

# First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

## Bulletin Supplement for 11/30/25

### **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.

#### **December Offering Schedule:**

Date	A.M.	P.M.
12/7	SWIM (Safe Water Internat'l Ministries)	Benevolence
12/14	Heartland Christian Counseling	IGNITE Youth Group
12/21	Growing Place (via Love, INC)	** None, Caroling
12/25	Ecumenical Food Cupboard	
12/28	Samaritan's Purse	Missionary Support

#### LOVE, INC CELEBRATION DINNER:

- On Thursday, Dec. 4, LOVE INC will be celebrating 10 years of their Foundation Class ministry which has taken place within our Fellowship Hall. They will celebrate by having a dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by a time of fellowship and fun. We, as a church, have been invited to join them for this evening. In order to have enough food, we would appreciate that those who plan to attend from our church sign up on the sheet on the Information Center Table or e-mail the office by Dec. 2. This is a great way for us as a community to welcome those who regularly use our church as well as encourage the ministry that is taking place in LOVE INC.

#### 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. We appreciate your support and helping us make a difference to those in need!

#### PIANO PRELUDE:

- If your K-8 student would like to do a piano prelude on December 21, please contact Keri Spronk at 641-295-5807 or [kerispronk@gmail.com](mailto:kerispronk@gmail.com) by Dec. 10.

#### CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:

- The Ignite Youth Group invites you to join them on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 6:00 p.m. for a Candlelight Service "*Nine Lessons and Carols Service*". This beautiful service will include Scripture readings, worship, singing, and the lighting of candles as we celebrate our Savior's birth. Bring your family and friends and share in this peaceful, joy-filled evening. A time of refreshments and fellowship will follow the service. We hope to see you there!

#### NEWSLETTER:

- All articles for the January/February Newsletter are due by Sunday, Dec. 14.

#### BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Nov. 30 = Vicki DJ  
Dan & Lori McK  
Dec. 1 = Mike & Lori B  
Dec. 3 = Eldon L

#### INFORMATION CENTER REPORTS:

- 1) Huyser Prayer Letter                      2) Schering Prayer Letter

#### 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:**

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

- **Christmas Cards:** Just a friendly reminder that if you have Christmas cards, etc. to please 1) leave them on the table in the office by Friday morning and I will stuff them after I put the large things in, or 2) wait until Friday afternoon to do it yourself and please remember that boxes are below the name. Thanks!
- **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. First come, first serve. Thanks!
- **Holiday Hours:** The office will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25, and Thursday, Jan. 1, in observance of Christmas and New Years.

### **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **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.

#### **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:**

- You are invited to join us at Cornerstone Church, 1020 E. Oskaloosa St. in Pella, for a Candlelight Service on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 6:00 p.m. The service will include the Adult Choir, Worship Team, Soloists, Scripture and Congregational singing. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

#### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. East or you can call 641-672-2591 to reserve your seat. You won’t want to miss this festive holiday event!

#### **DRIVE THRU LIVE NATIVITY:**

- Taintor Community Church, located at 111 Diagonal St. in Taintor, invites you to a Drive Thru Live Nativity to be held on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. A freewill donation will be received with the proceeds going towards their 2026 Mission Trip to Honduras.

#### **WANTED: VOLUNTEER CROCHETERS FOR A WINTERIM ELECTIVE:**

- **Details:** Are you passionate about crocheting? We would love to have you share your crocheting expertise with students in the Winterim Crochet class at Pella Christian. You will be helping guide students as they learn to crochet and 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 coffee time each day. You are also welcome to attend when students deliver their lap blankets on which they have crocheted a border to residents at The Cottages on January 16 at 2:30.
- **Dates:** Winterim is January 5–9, 2026. The Winterim Crochet class will meet from 8:30-11:30 except on Wednesday when we will meet from 8:30-11:15. Please consider joining this special group for one or more days. Please contact Sandy Van Veldhuizen at [vanveldhuizens@pceagles.org](mailto:vanveldhuizens@pceagles.org) by December 22 to let her know which day(s) you are available to share your crocheting expertise. Thank you for considering this special opportunity!

#### **FROM CRC NEWS:**

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**

~ *Groundwork – Waiting for the Light of the World:* Advent is a season of waiting. We’re waiting for Jesus, the Light of the World. Join Groundwork as we study Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 18:27-28, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 11:1-3, and Romans 13:11-14 to explore the Bible’s theme of light and gain a fuller understanding of what we’re waiting for as we begin to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus at His birth at Christmas. Listen now at [www.GroundworkOnline.com](http://www.GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork’s weekly emails for future episodes.

~ *Kids Corner Devotions: Advent at Home – O Come, O Come, Immanuel:* Check out this week’s kids’ devotion, “Advent at Home: O Come, O Come, Immanuel” at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). God promises to be with us in every Moment – when we’re sad, happy, or waiting for better days – and that gives us hope. This Advent, we can celebrate the hope of Jesus, who was born to be our Savior and will one day come again. Check out all the great content at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net), like the Kids Corner Christmas Collection of devotions, Bible stories, crafts, and activities.

- **From World Renew:**

~ *Let's End Hunger Together on Giving Tuesday:* Right now, families in Sudan and South Sudan are facing a severe hunger crisis due to conflict and displacement. Will you join World Renew to help end hunger and turn crisis into hope? Every dollar you give on Tuesday joins a generous \$1 million challenge gift, providing emergency food and showing God's love to families in Sudan and South Sudan. Learn more and give generously on December 2 at [www.worldrenew.net/givingtuesday](http://www.worldrenew.net/givingtuesday).

~ *World Renew DRS Volunteering Opportunity:* Nearly a year ago, catastrophic wildfires swept across Los Angeles, with 9,000 homes destroyed in the Eaton fire. World Renew Disaster Response Services' (DRS) local partner is ready to rebuild homes with one-week volunteer groups. Are you interested in getting your congregation involved with this wildfire response? Contact Morgan Tibble from DRS at [mtibble@worldrenew.net](mailto:mtibble@worldrenew.net) with questions or to sign up today. Let's share God's love and hope to disaster survivors, together!

- **From CRC Heritage Fund:** Crunched for time this year? You can buy more time on your year-end gift by using a donor-advised fund. So long as you give into the account by December 31, you can decide later how to distribute the funds. Learn more at [www.crcna.org/heritagefund](http://www.crcna.org/heritagefund) or call Josh Remer, CRCNA Planned Giving Advisor at 616-223-5885.

- **From Resonate Global Mission:** Resonate Global Mission is seeking a temporary content writer & editor to support our storytelling and donor communications during a 3-month parental leave. This role is ideal for a creative, detail-oriented communicator with strong writing skills and a passion for global mission. This is a part-time, hybrid or remote position based in Burlington, Ont.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; or elsewhere in North America. Learn more and apply before December 8, 2025 at [www.crcna.pinpointhq.com](http://www.crcna.pinpointhq.com).

- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip:** Today is the first Sunday in the season of Advent, a time when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus. There are many different ways we can get ready for Christmas – such as listening to music, reading Christmas stories, and lighting Advent candles. How will you practice getting your heart ready? Check out the Advent page of Thrive's Family Faith Formation toolkit for some ideas: [www.crcna.org/advent-tools](http://www.crcna.org/advent-tools). Brought to you by Thrive: [www.crcna.org/Thrive](http://www.crcna.org/Thrive).

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Since I have come to know God's love  
I'll think a little more  
When hanging up the festive wreath  
Of holly on my door.

I see in it a crown of thorns  
Placed on my Savior's brow  
That I may have the gift of life;  
What meaning it has now!

The thorns are there--so needle sharp;  
The berries, too, are red  
Not too unlike the precious blood  
That on the cross was shed.

I'll hang with prayer this holly wreath  
For all the world to see;  
Perchance, the lonely passerby  
Will feel God's love through me.

Within our homes, let there be love  
"And peace on earth to men,"  
As we remember in our hearts  
The Babe of Bethlehem.

Received from Scott Neville.