

Preaching: Pastor Henry Admiraal

Sermon Notes

*Welcome*

Call to Worship

\*Songs: *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

*O Holy Night*

Congregational Prayer

\*Songs: *O Come All Ye Faithful*

*As With Gladness Men of Old*

Offering

Scripture: Matthew 11: 1-19

Message: **The Christmas Question**

\*Song : *Once in Royal David's City*

\*Song: *Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee*

Offerings

**General Fund:** Monies for general church operating expenses.

## Church Announcements

**Collection Envelopes** | We will not be providing printed envelopes for church collections in 2026. Blank envelopes will be on the back table in church that you may use. Please include your envelope # and cause on the envelope. Our collections will follow the same schedule as before- 1st Sunday- Faith Promise, 2nd- Building Fund, 3rd-Ministry Shares, 4th(and 5th if applicable)-General Fund. Thank you for your understanding. **The Deacons**

**Items from Church** | Any church members that are interested in items from our church, are asked to put their request in writing. You may place it in the collection plate or give to a Council member. These will be reviewed by Council and, if needed, forwarded on to the Properties Team.

**Distribution of Church Funds** | Distribution of church funds. Church members can submit organizations or places they would like to be included in the disbursement of our funds. Please put the request in writing and give to a Council member. These will be reviewed by Council.

**Voting** | Information from our Articles of Incorporation as it relates to voting. You will be able to vote if you are a professing member in good standing and have attended church during the last 2 years. Absentee ballots will not be made available due to information that will be shared at the time of the vote.

**FIRST FOCUS** | Please have materials for the January First Focus to Lisa by Weds., Dec. 31 at 9 AM.

**Year End Donation** | If you want your year end donation recorded, please have it in to the church by Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025. Thank you.

## Church Ann. Cont...

**Cookie Sign-Up** | Just a reminder, cookie sign-up sheets are in the back of church. If you don't bake, you can always buy cookies! We appreciate any help with this!

## Care and Prayer

**Calling Elder** | **Calling Elder** | In need of prayer or a visit? Randy Hop is the Calling Elder for December. His phone number is 616.610.1859.

**Prayers for Council and First** | Please continue to pray for Council and 1st Church as we seek God's direction for our future. May His plans be made clear to us. "My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken." Psalm 62:1,2.

We express sympathy to **Gord and Henkie Beukema** in the passing of Henkie's sister, Arkie Hoekje, who passed away on Dec. 19. Services were held yesterday in Overisel.

**Aldajeane Oshier** will be meeting with doctors on Mon., Dec. 29 to discuss the next option for her hip/back pain. Pray the doctors will have answers so they can move ahead and decide what to do next.

## Church Calendar

**DATE CHANGE FOR JANUARY BREAKFAST!** We will be going a week later, January 14. Still working on location, will update as soon as we know...for now pencil in Jan. 14! Sign up sheet in back...

**GEMS and Cadets** will restart January 7 from 6:30-8 PM.

**Coffee Break** will restart on January 8 at 10 AM.

## Community Announcements

**Unfading Truth** | As we finish out 2025, we'll read through some of the Bible's best *doxologies* - words of praise and glory for our Sovereign gracious God. Join us at UnfadingTruth.com. Be sure to check out the video promoting the '26 season while you're there.

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** | As one year ends and another begins, pause for a time of taking spiritual inventory with your family, friends, or on your own. Ask questions like these: Where did we see God this year? Where did we resist growth? Where do we feel God is calling us next? Consider writing a prayer of release and a prayer of commitment to guide your transition into the new year. Brought to you by Thrive: [crena.org/Thrive](http://crena.org/Thrive)

## Thank You

A BIG thank you to **Von Wessel-dyke** and everyone who was involved in our Christmas Day service. It was a great service and we appreciate all of you.

Thank you to the congregation for the Christmas cards. It was very nice! Thank you! **Joyce Mulder**

Thanks so much to the GEMS and their leaders for coming to see me and sing Christmas carols! And thank you for remembering me with beautiful Christmas cards and notes. A blessed Christmas to everyone at First Church. **Carol VanDenBosch**

## Birthdays

We would like to wish **Carol VandenBosch** a very happy 89th birthday on Tues., Dec. 30! May her special day be great!