

SUNDAY, November 15, 2020

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Services Online

Click [here](#) to find the livestream for our worship services on Facebook (or copy this link and paste it into your browser: <https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-CRC-520064914738965/>). Then click on the "Videos" section. It will say "live" next to it when we are live. Remember, the video will not show up until a few minutes before 10:00 AM. You can also choose to watch a recorded version of the service after it is over (please note that there may be some dead space at the beginning of the video before worship begins).

Worship on Sunday Morning

This Sunday, **November 15**, we gather in our building for worship with Pastoral Groups 1 (Friend/Eggebeen), 3 (DeSmith/Feikema), and 5 (Schaap/Rowe) welcome in the sanctuary and the rest worshipping online via Facebook Live. For those worshipping in the building, we **highly encourage you to wear a mask, especially if you plan to sing** (and take note of the message below from CHP). We acknowledge that it's not always comfortable and things are not as they should be. We also encourage you to move outdoors to socialize after the service if possible! Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#). This Sunday, Pastor Joel will focus on the Old Testament Lectionary reading for this Sunday – Judges 4.

Faith Formation Sunday Evening

Join us on Sunday evening at 5:00 PM for our evening formation gathering! John Visser is leading us this week focusing on this topic: What few North Americans know about the History and Current Situation of the Chinese Church (Hint: It's not about persecution). We hope you'll join us in this time of learning and discussion!

Welcoming Guests to Covenant

While we are limiting in-building worship to three pastoral groups at this time, we wanted to remind you that you are still welcome to invite guests and those looking for a church home to visit Covenant on any Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please be in prayer for God's blessing on the Carmel Reformed congregation and the ministry of Pastor Mike Pitsenberger.

A Message from Community Health Partners:

Community Health Partners, our local public health agency, sent us a message this week. Here is part of it:

Following Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' proclamation on November 10 regarding masking and indoor gatherings, the CEOs of the four Sioux County hospitals – along with Community Health Partners – are imploring all residents of Sioux County to help slow the spread of COVID-19 by adhering to gathering restrictions and mask requirements. Wearing masks in indoor public settings helps reduce the spread of COVID-19. "We as a hospital and health system community implore each resident and visitor in Sioux County to follow the Governor's proclamation requiring masking for indoor gatherings of 25 or more people," stated the health system leaders, adding "Specifically, we urge every church to strongly consider voluntarily submitting to this protocol as well." ... During this very challenging time, health care leaders and CHP ask the faith community to help preserve our healthcare resources and slow the community spread of COVID-19 by strongly considering wearing masks in church.

You can read the full message [here](#).

Advent Candles

The Worship and Liturgy Committees with the help of Del Vander Zee and some other woodworkers would like to provide each Covenant household with an Advent candle holder and candles for home use. As we light candles in the sanctuary, we hope that those worshipping with us at home will light their candles too. It is likely that some of you have your own Advent candles at home, so to help us know how many candle holders to make, we are asking that you [reply here](#) if you are **not interested** in receiving one. Please reply by Sunday, **November 15**. More information will come about pick up or delivery.

Don't Forget to Check your Mailboxes!

If you haven't done so already, please check your mailbox and grab your Thanksgiving offering envelopes! Those that don't get picked up will get mailed or delivered this coming week, so we hope most mailboxes are cleared out! Ross Feikema wrote about the Thanksgiving offering in the November Courier, so feel free to read more about it [here](#) (on page 3) and we invite you to bring your Thanksgiving offering back on Thanksgiving Day (or any Sunday before that), or feel free to drop off/mail it to church anytime.

Sunday School Program Rehearsal

Work has begun on the children's Christmas program to be held on the evening of **December 13**. Things will be a bit different this year, but we are excited to still have the chance to celebrate Christmas with the children leading us! To start, we ask that children in grades 3-8 plan to gather at church this Sunday, **November 15**, from 2:30-3:15 PM so we can assign parts and pass out scripts. We encourage you to wear a face-covering. Parents, if you have not yet filled out the survey for your preschool through 8th grade children, please do so [here](#).

Men's Bakery Study Group Schedule

Due to the snow storm, we did not meet this week. We will meet next week Wednesday, **November 18**, and then continue meeting per our original schedule on Wednesday, **November 25**.

Advent Devotional Sign Up

You should have received an email from Pastor Joel this week about participating in an Advent Devotional Book project. We hope you will consider helping us out! If you are interested in writing a short devotional on one of the daily Advent lectionary texts, please sign up [here](#). We are looking for 26 contributors, so please consider participating. No theology (or writing) degree required! We trust that this project will help us stay awake to our Lord and in communion with one another.

Young Children and Worship Leaders

Are you interested in helping grow the faith of our little ones at Covenant? We are currently looking for a few more leaders for our Young Children and Worship program, which we hope to restart in January. Please contact Cheri Horstman (mchorst@mtcnet.net) if you are interested or have questions about what serving in this way involves.

A Giving Opportunity:

In response to our community's need, we are collecting items for Mid-Sioux and the Hope Food Pantry. During the month of **November**, we are encouraging Covenant's members to donate peanut butter and jam/jelly. You can bring them to church anytime during the month. Please place the items in the basket in the NE entry or in one of the baskets in church. Thank you for your compassion to others!

Temporary Furniture Request

A graduate of Calvin Seminary, Adam Ramirez, has moved into this area in order to work at a Sioux City church in community relations (especially with Spanish speakers) and to carry on with doctoral studies regarding worship. As he prepares to rent a place in Sanborn, he would welcome a loan of some furniture: kitchen table, chairs, desk, and a queen sized bed frame if possible. He would also need access to a pickup truck if people can loan the furniture. If you can help in some way, please get in touch with Pastor Joel (joelekok@gmail.com)

Awareness Book Club

The Awareness Book Club will meet again in January, and we will discuss *Jesus and John Wayne*, by Kristin Kobes Du Mez. The dialogue is open to all members and your friends. We had a good discussion of *Unsettling Truths* by Mark Charles at our last session, and we expect another good dialogue in January. Even when we disagree with the author or one another, we learn from each other. The tentative date for the next session is Tuesday, **January 19**. If you have any questions, please get in touch with either Pastor Joel or Eric Rowe.

Looking for Volunteers

We are looking for a few more volunteers to run the live-stream and projection on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Rebecca De Vries (rebecca.ann.devries@gmail.com).

Dordt Music Events:

Masks are required for all concert attendees and seating will be socially distanced. Dordt University continues to monitor how COVID-19 affects our campus and community. Please visit dordt.edu/updates on the day of the event to see if there are any restrictions on in-person attendance or cancellations.

- The Dordt University Music Department will present a 4th Avenue Jazz concert on Friday, **November 20**, at 7:30 PM in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. Featured on the concert will be the 4th Avenue Singers and 4th Avenue Band. Come for an evening of big band standards, pop covers, easy-listening jazz tunes, and more. This concert is open to the public and will not be ticketed. The concert will also be livestreamed at <https://livestream.com/dordtwebcast/events/8581543>.
- On **November 21** at 7:30 PM the Dordt Instrumental Ensembles will present their final concert of the fall semester. This is not open to the public but will be livestreamed at <https://livestream.com/dordtwebcast/events/8581543>. Family members of the musicians will receive tickets for the live performance from their students. The ensembles, under the direction of Dr. Onsbly C. Rose, will perform music by Dvořák, Doppler, Maslanka, Mennin, and others.

Offerings for November

1	General/Building Fund	15	Missions Fund	26	Thanksgiving Offering
8	Christian Education Fund	22	Compassion/Tuition Assistance	29	World Renew: World Hunger

Last week's offering	General Fund	\$815.00	Missions Fund	\$100.00
	Christian Education Fund	\$4,486.00	World Renew	\$125.00

Online Giving

To give online, click [here](#) to access the online giving page. You can also continue to give by mailing a check to church, paying via online bill pay at your bank, or by ACH Bank Transfer. All checks will be used as needed unless designated. Contact your deacon with any questions.

Helpful Links:

- The Bulletin Announcements and a link to Sunday's bulletin and liturgy are posted [here](#).
- The Community Activities (Blue) Sheet is posted [here](#).
- Sermon recordings are posted [here](#).
- Mission & Ministry News: Hope Haven's annual report can be found [here](#), a newsletter from Mission India is [here](#), and you can read the latest newsletter from Areopagus Campus Ministry at ISU [here](#).

Encouraging our Missionaries

Got a minute? Send one of our missionaries a note of encouragement by email!

Kelly & April Crull
crulls@caimail.net

Gianni & Georgina Gracia
giannigracia@yahoo.com

Sos & Kara Maletoungou
smaletoungou@crcna.org

Mike & Megan Ribbens
mribbens@gmail.com

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk
tvandyk@crncpartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Teo Crull, Mia Mercado Castelan, Lauren Vander Plaats, Verne Meyer, Cambri Zonnefeld

Happy Anniversary this Week

Duane & Jan Bajema, Paul & Ruth Clousing, Alejandro & Isabel Castelan

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday 15th	10:00 AM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 1,3,5 present (and via Facebook Live) Sunday School Christmas Program Planning John Visser
Monday	7:00 PM	Full Council Meeting
Wednesday	6:30 AM 7:00 PM 7:15 PM	Men's Bakery Study Group (at Casey's Bakery) GEMS Cadets (at Faith CRC)
Sunday, 22nd	10:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 2,4,6 present (and via Facebook Live) Prayer Service: Praise and Lament ETM (at First CRC)
