

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 11/15/20

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

FROM THE PASTOR:

- In an effort to promote congregational unity during this time of Social Distancing, I would like to encourage you to remember those of our congregation who are shut-in, whether at home or in a care facility, with your letters and phone calls to let them know you are thinking about them.

FROM THE DEACONS:

- **Offering Schedule:** We would like the congregation to know that we are still following our regular offering schedule. You may give at anytime 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.

November Offering Schedule:

Date	AM	PM
11/1	World Renew	Samaritan's Purse
11/8	Back to God Ministries	Prison Fellowship
11/15	Christian Education Fund	Missionary Support
11/22	Rehoboth Christian School	Luke Society
11/26	Thanksgiving Offering	
11/29	Mexican Chr. Children's Aid	Christian Education Fund

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING:

- The Sunday School Offering this fall, from Sept. – Nov. are going to the U of I Stead Family Children's Hospital Chaplaincy Fund. Chaplains in hospital settings bring the presence of God to hurting people and families during their time of need. This morning in worship we will be watching a short video that describes the work that CRC chaplains engage in every day.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

- Operation Christmas Child boxes are due back by this evening. Arvin & Dena will be bringing them to Ottumwa on Monday or Tuesday.

BLOOD DRIVE:

- Our next Blood Drive will be held tomorrow from 2:30 – 7:00 p.m. If you would like to donate and have not been contacted, please contact Sue De Bruin at 673-7303 or 673-4272. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, **NO** walk-in's are allowed. You must have a scheduled time and are encouraged to keep that time as closely as you can. Also, masks are now required; if you don't have one, one will be provided. Please eat before donating and bring your photo ID. Thanks!

THANKSGIVING ANIMAL PHOTOS:

- All Creatures great and small...The Lord God made them all. Animals bring joy to God and joy to our lives. Share your animal photos as a way to praise our Creator of endless variety and beauty. Psalm 8:7-9 *"All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the seas, all that swim in the paths of the seas. Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"*
~ Send up to 3 of your digital photos focusing on all creatures great and small (pets, farm animals, wild animals, interesting insects, fish) to 1stcrprojection@gmail.com by Tuesday, Nov. 17.
- Then rejoice on Thanksgiving in our Creator and the creatures He has made!

IGNITE:

- On Wednesday, Nov. 18, we will be raking leaves right after school. Please meet at the church as we will be doing the church yard and parsonage. If you cannot do your yard and would like help, please call Marcia at 641-660-4053.

FORMS NEEDED:

- CEF Pledge Forms, Transportation Releases and On-Line Access Consent Forms need to be turned into the office ASAP. If you need a new copy or have questions about whether you are on file, please contact the office during business hours – M-F, 9-11:30. Thanks!

INFORMATION CENTER UPDATES:

- 1) Olsen Family Update
3) Stewardship Spotlight
- 2) Jared & Anna De Young Update

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Nov. 15 = Dawson Gay (Lacey), Larry Veenstra
- Nov. 17 = Curtis Vander Weide, Hudson Van Engelenhoven (Kevin)
- Nov. 18 = Blake De Bruin (Ben), Kyper Pierson (Chris), Caleb Roberts (Marty), Russ Sytsma
- Nov. 19 = Hayley De Bruin
- Nov. 20 = Suzanne Boender, Merrik Brink (Jeremy), Carter Hook (Dustin)
- Nov. 21 = Kelsey Meyer (Trent), Nolan Veenstra (Mitchel)

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.

FOUND:

- A laptop computer was found in the library and turned into the office. Please see Sue to identify and claim.

OFFICE NEWS:

• **Upcoming Deadlines:**

- Sunday, Nov. 22 = Wednesday, Nov. 18 at noon
(The office will be closed on Friday, Nov. 20, due to TEC)
- Thanksgiving Bulletin = Tuesday, Nov. 24, at noon
- Sunday, Nov. 29 = Wednesday, Nov. 25, at noon
- Candlelight Service = rough draft by Monday, Dec. 7, final corrections by Dec. 10 at noon
- Jan. – Feb. Newsletter = Sunday, Dec. 13
- Christmas Bulletin = Tuesday, Dec. 22, at noon
- Sunday, Dec. 27 = Wednesday, Dec. 23, at noon (The office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25)
- Sunday, Jan. 3 = Wednesday, Dec. 30, at noon (The office will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1)

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANK YOU!:

- Central Iowa Teens Encounter Christ (C.I.T.E.C.) wants to thank First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa for being such a gracious and wonderful church to host TEC #74 the weekend of November 19 – 22. Our theme Bible verses for the weekend are Romans 8:38-39, *“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* This TEC weekend will have nearly 70 student and adult workers, and 36 new student candidates that get to experience the life-changing message of the gospel in a way that only teens can share it! The weekend is filled with fun, surprises, seriousness, laughter, and tears, and we cannot thank you enough for allowing us to make this very special weekend possible for the first time at First CRC Oskey!

GOOD NEWS CLUBS:

- **“Be A Missionary Every Day”:** This is one of our most popular songs, but more important is the challenge to young Christian kids! Will you encourage your church’s children to ‘be a missionary’ by coming to Good News Club at Central Reformed Church (815 2nd Ave E – please use the East Door) starting on Monday, Nov. 16 & to invite their unsaved friends? Club meets from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. We will be meeting at Central temporarily until the school permits us in. Club runs through March 2021 & meets when school is in session. We all know that where there are kids, there are MORE kids. Besides being fun for the saved children, AND being able to be a witness, saved kids GROW at Good News Clubs and become even greater leaders in their churches. Students will receive invitations with a permission slip during the week before that club begins at their school. Call Shane Van Donselaar at 641-651-0332 if you have any questions or if you are interested in volunteering.
- **Note:** At Good News Club kids learn: Respect, Good Character, Morals, Obedience, Principles for Good Citizenship, How to be saved & have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and How to grow in their walk with the Lord.

HELP WANTED:

- We are looking for someone heading to the southwest who is able to transport quilts to Rehoboth, NM. They must arrive there by Monday, Dec. 14, in order to be given out by the Rehoboth students to families in need. Contact: Ron Zwiers at 641-628-2219 or zwiers@iowatelecom.net

ADVENT MEANS HOPE

- With World Renew’s 2020-2021 Gift Catalog, you can help a family with a filter for clean water to drink, give a child get 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 PELLA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL:

- The PCHS Annual Financial Drive is underway. The goal for this year is \$80,000 used to support the General Fund of the school. You should have received or will soon receive a letter either via postal mail or at church explaining the drive. Donations can be sent directly to the school office at 300 Eagle Lane or given to any board member. Thank you for your ongoing support of the mission of PCHS.

FROM LEGACY OF GRACE STO:

- Legacy Of Grace Student Tuition Organization (LOG STO) is once again actively seeking donations. A 65% state tax credit will be given on the first \$489,751 dollars donated. Please see the sheet attached to last week's supplement for more information and a donation form.

FROM CRC NEWS:

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

~ *The Final Events of Jesus' Earthly Life*: Continue studying John's gospel with Groundwork in John 18-20 with the stories of Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, resurrection, and post-resurrection appearances. Let the final events of Jesus' earthly life lead you to believe more fully in him. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

~ *Kids Showing Justice and Mercy*: Check out our new children's programs at www.kidscorner.net. This week's devotion asks the question "Did the Samaritan value the needs of the man above his own?" and reminds us that Jesus tells us, "Go and do likewise." Check out this week's Kids Corner resources—all about showing justice. Download KC's Advent Gifts of Kindness devotionals to lead your family's Bible study as you prepare for Christmas. <https://kidscorner.net/activities>.

- **From World Renew:**

~ *Give Thanks and Hope on Thanksgiving Day*: On Thanksgiving Day, November 26, we will join World Renew in gratitude for the hope that God gave to the Nyirenda family during a season of drought in Zambia. Through our gifts and offerings to World Renew, more families like the Nyirendas can learn to adapt their farming practices to experience more hope and bring more food to their tables in climate-vulnerable communities. For more information go to www.worldrenew.net/free-a-family.

~ *Hurricane Eta Response in Latin America*: Right now, 2.5 million people are facing the many devastating impacts of Hurricane Eta. Since November 3, over 300,000 people have been displaced. World Renew is working alongside its Christian partners in Latin America to deliver essential items like food, water, hygiene kits, and shelter items to families most affected by this disaster. Thank you for making an immediate impact through your gifts and prayers. To donate online, please go to www.worldrenew.net; to donate by phone, please call us at 800-552-7972.

~ *Opportunities to Work with World Renew*: Compelled by God's deep passion for justice & mercy, we join communities around the world to renew hope, reconcile lives, and restore creation - and we have an opportunity for you to join us in this work! We currently have some RFP's for SEO Agencies - Content and Optimization in the USA and Canada. More details can be found at www.worldrenew.net/careers.

- **At-home Faith Formation Tip:** The Practice of Generosity – It can be relatively easy to donate money to a cause we care about, but it can be harder to decide to give of our time. Has the Spirit been tugging on your heart when a certain person, cause, or organization is mentioned? Be attentive to those prompts. (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit www.crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices).

- **From Calvin University:** David Brooks to receive 2020 Kuyper Prize - On Monday, Nov. 16, David Brooks, a longtime New York Times op-ed columnist who writes about politics, culture, and the social sciences, will accept the 2020 Abraham Kuyper Prize for Excellence in Reformed Theology and Public Life during a virtual event hosted by Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary. The event will be live-streamed beginning at 7 p.m. EST at www.calvin.edu/go/kuyper-prize

- **From CRC Communications:**

~ *CRCNA Director of Candidacy Position Opening*: The Christian Reformed Church in North America has an opening for Director of Candidacy, based in either the Grand Rapids, Michigan, or the Burlington, Ontario offices, or can be remote with applicants residing anywhere in Canada or the United States. Visit www.crcna.org/jobs for a detailed description or to apply by December 18, 2020. This position will remain open until filled.

~ *CRCNA Position Opening*: Ministry Support Services, a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) has a full-time (40 hrs/wk) opening for a Project Coordinator in our Grand Rapids, Michigan offices. For details visit www.crcna.org/jobs by November 19, 2020.

November COVID Update

On November 10, Gov. Reynolds announced an additional COVID response proclamation that impacts many community events and businesses. The Executive Committee of our Council has been looking at the proclamation and discussing it with our local legislative leaders. The proclamation does not specifically prohibit any spiritual or religious gatherings as long we are implementing reasonable social distancing measures.

Again, we remind everyone to follow the protocols that we have been following into this fall:

- please practice social distancing;
- masks, while not mandatory, are encouraged;
- if you are not feeling well, please stay home;
- if you are at-risk due to age or health concerns, please continue to worship via the livestream or Facebook.

Additionally, all of our mid-week activities will continue as is, with the reminder to practice our social distancing protocols.

One change that the Executive Committee of the Council is making is that we will again be taping off every other pew on the majority of the northside of the sanctuary, leaving only the back 7 benches on the northside as fully open. We would encourage our larger families who are mingling together during the week to sit in that section. The southside of the sanctuary remains socially distant with every other pew taped off.

As we have stressed all year, we are asking for patience from everyone. The Council will continue to monitor the situation locally and will make adjustments as necessary. As this disease impacts more of our families and our community may we call on our God and remember the words of the Apostle Peter: *“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you (1 Pet. 5:7).”*

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Council,

Pastor Jon