

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 11/16/25

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.
11/2	World Renew World Hunger	Angel Tree Prison Fellowship
11/9	ReFrame Ministries	Luke Society
11/16	Christian Education Fund	Pella Chr. Special Educ. Fund
11/23	Resonate Global Mission	Bible League
11/27	Thanksgiving Envelopes	
11/30	Mexican Christian Children's Aid	Missionary Support

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.
 - ~ **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 (mailed, paid on-line, or leave in the office – with what it's for). The fee covers shipping as well as a book explaining the story of salvation. Boxes should be completed and back to church by tomorrow. Questions? Call Deb 641.660.8290 or Dena 641.660.5671.

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

THANKSGIVING PHOTOS 2025 – TREES:

- Psalms 96:12 – *"Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy."* TREES are a magnificent subject to help us praise God in our Thanksgiving Day projection photo display. Did you know that the Bible lists at least 36 different kinds of trees? Let's show God's glory on display in the pictures we choose of trees – trees throughout the seasons, varieties of trees that you may have photos of from different parts of the country or world. Submit your digital photos of trees to 1stCRCprojection@gmail.com by tomorrow, so that we can share witness and thankfulness to God our faithful beauty creator. The photos will be shown as part of our Thanksgiving service.

THANKSGIVING DAY OFFERING AND MONTH OF GIVING:

- Our Thanksgiving Day offering will be brought forward to baskets as usual. In addition to 1) the envelopes with gifts of cash or check to support programs and organizations, you and your family are encouraged to also bring 2) some nonperishable items to benefit our local Ecumenical Cupboard. Thanksgiving Day will be the kick-off to a month of giving. From Thanksgiving to Christmas continue bringing non-perishable food items to church to help meet the special needs this year. The month of giving will culminate with an offering on Christmas Day to benefit the Ecumenical Cupboard. Thank you for sharing your gratitude to God and love for our community.

IGNITE FUNDRAISER:

- Warm up with a cup of Hot Chocolate or Hot Cider for ONLY \$3 per cup at the Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. (or until gone). You can find us on the Northeast side of the Oskaloosa City Park. All proceeds will go towards the 2026 Summer Mission Trip. Come out and support the Ignite Youth Group from 1st Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa. We appreciate your support and helping us make a difference to those in need!

GENERATION GEMS:

- You are invited to join the GEMS for our Christmas party on Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Please save the date!

YOUNG COUPLES/FAMILY SMALL GROUP:

- A couple has felt led to start a young couples/family small group in First CRC. The goal would be to meet monthly in homes for a meal, fellowship, encouragement, and to grow in faith together. We are asking that all young couples/families who would have an interest in such a group please use the sign-up sheet or speak with Pastor Erik so that we can gauge the interest.

INFORMATION CENTER UPDATES:

- 1) RESAP 2025 Fall Update

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Nov. 18 = Blake DB (Ben), Kyper P (Chris), Caleb R (Marty), Russ S
- Nov. 19 = Hayley DB
- Nov. 20 = Suzanne B, Merrik B (Jeremy), Carter H (Lynn)
- Nov. 21 = Nolan V (Mitchel)
- Nov. 22 = Molly C (Matt), Wayne DB

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. 25, at noon
- Sunday, Nov. 30 = Wednesday, Nov. 26, at noon
- Candlelight Service = rough draft by Monday, Dec. 8, final corrections by Dec. 11 at noon
- Sunday School Program = as soon as possible so that I can have a proof copy to you for practices, final corrections by Dec. 18 at noon
- Jan. – Feb. Newsletter = Sunday, Dec. 14
- Christmas Bulletin = Tuesday, Dec. 23, at noon
- Sunday, Dec. 28 = Wednesday, Dec. 24, at noon
- Sunday, Jan. 4 = Wednesday, Dec. 31, at noon

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FROM OSKALOOSA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:

- Join us on Friday, Nov. 21, at 7:00 p.m. for the Oskaloosa Christian School Thanksgiving Music Program as we celebrate and give thanks through music and praise! All students (TK–8th) will participate, featuring performances by the Middle School Band, TK–4th and 5th – 8th choirs, and our all-school theme song. Student artwork will also be on display!

CALLED:

- Full time ministry is an extraordinary calling and great privilege, and critical for the purposes of God in this world. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. But *“how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?”* If you have ever wondered if God is calling you to serve Him vocationally, whether as a pastor, missionary, chaplain, or something else; if you have questions about what ministry is like; if you wonder if it is worth it; if you don’t know the next steps or process – please join us at Dordt University on Saturday, Nov. 22, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for **‘CALLED’**. Stephen Terpstra, John Klompier, and John Lee, along with missions and candidacy experts, will encourage you, talk with you, answer your questions, and explore if God is calling you. The event is free of charge and is for people of all ages, from high school to those nearing retirement, who are exploring full- or part-time ministry. For more information and to register, go to: <https://forms.gle/Sg6Zh4Jx6cbPDiE9A> or follow the QR code on the poster in your church or school. Questions? Email pastor@firstercoc.org.

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL CONCERT:

- Please join us on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Penn Central Mall Center Court for “Bethlehem’s Joy” Gospel Concert. Featured Artists will be the Oskaloosa Community Christmas Choir and the Fellowship Bible Church Praise Team. This concert is sponsored by the Oskaloosa Community Evangelism Committee.

LADIES HOLIDAY LUNCHEON:

- Oskaloosa Main Street would like to invite you to the Ladies Holiday Luncheon on Friday, Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Debbie’s Celebration Barn (2162 21st Ave. W., Oskaloosa). This is a FESTIVE and FUN luncheon full of FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, and FREE GIVEAWAYS. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Mahaska Chamber office located at 222 1st Ave. East or you can call 641-672-2591 to reserve your seat. You won’t want to miss this festive holiday event!

FROM CRCNA:

- You Are Doing More Than You Know! Thank you! The collective ministry of the Christian Reformed Church in North America is flourishing thanks to your generous ministry shares gifts. Together, we are training church planters, equipping leaders, and strengthening local congregations like ours. We are sharing Christ's love and expanding discipleship here and around the world. Learn more at www.crcna.org/ministryshares.

FROM CRC NEWS:

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**
 - ~ *Groundwork – Blessed are....the Poor in Spirit, those Who Mourn, the Meek, and those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness:* The Beatitudes have provided generations of Christians comfort, guidance, and strength for their faith. Join Groundwork as we study the first four of Jesus' Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-6 to gain a deeper understanding of each condition and discover how they exemplify ideal discipleship. Visit www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.
 - ~ *Kids Corner Devotions – Courage to Face the Giants:* Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Courage to Face the Giants" at www.kidscorner.net. Ever felt scared to try something new or face something big? You're not alone – and just like David faced Goliath, you can be brave because God is with you! Check out all the great content at www.kidscorner.net, like the KC video series, "Kids in Action", telling stories of kids who serve God right now!
- **From World Renew:** You are invited to join World Renew for the launch of this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. This global virtual gathering will take place on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. EST. World Renew's 2025 theme, "Advocates of Dignity and Hope" calls us to remember, reflect, pray, and share stories of dignity and hope. Together, we will commit to ending gender-based violence for all people to flourish. Please register to attend this event: www.worldrenew.net/events.
- **From CRC Heritage Fund:** Give to Your Church with a Donor Advised Fund. You can give cash and other non-cash assets into a single fund and then choose when and how to recommend grants to your church, CRC Ministries, and other causes you support with a Donor Advised Fund set up by your financial advisor or bank. Learn more at www.crcna.org/heritagefund or call Josh Remer, CRCNA Planned Giving Advisor at 616-223-5885.
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip – Chaplaincy Sunday:** Chaplains bring the presence of Christ into places where people are hurting, searching, or far from home – like hospitals, prisons, schools, and military bases. This week pray for chaplains who walk alongside others in difficult moments. Talk with your family or friends about how you can be a caring presence in your own daily spaces – just as a chaplain reflects God's love wherever they are. Brought to you by Thrive: www.crcna.org/Thrive.

A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled by an intruder.

She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled:

“Stop! Acts 2:38!”

(“Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ,
so that your sins may be forgiven.”)

The burglar stopped in his tracks.

The woman calmly called the police
and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in,
he asked the burglar:

“Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you.”

“Scripture?” replied the burglar. “She said she had an Ax and two 38’s!”