

**SUNDAY, January 9, 2022**

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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.

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

This Sunday, **January 9**, is the first Sunday after the Epiphany and is also the Sunday when we remember the Baptism of our Lord, when the Father announces Christ's sonship and the Spirit descends on him as he begins his public ministry. While Pastor Joel continues his time away, Dr. David Westfall will bring us the Word and Rev. Phil Postma will lead us in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

### **Faith Formation Sunday Evening**

We will gather at 6:00 PM for a service of evening prayer, also known as Vespers. These services use prayers and litanies from The Book of Common Prayer and give us space and time for thanksgiving and praise, silence, and meditation on scripture. Services last between 45 minutes and an hour.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Church Education Schedule**

Sunday School and Catechism resume today, **January 9** and Covenant Sunday Morning resumes on **January 16**.

### **January Series 2022**

Beginning this week for the 35th year, Calvin University presents the January Series 2022 – the award winning free liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekly, lunchtime lectures. This year the series begins on Monday, **January 10** and continues weekdays through **January 28** from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CST. We invite you to watch it livestreamed here in the Covenant CRC sanctuary or watch digitally on demand each day until midnight on your own device. For all the details and the full schedule visit [www.calvin.edu/january-series/](http://www.calvin.edu/january-series/).

### **WE Service**

Don't forget – we'll be gathering for lunch and a WE service following the morning service on **January 23**. Watch for more information next week.

### **Notes from the SAM Committee**

- The Service and Missions (SAM) Committee is looking to add a few members this coming year to help us as we continue organizing service and mission opportunities and look to grow more this coming year. Please reach out to Eric Rowe or any of our current members with any questions.
- The SAM Committee is beginning to explore possible ways our congregation could be involved in helping Afghan resettlement efforts which are at a critical point right now. If you would like to be part of an exploratory committee on this question, please call Jeri Schelhaas (712-441-0394). We look forward to a meeting in the next couple weeks.

### **Loving Our Immigrant Neighbor**

Join us on Monday, **January 17** at 7 PM at Trinity Reformed Church in Orange City to be part of a conversation about how the local Christian community can get involved on behalf of the Afghan people. As Jesus says in Matthew 25: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." The night will include the incredible story of Halima Shokuri, Northwestern student from Kabul, Afghanistan. Halima was able to leave Afghanistan as the U.S. withdrew and the Taliban took control of Kabul. She spent time working with Afghans at Ft. McCoy, and now works for the Mary Treglia House in Sioux City helping to resettle Afghan individuals and families. Click [here](#) for more information and to register and contact Jason Lief with questions ([jlief@bbbimmigration.org](mailto:jlief@bbbimmigration.org)).

### **NW Iowa Bible League**

Due to various physical circumstances the NW Iowa Bible League board has vacant positions. If you are willing to consider filling a vacancy, please contact Esther (507.350.9670 or [dbesther@tcaexpress.net](mailto:dbesther@tcaexpress.net)) for more information.

### **At-Home Faith Formation Tip**

The Practice of Engaging Scripture: Read Deuteronomy 11:18-20 and ponder or discuss the following questions. This passage envisions a community that is shaped and guided by God's Word—one in which God's people keep God's Word continually in front of themselves and pass it on to others. How do the Christian communities you are a part of (such as family, friends, church, other groups) live out God's commands in this passage? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit [crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices).)

## Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please be in prayer for God's blessing on the Christ Community congregation and the ministry of Pastors Randy Widbin and Carlos Perez.

<b>Last week's offering</b>	General Fund	\$3,119.00	Missions Fund	\$75.00
	Christian Education Fund	\$2,050.00	Building Fund	\$50.00

## Giving at Covenant

There are a variety of ways to give at Covenant! To give online, click [here](#). You can also give by mailing a check to church, paying via online bill pay at your bank, or by ACH Bank Transfer. Just a reminder, it was decided at the December congregational meeting that all cash/checks will now be used as needed unless designated. (You can read more about it [here](#) on page 6.) 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](#).
- Mission & Ministry News: Read the latest newsletter from the Groenewold-Van Dyks [here](#). A newsletter from Tesoros de Dios is [here](#), prayer requests from ReFrame Ministries are [here](#), and a newsletter from JFA is [here](#).

## Sunday Servant Scheduling:

*If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, please find your own replacement. Thank you.*

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY, January 16
<b>Greeters</b>	AM: Wil A, Chris G, John V	
<b>Ushers</b>	AM: Jo A, Ron O, Mark T	
<b>Coffee</b>	Pat C, Dennis DJ, Luke H, Dennis VP	
<b>Subs</b>	Lisa C, Ruth Clo, George F, Rin G, Mark H, Tricia K	
<b>Sound/Projection</b>	Dennis DJ ♦ Jason Wyenberg	Eric R ♦ Tom Clark
<b>Nursery</b> Jan. POM: Janssens	AM: Tom & Ruth C, Dennis & Pam DJ	AM: Paul & Ruth C, Kurt & Sharon V

## 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

*Lois Vander Zee, Bryanna Castelan, Terry Friend, Pastor Joel Kok, Michael Vander Plaats*

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Sunday School & Catechism Morning Worship (Dr. David Westfall preaching) Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer)
<b>Monday</b>	11:30 AM 7:00 PM	The January Series: Angela Williams Gorrell Deacons Meeting
<b>Tuesday</b>	11:30 AM	The January Series: L. Gregory Jones
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 AM 11:30 AM 7:00 PM 7:15 PM	Prayer Group The January Series: Sarah Stewart Holland & Beth Silvers GEMS Cadets (at Faith CRC)
<b>Thursday</b>	11:30 AM	The January Series: Reuben Miller
<b>Friday</b>	11:30 AM	The January Series: Rick Steves
<b>Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:30 PM	Sunday School, Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning Morning Worship Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer) Sunday Evening Bible Study