

**MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M. –December 17, 2023**

**Rev. Aaron Greydanus...Minister Third Sunday in Advent**

*Preparation for worship: “I am the light of the World. Whoever believes in me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12*

**WE ENTER INTO GOD’S PRESENCE**

Prelude

\*Call to Worship

\*Opening Prayer

\*God’s Greeting

\*Opening Song: #340:1,2 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (children come forward)

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

-Children’s Message: Heath Stoker

-Advent Reading & Lighting of Candles: Cooper Emerick, Haley Struik, Ava Ney

-Advent Hymn: “Shine on Us” (on PPT)

**WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS**

Congregational Prayer

Offering: African Widow/Orphan Support

Offertory

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

\*Hymn of Preparation: #353:1,2 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

God’s Word Read: Isaiah 9:3

God’s Word Proclaimed: “Joy”

Prayer of Application

Hymn of Response: #337:1-4 “Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come”

**WE GO OUT TO WALK WITH GOD**

\*Parting Blessing

\*Parting Song: #355:1,3 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

\*Postlude

*(Please allow teachers/students to exit first)*

\*indicates congregation stand

organist: Lavonne Kats

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE:**

**GREETERS TODAY:** Dennis & Jacki Vande Griend, Deacon Devin & Kate Bonestroo

**GREETERS NEXT SUNDAY:** Greg & Teresa Vanden Bosch, Deacon Kyle & Cindy LeLoux

**NURSERY TODAY:** AM Tonya De Groot, Sherry De Wit, Tysen Bosma, Logan Fedders,

Makenna Fedders; PM Mark Fedders Family

**NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY:** AM Lisa Kats, Cindy Te Slaa, Caden Hulstein, Sophia Kroese,

Caleb Greydanus; PM Ryan Bolkema Family

**USHERS FOR DEC.:** Glen Scholten, Cory De Wit, Nathan Boer, Jake Ney

**VALET PARKING FOR DEC:** Dec. 17: Scott Kroese, Ashton Winterfeld; Dec. 24: Jesse Ney,

Dalton Westra; Dec. 31: Lane Driesen, Chandler Pollema

**SECURITY COMMITTEE:** Dec. 17: Ross Te Slaa; Dec. 24: Zach Van’t Hul; Dec. 25: Dave

Van’t Hul; Dec. 31: Waylon Pollema

**OFFERINGS:** Today – Envelope receipts are for the church budget or for the cause(s) designated on your envelope. The loose offering is for the African Widow/Orphan Support

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Christian Ed Fund

**COFFEE SERVERS TODAY:** Merlyn & Linda **NEXT SUNDAY:** Larry & Faye

**SERVE JUICE AT THE YOUTH BLDG.** Cindy LeLoux

**POWER POINT TODAY:** Kirk/Emericks

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Tonya

**SOUND SYSTEM TODAY:** Kyle LeLoux

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Kyle Te Slaa

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Everyone is encouraged to write Christmas/New Year’s greetings to our missionaries. (Email addresses are in the directory, first page, under “Missionaries Supported”).

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

**TODAY**

9:30 AM Worship Service

10:45 AM Coffee fellowship in the basement

10:45 AM Sunday School/Catechism Classes (Beg. – 5<sup>th</sup> meet in sanctuary for program practice)

10:45 AM Adult Sunday School

10:45 AM Choir Rehearsal (basement)

3:00 PM Sunday School Christmas Program

**WEDNESDAY**

10:00 AM Coffee Break at Hope CRC

## FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

December 17, 2023

**WELCOME TO FIRST HULL:** Welcome to what some branches of the Christian church call *Gaudete*, or Rejoice Sunday. May we find joy in worshiping God and anticipating the celebration of Christ’s birth. A nursery and quiet room are available in the basement. TVs are available so that the service can be viewed. We invite everyone to join us for fellowship & coffee after the morning service in the church basement.

**THIS MORNING** Pastor Aaron’s message is from Isaiah 9:3 titled “Joy.”

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE** after the morning service. Beginners through 5<sup>th</sup> grade meet in the front of church.

**THIS AFTERNOON** at 3:00p the Beginners-5<sup>th</sup> grade will present the Christmas program. Children are asked to meet in the church basement at 2:45p.

### **MINUTES FROM COUNCIL MEETING (12-11-23)**

1. The second service on Sunday, December 24, and Dec. 31 will be at **3:00p**. On the 24<sup>th</sup> we will have a Lessons and Carols service in the afternoon. Pastor Aaron is looking for readers to read scripture. Please talk to him if you are able to help.

**THANK YOU** to Care Group #5 for your visit and for the beautiful poinsettia. It was very much appreciated!

-Johanna Van Surksun

**THANK YOU:** We want to thank everyone for their prayers and words of encouragement this past year. Monday Orv had an MRI of the brain and pet-scan and his immunotherapy treatment. The doctor was very pleased by the results of his test. At this time, he is cancer free. He doesn’t have to go back until March and then they will do another scan. The doctor felt it was time for him to have a break. We praise God for answered prayers.

Hul

**THANK YOU** for your expressions of sympathy, cards, food, and prayers in the loss of our dear husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Thank you to Pastor Aaron, Pastor Tim, and Elder Dave Van’t Hul for their visits and words of comfort. Thanks to our care group for serving a meal after the visitation. We are so thankful for our caring church people. Rev. 2: “Be thou faithful until death, and I will give you a crown of life.” Keep us in your prayers. -Joyce Kroese & Family

### **OFFERING AMOUNTS FOR NOV.:**

General Fund:	\$ 29,536.10	Building Fund:	\$ 6,418.62
Mission Fund:	\$ 1,051.00	Benevolence:	\$ 100.00

### **COMMUNITY BULLETIN**

#### **FIRST CRC FAMILY PRAISE AND PRAYER CONCERNS:**

- John Scholten has returned to Crown Pointe Care Center. For the next two weeks, he will be on skilled care.
- Dave Vande Griend had rotator cuff surgery on Friday, Dec. 8, in Sioux Center. Pray that the surgery was successful and for relief from pain.
- Please keep Emily Stiles in your prayers. She had emergency surgery on her kidney stones on Tuesday, Dec. 12. The procedure did not go as planned and there were complications. She needs to have a repeat procedure on December 20 to deal with the remaining stones. Pray for successful surgery and relief from pain.
- Absolutely amazing news and prayers answered that Ruth Kats CT scan showed no signs of cancer from the neck down. There is still a concern with the reactive lymph node under the chin. We go in to the ear, nose, and throat specialist for a biopsy Friday morning. Please continue to pray that tests are favorable.
- Keep Lois Salazar in your prayers as she began her radiation treatments on Friday, Dec. 15. Pray for minimal side effects.
- Pray for our shut ins: Aspen Heights: Wilma Grevengoed, Nelvina Kroese, Liz Schmith, Joyce Vande Griend, and Goldie Veldman; Sheldon Care Center: Julianne Kats; Christian Retirement Home: Johanna Van Surksun; Crown Pointe Estates: Joyce De Vries, Matt De Wild, Darlene Kroese, Lou Krommendyk, Larry & Glenda Oolman, Gary Horstman, John Scholten; Friendly Horizons: Theresa De Wit; Whispering Heights: Pete

Soodsma; Courage Homes in Sioux City: Ardelle Westra; Homebound: Jean De Jong.

### **HOPE CRC FAMILY PRAISE AND PRAYER CONCERNS:**

- Kayla Groeneweg, Megan Raman's sister, is progressing in her recovery. We continue to pray for her and that avenues will open up for her to get the ongoing care that she needs.
  - We pray for the Emergency Responders in our community; for God's presence and encouragement.
  - We rejoice with those who are recovering from surgery.
  - We pray for all of those who are continuing with treatment for cancer.
  - We pray for those whose prayer concerns are theirs privately.
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- We pray for those who have ongoing health concerns for which they are seeking healing and relief.
  - Pray for those who mourn, who have lost those whom they love and miss.
  - Pray for all who are struggling with an addiction, emotional hurt, depression, and mental illness.
  - Pray for our families, our marriages, that God would strengthen them, guide them, and be honored in them.
  - Pray for those who cannot join us in worship, that they would be comforted and feel close to the congregation.

### **SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Western Christian High School** Christmas Concert is Monday, December 18. This will begin at 7:00p and held at the **B.J. Haan Auditorium** on the campus of **Dordt University**. Please join us!

**HCS** is seeking a part-time lower elementary paraprofessional for one-on-one student support. The ideal candidate would have a passion for working with young children, and a love of Christian Education. Hours: Wednesday from 11:00a-2:30p and Friday 8:00a-3:30p. If you are interested in this position, or would like more information, please contact Mr. Ten Pas [rtenpas@hullchristian.com](mailto:rtenpas@hullchristian.com) or call the office at 439-2273.

### **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INSPIRATION HILLS** is gearing up for their "Single Mom's Retreat" on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. For years this retreat has been blessing single mothers all over the area with the opportunity to be

enfolded in a great community, equipped to walk each day with the Lord and encouraged that God walks with them. To learn more or to register, visit [inspirationhills.org/smretreat](http://inspirationhills.org/smretreat).

**INSPIRATION HILLS** has been dedicated for nearly 50 years to the changing of lives by sharing the Wisdom of God to the next generation of young people through our summer camp programs! God has been growing this ministry by blessing us with record numbers of campers year after year! You can be part of what God is doing by contributing to the \$215,000 we need by the end of the year to meet our year end commitments as well as the \$75,000 we need to launch our spring projects and prepare for next year's summer camp. ***No matter the size, every offering counts!*** Mail a check to 1242-280<sup>th</sup> St., Inwood, IA 51240 or give through Venmo @inspirationhills.

**SING THE MOZART REQUIEM IN 2024:** The Sioux County Oratorio Chorus will kick off its 2024 season in January, and you are invited to sing with us! This season, we will be returning to perennial favorite, Mozart's Requiem, performing with orchestra and professional soloists on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at Northwestern College's Christ Chapel. Rehearsals are held Tuesdays 7:30-9:30p in DeWitt Music Hall on Northwestern's campus, beginning **January 9**. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome! Please contact Mike Ochsner [mkchsnr@gmail.com](mailto:mkchsnr@gmail.com) with any questions. We look forward to making music with you in the new year!

**PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS IN GREECE** (May 31-June 11, 2024): Travel by motor coach (7 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or [weimje@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:weimje@calvinseminary.edu).

**JFA** is planning a MISSISSIPPI BUS TOUR, highlighting our ministry partners: John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation and Voice of Calvary Ministries of Jackson, MS, and Mississippi Christian Family Services of Rolling Fork, MS. The dates are April 3-10, 2024. Join us, learn, and see how God is using beautiful ministries to share HIS love and hope to those who live in communities of need in MS. A day in Branson on the way home will round out our great trip! Call Pat Vander Pol at JFA ([patvp@jfa-nwiowa.org](mailto:patvp@jfa-nwiowa.org) or 712-476-2804) for more information.