First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa
Bulletin Supplement for 11/1/26

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

FROM THE COUNCIL:

- **Congregational Meeting:** Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held this past Monday.
  ~ The following men were chosen by God to the offices of Elder and Deacon:
  Elder: Mark Boender, Irv De Bruin, Kurtis De Bruin, Larry De Groot
  Deacon: Ben Beonder, Matt Collins, Marty Roberts
  ~ The Budget for 2027 was approved.

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.
11/1	World Renew	Mahaska Area Ecumenical Cupboard
11/8	Thrive	Denominational Ministries
11/15	Luke Society	Benevolence
11/22	Resonate Global Mission	Bible League
11/26	Thanksgiving Envelopes	
11/29	Mexican Christian Children's Aid	Missionary Support

NEWSLETTER CALENDAR CORRECTION:

- On the December calendar that is in the Newsletter, I forgot to move "Christmas" and "Sunday School Program" to the correct date. Christmas remains on Dec. 25 and the Sunday School Program will be that day also. 😊

GEMS FREEZER MEAL FUNDRAISER:

- If you purchased freezer meals and have not picked them up, the meals are in the upstairs freezer & labeled with your name. We also have extra meals on the bottom shelf that can be purchased, first come first serve. There is a basket next to the fridge with the prices and for collection of money. Thank you for your support!

LOADED BAKED POTATO SUPPER:

- Please join the IGNITE Youth Group for a Loaded Baked Potato Supper on Wednesday, Nov. 4. Baked Potatoes with all the toppings - Ham, Bacon Bits, Taco Meat, Cheese, Sour Cream, Broccoli and Butter - along with dessert will be served from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Carry-Out will also be available. A freewill offering will be taken with the proceeds to be used for the IGNITE Youth Group program and activities.

PILLOWS NEEDED:

- The Love, INC Committee for Mahaska Connect is asking each participating church to donate a specific item to give to the homeless. They are asking our church for pillows. For those wanting to donate, please bring them to the church by Friday, Nov. 13, and place them on the table across from the office. We appreciate your generosity.

COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP:

- Our church, in conjunction with Developing Great Relationships, will be hosting a Communication Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The cost is $79 per couple. To register, please text "OskyCRC" to 641-931-4497 or use the link in the First CRC Facebook page. Please see the flyer that was in your mailbox on October 4 for more information.

TASTY THANKSGIVING PHOTOS 2026:

- *"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."* Psalm 34:8 Each year we ask you to share your photos on a theme to project during our Thanksgiving service as praise to God. This year share the bounty that God has given in the food we enjoy. Whether it be food in its natural state (a bunch of bananas or a pile of pumpkins) or food prepared into a delicious dish (a Dutch apple pie or a pineapple glazed ham), send in your tasty photos of the goodness of God.
- Please email photos to 1stcrcprojection@gmail.com by Monday, Nov. 16. Let's praise our creator for the bounty He generously provides!

TASTE & SEE: RECIPES WITH A STORY:

- In keeping with our Tasty Thanksgiving photos, you have an opportunity to share a Tasty recipe that has a story behind it! This could be a recipe of something you make for your family on a special occasion and explain how the

tradition started. A recipe that brings back a memory, or a tried and true recipe that has been passed down from generation to generation, sharing your family tree story.

- There are recipe formats to fill out on the information table. If you prefer you may type it (8.5x11 size paper), or feel free to email it into the church office. Deadline to submit a *"Recipe with a Story"* is Sunday, Nov. 15. We will be sharing them with the congregation at the end of November. Just another way for us to "Connect" as a church family...through the foods we are so greatly blessed with by our good and gracious God!

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. Tuesday Evening Coffee Break will be assembling boxes this week.
  ~ Join us on Tuesday, Nov. 3, for set up from 9 to noon, or assembly at 6:15 p.m.
  ~ For a $25 donation to Coffee Break we can assemble and ship a box for you. LET US KNOW TODAY!
  ~ **Why?** Every shoebox gift is excellent for evangelism and discipleship that leads to the multiplication of new believers and churches around the world. 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 visit 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 – now in 118 languages! An additional $6 gift will make the 12-lesson Discipleship program available.
  ~ **When?** Boxes should be completed and back to church by Monday, Nov. 17. Questions? Call Deb 641.660.8290 or Dena 641.660.5671.

  Note: There is a list of suggested items, as well as items that may not be in the boxes, on the table in the hallway.

EXTRA TICKETS:

- Ignite has extra tickets for the Third Day w/ Chris Tomlin concert on Thursday, Nov. 19. They are $80 each. Contact Anne (641-660-9520) if you are interested in purchasing some.

ATTENTION – GENERATION GEMS, MOMS OR SEWING EXPERTS!:

- Our 7th Grade GEMS are working toward completing their Sewing and Quilting Badges and would love your help! With the help of Shirley Van Donselaar, we are putting together a quilted journal cover pattern with step-by-step sewing instructions.
  ~ What we need: Around 13 individuals to bring their sewing machines (one person per 7th grade Gem)
  ~ When: Wednesday, Dec. 9
  ~ Time: * 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. – We would like each 7th grade Gem to be assigned with a "sewing expert" to begin setting up the sewing machine and work on their journal cover
  * 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. – Go upstairs to the main fellowship hall with your assigned Generation Gem for Christmas party and supper
  * 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Continue working to finish journal cover. Girls will help you at the end of the night to clean up and get the sewing machines back to your vehicles.
- Please email Deann at deann.degroot@gmail.com or call/text 641-295-3766 by November 15 if you are available December 9 and have some sewing skills to help us complete these badges! Thank you in advance!

SOUND BOARD DESK:

- The church no longer has a need for the old Audio Sound Board Desk that is currently in the NE corner of the church basement. If anyone would like to have it, it is free for the taking. The first one to contact Byron Bruxvoort gets it.

INFORMATION CENTER UPDATES:

- 1) OSCI *Highlights* 2) New Life *News*

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES/PRAYER OPPORTUNITY:

- Nov. 1 = Nancy K
  Joe & Ellize C
  Nov. 3 = Abbie VD, Lee DG
  Nov. 4 = Brent DR, Karen F
  Steve & Sandra P
  Nov. 5 = Dennis A, Doug DB
  Nov. 6 = Kendra B (Dan)
  Steve & Sandy R
  Nov. 7 = Daxton R (Luke)
  John & Ella B

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DRIVE-UP DINNER:

- Enjoy a great meal and help support the Pella Christian High School Girls Basketball Team. On Monday, Nov. 2, we will be serving Pulled Pork, Mac 'n cheese, Oreo Fluff and a cookie from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. for a freewill offering (cash or Venmo accepted). Please enter PCHS through Eagle Lane and pick up your meals on the east side of the building or you can skip the line and pick up your meal through the main entrance doors. There is no Dine-In option. For more details and a list of Silent Auction Items, please see the poster in the hallway.

DUTCH LETTERS FOR SALE:

- Sully Christian is again selling delicious, hand-rolled Dutch Letters. Each 12" stick is stuffed with yummy almond filling and comes frozen and ready to bake at your convenience. A box of 6 Dutch Letters is $30.00. You can place your order by using our online order form on our website or Facebook page, by contacting Karen Doonan at 641-780-0397 or by emailing scsdutchletters@gmail.com. Pick-up date is Friday, Nov. 6, from 12:00 noon-8:00 p.m. at Sully Christian School or from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Grace Fellowship Church in Pella. Thank you!

RISE WITH ROB AND FRIENDS:

- Please join us on Friday, Nov. 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Central College Douwstra Auditorium for a night of hope through storytelling and worship. Please see the poster in the newsletter or on the wall for more details or to purchase tickets. You may also go to their website at www.riseministries.com for more information.

FROM THE MAHASKA CHAMBER & OSKALOOSA MAIN STREET:

- We have several events coming up that we would like to make you aware of and invite you to participate in:
    1) Saturday, Nov. 21 – Turn on the Lights – Please join us for free horse-drawn wagon rides, hot cocoa, popcorn and the Painting with Lights raffle.
    2) Saturday, Dec. 5 – Lighted Christmas Parade – enter a float, decorate a vehicle, or organize a group of walkers to represent your church. This year's theme is *Winter Wonderland: Let It Glow".* The parade will begin at 7:00 p.m. Applications are due by Nov. 10 at 5:00 p.m. and there is no cost to participate.
    3) Friday, Dec. 11 – Women's Holiday Luncheon – Connect with local women and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food and fun!
- To participate in the Lighted Christmas Parade or learn more about upcoming holiday events, contact the Mahaska Chamber at 641-672-2591 or events@mahaskachamber.org. Parade applications are also available through the Mahaska Chamber website.

FROM OSKALOOSA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:

- Oskaloosa Christian School is seeking a full-time Kitchen Cook / Food Service Manager to join our Christ-centered team! If you or someone you know has a heart for serving others and enjoys working with food, we'd love to hear from you. For more information and to apply, visit: https://oskaloosachristian.net/employment/.

FROM CRC NEWS:

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**
  ~ *Groundwork – Prayer and Thanksgiving:* The apostle Paul instructs us to rejoice and pray with thanksgiving, but in the realities of daily life, it doesn't always feel that easy. Join Groundwork as we study Philippians 4:4-7, 1 Chronicles 29:10-20, Exodus 15:1-2, 20-21, and Luke 1:46-55 to see why including gratitude in our prayers matters and how it benefits our relationship with God and enriches our prayer life. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.
  ~ *Kids Corner Devotions – Jesus' Backwards Kingdom:* Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Jesus' Backwards Kingdom" at www.kidscorner.net. How do we become great in God's kingdom? Jesus taught His disciples that following Him means loving and serving others with a humble heart. Being humble means using our words, talents, and possessions to lift others up. Check out the new Kids Corner Devotions app at https://kidscorner.net/app.
- **From World Renew:** Explore the heart of Kenya through an unforgettable journey to engage with both culture and creation from February 26 - March 8, 2027. Connect with World Renew partners working alongside local communities, hear stories of resilience and hope, and experience the beauty of Africa's wildlife through a safari adventure. Learn more and register online: bit.ly/kenya2027info.
- **From CRC Planned Giving:** If you plan to give from your IRA, remember those gifts need to be received and deposited by December 31 to count for 2026 taxes. Plan your giving ahead. To learn more about giving from your IRA or other ways to give to your church or favorite CRC ministry, please visit www.crcna.org/planned-giving.
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip:** The Examen is a helpful daily prayer tool that Christians have used for hundreds of years to review their day in a godly way. This is a great bedtime practice for people of all ages. Try this simplified Examen this week: First, pray that God will give you insight. Then ask yourself two questions: "What was I most

grateful for today?" and "What was I least grateful for today?" Close in prayer, thanking God for the blessings of the day, and asking God's help with your shortcomings. Brought to you by Thrive: www.crcna.org/Thrive.

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First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa
Minutes of Congregational Meeting held Monday, October 26, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

46 members present

Article 1 Chairman Kirk Veenstra calls the meeting to order.

Article 2 Kirk introduces our opening song -- #267(R), *"Come, Thou Almighty King"* and we sing verses 1, 2 & 4.

Article 3 Pastor Jon Spronk reads from I Corinthians 14:40 and Belgic Confession Article 30 and opens with devotions and prayer.

Article 4 Council Clerk Tim Jabaay reads the minutes of our April 12, 2026 Congregational Meeting for information.

Article 5 Kirk recognizes & thanks the retiring Council members:

Elders: Lucas De Groot, Tim Jabaay, Doug Richards, Jeff Van Donselaar

Deacons: Mike Boender, Adam De Bruin, Chris Pierson

Article 6 Pastor Jon has prayer asking for God's leading in the selection of office bearers.

Article 7 Names drawn by lot for new Council members are:

Deacons: Ben Boender, Matt Collins, Marty Roberts

Elders: Mark Boender, Irv De Bruin, Kurtis De Bruin, Larry De Groot

Article 8 Reminder to the newly elected members of the Council that the Organizational Meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the Regular Council Meeting.

Article 9 Treasurer Chris Pierson presents the proposed 2027 budget based on 234 active members as follows:

Local Budget Total		$331,563.00
Classical Shares Total		$ 24,000.00
General Budget Total		**$355,563.00**
Missionary Budget		
Eric & Penny Schering	$6,000.00	
Tyler & Christina Helfers	$6,000.00	
Perrin & Jodi Werner	$6,000.00	
Jesse & Jari Rodriguez	$6,000.00	
Joel & Jeannie Huyser	$2,000.00	
U of I – Geneva Campus Ministries	$1,600.00	
New Life Prison Ministries	$1,600.00	
Missionary Budget Total		$ 29,200.00
Budget Grand Total		**$384,763.00**
Denominational Pledge		$ 8,000.00

All approved of the 2027 Total Budget, Classical & Missionary support by voice vote.

All approved of the Denominational Budget by voice vote.

General budget per member	$ 1,519.50
Missionary budget per member	$ 124.79
Denominational pledge per member	$ 34.19
Total per member	**$ 1,678.47**

Article 10 Pastor Jon presented the 2026 Pastor Reports for himself and Pastor Erik Kamp.

Article 11 Council Clerk Tim Jabaay reads the Concept Minutes.

Article 12 Motion made to adjourn. Supported. *Motion carried.*

Article 13 Kirk introduces our closing song -- #271(R), *"Standing on the Promises"* and we sing verses 1 & 4.

Article 14 Retiring Elder Lucas De Groot closes in prayer.