

WESTWOOD

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Finding & Following Jesus

DECEMBER 9, 2018

GATHERING

O Come, O Come, Immanuel (Vv. 3-4)

SILENT PRAYER

**Angels from the Realms of Glory (Emmanuel)*

**Adore*

*GOD'S GREETING / WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

(Children, ages 3-1st grade are dismissed for Children's Worship.)

PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE

OFFERINGS: The first offering supports the ministries of Westwood Church, and our denomination, the Christian Reformed Church. The second offering is for the Christian Resource Center.

OFFERTORY: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven*

SCRIPTURE: John 1:1-14

SERMON: "Be the Light"

PRAYER

**Behold Our God/*O Come Let Us Adore Him*

*CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

**Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*GOD'S BLESSING

*SENDING

*INDICATES PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT

WELCOME TO WESTWOOD

Welcome to worship at Westwood CRC! *A Christ-centered community inspiring people to find and follow Jesus!* It is a joy to have you worshipping with us today. If you would like more information about us, we invite you to fill out a Welcome card in the pew racks and return it to the basket on the Welcome Center or place it in the offering bag. We invite you to stay after the service and enjoy refreshments, available at both the Lobby and Kitchen Coffee Spots.

Today is the second Sunday of Advent. The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is meant to cultivate our awareness of God's actions – past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us – people who wait for His second coming.

Today we welcome Jeff Blamer as he leads us in worship while Pastor Mike is at Third CRC participating in the installation service of their new pastor, Rev. Derek Zeyl. Jeff is preaching from John 1:1-14 – "Be the Light."

Hearing aid units are available near the office window at the entrance of the building. If you need help with them speak to one of the greeters.

Children's Worship: Kids age 3 – 1st graders are invited part-way through our Worship Gathering to go downstairs for their own special time of praise and learning. A teacher will direct you downstairs, where they can be picked up after Worship.

Prayer after worship: After every service, people are available to pray with you in the Prayer Room. No prayer is too small – whether for thanksgiving, healing support or salvation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Adult Discipleship Class welcomes representatives from Urban Alliance, a local non-profit, for three focused sessions on how we as Christians can address poverty issues. From the smaller matters like how to interact with someone panhandling on the street, to bigger issues like how can we help lift people up out of poverty, to the grand question of what Scripture teaches us regarding the poor, our brothers and sisters at Urban Alliance are local experts. Please come join us as they engage and instruct us. **Classes were today and next Sunday.**

"How beautiful are the feet of those who serve the Lord!" **The prayer ministry is offering another opportunity to go into the "unknown" to serve God. Every 2nd Sunday please join us in Ginny's office after church to walk the neighborhood.** As we walk, we pray with insight for our neighbors because we are onsite on the streets. Our first walk was October 14 and was a great success. The next walk is today, December 9. We provide information on how it's done and will pair **newbies with those who've done this before. Please join us!**

2019 Council Slate: The following council slate has been approved by full council and is submitted to the congregation for information: **Congregational Life:** Mary Dyksterhouse; **Discipleship:** Mike Aggen; **Worship (need 1):** Dennis VanStrien, Jeff Wells; **Chair of Deacons:** Steve Triemstra

The election for the Worship Elder position will be done on January 6 by council and announced during the worship service. A special thanks to those who have served well and will be retiring from office in 2019, and to those who are willing to serve in this important capacity going forward at Westwood.

The Giving Tree: Have you ever given someone a duck for Christmas? For just \$11, you can! Stop by our World Renew Giving Tree near the pillar table to choose an ornament representing a variety of items needed around the world. By your simple gift, you create an opportunity for God to bring Uzima, "fullness of life," to others in need.

EVENTS

Congregational Meeting - All professing members of Westwood: plan on attending the Congregational Meeting following worship today to review and approve the proposed budget for 2019. The meeting agenda and proposed budget is in your mailbox.

PRIME TIMERS: We will have a Christmas Party this Saturday, December 15 from 6-9 p.m. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and 5 - \$1 gifts wrapped (per person like pencils, erasers, or any dollar store item). Signup sheet is on the information center table. If you have any questions talk to Sue Kuipers or Barb Hesselink.

PRAYER NOTES

*Our sympathies to Linda Hoeksema with the death of her mother, Sandra in Florida. Visitation will be at Lakeland Reformed Church, 10442 Sprinkle Rd., on Saturday, December 15 at 10 a.m. with a memorial following at 11 a.m.

*Roger DeVries has been diagnosed with bone marrow cancer and will be treated with medication.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who returned the 2019 Faith Promise cards. If you have not yet returned a card, please drop it in the offering bag or the missions offering box under the missions bulletin board.

Food Pantry Gifts: Thank you to our kids for advertising and competing in the best way by encouraging our food donations for the Westwood Food Pantry. Our Discipleship Classes collected 567 donated items! Our December Food Pantry clients will have a wonderful variety of food choices. Congratulations to all classes for surpassing their goals, and to Mr. Koning's 6th Grade Class for having that largest number of donations/student...soon they'll celebrate with an ice cream sundae bar!

COMMUNITY NEWS

(Items received from local churches, schools and non-profits)

You are warmly invited to join with brothers and sisters in Christ in an evening of Scripture and song celebrating the birth of our Savior at 7 p.m. tonight at Grace CRC, 1724 Whites Rd. in Kalamazoo. "Unto Us a Child Is Born", will feature a number of musicians and many opportunities to lift up our voices in praise to our Lord and King. A light meal will take place at 6:15 pm prior to the carol sing which begins at 7 pm. Please consider join us for a time of fellowship and worship.

Preschoolers: Join us for our final 1st semester Story Hour this Thursday, December 13. Our theme will be "J is for Jesus," as we celebrate His birthday. Free. At Reformed Heritage Christian School from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Intrepid Professional Womens Network or IPWN's mission is to establish and implement free accessible, convenient, engaging and supportive programs addressing self-care, communication, relationship building and career building skills. Additionally, a formal mentoring program will also be developed. **IPWN is asking for donations of personal hygiene items this Christmas to help assist single women in Kalamazoo County who have fallen on hard times** (a list is on the center pillar bulletin board) and there is a box for the donations. All donations are needed no later than Tuesday December 18th and will be disbursed on Sunday Dec 23rd, at the MLK Park on the Northside of Kalamazoo during the hours of 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Please join us for Caroling and hot cocoa.

Classis Kalamazoo is seeking a Safe Church Ministry Coordinator. This is a stipend-position (1-3 hours per week) with three primary responsibilities: 1) Organize classis-wide Safe Church Ministry team meetings; 2) develop a collaborative working relationship with the classis; 3) connect with the Safe Church Ministry denominational staff. If interested, please contact Mike Koetje, chair of the Classical Interim Committee, at pastormike.koetje@gmail.com.

NEXT SUNDAY'S ACTIVITIES

Next Sunday our children and youth will be participating in worship through their annual Christmas program.

OFFERING INFORMATION

Please consider Westwood in your year-end giving; whether it's finishing up pledges for 2018 or additional gifts. Don't forget that you can gift stock as well as money - Joy DeJong can help you through that process.

2018 budgeted giving per week: \$11,077

Weekly Giving

Envelope Giving 12/2/18.....	\$7,342.30
Online Giving 11/30 - 12/6.....	\$2,476.00

Envelope Giving 12/2

Faith Promise	\$550.00
Tuition Assistance	\$80.00

Special Offerings 12/2

Benevolence	\$516.41
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Next Sunday morning the offering will be for the Kalamazoo Deacons Conference.



SCHEDULES

TODAY

Connectors:

Roger & Jan Boyd

Valet Parkers:

Bruce Triemstra

Dave Hoekstra

Worship Hosts:

Ann Smith, Aaliyah Smith

Duane & Nancy DeHaan

Coffee Hosts:

Steve & Lynn Visser

Josh & Christine Vlietstra

Children's Worship:

Laura Furge, Eli Kline

Rachel Furge, Mei Lanting

Aaliyah Smith

Nursery Attendants:

Nancy Dyksterhouse

Sue Feddema, Gracelyn Moore

Prayer Room:

Bette Dyksterhouse

Alida Blauwkamp

NEXT WEEK

Connectors:

Rick & Sue Kuipers

Valet Parkers:

Jim Ritsema

Jack Westra

Worship Hosts:

Larry & Sherry DeFouw

Paul & Pam Dyben

Coffee Hosts:

Adrian & Sue Vroegop

Dale & Mary Walvort

Children's Worship:

Christmas Program

Nursery Attendants:

Ginny Hoekstra, Barb H.

Kailey Triemstra

Prayer Room:

Judy DeVries

Pat Huizenga

CALENDAR

Monday December 10

9:30am Prayer Group

1:00pm Knitting "Bee"

6:00pm Friendship

8:15pm Men's Basketball

Thursday, December 13

9:00am Cleaning Crew

4:00pm Food Pantry

5:30pm Zumba

6:00pm Christmas
Program Practice

Tuesday, December 11

4:00pm Food Pantry

Saturday, December 15

6:00pm Prime Timers

Wednesday, December 12

9:15am MOPS

5:15pm Youth Choir

6:00pm Adult Choir

7:15pm Praise Team

Sunday, December 16

9:00am Discipleship

10:00am Christmas Program



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