



— FIRST —
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

December 25, 2016

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP:

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Walk-Up Communion Service:
Saturday, December 24, 2016, 5:00 pm.

Christmas Day Worship Service: Sunday, December 25, 2016,
9:30 am.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP: First CRC is hoping to partner with CRWM for a Service & Learning Project in the Dominican Republic to help construct a small church building. The trip is scheduled for February 24-March 6, 2017. So far 5 people have signed up, with a total of 12 needed. A complete team is needed by December 31 in order to make the proper project and travel arrangements. Email calvin@firstchristianreformed.org if interested in participating.

ROAD TO MEMBERSHIP: Are you considering making First CRC your Church home? If so, the next membership class will be held on the Sunday afternoons of January 15 & 22, 2017, from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm (we are trying a new format). This is an opportunity to learn about First CRC's vision and ministry and to meet other people, including the staff of First CRC. Please sign up at www.firstchristianreformed.org.

ARISE UKRAINE MISSION TRIP: The Mission Team has partnered with *Arise-Ukraine Ministries* (Paul Logan) to lead an English Day Camp for non-churched youth aged 13-16 in Kiev, Ukraine. The anticipated dates of the trip are June 7/8 through 21/22 (two weeks). The primary emphasis of the camp is to teach English, with specific focus on teaching Bible stories, Christian prayer and songs. Team members must be willing to present the gospel and invite the youth to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Members are also to be mature and committed to helping others meet Christ through humble, servant-like and verbal witness to Jesus Christ. *Arise-Ukraine* requests that First CRC's ministry team consist primarily of those who will be entering their Senior-year of high school, entering college or currently enrolled in college. The Ministry Team will be led by Pastor Calvin Hoogendoorn. If you are interested in serving, please contact him at: calvin@firstchristianreformed.org.



SAFE FAMILIES CHRISTMAS: If you, your family, or group of friends are looking for a way to share Jesus' love this Christmas, consider helping bring joy to the kids that are part of Safe Families for Children. These kiddos often come to their host families with very limited possessions. SFFC gives each child a bag filled with essential care items that they may not have, plus a blanket and toy that they can call their own. If you would like to help, please pick an item from the list below and bring it to the baskets located under the tree in the fellowship hall by Sunday, December 25. Items needed include:

- Duffle bag or back pack (plain colored works best)
- Kid's toothbrush and toothpaste
- Socks for ages 6 months-age 10
- Pajamas 6 month-5T
- Small quiet time games, toys, or stuffed animals
- Bedtime story books
- Fleece blankets

If you have any questions, please email kari@firstchristianreformed.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

HSM WINTER RETREAT: Winter Retreat is being held at Camp Lebanon over the weekend of February 17-19, 2017. The cost for the weekend is \$100 and you can register online <http://firstchristianreformed.org/ministries/youth-ministries/senior-high/winter-retreat-2017>. Registration forms are due on January 25.



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Check out all the small group opportunities at www.firstchristianreformed.org. If you have any questions contact melissa@firstchristianreformed.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School resumes on January 8th.

GEMS/CADETS: Swimming with Cadets and GEMS at Luverne Aquatic Center on Wednesday, December 28th. Please meet at First Christian Reformed Church at 6:15 pm. Please eat beforehand. We will be leaving Luverne around 9:00 pm and back to church around 9:30 pm. Cost: \$1.50. Please remember to bring a towel, swimming suit, and grocery/plastic bag to bring your items home in. Contact Kris Anderson 605-731-9817 if you plan on attending.

2017 INTERNATIONAL CADET CAMPOREE: If there are any former Cadet counselors that are interested in helping with the camporee this summer in the Black Hills, please contact Kris Anderson by December, 31st for more information.

DEACON'S MINISTRY

December 18, 2016

OFFERING AMOUNT

General Fund	5,430.00
Building Fund	490.00
Faith Promise	1,125.00
Cadets	1,000.00
Ministry Shares	1,285.00
Tuition Support	3,917.35
TOTAL	13,247.35

December 24: Christmas Eve Service offering is for the Alpha Center. The Alpha Center is a non-profit agency that provides a full range of services to women and men involved in unplanned pregnancies. Their goal is to provide a positive alternative with practical support.

December 25: Christmas offering is for the Friendship Ministries. Friendship Ministries helps churches and organizations around the world share God's love with people who have intellectual disabilities and enable them to become an active part of God's family. Please encourage this ministry by volunteering and giving financial support.

January 1: 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 plus the operational expenses of the property, office and personnel expenses. God has blessed First CRC with the opportunity to minister through these programs.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Dec 25-31 , 2016

SUNDAY: 9:30 am Worship

MONDAY: Church office closed

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

WEDNESDAY: No planned activities

THURSDAY: 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice

FRIDAY: 10:30 am Senior Circuit

SATURDAY: No planned activities

BULLETIN BOARD

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

CHURCH MAILBOXES: If you have an item for someone that does not fit into their mailbox, do NOT place it on top of the mailboxes, but instead put it in the cabinet labeled “oversized items”. Please take one the attached notes from the cabinet and put it into their mailbox to alert them of the item.

DORDT COLLEGE CONCERT CHOIR: The Dordt College Concert Choir invites you to a concert at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 9 here at First. The concert is part of a winter tour under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Kornelis and will consist of a wide variety of choral music. The concert is free with a freewill offering received to help defray tour costs.

DAY OF ENCOURAGEMENT: A day to inspire, encourage, and equip God’s people for ministry, Day of Encouragement will take place on Saturday, February 4, 2017, at Dordt College. This year’s keynote speaker is Ed Stetzer, a prolific author and well-known conference and seminar leader. Day of Encouragement also offers a variety of breakout sessions throughout the day focusing on family, worship, youth, tech media, preaching, and shepherding. Early bird registration is available at www.dordt.edu/doe until January 24 for individuals and groups of 10 or more. Late registration will be available through February 4.

BIG SOO COUPON BOOKS: Big Soo Coupon Books have been discounted to **\$35.00!** The Youth Group still keeps \$10 for every book sold. There are coupons for 76 different restaurants in and around Sioux Falls, Golf Courses, Great Bear, Great Plains Zoo, Thunder Road, Wild Water West, car washes, oil changes, and many other household and auto goods and services. Please pick your Big Soo Book at the church office!

NEEDS OF THE FAMILY: Noutsougans: As you are aware, Simplice and Delphine Noutsougan were blessed with the birth of a baby girl, Grace, on November 15th. Grace has remained a patient in the NICU of Avera McKennan Hospital since her birth. With providing Grace care as well as their other children, the family finds itself going many different directions each day. To assist the family, a meal train has been established. If you are interested in providing the Noutsougan family with a meal please go to <https://mealtrain.com/eno4no>. Thank you for your caring support.

