

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 11/12/23

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.

November Offering Schedule:

Date	A.M.	P.M.
11/5	Cadets (International)	Christian Education Fund
11/12	Areopagus Campus Ministry (ISU)	Youth for Christ
11/19	Christian Education Fund	Benevolence
11/23	Thanksgiving Envelopes	
11/26	Love, INC	Many Hands for Haiti

THANKSGIVING DAY MUSIC:

- All Praise Team Singers and anyone else is invited and encouraged to bring “PRAISE TO GOD” at our Thanksgiving Day Service. The scheduled rehearsals will be held as follows:
 - ~ Choir – Sunday, Nov. 12, 8:55 - 9:23 a.m. in the downstairs music room
 - ~ Choir – Sunday, Nov. 19, 8:55 - 9:23 a.m. in the downstairs music room
 - ~ Choir & Instrumentalists – Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, 8:45 a.m. in the sanctuary

THANKSGIVING PHOTOS CELEBRATING WORK AND SERVICE:

- *“Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17* This year we want to encourage the congregation to showcase pictures of work and service in daily life (our jobs, serving at church, working at home or school) to share during our Thanksgiving service as all of our work is to honor God! We love those farming photos, but we would also love photos of our other occupations like healthcare, hair stylist, office work, childcare, construction, transportation, etc. Also, include photos of work and service at church – serving meals, teaching class, running projection, cleaning, repairing. Don’t forget all ages and ordinary work like housework or schoolwork. These are photos that you might not have in your collection, so start snapping early. Please submit your photos by tomorrow to 1stCRCprojection@gmail.com.

CADET COUNSELORS WORKSHOP:

- There will be a Counselors workshop tomorrow evening, Nov. 13, at the Calvary CRC Youth House (1354 Orchard Dr. in Pella) at 7:30 p.m. The topic is on poison ivy and related items while camping with Cadets.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES:

- *“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”* Mark 16:15 -- Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan’s Purse is now underway. Tuesday Evening Coffee Break is putting several boxes together and encourages you to do the same.
 - ~ **Why?** Every shoebox gift is excellent for evangelism and discipleship that leads to the multiplication of new believers and churches around the world. Local Christians share the Gospel, inviting children to trust in Jesus. The boys and girls receive a surprise that may be their first gift ever; they in turn share their gifts (material and spiritual) with those around them.
 - ~ **How?** Information and boxes are available in the foyer or check out the website at www.samaritanspurse.org/occ. A donation of \$10 per box is suggested (preferably mailed or paid online). The fee covers shipping as well as book explaining the story of salvation. You may also give your donation to Deb and she will pay it online for you. Boxes should be completed and back to church by Tuesday, Nov. 14. Questions? Call Deb 641.660.8290 or Dena 641.660.5671.

Note: Be reminded that you are NOT to include toothpaste, gum or candy in the boxes.

IGNITE LEAF RAKING:

- The IGNITE Youth Group will be raking leaves on Wednesday, Nov. 15, starting at 3:30. If you are a senior church member and would like to have your leaves raked, please call Dan Fynaardt at 641-660-2525. IGNITE members, please bring your own rake. Pizza will be served after raking.

FROM PELLA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL:

- **Poinsettia Sale:** Deck the Halls and support the PCHS Music Department with our annual poinsettia sale fundraiser. Orders can be made with any PCHS band or choir student or at the PCHS school office. Two colors are available (red and white) at a cost of \$15 per plant. Orders must be placed by Monday, Nov. 20, and picked up on Tuesday, Nov. 28, between 2:30-5:00 p.m. in the music room at PCHS.
- **PCHS Annual Financial Drive:** The Pella Christian High School Annual Financial Drive is currently underway. The goal for this year is \$80,000 and is used to support the general fund of the school. You should have recently received a letter either via postal mail or at your church explaining the drive. Donations can be sent directly to Pella Christian High School, 300 Eagle Lane using the self-addressed envelope enclosed with the letter. Thank you for your ongoing support of the mission of PCHS.
- **Wanted – Volunteer Crocheters for a Winterim Elective:** Are you passionate about crocheting? Sandy Van Veldhuizen would love to have you share your crocheting expertise with students in her Winterim class. You will be helping guide students as they learn to crochet a border around a lap blanket sized piece of fleece. If some students finish crocheting their lap blanket early, they will need guidance to crochet a bookmark. You will also have the opportunity to share an heirloom crochet project that you treasure or something that you are currently crocheting while we have coffeetime each day. Students will be delivering their lap blankets to residents at The Cottages on the last day of class. Winterim is January 3 - 10. The Winterim crocheting class will meet from 8:30-11:15 on the first and last days, and from 8:30-11:30 on the other four days. Please consider joining this special group for one or more days. Please contact Winterim leader Sandy Van Veldhuizen at vanveldhuizen2@pceagles.org by December 15 and let her know which day(s) you are available to share your crocheting expertise. Thank you for considering this special opportunity!

FROM WESTMINSTER SEMINARY CALIFORNIA:

- You are cordially invited to join us for the 2024 Annual Conference. The conference will be held Jan. 19-20, 2024, and the theme this year is “*Our Aim is Love*”. We will examine how we, as believers, may faithfully carry out the stewardship of God's grace entrusted to us so that we build one another up in love. Early bird discount rates end Dec. 1. For more information or to register, call (888) 480-8474 or visit www.wscal.edu.

LADIES HOLIDAY LUNCHEON:

- The Mahaska Chamber & Oskaloosa Main Street would like to invite the community to a Ladies Holiday Luncheon. Join us on Friday, Dec. 15, 2023 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 before Dec. 5. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber office located at 222 1st Avenue East or you can call the office at 641-672-2591.

LEGACY OF GRACE DONATIONS:

- The Legacy of Grace Student Tuition Organization (LOG/STO) is once again actively seeking donations. LOG-STO is in its 17th year of existence for the purpose of raising funds to provide tuition scholarships for eligible students to attend a Christian school. This year the state of Iowa has again given the LOG-STO an opportunity to raise \$552,935 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 is available on the school website home page, scroll down to the LOG-STO box. Questions? Contact Mike Vermeer at 641-780-8089.

FROM CRC NEWS:

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**
 - ~ *Groundwork – In His Mercy, God Chose You:* When someone we love doesn't share our belief in Jesus, we often experience grief and heartache. Join Groundwork as we study Paul's lament for his fellow Jews in Romans 9-11. Together we'll learn about God's sovereign choice and our free will and we'll discover comfort in the truth that God, in his mercy, has chosen us. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.
 - ~ *Kids Corner – Talking About God When We're Scared:* Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. It can be scary to step out of your comfort zone and tell someone about God. This week's devotion is all about not letting your fear hold you back. God will be with you just like He was with Moses (Exodus 3:12). And He has promised you that you can do all things with His help (Philippians 4:13). Check out all the great content at www.kidscorner.net like the Bible story podcast “Paul in Athens.”
 - ~ *Family Fire* is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at www.familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.

- **From World Renew:**

~ *Thanks:* World Renew gives praise to God for the generous-hearted people like you who support our mission and help us to share Christ's hope with communities struggling with hunger and poverty. Your generosity helps equip families with the resources they need and, in the process, reflects God's love and abundance. To learn more about how you can help people in need, please visit www.worldrenew.net.

~ *Let's Extend Christ's Love:* As we prepare for Thanksgiving, we remember that parents worldwide struggle to provide for their children. In rural Laos, six percent of babies die in infancy, but World Renew is training health volunteers in 13 villages to support women before, during, and after childbirth. Your gift on Thanksgiving Day makes it possible for more families to find hope through World Renew's Free A Family® program.

- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip:** End-of-year giving opportunities abound at this time of year, so be intentional about your giving. Consider doing some research to discover a new local ministry or organization that supports a cause you care about deeply, and then give generously of your time, talents, and treasure to help it flourish. Learn more at www.crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject.

“I’M DRINKING FROM MY SAUCER”

by Michael Combs

I've never made a fortune,
and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much,
I'm happy anyhow
And as I go along life's way,
I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

Haven't got a lot of riches,
and sometimes the going's tough
But I've got loving ones all around me,
and that makes me rich enough.
I thank God for His blessings,
and the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong,
My faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke,
and the sun peeped through again.
So Lord, help me not to gripe,
about the tough rows I have hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage,
When the way grows steep and rough.
I'll not ask for other blessings,
I'm already blessed enough.
And may I never be too busy,
to help others bear their loads.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

When I think of how many people in this world have it worse
than I do, I realize just how blessed we really are.