

## Church Calendar for December 18, 2016

### Sunday ~ December 18 ~ Advent Week 4

Pastor Joel is preaching from Matthew 2. Offering is for General fund

**11:00am** – Sunday school and Choir practice

**6:30pm** – Christmas Carol Sing and Celebration

### Monday ~ December 19

### Tuesday ~ December 20

**1:00 pm** – NO Staff Meeting

**7:00 pm** – NO Deacon Meeting

**5:30 pm** – Dance Christmas Party

**6:30pm** – C.C. DeBoer Event : Rooms 12/13

**7:15 pm** - Twenty-Somethings - Emerson House

### Wednesday ~ December 21: NO Family Night – Winter Break

**7:00am** - Men's Bible Huddle in Emerson House

### Thursday ~ December 22

**9:30am** – Sew & Sews

### Friday ~ December 23

**9:00am** – Library Ladies

### Saturday ~ December 24 – Christmas Eve – No Service

7:00am – Men's Bible Study

### Sunday ~ Christmas Morning Service at 9:30am

5:30pm ~ Buteyn Family Christmas – Fellowship Hall

**Welcome to all of our visitors and guests!** Please fill out a *Connect Card* found in the pews. Children's Bulletins called *Sweet Rewards* are available in back for kids to draw on, and return for a surprise. Elders are up front and would be honored to pray with you, or answer any questions. Fair trade coffee and hot tea are ready for you in the back of the church.

### Upcoming Holiday dates at First Church:

**\*TONIGHT, December 18th at 6:30pm: Christmas Carol Sing and Celebration** – Sing to the King, celebrate salvation, share cookies & cocoa! Invite a friend! Nursery available. Refreshments served afterward.

**Christmas Day Worship Service:** 9:30am, Sunday, December 25.

Come celebrate! Nursery Available.

### Thank you to all serving this Sunday, December 18th

**Nursery:** Charys Youngsma, Anne Buteyn, David Youngsma,

Gabriella Vance & Leah Moore

**CIW: Advent 4 – Waiting, Waiting!** Bri Van Andel, Micah & Isaac Den Braber

**Sunday School Nursery:** Childcare offered in Rooms 12/13 with Magnify kids

**Prayer Ministry Elders:** Ed Schans & Sheri DeHaan

**Coffee:** Newcombe

**Lord's Supper Prep & DVD Delivery:** **Grow Group 5**

### Christmas Carol Sing – December 18 at 6:30pm:

**Nursery:** Jill Schreurs, Hayden Posthumus, Chad Nibbelink, Den Brabers

Thank you to Anne Buteyn for providing refreshments!

### Thank you to all serving Christmas Morning, December 25th

**Nursery:** Kelsie Ruter, Kyle Van Andel, Stephanie DenBraber,

Ashleigh Bol, Ari Waanders

**CIW: On Break**

**Prayer Ministry Elders:** Eric DenBraber and Nancy Waanders

**Coffee:** Staff

**Lord's Supper Prep & DVD Delivery:** **Grow Group 5**

### Missions News

**Prayer requests from Liam and Jessica Starkenburg** with Nicaragua

Christian Academy: Apartado 842 Managua, Nicaragua

Email: liamandjess@gmail.com *See their Newsletter in the foyer.*

\*Praise God for His protection, safety and provision, especially throughout recent events and uncertainty!

\*Praise God for the many blessings we enjoy each day!

\*Pray for additional financial provision for our family -- our budget has been very tight for the past 3 months due to decreased giving and coming short of our budget

\*Pray for unity in our school staff -- an important area of focus this year

\*Pray for the salvation of our NCA students who have not yet made a decision to follow Christ, and for moral courage for those who are following Christ to have an impact on those around them.

### **Prayer requests from Cascade of Hope**

As we prepare for this next semester of ministry, please join us in praying that God will continue to bless our efforts and provide everything we need to make these programs possible. Please pray for our students and volunteers. Pray that seeds of hope would take root in the hearts of our students and that volunteers are blessed and empowered in their service.

**2017 January Series** - Coming in January for the 30th year, Calvin College presents the 2017 January Series – the award-winning free liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekday, lunchtime lectures. This year the series begins on **Wednesday, January 4 and continues through January 24 at 10:30 MT** with topics ranging from re-imagining healthcare, closing the gender gap in technology, global poverty and violence, vocation and calling, race and reconciliation and so much more, by top experts in their fields. **Denver Christian School will once again host** the live feed webcast. For more information about the speakers, topics, remote sites and listening options visit our website at [www.calvin.edu/january](http://www.calvin.edu/january).

### **First Christian Reformed Church**

**Email:** [connections@firstcrdenver.org](mailto:connections@firstcrdenver.org)

**#303.733.4936**

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

**Address:** 1814 South Emerson Street, Denver, CO 80210

**Pastor Joel Schreurs:**

**Minister of the Word**

**ext. 101**

**Shirley Van Heukelem:**

**Programs & Office Admin.**

**ext. 104**

**Kyle Cooper:**

**Worship Coordinator**

**ext. 103**

**Larry Young:**

**Custodial & facilities #303-582-4039**

**Rebecca J. Schaefer:**

**Communications & Admin.**

**ext. 102**



## *Celebrating, Seeking, Sharing* *abundant life in Jesus...* **Order of Worship~ December 18, 2016** **Gathering**

Prelude and Processional

Welcome and Announcements

Call to worship:

We are a people of hope  
waiting for the return of our Lord.  
God will renew the world through Jesus,  
who will put all unrighteousness out,  
purify the works of human hands,  
and perfect our fellowship in divine love.  
Christ will wipe away every tear;  
death shall be no more.  
There will be a new heaven and a new earth,  
and all creation will be filled with God's glory.

\*Song: *All Who Are Thirsty*

Candle lighting: Psalm 126

**When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dreamed.  
Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
our tongues with songs of joy.  
Then it was said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."  
The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy.  
Restore our fortunes, Lord,  
like streams in the Negev.  
Those who sow with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.  
Those who go out weeping,  
carrying seed to sow  
will return with songs of joy,  
carrying sheaves with them.**

Prepare the way of the Lord.  
We light this candle in hope,  
the hope of our coming Savior, Jesus.  
**Prepare, then, the way of the Lord**

Song: *My Soul In Stillness Waits* LUYH 63

God's Greeting

## Renewal

Prayer of Confession: Page 450 #12

It is Advent. It is the season in which we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace.

We confess to You the ways in which we block the peace of Christ in our lives.

[Silent prayer]

**God of peace, hear our prayer.**

The rushing and scurrying to get things done,

**we confess to You, O God of peace.**

The worry about the little details,

**we confess to You, O God of peace.**

The financial burdens we put on ourselves,

**we confess to You, O God of peace.**

The impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another,

**we confess to You, O God of peace.**

The bickering and quarreling we get into because we are too busy,

**we confess to You, O God of peace.**

Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of the year,

Your peace is always there for us.

**Instill within us Your peace, O God.**

When we feel overwhelmed,

**instill within us Your peace, O God.**

When we are filled with worry,

**instill within us Your peace, O God.**

When we become irritable,

**instill within us Your peace, O God.**

When the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us, help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ. Instill within us Your peace, O God.

Lord Christ, Word made flesh,

our world waits for Your peace,

for Your pardon, and for Your grace.

**Even so: come, Lord Jesus**

Song of Renewal: *Savior of the Nations Come* LUYH 74 (Verses 1, 4, 5, 6,)

Assurance of Pardon: *Savior of The Nations Come*, Sing verse 7

## Word

Children In Worship Sending:

*Delval, Marie-Hélène, and Arno. Psalms for Young Children. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans for Young Readers, 2008. Print.*

**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

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-18 Pg. 966

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon: *The Toddler and The Tyrant* Pastor Joel Schruers

Prayer for Application

Song of Response: *O Come Let Us Adore Him*

## Sending

Offering: General Fund

Offertory and Offertory Prayer: *We Fall Down*

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

let us strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,

praying: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

\*Sending Song: As With Gladness Men of Old LUYH 105 (Verses 1,3,4)

\*Blessing

Postlude

Minister of the Word: Rev. Joel Schreurs

Worship Coordinator: Kyle Cooper

Musicians: First Church Band

Accompanist: Christy Bol

## Prayer and Care for God's People

God had blessed us with an addition to the family. Becky gave birth to a little girl, Anneke Aurora van Vliet, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:35am. She is 6lbs 7.5 oz, 18" in length. Becky and Anneke are doing well. *Jevon van Vliet*

We continue prayers for healing and recovery for Halle Soodsma and Matthew Jonker, both recovering from serious burn accidents.

A great big thank you to all of you who prayed for me while I had surgery for the skin cancer on my scalp. Praise God it went well, that they got all the cancer and that the recovery is going well. We are blessed by your prayers and messages of encouragement. *Marj and Don DeBoer*

**Stephen Ministers** are here for you when Christmas seems more overwhelming than joyful due to grief, loss or transition. Contact Cyndi@firstcrcdenver.org if you would like someone to listen.

**First Church is blessed** to have a group of women who meet regularly for prayer. If you have something for which you would like **confidential prayer** offered, please send your prayer requests by email to: [Cyndi@firstcrcdenver.org](mailto:Cyndi@firstcrcdenver.org) or [mddeboer@juno.com](mailto:mddeboer@juno.com)

## Christmas Campaign

There are 2 small Christmas trees in the foyer. Each has ornaments:

\*one for World Renew's annual Best Gifts Ever Giving Tree

\*one for the En Gedi Children's Home building fund

Each ornament has gift suggestions to help provide economic opportunities for people in developing countries or to help defray the costs of the new En Gedi Children's Home. The addresses to send your gifts directly to the agencies are on the brochures underneath the trees. Or you can give your gift to First CRC and we will see that World Renew or En Gedi get them. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Count Committee Report: 12/4 and 12/11

Council is grateful for the gifts of God for the people of God:

**General Fund:** \$29,207.00

**Partners Worldwide:** \$ 266.00

**Benevolence:** \$3,563.86

*The anticipated offering for a two-week period is \$26,402.20.*

*Next Count Committee Meeting is 12/26.*

**Peter Fish Collection:** \$676.09

**Updated Contact information:** Please note that Betty Anema has a new cell phone #720-635-9898.

## First Church Opportunities to Connect and Serve

**Twenty Somethings Group:** The twenty-somethings of First CRC and Hope Community Church meet **Tuesdays at 7:15pm** at 1826 S Emerson St. Denver (house next to First Church). We are a group of about 10 people who meet weekly to study Scripture together (just completed John's Gospel) and enjoy Christian community. We have a casual atmosphere and would love for you to join us! If you would like more information about the group, just email [kylecooper@firstcrcdenver.org](mailto:kylecooper@firstcrcdenver.org).

## Requested Announcements:

**Update: Sea to Sea Bicycle Tour - *Sea to Sea*** is looking for 35 more registered riders by the end of December. Kitchen volunteers are also needed. Are you one? Whether you are up for the full coast-to-coast ride or you prefer to join for part of the trip, ***Sea to Sea*** is for everyone with a heart for service and a sense of adventure. Get involved! Call us today at: 1-888-CRC-BIKE!

**The folks we serve** at *Canterbury Gardens* " give thanks with grateful hearts" for your gifts of time, listening ears, tender touch, delicious baked goodies, lovely liturgical dance, guitar music, Christmas cards, blanket seamstresses and sweet little ones who smile. Nothing is taken for granted, so thank you one and all for love given through Christ from the heart!!

**A wedding ring** was lost last Sunday, possible in the Fellowship Hall, or somewhere on First Church property. This ring is a family heirloom. Please call the office if you find this ring, or contact Beth DeBoer.

**Available Free in the Digital Library - "Good News! The Story of the Shepherds"** is available free to all in the CRC through the Digital Library ([crcna.org/Library](http://crcna.org/Library)). This newly revised God Loves Me storybook retells a Bible story in simple language that young children can understand, a prayer, and suggestions for learning-through-play activities.

**Platt Park Children's Center** wishes to thank you for supporting the Barnes & Noble Book Fair and Tokyo Joe's restaurant night. Over \$1,000 was raised for the preschool through your efforts! *New family registration for the 2017-2018 school year begins on Tuesday, January 17.* Please see our website or call 303-282-7722 to schedule a tour in January. We offer classes for children 2 ½ -Jr Kindergarten and would love to visit with you!