

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Psalm 105:1*

**THANK YOU** to those who are serving us during worship today.

**MUSICIANS:** Jan Johnson & Angie Meester

### **THIS WEEK AT PARKERSBURG CRC**

Today 9:30 a.m. – Morning Worship Service  
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. – Life Plus (online)  
Next Sunday 9:30 a.m. – Morning Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. – Sunday School

### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

**Paul Haan** underwent hip surgery on Wednesday after a fall resulting in a hip fracture on Monday. All went well and is recovering well.

**Please remember** those of our congregation who live alone and those alone in care facilities through a phone call or a card in these trying days.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**There will not** be any coffee after the service this morning.

**The second offering** next Sunday will be for the Food Pantry.

**The gift bags** to gather Christmas cards for the shut-ins in our congregation have been set up on the south side of the sanctuary.

**The Sunshine Circle** will not be celebrating our annual Christmas Tea with each other and our friends due to Covid 19 guidelines. We have not been able to have our usual fundraisers this year. So we ask that you consider giving a donation to help us support our mission causes as we have in the past. You can mail your gift to Janet Venenga, 403 N. Johnson, Parkersburg, IA 50665 or put it in her mailbox in the Fellowship Hall. We sincerely thank you!!

**A big thank you** to the Life Plus kids and leaders, as well as several ladies of our church who packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Between the two groups, 72 gift-filled shoeboxes were prepared so that children can hear the Gospel of Jesus. Also thank you to all the others who provided needed items, money and time to make it all come together! God bless!

**Church Custodian Position Available** - The Council would appreciate hearing from anyone who might be interested in filling the position of Church Custodian. Only inside duties are included. Please contact a church Council member or send a note of interest to the Council. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Dennis and Sharon Schipper for the many years of service to the Church.

**If you would** like to send your offerings in by mail, the church address is: Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church, 807 Grant St., Parkersburg, IA 50665

**The General Fund Collection** for December 6 was \$7,735.00. The target amount for each week is \$2,070.20.

**Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church**

Morning Service

December 13, 2020 – 9:30 AM

**WE COME NEAR TO GOD**

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship: God is here! The Messiah has come! We open our eyes to see him and lift our hearts to worship him. We have come to exalt the name of Jesus, our Savior and King, and bring glory to God the Father. In our worship we demonstrate the mind of Christ in declaring to God that he is the supreme authority in our lives. We bow before him in submission to our Lord and King. Come, worship the Lord!

\*Song: TCH 256 **Love Has Come!**

\*God's Greeting

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

Song: TCH 292 **Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne**

New Testament Reading: **Ephesians 3:14-21**

Hymn of Response: TCH 286 **Once in Royal David's City**

Morning Prayer

Offertory and Offering: 1) General Fund  
2) Faith Promise

Hymn: TCH 240 **Of the Father's Love Begotten**

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

Scripture: **II Samuel 7:1-17**

Message: **LOVING GOD**

Prayer of Dedication

**RESPONSE OF LOVE, GRATITUDE AND SERVICE**

\*Hymn: TCH 279 **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

\*God's Blessing

\*Closing Song: TCH 243 **Emmanuel**

\*Postlude

## Council Notes of December 7, 2020

**Council meeting of December 7, 2020 was opened by reading II Timothy 1:3-14. The passage gives encouragement to remain faithful during the difficult times we face. Opening prayer by Pastor Rus.**

Article 1: Minutes of the November 2, 2020 council meeting were read and approved.

Article 2: Correspondence was reviewed for information.

- A lengthy letter was received from the denomination headquarters informing councils and pastors of three significant synodical reports that are available for study. The three reports are: (1) Committee to articulate a Foundation-laying Biblical Theology of Human Sexuality, (2) Ecclesiastical Marriage Task Force, and (3) Study of Bi-vocational Task Force. The reports will be considered at the 2021 Synod meeting of the CRC. The reports are available at Synod Resources webpage at

[crena.org/Synod Resources](http://crena.org/SynodResources) (see Reports section.) The reports address important issues facing the church in our current context of representing Christ in this hurting world.

- A note of thanks was received from the Gladbrook Chapel Methodist Church for the \$100 contribution due to the devastating fire which destroyed their place of worship.
- The City of Parkersburg notified the council of the significant watermain reconstruction that will take place on Grant Street (directly in front of the church) from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to North Johnson Street. The reconstruction of the watermain has been planned for some time but was moved up on the schedule due to problems that developed over the summer. An exact starting date for the work has not been set but could be started soon.

Article 3: Ministry Reports:

- Pastor's Report: A monthly verbal report of activities and mileage was received for information. Because of the Co-VID virus, most contact has been by telephone.

- Elder’s Report: Discussion took place regarding comments from the congregational meeting.

The use of Memorial Money was reviewed. Information was shared regarding the availability of music resources including both word and music for projection during worship. The Worship Committee was encouraged to bring proposals for music additions for council consideration.

- Pulpit Committee: Marlyn Allspach – No Report
- Worship Committee: Ken Meester – No Report
- Attendance: Clayton Groeneveld – Attendance for the month of November averaged 37 people each Sunday. The Thanksgiving service was poorly attended with only 13 attendees.
- Outreach Committee: Marlyn Allspach – No Report
- Discipleship Committee: Mike Ascher – No Report
- Building Committee: Harold Coplen – No Report.

Article 4: The November financial report was presented. Receipts of \$12,586.65 were received. The target monthly budget amount is \$10,351 which results in a monthly surplus of \$2235.65. The YTD shortfall is \$545.51.

Article 5: Old Business

- Discussion of the recent ballot regarding women serving in the office of Elder and Deacon in our church was tabled until the January meeting due to three council members not being present.
- The Council had requested names of people who might be interested in serving as Church Custodian. Two people expressed interest in serving in this role. The Council named Shelly Meester to begin as custodian on January 1, 2021. Thank you for your willingness to be of service.

Article 6: New Business

- The scheduling of Christmas activities was discussed. Upon recommendation from teachers and musicians, the following decisions were made:

- The Christmas Eve service would begin at 7:00 and would include presentations from Life Plus, Sunday School, Home for Christmas, and the traditional Candlelight Service.
- The Christmas Morning service would be a regular 10:00 worship service.

- It was suggested that the speakers on the stage would be placed on small stands and would be built by Clayton Groeneveld. The stands would allow the wires to be placed securely within the boxes and eliminate a safety hazard. Total cost would be less than \$93 and would be paid for from the Building and Improvement fund.
- Due to the continued local presence of the COVID 19 virus, and following the recommendations of Gov. Reynolds, council decided that the “coffee time” after church would be postponed until a later date.

Article 7: Motion made and supported to adjourn. Carried

Article 8: Concept minutes were read and approved.

Article 9: Harold Coplen closed with prayer

Respectfully submitted:

Pastor: Rus Boersma

Clerk: Darrell Druvenga

Members present:

Pastor Rus  
Marlyn Allspach  
Harold Coplen  
Darrell Druvenga

Members absent:

Mike Ascher  
Kenny Meester  
Mike Sterling