

Message: Ambassadors of Reconciliation

Scripture: 2 Cor. 5: 20&21; I John 4:20; Luke 23:34

Preaching: Pastor Shawn Gerbers

Sermon Notes

Welcome

Welcome to First CRC. We are so glad you're here!

If you have children 3 months through 3 years old, you can safely entrust them to our nursery workers, who will care for them during the service. The nursery is located just below the Sanctuary and can be accessed by going down the stairs near the back entrance.

Restrooms are located just below the Sanctuary and can be accessed by going down the stairs near the back entrance.

After the service, please join us for refreshments which are located in the room just off the Sanctuary.

Offerings

Ministry Shares: Monies to help with missionaries, training, starting new churches, denominational services, as well as synodical and fundraising expenses.

Special Collection—Family Life Center: Demonstrates Christ's love to young women experiencing unplanned pregnancies by equipping them for the challenges of life by providing a safe, caring, home environment with specific opportunities for social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual growth.

Church Announcements

Operation Christmas Child | The GEMS and Cadets are looking for your help again this year with Operation Christmas Child. Our goal is to be more thoughtful and intentional with each box we pack. We have decided that every GEM girl and Cadet boy along with their leaders will each pack two boxes. We have asked the Gems and Cadet families to supply one or both of the WOW gifts. Here's how you can help:

1. Pray for our GEMS and Cadets as they pack these boxes, and for the children and families who will receive them.
2. Donate money for shipping and other supplies.
3. Purchase items from the flyer in the back of church.
4. Take a brochure and pack your own box.

Visit the Operation Christmas Child table or ask a GEM leader for more information. Thank you!

Mission Emphasis | It's that time of the year! Mission Emphasis! Please prayerfully consider what you are able to pledge to support missions. There will be pledge cards in your mail boxes today. Any questions, contact Van Dykes or J. Hoeksemas. Please have your pledge put in the collection plate by Oct 29.

Pledge Cards | Pledge cards should be in your mail box. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to pledge to missions for the '23-'24 year and return to the offering plate by Oct. 29.

Church Ann. Cont...

Conquerors Strength Team | The congregation is invited to join the Cadets, GEMS and their parents for a presentation by The Conquerors Strength Team. The Conquerors are a team of athletes that use demonstrations of strength to **engage** with communities, **encourage** the hopeless and **empower** individuals to Conquer life's challenges. Come join the Cadets and GEMS as they welcome Mike Gruppen and his team. The program will run from 6:30 - 7:45 on Weds., Nov. 1.

Community Announcements

Unfading Truth | Human sexuality is something we don't like to talk about, yet we seem to hear about it all the time. Cut through the world's lies as you are reminded what *God* says about it as we read through His Word together each day this week at Un-faingTruth.org.

Westminster Theological Seminary is pleased to announce an upcoming event in Holland, Michigan taking place October 20th–21st: **“Desiring Truth: A Civil Discourse On Matters with which Christians Disagree”**.

The first installment of this two-day event will feature Christian pastors of differing theological positions discussing significant questions of sexual identity in Scripture. Guests will also be able to partake in a time of Q&A to engage those speakers directly.

The second installment, **“Seminary on Saturday,”** will be held the following day, and will allow participants to delve more deeply into these topics using presuppositional apologetics. Tickets are only \$10. You can find more details as well as register for the event by visiting desiringtruth.eventbrite.com.

Church Calendar

Weds. Night Dinner | Our next dinner will be Wednesday, October 18, at 5:30. We're having Mesquite chicken, potatoes, corn, California blend, applesauce, rolls and dessert. Hope to see you there! If anyone would be willing to make a dessert, please let Phyllis know.

Gems and Cadets will meet from 6:15 -8 on Wednesday evening.

Helping Hands will meet Tuesday, October 17, at 9:00 AM.

Coffee Break will meet Thurs., Oct. 12, from 10-11:15 AM.

Prayer Meeting | Each week members from First Church are invited to come and pray together at 11:00AM on Thursday. All are welcome. Meet at the office.

Care and Prayer

Calling Elder | In need of prayer or a visit? David Wierda is the Calling Elder for October. His phone number is 616.953.0679.

Thank You

The GEMS leaders would like to thank everybody who helped donate baked goods for the sale at Pumpkinfest on October 7. The weather was very uncooperative but we were still able to sell a lot of items and had our best sale ever! God is good! We were able to reach out to parents and kids who were already a part of GEMS and Cadets and some who never heard of either and seemed interested. We are hoping for a few new faces joining us in the coming weeks at GEMS...