

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 1/18/26

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.

January Offering Schedule:

Date	A.M.	P.M.
1/4	Areopagus (ISU 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

- November Special Offerings:**

[includes Budget Envelopes, Thanksgiving Envelopes (\$76,254.83) and Regular Offerings]

Cadets (Local)	\$ 40.00	Oskaloosa Christian School	\$ 1,040.00
Luke Society	\$ 4,730.38	Teens Encounter Christ	\$ 103.00
World Renew	\$ 6,860.39	Love, INC	\$ 23,998.00
Lake View Camp	\$ 8,948.76	Developing Great Relationships	\$ 2,940.38
Fellowship of Chr. Athletes	\$ 400.00	GEMS	\$ 400.00
Child Evangelism Fellowship	\$ 3,895.38	818 Forward with Faith	\$ 2,770.38
Cadets (International)	\$ 250.00	Bible League	\$ 200.00
ReFrame Ministries	\$ 4,732.38	Samaritan's Purse (T/G)	\$ 5,135.38
Jared & Anna De Young	\$ 1,000.00	Rehoboth Christian School	\$ 500.00
Crossroads Prison Ministry	\$ 500.00	Hope Ministries	\$ 100.00
Mobility Worldwide	\$ 200.00	Mexican Chr. Children's Aid	\$ 200.00
IGNITE Youth Group (T/G)	\$ 250.00	Safe Water Internat'l Ministry	\$ 1,513.75
Heartland Chr. Counseling	\$ 1,392.25	IGNITE (reg. offering)	\$ 1,472.25
Growing Place	\$ 3,496.51	Ecumenical Food Cupboard	\$ 10,188.65
Samaritan's Purse (reg. offering)	\$ 1,675.25		

WINTER WORSHIP FOR 2026:

- Care Group Set-Up & Clean-Up Schedule:**

Jan. 18 – Groups 5 & 6	Jan. 25 – Groups 7 & 8	Feb. 1 – Groups 9 & 1
Feb. 8 – Groups 2 & 3	Feb. 15 – Groups 4 & 5	Feb. 22 – Groups 6 & 7
March 1 – Groups 8 & 9		

SEWING LADIES:

- Project Needed?:** Do you like to sew and need a project? We have some quilt tops leftover from last year's Sew Day ready to be sown. You will find them on the Information Center Table.
- Sew Day:** The annual Sew Day will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 20. We will be laying out quilt tops. We will meet in the fellowship hall from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will order pizza for lunch. Come join us when it works into your schedule. Contact Delores at 641-295-2983 or Ellize at 641-295-6000 with any questions you might have.

VALENTINE'S DAY FUNDRAISER:

- The Ignite Youth Group would like to invite you to their annual Valentines Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 13, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall. RSVP's are required by Feb. 1. You can sign up at the Information Center table or call/text Vicki at 641-295-4543. Join us for a festive feast filled with delicious food, fun & fellowship.
 - ~ There will be FREE babysitting provided by 7th grade GEMS class (in the church basement). Text Mary Beth at 641-777-4635 to sign up your child/children.
 - ~ Whole table reservations are welcome.
 - ~ "To-Go" meals available upon request.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GIVING ANNOUNCEMENT:

- You continue to be PART OF SOMETHING AMAZING and are helping to ENGAGE EVERYONE IN GOD'S WORD! So far this year, Sunday school students have given enough money to send **fifty-one Bibles** to under-resourced churches! This money will be used by Bible League International to provide Bibles to the 100,000,000 Christians around the world who do not have access to God's Word. Thank-you and please continue to pray for these Christians and also help develop the spirit of giving in the younger members of our church.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Jan. 18 = Lisa DB, Dylan R (Luke)
Jan. 21 = BJ B, Jim B, Laura DJ
Tony & Rachael H, Marion & Dorothy V
Jan. 22 = Deb B
Jan. 23 = Joe Caligiuri
Bert & Elaine B
Jan. 24 = Joan K
- **Prayer Opportunity:** This year we would like to use our birthdays and anniversaries as an opportunity to pray for each other. Praise God for the gift of these people and pray for their continued growth in loving God and loving others.

INFORMATION CENTER REPORTS:

- Tyler & Christina Helfers

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OSKALOOSA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AUCTION:

- Support Christian education by participating in the Oskaloosa Christian School "Bids for Kids" Auction!
 - ~ Online Auction: Feb. 12-17
 - ~ Live In-Person Auction: Thursday, Feb. 19, at Bradbury Hall (Nelson Pioneer Farm).
 - * Dinner at 6:00 p.m., live auction at 7:00 p.m.
 - ~ The meal will include smoked pork loin, mashed potatoes supreme, green beans, drinks and your choice of triple chocolate cake or almond crumble cake.
 - ~ Pre-purchase meal tickets through our auction website for \$12, or at the door for \$16. A link to the auction website will be available in the near future.

All proceeds support students, classrooms, and programs at Oskaloosa Christian School.

FROM RESONATE:

- Dear Friends at First CRC, Thank you for your generosity! Through your giving to Resonate Global Mission, you are stepping into God's bigger story of redemption by sharing the good news of Jesus in a world in desperate need of gospel transformation. Your gift to the mission field makes it possible for Resonate missionaries, church planters, campus ministers, and other ministry leaders to walk alongside people in more than 40 countries, including right here at home in Canada and the United States.

We want you to know that your gift helps make a difference in people's lives. Seekers are hearing the gospel for the first time and being discipled, believers are being trained and equipped to share their faith in action and word, and churches are being started and supported to reach new communities.

Thank you for taking a step into God's big story with us through your partnership. Together, we can continue to respond to God's call to bear witness to the Holy Spirit's work in the world and to share the good news of Jesus with people of all nations!

In Christ, Kevin DeRaaf, Director, Resonate Global Mission

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS IN GREECE (April 3 - 13, 2026):

- Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 1-616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

FROM CRC NEWS:

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**
 - ~ *Groundwork – Did Paul and James Agree on Salvation?:* Paul emphasizes salvation by grace, but James teaches the importance of our works. Do our works contribute to our righteousness? Join Groundwork as we study James 1:1-8, James 2:14-26, Colossians 3:5-10, and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 to compare what we learn from James to what Paul teaches about the relationship between God's grace and our works and then consider what it means for our daily lives. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

- ~ Kids Corner Devotions: Goodness – Are You a Good Person?: Check out this week’s kids’ devotion, “Goodness: Are You a Good Person?” at www.kidscorner.net. Want to know what it really means to be good? When we let God fill our hearts with love, kindness, and patience, we can grow “good fruit” and make the world a brighter, better place. Check out all the great content at www.kidscorner.net, like KC’s The Bible in One Year Plan.
- ~ Celebrating 75 Years of Today: For 75 years, *Today* has been part of the daily rhythms of faith for readers around the world, and we thank God for the ways these devotions continue to point people to Christ. ReFrame Ministries invites you to a special virtual Direct Connect on Thursday, January 29 at 1:00 p.m. EST as we celebrate this milestone, reflect on God’s faithfulness, and look ahead to what God is still doing through *Today*. Register at www.reframeministries.org/events. A recording will be shared with all who sign up.
- ~ Job Openings!

- * Director of ReFrame Ministries: The Director of ReFrame Ministries will provide executive leadership and vision for the agency. This role involves strategically planning and implementing policies and decisions. Additionally, the Director will ensure that all organizational activities comply with established bylaws and frameworks, effectively supporting the mission of ReFrame Ministries, the denominational strategic ministry plan, and the mission of the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). This is a full-time, hybrid position based in Burlington, Ont., or Grand Rapids, Mich. Apply at www.crcna.pinpointhq.com.
- * ReFrame Advancement Director: The ReFrame Advancement Director will give leadership to ReFrame Ministries’ donor relations and communications teams by providing vision, strategic direction, and initiatives to advance the mission of the ministry. This is a full-time, hybrid position based in Burlington, Ont., or Grand Rapids, Mich. Apply at www.crcna.pinpointhq.com.

- **From World Renew:**

- ~ 2026 Guatemala Discovery Tour: World Renew invites you to experience Guatemala from the inside through the 2026 Discovery Tour, a learning journey alongside communities already leading change. Join us from March 14-22, 2026 to hear powerful stories of transformation and experience Guatemala’s rich culture and hospitality. Come discover what God is doing in Guatemala! Registration closes January 31, 2026. For more information and to register, visit: bit.ly/guatemala2026info.
- ~ Position Opening – Safeguarding & Compliance Specialist: This full-time, exempt role is part of the Operations Team and reports to the Director of Safeguarding and Accountability, supporting safeguarding policy implementation and accountability standards across North American programming. The position is open to applicants in the United States or Canada. If you’re passionate about creating safe, transparent, and accountable environments, we invite you to learn more or apply by visiting our careers page. <https://world-renew.breezy.hr/>
- **Young Adult Opportunity with Resonate:** Are you around 16-20 years old? Speak some Spanish? Interested in getting a taste of ministry in Central America? Join an unforgettable two-week journey with Resonate Global Mission—travel through Guatemala and El Salvador where you’ll dive into real-life mission work, get to know Central American young people, experience God’s love, and discover how God might be calling you to make a difference now and in the future. The trip is July 1-15, 2026 and the application deadline is February 28, 2026. Learn more at www.resonateglobalmission.org/encounter.
- **The January Series:** The January Series at Calvin University returns on January 19, 2026. Join us in-person or online. Speaker lineup and registration (for online viewing) can be found at www.calvin.edu/january
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip:** Because we are called to honor and uphold the sanctity of every human life – from the womb to the tomb – we invite you on this Sanctity of Human Life Sunday to put this calling into action. Consider volunteering your time at a local pregnancy center or elder care home as a tangible expression of your commitment to life. As you serve, reflect on how the experience deepens your understanding and strengthens your role as an advocate for the dignity and value of every human life. Take time to write down how this experience has shaped your heart and perspective. Brought to you by Thrive: www.crcna.org/Thrive.

I Will Give You Rest

Seth, our curious 5-year-old, was with us during a recent communion service. He watched intently as I received the elements and bowed my head to pray. A few seconds later, I stole a peek at our unusually quiet son to see what he was up to. He was by then intently watching his daddy at prayer after taking communion. I was delighted that he was observing the solemnity of the occasion. “Good parental example,” I thought.

My gratification was short-lived as Seth leaned toward me and whispered: “What’s in that stuff? You eat it and go right to sleep.”

Sherri Yates, Glendale, AZ, Christian Reader, “Lite Fare.”

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa, IA
Notes of Council Meeting held Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

All members were present except Pastor Erik, Ryan Brink, Tim Jabaay & Dan McKinney who were absent with notice.

- President Kirk Veenstra called the meeting to order.
- Pastor Jon opened with a devotional, reading from Romans 12:1-2 and prayer.
- December 8, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes were *approved*.
- Items Added to the Agenda:
 - A. Fellowship Duties:
 1. Motion made to have Care Group Elder/Deacon in charge of scheduling door greeters within their Care Group for specific months, effective immediately. *Approved*.
 2. A long-term schedule will be developed, but January is Care Group 1, February is Care Group 2, March is Youth Ministries, April is Care Group 3...
 - B. Audits: Kirk will get ahold of retiring elders to audit the 5 books.
 - C. Classis Credentials and Prayer & Praise Sheets:
 1. Classis will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Connect Church in Pella
 2. Delegates: Elder Lucas De Groot & Deacon Brad McMahan
 3. Alternates: Elder Allen Groenenboom & Deacon Sherwin Plate
 4. The Prayer and Praise Sheet was completed.
- Deacon Reports (December):
 - A. Deacon Chris Pierson presented the report for the General Fund:
 1. Budget envelopes \$ 58,037.80 (deposited in January)
 2. Balance \$ 61,623.57
 - B. Deacon Adam De Bruin presented the report for Benevolent and Enduring Gifts:
 1. Benevolent Fund \$ 9,711.66 2. Enduring Gifts \$ 6,737.09
 - C. Deacon Ethan Boender presented the report for the Building Fund: No updated figure shared
 - D. Deacon Sherwin Plate presented the report for Special Offerings: \$ 14,909.74
 - E. Deacon Brad McMahan reports for Christian Education Fund:
 1. Balance on hand \$ 1,262.58
 2. Tuition owed to schools \$ 00.00 – all '25-'26 tuition owed has been paid
 - F. All financial reports were given and *approved* by adopted motion.
 - G. The Deacon's Meeting Minutes of 12/8/25 were received for information.
- February Deacon Report (given for information only):
 - A. Deacon Sherwin Plate reports for the February offering schedule:

	<u>AM</u>	<u>PM</u>
2/1	Focus on the Family	Mobility Worldwide
2/8	818 Forward with Faith	Denominational Shares
2/15	World Renew	Therefore Go Ministries
2/22	Love, INC (In the Name of Christ)	Missionary Support
- Committee Reports:
 - A. Building & Grounds – Chairman Allen Groenenboom:
 1. HVAC: Work Complete
 2. MultiPurpose Youth Center: Motion made to proceed with 2-level layout. *Approved*.
 3. Church Van: *Approved* request from Fellowship Bible Church to use the van Jan. 23-25.
 - B. Education & Library Committees – Chairman Doug Richards:
 1. Library: Kim & Taylor Hol will be taking this position
 - C. Evangelism Committee – Chairman Leon Van Kooten:
 1. Shared some initial ideas for church activities from the Evangelism Committee meeting last week.
 2. Names *approved* for new committee members.
 - D. Worship – Chairman Lucas De Groot:
 1. Minutes of Jan. 4, 2026 meeting were received for information.
 2. They are looking for new members to join in the near future.
- Mutual Censure was held & Joys and Concerns were shared.
- Next Meeting: Monday, February 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- Motion to adjourn prevails & Deacon Lucas De Bruin closed in prayer.