

2751 Littlefield Drive NE, Grand Rapids 49506

Phone: (616) 247-0638

Elders

Pete Adams - Clerk
Randy Corson - Treasurer
Frank Dykstra
Tom Flikkema - Vice-All
Steve Ophoff - Vice-Chairman
Rev. R. Smit - Chairman
Tim Thompson

Deacons

Brian Baldwin -Benevolent Fund Treasurer
Rick Corson - Vice-All
Aaron Knott - Chairman
Jeremy Monsma - Secretary
Jeff Thompson - Bookkeeper

Bulletin Announcements

Announcements are due Thursday by 6 p.m. to:

Linda Young, Bulletin Clerk
2017 Lafayette NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505
Phone: (616) 364-0240
E-Mail: fprcbulletinclerk@gmail.com

Reformed Witness Hour Radio Broadcast

Sunday, 8 a.m. - 102.9 FM (WFUR)
Sunday, 4 p.m. - 1570 AM (WFUR)

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father, Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; I believe an holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

First Protestant Reformed church

2800 Michigan Street NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

(616) 942-0332 • www.firstprc.org



Morning Worship - 9:30 a.m. • Evening Worship - 5:00 p.m.

To listen to the service live, visit sermonaudio.com/firstprc

or call (616) 942-9955.

The Recording & Technology Committee email address is
firstprctech@gmail.com

The Lord's Day • Sunday, December 24, 2017

Morning Worship Service

Prof. Cammenga

Prelude
 Call to Prayer / Silent Prayer
 *Doxology
 Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
 Praise Him all creatures here below,
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts,
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen
 *Votum and Salutation
 *Psalter # 71
 Reading of the Law: Exodus 20:1-17
 *Psalter # 82
 Prayer
 Offertory: General Fund, Benevolent Fund
 *Psalter # 389
 Scripture: Ephesians 2
 Text: Lord's Day 7
 Sermon: "Saving Faith"
 1. Its Essence
 2. Its Origin
 3. Its Manifestation
 Prayer
 *Psalter # 87
 *Doxology: Psalter # 196
 *Benediction
 Postlude
 *Congregation Standing

Evening Worship Service

Rev. Decker

Prelude
 Call to Prayer/Silent Prayer
 *Doxology
 Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
 Praise Him all creatures here below,
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts,
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
 *Votum and Salutation
 *Psalter # 306
 *Apostles' Creed (See back of bulletin)
 *Psalter # 174
 Prayer
 Offertory: Eastside Christian, Building Maint. Fund
 *Psalter # 278
 Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9
 Text: 2 Corinthians 9:15
 Sermon: "The Unspeakable Gift"
 1. The Meaning
 2. The Response
 3.
 Prayer
 *Psalter # 305
 *Doxology: Psalter # 197
 *Benediction
 Postlude

Nurse this week:

AM: Lori Pastoor, Kristi Thompson

PM: Linda Young, Melinda Knott, Anna Knott

Christmas Day: Jill Hop, Lisa Vandersloot, Josie Vandersloot

Next Sunday:

AM: Abby Thompson, Rachel Corson

PM: Jill Hop, Ericka Pastoor, Abby Vink

Greeters this week

AM: Ron & Jackie DeVries

Christmas Day

Rog & Kris Meyer

Next Week

AM: Joan Slopsema, Linda Young

PM: Pete & Dana VanPutten

Library this week: Stephanie Vink

Next week: Lori Pastoor

Ushers: AM- Amos Herring, Jason Corson

PM- Dan Pastoor, Mark Voortman

Our Church Family

Congratulations to Miss Agatha Lubbers as she celebrates her 86th birthday today, December 24.

At their request, the Consistory has sent the membership papers of John Smit and Rebecca Smit to Southwest PRC.

First Church News

Prof. Cammenga and Rev. Decker are preaching for us today. Let's welcome them to our pulpit. Next Sunday Prof. Cammenga and Rev. DeVries are scheduled to preach for us. Prof. Dykstra is scheduled to preach January 1.

The Sunday School Christmas program practice will start immediately after the morning service today, concluding around 12:15pm. A small snack (including a gluten/dairy free option) will be served before practice. Please review Psalm 47, memorized by the children this past summer, to recite as a group at the program.

Material for the Across the Aisle is due today, December 24.

The email address for Rev. Griess is corygriess@gmail.com. He welcomes communication from First Church. He intends to answer our call to him on or before January 7, 2018.

Call to Worship: Our annual Christmas day service is tomorrow, December 25 at 9:30 AM. Prof. Kuiper is scheduled to preach. Sermon information: Psalter #s 263, 241, 282, 413-Sermon text-Luke 2:13-14-Sermon Theme-The Angelic Hallelujah Chorus. The offering is for RWH. Our monthly song service is before the service.

The Sunday School children will tell the story of Christ's birth in word and song on Christmas Day, December 25, after the worship service. Let's support them and their teachers by attending this program! Coffee will be available downstairs before the program begins.

Women's Bible Study does not meet this week because of the holidays. Our next meeting will be Jan. 10.

The Reformed Doctrines Class, taught by Prof. Engelsma, is cancelled this week, December 27, on account of the Christmas holidays. The class will meet next the second Wednesday of January 2018.

Young Adults and Young People will meet next on December 31 after the morning service to discuss Acts 15. Jason has refreshments. New members are welcome!

Next Sunday evening offering: Free Chr. School—Edgerton

The service for installation of Dan Monsma and Carl Veltman as Elders, and Bryan Pastoor and Brad Pipe as Deacons is scheduled to take place January 7, 2018 at the morning service.

The RFPA commentary on II Peter by Mark Hoeksema is available for \$10 from Pete Adams. The Adult Bible Society will be studying this epistle in the new year.

The Reformed Witness Hour Committee thanks you, friends and donors, for your prayers and financial support during 2017. As you plan for your year-end giving, we ask that you prayerfully consider helping with our two newest costs: broadcasting in the Chicago area (approximately \$500 per month) and the re-design of our website. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

Announcements

The Voices of Victory will be hosting a Christmas Singspiration tonight, December 24. The Singspiration will be held at Faith PRC beginning at 7:45 PM (those who cannot make it by then are more than welcome to arrive late). Join us as we joyfully celebrate the birth of our Savior together in song!

The Voices of Victory will be holding their annual Old Year's concert on Sunday evening, December 31. Please note that the concert location has changed - instead of at Hudsonville Reformed Church the concert will be held at Bethel United Reformed Church - 8360 Cottonwood Dr., Jenison, MI 49428 (formerly First Jenison CRC). As in previous years, you are invited to come and go as you please at any time between 8 and 11 PM. Refreshments will be served. A freewill offering will be taken for Georgetown Harmony Homes. Join the Voices of Victory and their guests, the Sacred Harmonies quartet, and participate in joyful audience singing throughout the evening! Any questions, email Karen Daling at thedalings@sbcglobal.net or call her at 616-662-0784.

Please join the Southeast PRC Young Peoples Society on Thursday, January 4, at the Rainbow Grill between 4 pm & 9 pm. The Rainbow Grill (both locations) continues to support our young people by donating 10% of the sales during these hours. *This year they have requested that those attending would please bring a church bulletin or school announcement that mentions the fundraiser & to alert your server prior to ordering.* Thank you, in advance, for your support of our Young People's Societies!

Rev. Martyn McGeown, missionary-pastor of Limerick Reformed Fellowship, will be interviewed by Christopher Arnzen on his radio program, "Iron Sharpens Iron," on Friday, January 5 from 4-6 pm EST. The subject for this interview will be Rev. McGeown's recent book, *Called to Watch for Christ's Return*. You can go to the website www.ironsharpensironradio.com and click on the livestream box to tune in and listen from any device. The program can also be listened to by phone at (563)999-9206; press #3 for Christian Radio when prompted.

The Psalm Choir will begin its new season on January 7, 2018. *Practices will be held at Hudsonville PRC, beginning at 2:00 p.m.* (please note earlier time and change of venue). Please join us in singing psalms of praise to our God!

Interim Course: The seminary's interim course this year will be "The Theology of John Calvin" and will be taught by Prof. R. Cammenga. Classes will meet from Monday, January 8, 2018 through Wednesday, January 17, 2018, in the morning, 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Any who are interested in attending are welcome. Please call the seminary (531-1490) before January 5 so that your name can be added to the class list.

Advice for Elders on Family Visitation. Hudsonville PRC is hosting this winter's Classis East Office bearers' Conference on Tuesday evening, January 9, at 7:30PM. We have asked Prof. Gritters to speak on our practice of Family Visitation. We want to keep this beloved practice as our Church Order requires, but how will we do it most profitably for all our homes? After explaining the important principles of family visitation, Prof. Gritters will address questions like: Should there be a theme or special topic each year? What is the difference

between family visitation and a Bible study? How much should elders speak and how much should they listen? How to ask questions so that the people speak? At the end of the speech, there will be time for questions and discussion. Everyone is welcome, both office bearers and members.

Zion PRC Young Peoples' Society invites you to enjoy a meal at Rainbow Grill on January 11, from 4-9PM. Both locations (Grandville and Hudsonville) are generously donating 10% of their profits towards the convention costs of our YP society members. Stop in before or after the game for dine in or a takeout order! ****Please Note!**** you must show your server this paper or digital copy of this announcement for your bill to count towards the fundraising total. Thanks in advance for your support!

School News

The Board of Adams Christian School will meet on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018 at 7:30 PM.

The Board of Hope Christian School in Redlands, California is seeking applicants for 2 full-time teaching positions for high school grades (including an administrator position) beginning next school year (2018/2019). All interested persons should contact Ron VanVoorthuysen (909-499-2350, ron.revco@me.com) or Scott Gaastra (909-910-2673, Scott.Gaastra@gmail.com).

Covenant Christian is accepting applications for a Junior Varsity Softball Coach. For more information, or to apply, contact Travis Van Bommel at covenantad@yahoo.com.

Covenant Christian High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan is accepting applications from members of the Protestant Reformed churches to fill a teaching position in the area of Mathematics for the fall of 2018. Applicants should be certified for Secondary Education. Applications can be obtained by contacting Rick Noorman (616-453-5048 or ricknoorman@gmail.com) or Dr. Doug Bleyenburgh (drbleyenburgh@comcast.net).

The Heritage Christian School Capital Campaign Drive brochures for the addition were mailed out and you should have received one by now. If you wish to give, please return the envelope that was included by year end. If you have not received a giving brochure and would like one, please contact Bill VanOverloop at 616-821-0369 or vanoverwill@gmail.com or Dave Ondersma at 616-482-7031 or daveondersma@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

Covenant Christian High School reminds you of the ongoing drive for the Five Classroom Addition. We are thankful for the \$537,000 we have received for this project. Our revised goal for this drive is \$710,000, due to the project coming in under budget. We need to complete this drive in January, as the project comes to its completion. Please remember this cause in your year-end giving.

Covenant Christian High School continues its annual support drive with a goal of \$350,000. To date we have received \$165,000 toward this goal. Please continue to remember this need in your giving, and remember CCHS in your prayers.