

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 11/19/23

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 COUNCIL:

- In recent weeks, there was a presentation on a new organ given at the Congregational Meeting and also a brochure placed in your church mailbox. The Council is asking congregational members to share their thoughts on this matter with your elders, deacons and pastors.

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. Our final rehearsal for Singers & Instrumentalists will be held on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, at 8:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

THANKSGIVING DAY OFFERING:

- For our Thanksgiving Day Offering we will have the opportunity to give in the following ways:
 - ~ Food for the Body: Nonperishable food items can be brought to the front of church during the time of our slideshow presentation. Items will be brought to our local Ecumenical Cupboard
 - ~ Food for the Soul: Envelopes with cash or check can be brought to the front of church during the slideshow presentation in support of programs and organizations that feed us spiritually.

NOV. 26 MISSIONARY EMPHASIS:

- On Sunday, Nov. 26, our missionaries Eric & Penny Schering will be here. The congregation is encouraged to attend their presentation following the service.
 - ~ 3 & 4 Year Olds – there will be NO class that day
 - ~ K- 8th Grade – we will have a half hour practice for the Christmas program from 10:40-11:10 a.m. This will be so that we do NOT need any Saturday practices. Thank you for attending so we can properly prepare.
 - ~ High School Classes – are encouraged to attend the presentation with their teachers.

FROM IGNITE:

- Will you be attending the Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 2? Come get your fresh cinnamon rolls & hot wassail that the IGNITE Youth Group will be selling. You can find us on the SW corner of the Oskaloosa City Park. We will be serving from 5:30-8:30 p.m. or until gone. Find us before, during or after the parade for these scrumptious cinnamon rolls and wassail. Hope to see you there!

SS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

- We would like to have a number of students play the piano for the Christmas program prelude on Sunday, Dec. 17. If you are willing to participate, please contact Deann De Groot at deann.degroot@gmail.com or text 641.295.3766. Please let me know by December 3.

SNOW REMOVAL:

- There is a sign-up sheet on the Information Center Table. We are asking for groups of 4 volunteers to remove snow around the buildings (Church & Cadet House) – sidewalks, entrances and steps. There will be a lead person for each group and the schedule will start on the first measurable snowfall. The Building Committee will call you if it is your week. The lots will continue to be contracted out. Thanks, the Building Committee.

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE:

- Extra Blue Psalter Hymnals are available on the Information Center table for anyone who would like their own personal copy.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND COMMITTEE:

- The CEF is funded for this year. The Committee thanks you for your donations. We encourage you to bless other needs of the church with your giving this year.

AND THEY'RE OFF...

- ...Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child boxes that is. Thanks to the Christian Grade School, Tuesday Evening Coffee Break, GEMS and the congregation we were able to add 303 boxes to the 2023 mission field. Each box contains presents, necessities, school supplies AND the invitation to take Christ as Savior. Many children will be invited to attend the 12-week discipleship program as well. Children, families, communities are hearing the Gospel of Jesus daily. And for this we thank you! NOW, PRAY that the boxes may travel safely to the ends of the earth to make this all happen.
~ In Christ; Dena, Deb, Ruth, Linda and Tracy

INFORMATION CENTER UPDATES:

- 1) Pella Christian *Link* 2) De Young Newsletter 3) Huysler Prayer Letter

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Nov. 19 = Hayley De Bruin
Nov. 20 = Suzanne Boender, Merrick Brink (Jeremy), Carter Hook (Lynn)
Nov. 21 = Nolan Veenstra (Mitchel)
Nov. 22 = Molly Collins (Matt), Wayne De Bruin
Nov. 23 = Kristen Van Donselaar
Nov. 24 = Finn Spronk (Pastor)

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:

- **Upcoming Deadlines:**
 - Thanksgiving Bulletin = Tuesday, Nov. 21, at noon
 - Sunday, Nov. 26 = Wednesday, Nov. 22, at noon
 - Candlelight Service = rough draft by Monday, Dec. 4, final corrections by Dec. 7 at noon
 - Sunday School Program = as soon as possible so that I can have a proof copy to you for practices
 - Blue Christmas = Thursday, Dec. 14, at noon
 - Jan. – Feb. Newsletter = Sunday, Dec. 17
 - Christmas Bulletin = Thursday, Dec. 21, 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 Monday, Dec. 25, and Monday, Jan. 1, in observance of Christmas and New Years.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FROM LAKEVIEW CAMP:

- LakeView Camp is doing another Dehydrated Apple Fundraiser for programming at the camp. They had an awesome summer season and are excited about offering even more next summer!! The apples will be available in the office and are only \$10 per gallon bag. Cinnamon or Plain, Soft or Crispy. Please, grab a bag and just put your money in the envelope on the side of the box. Your support in the past has been awesome, and so we offer them to you again this year.

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 tomorrow, 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.

FROM OSKALOOSA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:

- **Cookie Decorating at Oskaloosa Christian!** Mark your calendars to join the Christmas Cookie Committee for a fun morning of decorating cookies on Friday, Dec. 1. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the school gym. We will **not** be able to offer childcare again this year. All skill levels are welcome; you do not need to know how to frost cookies. We need people willing to sprinkle, sort cookies, and organize cookies as well! Please come out for some great fellowship as we work together to help make this fundraiser a blessing for our school!
- **Bake Sale & Vendor Fair!** Get an early start on your Christmas baking and shopping! Plates of goodies will include Decorated Sugar Cookies, Fudge, Divinity, Oreo Snow Balls, Peanut Butter Brittle and so much more! There will also be many vendors and crafts present at the same time as the Bake Sale.
 - ~ WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 2, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 - ~ WHERE: Oskaloosa Christian School gymnasium, located at 726 North “E” St. See you there!

FROM PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:

- Peoria Christian School would like to thank all who helped make our Annual Fall Bazaar a HUGE success! We truly see God’s faithfulness to us as He once again has used you to bless our school. The Lord is good, to Him alone be the Glory! *“Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty!”* Psalm 93:4

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 at www.pceagles/admissions/tuition/, scroll down to the LOG-STO box. Questions? Contact Mike Vermeer at 641-780-8089.

FROM CRC NEWS:

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**
 - ~ Groundwork – Transformed Living: The apostle Paul continued to unpack the new realities of their life in Jesus Christ for the Roman Christians; he challenged them to live transformed lives. Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Romans 12-13 to learn how to we too should live in light of the Gospel and what it means to renew our minds and be living sacrifices for God. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.
 - ~ Kids Corner – Daily Gratitude: Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Take a moment to try this exercise: In five seconds, name five things that you are thankful for. Ready? Three... two... one... go! This week’s devotion is about being thankful. Why be thankful? Because it helps us to see God at work in our lives every day. Gratitude gives joy to both God and us! Check out all the great content at www.kidscorner.net like the KC’s Liz and Friends Podcast “Attitude of Gratitude”.
- **From World Renew – Bringing Hope for Families:** When families around the globe participate in World Renew’s Free A Family® program, parents, children, and future generations are impacted for good. As God brings change, blessings abound, and families can move on from hunger, malnutrition, and poor health. Your gift brings hope to families worldwide -- or consider becoming a monthly donor at www.worldrenew.net/FreeAFamily.
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip:** We often associate generosity with financial giving, but we can also cultivate a generous spirit in our relationships. Ponder how you might practice this in daily life, perhaps by focusing on refraining from mental criticism, attributing the best motives to people’s actions, being “present” and attentive when spending time with others (especially children), or doing acts of random kindness. Learn more at www.crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject.