



SIoux FALLS, SD

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dec 4-10

SERMON SERIES

“MESSIAH WITH A MISSION Series for Advent:

Welcome to Advent season! What a joyous time of year as we celebrate the coming of the Messiah – our Messiah – Jesus Christ! All this month we will be commemorating His coming by taking a close look at the Mission of the Messiah and its impact not only in the years He lived on this earth, but the grand picture of the purposes of God through the Messiah throughout human history. This Mission was not only His Mission, but this Mission is embedded in the DNA of the church, His Body. As we unpack this Mission this month, we celebrate His first coming into this world, but also His daily coming into and moving through our lives, until He comes again! Joy to the World, the Lord has come!

Dec 8, 2024: SERVE: “ John 1:1-5; Mark 10:45 by Cole Pleggenkuhle

This week Pastor Cole Pleggenkuhle will unpack two passages of Scripture from the Gospels of Mark and John. We will see and delight in the Word that became flesh. Our aim is to see Jesus the Son of Man, the suffering servant and His purpose not only in His coming, but in His serving and dying. Drawing from our theme ‘SERVE’ will be three key points to observe this week from the Scriptures: 1) The established Word, 2) The living Word, and 3) The ransoming Word. Behold, let us remember that God in Jesus Christ came to bear the sin of many.

PASTOR’S PONDERINGS

Stuff Management

We’re six months into having emptied one house to fill another. While the main floor has found some semblance of sanity, and the guest rooms downstairs have some order, the main area of the basement looks like a warehouse... boxes, furniture, etc.... all waiting for their “home” in our home. Except... there’s no room for it.

On the plus side, the opportunity presents itself to purge, downsize, and even minimize the “stuff” of our lives. The negative side is that many of those items also have a memory or two attached to them, making it harder to part ways with it.

As I was pondering this dilemma over the last week or so, I was struck by the number of storage buildings going up around our city. We are building buildings to store our “stuff.” Now, for certain occasions – namely, a job transfer, an estate settlement, temporary housing situation – such “stuff” buildings have a very useful function.

Yet, many of those buildings will house “stuff” – the overflow of already-full homes – stuff that will be safely tucked away for some ethereal, maybe even mythical, “important” future function. In fact, just recently a TV series was developed where people bid on an abandoned locked storage unit – not knowing its content – but strictly “guessing” what treasures may be stored inside them. Some have landed amazing treasure while others have inherited more “stuff” to add to their “stuff.”

Belongings and possessions and valuables and heirlooms and the like all hold some measure of value – maybe sentimental value, monetary value, or legacy value. Sometimes the value is inherent and sometimes it’s what we assign to it.

My probing question (or two) for consideration is this: how much time, talent, and treasure are we expending in “stuff” management? Does such energy produce a valuable investment in the areas of life that truly matter – areas that have legacy, long-term, even eternal significance? I ask these questions for the simple purpose of applying Jesus’ teaching from the Sermon on the Mount, where He reminds us about how our heart and treasure align, cautions to how much we worry about the “stuff” of this life, and what are we seeking first and trusting Him to supply the rest.

As we navigate this season of gratitude and gift-giving, may your “stuff” management reflect a Kingdom-first objective – purging the unnecessary and truly making room in your home and your heart for the gift of the Messiah.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting

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

Christmas Cantata

A Thrill of Hope, a Christmas musical by Joel Raney, will be presented by First CRC Vocal and Bell Choir and other instrumentation, Sunday, December 15 at the 8:30am and 10:30am worship services

Heading South For The Winter?

Let us know you’ll be gone with the following form, or send an email to office@firstchristianreformed.org with approximate dates and any info you’d like us to know.

[Gone For The Winter](#)

Crafty Christmas Fundraiser

Looking for new Christmas decor? Or maybe you’re craving a fun, crafty morning with a friend? Join us for a Christmas Decor Crafting Morning on Saturday, Dec. 7th from 9:00-11:00am! We’ll be creating a set of 3 wooden trees each. This year’s event will support GEMS and Cadets with the ongoing ministry of providing Bibles to our youth, gifted by Jon & Shelly Waltjer in memory of their infant son Weston.

Cost is \$100. Don’t miss out on a chance to make some festive decor while supporting a great cause. **Space is limited to 20 spots, so act fast! Click for pics, to read more details and register!**

[Crafty Christmas](#)

Centennial Ornaments

Does your tree have a bare spot? We have a few extra centennial ornaments hanging around if you misplaced yours or never got one from our centennial last year. Talk to Carl Zylstra or Ron De Wit if you are interested in procuring one!

Defending God's Family

December 8, 6:30 p.m. Come after the hymn sing!

Topic: What books are available for kids to read these days?

Sunday Bible Study- Open to New Members!

We are a small group of couples of various ages that meets every 4 weeks from 10:15-11:15, and are looking for some new members, singles or couples to expand our group! We will be starting again on January 19. The Bible study we are doing goes through the entire book of Romans. In Romans, the Apostle Paul unfolds God's way to righteousness explaining how we can be reconciled to God and transformed into the people He means us to be. Sin, salvation, grace, death, and resurrection are all discussed. If interested contact [Emily Buckmiller](#).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

Upcoming:

Dec 4: Chicken noodle soup, Lasagna soup, Ham & Cheese sandwich

Dec 11: Italian chicken and noodles

MISSIONS

Missionary Spotlight December-Stephen & Sandra Brauning

Click here to read to the latest newsletter from the Braunings

[Brauning Newsletter](#)

SIMDEL Newsletter

[SIMDEL Newsletter](#)

CHURCH FAMILY

Farewell Reception for Cole, Allison & Otto Pleggenkuhle

Please join us on December 8 as we join in a reception between services to thank Cole for his work at First CRC and encourage him and his family as they move on to Parkston, SD at the beginning of next year.

Thank You!

Thanks and appreciation to members of Care Group 9 for raking leaves and cleaning up my yard!
Bertha Vos

Have A Great Christmas Card Photo This Year?

Share it with us! Send to office@firstchristianreformed.org and we will upload it to the directory, OR you can go on to the church center app your self and add it to your profile under 'Directory Profile', scroll down to find a place for your household photo. Got great pics of each person in your family? Add those to your household in your profile as well. While you are in there, check your family profiles and update information for any kids away at college, phone numbers or emails of high school kids, add that new baby to your family directory profile and any other changes such as new address, phones numbers, or email. When you update that it directly updates our information! Don't have the app? download the Church Center app from your app store today and choose our church to get started!

FIRST KIDS

[Jill Smith](#)

Christmas Program Practice

Please note Christmas Program practice times.

Sunday, Dec. 8: 9:30-9:45am **AND** 4:00-5:00pm

Saturday, Dec. 14th: 9-10:30am

Sunday, Dec. 15: 9:30-9:45am

Christmas Program Prelude Sign Up

If you have a student who would like to play a music piece for the Christmas Program on Dec. 15th, please use the link to sign your student up.

[Prelude Sign Up](#)

Christmas Program

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

WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

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!

Song of the Month:

Our song of the month for the 10:30 service for the month of December is an arrangement of "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" by Meredith Andrews, written in 2017. I chose this song because the tune for the verses is similar to the hymn from the hymnal with an added bridge that builds to a soaring declaration of hope in the second coming of Christ.

Hymn of the Month:

Our hymn of the month for the 8:30 service for the month of December is "How Great Our Joy". This hymn, nestled in our Lift Up Your Heart Hymnal, is a traditional German Christmas carol. I was first introduced to this hymn at one of our hymn sings and immediately loved the celebratory nature of the hymn. I hope that you enjoy celebrating the Christmas season with this hymn!

HOSPITALITY

Denae Matherly

Hot Chocolate Bar

There will be a holiday hot chocolate bar for the kids in the gym between church services this week.

First Round of Name Tags: Ordered!

Good news—the first round of name tags is officially in process! If you missed out this time, don't worry! We'll be placing a second batch order at the end of January, so you'll have another chance to make your name tag dreams come true. Stay tuned!

Directory Photo Day:

Brian Beck will be ready to work his magic behind the camera on **December 8 and December 15**. Stop by the gym between services either week to get your photo taken!

If you're feeling impatient or want to submit your own masterpiece of a photo, follow these simple steps. Either way, let's get those smiling faces in the directory!

To add a photo to the directory on the Church Center app, open your profile within the app, navigate to the "Edit Profile" section, and then select the option to "Update Photo" where you can choose a picture from your device to upload as your profile picture, which will appear in the church directory

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

Al VanDonkersgoed

JHM

We meet Sunday Dec. 8 at First CRC. We will be serving ice cream floats to the congregation after the Hymn Sing which starts at 5 and ends at 6pm. Arrive between 5:20 and 6pm to help make and serve floats. We will play some group games, and learn about Hope.

CATALYST

Upcoming Meetings:

Dec 4: Catalyst Meeting

Dec 11: Christmas Party Potluck

Dec 18 Study Night/ Open Gym

Dec 25 No Catalyst- Merry Christmas!

Jan 1: No Catalyst- Happy New Year!

COMMUNITY

Center of Hope

Center of Hope: From December 9-12, Center of Hope will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with our guests over desserts! We need your help! If you want to make or purchase a dessert for Center of Hope guests, please drop them off at the Center of Hope on Monday, December 9! Our address is 1905 E 8th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57103! There will be over 800 families on Empower Campus that week for Sharing Christmas! Partner with us as we spread the CHRIST-mas cheer!

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). 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

DEACON'S MINISTRY

December 8: Faith Promise: Dominican Republic Mission Trip

Funds will be designated towards the annual trip to Dominican Republic Mission Trip

December 8 Communion Offering: Bishop Dudley Hospitality House

Located in downtown Sioux Falls, the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House offers daytime and overnight emergency shelter each day. The Bishop Dudley Hospitality House offers a safe, secure, and warm place to start the road back to a more stable, long-term way of living.

Upcoming: Dec 15 -Union Gospel Mission

Offering Totals from Last Week

General Fund: \$ 24,986
Ministry Shares: \$ 2,295
Faith Promise: \$ 90
Building Fund: \$ 310
Tuition Assistance: \$660
Furniture Mission: \$ 306
Feeding South Dakota: \$102

Weekly Total: \$ 28,749

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DEC 4

Wednesday Night Meal 5:30–6:30pm
Handbell Choir 6:30–7:30pm
Prayer Meeting 6:30–7:30pm
Cadets 6:30–8:30pm
Women's Bible Study 6:30–8:30pm
Catalyst 7–9pm

THURSDAY, DEC 5

MomCo 8:30-11am

FRIDAY, DEC 6

Young Adult Men's Study 6:30–7:30am
Senior Circuit 10:30–11:30am

SATURDAY, DEC 7

Men of Integrity 7:30–8:30am

SUNDAY, DEC 8

Worship & Communion 8:30 & 10:30am
Vocal Choir Rehearsal 9:30–10:30am
Christmas Program Practice 9:30–9:45am
Sunday School & Faith Talk 9:45–10:15am
Christmas Program Practice 4–5pm
Christmas Hymn Sing 5–6pm
Junior High Ministry 6:00–7:45pm
Defending God's Family Class 6:30–7:30

MONDAY, DEC 9

Senior Circuit 10:30–11:30am
Men's Life Bible Study 6:45–8pm
Congregational Meeting 7–8pm

TUESDAY, DEC 10

Senior Circuit 10:30–11:30am
Women's Bible Study 2–3:30pm

[Sunday Worship Folder](#)

[Watch Sermons](#)

[Submit Prayer Request](#)

[Email Church Office](#)

[Registrations](#)

[Room Reservation Request](#)

[Contact A Stephen Minister](#)