

Sunday, January 6

During Worship 10:45–11:30AM NO Children & Worship
 6:30–8:30PM NO Sunday School
 High School Youth Group RESUMES

Wednesday, January 9

6:15–7:30PM MGYG (5th to 8th Grade) Holiday Party*
 *Stay tuned for more details!

Sunday, January 13

During Worship 10:45–11:30AM Children & Worship RESUMES
 6:30–8:30PM NO Sunday School
 High School Youth Group

Where does my kid go?

- ⇒ Children & Worship is in the midst of a seasonal break. Children 3YO & above remain in worship. Worship bags and coloring pages are available on the table by the elevator. C & W will resume on January 13.
- ⇒ The nursery remains open for children 3YO & under.
- ⇒ Sunday School will continue to be on hiatus during the beginning of January with a tentative start date with a TENTATIVE start date of January 20 or 27.

At ARC children are invited to fully participate in worship, and all ages and stages are welcome in the service.

These ministries are also available to families during worship:

Worship Bags Year Round
 All Children pick up & drop off by elevator

Nursery Year Round
 Birth–3YO 9:15–11:30 AM
 Upper Level: #203

Children & Worship Sept. 9 – May 5
 3YO–1st Grade after children's message*
 Upper Level: #201 (Green) #204 (Purple)

*These 2 groups join together in room 204 for feast and music time for the last half of C & W. All children may be picked up @ 10:45AM from room 204 (behind Rosalyn DeKoster's office).

Participating in Worship

The Congregation
 Ben Jacobsma
 Lynne Hubers
 John Hubers

Serving the Lord in Worship
 Organist
 Worship Leader/Liturgist
 Guest Preacher

We welcome ARC member, John Hubers, as our guest preacher this morning! John is a professor of religion and the director of global education at Northwestern College. John and Lynne are anticipating a future move to Ethiopia as missionaries engaging a partnership between Reformed Church Global Missions and the Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa. John will be tasked with helping equip Ethiopian church leaders.

Who belongs at American Reformed Church?

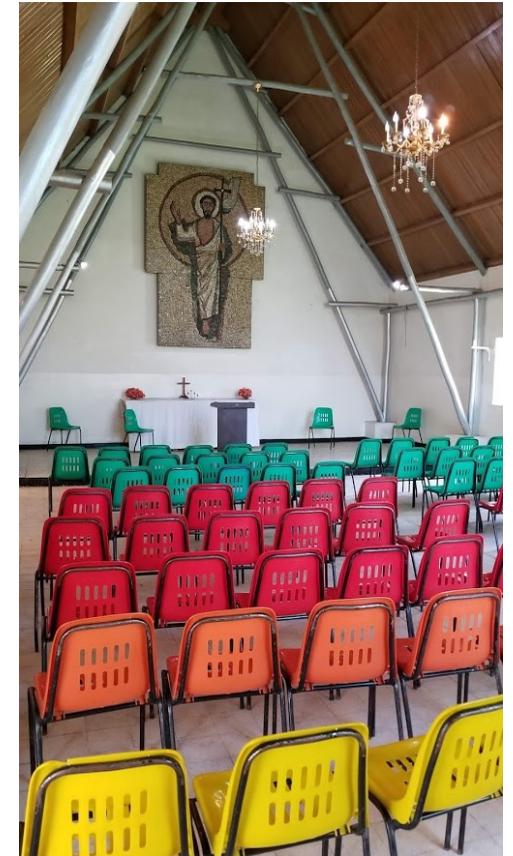
Everyone is welcome here. Everyone belongs. Whether you walked in the doors for the first time or the 321st time this morning . . . you belong. There are no special requirements to be a part of church.

Our denominational tradition does invite people to become members of a local church like American. But this isn't a club; it's a community. Becoming a member is simply a sign of mutual commitment between a person and the entire ARC community. If you are interested in learning more about what it means to become a member, please contact the pastors (elizabetharcoc@gmail.com and mikearcoc@gmail.com).

But remember...you belong beyond membership.



First Sunday after
 Christmas Day
 December 30, 2018



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TRANSFORMED BY JESUS TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD

ACCEPTANCE + GRACE + WISDOM + LOVE



THE APPROACH TO GOD

*The congregation is invited to read the bold font.
Indicates you may stand if you wish.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *John 1 & Psalm 98 mingled together*

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

Sing to the Lord who has done marvelous things.

and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

The earth has seen the glory of our God.

From his fullness, we have received grace upon grace.

Make a joyful noise, all the earth; sing in joyous song.

The Word became flesh and lived among us.

*SONG OF WORSHIP #146 "Joy to the World"

*GOD'S GREETING

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God with us, when we allow darkness to overcome your light,
forgive us, O God.

When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,

have mercy on us, O God.

When hardness of heart keeps us

from seeing and hearing those in need,

let your grace clear our vision and open our ears, O God.

When our caring does not move us into action,

empower us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.

Please use this time of silence for personal confession.

We confess our sinfulness before you and before each other
knowing that in Jesus we receive redemption.

**We also receive the power of your Spirit who
prompts, prods, and empowers us to be transformed
so that our actions and words align with our belief
about who you have called us to be.**

In Jesus name we pray . . . amen.

SONG OF ASSURANCE #295 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"
vs. 1-4

THE WORD OF GOD

*SONG OF PREPARATION #126 "O Come, Let Us Adore Him"

SCRIPTURE Acts 13:1-3; 16:6-15

SERMON "An Ethiopian Wind"

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom
come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today
our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us
from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours, now and forever. Amen.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please pass the fellowship pad found at the end of the pew.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #809
Please stand and sing when the organ begins playing.

*SONG OF RESPONSE #192 "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"
vs. 1-3

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG #192 "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"
v. 4

*POSTLUDE

All music & lyrics used by permission - CCLI #374890

Pastors' Vacation

Elizabeth and Mike are on vacation through, Tuesday, January 1. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact the elder on call: Benjamin Langton (712.203.9636).

PRAYING FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

*Please continue to remember the **Jim Schwiesow family** in prayer that Christ's peace and comfort will continue to surround them as they grieve his death.

***Fulton Breen** as he awaits for an opening at the Prairie Ridge Care Center in Orange City. Pray that an opening becomes available soon, and pray for strength and endurance for Betty as she cares for Fulton throughout.

***Ron Kolenbrander**, who was transferred to Hillcrest Health Care Services in Hawarden on December 14 and is under hospice care.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆CHRISTMAS TEARDOWN—Sunday, January 6, 2019

Many hands make light work. We need your help taking down our Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 6, following worship. Take a few minutes to grab some coffee and have community time and then come to the sanctuary at 10:50 AM for instructions before we start taking decorations down. We hope to see you there!

◆2ND SUNDAY GATHERINGS - January 13, 2019

ARC members will be hosting 2nd Sunday groups in their homes January 13. Sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Counter in the coffee area (near the church office) or you may email or call Margaret Fernow (almar@orangecitycomm.net or 737-3309) no later than Sunday, January 7! All ages including college students are welcome. You will be asked to bring something for a Potluck meal if you can (it may be paper plates or a bag of chips).

◆SHARE YOUR DUTCH-ERWARE

This year, we're unable to hold the High School Youth Group's Soup-er Bowl fundraiser at church. Instead, the high schoolers are selling soup you can take home and enjoy while you watch the big game Feb. 3. To help us prepare, please save these plastic containers and bring them to church for use by the high schoolers.

- 1-gallon ice cream pails
- 48-oz. plastic ice cream tubs
- 32-oz. (1 quart) plastic yogurt containers

You can leave your plastic containers in the box behind the Welcome Center. Thanks! (An opportunity to order chili, cheesy potato soup or creamy chicken noodle soup will be coming.)

◆ADULT DISCIPLESHIP WINTER 2019 OFFERINGS *January 13 - March 3 - 10:45 - 11:30 Sundays*

•BIBLE STUDY: JOSHUA

Facilitators: Sara and Kevin Huyser

Location: 301 (Choir Room Upstairs)

The book of Joshua is a study in second chances...failing to enter the Promised Land when God first provided the opportunity, the Israelites are now given another chance by God to enter Canaan. In this study we will explore the major events, themes, and lessons in Israel's preparation for, entry into, and settling of the Promised Land and seek to relate them to our own daily lives.

•STRONG AND WEEK: EMBRACING A LIFE OF LOVE, RISK AND TRUE FLOURISHING by Any Crouch (Book Study)

Facilitator: Kevin McMahan

Location: Room #204 (Genesis Room)

Please sign up for this class at the Welcome Center, where you can also order a copy of the book.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to The renovation project and room availability, the video series class "Understanding Trauma: The Healing Work of a Community," originally scheduled for the Winter of 2019, has been re-scheduled for the Fall of 2019.