

**SUNDAY, February 21, 2021**

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## **WORSHIP NOTES**

### **Worship Services Online**

Click [here](#) to go to Covenant's Facebook page (or copy this link and paste it into your browser: <https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-CRC-520064914738965/>). Then click on the "Videos" section and watch for the live video to show shortly before 10:00 AM. You can also 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, **February 21**, we gather in our building for worship with Pastoral Groups 2 (Ploegstra/Janssen), 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**. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#). Pastor Joel is preaching from the [lectionary](#) during this season of Lent, focusing on the Old Testament passages and the covenants God makes with his people. We will gather at the Lord's Table each Sunday during this season.

### **Faith Formation Sunday Evening**

We invite you to join us on Sunday evening at 5:00 PM for our formation gathering as we continue to learn to pray from the Psalms. We will explore different kinds of Psalms, and we will also explore writing our own Psalm-prayers.

### **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 New Life Reformed congregation and the ministry of Pastors Bobby Van Otterloo and Dan Kruse.

### **Sunday School & Catechism Restarting This Week**

Covenant's church education programs are scheduled to begin this Sunday, **February 21!** Sunday School for children in grades 1-6 and Catechism for students in grades 7-12 will begin at 9:00 AM. Students should go directly to their classrooms when they arrive at church. Children and Worship for 3-year-olds through Kindergarten will also be offered during the morning worship service. Check the morning liturgy for their dismissal time. We highly encourage masks to be worn during Sunday School and Catechism to help keep everyone safe. We invite you to read [this letter](#) from the Education Committee about the goals and plans for church education this year.

### **Courier**

If you have something you would like to include in the March Courier, please send it to the office ([covenant@mtcnet.net](mailto:covenant@mtcnet.net)) by Monday, **February 22!**

### **Lenten Compline Services**

Join us each Thursday night during the season of Lent at 7:00 PM for a Service of Night Prayer, or Compline. These half hour services will use liturgies from the *Book of Common Prayer* that include prayers, psalms, silence, and songs and will act as a way to gather up the events and cares of our days in prayer. Join in person or via Livestream beginning on Thursday, **February 25.**

### **Lenten Kindness Tree**

The fruit of the spirit is... kindness. During Lent, we invite you to help our tree sprout new leaves of kindness. Look for acts of kindness in your life during the week. These could be things you have done or said, things you hope to do, or the kind actions of others. Write those acts of kindness on paper leaves and attach them to the tree in the Fellowship Hall. Each week, our tree will gain leaves as we grow through acts of kindness. If you are worshipping from home, you can drop your leaves off during the week or contact the office for assistance. We plan to include pictures of the kindness tree in our weekly worship so that everyone can see it grow.

### **Opportunities for Lenten Prayer and Reflection**

- *A Lenten Path* Reflections: Created by Covenant member Anna Westfall, this booklet exists as a companion to the season of Lent. Copies of *A Lenten Path* are available on the welcome table and in the NE entrance to church. And physical stations will be set up weekly in the old SW fellowship hall for you to pause at when you wish.

- A Lenten Loom: Pray with your hands. In the old SW fellowship hall you will find a large loom and a variety of fabrics and yarn. As you weave, project your prayers onto the fabric. As the season progresses and as we collaborate on this project, we will have a visual representation of our conversations with God and also be reminded that just as these fabrics are weaved together, so too are our lives and longings knit together in God.

### 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 **February**, we are encouraging Covenant's members to donate spaghetti sauce and pasta. 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 showing love to others in this way!

### At-home Faith Formation Tip

The Practice of Justice and Mercy: Wendell Berry wrote, "Rats and roaches live by competition under the laws of supply and demand; it is the privilege of human beings to live under the laws of justice and mercy." Which laws in your community promote justice, mercy, and human flourishing? Which do not? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices).)

### Offerings for February

14	Christian Education Fund	21	Missions Fund	28	Compassion/Tuition Assistance Fund
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<b>Last week's offering</b>	General Fund	\$1,435.00	Missions Fund	\$155.00
	Christian Education Fund	\$2,717.97	Building Fund	\$75.00
	Compassion/Tuition Assistance	\$143.20		

### 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: We invite you to read the latest newsletter from the Kelly & April Crull is [here](#) and a newsletter from Cornerstone Prison Church 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

*Karl Hoekstra, Joey Horstman, Dan Altena, Sandi Altena, Ross Feikema*

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup></b>	9:00 AM	Sunday School & Catechism (grades 1-12)
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 2,3,5 present (and via Facebook Live)
	5:00 PM	Formation Sunday Evening: Writing the Psalms
	7:30 PM	ETM (at First CRC)
<b>Monday</b>	7:00 AM	Elders Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 PM	GEMS
	7:15 PM	Cadets (at Faith CRC)
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 PM	Compline Service
<b>Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM	Sunday School & Catechism (grades 1-12)
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 1,4,6 present (and via Facebook Live)
	5:00 PM	Formation Sunday Evening: Sharing our Psalms