

Church Calendar for: December 25, 2016 through New Year's Day

Sunday ~ December 25 ~ Christmas Morning

Pastor Joel is preaching; offering is for Benevolence
No Sunday School or Choir practice

Monday ~ December 26: Pastor Joel on vacation this week.

Offices are closed
6:00pm Count Committee

Tuesday ~ December 27

Wednesday ~ December 28: Family Night on Winter Break

Thursday ~ December 29

Friday ~ December 30

9:00am – Library Ladies

Saturday ~ December 31 – New Year's Eve

7:00am – Men's Bible Study

Donut Sunday ~ New Year's Day morning Service at 9:30am

Chaplain William Jensen is preaching
No regularly scheduled programs

Donuts for a Dollar on New Year's Day! Start the year off with a *melt-in-your mouth* donut, and help provide Spring planting supplies for The Table Ministry.

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. The Lord's Supper will be shared today, and all those who place their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation are welcome to receive communion. Gluten-free hosts are available.

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**

Thank you to all serving January 1, New Year's Day 2017

Nursery: Allie Christians, Lea Gunnnett, Lynn Roberts, Logan Posthumus, Micah Den Braber

CIW: On Break

Prayer Ministry Elders: Cyndi Berghuis & Rick Schmitt

Coffee: Vander Ark

Lord's Supper Prep & DVD Delivery: **Grow Group 1**

Happy Birthday to our wonderful, faithful library lady, Betty Klap, on 12/22!



Packaging Gift Bags for Claire's kids (incarcerated at-risk youth) at three different locations. Please continue to pray over the youth *for the Love of the Father, the Peace of Christ and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit* to be with them always.

Missions News

Praise from Jonathan and Marian Cady – Praise God with them that they have officially moved from support raising to the “missionary in training” phase as of December 1. They will be released for ministry work and Jonathan will continue work to complete his MDiv through Calvin Seminary.

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.

First Christian Reformed Church

Email: 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...

Christmas Order of Worship December 25, 2016

Gathering

Prelude and Processional

Welcome

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:6-14

Call to worship:

God is here! The Messiah has come!

**We open our eyes to see Him
and lift our hearts to worship Him.**

We have come to exalt the name of Jesus, our Savior and King,
and to bring glory to God the Father.

**We bow before our Lord and King.
Come, worship the Lord!**

*Songs:

O Come All Ye Faithful LUYH 76

Angels from the Realms of Glory LUYH 81

Prayer of Adoration and Praise

All glory to You, great God,
for the gift of Your Son,
light in darkness and hope of the world,
whom You sent to save us.
With singing angels
let us praise Your name
and tell the earth His story,
that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down,
acknowledging Your love

*Song: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* LUYH 80

*God's Greeting and Mutual Greeting

Celebrating The Coming of Christ

Candle Lighting: Dance team

Reader 1: The Word became flesh and lived among us,
Reader 1 and congregation: **and we have seen His glory,**
Reader 1: the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
Reader 2: We light our final candle, the Christ candle, to celebrate
the light of Christ coming into the world.

Song: *What Child Is This* LUYH 95

Offering: Benevolence

Offertory & Offertory Prayer: *Once in Royal David's City* LUYH 87

Word

Scripture: Luke 2: 22-40 Page 1027

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon: *A Gift For Those Who Wait* Pastor Joel Schreurs

Prayer for Application

Table

Words of Institution

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Memorial Acclamation

Praise to You, Lord Jesus:

**Dying, You destroyed our death;
rising, You restored our life.**

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Prayer for the Work of the Spirit

Invitation

Distribution Song: *Remembering With Love and Hope* LUYH 809
Lord Bid Your Servant Go In Peace LUYH 97

Communion

Song of Response: *Joy to the World* LUYH 92

Sending Prayer:

Go Tell it on the Mountain LUYH 93

*Blessing:

May Jesus Christ, the sun of righteousness,
who comes with healing in His wings,
fill You with the joy and peace that passes all understanding.
The blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon
you and remain with you always. Amen.

Postlude

Minister of the Word: Rev. Joel Schreurs
Worship Coordinator: Kyle Cooper
Musicians: First Church Band with Brass
Accompanist: Jack Waanders

Prayer and Care for God's People

Remember the hungry and thirsty in prayer; offer them food and drink.
Remember the strangers; invite them in.
Offer warm clothes to those who need them.
Look after the sick, visit those in prison...
We pray especially for the young men and women who received the gift bags and cards from First Church through *Youth For Christ's* Claire Froehlich.

Pray for widows and widowers, single parents and lonely children.

Pray for our friends spending the winter in a warmer climate, may they find abundant health and good Christian fellowship until they return to us.

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 or 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.

The final numbers of the 2016 Global Bazaar are in. It is with **deep gratitude** to God and a **heartfelt thank you** to all the volunteers, vendors, and shoppers that we can report the following:

- Total Sales: \$16,838.49 - that is the most we have sold at the Global Bazaar since we first held it in 2008.
- More than \$7,200 was purchased from fair-trade non-profit vendors and \$9,600 from for-profit vendors (many of whom sell fair trade products) who all donated at least 20% of their proceeds to non-profit agencies.
- Through the sales of these items, all who participated were able to help people around the world in their pursuit of economic and social justice.

First Church Opportunities to Connect and Serve

Kids Hope USA / McKinley Thatcher Elementary school

5 of us are currently spending time with a child every week at the school for one hour. Marj DeBoer, Laurie Sanderson, Ed Schans and myself are with kids at McKinley Thatcher, and Fred Ritsema followed his boy to Grant Middle school after several years with him in his elementary years. 26 different adults in our church have been a mentor in this program over the

last 10 years. Many of them continued with their child until they graduated from 5th grade. The principal tells us she would welcome more lovely 1st CRC people to work with their kids. She has several 3rd graders that could benefit from a relationship with a caring adult. Please let us know if you would like to consider helping a child in this way.

~ *Merry Christmas Bob DeMasters*

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. Please note - we are on break the week between Christmas and New Years.

Bible Study Opportunities in 2017:

There are Bible Studies meeting off-site throughout the year. If you would like to start one, or join a small group already in process, please call the office #303-733-4936.

During Family Night on Wednesdays, beginning again on January 11th, a women's Bible study and fellowship group called *Coffee Break* meets in the Emerson House (next door to church) at 6:30pm following our meal time, served from 5:45-6:15 in the Fellowship Hall (\$2.50 per person). Contact Beth Posthumus #303-947-1085.

Men from First Church gather every other Saturday morning, in Room 21, for a true Bible Study and prayer time. Contact Rod O. #303-471-9370.

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!

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). 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 Registration:

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!

Updated Contact information:

Don Gesink *for the winter months
5013 Merritt Brown Way
Panama City, Florida 32404
#303-752-3501