

Fourth Reformed Church

To celebrate and worship our Lord and King

24 December 2023

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

It's Christmas Eve and we gather twice today to celebrate Jesus. This morning we'll focus on the hope we have, while waiting for Jesus to return. Tonight we'll focus on the arrival of Jesus, and what it means for us that Christ has come.

Prelude <i>Worship Team</i>	<i>Joy to the World! (p. 125)</i>
Welcome Call to Worship	
Singing	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High (p. 132)</i> <i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (p. 124)</i>
Prayer of Confession	
Singing	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel (p. 123)</i>
Advent Wreath	
Kingdom Prayers	
Message <i>Rev. Eric Schalk</i>	HOPE FOR A WEARY WORLD: HOPE FOR TOMORROW MATTHEW 24:1-44 (P. 959)
Communion	
Singing	<i>The First Noel (p. 136)</i>
Closing Blessing	

Our offering this morning will be received following our worship service



This week at Fourth

Today	Greeters Jeff & Erin Broene Next week: Brian & Becky Tubergen
	Nursery Erin Berrevoets, Nicole Donovan, Clara Broene Next week: Julie Schalk, Caren & Nevaeh Bills
	Scripture Reader Steve Wammack; Next week: Taylor Eising
Children's Worship	No Children's Worship today Next week: Don Coutchie, Christian Parler
	Coffee Paul & Amy Baragar Next week: Bob & Connie Scherpenisse
11:15 AM	No CE or Middle & High School Small Groups
6:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday 6:30 AM **Dude's Group** – *New Beginnings, Michigan St*

Thursday 10:00 AM **Knitting Group** at *Rest Haven*

Praise & Prayer

Mike and Nancy Brinks continue to covet our prayers through the recovery process. Pray for good health for Mike and Nancy, and that they can enjoy the Holiday Season with their family.

Tim Randall continues to have some struggles with his breathing. Pray for Dave & Linda as they try to sort out next steps for Tim, and pray that Tim's breathing would improve.

Announcements

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

One additional prayer request is Gary's trip to Uganda, which will be happening mid-December. He will be visiting a refugee camp where he will spend time at their orphanage, as well as meeting with a local leadership team as they plan for the upcoming year. This will include setting a budget and creating a sponsorship program. He has three trips planned in 2024 to visit refugee camps in Uganda and Pakistan. Gary and Rachel are hoping to raise an additional \$250 per month to cover the trip expenses. If anyone would like to join him on these trips, please reach out through email: garyracheldeleon@gmail.com Donations for the de León family can be given throughout the month of December with a special offering being taken during our worship service next Sunday.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Join us tonight for 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.

Small Groups

Over 40 people have already signed up for the relaunch of small groups!!! There is still time to jump on board as we kick off new groups in January.

Office Hours

Pastor Eric, Gideon and Mary Kay will be out of the office this week. Amy Coeling will be in the office for a bit on Wednesday and Thursday. All bulletin announcements need to be in no later than noon on Wednesday either by email at: office@fourthchurch.com or you can leave a voicemail on the office phone at 616.454.1561. If any needs or concerns arise, please reach out to your elder or deacon.

Thank You

Fourth Family, you have been so supportive of both Dianne, and me over the past year. I want to "Thank You" for the prayers, cards, visits, goodies, words of encouragement, and calls. We always knew that God had the plan, and he was there every second, of every day, holding us both up. A very big "Thank You" to the Tuesday Bible Study ladies. My heart is breaking, but you have given me so much support, and encouragement over the past couple of weeks. I really appreciate each one of you. Blessings to all of you, Sandy

Congregational Meeting

We had a great time last week at our annual congregational meeting. We welcomed Tom Boehm and Kurt Faasse as elders, along with Paul Baragar, Dan Davis and Micah Meendering as deacons. They will all be installed on January 7. The 2024 budget was approved, and we had an amazing time eating, drinking, and rejoicing together. Steve Wammack retained his crown as Chili champion. Mary Kay won with her epic corn bread, and Haju took home the top prize for dessert.

Gardens Update

Next year is soon, and it will be a great year to connect with the community. 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! You can get a plot as small as 10x10 or as large as 20x20!

Hat & Gloves Needed

Hats and gloves for students at East Leonard School will be collected through next Sunday, December 31. Donations of new or gently used hats and gloves for K-5th grade students can be left in the box in the narthex.

Found

A gold necklace was turned into the church office. If you lost one, please call the office at 616.454.1561.

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](#).

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