



Thank
God
for
his gift
that words
can't describe!

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15

First Reformed Church

December 17, 2023

9:00 am

Worship Service Participants

	<u>This Week (December 17)</u>	<u>Next Week (December 24)</u>
Soundboard	BJ DeMaa	Kurt De Vries
Power Point	Kelley Van Buren	Nicole and Austin Lang
Greeters	Sandy De Boer	Sandy De Boer
Elders Greeting	Bill Eichstadt BJ DeMaa Ron Schaalma	Bill Eichstadt BJ DeMaa Ron Schaalma

December Schedules

Hospital: Ron Schaalma

Flowers: Jane Van Buren

Library: Donna Freriks

Opportunities This Week

Sunday:

Sunday School: Classes will not meet for the next several weeks so that families can spend more time together during the holidays. Classes will resume on January 7th.

Monday:

AIM: 9:00 am - noon in the lower Triple Room. Join us as we make quilts for missions.

Tuesday:

Bell Choir Practice: 6:30 - 7:45 pm in the sanctuary.

Wednesday:

XYZ: We will next meet in January.

Christmas Caroling: The Youth Group invites everyone to join them for an evening of Christmas Caroling. See the details below.

Awana: For ages 3 years old thru 5th Grade in Fellowship Hall. This week's theme is WISE MEN NIGHT!

♦ Cubbies (ages 3 years - PreK) meet 6:00 - 7:00 pm.

♦ Grades K-5 meets 6:00 - 7:30 pm.

Choir Practice: 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Calling all Carolers and all those with Christmas Spirit!



The First Reformed Youth Group is going to be hosting a caroling and community outreach event on Wednesday, December 20th, at 5:00 pm. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Come one, Come All! "Singing skills no required"! We will gather together to have a good time, sing some classic carols, and spend some time in fellowship afterwards.

This will be a wonderful time to connect with some of the youth. We would love to have you join us as we distribute invites to our Christmas Eve service and carol to spread some Christmas Cheer, but most importantly the Good News of our Savior's Birth!

Congregational News

Christmas Eve: The Christmas Eve service will be held on Sunday, December 24th, at 9:00 am. The Christmas Offering has been designated to Jeff & Amy Freriks' sister-in-law, Karen Paulsen. Karen is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments for uterine cancer. The offering will help her family with medical and transportation expenses.

Christmas Prayers: Do you want to keep Christ in Christmas this year? We are trying something new to help keep us focused on Christ this year. There is a Christmas tree decorated with lightbulbs in the youth hallway. These lightbulbs are the 12 Christmas prayers to help keep this crazy time of year centered on Christ. Please take a lightbulb and place it on your tree to help your family stay focused. There are 12 different ones, so make sure to grab them all!

Christmas Cards: At the back of the sanctuary is a Christmas Card box to exchange Christmas cards with other church members. Simply place your cards in the appropriate letters of the last names of those you are giving cards to.

Youth Group Updates:

⇒ Thank you again for all of your support for the Chili Supper and making that evening a success for the Youth. We have been back with lesson nights the past two weeks in Youth Group. We have been talking about growing more in a relationship with God. We have talked about how the Holy Spirit works and comes into our hearts and lives, and this past week we talked about the Fruit of the Spirit.

⇒ Tubing Trip!! The Middle and High School Youth Groups will be going on a tubing trip to Sunburst Ski Area on December 27th, weather dependent. Please pray that the weather would cooperate to make this trip a success, for students to invite their friends, for safety, and lots of fun and exciting memories to be created.

Community Table Volunteers: Please be checking your mailbox over the next few weeks for possible food donations needed for the community Table. Our church is responsible for providing the Community Table meal several weeks in January. Thank you.

Prayer Chain Sign-Up: If you wish to be on the 2024 Prayer Chain list, please sign-up in the entryway by December 24th. When your sign-up indicate if you would like to be contacted by phone (either day or evening) or if you would like to be contacted by email.

Contributions: December 31st is the final Sunday of 2023 and will be your last opportunity to make a tax deductible gift for this year.

Focus: Articles for the January/February Focus newsletter are due to the church office by Tuesday, December 26th.

Soundboard Need: The soundboard needs for worship services is currently being fulfilled by the 3 people on the Soundboard Team, which means there is an urgent need for additional members to join the team. If you are interested or have questions, contact Howard Loomans.

Fellowship Time: Fellowship time following the worship service is a special time for our church family and visitors. If you would be available to help with serving, please sign-up in the entryway for a week that fits your schedule. All supplies are provided. If you have questions, please contact Elayne Van Buren or Lori Flier.

Congregational Care

Sympathy: Sympathy is extended to George & Liz Scheuers. George's brother, Delmar Scheuers, passed away on December 4th.

Congratulations to Our Mid-Year College Graduates!

- ◆ Serena Freriks has graduated from UW River Falls. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science with Meat Animal Emphasis and a management option with a minor in Agribusiness. She has accepted a position at Federal Milk Market in Madison.
- ◆ Josie Williamson graduated from UW Oshkosh. She received a a Bachelor in Education - Secondary Education in Broadfield Social Science Degree with a minor in History. Josie will be doing subbing in area school districts for the remainder of this school year while looking for a teaching position to begin in the fall.

Thank You's

Thank You: Thank you to all who have talked and asked about my wife, Judy, with special thanks to Wally & Linda Beekman and Lorna Patrouille. Also, thank you to the church for the beautiful poinsettia. Harlan & Judy Hopp.

Thank You: I would like to say thanks for the beautiful poinsettia I received from the church and for remembering me this Christmas Season. I have been blessed in many ways by my church family and blessings to each one of you. Marilyn Hopp.

Thank You: I would like to thank the church for the beautiful poinsettia. It was much appreciated. Rose Schouten.

Thank You: I would like to thank the church for the lovely poinsettia plant. Thank you, also, to Marilyn Hopp and Henri Raith, for the nice visit when they delivered it. Angie Tank.

Thank You: I would like to thank the church for the beautiful poinsettia plant and also for the nice visit with Larry & Mary Navis when they delivered it to me. Thelma Dull.

Thank You: Thank you to the church for the Christmas gift I received. It was very much appreciated. Marlene Landaal.

Invitations

Christmas Dinner: We invite anyone who has no plans for Christmas to join us for a home-cooked meal at the Wesley Center in Waupun on Monday, December 25th. To allow for ongoing Covid concerns, we will serve buffet style and seating will be spaced for safety. We will serve from 11:30 am - 12:45 pm. Please call 920-928-3310 for reservations and state which time slot you want to attend. There is no charge for the dinner.

Central Wisconsin Christian School Events: 301 Fox Lake Road, Waupun; 920-324-4233

- ◆ Elementary Christmas Program on Tuesday, December 19th, at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm. The 4K -5th Grades will present a Christmas musical "The Animal Alleluia". Please come to whichever time works best for you.

Worship Service

December 17, 2023

9:00 AM

Prelude: Jon Schmaltz

Advent Wreath: Video - "Love" with lighting of the candles by Roxanne Walker

Bell Choir Introit with Congregation: Song #244 - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Bell Choir will play thru once followed by congregation joining in to sing verses 1 & 2

Welcome

Christmas Program: Miracle in the Manger (see bulletin insert)

Poem: Christmas Through a Child's Eyes - read by Lori Lemmenes

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 (page 1588)

Message: God's Favor

Prayer

Announcements: Socks of Love - Roxanne

*Benediction

*Song #271: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

Postlude: Jon Schmaltz

*Please stand as you are able

Pastor Barry's Contact Information

Email: pastorbarry@firstreformedwaupun.com

Cell Phone: 920-583-6682 (leave voicemail or text)

Church Contact Information

Office Phone: 920-324-2321

Office Email: office@firstreformedwaupun.com

Website: www.firstreformedwaupun.com

Facebook Page: First Reformed Church Waupun



Sunday School Christmas Program



December 17, 2023 – 9:00 A.M. Service

Welcome & Prayer: Roxanne Walker

Miracle in the Manger: Copyrighted material is used with permission from CTA, Inc.“

Congregation Sing: Oh, Come, Little Children (see insert/screen)

Natalie: A miracle is something only God can do. The Christmas miracles will show God’s power and love for you!

Congregation Sing: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Hymn 277; vs 1 & 3)

Ella: A baby will come so little and mild. This baby of Mary will be the Christ Child!

Cooper: A baby will come, but Joseph, don’t fear. This baby, named Jesus,
Will fill hearts with cheer!

Drew: No place for them to stay, so little baby Jesus was born in a manger.
Bed on the hay.

Congregation Sing: Away in the Manger (Hymn 262)

Vivian: An angel bright came on Christmas night and said, “Do not fear.
The Savior is here!”

Lincoln & Raelyn: Gloria! Gloria! To our God we sing! Born tonight in
Bethlehem is our Savior-King.

Bells Play & Congregation Sing: Joy to the World (Hymn 270; vs 1, 2 & 4)

All Children: A miracle is something only God can do. The greatest miracle of all is
Jesus. He loves you!

Children sing: *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

Congregation Sing (Remain Seated): Silent Night (Hymn #253; vs 1, 2 & 4)

Narrators: Brianna DeMaa, Carter Disbrow, Payten Thurk, Quinten Thurk, Gage VanBuren, and Chase VanBuren

White Envelope Offering: Joelle Liebenow is this year's white envelope offering recipient. She is the niece and Goddaughter of Cheryl Ross. This past year she was diagnosed with cancer. The money donated will be used for daily necessities and to help offset the insurance costs.

Invitation: Please join us in the fellowship hall for cake and refreshments after the service to celebrate the blessing given to us that day in the manger. Each child may also take a treat bag with goodies to celebrate their hard work.

Program Thank You

Support: Children's families, church family, and my family

Teachers: Katie DeMaa, Nicole Lang, and Brianna DeMaa

Pianist: Jon Schmaltz

Bells: Claudia Towne & Bell Choir

Music Leader: Paige VanBuren

Program Support: Lori Flier and Becky DeVries

Sound Board: BJ DeMaa, Howie Loomans & Kurt DeVries

PowerPoint/Live Stream: Kelley VanBuren & Blair Schumann

Refreshments: Lori & Randy Flier, Wilber & Elayne VanBuren, Steve & Nancy Auchtung, Betty Korte & Social Committee

