



CHRISTMAS

BEGINS WITH

Christ.



First Reformed Church

December 1, 2019

A sincere welcome to all who have come to worship.
May the incomparable blessings that come from God alone touch each of us.

*Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him! (Psalm 147:1)*

A nursery is available in the lower level of the church.

Children's bulletins, children's activity bags and large print bulletins
are available at the back of the sanctuary.

An usher would be happy to assist you with these items.

Worship Service Participants

	<u>This Week (December 1)</u>	<u>Next Week (December 8)</u>
Greeters	Ron & Claraine Buteyn	Bill & Carol Eichstadt
Ushers	Chase Van Buren Gage Van Buren Paige Van Buren	Jeff Freriks Jordan Hopp Clayton Jahns
Door Greeters		
Upstairs	Kevin Van Buren	Arlen Tenpas
Downstairs East Door	Jeff Freriks	Jon & Winky Dobbratz
Nursery	Cheri Jansma Sarah Lemmenes	Lori Lemmenes Liz Scheuers
Elders Greeting	BJ DeMaa Ron Schaalma Wayne Tavs	Ray Freriks Keith Jansma Jerry Riel
Soundboard	John Nyhuis	Howard Loomans
Power Point	Kelley Van Buren	Amanda and Ryan De Vries

November Schedules

Hospital: Wayne Tavs for December 1-7; Ray Freriks for December 8-31

Flowers: Kim Perry

Library: Donna Freriks

Opportunities This Week

Sunday (December 1):

Pre-Service Fellowship Time: 8:15 - 9:00 am in the Chapel. Enjoy some light snacks, coffees and fellowship.

Caring & Sharing Team Meeting: 8:30 am in the Consistory Room.

Prayer Time: Meet in the chapel area by the grandfather clock at 8:45 am for a short time of prayer with Pastor Barry before the worship service.

Sunday School: 10:15 - 11:00 am

- ◆ 3 year olds - 2nd Grade downstairs in the Worship Center Room
- ◆ 3rd - 5th Grade downstairs in the Triple Room
- ◆ 6th - 12th Grade upstairs in the Youth Room
- ◆ Adults in the Consistory Room. We will continue our study on "JOY".

Tuesday:

Sacraments Requests: If you are interested in requesting baptism, confession of faith or any other membership changes, please meet in Pastor Barry's office at 6:15 pm.

Consistory Meeting: Elders and Deacons will meet separately at 6:30 pm. Full Consistory will meet at 7:30 pm in the Consistory Room. Newly elected Elders and Deacons are invited to attend.

Wednesday:

XYZ: 9:30 - 10:30 am in the Triple Room.

Awana: This week's theme is MITTEN TREE NIGHT! Bring a pair of mittens, gloves or a scarf to help children in need in the Waupun area.

- ◆ Cubbies meet 6:00 - 7:00 pm downstairs in the Preschool Rooms
- ◆ Grades K-5 meets 5:45 - 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Jr. High Youth Group: 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Youth Room for Grades 6 - 8.

Sr. High Youth Group: 7:30 - 9:00 pm in the Youth Room for Grades 9 - 12.

Adult Choir Practice: 7:15 - 8:15 pm in the sanctuary.

Thursday:

Bell Choir Practice: 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. Note the time change this week.

Saturday:

Men's' Huddle: 7:00 am at Helen's Kitchen.

Sunday (December 8):

Ladies Bible Study: 3:00 pm (note the different time) in the Chapel.

Christmas Carol Sing: 6:00 pm. Enjoy an evening of singing and listening to your favorite Christmas Carols!

Worship Service

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019; 9:00 am

Advent Wreath: The Advent Wreath reminds believers that our God grants new and everlasting life in Jesus. The wreath is also a symbol of victory, for a garland wreath was often placed on victors in contests or conquests. So naturally, a Christian can think of the crown of life that Jesus has won for us. The four candles in the Advent Wreath emphasize the four-week period of preparation during Advent. The fifth candle placed in the center of the wreath represents the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. This fifth candle is lit on Christmas to remind us of our Savior who brings new life and hope.

Prelude: Kim Perry
Call to Worship

*Opening Song:
(Being scheduled at time of printing.)

Children/Youth Message

Ministry of Music: Elton Ter Beest - Christmas Carol Requests

Video: Away in a Manger - Isaiah
Scripture: Isaiah 7:13-17 (page 1070)
Message: God With Us

*Song #281: What Child is This?

Prayer
Offering

Announcements

*Benediction
*Song #245: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1 & 4)

*Postlude: Kim Perry

Church Contact Information

Pastor Barry Lang

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Congregational News

Sunday School Invitation: JOY is a vital part of the Christmas message - indeed, the Christian life. Please join us in Adult Sunday School for a check-up on the JOY factor in your life, for the next two Sundays (December 1 and December 8). Come with your comments, questions and experiences of JOY to share in conversations on this worthwhile and timely subject.

RCA Discussion: There will be two discussion meetings about the future of the RCA. They will both have the same content, so feel free to pick whichever one works best with your schedule if you would like to attend. The dates are: Tuesday, December 10th, or Tuesday, January 14th. Both meetings will be held from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the Triple Room.

AIM: Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 16th, from 9:00 am - noon in the Triple Room. Come join us as we make quilts for missions.

Ushers and Greeter: If you would like to serve as a new volunteer in these areas in 2020, please sign-up in the entryway. If you are a current volunteer but unable to do so in 2020, please sign-up as well. If you have served this past year and are able to continue there is no need to sign-up – your name will be included in the 2020 schedule. A BIG THANK YOU to each person who serves in this way. You are very much appreciated!

Mission Opportunity: Through the Gift of Hope Project with RCA Global Missions, a \$50 donation will feed a refuge family for one month. You can make a donation by sending a check with "Refuge Meals GOH" written in the memo and sending it to RCA; Attention Financial Department; 4500 60th Street SE; Grand Rapids, MI 49512 or by going online to rca.org/giftofhope.

Needed: Our first sponsored Fun Night with pizza, bingo, prizes and good fellowship at the Community Table Room (16 S. Mill Street, Waupun) will be held Friday, December 6th. Pizza will be served from 5:30 - 6:00 with bingo to follow until 7:30 pm. Sign up at the table in the entryway to attend. We would like to encourage 10 more people to attend. Also, consider donating 1 or 2 frozen pizzas and place them in the frozen section of either refrigerator in the church basement by Wednesday, December 4th. Thanks Much, The MOVE Team.

Community Table Opportunities: Congregation, you are encouraged to sign up for the new opportunities to be held at the Community Table; namely bingo fun nights, crafts, canning, gardening and book club. If you wish to continue with the original opportunities you provided service to in 2019, you need not do anything. If you wish to sign up this year but did not serve last year, you may sign up for the opportunities on the empty lines below the original list of names. If you have any questions, you can contact Ron Schaalma.

Congregational Meeting:

- The First Reformed Church's Value Statements were presented to the congregation
- The recommendation from Consistory to set aside our bylaws for 1 year and reduce the Consistory size to 14 (7 elders and 7 deacons) was approved.
- We are excited to welcome our new elders and deacons who will begin serving in 2020. Elders elected were Mike De Vries and George Scheuers. Deacons elected were Adam Lemmenes and Wilbur Van Buren.
- The 2020 General Fund and Benevolent Budgets were approved.

Additional Congregational News

Children's Christmas Program will be held during the worship service on December 15. PARENTS, please keep working with your children on their program parts and songs. Practice is held each Sunday during Sunday School and full dress rehearsal will be held on Friday, December 13 from 3:30 - 5:30 pm. Please mark your calendars for this practice. It is VERY IMPORTANT that your child be present. Thanks!

Avenue of Angels: Our choir will be taking part in the Avenue of Angels Mixed Blessings Concert on Thursday, December 5th, at 6:00 pm held at Waupun City Hall. Additional activities will be held each evening starting with the parade on Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Carol Sing: First Reformed will be hosting their annual Christmas Carol Sing on Sunday, December 8, at 6:00 pm. Join in an evening of singing Christmas Carols and enjoying a variety of special musical selections, including the Waupun High School Choir. There will be a freewill offering to support the Access for Recess adaptive playground at Meadow View Primary School in Waupun.

Mitten Tree: First Reformed is collecting hats, mittens, scarves and socks for the Waupun Holiday Help Program. These items will be distributed to children in need in the Waupun area. Please place your items under the Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary by Sunday, December 8th.

Women's Ministries: We will have a Christmas Gathering on Tuesday, December 10th, at 11:30 am in the chapel. Please bring a \$5 gift exchange and a dish to pass. Table service will be provided. All women are invited!

Time of Fellowship: Thank you so much to those who have volunteered to help serve for fellowship time. Please consider serving on a Sunday that fits your schedule. All supplies are provided and with the addition of the refrigerator and larger sink there is no need to have to go downstairs. There is currently a need for someone to serve on December 22, December 29 and into January. Many people enjoy this time of fellowship following the worship service.

Congregational Care

Missions Note: Congratulations to Ryan Hull who was united in marriage last week. First Reformed supports Ryan and his mission work in the Philippines. If you would like to send a note of congratulations to him and his wife the address is: Ryan & Argene Hull; P.O. Box 39; Iloilo City 5000; Philippines.

Thank You: Thank you Prayer Warriors from First Reformed for all of the cards, calls and other novel ways you wished me a quick recovery. A card from the AWANA kids, Choir and Worship Team makes me want to work even harder in the therapy and get back with everybody ASAP. I can't imagine how someone without a church family can get through some of the bumps-in-the-road that everyone experiences sometime in their lives. John (and Karin) Nyhuis.