer Overseas: Are you a compassionate, respectful, and adaptable person who would like to volunteer overseas with others who have common interests? With World Renew's Global Volunteer Program, you will get an authentic cultural experience and learn about the deep history and traditions that define the life of an international community. To find out more, email Andrew at globalvolunteer@worldrenew.net.

~ Jesus was Born for This: God offers us abundant life through His son, Jesus Christ. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas this week, include a gift for someone in need through the World Renew Gift Catalog. Your gift of a wheelchair, a sewing machine, or an adult literacy class is the best gift someone who lives in poverty, injustice, or disaster will receive this year. Go to www.worldrenew.net/gifts to give or call 800-333-8300 to order.

~ World Renew Opening: World Renew is seeking to fill the position of Team Leader for Constituency Relations (CORE). This position is responsible for providing leadership for World Renew's CORE Team; setting the strategic direction; success, sustainability and growth of World Renew fundraising, communications, marketing and volunteer recruitment & management. Visit www.crcna.org/jobs for details or to apply by Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

The True Meaning of Christmas

People think Christmas is presents and fun,
But it's really about Jesus, God's only son.

He was sent to the world 'cause it was full of sin,
He was born in a stable, there was no room in the inn.

People thought He'd be born with gold at His feet,
But really He laid where animals did eat.

People came from miles away,
To see this precious one who laid in the hay.

People brought presents from far away,
He's just a little boy, some did say.

Shepherds were in the fields, angels appeared,
They said, "We're from God, do not fear!"

People came and gave Jesus praise,
Higher and higher His name we should raise.

You can believe in Santa, it may be fun,
But I believe in Jesus, God's only son.

Written by Kurt Boender, 7th grade (Dec. '02) – Submitted by Harry Boender