

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 – 12th 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) or our denomination's website (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) or Pastor Greg Schuringa (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

*Songs of Worship: "Rejoice, the Lord is King" G408

"Build Your Kingdom Here"

Confession and Assurance: Romans 5

*Song of Response: "More Love to Thee" R634

Presentation of Bibles to Second Graders

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: Mark 4:26-34 (ESV)

Message: "Seeds and Mysteries"

Prayer

Song of Response: "By Faith"

*God's Parting Blessing

*Doxology: "Jesus Shall Reign" G412:1, 5

*Postlude

Taking part in worship today:

- Worship Leader and Sermon: Al Venhuizen
- Accompanist: Brenda Hofman
- Media Team: Cayden Ruis, Cody Van Herwaarden, Brad Mulder
- Coffee: Mike and Bonnie Vander Berg
- Children's Worship: Jenna Mulder, Emily Aalsma, Jenna Schouten
- Nursery: Hailey Bresser, Emily Mulder, Kase Buwalda
- Transportation: Bob Mulder
- Ushers: Noah Mulder, Andy Schlieve

Missionary Letters

J Rens to Neen/Angel

S Ritzema 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.
- **Peter Montsma**, now on hospice care at the Homestead.
- **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 plans to be back in the office tomorrow, the 18th.

Margaret Miedema will be having speech therapy.

Rhonda Schouten would like to thank the congregation for their prayers during her recent knee surgery. She would like to thank those who provided meals during this time; it was so helpful! Also, thanks to Al and Renae Venhuizen, Hanna Marra, and Den and Nancy for the visits during this time.

Church News

Upcoming Worship Highlights

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

There will be a brief meeting after the worship service on August 24 for **volunteers and staff in child and youth** activities to sign the Code of Ethics.

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 are visiting people (at least six times a year) 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 Elder Darrall Schaver as a way of accountability to the elders. We currently 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. Please take a moment to highlight your favorite verses in the Bibles on the table in the narthex.

Amidst this busy time of year with vacations, camps and family gatherings, we want to thank you for taking time to remember the Luke Society with your financial gifts. Your contributions will be sent out with prayers to spread the message of health in Jesus' name throughout the world. We appreciate the generous people at **First CRC** and pray that you will be blessed with much joy in this summer season and throughout the year.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study plan to start up the first part of September. Genesis 25-50 continues this story of blessing—blessing in the midst of broken families, grief, famine, and other political powers. How will you be blessed in your discovery of God's story in Genesis? Please let Lois Mulder or Sue Buwalda (920-324-3929) know if you are interested in joining.

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.

Our **Annual Block Party is NEXT Saturday, 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! **Volunteers are still needed!**

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 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

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.

Next Week

Accompanist

Lois Mulder

Coffee

Randall and Kim Greenfield

Children's Worship

Mackenzie Mulder, Taylor Aalsma,
Heidi Schaver

Nursery

Hollie Ganz, Kaytlin Ruis, Noralyn
Durni

Livestream

Gladys Montsma

PPT

Beth Schlieve

Sound System

Joe Bresser

Transportation

Bob Mulder

Ushers

Brian and Cody Van Herwaarden

Calendar

Today: 9:30 AM Worship Service
Tuesday: 11:45 AM WI CRC Pastors Lunch with Joel Vande Werken
Wednesday: 6:30 PM Executive Committee (Upper Room)
Saturday: 4:00 PM Neighborhood Block Party
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

PO Box 32, Waupun, WI 53963

Build Your Kingdom Here

Verse 1: Come set Your rule and reign - In our hearts again

Increase in us we pray - Unveil why we're made

Come set our hearts ablaze with hope - Like wildfire in our very souls

Holy Spirit come invade us now - We are Your church

We need Your pow'r in us

Verse 2: We seek Your kingdom first - We hunger and we thirst

Refuse to waste our lives - For You're our joy and prize

To see the captives' hearts released - The hurt the sick the poor at peace

We lay down our lives for heaven's cause - We are Your church

We pray revive this earth

Chorus: Build Your kingdom here - Let the darkness fear

Show Your mighty hand - Heal our streets and land

Set Your church on fire - Win this nation back

Change the atmosphere - Build Your kingdom here we pray

Verse 3: Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r - Reaching the near and far

No force of hell can stop - Your beauty changing hearts

You made us for much more than this - Awake the kingdom seed in us

Fill us with the strength and love of Christ - We are Your church

We are the hope on earth

By Faith

Verse 1: By faith we see the hand of God - In the light of creation's grand design - In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight

Verse 2: By faith our fathers roamed the earth - With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts - Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign

Chorus: We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

Verse 3: By faith the prophets saw a day - When the longed-for Messiah would appear - With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave

Verse 4: By faith the church was called to go - In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost - To deliver captives and to preach good news
In ev'ry corner of the earth

Verse 5: By faith the mountain shall be moved - And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail - For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name

Sermon Notes