Isaiah 40:3-11



TODAY: Second Sunday of Advent — And he shall be called...**Mighty**

God; Jesus is the savior who holds us.

NEXT WEEK: Third Sunday of Advent

FROM THE DEACONS

Thank You to the congregation for the gifts received Nov 13-26:

Received for general ministries: \$ 8,691.81 **\$** 445.81 **Received for Christian Education: Community Offering:** Fellowship Food Pantry **\$** 495.00 **Backpack Buddies \$** 125.00 Bible League Int'l **\$** 125.00 Family Network Wyoming \$ 85.51 World Renew \$ 50.00 DMS **\$** 20.51

Community Offerings

TODAY: Backpack Buddies

We have partnered with Central Elementary in Grandville. The school provides breakfast and lunch for the school week, but to provide for weekend needs for children who are food insecure, food is collected or purchased, packed in bags, and delivered to school to be sent home.

Dec 17: All Belong (Formerly CLC)

Dec 24: Partners Worldwide

Dec 31: Safe Haven

THIS WEEK

Monday, Dec 11

7pm Exec

Tuesday, Dec 12

9:15am Tuesday Small Group 12pm This Too Shall Last... Book Group

6pm Life Skills

Wednesday, Dec 13 12pm Holiday Gathering 7pm Worship Team Rehearsal Thursday, Dec 14

Friday, Dec 15

Saturday, Dec 16

Sunday, Dec 17

9:30am Worship 10:45am Church School

10:45am Adult Bible Study

STAFF COMING UP

Tom VanderPloeg (Pastor) Dec 20 Blood Drive Barb Sanders (Care Ministry) **Dec 25** Christmas Worship Andrew Lenhart (Worship) Barb Van Ryn (Youth Ministry)

Laura Williams (Admin Assistant)

Katherine Sneller (Custodian)

4375 Ivanrest SW, Grandville MI 49418. 616-532-2350

www.fellowshipcrc.com

December 10, 2023



Welcome! We are glad you are here!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME in our service

Also available during worship: Nursery for infants & toddlers; "Busy Bags" with kid's bulletin & activities; Puzzle & sermon notes written by Pastor Tom for students Grades 3 & up (found by weekly bulletins)

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & SONGSHEETS

are available at the sound booth

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

O Come O Come Emmanuel

The Second Candle of Advent

O Little Town Of Bethlehem His Name Shall Be Angels We Have Heard On High

Ministry in Music Diane J signing O Holy Night

Prayers of the People

Scripture *Isaiah 40:3-11*

³ A voice of one calling:
 "In the wilderness prepare
 the way for the Lord;
 make straight in the desert
 a highway for our God.
 ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
 every mountain and hill made low;
 the rough ground shall become level,
 the rugged places a plain.
 ⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be
 revealed.

and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. ⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"
¹⁰ See the Soversian Lord comes with

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. 11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms

and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Message "And he shall be called... Mighty God"

He Shall Reign Forevermore

Surely the people are grass.

God's Parting Blessing

TODAY

9:30am Worship 10:45am Church School 10:45am Carol Sing 11:30am Christmas Lunch

CHURCH LIFE

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS We are requesting nominations for the office of Elder and Deacon for terms beginning in May 2023. **Nomination forms are available at the information desk.** Please place completed nomination forms in the appropriate slot at the information desk or email nominations to **Jon Meengs** at meengs.jon@gmail.com. <u>Nominations are due by Sunday, January 7, 2024</u>.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH We invite you to stay after the morning worship service for a Christmas Lunch TODAY. Pulled pork, buns, drinks, and table service will be provided.

CAROL SING Please join us for a Carol Sing in the sanctuary after the worship service TODAY. We will finish by the time the Christmas Lunch is ready.

CHRISTMAS YOUTH ORCHESTRA will play on Sunday, December 24. The Youth Orchestra is open to anyone who has played a string or band instrument for at least one year (adults are welcome too!). Rehearsals will be Sunday, December 17, from 11:30am-12:30pm in the youth group room (a pizza lunch will be provided in the Fellowship Hall after Church School) and Wednesday, December 20, at 7pm-8:30pm. Please let **Andrew Lenhart** know if you are going to participate.

HOLIDAY GATHERING Plan to attend the Holiday Gathering on Wednesday, December 13, at 12pm. We will have a meal together and then a fun activity that you won't want to miss. Sign up on the bulletin board or email: dianeronda@gmail.com to reserve your spot. All ages are invited to attend. We hope to see you there! ~**The Gathering Team**.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY There is no study today. The class is in Room 10, and it will begin around 15 minutes after the end worship and will end 45 minutes later. All are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact **Mike Philo** (LMPHILO@aol.com) or **Dave Cook** (dcook0104@gmail.com).

★Keep up to date with all the activity of the Church Renewal Lab at www.fellowshipcrc.com/crl.

FROM THE TREASURER: Financial report thru 10/31/23:

Revenue \$243,630.43

Expenses \$255,558.71

Please prayerfully consider end-of-year offerings in the coming month so that we may close the gap between our revenue and expenses for 2023.

PRAYER FOCUS

- We extend our sympathy and prayers to Gordon and Char Bell. Char's stepfather, Charles Vosburg, passed away on December 2. May this family know Christ's comfort, peace, and presence with them at this time.
- Continue to pray for those with ongoing health needs and concerns:
 Bob Aardema, Rick Aardema, Jayne Barnhill (Sandy Campo's sister),
 Jean Cisler, Ellie Klifman (Sheryl Offringa's mother), Kim Mulder (family of Bonnie Houtstra and Tamie DeWitte), Lois Oom, Jo
 Postema, Katherine Sneller, Rachel Tjoelker, Barb Voskuil (Carole Dykstra's sister), Susan (Sharon Walcott's daughter-in-law).
- For **Backpack Buddies** as they provide meals for food insecure families in Grandville.
- For the **LOVE Food Pantry** and the families that receive support through this ministry. Pray that they are able to meet the growing demand in our community.

MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FOOD PANTRY Thank you to everyone who has donated supplies for the pantry! Food insecurity is an increasing issue for many families in our area. Requests for food has increased significantly this fall. This past Monday seven people stopped by the pantry and 13 bags of items were given. Everyone is so appreciative and thankful for our help.

With schools closing for Christmas, we anticipate an increase in requests for food. Will you help refill our shelves with kid friendly breakfast and lunch items? Some ideas...Breakfast cereals, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, jams, canned spaghetti, shelf stable milk (available at Dollar Tree), snack crackers, fruit snacks, and pretzels are just a few suggestions. Because the holidays are on Mondays, the pantry will be closed so donations should be brought to church December 10 and 17. Thanks again for your continued help...

BACKPACK BUDDIES We are currently collecting several items for food bags for our 38 Backpack Buddies.

Our current needs:

- Snacks: granola bars, rice krispie treats, fruit snacks, cheese or peanut butter crackers, etc.
- Fruit: applesauce, small boxes of raisins (bags of 12 little boxes are great)
- Canned chunky soups
- Canned Chicken
- Nutrigrain bars
- •*\$25 gift cards for Christmas family baskets (they can purchase perishables and meat for their Christmas meal)
- *Cash donations can be made through the deacons
- •*Food donations can be placed in the wooden box in the narthex.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support! **Sandy Campo**