

**SUNDAY, December 27, 2020**

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## **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).

### **Christmas Day Worship Service**

On Christmas Day, worship will begin at 10:00 AM. It will include singing, scripture, and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Based on the congregation's response to our inquiry, we estimate attendance at about 100. We will adjust seating accordingly and practice distancing and masking protocols. We look forward to celebrating the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us (John 1:14). Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

### **Worship on Sunday Morning**

This Sunday, **December 27**, 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). Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#). Pastor Joel is taking some time off this week, so Rev. Liz Moss will be preaching from the gospel lectionary reading.

### **Faith Formation Sunday Evening**

We will not gather on Sunday evening, **December 27** or **January 3**.

### **New Year's Eve Worship**

We have updated our plans for the New Year's Eve service. Instead of gathering together in person, we hope to provide an at-home New Year's Eve worship liturgy similar to what was provided on Thanksgiving Day. This is something you can work through on your own with your family or even with some others via Zoom if you wish. We hope to send out a link to the service and post it on our Facebook page next Wednesday afternoon.

### **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.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Praying for Our Local Congregations**

This week, please be in prayer for God's blessing on the Faith CRC congregation and the ministry of Pastors Bob Pollema and Cliff Hoekstra.

### **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. "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](#).

### **Staff Out of the Office**

Pastor Joel will also be taking some time off from December 26 to January 3, so please contact your pastoral group elder or deacon if you have any pastoral needs during this time. Rebecca and Sara also hope to take some time off over the holidays, so office hours may be a bit irregular.

### **Early Bulletin Deadline**

Because of the holiday, please send all bulletin announcements to the office by Wednesday, **December 30** at noon.

### **Note from the Council:**

The Executive Council met this week and made some decisions about worship and education as we head into January. We will be continuing the 3 Pastoral Group rotation and will be pushing the start of church education into February. Please read the full note from Melissa Bailey for the more information in the [Courier](#) (on page 2). We'll be mixing up the pastoral group worship rotation again in January so you can worship with a different set of Covenant members.

### **January Courier**

The January Courier is ready! Pick up a paper copy on the bulletin table or the NE entrance, or you can read it [online here](#).

### **Cadet Snow Derby**

The Cadet Snow Derby is scheduled for Saturday, **January 2**, at the Alton Roadside Park. Please be at Covenant CRC by 8:45 AM, and we should be back at 1:30-2:00. Remember to check your email for what you will need to take along. Any questions can be directed to Joe Eggebeen ([joebeen@gmail.com](mailto:joebeen@gmail.com)).

### **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 **December**, we are encouraging Covenant's members to donate cleaning supplies (dish soap, laundry detergent, cleansers, toilet bowl cleaner, etc.). 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 caring for our community!

### 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.

### SCCS At Home Christmas Concert

Enjoy Sioux Center Christian School's At Home Christmas Concert from the comfort of your home! Our TK-8th grade music students recorded a vocal and instrumental concert that you may watch on YouTube. A link to the concert playlist is at [www.siouxcenterchristian.com](http://www.siouxcenterchristian.com) and will be available through **January 5**.

### Offerings for December

27 World Renew

### Offerings for January

3	General/Building Fund	24	Compassion/Tuition Assistance Fund
10	Christian Education Fund	31	Building Fund
17	Missions Fund		

<b>Last week's offering</b>	General Fund	\$3,950.00	Missions Fund	\$710.00
	Christian Education Fund	\$6594.10	Building Fund	\$913.00

### 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: The latest update from Mike & Megan Ribbens is [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@crnapartners.org

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY



### Happy Birthday this Week

*Thea Wyenberg, Emily Kramer, Jenni Mellema, Dallas Apol*

### Happy Anniversary this Week

*George & Jo Faber, Dave & Jeri Schelhaas, Joel & Tricia Kok, Jeff & Shirley Taylor*

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 AM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 1,3,5 present (and via Facebook Live) Rev. Liz Moss preaching
<b>Thursday</b>	Any time!	New Year's Eve Worship Service
<b>Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	10:00 AM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 1,4,6 present (and via Facebook Live) Dr. David Westfall preaching