



FIRST
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

February 7-13

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pulpit Supply

February 11-Bernie Haan

February 18- Bernie Haan

February 25- Dennis Thum-USF

March 3- Cole Pleggenkuhle

Update Form Pastor Zwart:

Dear First Church Family,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus!

As the calendar has turned to February, it means we're one step closer to joint ministry together at First! Thank you for your patience and understanding in this transition journey for all of us!

The end of January represented my final preaching Sunday at Unity after 25 years of doing so. The month of February is the final transition month - final meetings and gatherings at Unity, along with some personal time away with my wife (February 17-March 3). Side note: My wife and boys will remain based in Prinsburg through the middle of June to allow for the finish of the school year. We anticipate traveling a few miles back and forth over the next four months! Thanks for understanding!

My work at First will officially begin the first week of March - and that's coming soon!! I will be attending the Classis Iakota meeting in Rock Valley on that first Tuesday of the month, then plan on setting up my office and preparing for the journey ahead!

Lord willing, we are tentatively planning on installation Sunday on March 17, with my first preaching Sunday at First on March 24, Palm Sunday. It'll be here before you know it... and looking forward to it!

Some of you have already begun to reach out via email, text, and social media (Facebook and Instagram). Awesome! Looking forward to the many ways to be connected!

I do need your help when it comes to the Facebook platform. I've already received several friend requests - which is great! - but with the recent rash of hacking on the FB platform, it makes it a little tricky to discern genuine requests and fake requests. If you have already or plan to connect via FB, please send a FB Messenger message AND a friend request at the same time so that I know the request is legit. Thanks!

Also, if you wish to text (320-444-6682) or email (steve@firstchristianreformed.org), please make sure your name is noted so that I can keep my contact list up to date. Thanks again!

If you wish to connect with us via USPS mail, you can start using the following mailing address after March 3:

8201 E. Water Wood St.

Sioux Falls, SD. 57110

Finally, I value connecting with people and desire to do my best with names. If I happen to give you a blank stare, your grace in reminding me of your name would be greatly appreciated! If you wish to use name tags, that works well too! Thanks! But the desire to see connection reaches beyond myself with all of you. There's always room to grow and learn in connecting with one another and I hope that we pursue getting to know each other more and more as a church moving forward! If you don't know a face or name, let's extend grace to one another and keep extending a warm welcome and - as needed, a name - as we connect with each other!

Blessings to you all! See you soon!

Pastor Steve

Thank You From SIMDEL!

On behalf of the children, families and teachers of Togo, West Africa and the board of SIMDEL Children's Education Ministry, we want to thank the GEMS, Cadets and you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, for the financial support you provided by participating in the recent fundraising burger and bake sale event. Through your financial support over 40 children and their families will be provided with the basic educational resources of backpacks and school supplies, as well as the light of the Gospel through the receipt of a Torch Audio Bible. Your financial and prayer support is foundational to the ministry of SIMDEL as we bring the love of Jesus Christ, and we want to thank you for that support!

Senior and Friends

Senior and Friends will meet at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room at 1st CRC on Saturday, February 17, 2024. Doug Tinklenberg and his Dominican Republic team will share highlights of their recent church build project there. Join us for coffee and doughnuts and fellowship.

Custodial Opportunity

We are looking for some part time custodial help on Friday mornings from 8:30am-12:30pm. This position would require light cleaning, Senior Circuit setup, and ensuring the church is ready for Sunday mornings. Contact Al vanDonkersgoed.

Coffee Break HELP Still NEEDED!

We are still seeking a caring childcare worker to join our team on Wednesday mornings from 9:45 AM to 11:00 AM. This position involves working with a small to medium group of kids, ages 1 year and older. No heavy lifting required or diapers. If you can help out, even once a month, please email connect@firstchristianreformed.org or talk to Judy Douma.

Meal Trains

Gil & Jan Blankespoor: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/51olrz>
Mark & Patty Veurink: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/ekqzw1>

GIVE UP In Order TO GIVE

SIMDEL Children's Education Ministry

Lent 2024: Give Up in Order to Give- Starting Feb 18

First CRC is once again partnering with SIMDEL Children's Education Ministry for this year's "Give Up In Order To Give" Lent campaign. The funds from this year's campaign will be used to meet a variety of needs of the children and families in the village of Dzogblakope in Togo, West Africa.

The offerings will be used to provide basic educational services such as uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies, offer optional tutoring services to the approximately 600 children at the school, continue the distribution of solar powered Torch Audio Bibles, maintain a weekly Bible study through a local church in the village for those desiring to learn more about God's Word and His love through His Son, Jesus Christ, and finally, working with some of the local families to create and develop sustainable incomes to meet their most basic physical needs.

In addition to the needed financial support SIMDEL earnestly seeks your prayer support for the leadership team in Togo, as well as the children, families and the church in Togo. An article will be available in the church's weekly newsletter highlighting specific areas of ministry throughout the weeks of Lent. Thank you for your support.

OUR MISSIONARIES

Missions Team

February Missionary Spotlight

Dominican Republic Missions Team

Doug Tinklenberg, Jodi Zylstra, Phil Bonnema, Jeff, Cole & Mason Runia, Dale Bloem, Nate Buys, and Jennie Clapp left for the Dominican Republic February 2 to help with another church build project. Since 2013, First CRC has funded and built 7 church buildings and has funded 2 more church building projects in the Dominican Republic. They will return February 11.



Update From the Dominican Team:

Despite some unexpected delays and mechanical problems, we arrived in Santa Domingo around 3 PM (local time) on Saturday, February 4.

We were warmly welcomed by Steve and Sandra Brauning, who graciously drove us to the ministry center. We shared a wonderful meal and prepared for Sunday's activities.

We had the privilege of attending the service at Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church, where we introduced ourselves, enjoyed the choir's music, and heard Pastor Steve's message delivered in both languages and had communion.

Following the service, we returned to the ministry center for lunch and even managed to squeeze in a siesta before embarking on an afternoon excursion to inspect the new building site. There is much to be done!

We are doing a lot of dirt work, and it's hot here (89 degrees)! We are staying hydrated. As we continue with our mission, we ask for your prayers for our health, safety, and the success of our endeavors.

Missionary Updates: Check out the info wall or click the button on the bottom of this newsletter for new updates from the Voss family and African Widow and Orphan Support

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

1st & 2nd Wednesdays- 5:30-6:30pm

February 7: Potato Bacon and Creamy Chicken Wild Rice Soups and Cinnamon Rolls

February 14: Valentines Day Pizza!

*Menu Subject to change. All Meals are Free Will Donation. Gluten Free Options available.

Valentines Wednesday Night Meal 2/14

Join us next week for a special Valentine's Wednesday Night Meal. We will be serving all things red. Heart-shaped Pizza, Strawberry ice cream Sundae, and Valentine's Treats. As a bonus, we will have flowers available for you to take home or bring to your sweetheart. -Freewill donations taken, suggested donation for a meal is \$3.00 per person

FIRST KIDS

Jill Smith

Super Cereal Bowl Sunday- February 11

K-6th Sunday School Students can enjoy a bowl of cereal before heading to class!

SCUBA VBS

Scuba VBS happening June 2-6 6:00pm-8:15pm. The Summer event that helps kids dive into friendship with God!

JUNIOR HIGH

Al Van Donkersgoed

JHM

Our next meeting is Sunday, March 18 from 6:00-8pm. Our plan was to go sledding, however, with the warm conditions we will instead meet at the church for a movie and some games. Popcorn, Candy and drinks will be available. The movie will be played in the fireside room with games in the gym. The following meeting will be March 3.

CATALYST

Will Grisham

Coordinators Needed!

2 Worksite Coordinators still needed for SERVE Sioux Falls! Sioux Falls SERVE Dates are July 20-27. Contact Will if interested.

HOSPITALITY

Denaë Matherly

A Note About Spills

We're delighted to see you enjoying your beverages here at church! Just a quick reminder: if you happen to spill (it happens to all of us!), please let a staff member know ASAP. It's much easier to clean when it's fresh. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Check In Stations

Starting March 3, we're introducing Check-In Stations and Nametags to enhance our connections. These initiatives will help Pastor Steve and all of us get to know each other better. Let's embrace these changes together as we build a stronger community! More information to come in the following weeks.

Super Bowl Snacks

Join us for Superbowl Snacks in the gym this Sunday, February 11, b/t services (9:30-10:30)

Monday Night Open Gym 🌟🏀

Ready to shoot some hoops or burn off some energy? Join us for Open Gym every Monday night, Through March 25, from 6:30-8:30 P.M. Bring your A-game, sneakers, and enthusiasm to unleash your energy and enjoy some physical activity. Come solo or bring your squad - everyone is welcome!

Extra Perks: First Perks coffee shop will also be open for everyone on these nights! Grab a coffee, play games, or simply relax and catch up with friends.

WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

Rest: A Service of Lament and Restoration

We are about to enter the season of Lent. This is a season in which we set aside special time to focus on our brokenness. Whether sin, shame, hurt, or pain, all are welcome at the foot of the cross. This year we will set aside time for a lament prayer service on March 10 at 5 pm in the sanctuary. The service will consist of both hymns and contemporary songs as well as songs for reflection. There will be scripture, prayer, and an opportunity to share of God's faithfulness. Regardless of where you are on your walk with the Lord, all are welcome to attend. If you know someone who could use an extra reminder of God's love, invite them to come along! If you have any questions or would like to be a prayer warrior for the service, please contact Gabby at gabby@firstchristianreformed.org.

Hymn of the Month

February's hymn of the month for the 8:30 service is "Be Still for the Presence". I'm confident that you will enjoy learning this contemporary hymn which was written in 1986 by David Evans, a piano teacher from England. The hymn was inspired by the story of Jacob at Bethel and a concern that we Christians sometimes "charge into worship without grasping the awesome reality that the Holy One is actually in our midst". This simple and sweet melody will help us to recognize the presence of God while we gather for worship.

Song of the Month

February's song of the month for the 10:30 service is "Jesus, Son of God" written by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, and Matt Maher in 2012. As we enter into the season of Lent, this song will help us reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross while also exalting his name in praise. The simple, ascending melody of the chorus is both easy to sing and powerful as we magnify the name of our Savior together!

COMMUNITY

Host Homes Needed!

The Northwestern College Music Department is seeking host families to provide hospitality and friendship for the Symphonic Band members while they are on tour April 11 - 14. The concert in Sioux Falls will be Thursday evening, April 11th at 6:30pm at LifeScope - 26th Street. Host homes are needed for the evening of April 11th only - one night! Host families are able to offer a sense of home to those away from home and, of course, are welcome to attend their tour concerts! Your consideration and generosity is greatly appreciated as we are in need of 28+ host homes! If you're interested in being a host family, please contact Brad & Carilyn Van Kalsbeek at (605) 359-5588 for further details.

DEACON'S MINISTRY

February 11- 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.

Coming Up: February 18 - General Fund

Offering Totals from Last Week

General Fund: \$ 20,472
Ministry Shares: \$ 1,310
Faith Promise (Dominican): \$ 8,917
Building Fund: \$ 317
Tuition Assistance: \$ 1,025

Weekly Total: \$ 32,041

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEB 7

- **Wednesday Night Meal**
5:30-6:30pm
- **Cadets**
6:30-8:30pm
- **Prayer Meeting**
7-8pm
- **Catalyst Youth Movement**
7-9pm

THURSDAY, FEB 8

- **Book Club Study**
6:45-8:45pm

FRIDAY, FEB 9

- **Senior Circuit**
10:30-11:30am

SATURDAY, FEB 10

- **Men of Integrity**
7:30-8:30am

SUNDAY, FEB 11

- **Worship**
8:30 & 10:30 am
- **Care Group 3 Coffee & Donuts**
9:30-10:30am
Vocal Choir Rehearsal
9:45-10:15am
- **Sunday School**
9:45-10:15am
- **Care Group 7 Lunch**
11:30am-2pm

MONDAY, FEB 12

- **Senior Circuit**
10:30-11:30am
- **Open Gym**
6:30-8:30pm
- **Men's Life Bible Study**
6:45-8pm
- **Monday Night Women's Bible Study**
6:45-8pm

TUESDAY, FEB 13

- **Senior Circuit**
10:30-11:30am
- **Tuesday Afternoon Women's Bible Study**
2-3:30pm

[Sunday Worship Folder](#)

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[Registrations](#)

[Room Reservation Request](#)

[Voss Update- NEW!](#)

[AWOS-Update](#)