

Church Calendar

Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 9th

Pastor Joel Schreurs preaching; offering is for General Fund

11:00am NO Sunday School – *Live It Out* Activities

3-6pm Club 68

Monday ~ December 10th

9:30am – Prayer For Persecuted Believers, **Senior Moments Set-up*

6:30pm – Count Committee

Tuesday ~ December 11th

9-1pm – **Senior Moments Christmas Brunch**

1:30pm - Staff Meeting, rm. 21

6:30pm – Deacon’s Meeting

Wednesday ~ December 12th

7:30am – Men’s Bible Study in the Emerson House

6:30pm –Coffee break, **6:45pm** Beloved of God

Thursday ~ December 13th

9:00am-12n - Sew & Sews in room 12/13

7:00pm – Worship Practice

Friday ~ December 14th

9-11 – Library is staffed

Saturday ~ December 15th

9-11am Dance rehearsal in Sanctuary

2-5pm - Grace Green Harp Recital & Reception

Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 16th

Pastor Joel Schreurs preaching; offering is for *Family Promise*

11:00am – 12n: No Sunday School *Live It Out* Activities

5-7pm Youth Group

Thank you to all serving this Sunday, December 9th:

Children in Worship: Eileen Ruter, Owen Vermeer, Sam Waanders

Nursery: Christine Nibbelink, Karissa Lamsma, Beth George, Paige Cady

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

Prayer Ministry Elder: Fred Ritsema & Nancy Waanders

Coffee: DeBoer/Kats **Lord’s Supper Prep:** #GG 6

Thank you to all serving next Sunday, December 16th:

Children in Worship: Davinia Lyon, Torre Blohm, Adam DeBoer, Lilli Vermeer

Nursery: Sandie Posthumus, Walt Ackerman, Savannah Blohm, Sam Waanders

Camera: Matthew Jonker **Lyrics:** Aaron Elgersma **Sound:** Cory Vermeer

Prayer Ministry Elder: Cal Van Heukelem & Anne Buteyn

Coffee: Newcombe

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 for you. We celebrate the Lord’s Supper today. All baptized believer’s, who place their trust and faith in Jesus for salvation, may receive communion. Gluten-Free wafers are available.

Connections cover Art work: *Ruth Gleaning* by James Tissot, 1896

In 1885, Tissot had a revival of his faith, which led him to spend the rest of his life making paintings about Biblical events. To assist in his completion of biblical illustrations, Tissot traveled to the Middle East in 1886, 1889, and 1896 to make studies of the landscape and people. His series of 365 gouache (opaque watercolor) illustrations showing the life of Christ, were shown to critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences in Paris (1894–5), London (1896) and New York (1898–9), before being bought by the Brooklyn Museum in 1900’s. Tissot spent the last years of his life working on paintings of subjects from the Old Testament. Wikipedia

Advent and Christmas:

December 9th & 16th,

Advent Series: on the **Book of Ruth** and *Live It Out* Activities for all!

Live It Out locations - 11am to 12noon:

- Choir - Sanctuary stage area
- Ornaments - Pit Stop
- Christmas Cookies - Kitchen/Fellowship Hall
- Readers Theater - Emerson House living room
- Family Promise packets - 12/13
- Worship Visual Arts - Media Center/Library

December 11th ~ Senior Moments Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:30am; catered lunch at 12noon.

Christmas Day Service at 9:30am



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.*

Gathering ~ December 9th, 2018

Prelude

Welcome

Processional

Advent Candle Lighting and Reading:

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon Me,
because the Lord has anointed Me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners...

We light these candles as a sign of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ!

*Song: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (verses 1,4,5)

*Psalm 138:6-8

Though the Lord is exalted, He looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, He sees them from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
You preserve my life.
You stretch out Your hand against the anger of my foes;
with Your right hand you save me.
The Lord will vindicate me;
**Your love, Lord, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of Your hands.**

*Song: *Sons & Daughters*

*God’s Greeting

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

Renewal

Prayer for Intercession and Gratitude

Song: *My Soul Cries Out With A Joyful Shout* LUYH 69

Offering: General Fund
Offertory
Offertory Prayer: Deacon

Word

Children In Worship Dismissal
Leader: We are God's family
We joyfully surrender to Jesus
We freely share our lives
We humbly embrace the hurting
People: **The Lord be with you**
Children: **And also with you**

Scripture: Ruth 2 pg. 264
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon
Prayer for Application

Table

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.

Thanksgiving for the Work of God in Creation
Acclamation of Praise
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Thanksgiving for the Work of Christ
Words of Institution
Prayer for the Work of the Spirit
Invitation

Distribution Songs:
Imagine LUYH 72
Of the Father's Love Begotten LUYH 78 (verses 1,2,4)
Communion

Sending

Sending Prayer
*Sending Song: *We Will Feast in the House of Zion*

*Blessing

*Postlude
Minister of the Word: Rev. Joel Schreurs
Director of Faith Formation: Dr. Bret Lamsma
Worship Coordinator: Kyle Cooper, First CRC Band
Accompanist: Christy Bol
Advent Reader: Randy & Emma Schwager, Russ DenBraber

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.

- We pray for families welcoming new members.
- We pray for parents releasing loved ones to the Lord.
- We pray for strengthened marriages and fresh hope.
- We pray for teachers, faculty and students heading into winter break.
- We pray God's provision for those who lost homes in natural disasters.
- We entrust our loved to God's care.

Thank you for all your kind words of encouragement, cards and gifts during Pastor Appreciation month! I am grateful for the opportunity to serve at First CRC and for my church family! -Pastor Joel

IN ~ Events & Upcoming Activities

Club 68 - our Middle School Youth Group - is meeting tonight. We will be leaving **church at 3:15** for an afternoon of laser tag at Laser Quest. We will return to church by 5:30 for dinner and will be **done by 6.**

Senior Moments: Sunday, Dec. 9th is last day to sign up for our annual Christmas party, held **Tuesday 11th.** We need our final count for our catered meal. The party begins with coffee time at **9:30 a.m.** Remember to bring your wrapped gifts, and food that you signed up to bring, to the coffee time or meal. If you volunteered to help decorate and set up we are meeting Monday, Dec. 10th at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship room. Questions: Please see the flyer or call Betty K. 303-514-6251 or Beth P. 303-947-1085.

Beloved of God yoga class will be meeting every **Wednesday Night at 6:45pm** in Room 12/13, except for Family Nights (when we will meet in the Fellowship room after meal time). Pamela Hansum is the contact person: dphansum@q.com if you have any questions.

Save the date for our final Family Night of 2018, on December 19th, beginning with dinner at 5:45pm served by First CRC staff. Our first Family Night of 2019, will be on Wednesday, **January 16th.**

Ladies Morning Bible Study will meet on **December 19th** at 9:30am, in Room 12/13 with Walt Ackerman facilitating on the book, *"The Bible That Jesus Read."*

Library News: Looking for a good book to read on these chilly days? The library has a good collection of adult and children books. Please see the displays of the "Christmas season books in our library." A new fiction book by Karen Kingsbury entitled "Baxter Family Christmas" has arrived in our library. Enjoy a season of reading. Blessings to all from Betty and Thelma.

Platt Park Children's Center: A big thank you to all who supported Platt Park Children's Center at the Barnes and Noble Book Fair! We won't know totals for a few weeks, but we are looking forward to purchasing new items with funds raised. Thank you for your continued support!

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.

OUT ~ Living Our Faith & Growing by

Joyfully Surrendering To Jesus ~

Advent Family Faith Formation Tip - On this second Sunday in Advent, add things to your home that remind you that we are expecting Jesus to return. Set an extra place at the table when you eat, or create and decorate a mural together that says "Come, Lord Jesus." (Faith Formation Ministries; crcna.org/FaithFormation).

Freely Sharing Our Lives ~

Our First CRC Living Water Intn'l (LWI) Team recently completed another clean water well in northern Honduras. The drill team this year consisted of five dads accompanied by their 13-15 year old sons. The sons did most of the work very capably under the supervision of the LWI representative. They seemed to become young men in one short week. The fathers were special at just being their DADS. The well was developed, a hand pump installed and dedicated to the friendly community of Nuevo San Juan.

Next November 2-9, 2019 we are planning another drill/hygiene trip to Honduras. If you are interested in being a part of the drill or hygiene team your commitment is necessary six months before the trip. The needs for safe water for the poor in Honduras are still great. Thank you for supporting this water ministry. Al Wassenaar

Humbly Embracing The Hurting ~

Youth For Christ December 16th – Wreath of light ministry

Meals Ministry: *Helping Hands* could use a few more meals to stock up the refrigerator in the kitchen when a need arises. Please label/date all meals (with instructions for re-heating), and use disposable containers.

Banket almond pastry, and Christmas cookies, are baked and **ready for shut-ins** or those needing an extra touch of God's love. If you would like to deliver baked goods to someone on your Grow Group list (or a shut-in neighbor friend), please contact the office **this week:** connections@firstcrcdenver.org, or by phone at: #303.733.4936 from 9:00am-3:00pm Tuesday through Friday.

Canto Deo Community Choir is dedicated to excellence in performance and carrying on our Christian cultural heritage by exploring choral literature from diverse historical periods and styles. As part of our contribution to our heritage, *Canto Deo* also supports the creation of new sacred choral works and serves as a community based resource for sacred music. Please visit cantodeo.org for tickets.

Three Christmas concerts will be offered this season with full orchestra.

Friday, December 14 at 7:30pm
St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Parish: 6673 west Chatfield Ave. 80128

Saturday, December 15th at 3:00pm
Christ Church Episcopal: 2950 South University 80210

Monday, December 17th at 7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran: 4500 East Hampden Ave. 80113

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Contact for Eric & Stephanie DenBraber and sons:

Eric DenBraber
Unit 3420 Box 465
DPO, AA 34039-0465

**for mail service to Ecuador*