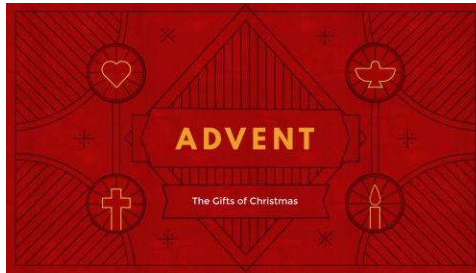


The Gift of Hope
Romans 4:16-25



FROM THE DEACONS

Thank You to the congregation for the gifts received Oct 28 – Nov 17:

Received for General Ministries:	\$ 6,656.66
Received for Christian Education:	\$ 631.49
Community Offering:	World Hunger Sunday \$ 1,334.00
	Mission French Africa \$ 575.51
	DMS \$ 90.51
	Backpack Buddies \$ 46.00
	Fellowship Food Pantry \$ 35.51

From the Treasurer:

Year to Date Receipts: \$243,823.86 **Year to Date Expenses:** \$ 246,650.76
(through 10/31/2024)

Community Offerings

TODAY: Desert Streams Ministries David, Sara, and Anna Lont

David, Sara, and Anna Lont serve as our missionaries through Desert Streams Ministries near the city of Tulancingo, Hidalgo, Mexico. They facilitate the studies of the 40 pastors/leaders enrolled in the Advanced School of Ministry degree program with the goal of earning degrees by January, 2026, and the online Bible School which has 150 students this fall semester. David, Sara, and Anna also pastor and serve their local church which continues to grow each Sunday. They are very thankful to Fellowship CRC for the faithful offerings which support the growth of the Bible School and the Advanced School of Ministry and for the warm welcome David received while visiting us in October.

Dec 8: Denominational Ministry Shares
Dec 15, 22: Love Your Neighbor



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

THIS WEEK

Monday, Dec 2

Tuesday, Dec 3
6pm Life Skills

Wednesday, Dec 4

Thursday, Dec 5

Friday, Dec 6

Saturday, Dec 7

Sunday, Dec 8
9:30am Worship
11:30am Christmas Lunch
6pm Youth Group Christmas Party

COMING UP

- Dec 9** Exec
- Dec 13** Youth Group Christmas Movie Night
- Dec 18** Blood drive
- Dec 25** Christmas Worship

STAFF

- Tom VanderPloeg (Pastor)
- Barb Sanders (Care Ministry)
- Andrew Lenhart (Worship)
- Barb Van Ryn (Youth Ministry)
- Laura Williams (Admin Assistant)
- Katherine Sneller (Custodian)

TODAY: First Sunday of Advent — Hope is a gift from God that orients the focuses and direction of our faith towards the promises of God.

NEXT WEEK: Second Sunday of Advent

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

www.fellowshipcrc.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

*O Come O Come Emmanuel
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Communion

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Prayers of the People

Scripture *Romans 4:16-25*

¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

¹⁸Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²²This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." ²³The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Message "The Gift of Hope"

O Little Town of Bethlehem

God's Parting Blessing

TODAY

9:30am Worship
11am Adult Bible Study

CHURCH LIFE

TODAY we celebrate the sacrament of communion during the worship service.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH/RETIREMENT PARTY We invite you to stay after the morning worship service for a Christmas lunch/Pastor Barb's retirement party on Dec 8. Pulled pork, buns, dessert, drinks, and table service will be provided. Cheesy potatoes and salads/fruit are needed; sign up to bring one when you RSVP. You can RSVP by going to <https://bit.ly/4fSfikX> (the link is also in the midweek) or by signing up on the M&CC bulletin board. Questions? Contact **Pam Kortman** or the office.
Please RSVP TODAY!

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY The class is in Room 10, and it will begin around 15 minutes after the end of 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

PRAYER FOCUS

- Continue to pray for **Lois Koetje**. She fell at home a few weeks ago and is currently receiving rehab therapy at Corewell Rehab Leffingwell.
- Pray for **Jerry and Diane Ronda** and their family. Jerry has been diagnosed with bladder cancer. Surgery is scheduled for December 12 to remove the bladder.
- Please pray for these particular requests from **David, Sara, and Anna Lont** and **Desert Streams Ministries**: for funding for the growing online Bible School and for connections with others of a like-minded vision; for the next Advanced School of Ministry conference at the end of January which focuses on strengthening pastors and leaders of local churches in the foundations of church life; for David who has been commissioned as the leader of the Advanced School of Ministry team; and for the Desert Streams Church in Tulancingo as new members grow in faith becoming more effective in bringing the love of Jesus Christ and the Gospel to the city.
- Continue to pray for those with ongoing health needs and concerns: Rick Aardema, **Jean Cisler**, **Bonnie Houtstra**, **Randy & Cathy Kraker**, **Rog & Mary Visser**.
- For the **LOVE Food Pantry** and the families that receive support through this ministry.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

Our church will be partnering again this year with Love Your Neighbor for their annual Christmas store event, **Community Christmas**. This event offers parents/guardians the opportunity to shop gifts for their children. **M&CC has chosen to help by collecting STOCKING STUFFERS and GIFT-WRAPPING SUPPLIES.** A collection box will be available in the foyer through **TODAY, Sunday, Dec 1.** **Some ideas for stocking stuffers are: fun socks, card games, matchbox cars, activity books, fidget toys, small stuffed animals, hair ties, nail polish, lotion, hygiene items, journals, snacks, candy, etc.** As well as collecting these items, if you would like to volunteer to help at the event this Friday, December 6, or Saturday, December 7, at Hudsonville Reformed Church, go to <https://bit.ly/3UgGSzI> to sign up!

MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

THANKS FOR GIVING

November reminds us that Thanksgiving is coming. God has given us so many blessings that we can hardly count them all. During Thanksgiving, we also remember that God wants us to show His love and share our blessings with others. The Missions and Community Connections Committee encourages everyone to join our **"THANKS FOR GIVING"** Food/Blessings Drive for our Food Pantry here at Fellowship. There will be a special collection area in the lobby through **TODAY, Sunday, December 1.** Needed Items Are:
Instant oatmeal breakfast bars Apple juice Peanut butter
Jelly Salsa Diced tomatoes White rice
Tuna/chicken helper Canned chicken/ tuna Salad dressings
Applesauce Snack crackers Kleenex Paper towel
Shampoo/conditioner for men and women
Body wash for men/women Toothpaste Mouthwash
Laundry soap Laundry softener/sheets Dish soap

BACKPACK BUDDIES

Thank you for remembering the Backpack Buddies in prayers and giving!! December food items needed for the 30 children in the program include:

- Canned Chicken
- Canned Pasta (spaghetti O's type items)
- Fruit Cups, applesauce cups
- Oatmeal (boxes of individual envelopes)
- Gift Cards: we will again offer Christmas break food baskets and, if possible, we would like to include a \$25 Meijer gift card so that they can purchase Christmas dinner items and perishable foods. We anticipate 10-12 families will RSVP for a food basket. You can give gift cards to me or through the deacons (mark them for Backpack Buddies).

Thank you for your support of this ministry.
Sandy Campo (616)889-3134