

# Fourth Reformed Church

To celebrate and worship our Lord and King

10 December 2023

Welcome! If you are visiting this morning, we're glad to have you with us today.

This week we'll see that the arrival of John the Baptist began to build hope-filled anticipation for the coming Messiah.

Prelude *O Come, All You Unfaithful*  
Worship Team

Welcome  
Call to Worship

Singing *Joy to the World! (p. 125)*  
*Angels We Have Heard on High (p. 132)*

Prayer of Confession

Singing *King of Kings*

Advent Wreath  
*Children's worship (ages 3-5) begins in room 3*

Kingdom Prayers

Message **HOPE FOR A WEARY WORLD: HOPE IS BUILDING**  
*Rev. Eric Schalk* MARK 1:1-8 (P. 968)

Communion

Singing *Doxology*

Closing Blessing

Our offering this morning will be received following our worship service



## This week at **Fourth**

<b>Today</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	Dave & Richanda Bolt Next week: Open
	<b>Nursery</b>	Jeni Wammack, Sarah Parler Next week: Becky Berrevoets, Norma Boehm, Alexis Bolt
	<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Gideon Eising; Next week: Kristi Dennis
<b>Children's Worship</b>		Erin & Siena Broene Next week: Ruby Parler, Kate Schalk
	<b>Coffee</b>	Tom & Norma Boehm Next week: Steve & Jeni Wammack
	11:15 AM	<b>CE Classes &amp; Middle &amp; High School Small Groups</b>
	5:00 PM	<b>Prayer &amp; Potluck</b>
<b>Monday</b>	6:00 PM	<b>Fourth/Coit Cadets</b> at Coit Community Church
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 AM	<b>Women's Bible Study</b> in the Fireside room
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 AM	<b>Dude's Group</b> – <i>New Beginnings, Michigan St</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00 AM	<b>Knitting Group</b> at Rest Haven
	10:00 AM	<b>Men's Bible Study</b> in the Fireside room
<b>Friday</b>	6:30 PM	<b>Consistory Christmas Party</b> at the parsonage
<b>Saturday</b>	7:00 AM	<b>Parents in Prayer</b>

## Praise & Prayer

**Mike and Nancy Brinks** are currently still at the UofM hospital. Pray for Mike as he's had a challenging week of recovery. Pray that God would ease the pain he's feeling, and that God would also provide for Nancy as she struggles with leg pain.

**Tim Randall** is making good progress, and expected to be released from the hospital on Monday. Pray that God would continue to provide for the family as they anticipate going home soon.

**Dianne Waterloo** was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer this past Monday, and has declined quickly. She is currently in hospice care, and will soon be with Jesus, where her pain will be no more. Pray for peace to be upon Dianne, and pray for Sandy, along with Dianne's family as they minister to her at her bedside.

## Announcements

**Congregational Meeting/Chili/Bread/Dessert Cook Off** – Join us next Sunday, December 17 for a great time of eating, drinking and rejoicing together. We'll be meeting at noon in the fellowship hall to eat some delicious chili, bread, and desserts. Bring your best dish, and you could win a prize! Sign up today so we know what you're bringing and how many people to plan for. We'll spend time together hearing stories of what God is doing through our ministries, review the 2024 proposed budget, and finish our elder and deacon recognition process.

### **Missionaries of the Month: The Gary & Rachel de León family**

Over the next few weeks, we will be hearing updates and prayer requests from the de León family. Here is more information on Gary and Rachel's new mission, Project Milkat: "We have learned so much about the refugee community that it almost feels like we have been here much longer than a year! They have shared with us the challenges they faced along their journey to get to Spain, the memories they still have of their home countries, their loved ones they left behind and so much more. We have the wonderful opportunity to share God's love to many people of various nationalities and cultures that we wouldn't have otherwise. It's truly a wonderful experience to serve where God has placed us and have the opportunity to learn from these families and be reminded of values that we often take for granted." Project Milkat has over 28 nationalities represented and processes approximately 615 asylum seekers each month! Donations for their mission will be collected during the next four weeks of December.

**Christmas Choir!** Kongcheng & Gideon are putting together a choir that will sing during the morning service on December 17. Rehearsal will be held on December 13 at 7pm and on December 17 at 8:15am. If you're interested in joining the choir, please reach out to Kongcheng or Gideon.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** – This year we will celebrate Christmas together at a special Christmas Eve Evening candlelight service. We'll gather at 6:00pm for a time of worship and reflection on the birth of Jesus. We will not be gathering Christmas morning, but instead encourage you to spend time reflecting on the coming of Jesus into the world with your family and friends.

**Christmas Cards** – We want to encourage you to mail Christmas cards to those in our body who are not able to join us for worship. Let's spread some joy this season by blessing members of our church who are currently shut in.

**Small Groups** – This January we are relaunching our small group ministry at Fourth! As believers in Jesus, we need each other, and small groups are a vital way for us to be connected to the body, while growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. We're still working out logistics, but if you are interested in joining a group, or even if you're on the fence, sign up today. If you're not interested, sign up anyway and take this as a sign that you're loved, valued and needed as part of this body.

**Thank You** to whoever it was that donated the puzzles for the library! Note – the puzzles are free to use however long anyone needs, and do not need to be checked out of the library. Just return them when you're done!

**Gardens Update** – Next year we would like to continue connecting with our neighbors. One good way to do that is to have a community garden plot. Start thinking now if you'd like to have a plot to grow some delicious food for yourselves and connect with some neighbors!

**Foundry class: Biblical Interpretation** – Have you ever found that the Bible is sometimes a bit strange? Confusing? Hard to understand? Branson will be teaching a course on Biblical Interpretation for the Alliance of Reformed Churches cohort that meets at Community Reformed Church in Zeeland. This course walks through foundational principles of interpreting the Bible, outlines a Reformed doctrine of Scripture, and examines how we can faithfully apply and live out Scripture today. Classes will be held on Jan. 9, 23, Feb. 6, and 20 from 12pm-3pm. The cost is \$500/person, but the consistory has agreed to cover 50% of the cost, so it is only \$250/person. You can register online at [this link](#).

## Fourth Reformed Church



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Empowered by the Spirit  
to **follow** Jesus together, **serve** others,  
and **share** God's love.

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