



— FIRST —
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

December 31, 2020

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The Church and Church Office will be closed at noon on Thursday, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

BIBLE STUDY: You are invited to join a new Bible Study starting Sunday, January 10 from 6:00-7:30 pm. The study is based on the book, "Crazy Busy" by Kevin DeYoung and will cover 2 chapters per session for a total of 5 weeks. This Bible Study will help you develop ways to see and understand the dangers of being busy. It will help us look to Jesus first, and from there we will be able to navigate life's so-called demands. It's a highly practical and biblically based book that all of us could benefit from. Sign up [here](#) by January 1 if you would like to participate. Books are \$10 each and the Study Guide can be found [here](#) or at the Information Center. The first 2 chapters should be read and study guide questions filled out prior to the first week. For more information, contact cole@firstchristianreformed.org.

STEPHEN MINISTRY: Need a confidential one on one Stephen Minister? Our ministers are trained to help others navigate tough life circumstances. They are wonderful listeners and provide great care to those who ask for it. If you need someone to talk to, we have ministers equipped to listen. If you need a Stephen Minister, Contact our Director of Outreach @ cole@firstchristianreformedchurch.org.

STEPHEN MINISTRY: We are looking for volunteers who would like to share their life experiences or their profession with our Stephen Ministers, during their monthly meetings. This will help provide a great insight that our ministers can then provide to their care receivers who potentially have experienced it for themselves. All of the items below are tough topics, but the majority of those whom our ministers serve, have dealt with these topics in their lives.

This is a great opportunity to help others see how you navigated difficult times, to give others a perspective that is genuine and helpful for another person.

We are looking for people who have experienced or have professional background in the following. (you are not limited to these topics) fFinancial stress, alcoholism, counseling, patient care, suicide, homelessness, domestic abuse, law enforcement or corrections, adoption, marriage counseling, infertility, divorce, special needs, abused and neglected children, depression, gender identity, drug abuse, mental illness, PTSD, abortion, job loss, bankruptcy, single parent home.

If you are interested and are comfortable presenting/sharing your insights to our Stephen Ministers, please contact our Director of Outreach, cole@firstchristianreformed.org for further details.

BUDGET ENVELOPES: Your budget envelopes have been placed in your church mailboxes. Please contact the office if you would like your envelopes mailed to you, or if you are currently not receiving them and would like to.

FIRST STUDENTS

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY: We're back! First small group night of 2021 is happening on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. See you at church at 7:00 pm.

Big SOO Coupon Book: Still for sale! The price has been reduced to \$37 per book!

FIRST KIDS

Thanks to a very flexible and dedicated group of parents combined with some creative and willing volunteers, we were able to put together a Christmas program video of our K-3 students! Make sure to watch the program [here](#). Thanks to all of you who helped make this happen!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School @ Home resources are ready for you to pick up! If you have a student in grades K-6th, please take a box of resources to use at home. They are located in the lower level Children's Ministry area. These include several different ways for your family to learn and grow together, whenever and however it works for you. One per family is all you need! Please contact heather@firstchristianreformed.org with any questions.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Jan 1-Jan 7, 2020

THURSDAY:	10:00 am Memorial Service for Larry Faber 12:00 pm Church & Church Office Closed
FRIDAY:	Happy New Year! Church & Church Office Closed
SUNDAY:	8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Worship
MONDAY:	10:30 am Senior Circuit 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study 6:45 pm Men's Bible Study
TUESDAY:	10:30 am Senior Circuit 10:30-12:00 pm Library Open 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm Shepherding Meeting
WEDNESDAY:	6:15 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Cadets 7:00 pm High School Ministry
THURSDAY:	8:50 am MOPS 5:45 pm ReFit

ARISE UKRAINE MISSION TRIP: First CRC will once again partner with Arise-Ukraine Ministries (Paul Logan) to lead an English Day Camp for non-churched youth aged 13-16 in Kiev, Ukraine. The anticipated date of the trip is June 2021 (approximately 2 of the first 3 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 Lord and Savior. Members are also to be mature and committed to help others meet Christ through humble, servant-like and verbal witness to Jesus Christ.

Those interested in serving on the ministry team must be 18 years of age by May 31, 2021, graduating from their Senior-year of high school, entering college, or currently enrolled in college. The team will be limited to 16 participants and, it is hoped, put together by January 31, 2021.

To secure a spot requires a completed application, a minimum \$500.00 deposit, and a color copy of your passport.

The Ministry Team will be led by Pastor Calvin Hoogendoorn. Please contact him @ calvin@firstchristianreformed.org.

CHURCH APP: Everything in one place! Check out all the features of our new app. Calendar, Groups, Events, Giving, Online Connection Card and Directory. Email kristi@firstchristianreformed.org if you would like to be part of the Directory on the new app.

Here's how you can download the app and start using it today:

1. Open your app store and search for "Church Center."
2. Download and open the app.
3. Search and select "First Christian Reformed".
4. Enter your phone number.
5. Follow the on-screen prompts.

You are officially on the Church Center app!

this is
BIG



**download
TODAY**

DEACON'S MINISTRY

Offering totals: December 20

General Fund	\$14,413.30
Building Fund	473.32
Faith Promise	3,081.85
Alpha Center	20.00
Ministry Shares	2,308.41
Tuition Support	935.69
Needs of the Family	1,500.00
Hope Haven	20.00
Union Gospel Mission	2,146.28
Friendship Ministries	849.00
Community Outreach	20.00
Inspiration Hills	672.00
St. Francis House	200.00
Total	\$26,649.85

January 3: Offering of the Day so 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 10: 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.

BULLETIN BOARD

OFFICE HOURS: The Church Office hours are: Monday-Thursday (8:30 am - 4:00 pm) and 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.

STAY INFORMED: Check out our church website firstchristianreformed.org, all updates and information in the [weekly newsletter](#), and members can sign up for the [Daily Prayer Happenings](#). Follow social media for updates and encouragement throughout the week [Facebook Page](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#).

MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP: Beginning in January, we are looking for volunteers to drive the Church vans to Washington High School on Wednesdays from 11:00-12:30 pm. Volunteers will be picking up students and bringing them to church for a meal and then driving them back to WHS when they are finished. If you are able to help out, please contact al@firstchristianreformed.org.

THANK YOU: We want to express our gratitude to all who have reached out to us with words (spoken and written) and cards and remembered us in prayer in the recent passing of our brother/brother-in-law Anthony. The support of the family of God is comforting. Daryl & Dot Baar

