

Church Calendar for the week of: March 26th, 2017

Sunday ~ March 26: Spring Break – no Sunday School today.

Pastor Brett Lamsma is preaching on 2 Samuel 24. Offering is for Benevolence.

Youth Group parent meeting after church! Choir will meet.

1:00pm-4:00pm: YG at Senior Support Services.

Monday ~ March 27: office is closed 9-3

6:30pm: Dance Rehearsal in Sanctuary

6:30pm: Count Committee – Room 24

Tuesday ~ March 28:

1:00pm – Staff Meeting

7:15pm - Twenty-Somethings Bible Study at Emerson House

Wednesday ~ March 29: Pinewood Derby Race Night – everyone welcome!

7:30am – Men's Morning Huddle in Emerson House

5:45pm - Family Night (Meal – F. Richeson/Paul DB), Nursery: Erin Reynolds

Thursday ~ March 30:

9:15am – Sew and Sews Sewing Group in Rooms 12/13

Friday ~ March 31:

9:00am – Library Ladies

Saturday ~ April 1:

7:00am – Men's morning Bible study

Sunday ~ April 2: Pastor Joel Schreurs preaching, Mayli Ruter Baptism

11:00am - Town Hall Mtg. with DFF Bret; January Series Rm. 24, Sunday School, Offering is for the General Fund, Choir rehearsal in Emerson House

Thank you to all serving This Sunday, March 26th

Nursery: Sandie Posthumus, Isaac Jonker, Darin Gunnett, Laurie Sanderson and Sam Waanders **CIW: On Spring Break**

Prayer Ministry Elders: Cyndi Berghuis, Rick Schmitt

Coffee: Vander Ark

DVD Delivery: Grow Group 3 Lord's Supper Prep: Grow Group 3

Thank you to all serving Next Sunday, April 2nd

Nursery: Allie Christians, Luke Ruter, Tina VDB, Wyatt Vermeer, Owen Vermeer

CIW: Have A Great Day, Nancy Waanders, Marissa Bol, Isaac DenBraber

Prayer Ministry Elders: Ed Schans & Sheri DeHaan

Coffee: Englesman/Jonker **SS Nursery:** Van Otterloo

DVD Delivery: Grow Group 3 Lord's Supper Prep: Grow Group 3

Holy Week at First Church:

April 9th: Palm Sunday

April 12th: Regular Family Night

April 13th: Maundy Thursday~ No special events

April 14th: Good Friday ~ 6:30pm Contemplative Evening Worship

April 16th: Easter Sunday ~ 9:30 am Service

Eagle Lakes Camps Update:

Questions? Contact Shirley Van Heukelem at shirley@firstcrdenver.org

- As of March 20, 71 campers have already registered!
- 5 more weeks to register for Eagle Lakes Camps before the price goes up from \$79 per camper to \$179 per camper.
- Register online at eaglelakecamps.com/hope
- We need volunteers - lunch team for the staff on one of the days, host families, high school Crew members, check-in and check-out volunteers. You can volunteer at eaglelakecamps.com/volunteer
- Eagle Lake Camp is a day camp for kids ages 6-12, June 12-16, 9am-4pm @ Hope Community Church, 1801 S. Logan St.

Opportunities To Support:

Save the date! Platt Park Children's Center Silent Auction is April 28.

More information coming. PPCC looking to replenish our substitute teacher list for this school year and will be **adding to our teaching staff next school year**. If you love to work with young children and have experience/early childhood education call [303-282-7722](tel:303-282-7722) or email ppcc@plattparkchildrenscenter.com for more information. Thank you!

Learn more about JAMLAC's efforts to serve our community:

Learn about immigration, current changes, and how we talk about it.

Hear stories about barriers immigrants are experiencing.

Support services for immigrants at **JAMLAC**

For more information, please email Marlene at mbedoya@milehighmin.org.

Thursday, April 6th | 7:30-9:00AM (Breakfast Provided)

Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Clinic
913 N. Wyandot | Denver, CO 80204

Benefit for Joshua Station The 11th Annual Spring Theater Event will benefit the families transitioning from homelessness to stability at Joshua Station. Event Details: *The Robber Bridegroom*

April 19th | 5:30-8:30PM

Town Hall Arts Center | 2450 W. Main St, Littleton, CO 80120

VIP tickets (\$100) and General Admission seating (free) [are available now](#).

For more information, please visit www.joshuastationdenver.org/springtheater/

Mandatory informational meetings~

Learn more about the commitment First Church has to Christian Education. Attendance at one of these meetings is *required* to participate in academic year 2017-2018: Sunday, **April 9** from 11-11:30am in the Emerson House, or Wednesday, **April 5th from 6:30-7:00pm in the Council room**. To enroll in the Christian Education Program at First CRC, please visit the following site: <http://tiny.cc/cep2017>, Contact cepboard@firstcrdenver.org for more info.

The offering today is for the Benevolence Fund. The purpose of the Benevolence Fund is to extend God's grace and mercy in a financial manner to people connected with our church who are in need. *"Benevolence is a quality of our life in Christ and not merely a matter of financial assistance."*

A warm welcome to all newcomers, guests and visitors! Please fill out a *Connect card* found in each pew. Coffee and tea are in the foyer. Prayer elders are up front.

First Christian Reformed Church: 1814 South Emerson Street

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



*Celebrating, Seeking, Sharing
abundant life in Jesus...*

**Order of Worship
Gathering ~ March 26th, 2017**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Processional

Call to Worship: Based on Psalm 96

We come in reverent awe before the Lord our God—
for great is the Lord!

**We come, uniting with the body of Christ around the world and
throughout generations to sing new songs to the Lord our God.**

We come in worship and praise—
for the Lord God is worthy of our praise!

**We come, to share together the news of
our Glorious Lord's saving deeds.**

We come with songs and prayers—
to give well-deserved glory to the Lord!

**We come, to bring our offerings of worship and praise
to the Lord our God—whose holy splendor, honor and majesty
shines forth from God's presence. Amen.**

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*Songs: *We Fall Down* and *10,000 Reasons*

*God's Greeting and Mutual Greeting

Renewal

Call to Confession

Confession: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 12-15

Q. According to God's righteous judgment we deserve punishment
both now and in eternity: how then can we escape this punishment
and return to God's favor?

**A. God requires that His justice be satisfied.
Therefore the claims of this justice
must be paid in full, either by ourselves or by another.**

Q. Can we make this payment ourselves?

**A. Certainly not.
Actually, we increase our debt every day.**

Q. Can another creature—any at all—
pay this debt for us?

A. No.

To begin with, God will not punish any other creature for what a human is guilty of. Furthermore, no mere creature can bear the weight of God's eternal wrath against sin and deliver others from it.

Q. What kind of mediator and deliverer should we look for then?

A. One who is a true and righteous human, yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is also true God.

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Song of Assurance: *Not What My Hands Have Done* LUYH 624

Prayer for Intercession and Gratitude

Word

Scripture: 2 Samuel 24 Pg. 327

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon - "What Counts"

Psalm 130:7-8

People of God, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord there is unfailing love and with Him there is full redemption. He himself will redeem us from all of our sins

Prayer for Application

*Song of Response: *I Will Look Up*

Offering: Benevolence

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Sending

*Sending

*Sending Song: *Let It Be Said of Us*

*Blessing

Postlude

Minister of The Word: Rev. Bret Lamsma
Worship Coordinator: Kyle Cooper
Accompanist: Christy Bol

Missionary Updates & Birthdays:

Victor Perez - March 20th

Margaret Njuguna - March 29th

Jonathan and Marian Cady, our mission partners in Shanghai, China, send us this update:

- As they move into Phase Two of ministry with Christian Reformed World Missions they are excited to partner with the local Chinese churches to proclaim the gospel, train and teach future pastors and lay leaders, and plant healthy gospel-teaching churches.
- They will do this by developing relationships with Chinese pastors and lay leaders, becoming involved in small group fellowship, and teaching and preaching.
- Marian will continue her ministry in the workplace
- Jonathan's goal is to complete his MDiv coursework through Calvin Theological Seminary by 2019.

Margaret Njuguna, our mission partner at En Gedi Children's Home in Kenya, sends us this update:

- Pictures - of the construction process (it's looking good!) and of the children who call En Gedi home.
- If all the funds were in hand, the new home for these children could open in June.
- \$100,000 is still needed to complete the construction.
- Praise for how far God has brought this ministry, how great God's care for the staff and children has been, and for receiving tax-exempt status from the Kenya Revenue Authority.
- Pray that the \$100,000 comes in to complete the building, continued good health for the children, and rain for the parts of Kenya that are experiencing drought and famine.

Copies of both newsletters are available on a table behind the sound booth. Please keep these mission partners in your prayers.

Prayer and Care for God's People

We pray for the **widows, widowers and children** of our church family, in various stages of individual grief and loss. We lift them up to the One who brings comfort and hope. We thank our Heavenly Father for provision, protection and peace.

Please pray for **Betty Eyser's** knee replacement surgery on Wednesday. Pray God's wisdom and guidance for the Doctor, and that her recovery goes well.

Prayers for **Betty Klap**, resting and recovering from a leg procedure on Friday.

Praise that **Carol Ackerman's** surgical procedure and testing went well.

Please pray for the **Nicaragua Retreat Team**: dates are April 8-12, 2017. Team members: Alice Waanders, Leah Van Donselaar, Alyse Young, Sharon Engels, Karen Waanders, Melanie Jonker, Erin Reynolds and Davinia Lyon. The team will be serving missionary families by sharing God's word in fun activities with the children of missionary families, so the parents can refuel.

Prayer for Persecuted Believers - Our focus will be on praying for *Christians facing Islamic extremists in Nigeria*. The current situation in Nigeria is one of the most serious humanitarian crises in the world. Please see the Silver Connection Board in the Foyer for a map and specific prayer points. You can **take a phone picture** or **get one of the prayer sheets** from the table near the display.

Groups and Activities:

Youth group will be going to Senior Support Services TODAY March 26th, from 1-4 to serve a meal and hang out with Denver's senior homeless population. **Youth Group** and PARENTS: **Meeting** directly after church TODAY: to determine plans for a summer trip. Please plan to attend and bring your planners/schedules.

Two opportunities to meet with our new Director of Faith Formation - On **April 2** and **April 9** all members of First are invited to meet in the sanctuary after the morning worship service to discuss the ministries and mission of the church with Pastor Bret. We will be discussing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that our congregation faces when it comes to faith formation of our members and community during these sessions. These will be similar sessions, so please plan on being at either one or the other meeting. This is our chance to get to know Pastor Bret and his vision for faith formation as well as have congregational input in the formation process at First CRC.

Sunday School opportunity for adults. We will be showing several of the January Series videos during the Sunday School hour for the last 2 weeks of the season - **April 2 and April 9 at 11:00 in the Council Room**. If you missed these lectures when they were shown at Denver Christian School in January, this will be your opportunity to see a few of them and discuss the content with others.

Requested Announcements:

Rehoboth Christian School Band will be presenting a multi-media worship service including art work by Elmer Yazzie on the theme of "Forgiven" on **Sunday, April 2 at 6:30 pm at Hope Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, 2400 S. Ash Street, Denver, CO**. Plan to attend this innovative and reverent worship experience. We need host families for sleeping accommodations for 70 people for **Sunday night only**. Hosts will be asked to serve the students/chaperones. If you are able to be a host (we still need homes for about 37 more students) please call the church office at Hope at **303-756-2121**.

An Invitation - to join Bethany Christian Services for the musical performance of "*The Robber Bridegroom*" on **April 11, 2017; 7:30pm**. It will be at the Town Hall Arts Center located at 2450 W. Main Street, Littleton, CO 80120. Please logon to our website to reserve your tickets. Tickets are free but we require an RSVP at www.bethany.org/colorado and go under the 'Events' tab. There will be an opportunity to give to Bethany's ministry at the performance. If you have questions, please call the office at **303-221-0734** or email jhodapp@bethany.org.

Come with Living Water International (LWI) to drill a clean water well in a community in northeast Honduras. We are forming a drill/hygiene team to drill a well **Nov. 4-11, 2017**. Your **commitment** to join the team should be made by **May 4**. Another team from the Oakwood Christian Reformed Church of Belding, MI will partner with the team from Denver. They are also sponsoring the cost of this well. If you are interested in joining the team, please email me at awassenaar@cox.net or Kim Rathgeber at kim@water.cc ~ Al Wassenaar

Profession of faith flows from our deep identity as people who have been adopted into God's family through baptism. Check out "What Does Baptism Mean? Talking Points for Parents" in the "Building a Culture of Commitment" section of: Visit crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits to access these free resources that Faith Formation Ministries has gathered from CRC churches and other excellent sources.

Refugees have been in the news a lot in recent months. Check out what our CRC denomination has to say about this subject at CRCNA.org. Search for *Statement on Refugees*.