

Sunday, December 14, 2025

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

10:30 a.m. – Congregational Meeting

Next Sunday 9:30 a.m. – Morning Worship Service

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to Duane Anderson, who will be observing his 93rd birthday on December 20.

Congratulations to Mark and Lanae Kramer, who will be observing their 54th anniversary on December 17.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone is invited for coffee and fellowship following the worship service this morning. There is a sign-up sheet on the counter for volunteers to serve.

The second offering next Sunday will be for Faith Promise.

We welcome Pastor Joel De Boer to our pulpit this morning.

We will have a congregational meeting this morning after the service.

Today we celebrate the stillness of Inner Joy that Mary and Joseph experienced on the night of Jesus' birth. Likewise, through Jesus we can have inner joy because he makes the way for the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and bear the fruit of inner joy. May God broaden our delight and understanding for living in and through God's word and worship today.

The Worship Committee has chosen “SEASONS OF STILLNESS” for our theme for the Advent Readings. When we change our focus from a place of chaos and confusion to a place where peace, joy, hope, love and calm, surrender, and stillness in His presence dwell, we can take our journey to the manger where we will meet the Prince of Peace. We are here because of a divine appointment. God has chosen us to be here today to learn how being in the season of stillness can lead to inner peace. So, keep your lamps burning and your sandals close at hand because we're on our way to Bethlehem!

Christmas cards can be placed in everyone's mail slot. We will not be doing the sacks this year for the shut-ins and/or elderly, but we encourage all members to drop a card, a short note, or just a Christmas greeting to each of our members. We will make sure that all of those who do not pick up their mail will get it delivered. There are members that we may not have seen for a while. This is a very good way to minister and encourage them.

Upcoming Speakers:

December 21 – Tom Niehof

December 25 – Randy Aalderks

December 28 – Steve Debner

The ladies who decorated the church want you to know that there are two places that would make nice picture-taking opportunities for family or individual pictures. One is in the South entryway by the white fence and the other is with the rocking chair in the Fellowship Hall. Put on your happy faces and snap a picture or two. That photo may make it on a Christmas card or just become a nice memory book addition. Smile everyone!

If you need someone to perform pastoral duties, please contact one of the Elders:

Ken Mehmen – (319) 269-1184

Pat Prier – (641) 640-4080

Mike Ascher – (319) 239-0637

Please feel free to contact any Council member with any questions you might have.

The General Fund collection for December 7 was \$2,626.00. The target amount for each week is \$2,248.10. The collection for Faith Promise totaled \$125.00.

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 120:

Q: Why did Christ command us to call God “our Father”?

A: At the very beginning of our prayer Christ wants us to kindle in us what is basic to our prayer – the childlike awe and trust that God through Christ has because of our Father. Our fathers do not refuse to give us what we ask in faith.

-HC and ME: The Heidelberg Catechism for Christian Living (2006), Faith Alive Christian Resources

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

December 14, 2025 – 9:30 AM

WE COME NEAR TO GOD

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

*Song: TCH 277 **Hark, the Herald Angels Sing**

*God's Greeting

*Mutual Greeting

Advent Reading

Song: TCH 285 **O Holy Night**

Morning Prayer

Offertory and Offering: 1) General Fund
2) Butler County Christmas Cheer

*Hymn: TCH 249 **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Scripture: **Isaiah 30:15-21, Isaiah 35:4-10, Psalms 8:2-5**

Message: **THE STILLNESS OF INNER JOY**

Prayer of Dedication

RESPONSE OF LOVE, GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

*Hymn: TCH 270 **Joy to the World!** (vs. 1,2,4)

*God's Blessing

*Closing Song: **Let There Be Peace on Earth**

*Postlude

Council Notes of December 8, 2025

The council meeting of December 8th, 2025 was opened by the reading of Galatians 6:1–10. Prayer was given by Ken Mehmen.

Article 1: Minutes of the November 2nd, 2025 meeting were read and approved.

Article 2: No Correspondence was received.

Article 3: Ministry Reports and Concerns

- Elders Report: No Report
- Pulpit Committee:
 - December 14th- Joel De Boer
 - December 21st- Tom Niehof
 - December 25th – Randy Aalderks
 - December 28th – Steve Debner
 - January 4th – DJ Steen
 - January 11th – Travis Konig
 - January 18th – Randy Raak
 - January 25th – Brent Janssen
- Worship Committee: No Report
- Attendance Report: There was an Average Attendance of 48.3 people with 9.8 people live streaming.
- Outreach Committee: No Report
- Discipleship Committee: Youth will be working on the Christmas Eve Program throughout December. Catechism and Sunday School classes will resume in January.
- Building and Grounds Committee: No Report

Article 4: Financial Reports and Concerns

- Receipts of \$9,891.99 was received. Budget amount of \$11,481.50 is needed. Giving us -\$1,589.51 for the month. With a YTD of -\$7,351.51.

Article 6: Old Business

- Amy presented on cost savings and additional features available through a new Verizon phone system for the church.

She explained that this system uses traditional desk or wall-mounted phones—not cell phones—but the phones operate on Verizon’s cellular network. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to discontinue the church’s phone service with CenturyLink and begin service with Verizon.

- The Search Committee met with the Rukes Group and conducted a candidate interview on November 25th. The committee has requested a second interview with the candidate, which is scheduled for December 9th.

Article 7: New Business

- Discussion was held about creating outreach cards to share information about our church; the youth in the Catechism class will be asked if they are interested in taking on the project.
- Discussion was held regarding the future schedule for special offerings.

Article 8: Motion was made and supported to adjourn the meeting.

Article 9: Concept minutes were read and approved.

Article 10: Closing Prayer was given by Amy Swanson Haan.

Respectfully submitted:

Vice President: Ken Mehmen

Clerk: Mike Ascher

Members Present:

Rollyn DeGroot
Mike Ascher
Ken Mehmen
Brad Allspach
Amy Swanson Haan
Pat Prier

Members Absent:

None

Guests Present:

None