

Church Calendar

Welcome guests and visitors! Elders will be up front with prayer nametags after the service, to answer any questions and pray with you. Please fill out a Connect Card (found in the pew Bibles). Return Connect Cards to the Elder up front.

Sunday ~ January 19: Today we welcome **Ahna Cho** into our pulpit. Ahna is a graduate of Denver Seminary who currently serves on the staff of Redeemer Christian Church in Denver. Ahna is currently enrolled in a program to become a candidate for ordained ministry in the Christian Reformed Church and is preaching at First CRC in order to fulfill the requirements of this program. She will present a message from **John 15:1-9** entitled, "**God's Greatest Investment.**"

11:00am Age specific Sunday School, with a new class for Adults: *Growing With* in Fellowship Hall. Offering is for the Benevolence Fund (emergency financial assistance for those connected to First CRC). Guidelines and an application are on the bulletin board behind the copy machine in room 24.

5:00pm: Meet at Church for **Club 68 Rodeo** excursion. *Note earlier time!

Monday ~ January 20 ~ MLK Jr. Day

Tuesday ~ January 21: 1:30pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday ~ January 22:

9:30am – Ladies AM Bible Study in rooms 12/13

6:30pm – Coffee Break in Emerson

6:45pm – Beloved of God Yoga downstairs

Thursday ~ January 23:

9:30-12:00pm - Sew & Sews in rooms 12/13

Friday ~ January 24

9:30am-11:30am Library

Saturday ~ January 25:

1:00pm – 3:00pm - Card Stampers in 12/13

Sunday ~ January 26th:

11:00am - Pastor Joel is Preaching; offering is for our General Operating fund.

Age-specific Sunday School; "Growing With" Adult Education class

Caleb Keyes Baptism; Keyes family joining First CRC

Thank you to all serving this Sunday, January 19

CIW: Davinia Lyon, Tina Van den Boogaard, Eliannah Reynolds, Owen Vermeer

Nursery Leader: Cheryl Schmitt, Melanie Jonker, Troy Newcombe, Lacey DeBoer

Camera: Evelyn Keyes **Lyrics:** Natalie Roberts **Sound:** Logan Posthumus

Prayer Ministry Elders: Cal Van Heukelem & Anne Buteyn

Coffee: Young/Schuttinga

Thank you to all serving next Sunday, January 26

CIW: Brianna Van Andel, Jon Dyhr, Erin Youngsma, Sam Waanders

Nursery Leader: TBD, Emma Schwager, Paul DeBoer, Madisyn Hunt

Camera: Ian Reynolds **Lyrics:** Charlotte Reynolds **Sound:** Bob Reynolds

Prayer Ministry Elders: Fred Ritsema & Cathy Van Donselaar

Coffee: Schans/Schaefer

Bulletin Art: Vine and Branch *John 15:1-9* The image is an original linoleum block print resulting from a printmaking process in which an image is drawn on a block of wood covered with a thin layer of linoleum, and then hand-carved to expose areas that will be white. Ink is rolled onto the block, covering the surface not cut away. Paper made from the mulberry tree is laid on top and hand rubbed with a Japanese barren or wooden spoon. In transferring the ink to the paper the resulting image is a reflection of the design placed on the block. It first appeared in the book *Visuals for Worship* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2006) which is no longer in print. "Linoleum block print by Elizabeth Steele Halstead."

Missions Update: January 2020 Birthdays

Belen Starkenburg - 20th

Erick Perez - 27th

Lost & Found: Last chance to claim your *lost and found* items, beneath the Big Screen TV in the Fellowship Hall.

Our next Family Promise Host Week is February 9-16! Please click on the Sign-up genius link below to find various ways you can support the families God brings to First CRC. Contact bret@firstcrcdenver.org with your questions.

Family Promise Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4AAFA923A0F94-family2>

Avalanche Fans: Looking for a fun family or Grow Group outing?

First CRC is considering a second annual *Faith & Family Night*: Colorado

Avalanche vs. Vancouver Canucks on **March 13 at 7pm** at the Pepsi Center.

Tickets start at \$35 (no extra fees or taxes) Price includes a post-game concert.

A deposit is required to save seats, so we would like to see how many of you are interested! Contact connections@firstcrcdenver.org by January 31st.

Please note the correct Grow Group list and designated areas as follows. If you have any questions regarding Grow groups, please contact Shirley@firstcrcdenver.org. Save the Date for our next Grow Group Meals: **February 9th**.

1	North	Cal Van Heukelem	Suzanne Natelborg
2	Northeast	Anne Buteyn	Donn Hansum
3	Southeast	Dave Cady	Craig Lohmann
4	South	Cathy VanDonselaar	James Timmer
5	Southwest	Jim DeHaan	Beth Posthumus
6	Northwest	Fred Ritsema	Aaron Buys

The Banner magazine wants to hear from you! - Please take our survey at thebanner.org/Survey. Help us improve to serve you better. Your participation is voluntary, confidential, and will only take about 10 minutes. Thank you!

First Christian Reformed Church #303.733.4936

1814 South Emerson Street, Denver 80210

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

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



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

January 19, 2020

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Processional

Call to Worship: Psalm 47:1-2,5-6

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the LORD, the Most High is awesome,

a great King over all the earth.

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;

Sing praises to our King, sing praises.

*Song: *How Great is Our God & How Great Thou Art* LUYH 574/553 (1,3,4)

*Responsive Litany:

Praise be to you, LORD,

The God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power

and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,

for everything in heaven and earth is Yours.

Yours, LORD, is the Kingdom; You are exalted as head over all.

Wealth and honor come from You; You are the ruler of all things.

In Your hands are strength and power

to exalt and give strength to all.

*Song: *I'll Not be Shaken (Psalm 62)*, Kimbrough

*God's Greeting and Mutual Greeting

People of God, from where does your help come?

Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Grace, mercy and peace be yours in the name of the Triune God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Renewal

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In Your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Song of Confession: *Good to Me* LUYH 620

Assurance of Pardon

Offering: Benevolence Fund

Offertory

Word

Children In Worship Sending

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 of Intercession and Gratitude

Scripture: John 15:1-9

Sermon: *God's Greatest Investment*

Prayer for Application

Sending

*Song: *Holy Spirit Living Breath of God* (LUYH 746)

Sending Litany:

Jesus said: "I am the True Vine, you are the branches."

Apart from Him, we can do nothing.

Jesus said: "Remain in Me, and let My words remain in you."

Then we will bear much fruit.

Jesus said: "This is to the Father's glory."

That we bear much fruit, showing ourselves to be His disciples.

*Doxology: *To God Be the Glory* LUYH 956

*Benediction

*Postlude

Guest Preacher Anna Cho, Redeemer Christian Church

Minister of the Word: Pastor Joel Schreurs

Director of Faith Formation: Dr. Bret Lamsma

Worship Coordinator: Kyle Cooper with First CRC Band & Christy Bol

Up ~ Prayer and Praise

In January/February we will pray as a church for persecuted believers in Eritrea, #6 on the new 2020 World Watch List. Government security forces have continued to conduct numerous raids on Christians and house churches, arresting hundreds of Christians being held by the government in miserable conditions. Christians are being forced to join the armed forces. Protestants, in particular, face serious problems with accessing community resources, especially state social services.

Please pray for provision for displaced renters being asked to move unexpectedly.

Please pray for peace, provision and strengthened faith for those facing upcoming surgeries.

Please pray for safety and a great experience for all participants in the Stock Show.

Thanks for all the prayers offered for **Sheri** for recent surgery. God is good and we are looking forward to a full recovery during the next several weeks.

Jim and Sheri DeHaan

IN ~ Events & Upcoming Activities

Women's AM Bible Study meets every other Wednesday. The next meeting is **January 22nd at 9:30am** in rm. 12/13, to study "*Cultures in Conflict*" by Ray Vander Laan. Led by Walt Ackerman.

Coffee Break ~ Women's Evening fellowship, prayer and Bible Study meets Wednesdays at **6:30pm** in the Emerson House next to church. Everyone is welcome! Led by Beth Posthumus.

Beloved of God Yoga will meet **January 22 and 29** downstairs at 1st CRC, **6:45 pm**. Our focus is strengthening and renewing bodies and minds through Christ-centered prayer and movement to restore us to do God's work in the world.

Men's Wed. AM Bible Study in the Emerson House South of church, coffee is on at **7:30am** on Wednesday; Study begins at 8:00am. Led by Cal Van Heukelem.

Men's Sat. AM Bible Study in rm 21, *every other* Saturday at **7AM**, next meeting: **February 1st**. Led by Rod Oosterhouse.

Sew & Sews: *Sew & Sews* next meeting is **January 23rd, from 9-12n**, in room 12/13. Led by Joey VanderArk.

Senior Moments 2020:

Save these dates, and keep an eye out for more information, for interesting, fun outings for our 55 + fellowship: 2/18, 3/17, 4/21, 5/17 or 19 *depending on event* 6/16 and July is an off month. Contact Sharon@engel8419@live.com. *See our website, firstcrcdenver.org for photos from past outings.*

Card Stampers: Card Stamping Group is meeting **January 25th from 1-3pm** in rooms 12/13. Led by Carol Kats. We have lovely cards, suitable for all occasions, on the tables in the foyer for your use.

Through February 2nd Pastor Bret will be leading a discussion on the book "*Growing With*" during the Sunday School hour at **11:00am** in Fellowship Hall. More books are available. If you still want to be a part of the discussion, please talk to Pastor Bret.

Club 68 meets today, January 19. We're going to head downtown to the National Western Stock Show and watch a rodeo! The rodeo begins at 6:30. So we'll **meet at church promptly at 5:00 (NOTE EARLIER TIME)**, and head downtown from there. Questions? bret@firstcrcdenver.org.

OUT ~ Serving & Sharing

Joyfully surrendering to Jesus ~

Planning a Mission Trip? - Repair a home for a family who has waited months and months for help. World Renew Disaster Response Services has opportunities for groups of all sizes, skill sets, budgets and travel preferences. Contact Chris Gibson today at cgibson@worldrenew.net or 800-848-5818 to find your fit.

Short-Term Volunteers! - Are you 18 to 24 years old and interested in embarking on a short-term volunteer opportunity with life-long impact? World Renew's Global Volunteer Program provides opportunities to live, work, eat and play in an international community while exploring how God wants to use your talents and skills for His purpose. For more information, contact Andrew at globalvolunteer@worldrenew.net.

Freely Sharing Our Lives ~

The Journey of Longmont, CO will celebrate their 20th Anniversary on **January 26, 2020** at the 10:07 am service. You are invited to join us!

Humbly Embracing The Hurting ~

Circle of Hope confidential encouragement and prayer group, for those with loved ones navigating mental health issues, meets the second Saturday of the month: **February 8th**, from 10:00am-12:00pm in room 21.

Council Update:

January Council News:

Council approved a plan for a sabbatical for Pastor Joel from June 15 through August 31, 2020 using both vacation and sabbatical time off. The Executive Committee will begin working with Pastor Joel on a plan for coverage during his absence. Pastor Joel gratefully accepts the ongoing generosity of First CRC and looks forward to this sabbatical time to connect deeply with God and his family, to listen attentively to what God might be saying about the ministry and future of First CRC and to "fill his tank" by reading widely. Additionally, Pastor Joel will be attending an intensive course in California for his DMin work. We look forward to hearing more from Pastor Joel as he dreams and plans this sabbatical time.

Council received notice that Cascade Of Hope with Victor Perez will be discontinuing their ministry as Victor has accepted a position as a full time chaplain at a local hospital. Consequently, this will end the partnership with First CRC and Cascade of Hope. We congratulate Victor and are thankful for the ministry work he has done over the years in the Denver area.

Council approved the position description and posting for the Programs and Office Administrator. Council is grateful to Eileen Ruter and the HR Committee for their work on this posting and to Shirley VanHeukelem who has worked at First CRC in this position for many years and is soon retiring.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in applying for the Programs and Office Administrator job opening, please visit www.firstcrcdenver.org for a link to the Job description with further instructions for applicants.

From the Deacons: New option for your offering! Online giving is here!

Stick around after the service if you want to learn about a new option for your offering to First CRC. You can now make a donation to First through the Church Center App or through Planning Center's website! If you would like to learn more, there will be a short presentation from the Deacons immediately after our church service today. We will also be providing more details via the Connections in the coming weeks.