

Sunday, March 10, 2024

*“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16).
May you sense that divine love through this time of worship. Welcome!*

Today at First

Pastor Brian Dunn leads us in worship this morning. There is a Classical Pulpit Exchange tonight. Pastor Dunn will be at Immanuel CRC and Pastor Phil Westra from Sanborn CRC will lead us in worship tonight. C.G. #3 hosts coffee time.

Next week, Pastor Dunn will be away on a study leave for continuing education. Dr. Hartog will lead our services. Care Group #3 hosts the coffee fellowship.

Our Church Family

With joy, we welcome into our fellowship, Kayla Granstra, (Mrs. Ben). She comes to us from the Carmel Reformed Church in Rock Valley. Let's all make Kayla feel welcome to our church family.

Congratulations to Drake & Kerrigan Granstra on the birth of a baby boy, **Hudson Lee Granstra**, born Tuesday, March 5. May the Lord bless this precious new addition to their family.

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of **Marge Dykstra**, who passed away on Sat., Mar. 2. Her funeral was Tuesday, Mar. 5. May the Lord grant his comfort and peace to all those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Nursery Today Kristin K., Ruth K., Damon M. **3-17** Cherish G., Helen VD, Carson V.M.

Valet Parking Today Jevon Klyn **Mar. 17** Cory Jansen

Sound Today Kassy/Olivia/Amelya **Mar. 17** Heynen/Jacob/Josh

Praise Team Today Avery, Ethan, Maci, Boden **3-17** Missy, Julie, Arlo, Tate, Trey

Cookies 3-17 Marilyn K., Norma K., Michelle H. **3-24** Betty K., Lindsey N., Patty N.

Offerings only for: Gen. Fund, Christian Ed., Above Quota Missions & Classical Min. Shares. Put in offering box, Treasurer's box, or mail to church (901 9th Street).

Special Offering today for “The Church of God of Prophecy”

that meets in the church basement.

Pressed

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for “olive press.” During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.

Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind.

Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

“All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances,” the authors write. “We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive.”

Activities This Week

Sun. 10:45 AM **Catechism and Sunday School Classes** meet
11:00 AM **Choir Practice**
5:00 PM **Evening Worship Service**
Wed. 9:30 AM **Coffee Break – study lesson 8**

First CRC Announcements:

- **The council is asking the congregation** for nominations to consider for **Elder & Deacon**. We need to elect 2 elders and 2 deacons. Names can be placed in the Clerk's box by the council room or given to your Care Group Elder.
- **Address for Gil & Janice Kamps**, 76 Keri Street, Manhattan, MT 59741.
- **Interested in membership or Making Profession of Faith at First CRC?** Membership and Profession of Faith are biblical expressions of our public walk with Christ. "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (Rom. 12:4-5). "If you declare with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart God raise him from the dead, you will be saved." (Rom. 10:9). If you are interested in making profession of faith, or becoming a member here at First CRC, please contact Pastor Brian for details. Classes will begin soon; time/date based on availability of those interested.
- **Book Club - Wed., Mar. 13** to discuss "*Orphan Keeper*" by Camron Wright. The book is based on a true story of a boy kidnapped from his village in India, sold to an orphanage, and then adopted by an unsuspecting couple in the U.S. If you are looking for an opportunity to read/discuss an interesting book, join us!

Cadets Pinewood Derby Race will be Wed., Mar. 20 at the SCS gym. Cars check in starting at 6:30 p.m. Racing starts at 7 p.m.

Unity Christian's "Little House on the Prairie" – Mar. 14 & 15, 7 p.m.; matinee Mar. 16, 2 p.m. in the Knight Ctr. Purchase tickets through Bound (online or app.)

The Bargain Alley Thrift Store is seeking more volunteers. Please contact Kari Hoekstra at the store or email her at: bargainalleyhull@gmail.com if interested.

Classical Announcements:

- **Classis Heartland** will meet Sat., March 9.
- Many Christians feel that they should share their faith with others, but fear often stops them from doing it. **Dunamis Project #6: Listening Evangelism** will help you find a natural/fearless way to have more faith-sharing conversations in the ordinary course of life. It emphasizes learning God's vision for evangelism, and developing a passion for personal evangelism. We will learn/practice practical evangelism skills in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. This conference will be Mar. 21-24 in Milford, IA. To learn more/register, visit www.primi.org/dpmilford.

Community Announcements:

- **Love INC's Annual Banquet** – Fri., Mar. 15, 6 p.m. RSVP by calling 324-9707.
- **NCC has a Student Bible Study that meets every Tues. night on campus.** For the last 4 yrs, we have been blessed by snack donations from Sheldon churches. We have 10-12 students who faithfully attend each week. If you would be willing to donate bars/cookies/snack mix for 6 wks for about a doz. students during Mar. & Apr., please sign up on the welcome desk.
- **Treasure Chest Volunteers Needed** – We are in search of people interested in working a few hours a week in the store. For info., contact Averey at 324-5412.
- **Knights of Columbus Annual Fish Fry** – Fri., Mar. 22, 5-7 p.m. at St. Pat's Catholic Church. The meal will be dine-in or carry out. Fried fish, buttered baby potatoes, baked beans, roll and dessert. A freewill donation with a suggested giving amount of \$12/person. Proceeds from this meal going to the Sheldon Ministerial Fun. Spread the word.
- **Cornerstone Prison Church Annual Benefit Banquet** – Mon., Apr. 1, at Trinity CRC in Rock Valley. Doors open at 6, banquet begins at 6:30 p.m. RSVP by calling Trinity CRC at (712) 476-5292 or go to their website: www.cornerstonepcsd.org. A freewill offering will be received as an opportunity to financially support Cornerstone's ministry. We look forward to seeing you! If you are unable to attend, you can send your donation to: Cornerstone Prison Church, C/O Dave Vande Kamp, P.O. Box 88708, Sioux Falls, SD 57109 or donate online at www.cornerstonepcsd.org.

March 10, 2024

Morning Worship – Pastor Brian Dunn

9:30 AM

March 10, 2024

Guest Pastor – Rev. Phil Westra

5:00 PM

Opening Service

Call to Worship
Opening Prayer

*Opening Hymn: **“Behold Our God”**

*God’s Greeting/Mutual Greeting

*Song of Praise: **“How Great Is Our God”**

Service of Reconciliation

God’s Will for Life – Exodus 20:1-17

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon – Psalm 103:6-14

Children’s Message

Service of the Word

Song of Preparation: **“Ancient Words”**

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading: **John 15:18-16:4**

Sermon Title: **“The World’s Hate”**

Prayer for Application

*Song of Praise: **“Goodness of God”**

Service of Dedication

Congregational Prayer
Offering

*Song of Dedication: **“He Leadeth Me”**

*Benediction

*Doxology: **“We Receive Your Blessing”**

**Please stand, if able.*

We Gather to Worship

Call to Worship – Psalm 48:1-3

Silent Prayer

*Opening Hymn: **“I Need Thee Every Hour” vs. 1-4**

*God’s Greeting

Responsive Affirmation of Faith: **Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 27**

*Song of Praise: **“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” vs. 1, 3, 4**

Pastoral Prayer

We Hear God’s Word

Hymn of Preparation: **“Keep What You Have Believed”**

Scripture Passage: **Proverbs 6:1-5**

Sermon Title: **“Freedom from Financial Traps”**

Prayer of Application

We Respond in Faith

*Song of Dedication: **“Take My Life and Let It Be” vs. 1, 2, 4, 5**

*Benediction/Blessing

*Doxology: **“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

**Please stand, if able.*