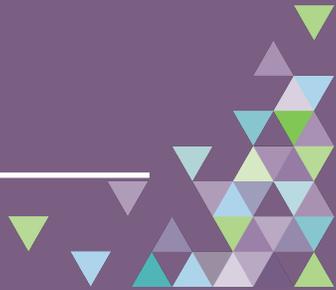




— FIRST —
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

January 3, 2020



SANCTUARY UPDATE: The First CRC Administrative Board has received and reviewed written reports from the Sanctuary Renovation Ad Hoc Committee and the New Sanctuary Ad Hoc Committee as part Phase 2 of our long-range ministry campus development plan that began with the Phase 1 expansion in 2009. The Full Council has been provided with this information and is now engaged in a time of review, prayer and discernment over the next couple of months. We plan to hold town hall meetings in February to provide the congregation with an overview of the options considered, a preliminary recommendation, and opportunity for input. We anticipate that the next steps will be to conduct a capital campaign feasibility study, followed by a final recommendation from the Full Council, and a congregational vote by late next spring. Please pray that together as Council and Congregation we will engage a healthy process that joyfully discerns the Lord's call to glorify Him in our building and through our ministry.

DEFINED BIBLE STUDY: Our church is embarking on an 8-week study of IDENTITY through our Sermon series and Bible Studies beginning February 9 - March 29. Description of the study: Discover the Unique Way God Has Created You. When you introduce yourself to someone for the first time, you have an opportunity to define yourself. You disclose your name, profession, and interests. These factors help our culture define us, but are those answers enough? There are bigger questions our culture can't answer: Who am I? Why do I matter? And before asking, who am I? You must first answer, who is God? Scripture teaches that we are all made in the image of God. We do not define ourselves—the Creator does. We were all created to be known and loved by God. Once the answers are clear, we can move forward and discover all God has called us to be.

FOR ADULTS: Join Alex and Stephen Kendrick as you discover who you are in Christ and understand how your identity in Christ shapes your life. Watch this [video](#) for more info.

FOR TEEN GUYS AND YOUNG MEN (High School): Join Alex and Stephen Kendrick in examining spiritual truths from the Book of Ephesians to lead you into a closer relationship with God and a better understanding and appreciation of your God-given identity—which is fulfilled in Christ.

FOR TEEN GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN (High School): Join Priscilla Shirer and begin to understand what it means to be created in God's image and recreated in Christ's image as His masterpiece. Watch this [video](#) for more info.

DEFINED Bible Studies will be held Sundays from 3:30 - 5:00 pm. Sign up [HERE](#) so that materials can be ordered. Questions contact melissa@firstchristianreformed.org.

HANDBELL CHOIR: The Handbell Choir has an opening beginning in January. This group meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm and generally practices two times per month with three performances scheduled through April. If you are interested in joining or have questions, please contact Kim Van Surksum at 605-214-3712.

BUDGET/OFFERING ENVELOPES: Budget envelopes were distributed in church mailboxes. If you did not receive one or have questions, please contact al@firstchristianreformed.org.

HOME VISITATION: Beginning on Monday, January 20, 2019, and continuing on every 3rd Monday of the month for approximately the next 2.5 years, the Elders and Deacons, according to the provisions of the Church Order of the CRCNA, will resume home visitation. At the beginning of each month, the office will email each member (single or family) scheduled to be visited during the month, with follow-up contact made by the Elder-Deacon Care Team. Please pray that these visits will be opportunities for encouragement and growth in God's generous grace.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: Have you ever considered becoming a Stephen Minister? Stephen Ministers are lay people—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing difficult times in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life who share a commonality: A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. First CRC is partnering with Our Savior's Lutheran Church to provide training for individuals who seek to make a difference in fellow brother's and sister's lives, who are going through life's challenges. Stephen Minister training will begin January 7 at Our Saviors Lutheran. For additional info, visit stephenministries.org. If you are interested in this ministry or have any questions, please contact Pastor Cal or Duane Vos at 261-7272.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP: The First CRC Mission Team members going to the Santa Clara CRC ("Hiquey" Church) in the Dominican Republic are: Doug Tinklenberg, AJ Slagter, Austin Katje, Eric Van Ruler, Colin Attema, Troy Olson, Grace Olson, Chad Kooiman, Micah Kooiman and Rick Vander Haar. The team will leave on February 7, 2020, and return home on February 15, 2020. They will help build a small worship center at the church.

HOPE HAVEN-VIETNAM DISTRIBUTION TEAM: The Mission Team members to serve on the First CRC Wheel Chair distribution team are: Dale Bloem, Phil Bonnema, Chris De Berg, Gabby Eckardt, Kaitlin Hoogendoorn, Roger Kooi, Keith Pollema, Joy Scholten, Megan Schouten, Arlyn Slagter, Cindy Slagter, Holly Van Hofwegen, Brad Van Surksum, Ken Veenstra, Cindy Verburg and Jodi Zylstra. The team will travel to Vietnam on May 15 and return home on May 24/25. Please pray for the team as they will soon begin to meet together and make preparations for their trip.

FIRST KIDS

Sunday School and children's church resumes January 5.

FIRST STUDENTS

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY: January 8 is Great Bear night! Meet at Great Bear at 7:00 pm with your warm winter wear and \$5 for a fun night of tubing, skiing and snowboarding!

DEACON'S MINISTRY

Dec 29, 2019

OFFERING AMOUNT

General Fund	11,685.00
Building Fund	400.00
Faith Promise	870.00
Union Gospel Mission	2,587.95
Ministry Shares	480.00
Tuition Support Fund	2,958.00
TOTAL	18,980.95

January 5: Offering of the Day is for the General Fund. The General Fund supports the local ministry programs, including evangelism, youth, children, adult, worship, small group, and health ministries, as well as the operational expenses of the property, office, and personnel expenses. God has blessed First CRC with the opportunity to minister through these programs.

January 12: 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.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Jan 3-9, 2020

FRIDAY:	10:30 am Senior Circuit
SATURDAY:	7:30 Men of Integrity
SUNDAY:	8:30/10:30 am Worship/Children's Church 9:45 am Sunday School/7th & 8th Catechism 9:45 am Vocal Choir 5:00 pm Psalm Study Worship
MONDAY:	10:30 am Senior Circuit 6:45 pm Men's Bible Study 6:45 pm Women's 45+ Bible Study
TUESDAY:	10:30 am Senior Circuit 6:30 pm NAMI Connections 6:30 pm Pickleball 7:00 pm Shepherding Meeting
WEDNESDAY:	6:15 am Men's Bible Study 8:30 pm Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Women's Bible Study- Center of Hope 9:45 am Women's Bible Study-Coffee Break 6:30 pm GEMS 7:00 pm HSM-off campus
THURSDAY:	8:50 am MOPS 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 2019-20 are here! Contact megan@firstchristianreformed.org or stop by the church office to pick yours up today for \$42. Proceeds go to high school summer mission trips.

DEACON'S MINISTRY

DECEMBER 22, 2019

General Fund	19,430.15
Building Fund	1,070.00
Faith Promise	1,850.00
Ministry Shares	1,135.00
Tuition Support Fund	4,445.00
Inspiration Hills	3,222.00
Total	\$31,177.15

DECEMBER 25, 2019

General Fund	685.00
Needs of the Family	500.00
CRWRC- World Renew	500.00
Friendship Ministries	1,810.00
Wycliffe	500.00
Total	\$3,995.00