



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

September 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday Centennial Celebration Location- In Case of Rain

Please Note: In the event of rain, the Centennial Celebration will take place at church. Watch your email for updates.

Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend the congregational meeting on Monday, September 11 at 7:00pm for members to vote to on the recommendation of council to extend a call to Pastor Zwart.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots are available on the Information Wall for Members who are unable to attend the congregational meeting. Please note: your name and signature are required for your ballot to be counted. Please place in the box by information wall prior to the meeting on Monday the 11th.

Custodial/Maintenance Opportunities at First CRC

First CRC is actively looking for Daytime Custodial help. This position would include up to 20 hours per week between the hours of 7:30am and noon. The work would include cleaning windows, floors, and bathrooms, as well as vacuuming, dusting and some light set up and take down. We also have some weekend opportunities available which would include Sundays from 7-noon as well as an occasional Saturday. Sundays would include prepping the church for worship Sunday morning, intermittent cleaning of the bathrooms, taking care of spills, garbage and closing the church for the day. Persons interested in this opportunity or who would like more information should contact Al vanDonkersgoed by email al@firstchristianreformed.org, by phone 605-321-2126 or in person at First CRC.

Transportation Ministry

We are looking for a few individuals who would be willing to pick up a few of our senior members on Sunday mornings prior to the 8:30 Service. If interested, contact Al Van Donkersgoed, or check out the Volunteer section of the Groups tab on the app.

SIMDEL Children's Education Ministry

We ask your prayers that the love of Christ Jesus and the light of the Gospel will be experienced by the children and families of Togo, West Africa during this year's ministry trip. Simplicie Noutsougan and Ron De Wit will be leaving Sioux Falls on Monday, September 11th to facilitate the ongoing work of SIMDEL by providing: tuition support, uniforms, backpacks and school supplies for the children who are unable to cover the cost of these basic expenses. This year we will also be providing for the construction of a concrete floor for the school, as well as the building of many new desks. We especially ask

your prayers that the Holy Spirit will use the distribution of the Torch Solar Powered Audio Bibles to bring men, women and children to a saving faith as many will hear the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ for the first time. Simplice and Ron are scheduled to return on Tuesday, September 26th. Thank you for the generous financial and prayer support this congregation has provided to make this ministry possible.

MOPS Childcare Workers Needed

Our MOPS year is beginning and we are looking for a few more childcare workers! This is a paid position. Childcare is provided for the moms during our meetings. We meet 2 Thursday mornings a month from September through April. We are specifically looking for substitute workers. Please contact Jill Dykstra (712) 441-5534 or dykstra2017@gmail.com for more information or to get your name on the list of people we can contact if we need a substitute.

Meal Trains

Steensmas: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/0ey359>

Patty Veurink: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/ekqzw1>

BIBLE STUDIES

Men of Integrity

Our Saturday morning Men of Integrity Bible Study invites men of all ages to join us. We will continue our study of "Where Do We Go From Here" by Dr. David Jeremiah. We meet at 7:30 am beginning Saturday, Sept. 16, in the gym. If you have any questions please contact Stan Ter Horst, 605-941-3374 or checkout the Men's Groups under the Groups tab in the Church Center app.

Men's Life

Men meet from 6:45 to 7:45pm Monday evenings to study Genesis beginning September 18. All ages of men are welcome. For more information contact Aaron Zylstra or Jack Gray or checkout the Men's Groups under Groups tab in the app.

Women's Bible Studies

Join other women in study and lively discussion of Biblical truths that affect all our lives in practical ways. Starting the 2nd week in October, one group meets at 6:45PM on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings each month; another group meets at 2pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month (includes a coffee time). You're welcome to come to either group whenever you can. The lessons will be based on Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, including: What do we really treasure? Giving is about more than money; Lying to yourself and others; When does knowledge become wisdom? and How you talk matters. You can pick up a study guide for the first lesson in Sharon Buwalda's mailbox on September 24.

Coffee Break is Back!

Are you looking for a place to gather and engage in Bible Study with other women? We are happy to announce that we are starting a Coffee Break Ministry on September 13 from 9:45-11:00am. This Bible Study is open to women of all ages, and childcare will be provided. We will take time to worship, fellowship, and break into small groups for more in-depth Bible study.

[Register For Coffee Break](#)

Nursery Helpers for Coffee Break

Is this you?? What are your gifts? Do you love hanging out with God's littlest creations? Maybe you love to rock babies or read stories to kids. We would love to see your smiling face in the nursery during our Coffee Break Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. The time commitment is low, but the emotional reward is high. We would love consistent help who are able to come to every meeting, but we also welcome you if you can only help a few times a month or even if you could be a sub. Contact Kaye Sjaarda or Judy Douma for more details. Or click here to register:

[Register to Be a Coffee Break Nursery Helper](#)

CENTENNIAL

1923-2023

IT'S HERE! Centennial & Ministry Kickoff Celebration is September 9-10!

Volunteers: If you have volunteered to help in any way, the lists will be posted at Cherry Rock Park. Just look for the Volunteer table. Otherwise, you can email Lindsey Bender at lindsey.ryan.bender@gmail.com with questions ahead of time.

What if it Rains?

In case of rain, the Centennial will take place at church. Please watch your email and social media for updates.

I Didn't Register; Can I Still Come?

Forgot to sign up for the Centennial and Ministry Kickoff Celebration? Plans changed and you can come after all? No worries. We ordered extra food and hope to see you there for the Picnic on Saturday afternoon, the Ministry Reflections on Saturday night, and the worship services and reception for former pastors on Sunday.

[Centennial Schedule](#)

Centennial Menu

Menu:

Pulled pork or brisket on a bun
Cheesy hash browns
Baked beans
Coleslaw
Ice cream
Water or lemonade

Centennial Schedule- Saturday

10:00am Alumni choir practice
12:30 – 6:30pm Shuttle service appx every 30 mins
1:00pm Softball game #1 (Teams 1 & 2)
2:00pm Softball game #2 (Teams 3 & 4)
1:30 – 4:30pm Inflatables for kids
2:00 – 3:30pm Relay games in the park
1:00 – 4:00pm Lawn games, Sand volleyball
5:00pm Opening prayer & picnic meal served
6:15pm Clean up
7:00pm Reflections from former pastors

Centennial Tips

- Cherry Rock Park is located on Southeastern Avenue just north of 18th Street
- Shuttles will be available from the First CRC parking lot beginning at 12:30 PM and run throughout the afternoon.
- Please drop off passengers at Cherry Rock Park before driving to the First CRC parking lot for the shuttle.
- Parking is quite limited in the park but there is on street parking available in the area and passengers can be dropped off at the park before finding parking.
- Please bring your own seating (blankets, lawn chairs, etc.) as well as water bottles, and sunscreen. All meal service, including utensils will be provided.

Be a Part of the Centennial Video Wrap Up!

Would you like to be part of the wrap up video as we celebrate our centennial?

We will be filming Saturday, Sep 9 at Cherry Rock Park and would love to record people reading our centennial theme verse: Psalm 100:5 "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

We will also have a filming location set up at church on Sunday, Sep 10, and would love to get your response to this question. "What is your hope for our church in the next 100 years?" Please look for the signs or contact Josh Nyenhuis if you would like to participate. All ages welcome!

Centennial Vocal Choir

Calling all present and past choir members, family and friends who will be attending our centennial celebration, anyone (HS & older) who would like to sing in the choir for this historical event in our church. Rehearsal will be Saturday, September 9 at 10:00am in the Sanctuary. We are looking forward to giving thanks to God as we join our voices in song! Contact Lex De Wit with questions at lexron416@aol.com.

Centennial Videos

If you've missed one of the Centennial Videos or simply want to view it once again, they are now available on the website at <https://firstchristianreformed.org/about-us/centennial-celebration>, or by clicking the Centennial Celebration icon at the very top of the home page on the website.

Last Week's Trivia:

Q: What was the first year that a team from First CRC went to the Ukraine to share the Gospel?

A: 2013

This Week's Trivia:

Q: How many souls were members when the church was incorporated in 1923?

- Families: 8, 12 or 20?
- Professing: 18, 22 or 26?
- Baptized: 28, 38 or 48?

Centennial Trivia

You can now play the Centennial Trivia game online! If you've missed any of the past categories -- or want to check the time and accuracy of your memory, play this multiple choice Trivia Challenge at <https://search.firstchristianreformed.org/centennial-celebration-1923-2023/>

FIRST KIDS MINISTRY

Jill Smith

We Need You!

Ministry season will be kicking off soon and if you are looking for a way to volunteer, we need you! Nursery, Children's Church, Sunday School, GEMS, Cadets...If you are interested or what to learn more about what's involved, contact Jill Smith or email jill@firstchristianreformed.org, or check out Volunteer tab in the app on the home page.

Register for Children's Ministries

Registration for all of our [children's and youth ministries](#) is now available! Please register your child for the ministries they will be attending as this greatly helps us plan! Also available in the App under Events.

[Register for Children's Ministries Here](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY

Al Van Donkersgoed

JHM

Junior High Ministry is open to all 7th and 8th grade students. We meet Sunday Nights every other week from 6:15-7:45pm at First CRC. Our first meeting is Sunday Sept 17 at First CRC, and our second meeting will be Sunday Oct. 1 at the Heartland Corn Maze. To stay in touch connect with us on Remind sending a text to 81010 with the message @1crcjhm. Don't forget to register your student using our Church Center App.

[Register for Junior High Ministries Here](#)

CATALYST YOUTH MINISTRY

Will Grisham

Big Soo Coupon Books Have Arrived!

We have Big Soo Coupon books for the 2023-2024 year in stock. On sale for \$42, the books contain over \$8000 in savings. They are available at the Ministry Fair Table in the Activity Center on Sunday, or at the office during the week. Make checks payable to First Christian Reformed Church. Proceeds benefit Catalyst.

[Register for Catalyst Here](#)

HOSPITALITY

Denae Matherly

Get The App!

Download Church Center from the app store today. On it, you can find the directory, your specific volunteer schedule, the whole church calendar, and the ability to give your donations online. You will also see your care group and scheduled church events, have access to registration for our ministries, and the ability to sign up for open volunteer slots. If you need help getting it set up, please get in touch with Denae at denae@firstchristianreformed.org

Church Life Photos:

You can email us any church related photos at (connect@firstchristianreformed.org), text photos to (605-321-8363), or text to request a link for our photo circle sharing information.

WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

Vocal Choir

Vocal Choir rehearsals begin Sunday, September 17. We meet 9:45-10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room located downstairs. We sing once-a-month at both morning services, October-April. Senior high school students to adults of all ages are welcome!! Come sing with us!! Lex DeWit, Choir Director, lexron416@aol.com

Join The Worship Team!

We have immediate needs for drummers, guitarists, bassists, piano players, and vocalists at our 10:30 service. If you have any level of experience in any of these areas and are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please reach out to Gabby at gabby@firstchristianreformed.org. We have some great training resources and are happy to start with beginners, people who used to play but haven't for a while, or people who are used to playing in a more traditional style. Come and join the Worship Team - an exciting and rewarding way to serve the congregation!

Centennial Hymn of the Month

As we move towards the end of our Centennial year, we begin to focus more on the future. Our hymns of the month for the 8:30 service for the remainder of the year reflect choices of songs that fit into the category of contemporary hymns (songs with a hymn structure but written within the last 50 years). September's hymn of the month was published in 1977. "The Servant Song" was popular in the early '90s but has recently made a resurgence in churches due to its melodic simplicity, theme of serving those around us, and clear connection to scripture.

The song of the month for the 10:30 service has become exceedingly popular on Christian radio and within the contemporary style of worship over the past three years. Published in 2020, "Hymn of Heaven" has the classic combination of story-telling verses and a soaring chorus that Phil Wickham has become known for. This song points us to the hope that we have in Christ and allows us to dream of what the new heaven and the new earth will be like. With these lyrics captivating our imaginations, we are sure to enjoy joining the thousands of generations that have come before us and the heavenly angel chorus as we sing, "Holy is the Lord".

PASTORAL CARE

Cole Pleggenkuhle

Interested In Starting A Bible Study?

If you are interested in starting a new small group Bible study in the Fall, please feel free to reach out to Cole for resources and ideas. cole@firstchristianreformed.org

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 Ministers equipped to listen. If you need a Stephen Minister, contact our Director of Pastoral Care:
Cole Pleggenkuhle cole@firstchristianreformed.org

COMMUNITY

Bible League Conference

You are invited to Bible League Conference on Tuesday, September 12 at 9:00am. Taking place at Bethel Church in Sioux Center, IA, you are invited to join hear speaker Carol Kent as she shares her life experience in growing an enduring faith and impacting the world for Christ. For more information, speak to Carla Kooiman, check the information board for more details, or register online at [bible league.org/tickets](https://bibleleague.org/tickets)

DEACON'S MINISTRY

September 3: Offering of the Day – 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.

September 10: Offering of the Day - General Fund

The General Fund supports the local ministry programs, including evangelism, youth, children, adults, worship, small group, and health ministries, as well as the operational expenses of the property, office, and personnel expenses. God has blessed First CRC with the opportunity to minister through these programs.

Offering Totals- Week Ending September 3

General Fund: \$ 19,855
Ministry Shares: \$ 2,675
Faith Promise: \$ 998
Building Fund: \$ 838
Tuition Assistance: \$ 1,484
Cornerstone: \$719

Weekly Total: \$ 26,569

CALENDAR

FRIDAY 9/8

10:30am Senior Circuit

SATURDAY 9/9

10:00am Centennial Choir Rehearsal
12:30pm Shuttle Service Begins
1:00pm Games Begin
5:00pm Meal
7:00pm Reflections from Pastors

SUNDAY 9/10

8:30am & 10:30am Worship
9:30am Donuts & Fireside Memories
9:30am Ministry Fair

MONDAY 9/11

10:30am Senior Circuit
7:00pm Congregational Meeting

TUESDAY 9/12

10:30am Senior Circuit

WEDNESDAY 9/13

9:45am Coffee Break
10:30am Collision Meal
6:30pm Handbell Practice
6:30pm GEMS
6:30pm Search Committee Meeting
6:30pm Women's Bible Study
7:00pm Prayer Meeting
7:00pm Catalyst @ Corn Maze

THURSDAY 9/14

FRIDAY 9/15

SATURDAY 9/16

7:30am Men of Integrity

[Sunday Worship Folder](#)

[Watch Sermons](#)

[Submit Prayer Request](#)

[Email First CRC Office](#)

[Candidate for Pastor](#)