

Church Calendar

Sunday ~ December 1: *Live It Out!*

Pastor Joel Preaching; offering is For Family Promise
11-12noon – Join one of Four groups for **ADVENT** activities
5-7pm: Youth Group – *Casa De Paz*

Monday ~ December 2

Tuesday ~ December 3

Wednesday ~ December 4: Family Night

7:30am – Men’s morning Bible Study
9:30am – Ladies Morning Bible Study
5:45pm – Family Night meal together/Elder’s Mtg., GEMS/Cadets, Coffee Break,
6:40pm – Movie Discussion, and Beloved of God Yoga

Thursday ~ December 5 *Global Bazaar Set-up*

Friday ~ December 6 *Global Bazaar Booths*

Saturday ~ December 7 – *Global Bazaar*

7:00am – Men’s Bible Study in rm. 21

Sunday ~ December 8: *Live It Out!*

Pastor Joel Preaching; offering is for **CEAF**: Christian Education Assistance Fund
11-12noon – Join one of four groups for **ADVENT** activities.
5-7pm – Club 68

Christmas Eve Candle light service is December 24th at 6:00pm.

Welcome visitors and guests. Please take a minute to fill out a *Connect Card* (in pew Bibles) and return to an Elder or Pastor up front. We want to welcome you and answer your questions!

Thank you to all serving this Sunday, December 1

Children in Worship: Melanie Jonker, Eli & Wyatt Vermeer, Finn Roberts
Nursery Leader: Davinia Lyon, Aaron Buys, Annika DeBoer & Mieke Waanders
Camera: Adam DeBoer **Lyrics:** Gabe Zoetewey **Sound:** Paul DeBoer
Prayer Ministry Elders: Dave Cady & Jim DeHaan
Coffee: Vander Ark

Thank you to all serving next Sunday, December 8

Children in Worship: Briana Van Andel, Julie & Sam Lamsma, Jacob Van Donselaar
Nursery Leader: Charys Youngsma,
Camera: Owen **Lyrics:** Lilli **Sound:** Cory Vermeer
Prayer Ministry Elders: Cal Van Heukelem & Anne Buteyn
Coffee: DeBoer/Kats

Count Committee Report: 11/17 and 11/24

*Council appreciates your faithful support of God’s work among us at First CRC.
Thank you!*

General Fund:	\$19,725.00
Benevolence:	607.00
CEAF:	1,225.00
Long Scraggy:	500.00
World Renew:	500.00

The weekly budgeted member giving is \$10,795; \$21,590.00 for a two week count.

During Advent we will be spending time together on Sunday mornings participating in intergenerational opportunities we call *“Live It Out.”* These are experiences where we can participate in acts of planning, service and worship together during our Sunday School time.

Groups will meet on December 1, 8, and 15 from 11-12.

The Live It out activity locations are scheduled as follows:

- Choir - Fellowship Hall
- Dance - 12/13
- Cookies - Kitchen
- Advent Decorating- Outside and/or Pit Stop

Our next hosting week for Family Promise is December 15-22.

Sign ups for meals, evening hosts, overnight hosts, set up, take down and laundry will be online using the sign up genius link. Today, **December 1**, the regular white board sign up will be in the back of church and will reflect our current needs. Please sign up as soon as possible. If you haven’t volunteered for Family Promise before, no problem! Sign up and Pastor Bret, or another member of our leadership team, will contact you about your duties.

Here is the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4AAFA923A0F94-family1>

We look forward to another great hosting week! Pastor Bret Lamsma

Neighborhood News:

Join Platt Park Children’s Center at the Barnes and Noble on Colorado Blvd, **Friday, December 6**, for their Book Fair. For those shopping at the store, vouchers will be available at the preschool table. PPCC earns a portion of sales accompanied by the voucher. It’s also Polar Express Day and Santa will be there for **story time at 7 pm!** You can also shop online at BN.COM/bookfairs and enter the Bookfair ID 12556403. Thank you for your support! Cheryl Schmitt, Director ppcc@plattparkchildrenscenter.com

Hope Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, 2400 S Ash Street in Denver, CO is accepting applications for a part-time Office Assistant. As the Office Assistant, you will be the first point of contact for the church. This position will provide administrative support that requires attention to detail, organizational skills, and completing responsibilities with a high level of quality and in a timely manner. Experience in MS Office (including Word, Excel, Publisher, and Outlook) is required. Experience in QuickBooks or other bookkeeping software is also required. This position is part-time, 24 hours a week, 9:00-3:00, Tuesday-Friday.

Congratulations to the *Denver Christian School’s Girl’s Volleyball Team* for winning the **2A State Championship** for the first time: Marissa Bol, Kara Amidon, Denali Schmitt, Erin Youngsma, Erica Bol we are proud of you! Marissa Bol and Anne Kaemingk were chosen by Colorado Coaches to be on the All Star team!

First Christian Reformed Church #303.733.4936

1814 South Emerson Street, Denver 80210

Church Office Hours: Tuesday ~ Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm

Pastor Joel Schreurs:	Minister of the Word	ext. 101
Shirley Van Heukelem:	Programs & Office Admin.	ext. 104
Kyle Cooper:	Worship Coordinator	ext. 103
Bret Lamsma:	Director of Faith Formation	ext. 105
Larry Young:	Custodial & facilities	#303-582-4039
Rebecca J. Schaefer	Communications & Admin.	ext.102



A Family of God, Living our Faith and Growing by:

Joyfully surrendering to Jesus, Freely sharing our lives,

and Humbly embracing the hurting

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Processional

Call to Worship:

*Song: *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

*Reading from Psalm 130

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his Word I hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning.
There is no darkness with you, O Lord.
O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plenteous redemption.
There is no darkness with you, O Lord.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

*Song: *My Soul In Stillness Waits*

*God’s Greeting

Renewal

Prayer of Confession

Arise, shine: for your light has come.

O God, we live as if the light

had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

We confess that we ignore the Christ You sent to be among us, to be in us.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season

and do not yearn for His birth each moment in our waiting hearts.

And nations shall come to Your light, and kings to the brightness of Your rising.

Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.

Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Your coming.

It's time that we prepare for Your coming.

Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.

Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.

Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

Song of Assurance: *Cornerstone*

Assurance of Pardon

Offering: Family Promise

Offertory

Word

Children In Worship Sending

Leader: When I listen to You, God,

I am like a tree planted by a river, a tree full of fruit

with leaves that are always green.

Congregation: **The Lord be with you.** Children: **And also with you.**

Prayer for Intercession and Gratitude: *Dona Nobis Pacem* LUYH 73

Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5 pg. 680

Sermon: *Look Up. Look Ahead.*

Prayer for Application

*Song of Response: *Lord Make Us Servants* LUYH 904

Sending

*Candle Lighting ~

Reader 1: Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

Light candles of peace, hope, joy, and love,

remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Reader 2: We light this candle in peace.

Hear God's promise of peace from Isaiah 2:

The Lord will judge between the nations

and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,

nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*Sending Song: *Even So Come*

*Blessing

*Postlude

Minister of the Word: Pastor Joel Schreurs

Director of Faith Formation: Dr. Bret Lamsma

Worship Coordinator: Kyle Cooper with First CRC Band

Up ~ Prayer and Praise

For November/December we will focus prayer for persecuted believers in Iran/Iraq.

We praise God that hundreds of thousands of Iranians are turning to faith in Christ.

More Iranians have become Christians in the last 20 years than in the previous 1,300 years since Islam came to Iran. Many Christians in Iran have lost jobs, homes or even custody of children.

Please pray for the Lord's comforting love to minister to Dick Sander and family.

Dick's brother died this past Sunday of recently diagnosed invasive cancer.

Please pray for Mike Van Eps who was in a sledding accident on Thanksgiving

Day. He sustained injuries including 5 fractured ribs and is hospitalized in

Colorado Springs. Pray for Deb as she cares for her husband.

We pray for healing of fractured family relationships.

We seek peaceful reconciliation between co-workers and friends.

We ask for the oil of gladness for all who have been mourning losses.

We praise God for renewed joy and a spirit of generosity.

IN ~ Events & Upcoming Activities

Bible Studies:

Women's AM Bible Study meets every other Wednesday. The next meeting is

December 4th at 9:30am in room 12/13, to study "*Cultures in Conflict*" by Ray

Vander Laan. Led by Walt Ackerman.

Coffee Break ~ Women's Evening fellowship, prayer and Bible Study meets

Wednesdays at **6:30pm** in the Emerson House next to church. Everyone is

welcome! Contact: beth@firstcrcdenver.org for more information.

Beloved of God Yoga will meet **Dec. 4 and 11** at **6:45** downstairs at 1st CRC

Contact: Pamela Hansum: pamelajlh@gmail.com

Men's Wed. AM Bible Study in the Emerson House South of church, coffee is

on at 7:30am *every* Wednesday; Study begins at 8:00am.

Contact: cvanheukelem@gmail.com

Men's Sat. AM Bible Study in rm 21, *every other Sat* 7AM, next mtg. **December**

7 & 21Contact Rod Oosterhouse: rodohouse@comcast.net

High-Schoolers will meet **December 1** at 5pm for *Casa De Paz* tour.

Middle-Schoolers Club 68 - our Middle School Youth Group - will meet again

Sunday night, **December 8**, from **5-7pm**. Save the date!

Senior Moments will have a gift exchange and Holiday party in December. Stay

tuned for more information, and party details.

Sew & Sews: *Sew & Sews* next meeting is **December 12, from 9-12n**, in room

12/13. Please contact Joey for more information: joeyvanark@aol.com

Card Stampers: No Card Stamping Group meeting in December. Please take

some lovely holiday cards for your friends and family! For more information,

contact: crkats@yahoo.com

OUT ~ Serving & Sharing

Joyfully Surrendering To Jesus ~

Advent begins Today, December 1 - Follow Jesus into the lives of the poor at

Advent through the World Renew 2019-2020 Gift Catalog. Choose a gift that helps

people who live with scarcity to experience more of the fullness of life that God

intends for them. Go to worldrenew.net/gifts to give or call 800-552-7972.

Position opening- Ministry Support Services, a ministry of the Christian

Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) has a full-time (40 hrs/wk) opening

for a Project Coordinator in our Grand Rapids, Michigan offices. This position will

receive and coordinate ministry requests for design, editorial, web, printing,

purchasing, and mailing services. Apply online by December 9 at crcna.org/jobs

Freely Sharing Our Lives ~

Visual Arts:

In the last series of banners we were thankful for, and relied heavily on, the art

work of *Annie Vallotton* whose art you might recall from the Bible *Good News for*

Modern Man. Advent is a time of waiting and expectation for our Lord's coming

and return. Our depictions in the windows this season will mostly reflect Isaiah's

prophecies which correspond with the current Moravian readings. They will focus

especially on the Second Coming of our Lord. The last art installation will remind

us of the birth of Jesus. "No one knows the day or hour, based on Jesus' words in

Matthew 24, "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at

an hour you do not expect." Matthew 24:44

Designer: Larry Young

Advent starts today. Is your heart ready? - Orient your Christmas season with

Advent devotions from World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice every

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, starting Dec. 2. This year's devotional series,

How Long, Lord?, explores how destruction and injustice can lead us to ask the

question that God's people and prophets in the Bible asked: "How Long, Lord?"

The series also explores how we can have hope that our pain will not be forever

and that the God who made us is with us, now and forever. To sign up, go to

crcna.org/advent.

Humbly Embracing The Hurting ~

Our next Family Promise hosting week is just a month away - **December 15-22**.

The big white signup board will be in the back of church on today, **December 1**.

Sign up as soon as possible!

Deacon's Corner:

From the Deacons...

CEAF Update: Did you know the average family with 2 children now pays at least

\$20,000 per year in Christian Ed costs? For many families, this is a sacrifice and First

CRC needs your support to maintain our commitment to them! The Christian

Reformed Church of North America encourages churches "to provide congregational

support so that the church's children can be educated in a way that acknowledges the

lordship of Jesus Christ in all subject areas" because "The CRC as a covenantal

community is committed to Christian schools as the social agent that can make

Christian education effective in the totality of life." As a part of this body, First CRC

is committed to Christian Education by offering up to 70% in aid to our families

through the Christian Education Assistance Fund. Please consider designating your

donation for CEAF this Christmas season to make our pledge into a reality.