



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**April 2, 2023**

## Office Hours:

Monday- Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm  
Friday 8:30am-12:00pm

## Newsletter Announcements:

Send to [office@firstchristianreformed.org](mailto:office@firstchristianreformed.org)  
by 4:00pm on Wednesday

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Lent 2023: Give Up in Order to Give

This year for our Lent project, First CRC is partnering with SIMDEL Children's Education Ministry to provide Torch Audio Bibles for students and their families in Togo, Africa. The Torch combines a flashlight, lantern, and an Audio Bible into one versatile solar-powered device to share the Gospel. Many families in Togo do not have electricity so not only would the Torch Audio Bible provide light for their homes, but families would also be able to hear the Word of the Lord! During this Lenten season, we encourage the Body of Christ to continue to pray for these families in Togo and ask that the Lord might put it on our hearts to see what we can "Give Up in Order to Give". What a blessing to provide not only physical light but also the light of the gospel to these students and their families.

***So far we raised enough to buy 275 Torch Bibles! Let's finish strong! Only One week Left!***

## No Wednesday Meal- April 5

There will be NO WEDNESDAY MEAL next week because of Easter break. There will be two more meals this year on April 12 and April 19.

## Contract Extension

The Ad Board has extended Pastor Van's contract, reviewable again in September, as we continue our search for a new pastor.

# CENTENNIAL

1923-2023

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## Last Week's Trivia:

Q: What is the present church phone number?

A: 605-338-6904

## This Week's Trivia:

Q: What year did Shalom CRC organize?

A) 1972 B) 1978 C) 1982

# WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

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## **Good Friday Service**

Our Good Friday Service will be on Friday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

## **Easter Sunday Services**

We will have two Easter services to celebrate our risen Savior this year; traditional at 8:30 a.m. and contemporary at 10:30 a.m. We will serve pastries, coffee, and juice in the gym between services.

## **Musicians Wanted!**

We are looking for more vocalists and instrumentalists (organ, piano, brass, woodwinds, guitar, bass, drums) who are willing to join our worship team, especially during the summer months. If you're feeling a little rusty or are unsure if you have the ability to play or sing at a certain level, we can provide training for you as needed. If you play an instrument or sing and would like more details about what this might look like, please reach out to Gabby at [gabby@firstchristianreformed.org](mailto:gabby@firstchristianreformed.org)

# FIRST KIDS MINISTRY

Heather Buys

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## **No Sunday School This Week!**

There will be no Sunday School on April 2 and 9. Our last two lessons for the year will be April 16 and 23rd. Thanks to all of our teachers who have been committed to this ministry!

## **Children's Church- Palm Branches**

Our kids will wave palm branches and sing at the very beginning of both services on April 2nd! Check-in downstairs prior to the service and pick up afterwards as usual. Children's Church will not meet on April 9, but will continue lessons through May 21.

## Vacation Bible School

VBS Registration is now open! Kids ages 4 through current 3rd graders are invited to join us June 4-8 from 6:00-8:15pm each night. Kids will launch on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Crew leaders and helpers are needed and can also register online!

[Vacation Bible School Registration- CLICK HERE!](#)

## GEMS

Our GEMS girls are invited to join us for an overnight retreat at Inspiration Hills on June 16-17. For more details and to register, check out the event online.

[GEMS Retreat Registration- CLICK HERE!](#)

## Cadets Camp

Registration for the Cadet Campout is now online! It will take place at Lake Vermillion on June 22-24 and all our current Cadet boys are invited to join us.

[Cadet Campout Registration- CLICK HERE!](#)

## No Cadets this Week!

Cadets will not meet this week on April 5 due to Easter Break. Our next meeting will be April 19th.

## Cadet International Camporee

The Cadet International Camporee will be held in Dunnville, Ontario, CA on July 19-26th. Details and registration can be found at <https://camporee.calvinistcadets.org/registration/>. We will submit payment as a club, so you do not need to pay online. An email with more details will be sent to all Cadets or you may email [heather@firstchristianreformed.org](mailto:heather@firstchristianreformed.org) with other questions.

# JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

*Al Van Donkersgoed*

## Junior High Ministry

Junior High will not meet Sunday April 2, but the gym/church will be open for basketball/volleyball/floor hockey during Easter break from 1-4pm on Wednesday April 5. Our next meeting will be Sunday April 16. Our final meeting for spring will happen on Sunday April 30.

# CATALYST YOUTH MINISTRY

*Will Grisham*

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## **SERVE**

We are looking for 1 more adult to chaperone our students on our Grand Rapids SERVE Trip and for adult females to join the Catalyst team as adult mentors. This is an amazing opportunity to have a massive impact on the future of our church. Please consider joining us!

## **No Catalyst This Week!**

There will be NO Catalyst this week on April 5 due to Easter break.

## **Youth and Young at Heart Service Project**

**On April 12th**, after the Wednesday Night Meal, Catalyst invites the Seniors, or Young at Heart to come join them as they make tie blankets (no experience needed) for the Alpha Center or play board and card games. We will enjoy eating snacks and getting to know each other.

This is a sweet opportunity to grow in fellowship with members of our church that might not be from the same generation as you. We will have a short devotional before enjoying snacks and working on the project. This is open to everyone, even if you are not specifically in high school OR a senior citizen.

## **Service and Volunteer Opportunities Wanted**

Catalyst Youth Ministries is looking for ways to serve both our community and our church. If you have a project or a volunteer opportunity that you think would be perfect for the high schoolers let us know! Contact Will at: [will@firstchristianreformed.org](mailto:will@firstchristianreformed.org) or (605)-338-6904.

## **Big Soo Coupon Books- Now ON SALE!**

**Big Soo Coupon Books have been reduced to \$30 each!** Coupons are valid until Aug 31, 2023. With over \$10,000 dollars in instant savings this book is a must have for any home. Proceeds go directly to funding Catalyst Youth Ministries future mission work. Stop by the office to get yours before they are gone!

# CARE & OUTREACH

*Cole Pleggenkuhle*

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## **Current Sermon Series**

This Sunday, we will continue our sermon series entitled "Songs For A Lifelong Journey," a study of the Songs of Ascent. We still have a few copies of Eugene Peterson's book, "A Long Obedience In The Same Direction," as an optional supplement to this series available in the office (\$13 per book and \$9 per workbook). Stop by the information center (across from the mailboxes) or the church office to see an example.

# TECHNOLOGY

*Paul Mobley*

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## **Tech Team Volunteers Wanted**

We seek a few people to help us on the tech team during morning worship services. Our biggest need right now is for someone to run screens. This job is not hard, and we will provide on-the-job training.

We encourage anyone interested in volunteering to join the tech team. Not only will we be able to contribute to the smooth running of the worship services, but we will also be able to connect with others who share our passion for technology.

Thank you for being willing to serve, and we look forward to working alongside you! If interested, contact Paul at [paul@firstchristianreformedchurch.org](mailto:paul@firstchristianreformedchurch.org) or call 605-339-6904.

## HOSPITALITY

*Denae Matherly*



### New Faces

We need your photo if you have started coming to First Christian Reformed Church in the last 18 months. We want to add a welcome slide with photos at the beginning of each service and acknowledge our newest faces. Please email a photo to [denae@firstchristianreformed.org](mailto:denae@firstchristianreformed.org)

If you have been a member for awhile now, and your picture is missing or your family has changed a lot, please send us a new picture of update it on the Church Center App. Pictures don't have to be professional, we just want to see your lovely faces!

### Church Directory

In the next few weeks, we will be working on bringing the church directory up to date and giving access to Care Group members in our church. You may get emails from Planning Center of changes we are temporarily making to give you that access- you can ignore these.

We will be making your email, phone and address available for members to see. If you DO NOT want to be part of the directory, or have information you do not want listed, please let us know at [office@firstchristianreformedchurch.org](mailto:office@firstchristianreformedchurch.org) and we will remove it. We will not list any children's information outside of their name, unless we have your permission. Thanks for your patience!

## DEACON'S MINISTRY



### April 2: 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.

### April 7: Good Friday

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### April 9: 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.

### Offering Totals: March 26

General Fund =\$15,760  
Building Fund= \$235  
Faith Promise =\$1,400  
Ministry Shares =\$620  
Tuition Assistance =\$617  
Heytsi Mission Fund =\$600  
SIMDEL =\$6,562  
St Francis House =\$2,398

Grand Total =\$28,192

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY

8:30 & 10:30am Worship & Nursery  
8:30 & 10:30am Children's Church

### MONDAY

10:30am Senior Circuit  
6:45pm Men's Life  
7:00pm Banner Committee

### TUESDAY

10:30am Senior Circuit

### WEDNESDAY

6:30am Men's Bible Study  
10:30am Collision Meals  
No Cadets or Catalyst

### THURSDAY

5:45pm ReFit

### FRIDAY

10:30am Senior Circuit  
6:30pm Good Friday Service

### SATURDAY

7:30am Men of Integrity

Sunday Worship Folder

Community Bulletin Board

Watch Sermons

Search Committee Update

Email First CRC Office

Submit Prayer Requests