

FULLER LIFE

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church

NOVEMBER 2017

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his Name, from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers- no thanks to them- abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

Fuller Life is the newsletter of the Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church

**1239 Fuller Avenue, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

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Connie Scheurwater, member in
focus articles
Freda Ruffli, collating &
circulation**

On the cover: Martin Luther wrote the text based on Psalm 46 and tune of A Mighty Fortress is Our God in 1529. It has been called the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation". He was an amateur musician and composed 37 hymns.

October Council Report

By Bill Kooy, Clerk

Bruce Engbers read Mark 22 and commented on how Jesus touched the blind man multiple times before his sight was fully restored and related this to how we sometimes need to take multiple steps to see clearly. He opened the meeting with prayer.

Barbara Bjelland was welcomed and she spoke about the job of equipping others for the work of ministry. She gave an overview of what is happening with Faith Formation by reviewing the programs that have taken place, are currently

underway, and are planned for the future.

For correspondence, we received the *State of the Church* report that Pastor Nate had prepared. This is also being included in the November issue of *Fuller Life*.

From the Administration Committee it was reported that the committee has received the initial 2018 budget and will be reviewing this at the next meeting in October.

The Financial Report and Offering Report for August was received and reviewed. Our fund balance when we began 2017 was at \$184,276 and now we have a balance of \$193,870. Receipts continue to be ahead of disbursements and we continue to see signs that we are going in the right direction.

Pastor Nate distributed a report on the Mission Driven Task Forces, the focus teams that are being formed to continue to develop the document Fuller Avenue CRC Strategic Ministry Planning Team Recommended Transition Process and Timeline which was developed by SMPT and affirmed by the congregation at the meeting on July 30. The report listed the Chair and members of the individual teams for "Hiring New Staff", "Governance", "Facility Remodel", and "Childcare Feasibility and Funding".

These four teams have met and have timelines they are working with. Pastor Nate also noted that with William Jones' decline of the position of Director of Worship and Pastoral Care, the Hiring Team has met and is working the next steps. Gerry Rozeboom has agreed to temporarily lead Choir, we have interviewed a pianist, and Pastor Morris has agreed to continue in his role.

The minutes of the Global Outreach committee which listed the details of the plans for GO Week was received.

Matt Mulder and Derek Ellens reported on Tuesday Night Family Night for the Faith Formation update. We are off to a good start with each of the groups, Bible Study for High School and adults, Middle Schoolers for 6th – 8th grade, Boys Club and Bakers for K - 5th Grade. The improvements to the Youth Building are coming along with installation of the glass block windows and windows in the doors.

In addition to planning the worship services and preaching on the theme of "Built to Last", Pastor Nate has been meeting with the team in the search for the Director of Worship and Congregational Care. We are encouraged to pray for wisdom and direction as this search continues. Pastor Morris lead the September 17 service and has had continued

to faithfully visit members who are shut in, experiencing loss, or have been ill or hospitalized.

In addition to her work with the fall programming for Nursery, Children in Worship, and Tuesday Night Family Night, Barbara Bjelland has been preparing worship bulletins as a means to increase worship participation for people of all ages, especially 3rd – 5th graders who are now part of our worship services. Matt Mulder and Derek Ellens have been assisting with worship planning. They have also been working with the team on planning and leading the activities on Tuesday Night Family Night. Our newest seminary intern, Kent Sanders, has been working to develop the Tuesday Night Family Night contact list and is working with Pastor Nate to develop a personal outreach ministry called Face2Face.

Care Group Elder and Deacon Teams met together to discuss their Care Groups.

The next meeting is November 9.

Fuller Avenue CRC State of Church Report presented to Classis Grand Rapids East on September 21, 2017

Dear Friends,

We are happy to report that God continues to bless our efforts as we praise His name and to share His gospel at Fuller Ave. CRC. Over the last couple of years God's faithfulness has been seen and celebrated in a variety of ways.

We've spent much of the last two years prayerfully discerning how God is calling us to be His church in our neighborhood and we are excited to share **our new mission statement** with you. *We as Fuller Ave. CRC exist to help people take their next step into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.* This mission statement is partnered with both a series of stated values and several specific strategies that will drive us forward to better engage our neighbors with the good news of the gospel. We ask for your prayers as we work hard to align our ministries, our resources, and our lives around this mission and these values. Please pray that as we work on this alignment and executing our strategies God will build us up in unity and that we actually do help people take their next step into life-change with Jesus.

Beyond our efforts to discern God's next chapter for us a congregation we have continued to enjoy God's blessings in our **worship**. We look forward with some excitement as we anticipate the near hiring of a full time Director of Worship and Care. This new individual will help us continue to shape meaningful, rich intergenerational worship that is fresh and creative while being rooted in historic practice.

We are also thankful for God's blessing on our **faith formation ministries**. We continue to see growth as new little ones join our midst. It has been common for our nursery staff to be overworked and even overwhelmed. Both of these are good problems for us to experience. This fall we are particularly thankful for the start of a new Mid-Week Ministries night that kicked off with approximately 90 in attendance – including a new middle school group. We are thankful to Classis for the partnership and the grants that have gone to support the expansion of this ministry. Please pray that we can navigate the challenges of providing meaningful and engaging age appropriate programming.

We have also experienced the Holy Spirit's leading in our **outreach ministries**. We continue to engage our neighbors in meaningful ways.

Whether through our neighborhood garden, our summer Tuesday Family Nights, or one time outreach events we are growing relationships with our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus. We continue to see people take their next step towards Christ and we are so humbled to be a part of the process.

One of the highlights of our last year was the inclusion of **two interns from Calvin Seminary**. These first year students have brought a renewed sense of energy and excitement to our congregation. They have been involved in a variety of ministries (pastoral visiting, worship, outreach, etc.) and continue to provide valuable leadership. We are encouraged that they will continue with us for another school year and that we'll add a third intern to the mix this fall.

Finally, we are so very thankful for **a new sense of energy, purpose, and momentum at Fuller**. We know that God is at work here. The Holy Spirit is on the move. We ask for your prayers as we continue to listen for His leading. Pray that together, as churches on the southeast side of Grand Rapids, we might be people and communities that reach out with the warmth of the gospel promise. We are proud to be your partners in this effort.

Grace and Peace,
Nate DeJong McCarron, on
behalf of Fuller Ave. Christian
Reformed Church

Musical Images at the Gathering Place

By John Knight

We are pleased to feature photography by **Anne T. Crans** during November and December. Anne taught Music Theory at GVSU and has served as principal flutist with several local orchestras, including the Grand Rapids Symphony. She also serves as an MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Adjudicator. Now she participates at Festival of the Arts, ArtPrize, and other venues with stunning photographs.

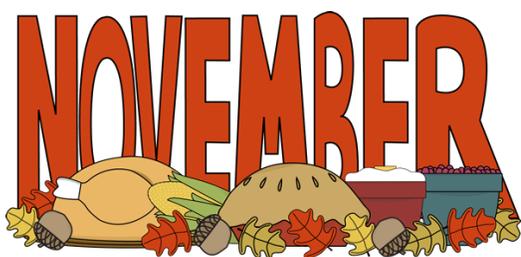
So what brought her to explore this totally new medium? Ten years ago, her daughter Christina gave Anne her first camera before a trip to Costa Rica. She discovered visual counterparts to scripture passages and songs as she explored nature and captured images that reminded her of songs such as, ***For the Beauty of the Earth***, by John Rutter, ***All creatures of our God and King***, by St. Francis of Assisi, and ***How Great Thou Art – Then Sings My Soul!*** by Carl Gustav Boberg.

As Anne describes these eureka moments: “ I discover beauty in nature as I canoe the marshes, and follow the trails of footsteps placed by unseen creatures in the wilderness. Beauty in color, beauty of blossom – the leaf, the bud, the flower of color ... springs forth. Within the beauty, I listen, I hear the song –a hymn springs forth in words of great depth – a symphony in chorus. Flutes trill, trumpets sound, cellos call – out from the wilds. I follow his voice –***He Leadeth Me!***”

Please set some time apart to take in this show during the Holiday Season.

Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, November 23. Here are a few books to read to your children this month: *The Thankful Book* by Todd Parr, *Thank You Bear* by Greg Foley, and *I'm a Turkey!* by Jim Arnosky.

Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month. Many of us gather together with our family for turkey and football. Do you know which state produces the most turkeys? According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Minnesota is the top turkey-producing state in America.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Jordan Gabites
- 4 Ed & Joan Stuursma (1999)
- 5 Sandy Bishop
Daryl Vriesenga
Mae Yei
- 6 Lindy Feyen
Russ & Lois Rykse (1953)
- 7 Eryn Hannink (M)
- 8 Elyse Jonker
- 10 Sharon Rietberg
- 11 Crys Van Beek
- 12 Pat De Vries
- 13 Simeon Rowland
- 15 Jill Van Veen
- 16 Ellen Van Stee
- 18 Bob Zwiers
Julie Van Dyken (M)

- 19 Cristina Garcia
Nancy Jasperse
- 20 Anneke Kapteyn (M)
- 21 Paul Feyen
- 22 Eli DeJong McCarron
Nathan Mitogo
Barb Straatsma
Gordy Van Haitsma
- 25 Wendy Veldheer
Larry & Faith Segaar (1972)
- 26 Lisa Kooy
Dan Miller
- 27 Myriam Mitogo
- 29 Jill Ellens
- 30 Claire Kooy

The deadline for the December Fuller Life is
Sunday, November 20, 2017

Items you will need:

1. 2 pieces of red construction paper

2. white paper

3. scissors

4. glue

5. paper punch

6. yarn

7. crayons or markers

8. pencils

9. decorations such as rickrack, stickers, sequins, glitter & etc.

Thankful Heart

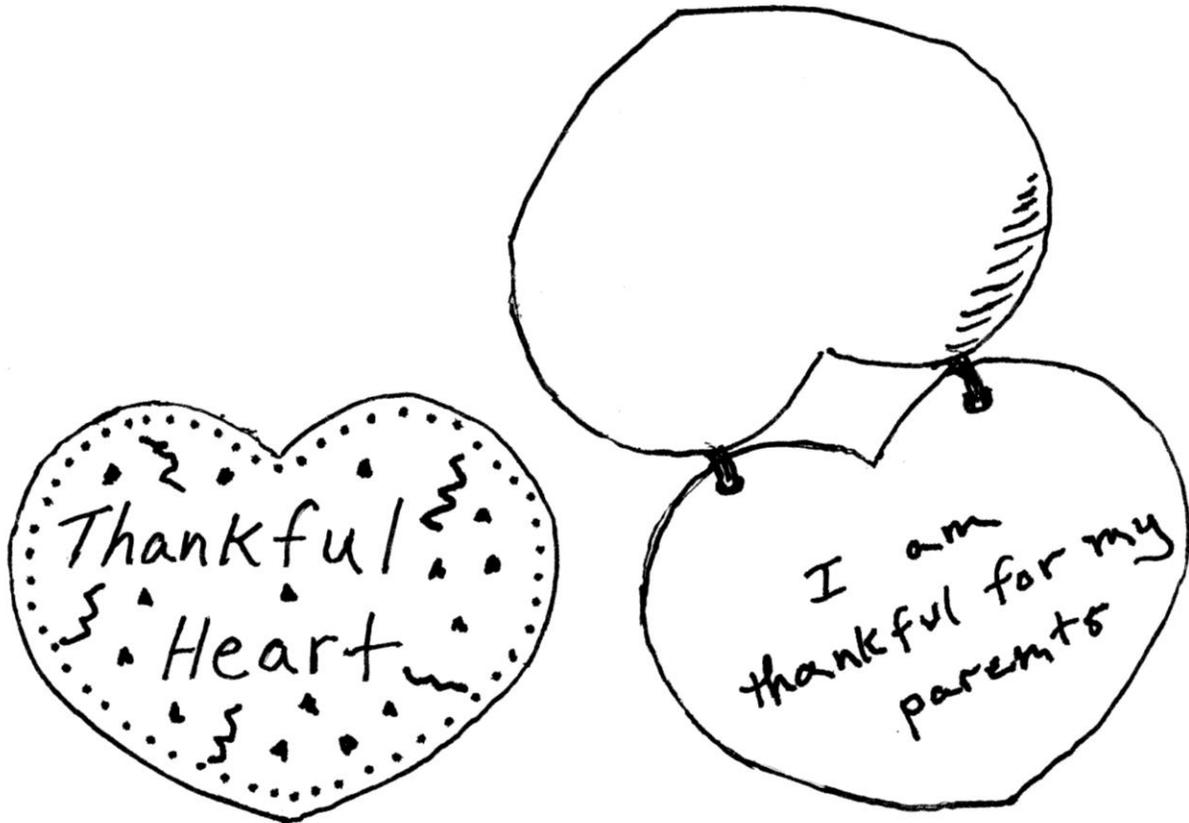


Draw a heart on the red construction paper. Put the other piece of red construction paper under it. Cut both pieces at the same time so the hearts are the same. Do the same for the white paper. Punch two holes at the top as per picture.

Write down on each white heart what you are thankful for.

Write "Thankful Heart" on one of the red hearts and decorate.

Tie all the hearts together with the yarn.



November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study 7 pm: Choir	2	3	4
5 Offerings: Faith Promise & Calvin Sem Food Pantry	6 1:30 pm: Dig In Bible Study	7 Election Day 6:30 PM: Mid-Week Ministries	8 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study	9 7 pm: Council	10	11
12 5 pm: Evening Gathering	13 1:30 pm: Dig In Bible Study	14 6:30 PM: Mid-Week Ministries	15 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study	16	17	18
19	20 1:30 pm: Dig In Bible Study	21	22 7 pm: Admin	23 10:00 AM Thanksgiving Day Worship	24	25
26 5 pm: Evening Gathering	27 1:30 pm: Dig In Bible Study	28	29 7 pm: Choir	30		

FROM

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TO