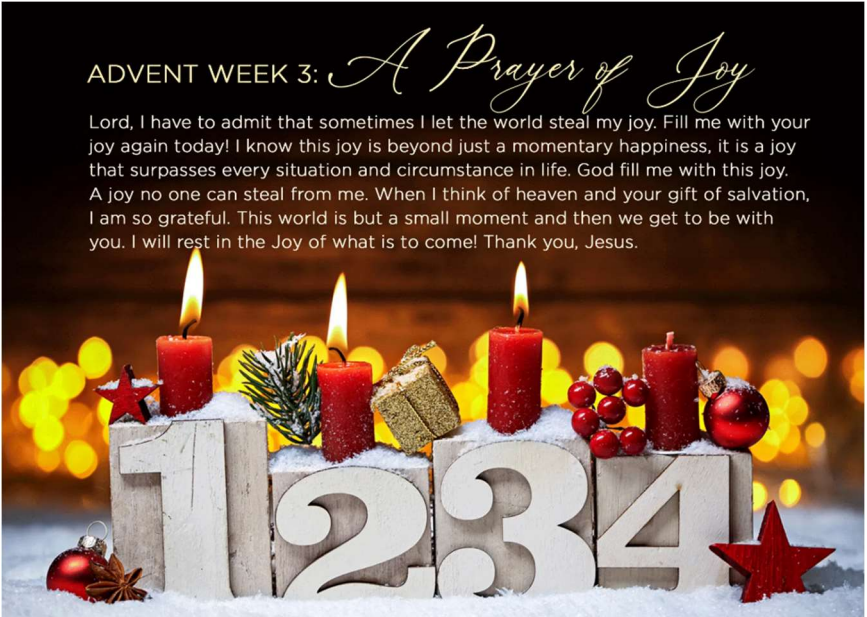


First Christian Reformed Church

801 15th Ave
Fulton, IL 61252
815-589-3790

ADVENT WEEK 3: *A Prayer of Joy*

Lord, I have to admit that sometimes I let the world steal my joy. Fill me with your joy again today! I know this joy is beyond just a momentary happiness, it is a joy that surpasses every situation and circumstance in life. God fill me with this joy. A joy no one can steal from me. When I think of heaven and your gift of salvation, I am so grateful. This world is but a small moment and then we get to be with you. I will rest in the Joy of what is to come! Thank you, Jesus.



*Growing Closer to God
Through Service & Love*

Pastor Michael-Email: mhooke01@gmail.com

Church Email: FirstCRCFulton@live.com

Website: www.FultonFirstCRC.com

Facebook: Fulton 1st Christian Reformed Church

First CRC Fulton

December 15, 2024 - 9:00am

Advent: Look at Luke: Repent and Rejoice

We Gather in Praise and Worship

Prelude: Messiah

Welcome:

Announcements:

Call To Worship: Pastor Byker

God's Greeting: Pastor Byker

Mutual Greeting

Worship Through Song:

Joy to the World

Gratitude

Angels We Have Heard on High

Congregational Prayer: Rollie

Offering: General Fund & Faith Promise

Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle: The Stephenson Family

Worship in Song:

Oh Holy Night

I Have the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy...

We Prepare For & Hear God's Word

Scripture: Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root

of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰*“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.*

¹¹*John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”*

¹²*Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”*

¹³*“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.*

¹⁴*Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”*

¹⁵*The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.*

Sermon: Advent: Look at Luke: Repent and Rejoice - Pastor Byker

WE DEPART WITH GOD’S BLESSING

Parting Song: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Blessing: Pastor Byker

Announcements

We welcome John Byker to bring us God’s word this morning. We look forward to worshiping with you once again. Thank you for sharing your talents with us.

The beautiful poinsettias are in memory of:

Merle & Carol Bielema from the family

Brad Lown from the family

Sid & Myrna Dykstra & Arthur & Eileen Thompson from

Paul & Sheila Thompson

Sebert & Phyllis Dykstra from the family

Elmer & Alberta Vander Eide from the family

Paul & Wilma Ottens & Janet Mathey from the family

Barb & Gene Kessler from the family

John & Vie Atherton from the family

Jake & Florence Balk & Roger Simon from Bonnie Simon

Angela McGinty & Robert Jackson from the family

Ken Balk & Stephanie Balk from Audrey Balk & family

Ruth Long from the Family

To honor our parents from Mark & Ann Dykstra

Darrell Tiesman & Harlan Tiesman from Gen Tiesman, Darla

Birks & family

Genoveva from Ana

At our congregational meeting last week, Amy D. was elected deacon, and Stacy S. and Brenda A. were elected as elders. These new office bearers are welcome and encouraged to attend our Elder and Council meetings on Thursday evening.

Our December Elder and Council meetings will be this coming Thursday, December 19.

The next potluck meal will be January 12, 2025. Begin thinking about your favorite slow cooker foods!

Thank you to the Stephenson family decorating the outside of the church for Christmas.

Thank you to Lori B for always making the interior of the church beautiful, warm, and welcoming! You do a great job at celebrating the seasons with your creativity.

Thank you! Leanna would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers. They are very much appreciated and welcome. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Remember in prayer our members in care facilities or homebound: Carroll E, Albert W, Leanna S

Please send prayer requests to Pastor Michael at **mhooke01@gmail.com**.

Please send *all other bulletin information* to **FirstCRCFulton@live.com** by Thursday at 7:00pm.

December Birthdays

1 Collin Burns	12 Don Mathey
1 Genevieve Tiesman	14 Alida Hooker
1 Tucker Smith	18 Brenda Atherton
5 Kelly Dykstra	21 Sheila Thompson
6 Rollie Vander Eide	27 Paige Vander Eide
8 Janelle Bradley	27 Ana Ton
9 Brenda Huizenga	28 Rachel Elliot
	30 Stacy Stephenson

December Anniversaries

6 Mark & Ann Dykstra	28 Albert & Gloria Wiebenga
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Deacons' News

Offerings Received 12/8/24:

Benevolence: \$154.00

General Fund

Budget: \$2,051.62

Received: \$3,615.00

Over: \$1,563.38

Offerings Today: General Fund & Faith Promise

Offerings 12/22/24: General Fund & UCSB

*Please place your offerings in the plates as they are passed.
As of December 1st, the General fund offerings are
approximately \$5,300.00. short for targeted budget.*

CRC News

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - This coming week marks the winter solstice—the “longest night” of the year. For many, the Christmas season can be a particularly difficult time. How might God be calling you to minister to people who struggle? How might you remind them that the dark of night will gradually give way to the light of day? Brought to you by Thrive:
crcna.org/Thrive

Give Thanks with World Renew's Advent Giving Tree - Let's help people who live in poverty to experience more of God's love for them with a Christmas Giving Tree! Each ornament on our Christmas tree from World Renew's 2024-2025 Gift Catalog represents a gift for people living in poverty worldwide. Just choose an ornament and bring it, along with your donation, for the World Renew offering on Christmas Day. If you're not attending services with us on Christmas day, you can also go to worldrenew.net/gifts or call 800-552-7972 to give.

Community News

Children's Discovery Center Final Visit with Santa is Sunday, December 15th from 2 - 4 pm.

12th Annual Family New Year's Eve Party is Tuesday, Dec 31st, from 3 - 5:30 pm. 1,000 balloons drop at 5:15 pm!

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Greece (March 28 - April 8, 2025): Travel by motor coach (7 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul's second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor

at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. Contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Turkey and the Seven Churches of Revelation - (May 27 - June 8, 2025) Visit ancient sites connected with Paul's first, second, and third missionary journeys as well as the seven churches to whom John wrote the Book of Revelation. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational biblical tour. Contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

Weekly Calendar		
Today	Sunday Worship	9:00 am
Thursday, Dec 19 th	Elders Meeting	6:00 pm
	Deacons Meeting	6:30 pm
	Council Meeting	6:45 pm

	December 15th	December 22nd
Recorder & Sound	Paul T	Joe V
Nursery Attendant	Michelle V	Celia B
Snack Provider	Amy D	Lynell B
Server	Amy D	Lynell B