



FIRST CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH

100 YEARS • 1923–2023

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 16, 2023

Office Hours:

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

Newsletter Announcements:

Send to office@firstchristianreformed.org
by 4:00pm on Wednesday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lent 2023: Give Up in Order to Give-Final Totals!

*We raised enough to buy 600 Torch Bibles!
Thank You for Giving Up to GIVE!*

Final Wednesday Meal of the Season- April 19

This Week's meal will be **Walking Tacos!** Serving begins at 5:30 until 6:30pm Freewill donation to help cover the cost of the meal! This is the FINAL Wednesday Meal of the Ministry Season!

Seniors and Friends- April 15

Senior and Friends will meet this Saturday, April 15 at 9:30 in the Fireside room at 1st CRC. Jeff Hayes, will share his involvement with Faith Temple Food Giveaway and open our minds to the issues with poverty and hunger in our own city. Join us for coffee and doughnuts and bring a friend.

Care Group 1 & 4 Grillout

Care Groups 1 & 4 will be having a Grill out here at church after second service this Sunday, April 16th

Missionary Updates

There are new newsletters from Steve & Sandra Brauning, as well as Aaron & Sadee Van Ruler linked to buttons on the bottom of this newsletter. There are paper copies located on the information wall as well.

Pastor Search

Would you like to be more involved in the Lead Pastoral Search? The SEARCH COMMITTEE launched a new feature on the website for you to submit your questions, concerns, or suggestions about the pastoral search. Click on the button at the bottom of this page to submit your questions or comments. We'd love to hear from you! [Search Committee Website](#)

Search Committee Mailbox

If you need to get physical forms to the search committee, look for the **NEW Search Committee Mailbox** in the upper left corner of the mailbox wall!

CENTENNIAL

1923-2023

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Centennial Banners

Throughout this centennial year, in addition to the Centennial Banner created by members of our congregation, we will also be displaying banners that were used in past years, many of which also were created by members of our congregation. (All the banners used during Easter week had been made at one time by members of First CRC). These historic banners will serve as reminders that our current gatherings are just one part of an entire century of worship here at First CRC.

Last Week's Trivia:

Q: On what street was our first church building located?

A: 6th Street & Spring Ave

This Week's Trivia:

Q: Who was the first couple to be married in our present church facility?

WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

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Spring Hymn Sing

You are invited come sing some of our great hymns of the faith at a Spring Hymn Sing! We will gather together next Sunday, April 23rd, at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. We hope to see you there!

FIRST KIDS MINISTRY

Heather Buys

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Last two Weeks of Sunday School

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

Children's Church 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!

[Sign me up for Stellar VBS!](#)

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](#)

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 Camp Registration](#)

Bingo Night!

First CRC is hosting a Bingo Night from 6-8 pm on Wednesday, May 3rd. They're will be a FREE SPACE in the parking lot for you and Pizza will be served B-4 from 6-6:30pm with Bingo starting right after. Click the button below to RSVP! Everyone Welcome!

[Sign me up for BINGO!](#)

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

Al Van Donkersgoed

Junior High Ministry

We meet this Sunday, April 16 at First CRC. A message on Gods will for your life. Beach Ball Volleyball and root beer floats. Our final meeting will be April 30 with a summer schedule to follow.

CATALYST YOUTH MINISTRY

Will Grisham

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!

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 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

Stephen Ministry: Need a confidential one on one Stephen Minister? Our Ministers are trained to help others navigate tough life circumstances. They are wonderful listeners and provide great care to those who ask for it. If you need someone to talk to, we have Stephen Ministers equipped to listen. If you need a Stephen Minister, contact our Director of Pastoral Care, Cole Pleggenkuhle. cole@firstchristianreformed.org

TECHNOLOGY

Paul Mobley

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 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

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 or 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 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 16 Offering: Tuition Support Fund

The Tuition Assistance Fund provides financial support for families in need of help with the cost of Christian school tuition for the 2022-2023 academic school year.

April 23 Offering: Faith Promise

The Faith Promise fund exists to provide systemic financial support to our Church adopted missionaries: Stephen & Sandra Brauning (Dominican Republic), Vasya & Maranda Heytsi (Ukraine), Micah Shuurman (Costa Rica), Sadee Van Ruler (Indiana), and LaVeryl & Max Voss (Papua New Guinea). It also supports the Faith-in-Action Fund which is used to help members of First CRC go on short-term (1-2 week) mission trips.

Offering Totals for the Week Ending April 9

General Fund: \$12,843
SIMDEL: \$11,598
Ministry Shares: \$4,406
World Renew-Good Friday: \$2,890
Faith Promise: \$780
Tuition Assistance \$450
Building Fund \$210

Weekly Total: \$33,177

CALENDAR

SUNDAY

8:30 & 10:30am Worship
9:45am Sunday School
9:45am Choir Rehearsal
11:30am Care Group 1 & 4 Grill out
6:15pm Junior High Ministry

MONDAY

10:30am Senior Circuit
6:45pm Men's Life

TUESDAY

10:30am Senior Circuit
7:00pm Ad Board Meeting
7:30pm Cadet Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY

6:30am Men's Bible Study
10:30am Collision Meals
5:30pm Wednesday Night Meal
6:30pm Cadets
6:30pm Bell Choir Practice
6:45pm Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm Catalyst

THURSDAY

5:45pm ReFit

FRIDAY

10:30am Senior Circuit

SATURDAY

7:30am Men of Integrity

[Sunday Worship Folder](#)

[Community Bulletin Board](#)

[Watch Sermons](#)

[Search Committee](#)

[Brauning Update](#)

[Van Ruler Update](#)

[Submit Prayer Requests](#)