

# First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

## Bulletin Supplement for 12/7/25

### 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

#### 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 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> praise team and Advent Candle lighting.
- Practices:** We will be using the whole Sunday School time today and next week to practice for our program, so attendance is very important as we prepare to celebrate The Light of the World!

#### 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.

#### CADET CHRISTMAS PARTY:

- The Cadet Christmas Party will be held this Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 2:30-7. Please note the following details:
  - ~ Boys will be picked up by their counselors from Oskaloosa Christian Grade and Osky Middle School
  - ~ Osky Elementary, Pella, EBF & North Mahaska boys, please get to the Oskaloosa Bowling Alley as soon as possible
  - ~ Please pick your boys up from the Cadet House at 7:00 p.m.
  - ~ Have a very Merry Christmas and we'll see you on Jan. 7, 2026!

#### GENERATION GEMS:

- Please join our GEMS group this Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for a time of pizza, fellowship, games, Christmas caroling, & dessert. If you have any questions, please contact Crystal at [oskylstercgems@gmail.com](mailto:oskylstercgems@gmail.com) or at 660-2214.

#### GEMS:

- Our Christmas Party is this Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Don't forget your Christmas Sock Gift Exchange!

#### 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.

### 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, 12:45 Church) begins.

### BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Dec. 10 = Roger DG, Nicole S (Mark)
- Dec. 11 = Marilyn B, Kim H

### INFORMATION CENTER REPORTS:

- 1) Schering Prayer Letter
- 2) Jesse & Jari Rodriguez's *Satisfied Wages*

### 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:**

### 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:**  
~ *Kids Corner Devotions: Advent at Home – Silent Night:* Check out this week’s kids’ devotion, “Advent at Home: Silent Night” at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Do your worries ever feel really loud? You can tell them, “Shhhhhh! Jesus is here,” and remember that He loves you and gives you peace. Explore all the great content at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net), including the Kids Corner Christmas Collection of devotions, Bible stories, crafts, and activities.
- **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).
- **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>.
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip:** Advent is a season of waiting for Jesus. This week bring awareness to moments in your daily life when you are waiting. Instead of pulling out your phone or passing time with another distraction, use that time to connect with God in prayer. For example, if you’re in a doctor’s office waiting room, try praying with your eyes open, talking to God about the people who work there and those who come for care. If you have children, invite them to point out things you can pray for as you are waiting and then pray for them together. Whether you are in the school pick-up line, sitting in traffic, or waiting for vegetables to roast, embrace the opportunity to spend time with God. Brought to you by Thrive: [www.crcna.org/Thrive](http://www.crcna.org/Thrive).

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“Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
All for love’s sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
All for love’s sake becomes poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love’s sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising  
Heavenwards by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love’s sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.”

— FRANK HOUGHTON (1894-1972)  
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