



SIoux FALLS, SD

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

October 30- November 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO Wednesday Night Meal Tonight

SPECIAL EDITION of DEEP DIVE:

Make plans to join us for a special Deep Dive TONIGHT, Wednesday, October 30! Come early to enjoy some coffee and snacks! THEN, starting at **6:30pm – NOTE TIME** – we will spend time unpacking Sunday’s message on standing for the truth with a time of prayer and discernment reviewing the ballot here in South Dakota. **IMPORTANT:** This is NOT a political or partisan gathering but an attempt to thoughtfully, discerningly, and prayerfully converse together on the issues facing our community and state in this election cycle with our eyes fixed on Jesus and seeking God’s Kingdom first. We have committed a 2-hour time slot for this gathering and everyone is invited!

FINAL DEEP DIVE NEXT WEEK WEDNESDAY!

Hard to believe we are coming to the end of this series already but the final weeks are here. Next **Wednesday, November 6**, (post-election day), we will gather **one last time for this series** and prayerfully reflect on the election results (that are at least known by that time) as well as align our hearts and minds to the true north of God’s Kingdom and His righteousness that He calls us to live out – regardless of the results, yet paramount to living as citizens of His Kingdom. We will explore what it means to be distinct in our citizenship, without being detached from our present living circumstances.

CAP Meals 2024- Bags Still Available!

It’s time for our annual Thanksgiving Meal delivery program, CAP Meals, or Caring About People, to start getting ready for the season. Every year, First CRC delivers thanksgiving meals to around 200 families in the Sioux Falls area. The ministry seeks to bless families from area schools that have expressed a need for a holiday meal.

How it works:

- **Pick up a reusable grocery bag and grocery list from the Activity Center (or more!)**
- **Purchase food items on the list and return them to church by Nov 17**

(Please return to gym on Sundays or on weekdays place in kitchen, or bring to office.)

- **If possible, include a \$20 or more donation with the groceries to cover the cost of a Ham or Turkey purchased in bulk closer to Thanksgiving**

(Please put your marked donations in the black donation boxes in/by gym, offering bag, or give on the church center app to CAP Meals fund.)

Any donations for CAP meals are welcomed to cover other costs of the overall project.)

- **Meals are delivered to families by First CRC volunteers on Sunday, Nov 24**

Holiday Services

Please mark your calendars for:

Thanksgiving Eve Service held Wednesday, Nov 27 at 6:00pm (Note Time Change)

Christmas Eve Service held on December 24 at 5:00pm.

Senior & Friends

We are planning our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 16, 2024. We will meet in the activity center at 11:00 AM (note early start time).

We will be entertained by a delightful young lady, Kelsey Keuter, who plays the viola. She is excited to be joining us, and we are looking forward to having her.

Our meal will be catered and will cost \$15.00 per person. It will be necessary to pre-register no later than noon on Monday, November 11. Please contact Marcene Struiksma at 605 - 376-1316, Luella Schaap at 605-366-6688, or Bonnie Gorter at 605-214-4914. This is always a highlight and a great way to share our thanks for our abundant blessings.

Dominican Republic Church Build Trip

We are looking for volunteers to join us for our next church build project in the Dominican Republic. We will be working with the Iglesia Christiana Reformada Church in Villa Nizao, south of Barahona in the southwest part of the country. We will leave on Friday Jan. 24 and return on Saturday Feb 1, 2025. This is a small congregation that has been waiting for 25 years for a church building of their own. This will be our 11th church build project in the Dominican Republic. Please contact Rick Vander Haar at 605-366-2794 if you are interested or have questions.

Have You Checked Your Closet Yet?

🧥 Baby It's Cold Outside 🧥...Well, it will be soon! First CRC has partnered with Center of Hope to supply winter gear for the underserved and disadvantaged in our community. **From October 9th to November 30th** we'll have 2 large bins set out at church to collect a variety of cold winter gear for Center of Hope. High-need items include Men's jeans, snowpants, gloves, mittens & blankets. However, they will accept cold weather gear for Men & Women / Boys & Girls of ALL ages. Other needs include snowboots, shoes & general clothing. Items can be new or gently used. Let's clear out those closets! Questions can be directed to Kearsen Nyenhuis (605) 929-2021 or joshandkearsen@gmail.com.

Defending God's Family Class

(Open to ALL)

Topic: Glow Kids

We've all been there—kids captivated by glowing screens at restaurants, playgrounds, or the grocery store. But have you ever wondered what impact all this screen time has? Is it just harmless fun, or is it something more?

Join us as we explore how technology is shaping the minds of today's kids. Learn about the surprising effects screen time can have on developing brains, including its connections to issues like ADHD, addiction, depression, and even aggression.

When: Sunday, November 10

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m. (during junior high youth group)

Where: Fireside Room

Everyone is welcome! Come for an eye-opening conversation that's sure to spark meaningful insights for you and your family.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

"An Election for the Ages... Maybe..."

Ahhh... the countdown is upon us.... 6 days until we step into an almost twilight-like zone of election fervor rivaled by very few previous election cycles.

"An election for the ages!" "Precedent-setting" "Democracy at stake" – are just some of the phrases attributed to 2024 and November 5.

Sorting through the ramped-up rhetoric can be unnerving. Speculation is rampant. Emotions are frazzled. Advertisements and yard signs abound. Yet...Let's step back from the 'trees' for a moment, and consider the 'forest.'

We will all wake up Wednesday morning, November 6, and find that whether the Lord returns or not by the evening of November 5, we will still find Him seated on the throne. Regardless if the tribulation sets in, 'our' candidate wins or loses, referendums and amendments pass or not, all authority in Heaven and on earth STILL belongs to Him! (Can I get an AMEN?!)

The next great news is that there is no Savior and no Gospel on the ballot this year. (Or any year.). Jesus is still the ONLY Savior and the Word of God is still the ONLY absolute truth. 2024's election will not change that. Whew!!

And, the Good News will still be the Good News even though the temporal efforts of news reporting in the US will be weighty and at times woeful, propagating a worldview limited in hope and searching for answers - regardless of Tuesday's outcome.

Now... this is not an effort to create a "pie in the sky", utopic picture of what has been – and most likely continue to be – a rough season for this country. The other thing about "the morning after" is that we will still find conflict, angst, injustice, racism, poverty, economic hardship, immigration issues, and an assault on the value of human life.

An election is simply a moment in time that indicates what direction we are headed. The daily work of seeking first the Kingdom of God remains until Christ returns. Now.. whatever that direction on Tuesday is... may make our work easier or harder. That will remain to be seen.

Nevertheless, the imperatives of the Word of God will always remain imperatives for His people from now, through the next four years, and the four years after that, through the tribulation, Armageddon, end times, up until the trumpet sounds.

So... election for the ages? Maybe... certainly in our limited view of eternity it feels like it. But with the "true north" of God's Word, it's another day, another season, another opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a broken and dying world that needs hope, direction, and promise.

Go vote... be a good citizen under the authority that God has given in this land... and then keep working for God's Kingdom until you hear the words directly from Him: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

THANK YOU!

Thank You!

Thank you, dear First CRC family, for all of the cards, tokens of appreciation and words of support and encouragement through the years! Thank you, also, to all of the past and present choir members who have made the vocal ministry of this church a delight to be a part of! All glory and honor to our Triune God!

Lex DeWit

Thank you from the Council & Congregation of First CRC, Rock Valley, IA

All of us at First Christian Reformed Church in Rock Valley stand in awe of the generosity of God's people!

The hardship caused by the flood within our own congregational family and community was overwhelming, but so many gracious people reached out to offer support with their prayers; words of encouragement; lending a helpful hand wherever needed; donating resources such as food, clothing, shelter, household items, etc.; and monetary donations. We are humbled by the outreach received and the level of assistance poured out by so many. We truly thank you with all of our heart for your generous donation! We will always remain grateful for the love and thoughtfulness stirred in the hearts of those expressing so much compassion. Thank you!

FIRST KIDS

[Jill Smith](#)

Christmas Program Practice

Program Practice starts This Sunday, Nov 3rd at 9:30 in the GEMS Room.

Christmas Program

First CRC's Christmas Program will be held Dec 15 at 4:00pm. Preschool through 3rd Grade.

No Sunday School or Faith Talk on November 10

WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

Hymn of the Month

Our hymn of the month for November at the 8:30 service is “With All My Heart I Thank You, Lord”. This tune was originally written back in 1551 and was first published in the Genevan Psalter. The words of the hymn, based on Psalm 138, were written by Stanley Wiersma in 1981. As we turn special attention to gratitude during the month of November, we can sing together of the victory we have through Christ and his steadfast love towards us as we sing this song of thankfulness and praise!

Song of the Month

Our song of the month for November at the 10:30 service is “Gratitude” written in 2019 and made popular on various Christian radio stations by Brandon Lake. This simple melody and powerful words remind us that regardless of what we feel like we have to offer in worship, our gratitude is enough. Even if all we have is a hallelujah or the ability to raise our hands, we can enter into the praise and worship of our Lord and King!

HOSPITALITY

Denae Matherly

Name Tags Are Here to Stay!

Would you like to order a permanent, magnetic name tag to wear at church? These will be similar to the ones our staff use. We’re about to place a group order, and having your own name tag means no more printing a new one each week! You can keep it in your mailbox or car for easy access. Cost to you is \$5.00.

To order, email denae@firstchristianreformed.org with the subject line: Nametags
Please include your first and last name exactly as you'd like it to appear on the tag.

New this week! Option to register and pay online for magnetic nametags. [Click here to get yours:](#)

[Order Nametags Here](#)

Are You Outgoing and Friendly?

Do you love making people feel welcome? We’re building a hospitality team, and I’m looking for folks with creative ideas on how to make our church atmosphere even more inviting. If you’ve ever thought, “You know what would make this place even better?”—then I want to hear from you!

Basically, we need some brainstorming power to dream up ways to expand our hospitality ministry and bring those ideas to life. If you're ready to welcome new guests with open arms (and maybe even some snacks), let’s chat!

Meeting-Wednesday, November 20, 5:45-6:30pm

Bring your pizza from the Wednesday meal to the conference room and we can eat while we chat.

Upcoming Wednesday Night Meals:

Nov 6. -Special! Catalyst Taco Feed Fundraiser!

Nov 13-Spaghetti and Breadsticks

Nov 20- Pizza

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

Al VanDonkersgoed

JHM

Our next meeting Nov. 10 at First CRC. We will learn about knowing and understanding your faith, play a version of Grog, and snack on some root beer floats.

For updates and communication please sign up for remind by texting @1crcjhm to 81010 or follow this link <https://www.remind.com/join/1crcjhm>

CATALYST

The Original Taco Feed is only 1 Week AWAY!

Catalyst will be having its annual Taco Feed Fundraiser on Wednesday, Nov 6. We are hoping to raise \$10,000 to send as many kids as possible on SERVE this summer. Come relax, fill your belly and enjoy the festive atmosphere, including live music, as you enjoy tacos, nachos, and ice cream! All are welcome!

Farewell Reception for Will Grisham

Come join us as we celebrate Will! As he steps into a new chapter at Embrace Church (West Campus), let's send him off with our love and blessings.

We'll have a popcorn and topping bar between services on Sunday, November 17. Be sure to stop by, grab a treat, and wish Will well on his next adventure!

COMMUNITY

Inwood CRC Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

Inwood CRC invites area churches to an old fashioned hymn sing on Sunday, November 3, 2024, at 6:00pm. **Pastor Steve Zwart of First CRC Sioux Falls will be leading from the piano**, and Jane Zwart will be at the organ. Pastor Steve will lead a time of song and word reflecting on God's goodness and faithfulness through the ages as expressed in the songs of our heritage. All are invited! Refreshments will be served after the service.

Center of Hope

Christmas is around the corner! Plan to be a blessing this Christmas season by being a gift donor or volunteer in the Sharing Christmas program! Sharing Christmas is a collaborative effort of Center of Hope and The Community Outreach that ensures Christmas gifts are possible for struggling families in our community. Please reach out to Adam Hofer via email at adam@centerofhopesf.org, if you want to get involved!

Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes

This week you will find Thanksgiving offering envelopes in your mailboxes. We give Thanksgiving offerings to share the blessings that God has given us with others. This year there are nine different areas that you can support.

You can return your envelope during the offering in any service in the month of November or drop it in the marked box near the back of the Fellowship Hall. There are extra envelopes and a description of each cause that you can give to on the info wall.

November 3- 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. s.

Coming Up: November 10 -General Fund

November 10 Communion Offering: Friendship Ministries

Offering Totals from Last Week

General Fund: \$ 20,606

Ministry Shares: \$ 330

Faith Promise: \$ 145

Building Fund: \$ 3983

Tuition Assistance: \$ 525

CAP Meals \$325

Weekly Total: \$ 25,914

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, OCT 30

- **Prayer Meeting**
6–6:30pm
- **Special Election Edition Deep Dive**
6:30–8:30pm
- **Catalyst**
7–9pm

THURSDAY, OCT 31- No Events

FRIDAY, NOV 1- No Events

SATURDAY, NOV 2

- **Men of Integrity**
7:30–8:30am

SUNDAY, NOV 3

- **Worship**
8:30 & 10:30am
- **Vocal Choir Rehearsal**
9:30–10:30am
- **Sunday School**
9:45–10:15am
- **Faith Talk for HS**
9:45am–10:15pm
- **Worship Team Potluck**
11:30-1pm

MONDAY, NOV 4

- **Senior Circuit**
10:30–11:30am
- **Men's Life Bible Study**
6:45–8pm
- **Monday Night Women's Bible Study**
6:45–8pm
- **Banner Committee**
7–8:30pm

TUESDAY, NOV 5

- **Senior Circuit**
10:30–11:30am
- **Elders, Deacons, Lay Shepherds Meeting**
7–9pm

[Sunday Worship Folder](#)

[Watch Sermons](#)

[Submit Prayer Request](#)

[Email Church Office](#)

[Registrations](#)

[Room Reservation Request](#)

[Contact A Stephen Minister](#)