



FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

DENVER, COLORADO

Sunday, June 14, 2020

*A Family of God Living Our Faith and Growing by Joyfully surrendering to Jesus, Freely sharing our lives and Humbly embracing the Hurting...
We sense God leading us to: Disciple in place, Stay connected and Act Locally.*

Gathering

*As you gather, take a few moments to still your heart and mind and to sit in silence.
In the silence, ask the Holy Spirit to help you pay attention to God.*

Call to Worship: (From Psalm 116)

I love the Lord, for He heard my voice;

He heard my cry for mercy.

Because He turned His ear to me,

I will call on Him as long as I live.

The Lord is gracious and righteous;

our God is full of compassion.

The Lord protects the simple;

when I was brought low, He saved me.

Return to your rest, my soul,

for the Lord has been good to you.

For You, Lord, have delivered me from death,

my eyes from tears,

my feet from stumbling,

that I may walk before the Lord

in the land of the living.

Song: [Everlasting God](#)

Renewal

Prayer for Renewal: Our prayer today is based on the Lord's Prayer. You may wish to pause between each section of this prayer to offer additional prayers of your own. Alternatively, if you are worshiping with young children you may wish to simply recite the Lord's prayer together.

Our Father in heaven,

You indeed are our Father, and You have adopted us into an eternal family.

As earthly parents have compassion on their children,

Show compassion on those who fear You. [Ps. 103]

Hallowed be Your name.

You alone are holy, there is none like You.

Your glory is above the heavens,

Yet you stoop down to lift up the needy.

We worship You. [Ps. 113, 99]

Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

In Christ, Your kingdom has come and is coming.

No earthly ruler or power can thwart Your purposes,

Christ, Your Anointed One, is the all-powerful King over creation. [Ps. 2]

Give us this day our daily bread.

All creatures look to You for their food at the proper time;

when You provide, they are satisfied with good things.

Help us be good stewards of the gifts You have given us

so that all may have their daily bread. [Ps. 104]

Forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors.

Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven,

whose sin is covered, and who know the joy of forgiveness. [Ps. 32]

As we have been forgiven, help us to become like Christ,

forgiving those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

In mercy, O God, answer the prayers of all who are in deep distress.

Let the light of Your face shine upon us, O Lord, that we might be saved.

Take us by the hand and lead us in the way of everlasting life.

[Ps. 4, 80, 25]

For Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Song: [When Peace Like A River](#) LUYH 451

Offering: CEAF

We develop our trust in God's ongoing care by making giving a priority in our lives. If you would like to give to the ongoing ministry of First CRC as a part of your worship today, you can do so by mailing a check to First CRC, through the "Church Center" App, or by texting any amount to 84321. You are also invited to designate your offering for the Christian Education Assistance Fund, a fund that provides financial support for covenant families who have chosen Christian day school education for their children.

Word

Scripture: Read Genesis [18:1-15](#) and [21:1-7](#) before watching today's message.

Sermon: [When God Shows Up](#)

Reflection: Take a few minutes to reflect upon today's message using the following questions as your guide. Conclude your discussion with the prayer printed below.

- How have you seen God do the impossible in the past?
- What is one "impossible" thing you would like to see God do in the future?

Prayer

Almighty God:

We thank You for coming to us in Jesus Christ and for Your ongoing work through the Holy Spirit. Come to us today, we pray, and meet us in places that seem hopeless. (*You may name specific areas of concern here*). Bring joy where there is sorrow, fullness where there is emptiness, life where there is death. Make a way where there is no way and help us to trust that You can make the impossible, possible. In the name of Jesus, our risen and coming King, Amen.

Sending

Sending Song: [By Faith](#)

Blessing:

God will go before you to lead you and guide you,

He will go behind you to protect you and defend you,

He will go beneath you to support you,

He will go beside you to befriend you.

Do not be afraid.

But let the blessings of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit rest upon you always. Do not be afraid, but go in peace to love God and serve your neighbors.

IN ~ Disciple in Place

A team of First CRC members and leaders has been gathered to develop recommendations for group gatherings (i.e., Public Worship). The most updated State guidelines are here: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/worship-guidance>
This team is closely following the guidelines as set forth by the state with the strong desire to meet when we as a church family can keep as many of the elements of worship that we cherish about meeting together such as singing, greeting one another and fellowshiping together. The recommendation of this team, which has been approved by the Elders, is that **First Church will not meet corporately before July 12**. Pastor Joel addressed this via video: **Would you like to know what's happening (and why) with corporate worship gatherings at First Church? Click [here](#) for a brief update from our elders.*

We ask for continued prayers for our church leadership. May the Spirit continue to equip them. We pray for connection among our grow groups and members. May the Spirit continue to lead us, and transform us, to love and serve our neighbors.

A packet with the Narrative Budget, a Budget summary and meeting ballots was mailed (and emailed) this week. Ballots are due by **June 21**. If you have any questions, please log in to join this zoom meeting.

Topic: First CRC Congregational Meeting - Q&A Time

Time: Sunday, June 14, 2020 11:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83532521946?pwd=K2djWlJxRWMyNHMrMWZMM3Voa3lOZz09>

A Genesis coloring sheet is attached at the top of the *Mail Chimp* to engage our youngsters while we worship online together at home. Mail a copy (or email a scan) of the colored sheet (or a drawing that tells the Scripture story) back to us:

FIRST CRC Staff

1814 South Emerson Street

Denver, CO 80210

From Faith Formation Ministries: At-Home Faith Formation Tip - This summer, watch for ways God is revealed in creation. Read Psalm 148 for inspiration. Then use your five senses when you explore parks, forests and beaches. Admire the symmetry of a flower, the strength of a tree or the pattern of a shell. Let the kids in your life teach you about childlike wonder!

Up ~ Stay Connected

In June we target prayer for Persecuted Believers in North Africa, China and Yemen by following the Open Doors USA monthly prayer calendar:

The testimonies are powerful, strengthening our faith and hope in Jesus:

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/June-PFA.pdf>

June 14-21:

Finding a safe place to read a Bible (even on phones) is difficult. Ask God to give believers a safe place to read and meditate upon His word and know His loving presence.

Please rejoice with the Van Donselaar family as Jenna Van Donselaar and Derrick Kamp exchanged wedding vows on **June 5th**. Please pray for God's blessing as they begin their life together. Cards may be sent to:

Mr. and Mrs. Jenna Van Donselaar and Derrick Kamp.
59 Turner St., Willimantic, CT 06226

Please pray for the Van Donselaar family as they mourn the loss of Cathy's dad on **June 6**. The family is happy that he is home with the Lord after a long illness.

Wednesday, a single car was involved in a **rollover accident** on the corner of Emerson, in front of church. We thank God for First Responders (on the scene in minutes), and that only minor injuries were sustained by the driver. No one else was injured, but the North steps and railing were damaged.

Pray for **Doug Buys** who continues to deal with complications from heart surgery in April. Pray that he would regain strength.

Ina Smit's brother, Cal, is being moved to hospice care.

We praise God for answered prayer as **Mary Anne McLaughlin** relocates to an area east of Tacoma, WA to live near two of her daughters.

Continue to **pray for justice and peace** in our nation. If you are looking for practical steps you can take against racism, click [here](#) for suggestions from the leadership of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Prayer Request from the CRCNA - All Christian Reformed churches and their members are asked to remember the deliberations of the Special Meeting of the Council of Delegates in prayer this week. The COD will be meeting on behalf of synod (which was canceled because of COVID-19) on June 11 & 12 for advisory committees, and June 16 & 17 for plenary sessions. This includes the approval of this year's candidates for minister of the Word. All decisions from this special meeting will be reported to Synod 2021. Your prayers for wisdom and discernment through the leading of the Spirit are appreciated. - Colin P. Watson, Sr., Acting Executive Director

Who is in your Grow Group?

Is there someone in your GG that you have missed connecting with, or has been on your mind? Call and catch up this week.

OUT ~ Act Locally

Family Promise Update

A mother who stayed with us during family promise has reached out to us and asked if there is someone who needs work done around their home or yard. She needs cash work to make rent. Contact Mary Lanser at marylanser@gmail.com

What **non-perishable** food items and emergency cleaning products, or personal items would you want included in a food box if you were to receive one? Email Rebecca@firstcrdenver.org with your ideas. This research is for an **Act Locally** project.

VIA Summer Opportunity

The **Christian Living Campus** gown-making project has been a great success so far, saving the CLC thousands of dollars and equipping their medical staff with protective gowns to care for their residents. The project continues at Hope Fellowship Church, 2400 S. Ash Street, Denver 80222

Find more details in this link. You can also call Sheri at Volunteers In Action at 720-441-2858 to sign up for a 2 hour slot.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090449a9a722aaf58-ppegownmaking>

Volunteer slots are open for the following dates and times:

Monday, June 15: 9:00am-11:30am
Tuesday, June 16: 6:00pm- 8:30pm
Wednesday, June 17 9:00am- 11:30am
Thursday, June 18 6:00pm-8:30pm

Monday, June 22: 9:00am-11:30am
Tuesday, June 23: 6:00pm- 8:30pm
Wednesday, June 24 9:00am- 11:30am
Thursday, June 25 6:00pm-8:30pm

Thank you for considering volunteering for this project!

Sheri DeHaan
Volunteers In Action Volunteer Coordinator
9185 E. Kenyon Ave. #130
Denver, CO 80237
303-713-9144 Office
720-441-2858 Cell

Sew & Sews Summer Ministry Moments

God's Timing is Perfect

Last summer the Sew and Sews were working on flannel pajamas. Some of the group would have preferred sewing dresses, but we decided to finish the PJ's first. They were completed on a Thursday and Kay Bierling and Joey took them to the warehouse of *God's Littlest Angels* in Colorado Springs next day. Our car trunk was filled with bags of clothes. When I told Jean, the lady in charge, that the biggest bag contained 52 pairs of flannel pajamas, her face lit up for it was just what she needed. The house nannies in Haiti had requested warmer PJ's because nights were growing cool in the mountains. She said, "I am leaving on Sunday for Haiti and using frequent flier miles to fly first class so I am allowed 70 pounds of luggage. I'll be repacking my biggest bag with the jammies and the kids will be wearing them on Monday night." Perfect timing indeed!

God Provides in Wonderful Ways

Al Bierling likes to check the dumpsters when he brings out the trash, and last year he pulled out a bolt of interfacing and stored it in the garage. Kay found the cloth a few weeks ago. It was dirty, so she washed it because she knew it was just what we needed in mask making. With the interfacing the Sew and Sew group has made more than 250 masks. God provides. Keep dumpster diving Al!

This Summer Sew & sews have been providing masks for Construction workers and Denver area hospitals. Once the word got out about the quality masks, they were approached to surge re-useable PPE gowns! What a wonderful example of Acting Locally.

Thank you to all who have been so faithful during challenging times.

Human Resources - Career at World Renew - World Renew is seeking to hire a Human Resources Associate Director to be based in our Grand Rapids, MI office. The Associate Director will act as the global expert in human resources planning, policy development, and compliance for all employees at World Renew as well as being responsible for the day-to-day human resources operations of US and International employees. If you have an SHRM designation, and experience providing leadership within a non-profit, global, or multinational organization, we would love to hear from you. Please see worldrenew.net/careers for more information. The application deadline is **July 6, 2020**.

Office Updates:

Key Fobs: The key access system to the main building is functioning. As a back up, or in case of emergency, a hard copy key is available in a lock box outside. Email connections@firstcrdenver.org for the code and location.

Summertime: Our staff is working from home and office to be accessible and responsive **Tuesday through Friday 9am-3pm** for non-emergencies. Email is a great way to reach everyone during this time of transitioning guidelines and vacations. When a staff member is unavailable or on vacation, we will put an auto-reply on their email, indicating who to contact in case of Pastoral care or emergency support.