

Praying for God's People

Remember to pray for ARC's Partners in Mission for January:

Dr. Bernardeth and Pastor Adrian Bobb-Kelly and Olivia Holt serve in Bluefields, Nicaragua (<https://www.rca.org/adrian-bernardeth-bobb-kelly>) and <https://www.rca.org/olivia-holt>)

ATLAS Orange City Area, a Christian organization dedicated to helping the hurting, equipping believers, and uniting the community in our communities (<https://www.atlasorangecityarea.com/>)

Events for Today

10:30-10:45 AM

Coffee Fellowship in the gathering area behind the sanctuary.

Hands of Praise (Grade 2-5) in the fellowship hall.)

Children & Worship Music Time (ages 3-1st grade) in Room 111

10:45-11:30 AM

Discipleship Classes for Ages 3-12th Grades (Lower Level)

10:45-11:30 AM Christmas Teardown

Help us take down the Christmas decorations. Your help will make it happen faster! Meet in the sanctuary for instructions. Questions? Contact Rosalyn De Koster.

4:40 PM Leaps of Faith Practice (Grades 4-12) in the sanctuary

6:30-8:30 PM High School Youth Group in the HSY Room.

Events for this Week

Monday, January 8

9:30-10:30 AM Young Family Nursery Play Dates

Come to the ARC Nursery on Monday mornings for an informal play-time and fellowship with parents and young children. Questions? Please contact Laura Genade, Coordinator (lgenade@gmail.com).

10:00-11:00 AM Women's Prayer Group

(Prairie Ridge Care Center, Grandview Cottage Dining Room, located in the southwest part of the building.) Questions? Contact Arlene Punt at 707-4600.

1:30PM Weekly Faith Sharing Group (Room 201)

Contact: Lynne Grossmann (737-4202)

6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting (Room 204)

6:30 PM Elders' Meeting (Room 201)

7:45 PM Consistory Meeting (Room 204)

Wednesday, January 10

5:30-6:30 PM F3 & MSYG Family Meal Night -

Location: Fellowship Hall (Lower level)

Come kick off the new year with us on Wednesday, January 10th. After the meal, we will have board games available for family fun. Regular F3 will resume on January 17th.

Menu: Taco in a Bag, Nacho Chips & Cheese, fruit and cookies. Milk and Water to drink.

Announcements

♦**Winter Adult Discipleship Classes** begin next week Sunday, January 14 (See insert for details!)

♦**Hurricane Relief Trip**

American Reformed Church is excited to prepare to send a team to a hurricane-affected area in either April or September of 2018! We are working with World Renew, which partners with RCA members, and is exceptional at organizing service trips.

If you are interested in joining us - there are no skills required - just a heart to serve, and hands and body willing and able to dig in whatever the task!

Please contact Victoria Karssen (victoria.karssen@gmail.com, or 712.541.7943) so she can know which dates would work best for the team. World Renew is anxious to get ARC on the schedule, so that we might have our first choice of dates.

*Note: Kids and young adults who do mission work can get financial support from the Next Generation Missional Engagement Scholarship Fund. **Scholarships are available** for mission trips, mission internships, disaster response work, and more. Participants must be 25 or younger. (Hats off to the RCA Church Growth Fund and others for providing financial support that makes this possible.) [Apply by February 1](#). You can view the brochure on the rca.org website.*

Participating in Worship

The Congregation

Sharon Bartlett

Tessa Burg, Lisa Burg, Bethany Dykstra, Teresa Sampson,

Mary Schram, and Tom Truesdell

Pastors Elizabeth & Mike Hardeman

Kim Van Es

Seminarian Rosalyn De Koster

Serving the Lord in Worship

Organist

Praise Team

Leading in Worship

Children's Message

Preaching



407 Albany Avenue SE
Orange City, IA 51041
712.737.4430
americanchurchoc@gmail.com
americanchurchoc.com

TRANSFORMED BY JESUS TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD

ACCEPTANCE + GRACE + WISDOM + LOVE



First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 7, 2018



Isaiah 60:1-6
"Revealing a New Vision"



THE APPROACH TO GOD

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

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

*SONG OF WORSHIP "10,000 Reasons"

*GOD'S GREETING

Community Health Partners has asked that all churches in the area curtail hand-shaking due to recent cases of influenza and out of concern for those who may be vulnerable to the complications from a cold or the flu.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Adapted from a prayer by Nancy Gowler
God of light and darkness,
we have seen the glimmer of your starlight beckoning to us, but we have turned away and followed other paths. We confess that we have not loved you with all we are—heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. Have mercy upon us and forgive us, Lord.

(Please use this time of silence for personal confession.)

God of life and deliverance,
strengthen our faltering steps and guide us in your holy way of peace. Amen.

*SONG OF ASSURANCE "Behold the Lamb"

THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children ages 3–1st grade may exit out the sanctuary doors to meet Children & Worship (C & W) leaders. Leaders will take the children directly to their Sunday school classrooms following the service. Children who do not attend C & W are welcome to use the worship bags by the elevator during the service.

*SONG OF PREPARATION #187 "Jesus, Come!"
v. 1 & 4

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-6

SERMON "Revealing a New Vision"

MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, God of majesty and splendor. By your power you created all that is, making a universe out of chaos, and ruling over all things in love. Throughout the ages you called your people to love and serve you, and to be your light among the nations. When we failed you, you did not fail us and sent prophets to call us back to your ways. We praise you that in the fullness of time, you revealed your love by sending your Son Jesus to be the Light of the world. He came to heal our brokenness and to set before us the ways of justice and peace. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Sung a cappella:

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. He was born to dwell among us, full of grace and truth; in him we have seen your glory. Baptized by John in the Jordan, he lived for you, spoke your truth, showed your love, and gave himself for others. In his death on the cross, he overcame death. Rising from the tomb, he raised us to eternal life, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this cup and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of the faith:

**Christ has died!
Christ is risen!
Christ will come again!**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup, that the bread which we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Illumine our hearts. O God, with the radiance of Christ's presence, that our lives may show forth his love in this weary world. Teach us to befriend the lost, to serve the poor, to reconcile our enemies, and to love our neighbors. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

This morning we will remain seated for communion. All communion elements are gluten free. If you so desire, please come forward for prayers for healing and anointing of oil while the bread is being passed. Children are welcome to participate in communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians.

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

*SONG OF RESPONSE Insert "Arise, Your Light Is Come"
v. 1, 2, & 3

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG Insert "Arise, Your Light Is Come"
v. 4

*POSTLUDE

All music & lyrics used by permission - CCLI #374890

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Sundays, January 14 – March 4, 2018
10:45-11:30 AM

♦“That’s Just Your *Interpretation!*” – Becoming Better Readers of the Bible

Facilitator: Jim Mead, Northwestern College
Location: Fireside Room (202)

This course introduces a variety of perspectives and methods for interpreting the Bible, including historical, literary, theological, spiritual, socio-economic, and missional approaches. As we discuss these approaches and apply them to specific biblical passages, participants will:

- appreciate the diversity of approaches and types of biblical literature;
- recognize the role our own presuppositions play in biblical interpretation;

[connect biblical interpretation to God’s creative and redemptive work](#) in Jesus Christ

♦Christian Perspectives on News Headlines

Facilitator: Steve Mahr
Location: Genesis Room (205)

This class will discuss a “hot-button” news issue for each past week, focusing on how Christians should respond to the issue based on biblical teachings. Our hope is to engage each headline by laying down our personally held political lenses and rather discuss our reflections through a biblical perspective as followers of Christ. In preparation for each session, attendees will be sent background materials relevant to the chosen issue.

All person interested in attending the “Christian Perspectives on News Headlines” Adult Discipleship class that starts on January 14 should sign up at the Welcome Center by January 7, with an indication of your email address, so you can receive electronic background material that should be read before each session.

(Wednesdays, January 17 – February 28, 2018)
6:15 to 7:30 PM

♦Nehemiah Bible Study for Women (Room 202)

Nehemiah had to have a heart that could break so he could restore a wall that was broken. In this Kelly Minter Bible study for women, Nehemiah’s heart for the oppressed, suffering and poor is a beacon whose light shines on the current call of the church to be the hands and feet of Jesus. This study also addresses teamwork, integrity, generosity, truth in culture, God’s compassion, and much more.

Sign up at the Welcome Center by January 8. (Books are \$12.99 each -checks/cash payable to ARC. Please put your payment in Jill’s church mailbox.) You will receive your book the first night of the Bible study. Contact Jill Haarsma (jillhaarsma@gmail.com) with any questions.

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