

**SUNDAY, December 13, 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).

### **Worship on Sunday Morning**

This Sunday, **December 13**, 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). 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 13**, for our evening formation gathering. This Sunday, the kids will be bringing the hope and joy of Christmas to us through the Sunday School Christmas program. It will be livestreamed as well if you prefer to participate in that way.

### **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 Church of Christ congregation and the ministry of Pastor Dustin Bolks.

### **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](#).

### **Blue Christmas Worship Service**

On Sunday, **December 20** we invite you to gather at 5:00 PM at church or virtually for a "Blue Christmas Service." This service will give us time and space to together acknowledge the sadness we may be feeling during the Christmas season. When the days are short and the nights are long, memories of past experiences and the pain of our present reality can become overwhelming for some. Through song, prayer, scripture, and meditation, we will bring our sadness and lament before God who comforts his people. We will together remember that, though we are walking in darkness, we have seen a great Light, and the darkness will not overcome the light.

### **Book, Game, and Puzzle Swap**

There are just a few days left to participate in the book, game, and puzzle swap! Feel free to stop by anytime throughout the week to browse and take whatever you can use – either for yourself or to wrap up as a Christmas present for someone you love! 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**

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. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

### 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.

### 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.siuoxcenterchristian.com](http://www.siuoxcenterchristian.com). Nominations are accepted through **December 14**.

### Offerings for December

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

<b>Last week's offering</b>	General Fund	\$5,632.00	Missions Fund	\$195.00
	Christian Education Fund	\$1,570.00	Building Fund	\$567.00

### 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

*Megan Ribbens, Kathy DeWit, Nico DeVries, Lily Wyenberg,*

### Happy Anniversary this Week

*Kelly & April Crull*

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	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
<b>Monday</b>	7:00 PM	Deacons Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 PM 7:15 PM	GEMS Cadets (at Faith CRC)
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 AM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 AM 5:00 PM	Morning Worship: Pastoral Groups 2,4,6 present (and via Facebook Live) Formation Sunday Evening: Blue Christmas Worship Service