

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 30th

Count Committee immediately following service.
Sunday School and Children in Worship are on Winter Break.
Pastor Bret Lamsma is preaching; offering is for the General Fund.
No Youth Group Tonight – on Break!

Monday ~ December 31st

Office is closed
New Year's Day ~ January 1st
Office is closed

Wednesday ~ January 2nd

No family Night tonight. Next family Night is January 16th

Thursday ~ January 3rd

10:30am-11:30am: *The January Series* at Denver Christian School begins

Friday ~ January 4th

Library is staffed

Saturday ~ January 5th

7:00am – Men's Morning Bible Study in Rm. 21

Sunday ~ January 6th

11:00am Grow Group Meals; Pastor Joel Schreurs is preaching.

Thank you to all serving This Sunday, December 30th

Children in Worship is on Winter Break!

Nursery: Charys, Youngsma, Logan Posthumus, Bob Reynolds, Karissa Lamsma

Camera: Adam DeBoer Lyrics: Annika DeBoer Sound: Paul DeBoer

Prayer Ministry Elders: Fred Ritsema & Nancy Waanders

Coffee: Schans/DenBraber

Thank you to all serving Next Sunday, January 6th

Children in Worship: Nancy Waanders, Luke Ruter, Annika DeBoer, Ari Waanders

Nursery: Jessica Benson, Elianah & Charlotte Reynolds, Dan Addink

Camera: Matthew Jonker Lyrics: Micah Dehaan Sound: Jim DeHaan

Prayer Ministry Elders: Cal Van Heukelem & Anne Buteyn

Coffee: Vander Ark

Newcomers, guests and visitors: Hot tea, cocoa and coffee are available in back; prayer elders are available up front to support you on your faith journey. We have *Connect cards* in the pew pockets to help us to communicate with you.

Banners: Thank you **Gracie Hansum** for the beautifully expressive banner art: *"Naomi – Progression of Hope"*. We are grateful to all who are participating in *Live It Out*. This offering of worship art is helping us to appreciate Naomi's journey as we move through Advent from emptiness to fullness

The ornament in your mailbox is a gift from the Live it Out Sunday School group activity. The wheat reminds us of the journey of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz.

Denver Christian School is a satellite location for live webinars of The January Series.

We invite you to join us for this FREE 15-day lecture series that takes place each January. The 2019 series will be weekdays, **10:30 - 11:30am** from **January 3-23** with topics such as technology and faith, the church and disabilities, restorative justice, cancer research, the #metoo movement, and so much more, by top experts in their fields.

Grow Group Meals January 6th:

Grow Groups are intergenerational *pot-luck* fellowship times to study God's Word and pray together. These groups are hosted by an elder-deacon team in the home of a participating member, or at church. Guests and visitors to First CRC will have easy access to lunch and laughter with **Groups 2, 3, & 4** meeting on site!

Group #1 Ritsema/Buys - Newcombe's home - 2158 South Clarkson 80210.

***Group #2** Waanders/Timmer: - Meeting in Pit Stop Garage next to church.

***Group #3** Van Heukelem/Natelborg - Meets downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

***Group #4:** Buteyn/Vanden Boogaard - Meeting downstairs in rm. 12/13.

Group #5: DeHaan/Posthumus - DeHaan's - 8028 S. Ammons Ct., 80128

Group #6: Cady/Nibblelink - To be determined.

Help Needed:

Edna Houtkooper would like to hire additional help for late afternoons, from 3-5 or 4-6pm. She needs companionship to prepare her evening meals and get her ready for bed. *CNA is not necessary, but might be helpful.*

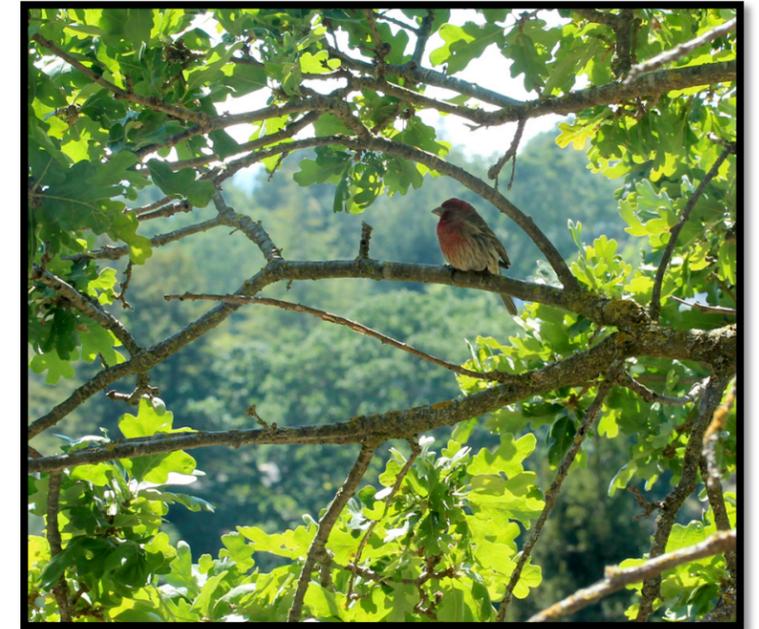
Please call Edna at #303.300.4503

First Christian Reformed Church #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



First Christian Reformed Church

*A Family of God, Living our Faith and Growing by:
Joyfully surrendering to Jesus, Freely sharing our lives,
and Humbly embracing the hurting.*

December 30th, 2018

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Processional

Call to Worship:

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
**on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.**

Jesus Christ is our life and light.

In His name and in His power, let us worship God!

*Song: *Angels We Have Heard On High* LUYH 82

*Prayer:

God of glory,
Your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem
into the darkness of human night.
Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world so
that we, like Him, may become beacons of Your justice
and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

*Songs:

O Little Town of Bethlehem LUYH 88 (verses 1,3,4)
Away In A Manger (Verses 1 and 3)

*God's Greeting and Mutual Greeting

Renewal

Prayer for Intercession and Gratitude

Songs:

Once In Royal David's City LUYH 87 (verses 1-3)
O Holy Night

Offering: General Fund

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Word

Scripture: Isaiah 61 pg. 744

Sermon: *An Oak, Transformed* Pastor Bret Lamsma

Prayer for Application

*Song of Response: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Sending

*Sending

*Sending Song: *All Glory Be to Christ*

*Blessing

*Postlude

Minister of the Word: Rev. Joel Schreurs

Director of Faith Formation: Dr. Bret Lamsma ~ **Preaching Today**

Worship Coordinator: Kyle Cooper, First CRC Band, Hannah DeBoer & Matthew Jonker

Up ~ Prayer and Praise:

*Our Persecuted Believer's prayer focus will be for the country of **Pakistan** during November and December. Please look for a prayer sheet by the silver message board with strategic prayer requests and links to more information. **Which Country shall we focus prayer on in the months of January and February?***

Please pray for the Zoetewey's little neighbor girl, **Aubree**, scheduled for (her 4th) heart surgery **Jan 3**. Pray for peace in the hearts of each family member.

We pray for healing and recovery for **Randy Smith** undergoing an operation.

Pray for **Marian Cady**, for a smooth labor and delivery (February due date).

We pray God's comfort over **Anneliese Shively and family**. Her precious mother, Trudy from Austria, entered eternal rest in Christ on Christmas Morning.

Edna Houtkooper would appreciate our prayers for patience and encouragement. Please pray for the right companions for additional late afternoon help with supper and bedtime.

The First CRC staff would like to thank Council for a nice Christmas lunch and thoughtful cards! We thank each of you for the *banket*, cookies, chocolates, well wishes and words of encouragement over Christmas and the New Year.

IN ~ Events & Upcoming Activities

Save the date for our first Family Night of 2019, on Wednesday, **January 16th**, beginning with a home-cooked meal served at **5:45pm** (donations are always appreciated). Adult and children's programs and activities will begin at **6:30pm**. First CRC Council will meet at 6:30pm. If you are new to First Church, come hungry to check out this casual night of fun and fellowship. Nursery provided!

Men's Morning Bible study meets routinely Wednesday mornings at **7:30am** in the Emerson House (next door) with breakfast. Contact Kyle Cooper kylecooper@firstcrcdenver.org, or Cal Van Heukelem cal@firstcrcdenver.org if you would like to *plug-in* to a Men's study. No Meeting this week.

Men's Saturday morning group meets every other Saturday at **7:00am** in room 21. Next meeting is **January 5th**, for Bible study, fellowship and prayer: rodohouse@comcast.net.

CORRECTION: Ladies Morning Bible Study will meet on **January 9th & 23rd, 2019** at 9:30am, in Room 12/13 for a study of *Ecclesiastes*. Please contact Walt Ackerman if you have any questions: **#303-916-5246**.

Coffee Break Ladies Bible Study will be on holiday schedule until Wednesday, **January 9th** at **6:30pm**. There will be **no** Coffee Break on 12/26 or 1/2/2019.

Beloved of God women's exercise group will be meeting **January 9th** at **6:45pm**. Contact Pamela Hansum dphansum@q.com for more details.

Sew and Sews will meet **Thursday, January 10th & 24th from 9-12noon**, with coffee time at 10:30am. This faithful fellowship sews for local hospitals and global mission organizations. They plan to meet every other Thursday in the New Year. Contact Joey Vander Ark if you would like more information: joeyvanark@aol.com

Circle of Hope: Prayerful small group support for family members caring for a loved one navigating the ups and downs of mental illness. Monthly meetings are held in rm. 21, from 10-12 on the second Saturday, next meeting is **January 12th**.

OUT ~ Living Our Faith & Growing by

Joyfully Surrendering To Jesus ~

Do you have the gift of *Hospitality and welcoming* others? We would love to have a few more people on the coffee committee, and to greet visitors! This is a great way to become involved at First CRC (low time commitment of about 1 hour every 6-8 weeks). Call or email the office for details connections@firstcrcdenver.org

Freely Sharing Our Lives ~

Families of College Students: The First CRC staff would like to update our College student's mailing address list in order to encourage and pray for the students in our faith family. Will you please email: connections@firstcrcdenver.org with the current address, email and cell number for your student? We can also add them to our *Mail Chimp* list if they would like to receive Connections Newsletter electronically.

Humbly Embracing The Hurting ~ December Update From Margaret

Njuguna En-Gedi Home has continued to be a safe haven for children with special needs and we have witnessed tremendous improvement in the abilities of the children – both physical and mental. From just one child who could talk at the beginning of this year, we now have 3 and 2 others gaining new words consistently. When we sing together, we now can hear more clear words than just a few months ago. Two children are able to hold support and stand for a few minutes at a time. As we do our **best** in caring for these children, God will continue to do the **rest** in their lives. Thank you for the many prayers. Our playground is 80% complete. *Pictures are in the Newsletter in the foyer.*

Council News

Council met in December. Here are some of the highlights of our last meeting.

- We prayerfully considered potential candidates to replace our retiring elders, deacons and clerk. Retiring Council members will begin to have conversations with these people over the next weeks and months.
- We ask that our church family recognize the needs of the General Fund and to prayerfully consider giving to this important ministry.
- If you are in the process of enrolling or re-enrolling your children in a Christian school, Council reminds you to remember to also apply for financial aid through your school. This is the first step in the process of applying for additional financial aid through First Church.

In January, watch the Connections for information from the Christian Education Assistance Fund committee about our new financial aid process. As always, please don't hesitate to contact your deacon/elder team with any questions or concerns.

GEMS would like to invite any women who have been involved in GEMS or *Calvinettes* over the years to celebrate **GEMS 60th anniversary** with a Birthday Party on **January 30th**. More details to come. If you have any pictures or memorabilia we could put on display the night of the Birthday Party please contact Julie Lamsma at #209-985-3622 or julie.lamsma@gmail.com.

Please email Connections@firstcrcdenver.org with your First CRC meeting schedule for the New Year. If you prefer, leave a flyer or list of dates with updated contact information, on the receptionist's desk. Indicate if you would like your meetings or events listed on the website calendar.