



SIoux FALLS, SD

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

November 13-19

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Grateful To Be Alive!

Thanksgiving – Thanks-living: In this season of thanks, our new sermon series entitled “Grateful to Be Alive!” will invite us into a place to examine three great reasons to be thankful and to understand “for such a time as this!” We’ve been given life – life abundantly – and the outflow of that reveals life-giving purposes for which God has given us this abundant life: to worship, to be community, and living for eternity. Come, ye thankful people, come!

November 17, 2024: “Made for Worship!” – Psalm 63

This week will take a close look at the life of worship as the Psalmist lays this out in Psalm 63. In lean times or fruitful times, times of adversity or of great favor, we are made to worship... to yearn, desire, and draw close to the presence of God. Let’s rediscover the life-giving purpose of all-of-life as worship and discover the abundant life God has ordained for us.

### CAP Meals 2024- Return meals by This Sunday!

We’re getting closer to Thanksgiving! Right now we have about 115 meals returned, which means there are lot of bags still out there! Please return your full bags by Sunday. If you can’t make it Sunday, you can drop off in the office M-Th between 8:30-3:30. Please place in kitchen, and any money donations can be placed in the black box on the wall in the gym.

### CAP MEAL DELIVERY!- SUNDAY, Nov 24

This is the hardest part to get volunteers for! But it’s not hard at all! On Nov 24, we will be delivering the cap meals that have been donated to neighborhoods around Sioux Falls. Sign up below and we will give you a number of meals to deliver that are near eachother. **Meals can be picked up between 9:30 and noon** on the 24th for delivery.

We would like you to try and **deliver the meals between 11-5pm** that day, as many of the people are expecting a meal delivery that day. In the past, we have delivered meals between 9:30-10:30am. We have found that many of them are not home or do not answer the door at that time. We would like to give you a larger window to deliver meals at your convenience and hopefully catch more people in person.

[Help Deliver CAP Meals](#)

## Holiday Services

Please mark your calendars for:

**Thanksgiving Eve Service held Wednesday, Nov 27 at 6:00pm**

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

## Thanksgiving Meal at First CRC

Nowhere to go on Thanksgiving? Join us for a meal Thursday, Nov 28 at 11:30 am. Sign up below or at CAP MEAL Table on Sunday or call Holly Burns at 605-201-4723.

[Thanksgiving Meal SignUp](#)

## Flying South For The Winter?

Let us know you'll be gone with the following form, or send an email to [office@firstchristianreformed.org](mailto:office@firstchristianreformed.org) with approximate dates and any info you'd like us to know.

[Gone For The Winter](#)

## 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. 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.

## Watch Out for Scam Emails!

We are entering the holiday season and just want to remind you to be vigilant in watching your emails for scams. Churches not immune from being targeted. Make sure if you receive emails from staff members that the email address ends in **@firstchristianreformed.org**. If you ever are concerned if something is a scam, please contact church. Usually scam emails sound very urgent, and ask you to reply with personal information. They often have spelling errors, just don't sound like the person, are too formal, or have odd greetings or closings. The name at the top is often right, but the sender's email address is usually wrong.

If you would like a review on how to spot an email or text scam, click below for a link to the FTC for info.

[How To Spot A Scam](#)

## Ride to Pete De Kam Funeral

If you would like a ride to Leota for Pete De Kam's funeral on Friday, Al will possibly be driving a van there if anyone is interested. Van will be leaving at 9:10am. Give Al a call at 605-321-2126 if interested.

## Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for a congregational meeting Monday, December 9 at 7pm

## Clothing Drive for Center of Hope-Only A Couple Weeks Left!

 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](mailto:joshandkearsen@gmail.com).

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## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

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### When It Rains, It Pours

This familiar cliché – “when it rains, it pours” - is often used to note a time, season, or circumstance where one thing compounds on another, on another.... More times than not, it’s used in the negative.

Today as I write this and the wind is howling and the cold rain is falling, combined with the cliché just referenced, all can be a metaphor for how life in general can sometimes feel.

We can sometimes zero in on something that is wrong or negative: a sour relationship, an exhausting work environment, tiring or rough home life, poor grades, health limitations, failures... -- and, after dwelling on these things, we can become down. What’s challenging is that if we have zeroed in on that one negative item, and another negative circumstance or experience comes along, it can feel like it’s beginning to “rain” for all the wrong reasons. And sometimes when it “rains”, it feels like its “pouring” all the wrong things, leaving us drenched in woe and disappointment and discouragement.

It's no fun and can be deeply disheartening when it's “pouring” on the inside of our hearts. Loss, failure, disillusionment, helpless feelings are all real and raw and can lead to “rainy” seasons that are far from “showers of mercy.” In fact, we’d probably give anything for a sprinkle of mercy when it’s pouring woe.

The writer of Lamentations captures the spirit of woe that sometimes sets into our lives. Yet in his somewhat solemn sobering writings, the Spirit inspires him to write down the goodness of God in the midst of our drenching in woe.

Lamentations 3:20-26 ESV

My soul continually remembers and is bowed down within me. [21] But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: [22] The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; [23] they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. [24] "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." [25] The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. [26] It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

Our walk with God is not absent of the storms of woe, but is always saturated with His faithfulness. Rainy seasons will come and go. God always stays. We have hope. We cry out to Him. He’s with us.

As you wait for life’s storms to pass, just know that salvation comes. Sorrow may last for a night... but joy always comes in the morning. (Psalm 30:5)

For those that need to hear it today: Hang in there. God’s got you. God does love you despite what your mind and heart may think. Don’t give up. The storm will pass. You have reason to hope. God is faithful.

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## MISSIONS

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### Missionary Spotlight- Micah Schuurman

Click here to read to special newsletter from Micah to First CRC!

[Micah Schuurman Newsletter](#)

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## CHURCH FAMILY

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### Card Shower

Kelly Van Engelenhoven’s birthday was Thursday, November 7. Care Group 2 would like to have a card shower for him. Please make sure include a return address with name on it will not be delivered.

Kelly’s address is:

Kelly Van Engelenhoven 16977

Box 5911

Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5911

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## FIRST KIDS

[Jill Smith](#)

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### Christmas Program Practice

Program Practice continues this Sunday, at **9:30am** in the GEMS Room.

### Christmas Program

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

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## WORSHIP

[Gabby Friez](#)

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### Christmas Hymn Sing

Our annual Christmas Hymn Sing is **December 8 at 5 pm** in the sanctuary. Join us for an evening of fellowship and song as we come together to sing our favorite Christmas hymns. We hope to see you there!

### 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!

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## HOSPITALITY

[Denaë Matherly](#)

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### Sick of Stickers? Get A Permanent Nametag!

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](mailto: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.

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 13-Spaghetti and Breadsticks

Nov 20- Pizza

## JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

### Al VanDonkersgoed

#### JHM

Junior High Ministry meets on Nov. 24 at First CRC from 6:15 to 7:45. We will continue to learn about how to know our faith. We will play some group games and share some cookies and hot chocolate. This week take some time to read the story of Daniel to be reminded of the God we love and serve.

## CATALYST

### 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!

### Taco Feed Thank You!

Thanks for your wonderful support of our high school students as they raised money for Summer mission trips! We raised over \$11,000 at the taco feed! Thanks for showing up!

## COMMUNITY

### 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](mailto:adam@centerofhopesf.org), if you want to get involved!

### Center of Hope

The Center of Hope is seeking to hire a full-time Bike Ministry Coordinator to work alongside volunteers in their Geared-To-Empower Bike Ministry! The ideal candidate for this position must have a passion for both ministry and bicycles. For more information, please contact Adam Hofer via email at [adam@centerofhopesf.org](mailto:adam@centerofhopesf.org)!

### Prepare Him Room Women's Event At Shalom CRC

Ladies mark your calendars for Saturday, December 14 so that you can join us for a morning of worship, encouragement, teaching and fellowship. Prepare Him Room is a free virtual event focused on intentionally making space to see Jesus amid the holiday rush. This event is for women of all ages (high school aged and older). Invite your neighbors, coworkers, family, and friends. Doors will open at 8:30am and the event will conclude around 11:00am. Breakfast will be served. This is a free event, however we do ask for you to sign-up [HERE](#) so that we can plan appropriately. If you have any questions please talk to Sarah Lieuwen. [slieuwen@shalomcrc.org](mailto:slieuwen@shalomcrc.org)

## DEACON'S MINISTRY

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### Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes

Please check your mailbox for your Thanksgiving envelope. 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. This will be the offering for Thanksgiving Eve service.

### November 17- The Banquet

The Banquet is a volunteer-based feeding ministry that serves meals to people and families at locations in Sioux Falls.

### Coming Up: November 24- Building Fund

The building fund is designated towards the First CRC Church building and grounds maintenance in order to preserve and provide long-term care for our facilities

### Offering Totals from Last Week

General Fund: \$ 15,015  
Ministry Shares: \$ 651  
Faith Promise: \$ 570  
Building Fund: \$ 551  
Tuition Assistance: \$375  
Friendship Ministries: \$1,850

**Weekly Total: \$ 19,012**

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, Nov 13

- [Wednesday Night Meal -Spaghetti](#)
- 5:30–6:30pm
- [Prayer Meeting](#)
- 6:30–7:30pm
- [Handbell Choir](#)
- 6:30–7:30pm
- [Library Work Night](#)
- 6:30–8pm
- [GEMS](#)
- 6:30–8:30pm
- [Catalyst](#)
- 7–9pm

### THURSDAY, Nov 14- No Events

### FRIDAY, NOV 15

- [Senior Circuit](#)
- 10:30–11:30am

### SATURDAY, NOV 16

- [Men of Integrity](#)
- 7:30–8:30am
- [Seniors and Friends](#)
- 11am–1:30pm

### SUNDAY, NOV 17

- [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

### MONDAY, NOV 18

- [Senior Circuit](#)
- 10:30–11:30am
- [Men's Life Bible Study](#)
- 6:45–8pm
- [Monday Night Women's Bible Study](#)
- 6:45–8pm

### TUESDAY, NOV 19

- [Senior Circuit](#)
- 10:30–11:30am

[Sunday Worship Folder](#)

[Watch Sermons](#)

[Submit Prayer Request](#)

[Email Church Office](#)

[Registrations](#)

[Room Reservation Request](#)

[Contact A Stephen Minister](#)