

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 12/14/25

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

- November Special Offerings** were as follows:

World Renew World Hunger	\$ 3,987.50	Angel Tree Prison Fellowship	\$ 1,170.50
ReFrame Ministries	\$ 1,167.50	Luke Society	\$ 1,003.50
PC Special Educ. Fund	\$ 383.00	Resonate Global Missions	\$ 1,443.50
Bible League	\$ 1,616.50	Mexican Chr. Children's Aid	\$ 1,342.50

A SEASON OF WREATHS:

- Photo Area:** Various wreaths are displayed on the back wall of the fellowship hall. Please use this area to gather the family, the kids or a group of friends for a festive photo.
- Puzzle:** For those of you who enjoy puzzles, we have one that is all wreaths! It's there for your enjoyment throughout the Christmas season & beyond. We'll see how long it takes to put together a 2000-piece wreath puzzle!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REMINDER:

- Program:** Our program is part of our morning service on Dec. 21. We will begin with a student prelude. The three- and four-year-olds will lead off the service, followed by the 5th – 8th praise team and Advent Candle lighting.
- Practices:** We will be using the whole Sunday School time today to practice for our program, so attendance for K-8th students is very important as we prepare to celebrate The Light of the World!

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:

- The Ignite Youth Group invites you to join them this evening, 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 today.

CAROLING:

- Instead of a PM Service on Sunday, Dec. 21, we will be Caroling in the community. We plan on meeting at First CRC at 4:50 p.m. and beginning our Caroling at select destinations around 5:15 and finishing at church by 6:30 p.m. Further details will be coming.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

- Sunday, Dec. 14:** Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 21:** Sunday School Program at 9:30 a.m.; Caroling at 4:50 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 25:** Christmas Service at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 28:** AM Service at 9:30 a.m.; PM Service at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 4:** Winter Worship (Church, SS, Potluck, 12:30 Church – note change of time) begins.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Dec. 14 = Anna DB (Doug), Pastor Erik, Delores R
- Dec. 16 = Ralph & LaVonne VD
- Dec. 17 = Deann DG, Wyatt DR (Kyle), Kristina G (Joel), Mack J (Mike), Joyce S

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES (con't):

Dec. 18 = Jan B, Pat DB
Dec. 20 = Jaren DB (Kurtis), Natalie P (Sherwin)
Jay & Diane B

INFORMATION CENTER REPORTS:

- 1) Jesse & Jari Rodriguez's *Satisfied Wages* 2) Helpers in South Africa 3) Jared & Anna De Young

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:**

Jan. – Feb. Newsletter = Sunday, Dec. 14
Sunday School Program = final corrections by Dec. 18 at noon
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:

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 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 – Out of Darkness and into the Light:* Turning on a light changes everything. What changes can we anticipate when Jesus brings His light to our world? Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 2:2-5, John 8:12-19, and John 12:44-50 to discover the significant effects we can expect the presence of the Light of the World to bring in our lives and our world. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

~ *Kids Corner Devotions: Advent at Home – Joy to the World:* Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Advent at Home: Joy to the World" at www.kidscorner.net. This week of Advent is all about joy! Maybe light the hope, peace, and joy candles with your family, sing a favorite Christmas song, like *Joy to the World*, and remember that Jesus is the best reason to celebrate. Explore all the great content at www.kidscorner.net, including the Kids Corner Christmas Collection of devotions, Bible stories, crafts, and activities.

- From World Renew:**

~ *World Renew Nicaragua Young Adults Trip:* Young adults (18–30), join us in Nicaragua from February 13-22, 2026! Experience God in another culture, while you explore poverty, international development and the global church through the lens of faith. Discover the impact of World Renew's work, witnessing how Nicaraguans are transforming their lives through faith and resilience. To learn more about this trip and to register, visit: <https://bit.ly/nicaragua2026info>.

~ *The Gift of Christmas:* Next week, we celebrate the gift of Jesus, who left His heavenly home to offer us the hope of eternal life with Him. By giving a gift for World Renew this season, you can help share hope in Jesus for families facing poverty, disaster, or crisis worldwide. Please give generously at www.worldrenew.net/gifts.

~ Position Opening – Director of Justice and Peace: The Director of Justice and Peace position at World Renew is now live. This is a full-time, leadership role open to candidates in Canada and the United States. The director will provide vision and strategic leadership for World Renew’s Justice and Peace Program, guiding staff, projects, partnerships, resource development, and external engagement. This position will strengthen World Renew’s capacity in Justice and Peace initiatives, ensuring programming is rooted in biblical principles and aligned with our global strategy. The director will collaborate across teams to deliver transformational, community-driven projects, advocate for systemic change, and engage with external partners to amplify our impact worldwide. Learn more and apply at www.worldrenew.net/careers by January 2.

- **From *The Banner***: Please help *The Banner* magazine reach its annual goal of raising \$500,000 by giving before December 31. Your gift will enable *The Banner* to continue reaching North Americans with inspiring and insightful Reformed content for another year. Donate now at www.TheBanner.org/Give.
- **From Calvin Theological Seminary**: Calvin Theological Seminary’s Truth, Reconciliation, & Exchanging Hearts course offers a focused look at Canada’s Indigenous history and practical guidance for ministry leaders pursuing reconciliation. Deadline to apply is January 30. Learn more: <https://loom.ly/I4i8muI>.
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip**: Around the world a lot of people are thinking about giving and receiving gifts for Christmas. Did you know that Christmas is, in some way, God’s gift to God? It marks that important moment when God entered our earthly life in order to restore God’s broken world through the cross of Christ and the empty tomb. A restored world had been a desire of God’s heart for a long time, so now is a good time to write God a Christmas card, praising the Lord that salvation is possible through the birth of the Christ-child in Bethlehem. Brought to you by Thrive: www.crcna.org/Thrive.

Holiday Recipe

1/2 cup of Hugs
4 teaspoons Kisses
1 cup of Holiday Cheer
1/2 cup of Peace on Earth
3 teaspoon of Christmas Cheer
2 cups of Goodwill Towards Men
4 cups of Love, 1 Sprig of Mistletoe
1 large bag of Christmas Snowflakes

Mix Hugs, Kisses, Smiles, and Love.

Blend in Holiday Cheer, Peace on Earth, Christmas Spirit and Goodwill Toward Men.

Use the mixture to fill a large, warm heart where it can be stored
for a lifetime, for it never goes bad!

Serve as desired under Mistletoe, sprinkle liberally with Christmas Snowflakes.

It is especially good when accompanied by Christmas carols and family get-together.

Serve to one and all!

May God keep you in His loving arms and I pray Jesus walks
beside you as you walk the pathway God has placed you on.

And I pray the Holy Ghost fills you with the Wisdom and the Knowledge to
complete all God has placed on your plate each day.

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa, IA
Notes of Council Meeting held Monday, December 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

All members were present except Keith Brink who was absent with notice.

- President Kirk Veenstra called the meeting to order.
- Pastor Jon read from Romans 8:1-4 and opened with prayer.
- November 3, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes were *approved*.
- Old Business: None
- Correspondence: Thank you's received from Concert on the Square, Mike Van Arkel with Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Oskaloosa Christian School.
- Items Added to the Agenda:
 - A. 2026 Care Group Review.
 - B. A motion was made to end Mutual Greeting during the AM service. *Approved*.
- Deacon Reports (November):
 - A. Deacon Chris Pierson presented the report for the General Fund:
 - 1. Budget envelopes \$ 28,614.63
 - 2. Balance \$ 685.31
 - B. Deacon Adam De Bruin presented the report for Benevolent and Enduring Gifts:
 - 1. Benevolent Fund \$ 10,550.96
 - 2. Enduring Gifts \$ 6,736.48
 - C. Deacon Brennan Plate presented the report for the Building Fund: \$ 8,282.36
 - D. Deacon Sherwin Plate presented the report for Special Offerings: \$ 20,350.48
 - E. Deacon Mitchel Veenstra reports for Christian Education Fund:
 - 1. Balance on hand \$ 38,965.50
 - 2. Tuition owed to schools \$ 38,204.36
 - F. All financial reports were given and *approved* by adopted motion.
 - G. The Deacon's Meeting Minutes of 11/3/25 were received for information.
- January Deacon Report (given for information only):
 - A. Deacon Sherwin Plate reports for the January offering schedule:

	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
1/4	Areopagus Campus Ministry	Teen Challenge
1/11	ReFrame Ministries	Crossroads Prison Ministry
1/18	Pella Pro-Life	Pacific Island Ministries
1/25	Christian Opportunity Center	Missionary Support
- Committee Reports:
 - A. Building & Grounds – Chairman Allen Groenenboom:
 - 1. Voting Place: A motion was made to use the facility as a Polling Place for the foreseeable future. *Approved*.
 - 2. HVAC: A furnace is currently broken. Some thermostats are also being replaced.
 - 3. MultiPurpose Youth Center: Rezoning passed the 2nd reading. Need 3 total.
 - B. Evangelism Committee – Chairman Brent De Ronde:
 - ~ Helped with the Love, INC Dinner on Dec. 4.
 - C. Worship – Chairman Lucas De Groot:
 - 1. Minutes of Nov. 16, 2026 meeting were received for information.
 - 2. Motion moved to move our afternoon service during Winter Worship to 12:30. Historically it has been at 12:45. *Approved*.
 - 3. Cyndi Fynaardt is stepping down from the committee. They are looking for new members to join.
 - 4. They are in need of someone to organize the monthly Prayer Sheets.
- Joys and Concerns were shared.
- Next Meeting: Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- Motion to adjourn prevails.
- Deacon Adam De Bruin closed in prayer.