



— FIRST —
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

April 12, 2019

EASTER CELEBRATION: Join us as we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Savior. Good Friday Service, April 19 @ 6:00 pm; Easter Sunday, April 21 @ 9:30 am with coffee and pastries at 8:30 am. The Church and Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 22. Please check the Weekly Schedule for all ministry schedule changes.

STORY WALL: As a church, we strive to keep our identity, vision and purpose readily available for visitors and members of our congregation. In an effort to increase this awareness, we have installed a “story wall” in the Fellowship Hall. Check it out on Sunday! Remember to grab a name tag from the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall or Cafe Connections entrance.

MINISTRY POSITIONS & PRAYER: The search continues for two full-time ministry positions: *Director of Worship Ministry* and *Director of Outreach Ministry*. Interest has been expressed in both positions, and initial interviews have begun for the worship position. The Council makes the following requests. First, please pray for mutual, clear and godly discernment for each candidate and First CRC. Second, please pray that God in Christ alone will be glorified in the life and ministry of First CRC. Finally, feel free to suggest the name or names of possible candidates for both positions to either Dave Rozenboom or Pastor Calvin Hoogendoorn.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER TRADITION: Cole Pleggenkuhle, a pre-seminary/ministry student at USF and a member of our Church, is offering a 5 session contemplative prayer gathering. The gatherings will affirm God’s love for humanity, acknowledgement of our personal need for the Lord, and awareness of Christian fellowship and community. Specific prayers will be lifted up for the many moral and cultural challenges Christian face in the world today. The gatherings will satisfy the academic requirements of one of Cole’s class requirements. The gatherings will take place on the following Thursday evenings: April 18 and May 2 (7:00—7:30 pm) in the Church. For more information contact either Cole at Cole.Pleggenkuhle@USiouxFalls.edu or Pastor Hoogendoorn at calvin@firstchristianreformed.org.

TUITION ASSISTANCE: The Tuition Assistance Committee has once again made applications available for financial assistance for the 2019/2020 school year. Limited assistance is available for families who have experienced financial hardship due to unexpected life events. The TADS confidential application is available [here](#). The deadline to apply is May 1st. Please feel free to contact a committee member if you have any questions! Tim Ackerman, Nathan Engbers, Brad Van Surksum, John Sjaarda, Mark Veurink.

CURRENTLY RECRUITING: 2-3 people who would be willing to be trained to help with worship sound at the 8:30 am service. Commitment would be approximately once per 4-6 weeks. If you are interested in helping out with this opportunity, contact kaitlin@firstchristianreformed.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

PALM SUNDAY SINGING: The Children's Church kids will be singing at the beginning of both services on Sunday, April 14th. We will meet in our regular classrooms before the service and walk in together during the prelude. Please make sure to arrive on time that morning and check-in downstairs as usual!

CADETS: The Cadet Camporee will be held at the Newton Hills Boy Scout Camp on July 30-August 3. Please fill out the registration form and return to Chad Kooiman or the church office by May 1st. Contact Chad at 360-4738 with any questions. The boys were given a registration form or it can be found [here](#).

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The last day of Sunday School for this ministry season will be Sunday, April 14th. Please take time to thank the many volunteers who have put so much time and energy into teaching our kids every week!

GEMS: 4th - 8th grade GEMS are invited to GEMS Camp at Camp Foster in Okoboji, IA June 6-8th. Register here: [GEMS Camp 2019](#) Please contact Megan and Jessica at gems1stcrc@yahoo.com if you have questions.

VBS: Save the date for VBS 2019! VBS will be held Sunday, June 9th-Thursday, June 13th from 6:00-8:15 pm. Our theme this year is "Roar, where kids will explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life". Registration will open May 1st. Contact heather@firstchristianreformed.org with any questions.

YOUTH MINISTRY

JHM: Sunday, April 14th we will wrap up our year with Air Madness from 5:30-7:00 pm. Pizza will be served! Meet there and bring \$5.00. *Make sure to fill out the waiver for your student! You can find it [here](#).*

HSM: No HSM meeting April 17. Happy Easter!

SERVE 2019: We are still looking for one more female leader (21+) for both the VA (July 26-Aug 4) and Ontario (July 13-20) trips. Contact Megan at megan@firstchristianreformed.org if you can help out!

DEACON'S MINISTRY

April 7, 2019

OFFERING AMOUNT

General Fund	19,157.77
Building Fund	617.00
Faith Promise	1,030.00
Ministry Shares	1,295.00
Tuition Support	1,060.00
CRWRC	50.00
Needs of the Family	100.00
TOTAL	\$23,309.77

April 14: Offering of the Day is for Ministry Shares. Ministry Shares proves the power of shared resources by helping the individual congregations of the Christian Reformed Church participate in regional and global ministries. The program provides everyone at First CRC the opportunity to fund ministry efforts around our region and all over the world while operating at very high efficiency. With little overhead costs, this important part of the Christian Reformed Church can continue to thrive if active members donate their part.

April 19: Good Friday Offering is for Planning Life. Planning Life provides free and confidential services to individuals and couples dealing with unplanned pregnancies. They provide counseling, resources, information, and emotional support to help parents make informed decisions.

April 21: Offering of the Day is for Tuition Assistance. The Tuition Assistance Fund provides financial support for families in need of help with the cost of Christian school tuition for the 2018-2019 academic school year.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

April 12-18, 2019

FRIDAY: 10:30 am Senior Circuit

SATURDAY: 7:30 am Men of Integrity

SUNDAY: 8:30/10:30 am Worship/Children's Church
9:45 am Sunday School/Catechism
5:00 pm Worship
5:30 pm JHM-off campus

MONDAY: 10:30 am Senior Circuit
6:45 pm Men's Life
6:45 pm Women's 45+ Bible Study

TUESDAY: 10:30 am Senior Circuit
6:30 pm NAMI Connections
6:30 pm Pickleball

WEDNESDAY: 6:15 am Men of Integrity
9:30 am Center of Hope Coffee Break/Men's Life
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study (Jennifer Dukes Lee)
6:30 pm Cadets

THURSDAY: 5:45 pm ReFit

BULLETIN BOARD

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm;
Friday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm.

1st CRC Newsletter announcements may be sent to office@firstchristianreformed.org. These are due by noon on Wednesday.

BIG SOO: Big Soo Coupon Books for 2018-19 are here! Stop by the church office to pick yours up today for \$42! Proceeds go to Youth Ministry.

MEAL TRAIN: You are invited to join a Meal Train for the Van Stedum family. John and Ann's youngest daughter, Lydia is 11 years old. Lydia is a beautiful child who was born with an extremely rare chromosomal abnormality. This causes behavioral and learning problems. Lydia requires constant supervision and attention. Our goal is to provide meals twice a week to ease some family stress. You may sign up by using the following link: <https://mealtrain.com/zeqely>

Other meal trains for members of our congregation who are going through cancer treatments include: Cindy Yoder <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/k7q0mv>; Matt Beck <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/009nn3>. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

SIOUX FALLS CHRISTIAN: There are several positions open for the 2019-2020 school year including Middle School STEM Teacher and High School Learning Center EA. Go to siouxfallschristian.org for more information.

BECK BREAKFAST BENEFIT: Come out for pancakes and sausage on Saturday, April 27 from 8:30-11:00 am to support Matthew and Laramie Beck. There will be a free will donation to help them with medical costs. If you can't make it but would like to support this family, donations can be dropped off at the church office. Make check out directly to the Beck family.

HOPE HAVEN: Back by popular demand, the best known name in gospel music, Blackwood Brothers, will be presenting a benefit concert on Saturday evening, April 20 at 6:30 pm in the BJ Haan Auditorium at Dordt College. The concert will also feature Master's Voice from Sioux Falls, SD and Four For Him Quartet from Sanborn, IA. Tickets will be \$15.00 and sold at the door. The doors will open at 5:00 pm. All proceeds from the concert will benefit the local and global ministries of Hope Haven.

ARISE UKRAINE: Sunday, April 14th, you are invited to an evening in Ukraine as we celebrate 25 years of God's faithfulness. Come to the Sioux Falls Convention Center for dinner, dessert, live music, and an update on the ministry. RSPV by April 10 to www.ariseukr.com/register.