

December 24, 2023

Morning Worship

GATHER

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candles - The Buskard Family

*Song: **Meekness and Majesty vs 1&3**

Lord of eternity dwells in humanity.

*God's Greeting and Greeting One Another

Ministry in Song by Walk-Up Choir: God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen vs 1-3

How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

RENEWAL

Confession

Song: **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence vs 1-4**

Christ our Lord to earth descended. Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Congregational Prayer

Children's Message

*Song: **That Boy-Child of Mary vs 1-4**

One with the Father, He is our Savior.

WORD

Series: The Gifts of Christmas

Scripture: *Hebrews 1:1-4*

Message: **Revelation**

Prayer

SENT

*Benediction

*Song: **Once in Royal David's City vs 1, 2, 5**

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all.

*Postlude and Christian Fellowship

Pastor Dave

Organist: Kim Persenaire

Pianist: Kim Byker

Children's Message: Linda Horstman

Scripture Reader: Jack Huisman

*Congregation stands if able

Welcome!

If you have a prayer request or you would like to know more about us, please fill out the Welcome Card and place in one of the Connection boxes as you leave the sanctuary. To view our services online go to: firstchurchdudsonville.org and click the link at the top of the page.

THIS SUNDAY: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

AM: Hebrews 1: 1-4 Series: The Gifts of Christmas Message: **Revelation**

We live in a world full of noise and distraction that leaves us with a deep longing to experience the presence and voice of God. In this message, we'll reflect on God's gift of revelation. We'll learn how God speaks and how we can tune our hearts to hear His voice.
Offering: Benevolent Fund

PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service This simple, beautiful service will focus our attention on the real meaning of the season. We will read from the Scriptures, sing the favorite carols, and reflect on Jesus's entry into the world. At the end of the service, the sanctuary will be filled with candlelight as we sing "O, Holy Night."
Offering: Starlight Ministries

CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP 9:30 a.m. "The Greatest Gift!" Join with family, friends and our church family to celebrate the miracle of Christmas. This music-filled worship service will fill your heart with joy and gratitude. Come to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ - *The Greatest Gift*. Offering: World Renew

NEXT WEEK:

AM: Micah 5:1-5 Message: **Little Is Much When God Is In It** Join us as Guest Pastor Rev. Jeff McCleary leads us in worship. God often uses the humble, little noticed things and people of this world to do extraordinary things according to His purposes. Although we don't typically view ourselves as special, could it be that God might use us to accomplish significant things for Him?
Offering: First CRC Kids Hope

PM: 1 Timothy 1: 12-17 Message: **A Year of Grace and Patience** Guest Pastor Rev. Tom Pettinga leads us in worship as we conclude 2023. Paul's testimony demonstrated the way God in Jesus Christ deals with sinners like us - all is by his underserved, "poured out" grace and with his "unlimited patience." He came into the world to save sinners with that grace and patience. The question arises: Do I really trust that he is still being patient with me and that his grace is enough for a rebel like me? Will I exercise grace and patience with the people around me in the coming days with all the turmoil in the world? What will it look like if we mimic God in Christ with that grace and patience?
Offering: Starlight Ministries

Evening offerings for the month of **December** will go to Starlight Ministries. Evening offerings for the month of **January** will go to Degage. Offerings may be placed in the boxes located at the sanctuary entrances.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 Budget has been approved by the Congregation at last week's meeting. The Council wishes to thank the Congregation for their approval.

Pastor Dave will be on vacation December 26- January 1. If you have any pastoral needs, please contact your Care Group Elder.

Use of Church Facilities - Outside of regularly scheduled meetings (i.e. Cadets, GEMS, Pop!, Bible studies) please be sure to contact Betty Velderman. Even if it's a quick meeting, she needs to know so you don't interfere with other group meetings and for cleaning purposes. Thanks - Council.

Sunday Adult Education on the book of 1 Peter will NOT meet December 24 or December 31.

Men's Prayer Group will take a short break for Christmas and resume on January 9 with Chapter 11.

Are you 20-35 years old? We are trying to start a young adult group for both singles and married couples and are looking for people to join and or help start it up! There will be a meeting on January 7 after the morning service in Pastor Dave's office to help get ideas and kick start this opportunity! If you have any ideas of what you would like to see in a young adult group or would like to help start it please come to this meeting or contact Alyssa Horstman at (616) 581-0544

The church website has a new look! Please contact Cheri Huisman if you have any issues with using the site.

South Elementary Support - We will, again, be collecting snacks for South Elementary students. Please purchase individually wrapped items (granola bars, small bags of pretzels/cookies/crackers, fruit and grain bars, cracker and cheese packs) and place them in the labeled tote in the foyer. Contact Cheri Huisman with questions.

December Missionary Highlight:

Ray and Angie DeLange, Church Planting Catalysts with East-West Ministries
Prayer Items:

- Pray that Angie finds relief from her back pain.
- Pray for physical and spiritual protection for the students and staff at Pars Theological Centre.
- Pray for the Middle Eastern people group to whom the DeLanges are ministering.

Nursery: The Nursery is open for morning services.

This Week: Kara Helms, Kelly Caryl, Anna Hoezee

Christmas: Cassie Helms, Ella Stuive, Aubrey Palmboos

Next Sunday: Andrea Matthyse, Cheryl Brouwer, Evie Hoezee

Ushers for December:

AM: Dave Aukeman, Andrew Bard, Zac Byker, Alan Groenendyk

PM: Dan Helms, Dan Los, Cal Palmboos

Ushers for January:

AM: Jeremy Matthyse, Ron Moelker, Mike Krikke, Tony Cadahia

PM: Eric Laansma, Andrew Power, Ray Ponstein

Coffee Server: This Week: Judy DeHaan

Next Week: Jo Victory

PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER

A Birthday to Remember! Happy birthday to Gary DeHaan, who celebrates his 83rd birthday on Friday, December 29!

Concerns and Praises:

- **Garrett Mulder** was hospitalized last week with issues related to his heart.
- **Mic Jurgens** and **Jean Mulder** continue their recovery from hip surgery.
- **Dave Vruwink** is undergoing tests related to past strokes.

Shut-ins: Joyce Feenstra, Arlene Schut, Fran Nederveld and Henrietta Dyke.

If you have any needs or prayer requests, please contact your Care Group Elder/Deacon or Pastor Dave.

Our Prayer Coordinator, Tammy Schnyders, produces a monthly prayer sheet, "Partners in Prayer", sends out prayer emails, and regularly updates the Praise and Prayer Line [669.5548]. If you have a prayer need contact Pastor Dave, your Care Group Elder, or Tammy Schnyders.

FIRST CRC/PINE REST PARTNERSHIP Financial Consultation & Wellness Tools

Want help managing your budget or understanding mortgages, retirement planning, saving for college tuition, or other financial challenges? Our First CRC/Pine Rest partnership works with Lake Michigan Credit Union to provide free financial consultations, education and wellness tools. For more information and to access services, call 800.442.0809 (press 1) or send an email to eap@pinerest.org.

FROM THE DENOMINATION

Kids Corner: Christmas Love for God's Global Family - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Just like the wise men, we can choose to follow Jesus. By accepting the gift of his love, we give him a big gift: our hearts. God's family is together by the love of Jesus, which was shown on the first Christmas. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible story podcast "The Wise Men."

Jesus is All of Christmas - As we give and receive gifts, we celebrate Jesus, God's gift to us! Will you add someone who lives in poverty to your Christmas giving today? Change a life for good with an item from World Renew's Gift Catalog. Give online at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

Unity Christian High School has several teaching positions open for the 2024-25 academic year. If you or someone you know is looking for a new teaching opportunity, please visit Unity's website (www.unitychristian.org/connect/EmploymentOpportunities) for more details and instructions on how to apply. Positions available are: Full time – Science, Spanish, STEM; Part time – Industrial Arts, Art.

The Dordt University Chamber Orchestra from Sioux Center, Iowa, invites you to a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at the Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids. This free concert is part of a winter tour with performances scheduled in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Iowa. Under the baton of Associate Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Activities Dr. Onsby C. Rose, the Dordt University Chamber Orchestra will perform a wide variety of repertoire ranging from the Romantic era with Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*, to music by living composers, such as *Only Light* by Minnesota native Aaron Perrine. Join us for an evening of music for the Glory of God! The concert is free, with a freewill offering received to help defray tour expenses.

FROM LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Requesting Donations

- We are requesting donations for ALL travel sized items (body wash, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, bar soap, etc.) and baby wipes.
- We are in need of women's deodorant, shaving cream, mouthwash, and baby wipes
- We are in need of kids shoes, men's clothing, and kitchenware.

If you or someone you know is struggling due to the increase in gas and groceries, please reach out to our connection center at 616-662-3300x128!

Join us tonight for our
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
at 5:00PM



Today in the town of David a Savior has been
born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be a sign to you: You will find a
baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
- Luke 2: 11&12