

# First Christian Reformed Church



## Who We Are

Welcome to First CRC! We're glad you're here to worship with us today! By God's grace, we're a family of believers that has been gathering to worship God and serve others for some 100 years. We were established out of nearby Alto CRC, in 1921, and later in 1961, Bethel CRC in Waupun, started from members of First.

At First CRC, in Sunday worship and during the week, you'll find many historic and biblical practices of the Christian faith. Our leadership, elders and deacons and pastor, seek to keep these vibrant and relevant to Christians living in today's world.

## Child Care and Student Ministries on Sunday Mornings

During worship, we have nursery care for children ages 0-2, and Children's Worship for children ages 3 through 4K. Children's Worship kids are dismissed halfway through the worship service. After worship parents should pick up their children on the upper level where these ministries take place. If you need to take a child out of the worship service for a bit, you may go to our Lower Level where there are two couches and a nearby bathroom. By the couches a TV is playing the service live.

Sunday School and Catechism for K – 12<sup>th</sup> graders is currently on summer break.

## What We Believe

We subscribe to the historic Christian faith; the Bible is our final authority in faith and life; we also look by grace through faith alone to Christ alone for our salvation. For more details about what we believe and how we live out the faith, please visit our website ([waupuncrc.com](http://waupuncrc.com)) or our denomination's website ([crcna.org](http://crcna.org)).

Our worship services are broadcast on our YouTube channel. Regular, large-print, and children's bulletins are available from an usher. Contact Lois Mulder in the office ([waupuncrc@gmail.com](mailto:waupuncrc@gmail.com)) or Pastor Greg Schuringa ([pastorgreg@waupuncrc.com](mailto:pastorgreg@waupuncrc.com)) for anything else related to First CRC, including membership, our ministries, as well as what we believe and practice. Please join us for coffee and conversation near our main entrance each Sunday before and after worship.

## 9:30 AM Worship Service

\* Please stand if you are able.

Prelude

\*Call to Worship

\*God's Greeting and We Greet One Another

\*Songs of Worship: "Holy, Holy, Holy" R3

"Sovereign Over Us"

Confession and Assurance: Psalm 130

\*Song of Response: "Just As I Am" R488

Congregational Prayer

Offertory and Offering for the Local Budget and ONE Waupun

*Children ages 3 through 4K are invited to Children's Worship*

\*Scripture Reading: Malachi 3:6-12

Message: "Are We Robbing God?"

Prayer

Song of Response: "Take My Life and Let It Be" R597

\*God's Parting Blessing

\*Doxology: "My Friends, May You Grow in Grace"

\*Postlude

### Taking part in worship today:

- Worship Leader and Sermon: Matt Hofman
- Accompanist: Cara Schmitt
- Worship Team: Brian Ten Pass, Tyler Ten Pass, Jessica Ten Pass, Hollie Ganz
- Congregational Prayer: Al Venhuizen
- Media Team: Scott Ritzema, Katie DeJager, Randall Greenfield
- Coffee: Steve and Heidi Smits
- Children's Worship: Lyn Mulder, Casey Homan, Lennette Aalsma
- Nursery: Becca Vree, Emily Aalsma, Tirzah Ritzema

- Transportation: Bob Mulder
- Ushers: Kolton Buwalda, Brad Schouten

### Missionary Letters

J Pluim to Neen/Angel\*

D Rens 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 of the month and the month's special offering the remaining Sundays (ONE Waupun for August), while any loose and undesignated checks will go to the local budget. Budget envelopes will go to the designated funds. Online giving is also available, just scan the QR code here. 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:**

- **Rachel Hoffman**, chemotherapy treatments.
- **Norm Jansma**, fatigue, three more once-a-month treatments.
- **Margaret Miedema**, after surgery pain is much less, but still no voice.
- **Nancy Wierenga**, pain continues, likely back surgery in the future.
- **Gregg Zonnefeld**, radiation treatments complete, chemo continues every other week.

**We have another wedding coming up soon.** Miranda Vander Berg and Peter Zambo will be getting married in a few weeks. Help us celebrate this couple by placing donated household goods or gift cards in the tote starting next week. The tote will be available until September 7. Cleaning supplies, popcorn, kitchen utensils, and whatever else you can think of to show they are loved.

**Pastor Greg Schuringa** is taking a vacation week and a fifth Sunday (from later this month) over this Sunday and the next, the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of August.

## Church News

### Upcoming Worship Highlights

- August 17—Bible Presentations for Second Graders
- August 24—Professions of Faith in worship
- September 21—Commissioning of Teachers for the start of Sunday School and Catechism

**First CRC Youth Ministry Update.** The Education Committee is planning on First CRC having our own High School youth group once again, and a Middle School group too as soon as we have adults willing to volunteer. This came about after a decision Bethel CRC recently made about our shared youth groups, followed by conversations with our Council, and Education Committee and youth leaders, as well as an August 3 meeting with parents

and students to talk about proceeding this way as a church. Students of course are free to attend any youth group they would like, but we'd like to encourage our parents and students to commit to building up First's youth group. Please pray for plans being made for First CRC to have a dynamic, intentional, relationship-building, Christ-focused, and substantive youth group for our students.

**Young Couples Life Group.** This fall Pastor Greg and Sarah and Kevin and Andrea Buwalda plan to lead a Life Group for young couples (roughly, those who have been married 0-20 years) focusing on Christian Marriage. We plan to explore The Five Love Languages of Marriage on the first Sunday evening of each month starting October 5. Please let Pastor Greg or Sarah or Kevin or Andrea know if you'd like to be included in this monthly time to grow in marriage with others!

**Home Visitation Ministry.** The First CRC elders are excited about a new ministry they have discussed the last months and that has recently begun. Teams of two church members at least 6 times a year are visiting people who the elders have discerned could use some extra care, especially those who are shut-in, but also others who can't always get to church or who are in poor health, or who could perhaps use more fellowship. Please note that these visits are in addition to regular pastor and elder care group care. The teams report visits to one of our elders, Darrall Schaver, as a way of accountability to the elders. Right now we have nine teams who are visiting a total of 24 church members. The elders are very grateful for the people they have approached to do the visiting and for their enthusiasm to serve in this way. If you have someone you think could use this type of extra care, or would like to be involved in visiting, please talk to Darrall Schaver.

**The First CRC Council**, with great joy, recently heard the professions of faith of Ethan Homan, Owen Mulder, and Cody Van Herwaarden. We plan to hear their public professions in worship on August 24.

**We would like to have a few more teachers for our Children's Worship** program. Please prayerfully consider the opportunity to serve as a Children's Worship teacher. This important and fun role allows you to share your faith and nurture the spiritual growth of our youngest members. Contact Mackenzie Mulder if you're interested or have any questions.

**Friendship Club (Ministries)** is a local organization supported by First CRC and Bethel, that seeks to help disabled individuals stay closer to Christ. Friendship is currently seeking passionate individuals to help with this program. Males are encouraged to help out. If this is your calling, please contact Jean Jansen.

**Mark your calendars!** Our **Annual Block Party is Saturday, August 23, 4-8**. There are so many activities packed in one day—wagon rides, bounce houses, miniature golf, face painting, chicken chuck contest, live music, pork meal, car show, lawn games, and **new this year-balloon animals!** This is all free! There is something for everyone so invite your friends and family!

**Classis Wisconsin offers the Leadership Development Network (LDN)** to people in Classis who desire to expand their knowledge and experience in lay ministry. Whether you are on council, a youth worker, small group leader or involved in any type of ministry in your church, LDN will help enrich your understanding and competency while serving God and others. This year's focus is practical ministry from church health, witnessing, pastoral care, small groups and other aspects of ministry. The program runs from Sept. to May and meets one Sunday afternoon a month at MarshView Ministries in Horicon. If you have interested in more information, contact Pastor Dave Katsma at [pastordlk@gmail.com](mailto:pastordlk@gmail.com) or 920-296-1448. **There is still time to sign up!**

**We are looking for a few antique, classic or special cars, trucks, tractors** or motorcycles to be displayed at our Neighborhood Block Party, Sat., Aug. 23, 4-8 PM. If you or someone you know is willing to do so, please call or message Tom Jonker at 920-602-5689. Thank you.

## **Community News**

**Memorial Bench for the Unborn at Calvary Cemetery** (686 Fond du Lac Avenue, Fond du Lac, WI). Fond du Lac Right to Life invites us to attend the dedication of their memorial bench for the pre-born on August 14, 6 PM.

**Back to School Prayer led by the Waupun Area Ministers Association.** Local Pastors will meet at schools in Waupun at 1 PM on August 24 to pray for our students and educators. Parents, students, teachers, other school staff, please join us at Meadowview Primary, Rock River Intermediate, Waupun Junior/Senior HS, and Central Wisconsin Christian!

**The Pregnancy Support Center of Dodge County** will be having their Fall Benefit 2025 – **Proclaiming the Gift of Life!** on Saturday, September 20, at the Juneau Community Center. If you would like more information, check out the July 2025 Newsletter on the table in the narthex or call the Center at 920-219-9305.

**You're Invited – CWC Back to School Convocation.** Join us as Central Wisconsin Christian kicks off the 2025-26 school year with our annual **Back to School/Convocation event** on **Monday, August 18, at 6:30 PM.**

We invite students, families, church members, and community supporters to gather **outside on the CWC west lawn** (weather permitting) for a time of worship and dedication. Please **bring your own lawn chair** and come ready to celebrate God's faithfulness together. This year, we're excited to welcome **Mr. Scott Ritzema** as our speaker as we launch our new school theme: **Created for His Glory**. Let's start this new year united in purpose and praise!

**All are invited to attend the Historic Peniel Chapel** on Saturday August 23, at 6 PM and experience a beautiful hour-long musical program featuring the Covenant Bell Choir, from the Covenant Church in Fond du Lac along with the Peniel Men's Quartet. It will also include congregational hymn singing accompanied by the 100-year-old reed/pump organ and piano. Established in 1856, The Chapel is located 7 miles North of Rosendale and 5 miles South of Oshkosh. Take Hwy 26 to FF and go West ½ mile to the church. *Peniel Welsh Chapel W9644 Zoar Rd. Oshkosh for GPS*. Call Rev Tom White for more information at 920-922-9424.

**Denominational News**

**Cambodia Discovery Tour** - Join World Renew from November 14 to 24, 2025, for a journey into Cambodia's vibrant culture and the inspiring work of local communities pursuing lasting change through partnership and hope. This is an opportunity to witness God's love in action—experience deep connections, hear powerful stories, and see how lives are being transformed. Registration is limited and closes September 14. Learn more and register here: <https://bit.ly/2025cambodiainfo>.

**Calendar**

**Today:** 9:30 AM Worship Service  
**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Worship Service

Care Group	Elder	Deacon
1	Ken Homan (2028)	Adam Franken (2027)
2	Brian O'Donovan (2026)	Cayden Ruis (2028)
3	Joe Durant (2028)	Mike Hoffman (2026)
4	Mike Vander Berg (2027)	Eric Schaver (2028)
5	Steve Homan (2028)	Andy Schlieve (2027)
6	Al Venhuizen (2026)	Mike Hoffman (2026)
7	Brad Schouten (2026)	Kirk Van Buren (2026)
8	Darrall Schaver (2027)	Andy Schlieve (2027)

**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](mailto:waupuncrc@gmail.com)

PO Box 32, Waupun, WI 53963

**Next Week**

**Accompanist**

Brenda Hofman

**Livestream**

Brad Mulder

**Coffee**

Mike and Bonnie Vander Berg

**PPT**

Cody Van Herwaarden

**Children's Worship**

Jenna Mulder Emily Aalsma, Jenna Schouten

**Sound System**

Cayden Ruis

**Nursery**

Hailey Bresser, Emily Mulder, Kase Buwalda.

**Transportation**

Bob Mulder

**Ushers**

Noah Mulder, Andy Schlieve

**Sovereign Over Us**

**Verse 1:** There is strength within the sorrow - There is beauty in our tears  
And You meet us in our mourning - With a love that casts out fear

**Verse 2:** You are working in our waiting - Sanctifying us  
When beyond our understanding - You're teaching us to trust

**Chorus:** Your plans are still to prosper - You've not forgotten us  
You're with us in the fire and the flood - Faithful forever perfect in love  
You are sov'reign over us

**Verse 3:** You are wisdom unimagined - Who could understand Your ways  
Reigning high above the heavens - Reaching down in endless grace

**Verse 4:** You're the lifter of the lowly - Compassionate and kind  
You surround and You uphold me - And Your promises are my delight

**Bridge:** Even what the enemy means for evil - You turn it for our good  
You turn it for our good - And for Your glory  
Even in the valley You are faithful - You're working for our good  
You're working for our good - And for Your glory (REPEAT)

**Ending:** Faithful forever perfect in love - You are sov'reign over us

CCLI Song # 6011370 - Aaron Keyes | Bryan Brown | Jack Mooring

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songs

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## **My Friends May You Grow In Grace**

**Verse:** My friends may you grow in grace - And in the knowledge  
Of our Lord and Savior - My friends may you grow in grace  
And in the knowledge - Of Jesus Christ

**Refrain:** To God be the glory - Now and forever  
Now and forever - Amen  
To God be the glory - Now and forever  
Now and forever - Amen

CCLI Song # 7186139

Greg Scheer | Gregg DeMey | Gregory Kett | Sean Diamond | Timothy James Meaney

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## **Sermon Notes**