

SUNDAY, December 6, 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, **December 6**, 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](#). Pastor Joel will be preaching from the gospel lectionary texts during this season of Advent. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper each Sunday during this season as well, so if you're at home, we encourage you to have your elements ready before worship.

Faith Formation Sunday Evening

We hope you'll join us this Sunday evening, **December 6**, for our evening formation gathering. This Sunday, Pastor Joel will talk about eschatology every day and in his words, "Your participation has everlasting consequences!" We hope you'll join us!

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 Christ the King Catholic parish and the ministry of Father Douglas Klein.

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](#).

Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal

All children preschool-aged through 2nd grade who would like to be a part of the bell choir for the Sunday School Christmas program on December 13, please meet at church this Sunday, **December 6**, at 2:30 PM for a brief rehearsal. We encourage parents of the younger children to come with their children to help. We will meet in the sanctuary.

Congregational Meeting

The Congregational meeting to vote on the budget is scheduled for Monday, **December 7** at 7:00 PM. You can attend the meeting in person or via Zoom. Check the email that was sent on Wednesday for more information, and a copy of the 2021 proposed budget is attached to the email or can be found [here](#). Click [here](#) to join the Zoom meeting on Monday. (We will send the link out by email on Monday as well.)

Book, Game, and Puzzle Swap

We've often done some sort of Christmas toy or gift swap at Covenant, and this year we decided to offer a book, game, and puzzle swap! We invite you to look through your shelves and cupboards and bring any good condition books, games, and puzzles to church beginning on Monday, **December 7** and anytime throughout the week, you're welcome to stop by and browse and take whatever you can use – either for yourself or to wrap up as a Christmas present for someone you love! There will be tables set up and labeled on Monday – so leave your belongings on the appropriately labeled table when you stop. You may even want to stop by a few times as new items maybe appear throughout the week! Please note that the church building is usually locked during the week, so either use the NE door code to enter or call first to see if someone is there to let you in. We plan to donate whatever is left on Monday, **December 14**.

Advent Devotional Sign Up

The season of Advent has begun, and we hope you are already using the daily devotions that members of our congregation have written. You can find the devotions [online here](#), or a printed copy of the week's devotions will be available at church in the NE entrance. If you are still interested in writing a short devotional on one of the daily Advent lectionary texts, we invite you to sign up [here](#). 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.

Advent Candles

The Worship and Liturgy Committees with the help of Duane Bajema, Steve Crull, Del Vander Zee 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 and holders are at church, so feel free to stop by church anytime and pick one up. If you would like to have it delivered, please email the church office.

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 spcrull@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 **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!

Van Wyk Studio Open House

It's been almost exactly a year since the Van Wyks had a devastating fire at Jake's studio. After sifting through the ruins and finding more work salvageable than it appeared, along with a series of amazing events and developments, we're about to hold an open house on what I believe to be a dream studio. You can see a brief write up and powerpoint showing before and after pics and the development of so many silver linings to make it all happen on his [website](#). We're planning on being open **December 7-12**, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM or call 712-441-2072 for an appointment. We are requiring masks and abiding by other Covid restrictions, but we'd love to have you share in this event!

Give Joy This Advent with World Renew

World Renew's 2020-2021 Gift Catalog helps people, families, and communities experience more of the joy that God intends for them. Find a special gift that helps someone in need during the COVID-19 outbreak. Need a print catalog? There are a few copies on the welcome table or view the [online catalog](#). Call us at 800-552-7972 to find out more and give today!

SCCS Board Nominations Needed

Sioux Center Christian School needs nominations to replace 2 trustees on its board, critical roles for the school's future. The process starts with constituents making nominations. Any member of the SCCS society (supporters, parents, grandparents, employees, etc.) can make nominations. We invite you to nominate qualified individuals! To learn more about the process, the requirements to be a trustee, and the characteristics the board is seeking, head to <https://bit.ly/37bJzcA> or the link on www.siouxcenterchristian.com. Nominations are accepted through **December 14**.

Offerings for December

6	General/Building Fund	20	Missions Fund
13	Christian Education Fund	27	World Renew

Last week's offering	General Fund	\$1,175.00	Missions Fund	\$175.00
	Christian Education Fund	\$675.00	Building Fund	\$75.00

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: You can view December prayer requests from Back to God Ministries International [here](#) and a newsletter from the Groenewold-Van Dyks 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

Canaan Hawley, Nico Ribbens, Elia Eppinga, Jason Wyenberg, Lucas Stiemsma

Happy Anniversary this Week

Shaun & Sarah Stiemsma

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday 6th	10:00 AM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 2,4,6 present (and via Facebook Live) Christmas Program Rehearsal (Preschool-2 nd grade) Formation Sunday Evening: Teaching with Pastor Joel
Monday	7:00 PM	Congregational Meeting (in person and via Zoom)
Wednesday	6:30 AM 7:15 PM	Men's Bakery Study Group (at Casey's Bakery) Cadets (at Faith CRC)
Saturday	10:00 AM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 13th	10:00 AM 5:00 PM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 1,3,5 present (and via Facebook Live) Formation Sunday Evening: Sunday School Christmas Program