

COMMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

Please indicate the degree of confidentiality you desire:

- ☐ For the Pastor only
- ☐ For the Prayer Team members
- ☐ May be shared with the congregation
- ☐ Please have someone contact me

CONNECT

- ☐ I’m interested in joining a Life Group
- ☐ I’m interested in membership
- ☐ I’m interested in baptism / profession of faith
- ☐ I need to update my contact info (use reverse side)
- ☐ Sign me up for RRC email
- ☐ Other:

This week’s poll (just for fun)

- ☐ Beach
- ☐ Mountains
- ☐ Other

Last week’s winner: Movies

NOTES FOR THE FRONT OFFICE

(doodles accepted)

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Questions for family/small group discussions

Haggai 2:6-7, Malachi 3:1-3 – *Painful Purification*

1. How are you impacted by this advent/holiday season? Do the burdens and struggles increase or dissipate for you?
2. Charles Jennens compiled the lyrics for Handel’s *Messiah*. We learned how the culture and events of Charles Jennens’ life influenced his passion for drawing people to Jesus. What are the factors/events that drive your passion for drawing people for Jesus? Or is there a lack of passion for the lost and why might that be?
3. What do Haggai 2:6-7, Hebrews 12:26-29, and Malachi 3:1-3 say about how God works when he shakes, rocks, and unsettles us? How have you seen God work to purify and transform you on your life journey? What has been the result for your walk with and love for God?
4. If you could erase or edit out various elements of the script for your life story or your child’s life story, what would you erase and why? Do you see how God might be working through the failures, setbacks, suffering, and pain of your life? What do you need to know and embrace to have the struggles make you more like Jesus?
5. How does pain particularly work in God’s efforts to make us more like Jesus? How have you seen pain ultimately yield healing in your or someone else’s life?
6. Handel’s *Messiah* refers to Psalm 69:20 as a reflection of Jesus’ heart and life for us. What do we see in this text and in Jesus’ life as he moved toward the cross to indicate that Jesus suffers and is in the trench with us? What does Jesus’ suffering and sacrifice matter to you?
7. What does the gross horror and unfairness of the cross reveal about the world that we live in? What does the cross say about what God was willing to do to rescue us out of our own sin and the sin of this world? What does this say about God and his love for you? Why did Jesus suffer?



Sunday, December 8, 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP SERVICE @ 10:00 a.m.

Prelude
Angels We Have Heard on High

Call to Worship
*Angels From the Realms of Glory
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Silent Night • The First Noel*
*** Kids are invited to KidLife*

Offering
King of Heaven

Reception of New Members

Prayer & Message
“Painful Purification”
Haggai 2:6-7, Malachi 3:1-3 (791/802)
Rev. Tim Meendering

Response
Mighty Fortress

SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 11:15

Takes place directly after the worship service and goes until 12:15.

- **Adults** - Fireside Room 253 - “Digging Deeper” sermon discussion. This week’s leader: Karen Bazen
- **High School** - Room 246
- **Middle School** - Youth Room 153
- **KidLife (thru 5th grade)** - Fellowship Hall 100 check-in

Welcome to our new members!

Calvin & Jane VanDenBrink
Stan & Mariann Gonsior
Kayla Lapp
Dale & Rhoda Pell
Jay & Beth Sowers

*** If you have children, they are welcome to remain with you throughout the service, or you can choose from different options:*

KidLife Worship (3 years - 3rd grade) - Check-in desk is in the Fellowship Hall, Room 100 (directly below the sanctuary). Kids may start service there, or go after our opening music in the sanctuary.
KidLife Nursery (0-3 years) - Room 241 (upper level of gym).
Parent-Infant Room - available near the back of the sanctuary for fussy children and nursing mothers.
Children’s bulletins and crayons are available near the lobby stairs.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec. 8	Dec. 9	Dec. 10	Dec. 11	Dec. 12	Dec. 13	Dec. 14
worship sunday school congregational mtg. 5pm high school youth group 6:30-8pm, adults invited for board game night tree of hope items due	<div>Potluck: Main course (pulled pork) will be provided.</div> <div>Care Groups 1/2: salads</div> <div>Care Groups 3/4: sides</div> <div>Care Groups 5/6: desserts</div>	men's prayer breakfast 7-8am, fellowship hall women's bible study 9:30-11am, room 212 <i>nehemiah</i>	family dinner 6pm kidlife club 6:30pm middle school yg 6:30pm adult classes 6:45pm <i>fireside, how people change rm 250, you'll get through this</i>	RSVP to Beth to participate - beth@rockfordrc.org. For kids ages infant - 5th grade.		parents' night out 5:30pm
Dec. 15		Dec. 17	Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21
worship sunday school high school youth group 6:30-8pm		men's prayer breakfast 7-8am, fellowship hall women's bible study 9:30-11am, room 212 <i>nehemiah</i>	family dinner 6pm kidlife club Christmas program 6:45pm middle school yg 6:30pm		REAL men 7am @ arnie's restaurant rockford Christmas celebration 7-9pm	Live Nativity & Petting Zoo in Downtown Rockford
Dec. 22	Dec. 23	Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 26	Dec. 27	Dec. 28
worship		men's prayer breakfast 7-8am, fellowship hall candlelight services 4pm & 6pm	Merry Christmas!			

More information on these activities can be found in our weekly **eBeacon** (printouts are available in the lobby and the back of the sanctuary). If you haven't singed up to receive this weekly email, contact the front office at connect@rockfordrc.org and ask to be put on the list.

QUICK INFO

Rockford Reformed Church
4890 11 Mile Road NE, Rockford, MI 49341
616-866-2308 • Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am–2:30pm
RockfordRC.org • connect@rockfordrc.org

Online bulletin & sign-in: rockfordrc.org/sunday
Online giving: link is on our home page - rockfordrc.org
KidLife email check-in: rrc.check.in@gmail.com

Last week's attendance: 208
Last week's offering: \$11,086

ONLINE BULLETIN





ONLINE GIVING



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, POTLUCK TONIGHT, 5pm in the gym.

On the agenda (details will be provided prior to the meeting): Vote of affirmation for elder and deacon candidates, 2019 Budget, and Ministry Updates. Nursery will be available for the meeting portion of the evening. Potluck: Main course (pulled pork) will be provided. **Care Groups 1/2:** salads. **Care Groups 3/4:** sides. **Care Groups 5/6:** desserts. Note: detailed budget proposal is in your church mail folder.

DISCOVERY CLASS

Sunday, January 12 & 19, 5-7pm.
If you are thinking about membership with Rockford Reformed Church, or if you just want to learn more about us, this class is for you! Attending class in no way obligates you to join. Dinner will be provided. Childcare available if needed. Registration required. Please contact the office (connect@rockfordrc.org, 616-866-2308) if you would like to participate.

KIDLIFE CLUB CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 18, 6pm.
Everyone is invited to our annual KidLife Club Christmas Celebration! Christmas dinner in the gym at 6pm, program in the sanctuary at 6:45.


CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24, 4 & 6pm.
Childcare available for kids Kindergarten and under (in the nursery). Hot Chocolate Bar in between services!

ORGANIC OUTREACH WORKSHIP

Saturday, February 1, 9am-4pm at RRC.
Come join other Christ-followers from other local churches at the Organic Outreach for Ordinary People Workshop. Together, we'll join hearts and minds for a day of inspiration, fun, collaboration and practical insights. Learn more and register at rockfordrc.org/organic-outreach.

CONNECTION CARD

 **FOLD** and **TEAR** at perforation. Place in the offering plate or in a connection card drop box located at each sanctuary exit.

HELLO! We're glad you could join us today! Please sign in and let us know who is here (even if they are somewhere else in the building).

☐ Just checking in! Name(s):

NEW? First of all, welcome! Please tell us a little more about yourself, and make sure to get a welcome bag from the lobby before you leave today. If you need a little added encouragement to leave your information with us, here you go: for every first-time sign-in (with contact info), we donate \$5 to North Kent Connect! Also, the more we know, the better we can help get you connected.

Name: _____

Address: _____

His Phone: _____

Her Phone: _____

His Email: _____

Her Email: _____

Age group: ☐ teens ☐ 20s ☐ 30s ☐ 40s ☐ 50s ☐ 60+

Kids at home (name, birthdate, grade, m/f)

What brings you here today? _____