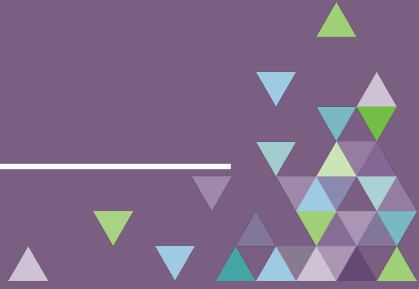




— FIRST —
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

November 30, 2018



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

ADVENT-NEW YEAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE: December 23:
Christmas Candlelight Service @ 5:00 pm; December 25: 9:30 am
Christmas Day Worship ; December 30: Regular morning Worship; No
evening worship.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Annual Fall Congregational
meeting for the approval of the 2019 General Fund Budget will be held
on Tuesday, December 4, 2018, at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

WOMEN'S EVENT: Thursday, January 24, 2019 6:30-8:30PM. Looking for a night of fun, laughter, desserts, worship and inspiration? Invite your sister, mother, neighbor and friends to join you at our women's event featuring local author, Jennifer Dukes Lee and worship provided by the Dordt College Praise Band. Tickets are \$12.00 and need to be purchased online by January 20, 2019. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-event-with-jennifer-dukes-lee-tickets-53154153504>. We hope you will join us! It will be a great night to reflect and recharge for the new year. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Prins melissa@firstchristianreformed.org. Jennifer Dukes Lee is a local author and has written several books geared towards women with her most recent being, "*It's All Under Control.*" Her book focuses on the "journey of letting go, hanging on, and finding a peace you almost forgot was possible. This book is for every women who is hanging on tight and trying to get each day right - yet finding that life often feels out of control and chaotic. Discover a new way of living that will free you to be you and finally experience the peace of knowing a God who truly has it all under control."

CONGREGATION CHRISTMAS PROJECT: This year our church will be participating in Life 96.5's Hands and Feet project, "Stuff a Stocking." Spread the love of Jesus by filling a Christmas stocking with small gifts for patients that will be at Avera Behavioral Health over Christmas. The stockings can be for patients of all ages ranging from young children to senior citizens. Stop by the Activity Center for a stocking and gift ideas. Please have all filled stockings returned to church by Sunday, December 16th.

ELDERS MEETING: The Shepherding Elders received the memberships of Heather Dorhout (Faith CRC, Sioux Center) and Kyle and Jessica Henricks (Immanuel CRC, Orange City). At their request, the Elders released the memberships of Ross and Bethany Jasper and family. The Elders also give thanks to the Lord for the privilege to hear and affirm the Professions of Faith of Noah Eshuis, Sarah Eshuis, Dejay Fykstra, and Samantha Fykstra. We welcome them into the faith fellowship of our Church and trust that the Lord will grow them in His truth and grace.

SENIOR AND FRIENDS: PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND TIME. We will be meeting in the Activity Center for brunch at 10:00 am on Saturday, December 15. The cost is \$10. The program will be provided by Spencer Smith. He will share his musical talents on the piano and will favor us with seasonal songs and carols. For reservations or cancellations please call Joyce Christians at 351-9294 by December 10th.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Children's Church and Sunday School program will be held on December 9th at 3:30 pm at First CRC. Please invite family and friends and make sure to let them know of the location change this year.

PRELUDE: We are looking for kids that are willing to be part of our prelude for the Christmas program on December 9th. If your child would like to play a short piano solo, please contact heather@firstchristianreformed.org by December 5th.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

December 2: Children's Church; K-3rd Program Practice; 4th-6th Lesson

December 9th: Children's Church; K-6th Large Group lesson; Christmas Program- 3:30 pm at First CRC.

December 16: Children's Church; No Sunday School

December 23 & 30th: No Children's Church or Sunday School

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

SMALL GROUPS/BIBLE STUDIES: Opportunities are still available for Small Groups and Bible Studies. For specific details or to sign up, please go here: <https://firstchristianreformed.churchcenter.com/groups>.

YOUTH MINISTRY

HSM: Small Groups will be wrapping up the book of Ephesians this week, December 5! Meet at church at 7:00 pm.

Christmas giving opportunity - Stuff a Stocking! We will be stuffing stockings for patients staying at Avera Behavioral Health. Stockings can be picked up starting this Sunday, December 2 between services. Deadline for stockings to be returned is Sunday, December 16th.

JHM: Meeting Sunday, December 2 at 6:15 pm: Celebrating Advent. Remember to bring a Christmas book or stuffed animal for our gift for the Family Visitation Center!

DEACON'S MINISTRY

OCTOBER 2018 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Net Balance	General Fund	Building Fund	Tuition Support
1/1/18	\$ 81,721.49	\$62,767.56	\$ 61,511.29
YTD Giving	\$665,357.79	\$31,700.04	\$100,814.24
YTD Exp.	\$734,576.72	\$60,898.70	\$113,872.12
Fund Balance	\$ 12,402.56	\$33,568.90	\$ 48,453.41

The Council is grateful for your financial generosity. While our expenses continue to run below budget, our January-October giving is also a little behind the total giving for the same time period in 2017. Since the Lord has entrusted to us His ministry, we ask that you prayerfully consider how together we can further honor the privilege of giving.

Nov 25, 2018

OFFERING AMOUNT

General Fund	9,330.00
Building Fund	375.00
Faith Promise	805.00
Alpha Center	2,985.29
Ministry Shares	1,285.00
Tuition Support	645.00
TOTAL	\$15,425.29

December 2: 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.

December 2: Communion Offering is for Bible League International. For over 80 years, Bible League International has been equipping churches worldwide with God's Word, so they can reach their communities with the Gospel. Their ministry programs include Project Philip, a Bible study program that trains local church members in evangelism and discipleship.

December 9: 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

Nov 30 - Dec 6, 2018

- 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
9:45 am Choir
5:00 pm Worship
6:15 pm JHM
- 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
7:00 pm Congregational Meeting
- WEDNESDAY:** 6:15 am Men's Bible Study
8:30 am Women's Bible Study (Beth Moore)
9:30 am Center of Hope Coffee Break/Men's Life
9:45 am Coffee Break for Women
6:30 pm Cadets
6:30 pm Handbell Choir
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry
7:00 pm HSM
- THURSDAY:** 8:50 am MOPS
5:45 pm ReFit

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

THANK YOU: Thank you for thinking of us! (Thanksgiving Meal at First CRC) The food, fellowship and conversations were all great! We were made to feel so welcomed and cared for. Thanks again. Chris Johnson, Men's BB Coach, USF

MEAL TRAIN: A meal train has been established for the following people to assist them and their families during their cancer treatments. Please consider being the hands and feet of Jesus to these families. Cindy Yoder: <https://mealtrain.com/k7q0mv> ; Kim Bleyenburg: <https://mealtrain.com/vw0kzy> ; Matt Beck: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/009nn3> .

HOPE HAVEN: Hope Haven International Ministries presents "Rejoice" featuring Nashville recording artist Jill Miller on Tuesday December 18, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Orpheum Theatre. Tickets are available at the Washington Pavilion Box Office, info@washingtonpavilion.org or 605-367-6000. The Christmas concert will also feature the Bell Choir from Sioux Falls Christian School. Proceeds will go towards funding wheelchair sponsorships for an upcoming overseas distribution trip in 2019.

CORNERSTONE PRISON CHURCH: The annual Christmas sack newsletter is available at the Information Center. Many of the inmates do not receive any gifts during the Christmas season. Would you be willing to make a batch of fudge? We try to give every inmate 3 pieces of fudge for Christmas. All of the Christian organizations in the prisons and jails join together to make gift bags to hand out at Christmas time. That's where we need your help. Get all details on how you can help in this newsletter. Delivery for fudge is December 13-21 at various locations.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING:

General Fund 11,845.00
Faith Promise 1,925.00
Alpha Center 140.00
Needs of the Family 500.00
Cadets 850.00
CRWRC 4,465.00
Justice for All 20.00
Luke Society 750.00
THE BANQUET 3,525.00
Hills Christian School 50.00
Ministry Shares 1,025.00
Center of Hope 225.00
Sioux Falls SERVE Project 10.00
Furniture Mission 2,205.00
Youth Group 250.00
Community Outreach 846.85
Cornerstone Prison Ministry 90.00
Hope Haven Int'l (Wheelchairs) 20.00
New Roots Immigrant ministry 20.00
Tuition Support Fund 2,370.00
WYCLIFFE 2,105.00
Safe Families for Children 100.00
Feeding SD 2,810.00
Rehoboth Christian School 100.00
African Widow & Orphan Support 1,500.00
Days for Girls 200.00
Total for 11/22/2018 \$37,946.85