

SUNDAY, November 22, 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 22**, we gather in our building for worship with Pastoral Groups 2 (Ploegstra/Janssen), 4 (Brue/Vos), and 6 (Rhoda/Sybesma) 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 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 is Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday before the new church year begins with the season of Advent. We are thankful that Justin Bailey is able to fill in last minute following Pastor Joel's COVID diagnosis and will be preaching this Sunday morning.

Faith Formation Sunday Evening

At our Sunday Evening Formation Gathering at 5:00 PM, we will devote ourselves to God in prayer. Because of Pastor Joel's COVID diagnosis, this week will look a little different and won't be in-person in the sanctuary. Instead, he will lead a Zoom gathering in which the Scriptures and the Spirit will guide our prayers. We will listen to some Psalms, including prayers of lament; and we will explore how the Lord's Prayer can guide not just our personal prayers but also our communal prayers. Click [here](#) to join the Zoom meeting (or copy and paste this into your browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84237894280> Meeting ID: 842 3789 4280). Please note, there will be no gathering next Sunday evening, **November 29**.

Thanksgiving Day Worship

Our Thanksgiving Day worship service will look a bit different this year. As we communicated by email, we won't be meeting in person, but look for an email on Wednesday with a link to a Thanksgiving worship liturgy that you can use with your family when you wish – or plan to Zoom or Facetime with another Covenant member who might be alone this year! Included in the worship guide will be written prayers, scripture readings, and songs to sing or listen to in your homes. There will also be video elements from Covenant contributors. The link will also be posted on our Facebook page.

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 Central Reformed congregation.

A Message from Community Health Partners:

Community Health Partners, our local public health agency, recently sent us a message regarding masks:

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](#).

Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsals

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! If you are an angel in the program, please meet this Sunday, **November 22** at 2:30 AM in the sanctuary. Preschool through 2nd grade students who want to be in the hand bell choir, please mark down **December 6** at 2:30 for your first rehearsal. All plans are tentative, so watch for emails!

Unexpected Blessings

I'm wondering if a few of you could do me a favor. I'll be working on the next Courier this coming week, and I was hoping some of you could email the office a sentence or short paragraph sharing an unexpected blessing you've experienced recently during this time of COVID. (Or if you have something longer – that's ok too!) I would love responses from anyone – young or old! Could you send them to the office (covenant@mtcnet.net) by Monday, **November 23**? Thank you! If you have anything else you'd like to include in the next Courier, please send that in also.

Thanksgiving Offering

We hope you'll take some time to think about giving a Thanksgiving offering this year. We invite you to use the Thanksgiving offering envelopes to share the blessings we've received with ministries and those in need nearby and around the world. We invite you to bring your Thanksgiving offering back this Sunday or next (**November 22 or 29**), or feel free to drop off/mail it to church anytime.

Early Bulletin Deadline

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, please send all bulletin announcements to the office by Wednesday, **November 25** at 11:00 AM this week.

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. The Advent candles will hopefully be ready for pick up at church on Wednesday, **November 25**, so feel free to stop by church anytime Wednesday through Saturday and pick one up. If you would like to have it delivered, please email the church office.

Advent Devotional Sign Up

The Advent Devotional Book project may be temporarily on hold, but if you are still interested in writing a short devotional on one of the daily Advent lectionary texts, we still invite you to 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 Needed

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.

Sunday School Teacher Needed

We are in need of a teacher for our 7th grade catechism class. If you are interested in the opportunity to have an impact on the lives of these five or six wonderful students, please contact Pat Crull either by phone (722-1041) or email socrull@mtcnet.net. Thank you for your consideration!

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!

ETM Schedule

ETM (Early Teen Ministry) will not be meeting in November and December and will plan to start up again in January.

Volunteer Opportunity

Bible League International has a volunteer opportunity for a Spanish/English translator to assist BLI with the translation of documents or other forms of communication between English and Spanish in order to engage more donors and partners in Bible League's ministry in Latin America. Contact DVanSwol@bibleleague.org if you can help.

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	\$2,705.00	Missions Fund	\$25.00
	Christian Education Fund	\$1,555.00	World Renew	\$550.00

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: A recent newsletter from ATLAS can be found [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

Bob DeSmith, Sadie Landman, Louisa DeVries, Titus Westfall, Georgina Gracia, Kate Henreckson, David Taylor, Tim Kamp, Ryan Zonnefeld, Neil-Collins McCarthy

Happy Anniversary this Week

Jerry & Shonna Plasier, Doug & Marge DeBoer

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday 22nd	10:00 AM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 2,4,6 present (and via Facebook Live) Christmas Program Angel Rehearsal Prayer Service: Praise and Lament (via Zoom)
Monday	7:00 PM	Elders Meeting
Wednesday	6:30 AM	Men's Bakery Study Group (at Casey's Bakery)
Sunday, 29th	10:00 AM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 1,3,5 present (and via Facebook Live)