

SUNDAY, October 22, 2023

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, **October 22**, we welcome Pastor Paul Birnbaum to our pulpit. Pastor Paul is a hospital chaplain in Rapid City, SD. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

Sunday Evening Vespers

Our Sunday evening gatherings at 6:00 PM typically follow the pattern of Vespers, or Evening Prayer, in which we spend time in prayer, praise, silence, and meditation, using prayers and litanies from the *Book of Common Prayer*. This evening we will also take time to share our Joys and Concerns and offer those to God.

Joint Reformation Day Service

Next Sunday, **October 29** at 6:00 PM, we will gather with the other Sioux Center CRC churches for a joint Reformation Day service at Bethel CRC. The service is hosted by Bridge of Hope and Bethel, and Pastor Sam Ashmore will be preaching.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Informational Meeting

Planning for the renovation work is continuing to move along as we get closer to the anticipated construction start date. Here is a short synopsis of the work that has currently been done:

- Currently the sound and AV system design has been completed, approved by council, and equipment is being ordered. The sound and AV systems are within the budget window approved at the congregational meeting with the costs currently at approximately \$82,000.
- The lighting renovation design is being priced by electricians, with the bids on the proposed system due by late October.
- Work is being done with the General Contractor and Architect to address some of the material selections and finishes for the renovation.

We are planning a short meeting after the morning worship service on **October 22** to provide more detailed updates on some of the work listed above and to answer questions about the refresh project. We hope that you will take a few minutes and join us.



Pastoral Group Dinners

This Sunday, **October 22**, the **Christians/Van Schouwen** pastoral group will enjoy fellowship and a meal together at 12:00 PM. Visitors and college students are welcome to join them! Next Sunday, **October 29**, the **Schelhaas/Mellema** pastoral group will gather for fellowship and a meal.

Covenant Courier

If you have something to include in the November Courier, please send it to the church office by Monday, **October 23!** (covenant@mtcnet.net)

Church Thanksgiving Dinner

As part of our monthly 50th Anniversary celebration events, we will be gathering together as a church family for a Covenant Thanksgiving Dinner! Join us on Sunday, **November 19** for a feast! If you plan to attend, please sign up either on the back table or [online](#) by **October 29** so we can plan for food. Note: the church will provide the turkey, gravy, dressing, and drink. When we know how many are coming, those who plan to attend will be asked to sign up to bring a side dish or dessert.

Another Baby Shower!

We have another baby shower coming! This time we are going to celebrate the birth of Beckett Louise Vander Plaats! We invite you to bring gifts to the table in the fellowship hall. After the service on Sunday, **November 5**, Jacob, Emily, and Beckett will greet church members at the back of the sanctuary and the Vander Plaats will bring the gifts home so they can open them with their family. You are welcome to bring gift cards or money to the church office as well. Let's welcome this new baby to our Covenant family!

Pastoral Group Dinner Schedule

Here is the schedule for the rest of the Pastoral Group Dinners this fall:

October 22: Christians/Van Schouwen

November 5: DeWit/DeJong

October 29: Schelhaas/Mellema

November 12: Stiemsma/Clark

Please **note the switch** between the Schelhaas/Mellema and Stiemsma/Clark groups! If you need a reminder of which group you're in, you can find the Pastoral Group lists on our [website](#).

Smile & Say Cheese!

The 50th Anniversary Committee is working on a 50th Anniversary book that will hopefully include photos of our current church members. So there will be photographers in the fellowship hall for the next weeks ready to take your family's photo! (And bonus – we will use these for the church directory as well!) So find a photographer and smile!

Church Directory

Can you take a minute to check out your directory listing on the table in the fellowship hall to see if it looks correct? And parents – please add any cell phone numbers or email addresses you'd like included for your kids too! Thanks!

Contact Information Needed

The 50th Anniversary Planning Team would like to send an invitation to all former charter members. Thank you to those who have provided information already. Please check the list below, and if you have contact information for any of those listed, send it to Steve and Pat Crull by email (spcrull@mtcnet.net) or leave it in their church mailbox. Charter Members' Info needed: Stanthon Altena, Ron Koedam, Pete (Marie) Steggerda, John Struik, Syne Sybesma.

Pizza BOGO Cards on Sale!

Fruited Plain BOGO cards are currently on sale! The Covenant Christian Education Committee is once again partnering with the Fruited Plain to offer this amazing deal! Each pizza card costs \$30 and is good for 5 punches to buy one pizza and get one free. They make delightful gifts for anyone and are handy to have on hand for a family pizza night. College kids – remind your parents you need pizza to study well! Pizza cards can be purchased at the Fruited Plain through the end of October. \$10 from every sale goes towards meeting our Christian Education Fund commitments.

Justice For All Auction and Meeting

Justice For All invites you to our annual auction and meeting event on Thursday **October 26**. It will be held at the Parkview Event Center in Rock Valley. Dinner starts at 5:00 PM, a short business meeting at 6:15, and the live auction at 6:30. Come out to support the Justice for All ministry, hear about highlights from the past fiscal year, and what God has been doing through JFA in 2023! There will be an online portion of the auction as well. We hope to see you there.

Dordt Defender Days Events

Dordt University hosts its Defender Days celebration with a wide range of events, including:

- the 4th Avenue Jazz Concert at 3:00 PM on Friday, **October 27**
- the Fall Festival: Instrumental Ensembles Concert featuring Chamber Orchestra, Campus-Community Band, and Wind Symphony at 7:00 PM on Friday, **October 27**
- the Fall Festival: Choral Ensembles Concert featuring Bella Voce, Canons of Dordt, Chorale, and Concert Choir at 8:30 PM on Friday, **October 27**
- a Hymn Festival titled “As People Called by God” on Saturday, **October 28** at 10:30 AM presented by guest organist Jeffrey Brillhart as part of the Joan Ringerwole Organ Recital Series.

All events will be in the B.J. Haan Auditorium and will be available on livestream at www.dordt.edu/livestream. Go to www.dordt.edu for more Defender Days weekend highlights.

Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God’s blessing on the United Reformed congregation and the ministry of Pastor Jon Bushnell.

Last week’s offering	General Fund	\$16,387.00	Christian Education Fund	\$1,635.00
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Giving at Covenant

There are a variety of ways to give at Covenant! To give online, click [here](#). You can also give by leaving your offering in the boxes located at the entrances, mailing a check to church, paying via online bill pay at your bank, or by ACH Bank Transfer. Just a reminder, all cash/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](#).
- Mission & Ministry News: The Groenewold-Van Dyks’ September newsletter is [here](#). The Maletoungous’ latest newsletter is [here](#) and a newsletter from the Ribbens is [here](#). ReFrame Ministry’s October prayer requests are [here](#).

Sunday Servant Scheduling:

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

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY, October 29
Greeters	AM: Laremy DV, Cheri H, Val Z	
Ushers	AM: Wil A, Ruth Clo, Marge DB	
Coffee	Pat C, Terry F, Megan H, Merrill MC, John Z	
Subs	Jo A, Jenni B, Sharon D, Luke H, Andy L, Dani W	
Sound/Projection	Dennis DJ ♦ James R	Andy L ♦ Tom C
Nursery	AM: Ryan & Val Z, James & Courtney R	AM: Jason & Dani W, Jake & Trena VW

Encouraging our Missionaries

Got a minute? Send one of our missionaries a note of encouragement by email!

Gianni & Georgina Gracia
giannigracia@yahoo.com

Sos & Kara Maletoungou
smaletoungou@acsi.org

Mike & Megan Ribbens
mribbens@gmail.com

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk
tvandyk@crncpartners.org

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Happy Birthday this Week

Nola Jewett, Sophia Bailey, Lydia Clark, Marv Wielard, Layne Vos, Julia Kramer, Linda Vanden Hoek

Happy Anniversary this Week

Dave & Emily Kramer

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Sunday, 22nd	9:00 AM	Sunday School, Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	11:30 AM	Sanctuary Refresh Informational Meeting
	12:00 PM	Christians/Van Schouwen Pastoral Group Dinner
	6:00 PM	Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer)
Monday	7:00 PM	Full Council Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	6:50 PM	Cadets (at Faith CRC)
	7:00 PM	GEMS
Thursday	9:00 AM	Women’s Book Study
Sunday, 29th	9:00 AM	Sunday School, Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	12:00 PM	Schelhaas/Mellema Pastoral Group Dinner
	6:00 PM	Joint Reformation Day Service (at Bethel CRC)