

12/17/2023

First Christian Reformed Church



We welcome our guests and hope that you will be blessed by worshipping the Lord together with us today. If you are presently seeking a church home, we welcome you to join us here at First CRC! You will find a guest card in your pew. Please fill one out and place it in the offering bag during the service so we can reach out to you. If you would like further information about our church, please visit us at www.waupuncrc.com or call (920-324-2898) or email the church office (waupuncrc@gmail.com). Pastor Greg Schuringa would be happy to connect with you after the service or during the week as well: pastorgreg@waupuncrc.com.

Large-print bulletins and **children's bulletins** are available from an usher.

You can watch our services live on Facebook and later from our website as well as view the bulletin there. Website address is www.waupuncrc.com

Our Core Values: We show Christ's love through continual learning and discipleship, compassionate fellowship, dynamic public worship, and impactful service and outreach.



**FIRST CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH**
WAUPUN, WISCONSIN

Office hours: Thursdays, 10 AM to 2 PM

All announcements are due in the office by noon Thursday

Phone: 920-324-2898 email: waupuncrc@gmail.com

PO Box 32, Waupun

9:30 AM Worship Service
* Please stand if you are able.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

*Song of Christ's Coming: "Come, O Redeemer, Come"

*God's Greeting

*Songs of Praise: "Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)"

"Angels From the Realms of Glory" R259:1, 2, 5

Children's Christmas Program: Scripture, Sonnet, and Song

Please join the children in singing the songs as indicated on the slides.

Congregational Prayer

Offering: Local Budget and Operation Christmas Child

Children ages 3-6 are invited to children's worship

Song of Worship: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" R279

*Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35

Message: "Noel in the Old Testament #3: Joyful All the Time"

Prayer

*Song of Response: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" R250

*Benediction

*Doxology: "Angels We Have Heard on High Doxology"

*Postlude

Taking part in worship today:

- Sermon and Worship Leader: Pastor Greg Schuringa
- Advent Reading and Candle Lighting: Dan and Gladys Montsma, Leaders of Life Group #4
- Accompanist: Laura Ten Pass
- Worship Team: Pastor Greg; Laura Ten Pass (piano); Nikki Durni (acoustic guitar and vocals); Hanna Marra (percussion); Kim Greenfield, Michelle Mulder (vocals)
- Media Team: Tyler Ten Pass, Cassidy Ritzema, Mike Vander Berg
- Coffee: Randall and Kim Greenfield
- Children's Worship: Becca Vree, Sophia Schuringa, Troy Hoffman
- Nursery: Mackenzie Mulder, Kaytlin Ruis, Morgan Buwalda
- Transportation: Bob Mulder
- Ushers: Ryer Greenfield, Tom Jonker

Missionary Letters

J Buteyn to Neen*

M Buteyn to Chaplain Pete

*Pray especially for this missionary family this week.

Giving to First CRC

If you feel led to give to our church's ministry, please place your donation in the offering bags passed by the deacons during the service. All loose cash offerings will go to the Faith Promise Fund the first Sunday and the month's special offering the remaining Sundays (Operation Christmas Child for December), while any loose and undesignated checks will go to the local budget. Budget envelopes will go to the designated funds. On-line giving is also available, just go to our website and click on "Give" at the top of the page. Please talk to a deacon if you want more information about giving to First CRC.

Our Family

As you pray this week, please remember the following:

- **Jim Groenewold**, Parkinson's challenges.
- **Kathy Kamphuis, Laura Ten Pass**, cancer treatments.

Please note the following corrections for the new directory:

- Marlyce Mulder's phone number is 407-310-1777.
- Tyler Schulz's email address is tyler.schulz@wernerharmesen.com.

Church News

Upcoming Worship Highlights

- December 24—9:30 AM, 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas service; 5 PM, Christmas Eve Hymn Sing
- December 31—Old Year Worship with Matt Hofman
- January 7—New Year Worship

There is no Sunday School for Pre-K through 10th graders today. There will be no Sunday School or Catechism on December 24 and 31.

Parking Lot resurfacing Project: \$62,657 (78%) raised of the estimated \$80,000.

On Saturday, Dec. 23, our church will be ringing the **Salvation Army** bells at Piggly Wiggly in Waupun from 10 AM to 6 PM. If you are willing and able to take a two-hour shift, please talk to Arky Navis.

A Life Group will be serving hot apple cider and goodies in the narthex after the **Christmas Eve Service**.

A huge thank you to all who came out to support our first annual SWaT Dinner & a Movie fundraiser supper. Through your support we were able to raise enough money to help purchase Christmas gifts for 10 local kids and warm winter clothes for families and refugees at New Life Church in Tyachiv Ukraine! If you'd like to send a Christmas card or note of encouragement to Pastor Vasya and Maranda Heytsi, please reach out to Jen Vlietstra as she's packing boxes to ship to Ukraine.

The First/Bethel Youth Group would like to say thank you for all your continued love and support through events like dining out at Benvenuto's in Beaver Dam to ordering subs at our annual sub sandwich sales! Without your continued support we'd be unable to host events like Wisconsin Winter Retreat or our weekly meetings.

The First/Bethel Youth Group would like to invite all recent alumni of our youth group to a night of food & fellowship, Wednesday, December 27. Details coming soon!

Christian Reformed Church Position on Human Sexuality. A couple years ago as churches in our denomination we were given an opportunity to review and give feedback on the Human Sexuality Report that came from a denominational Study Committee. With input from the denomination as a whole, the HSR was approved and affirmed at our denomination's last two Synods. Synod is the CRC's annual gathering of pastors, elders and deacons. Recently, in response to Synod 2023's request for further equipping of the churches, CRC General Secretary, Zach King, has provided the following 10-minute video as a resource to concisely share what we believe on these matters and also to speak to the important pastoral implications that the CRC has emphasized:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-raziGne3dM>

Community News

CWC Elementary Christmas Program. Our elementary students are working hard on preparing their Christmas Program! We will be sharing "The Animal Alleluia" by Joanna Mills. A Christmas musical that retells the Christmas story through the eyes of the animals and reminds us that even the humblest among us have important gifts to share. Also featuring the Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah. Join our 4K - 5th graders on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 9:00 AM and 6:30 PM in the Crusader Centre. Please

come to whichever time works best for you. We look forward to seeing you and sharing our music with you!

The Brandon Reformed Church Choir will be presenting the Cantata "Breath of Heaven" TODAY at 3:00 PM, followed by the Children's Christmas Program "Christmas Road Trip." Fellowship will follow.

Merry Christmas! If you have no plans for Christmas day, we invite you to join us for a home-cooked meal, served at the Wesley Center in Waupun on Monday, Dec. 25, at 11:30 AM and 12:45 PM. To allow for ongoing COVID concerns, we will serve buffet style and seating will be spaced. Please call 920-928-3310 for reservations and state which time slot you plan to attend. There is no charge for the dinner.

Christmas Possibility - Next week we celebrate the possibility of being made right with God, starting with the birth of Jesus. He showed us the way to give to people in need. You can give a goat, a family water filter, or a tree pruning kit from World Renew's Gift Catalog at worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - "...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them." In what ways might you make more space for Jesus in your everyday life? Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

Kids Corner: The Shepherds' Joy - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. At the beginning of Luke 2, the shepherds were kind of like the last ones to be picked. They got the long and boring night shift job that nobody wanted to do: watch the stinky sheep. But God picked them for a special task the night Jesus was born. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible story podcast "The Shepherds."

Groundwork: Jesus: Our Everlasting Father - Isaiah continued to reveal the nature of the Messiah when he called him the "Everlasting Father." Join our Groundwork conversation as we study Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 63:15-16, John 14:6-14, 1 John 1:1-4, and 1 John 3:1-3 to better understand how this revolutionary title reveals the nature of Jesus and discover the comfort and belonging offered to us in Jesus, our Everlasting Father. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Calendar

Today: 9:30 AM Worship Service
Wednesday: 6:30 PM Cadets Christmas Party at the Union(?)
Sunday: 9:30 AM Worship Service

Next Week

Accompanist

Brenda Hofman

Coffee

Bob and Michelle Mulder

Children's Worship

Stacey Schaver, Adrianna Schuringa,
Kase Buwalda

Nursery

Becca Vree, Emily Aalsma, Olivia
Vander Werff

Livestream

Rachel Hoffman

PPT

Katie DeJager

Sound System

Scott Ritzema

Transportation

Bob Mulder

Ushers

Ben Mulder, Brian O'Donovan

Care Group	Elder	Deacon
1	Keith Buwalda (2025)	Todd Schouten (2024)
2	Brian O'Donovan (2026)	Tyler Jansen (2025)
3	Bob Mulder (2025)	Todd Schouten (2024)
4	George Aalsma (2024)	Mitch Vree (2025)
5	Dan Scheuers (2025)	Tyler Ten Pass (2024)
6	Al Venhuizen (2026)	Mike Hoffman (2026)
7	Brad Schouten (2026)	Kirk Van Buren (2026)
8	Ray Hofman (2024)	Tyler Ten Pass (2024)

Come Oh Redeemer Come

Verse 1: Father enthroned on high – Holy, holy
Ancient eternal light - Hear our prayer

Verse 2: Lord save us from the dark - Of our striving faithless
And troubled hearts - Weighed down

Chorus: Come oh Redeemer come - Grant us mercy
Come oh Redeemer come - Grant us peace

Verse 3: Look now upon our need - Lord be with us
Heal us and make us free - From our sin

CCLI Song # 2069663 - Fernando Ortega - © 1996 Metro One
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 1865451

Joy To The World (Unspeakable Joy)

Verse 1: Joy to the world the Lord is come - Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room - And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing - And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Verse 2: Joy to the world the Savior reigns - Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains - Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy – Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Chorus: Joy unspeakable joy - An overflowing well
No tongue can tell - Joy unspeakable joy
It rises in my soul - Never lets me go

Verse 3: He rules the world with truth and grace - And makes the nations
prove - The glories of His righteousness - And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love - And wonders, wonders of His love

CCLI Song # 5607039
Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts | Matt Gilder
Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs; Ryan House Music;
Wondrously Made Songs
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 1865451

Angels We Have Heard on High Doxology

Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Sermon Notes