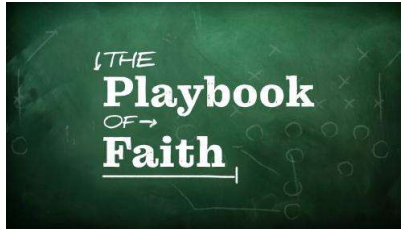


Scripture (and planning)
responding to the Word of
God
Nehemiah 8:5-12, 9:1-3



FROM THE DEACONS

Thank You to the congregation for the gifts received Jan 30-Feb 11:

Received for general ministries:	\$ 8,166.98
Received for Christian Education:	\$ 1,185.00
Community Offering: Audio Scripture	\$ 185.02
Pine Rest	\$ 100.00
World Renew	\$ 20.51

Community Offerings

TODAY: Denominational Ministry Shares (DMS)

The Christian Reformed Church uses ministry shares to fund a variety of ministry programs that start new churches, train servant leaders, support chaplains, resource congregations, and reach out to our neighbors through media and evangelism.

Feb 25: Kids Hope USA

Mar 3: Roosevelt Park Ministries

THIS WEEK

Monday, Feb 19

7pm Exec

Tuesday, Feb 20

6pm Life Skills

Wednesday, Feb 21

9:30am Lent Small Group

"40 Days to a Closer Walk with God"

1:30pm Blood Drive

7pm Worship Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb 22

Friday, Feb 23

Saturday, Feb 24

Sunday, Feb 25

9:30am Worship

10:45am Church School

10:45am Adult Bible Study

COMING UP

Feb 26 Full Council
Elders
Deacons

Mar 3 Youth Group

Mar 10 Youth Group Winter Jam

Mar 11 Exec

Mar 17 Youth Group

Mar 25 Elders
Deacons

STAFF

Tom VanderPloeg (Pastor)

Barb Sanders (Care Ministry)

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

February 18, 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 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: Nehemiah and Ezra make sure that the Word of God is not only a priority to be read and known, but that the people also prioritize their response to God's Word; how can we plan a life of faith that responds to the Word of God?

NEXT WEEK: Second Sunday of Lent — Shalom: journey with the prophets

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

*The Reason
Exalted Over All*

Communion

*Remembrance
Amazing Grace*

Prayers of the People

Scripture *Nehemiah 8:5-12, 9:1-3*

⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

⁷ The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve."

¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

The Israelites Confess Their Sins

⁹ On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and putting dust on their heads. ² Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors. ³ They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the Lord their God.

Message "Scripture (and Planning) – responding to the Word of God"

*Word Of God Speak
Speak O Lord*

God's Parting Blessing

CHURCH LIFE

TODAY for the first Sunday of Lent we will celebrate the sacrament of communion during the worship service.

LENT SMALL GROUP Last summer, our sermon series focused on learning more about twelve faith practices and we were encouraged to nurture faith practices. The CRCNA Faith Practices Project includes many resources that can be helpful for nurturing each of the practices highlighted. One resource mentioned with the prayer resources is *Forty Days to a Closer Walk with God: The Practice of Centering Prayer* by J. David Muyskens. (<https://bit.ly/practiceprayer>) This book includes a six session small group plan with an encouragement to meet during the season of Lent. Plans are being made for a small group to meet during the season of Lent on Wednesday mornings, 9:30-10:30am, starting February 21. If you are interested in participating in this small group during Lent, please sign up online (link in Midweek) or on the bulletin board in the narthex. Even if one does not participate in this small group, this book is a resource that can provide enrichment to one's faith practice of prayer. Questions? Contact **Pastor Barb Sanders**.

BRING YOUR OWN MUGS TO CHURCH! Members of Fellowship Church, the cost of paper cups for coffee just keeps going up and up. I'm asking that members bring their own cups for coffee if at all possible. This will cut down on the number of cups that need to be purchased and therefore cut down cost! I have been brainstorming how we could move from purchasing paper cups to having mugs available at church. If you have any ideas for me on how to accomplish this please let me know! I am open to feedback. For now let's start with bringing our own mugs to church! Have no fear, I will continue to purchase cups as we transition to a new plan! Thanks in advance for your help in saving us money! **Pam Kortman**, Fellowship Committee

ADULT BIBLE STUDY 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).

FREE TABLE We recently replaced the large table in the office. The old table is now looking for a new home. It is 4' x 7', and very solid/sturdy; it would make a great craft table as the top is very scratched. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the office (lwilliams@fellowshipcrc.com).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Happy Birthday to **Lois Koetje** who will celebrate her 90th birthday on February 22nd. We give thanks for her life and may she know the gift of God's faithful presence with each new day.

*The flowers in the narthex are courtesy of the family of **Ellie Klifman**, we give thanks for their generosity.*

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

PRAYER FOCUS

- We extend our sympathy and prayers to **Mark and Sheryl Offringa** family. Sheryl's mother, **Ellie Klifman** passed away on Thursday, February 8. We extend our sympathy and prayers to **Ron and Mae Scholten** family. Mae's sister, Kathy "Beane" Lynema, passed away on Thursday, February 8. May these families know Christ's comfort, peace, and presence with them.
- Continue to pray for those with ongoing health needs and concerns: Rick Aardema, Jayne Barnhill (**Sandy Campo's** sister), **Jean Cisler, Lois Oom**, Katherine Sneller, **Rachel Tjoelker**, Barb Voskuil (**Carole Dykstra's** sister).
- For **Denominational Ministry Shares** as they provide funds for many of the ministries of the Christian Reformed Church.
- For the **LOVE Food Pantry** and the families that receive support through this ministry.

TODAY

9:30am Worship
10:45am Church School
10:45am Adult Bible Study
4:30pm Youth Group-Middle School
6pm Youth Group-High School

MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FOOD PANTRY Thank you to everyone who has donated to the pantry!

BACKPACK BUDDIES We are currently collecting for February and March.

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. We couldn't do this ministry without you.

Your donations are very appreciated! **Sandy Campo**

BLOOD DRIVE The next Blood Drive will be on **Wednesday, February 21**, from **1:30-6:30pm**. A sign-up to bring goodies for the canteen is on the M&CC bulletin board. If you would like to sign up to donate, a link can be found on the Versiti website or the church website under upcoming events. https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/156817