

Staying Grateful  
Matthew 20:1-16

**FROM THE DEACONS**

Thank You to the congregation for the gifts received Dec 18-31, 2023:

Received for general ministries:	\$ 14,851.81
Received for Christian Education:	\$ 6,330.00
Community Offering: Food Pantry	\$ 250.00
Safe Haven	\$ 65.00
All Belong	\$ 20.51
Partners Worldwide	\$ 20.51
Backpack Buddies	\$ 10.00

**Community Offerings**

**TODAY: Mission French Africa Paul & Charlotte Mpindi**

Paul and Charlotte Mpindi are missionaries supported by Fellowship. Mission French Africa is a radio and discipleship ministry which exists to preach and teach the Gospel to win French speaking Africans to Christ, to disciple African Christians in Biblical stewardship, and encourage the Body of Christ in America. They have three follow-up centers in Africa where more than 10,000 visitors come monthly for pastoral counseling, discipleship, and spiritual mentoring.

- Jan 14: Love Your Neighbor
- Jan 21: World Renew
- Jan 28: Audio Scriptures Ministries

**THIS WEEK**

**Monday, Jan 8**

**Tuesday, Jan 9**

6pm Life Skills

**Wednesday, Jan 10**

7pm Worship Team Rehearsal

**Thursday, Jan 11**

**Friday, Jan 12**

**Saturday, Jan 13**

**Sunday, Jan 14**

Communion

9:30am Worship

10:45am Budget Vote

10:45am Church School

11am Adult Bible Study

11am Renewal Lab meets with Council

**COMING UP**

**Jan 15** Exec

**Jan 20** Renewal Lab Lead Team meets

**Jan 21** Renewal Lab Presentation  
Youth Group

**Jan 22** Elders  
Deacons

**Jan 24** Women's Event

**STAFF**

Tom VanderPloeg (Pastor)

Barb Sanders (Care Ministry)

Andrew Lenhart (Worship)

Barb Van Ryn (Youth Ministry)

Laura Williams (Admin Assistant)

Katherine Sneller (Custodian)

January 7, 2024



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

**TODAY:** Pastor Dan Mouw brings the message.  
**NEXT WEEK:** Communion; Pastor Tom preaching.

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[www.fellowshipcrc.com](http://www.fellowshipcrc.com)

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Call to Worship

*Exalted Over All  
Forever Reign*

### Prayers of the People

*Have Thine Own Way*

### Scripture *Matthew 20:1-16*

#### The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

<sup>20</sup> "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' <sup>5</sup> So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

<sup>7</sup> "'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

<sup>8</sup> "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

<sup>9</sup> "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

<sup>13</sup> "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?' <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

<sup>16</sup> "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

### Message "Staying Grateful"

*10,000 Reasons*

### God's Parting Blessing

## CHURCH LIFE

**Copies of the proposed 2024 budget were put in mailboxes and are also available at the welcome center. There is a congregational meeting after the service TODAY for budget Q&A. Fellowship Church members will be able to vote on the budget next week, January 14. Absentee ballots are available at the Welcome Center.**

**Next week we will be celebrating the sacrament of communion together during the worship service.**

**COUNCIL NOMINATIONS** We are requesting nominations for the office of Elder and Deacon for terms beginning in May 2024. **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](mailto:meengs.jon@gmail.com). Nominations are due by **TODAY**, Sunday, January 7, 2024.

**WOMEN'S GATHERING** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:30pm. ALL the women of Fellowship are invited to a time of getting together at Jayme Morren's home. Bring a beverage to share (like a bottle of wine) or an appetizer/dessert type of thing. Or, don't bring anything. Please sign up on the bulletin board so Jayme will have an idea of how many to plan on.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Happy Birthday to **Jean Cisler** who will celebrate her birthday on January 18. We give thanks for her life and may she know the gift of God's faithful presence with each new day.

*We have been blessed with so many answered prayers. Thank you everyone for praying and for all of the encouragement for our family after Rog's stroke. We serve a great God!!* **Rog & Mary Visser and Pam**

★Keep up to date with all the activity of the Church Renewal Lab at [www.fellowshipcrc.com/crl](http://www.fellowshipcrc.com/crl).

## MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**FOOD PANTRY** Thank you to everyone who has donated supplies for the pantry! The food pantry will be back open this Monday.

**BACKPACK BUDDIES** We are currently collecting for the months of January and February.

#### 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
- \*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**

### TODAY

*Council Nominations Due Today*

9:30am Worship

10:45am Budget Q&A Congregational Meeting

10:45am Church School

4:30pm Youth Group-Middle School

6pm Youth Group-High School

## PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for **Lois Koetje**. She fell last week and cracked a rib. Pray for relief from the pain and for healing.
- Pray for **Mike and Linda Philo**. Mike is scheduled for hip replacement surgery on January 10. Pray that surgery goes well and for a good recovery process.
- Pray for **Ron and Mae Scholten**. Ron is scheduled for hip replacement surgery on January 10. Pray that surgery goes well and for a good recovery process.
- Pray for **Steve and Linda Westra** who are working with a 20 member DRS (Disaster Response Services) team in Sarasota, Florida, January 2-27. Pray for safety for team members as they work; and that they stay healthy. Pray also for the people they work with in Florida. Pray that the clients will experience Christ's compassion and care through the presence and work of this team.
- Continue to pray for those with ongoing health needs and concerns: 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), Jan (**Sharon Winkle's** sister).
- For **Mission French Africa** and **Paul & Charlotte Mpindi** as they focus on evangelism and leadership training in French Africa through their radio and discipleship ministry.
- For the **LOVE Food Pantry** and the families that receive support through this ministry.