

SUNDAY, January 3, 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).

New Year's Eve Worship

Instead of gathering together in person this year, we are providing an at-home New Year's Eve worship liturgy. The liturgy includes readings, songs, prayers, opportunities for reflection, and a message from Pastor Joel, and is something you can work through on your own, with your family, or with others via Zoom if you wish. You can find the worship guide [here](#).

Worship on Sunday Morning

This Sunday, **January 3**, we gather in our building for worship with Pastoral Groups 1 (Friend/Eggebeen), 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**. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#). Pastor Joel is taking some time off this week, so Dr. David Westfall will be preaching from the gospel lectionary reading.

Faith Formation Sunday Evening

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

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 First CRC congregation and the ministry of Pastor Kurt Monroe.

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... 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.

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).

The January Series

The January Series begins this coming week! We invite you to watch the lecture series either here at church (we highly encourage masks!) or from your own home. The lectures begin on Wednesday, **January 6** and will continue each weekday through **January 26** from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. You can find more information about the speakers and how to watch at home at <https://calvin.edu/january-series/>.

Note from the Council:

The Executive Council met last 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 will have the opportunity to worship with a different set of Covenant members.

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 **January**, we are encouraging Covenant's members to donate hot or cold cereal. You can bring it 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 generous giving!

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.

Offerings for January

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

Last week's offering	General Fund	\$595.00	Missions Fund	\$100.00
	Christian Education Fund	\$490.00	Building Fund	\$721.00

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 Ben & Tricia Groenewold-Van Dyk 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@crncpartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Jo Alberda, Paola Gracia, Lois Vander Zee

Happy Anniversary this Week

Andy & Rachel Landma

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 3rd	10:00 AM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 1,4,6 present (and via Facebook Live) Dr. David Westfall preaching
Wednesday	6:30 AM 11:30 AM	Men's Bakery Study Group (at Casey's Bakery) The January Series: Rebecca De Young
Thursday	11:30 AM	The January Series: Matt De La Pena
Wednesday	11:30 AM	The January Series: Ambassador William Garvelink
Sunday, 10th	10:00 AM 5:00 PM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 2,3,5 present (and via Facebook Live) Formation Sunday Evening