

Church Calendar for week of: December 24-, 2017

Sunday ~ December 24th

9:30am: Advent IV; Offering is for World Renew

4:30pm – Candle-light Christmas Eve Service with Nursery

Monday ~ December 25th –No Christmas morning service; office closed

Tuesday ~ December 26th

Wednesday ~ December 27th

9:30 am - Ladies Am Bible Study in Room 12/13; No coffee Break

Thursday ~ December 28th

Friday ~ December 29th

Saturday ~ December 30th

Sunday ~ December 31

Pastor Bret Lamsma is preaching; offering is for Benevolence

Our staff will be in the office on a limited basis between Christmas & New Year's Day. Please call ahead if you need assistance #303.733.4936.

Thank you to all serving This Sunday AM, Dec. 24th: 9:30am

Nursery: Beth DeBoer, Julie Lamsma, Hayden Posthumus, Jill Newcombe, Lilli Vermeer

Prayer Ministry Elders: Nancy Waanders & Anne Buteyn

Coffee: Don and Marj DeBoer

Thank you to all serving Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th: 4:30PM

Nursery: Jill Schreurs, Kyle Van Andel, Joey Vander Ark, Sam Waanders

Hospitality: Schaefer

Thank you to all serving NEXT Sunday AM, Dec. 31: 9:30am

Nursery: Chary Youngsma, Roger Van Den Boogaard, Josh youngsma, Owen Vermeer

Prayer Ministry Elders: Ed Schans & Sheri DeHaan

Coffee: Schans/DenBraber

Christmas joy and blessings to our guests and visitors. We are so glad you chose to worship with us today. Elders are available up front to answer questions and pray. Coffee, Tea and fellowship are served in the foyer! Join us for a traditional Christmas Eve service with candles and *Peace, Peace* sung by the congregation, at 4:30pm.

Worshiping Together
Advent and Christmas

- **December 24th – Advent worship at 9:30am & 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service with Nursery**
- **December 25th - Christmas Day- no service**
- **December 31st – Morning worship service at 9:30am**
- **New Year's Day – January 1, 2018 - no service**

Sermon Notes:

First CRC has a group of women that faithfully and confidentially pray for your requests. If you are in need of prayer support, email Cyndi Berghuis at Cyndi@firstcrcdenver.org, or Marj at mddeboer@juno.com.

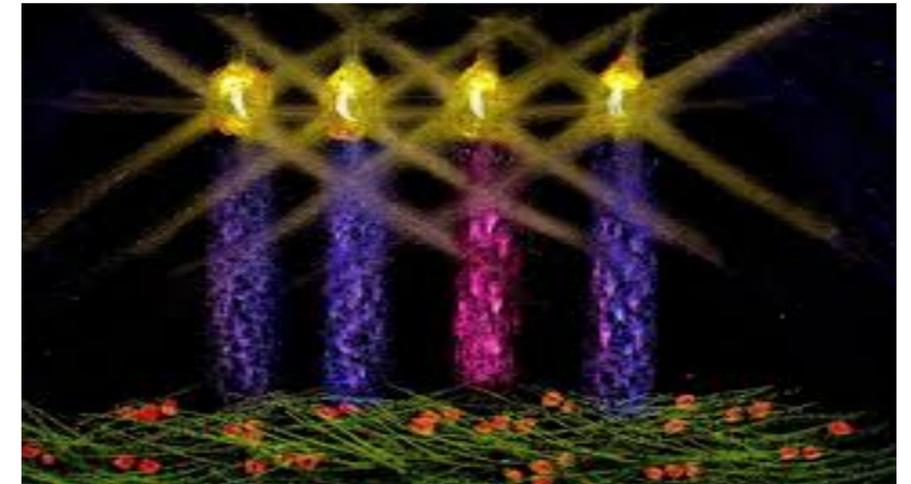
First Christian Reformed Church: 1814 South Emerson Street

Email: connections@firstcrcdenver.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
Bret Lamsma:	Director of Faith Formation	ext. 105
Larry Young:	Custodial & facilities	#303-582-4039
Rebecca J. Schaefer:	Communications & Admin.	ext. 102



Order of Worship
Advent: Week 4 ~ December 24, 2017

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Processional

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light these candles in hope, peace, joy, and love.
Out of love for the people of God, the Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah, as found in the seventh chapter, verses 10-14:

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz,
"Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."
But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."
Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.

Let us pray.
God of hope, Prince of peace,
Jubilee Judge, and Lord of love,
Your goodness is beyond our wildest imaginings.
You give us more than we can think to ask,
coming to us with impossible possibility
in the union of flesh and spirit.
Teach us to love this world and all people
as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.
God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

*Songs:

Savior of the Nations Come LUYH 74
Love Divine All Loves Excelling LUYH 351

*God's Greeting

Renewal

Call to Confession: Phil. 2:5-8

In your relationships with one another,
have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used
to His own advantage;
rather, He made Himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled Himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Verse 3 of *Once in Royal David's City*

Song: *Once In Royal David's City* LUYH 87

Prayer for Intercession and Gratitude

Song: *Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming* LUYH 79 verses 1,3,4

Word

Scripture: Micah 7:8-20

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon: *The Last Word*

Prayer for Application

Song of Response: *Jesus What a Wonderful Child*

Offering: World Renew

Offertory: *Hearts Waiting* (Joy to the World)

Sending

*Sending

*Sending Song: *Joy to the World*

*Blessing

*Postlude

Minister of The Word: Pastor Joel Schreurs
Director of Faith Formation: Rev. Bret Lamsma
Worship Coordinator: Kyle Cooper; First CRC Band
Accompanists: Barb Hogan, Jack Waanders
First CRC Dance group under the direction of Jessica Benson

Prayer and Care for God's People:

Our November/December Congregational Prayer Focus for Persecuted Believers is on a country which has one of the fastest-growing Evangelical churches in the world: **IRAN**. Please see the silver connection board in the foyer, and the accompanying prayer sheets for how we can praise God for His work in Iran, and pray for believers.

Birthday Blessings to Gert Vandebrake and Betty Klap this past week!

Recovery prayers requested for piano tuner, **Marshall Luke**, recovering from complications after neck fusion surgery.

We especially lift up the **homeless and incarcerated youth** of our city. Pray for eyes and hearts to be open and receptive to the love of Jesus. Pray for the staff at the youth facilities, and for Chaplain Claire Froehlich.

Rejoice with **Russ and Judy** in the good news that the recent PET scan was characterized as *stable with slight Improvement*. That means no change to our current regime of an infusion every three weeks and even more importantly, no additional chemicals need to be added to the infusion. Thanks to everyone for the prayers and the cards of encouragement. They are so important to us!! *The Denbrabers*

We pray for **protection and safety** for all those who are traveling over the holidays: including Ethan Anema, the Lohmann's, the Youngs, the Hansums and others.

We ask for forgiveness, **reconciliation** and healing of relationships.

We pray for several **members having breathing difficulties**, as well as those with heart and lung issues. We ask for healing and abundant health.

Together we pray for **Ariadne Soodsma**, admitted Thursday night with breathing difficulty to Children's Hospital. She is resting following a procedure. We lift up Karen Soodsma, and ask for sustaining grace. Please pray Ariadne will be healed and released from the hospital soon.

Current Events & Activities

Library News:

Come visit the library! We have a great selection of Christmas books for children and adults, hand selected by our librarians. A good assortment of brand new reading material for everyone has also just arrived.

January Series 2018 - Coming this January to Denver Christian

School. For the 31st year, Calvin College presents the 2018 January Series This year the series begins on **January 3rd** and continues weekdays through **January 23rd from 10:30 – 1:30 p.m. MT.** with topics ranging from *millennials* and faith to restorative justice, confident pluralism, radical generosity and so much more by top experts in their fields. Thousands in west Michigan will join us on Calvin's campus for the daily noontime lectures, others will join the conversation by watching the live feed at more than 50 remote webcast, while others will listen online. For more information about the speakers, topics, remote sites and listening options, visit our website at www.calvin.edu/january .

Grow Group Sunday, January 7, 2018 –

As you look back at the last year or so, how have you seen God's faithfulness in your life in times of:

- Celebration or Gratitude...
- Loss, Lament or Failure...
- Surprise or Transition...

We are busy planning the Sunday worship service of stories and songs and Grow Group meeting lesson for January 7, so we are asking for your input in the form of stories (with songs when applicable). Please take a few minutes to reflect on the questions and fill out the ½ sheet flyer in your mailboxes today, from Pastor Bret, by this Sunday, December 24th. Turn in your completed form to Bret Lamsma's church mailbox.

2018 Grow Group Meetings: Locations TBD

January 7th

February 11th

March 25th

May 8th - **All Church Picnic Celebration**

Scheduling of Events:

The office is getting some requests for use of our building. In order to better assess each request, we would really like to get your church activities booked into the 2018 Calendar first. Please send your 2018 ministry, meeting and activity schedules to: connections@firstcrcdenver.org as soon as possible. *Thank you!*

Opportunities to Help and Serve:

Children's books are being collected for orphans in Nairobi, Kenya in connection with the MSW students at Union University in TN where Alyse Young is attending. Please bring new or gently used books to the collection bin in the back of the sanctuary by Christmas Eve.

Coffee Serving Team: The new **2018 coffee serving** schedule is in your mailboxes this week. Please take a look at the dates, and let the office know if you are available for the days scheduled. Please check your contact number to be sure we have this listed correctly. We are looking for a little more help on this team, so invite someone to serve coffee with you to see if they might like to join the Hospitality team. This is a wonderful, simple way to serve First Church, welcome a stranger and support the staff. Call #303-733-4936 Tuesday -Friday.

Cascade of Hope Community Resource Center invites you to help teach ESL, Citizenship or computer literacy Wednesday or Thursday evenings January 17-March 22. See the flyer in your box today for details. No experience necessary.

Year End Giving

The deacons would like to thank you for your support of 1st Church. At this point we are about \$46,000 below budgeted expectations. As you plan your year-end giving, please consider a gift to the 1st CRC General Fund. Thank you!