

March 15, 2020

Welcome to the Peoria Christian Reformed Church. We are glad you have joined us for worship today. "Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." Psalm 90:1-2 (NIV)

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY
Missionary Correspondents	Gifford - Bob Bruxvoort; Huyser - Michele De Boer; Le Mahieu - Jim De Bruin; Vander Wal - Melody De Jong	
Morning Prayer Team	Mark Franje Glen Fynaardt	Helen De Jong Kathy Franje
Offering	a.m. Christian Education Fund p.m. Appalachia Reach Out	a.m. Wycliffe Bible Translators p.m. New Life Prison Community

CORONAVIRUS ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to demonstrate our love to God, each other, and neighbor, our current actions with respect to the Coronavirus situation are:

1. We will have worship services today, March 15, morning and evening.
2. For worship services in following weeks, the Council will continue to monitor, will meet again this week, and will make announcements accordingly.
3. Starting today and continuing, at this point, through March:
 - Church School will be on hold (it is yet to be determined whether lessons will be made up).
 - Church groups such as organized Bible studies, Cadets, GEMS, and Youth Group are on hold.
 - Coffee and fellowship after morning worship will be paused.
 - We will be without nursery services during this time.
 - We will not have greeters. Instead, persons have volunteered to open doors for those attending worship to reduce touches of doors.
 - Offerings will be received in a different way with deacons at the doors after the service.
4. We encourage everyone to refrain from handshakes, and ushers will be asked to "space people apart" a bit more.
5. If you have a cold or any flu-like symptoms, we ask that you stay home and rest up rather than coming to worship.
6. We ask everyone, especially those who are older or any with compromised immune systems, to ere on the side of safety and to use your best judgement for your sake and the sake of others.

Out of love and care we take these precautions and make plans, but regardless of circumstances, we do not fear. Our confidence lies not in our plans; it rests in a sovereign Lord whose plans transcend human understanding and give us hope for the future.

Peoria Church Council

NEXT WEEK

Royce Spoelstra will lead our morning worship, and **Pastor Sheldon Starkenburg** will lead our evening worship service.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

During **Lent**, we are using readings and prayers in the services to explore and deepen a "baptismal spirituality" that centers on our union with Christ, seeking to deepen our piety, devotion, and readiness to mark the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor George and family will be on vacation March 16-22. Please contact the elders for any **pastoral care needs**.

The **Youth Group will collect pop cans/bottles for a fundraiser** on Wednesday, March 25. If you would like pick-up service, please sign up on the east basement table or contact Spencer & Maria Fynaardt. Or you may place your donations in a trailer available near the youth building. Thank you for your support!

CHURCH FAMILY

The care facility where Marion Franje resides has been closed to visitors as part of their coronavirus policy. Please pray for peace for **Marion and Vera** as they are apart, for recognition when restrictions are lifted, and a sure trust that God will supply all their needs.

Many of the **local care facilities** are restricting visitors to only essential care givers, affecting many of our members who live at or have loved ones living at Fair Haven, The Cottages, Pella Manor, Vriendschaap Village, and other care facilities. Please pray for peace and patience until restrictions are lifted. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear." Psalm 46:1-2

Austin Roose is in Cary, Mississippi, for a Lake View Camp mission project March 13-21. Please pray for safety in travel and work and for God's blessing as the group helps families affected by the floods of 2019 with home repair, demolition, and local outreach in two of the poorest counties in the United States.

We are thankful that it was determined the elevated BNP levels for **Sydney Van De Kieft** were the result of a viral infection and not rejection of her heart. Praise God!

We give thanks to God with **Ruth Vande Voort** on the occasion of her 80th birthday on March 19.

Marcia Wouterse has been fighting an e-coli infection all week and has been transferred to Iowa Methodist. Recently she had a drainage tube removed, but fluid began building up within a week so new tubes inserted this week may need to remain long-term. Doctors are unsure why these fluid pockets persist. Please pray for wisdom for medical staff and for encouragement and peace for Marcia and her family.

"We appreciate the care and concern that has been extended to us the past few months as we dealt with Dad's illness and death. Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy we received." ~ **Harlan De Boer family**

"Thank you for all the birthday wishes for Geneva's 85th birthday. They were a blessing! We also thank you for all the ways you continue to care for us. We are blessed to be part of such a caring congregation." ~ **Gerald & Geneva Rozenboom**

REMEMBERING 125 YEARS AGO

5 February 1895 – Consistory Meeting: Whereas, the Congregation was organized in April, and Consistory Members were chosen for a one- and two-year term, and whereas, the election took place in the Spring when farmers were busiest with their fieldwork, and no Consistorial vacancy should exist, the Consistory decided the newly elected members would serve their terms until the first of January, 1897. Election was to be held on Prayer Day, 13 March, 1895.

The question was raised whether the Consistory would follow the Dordrecht Church Order or whether their own approval would govern the retiring of elders and deacons. A lively discussion followed as to pro and con. A vote determined that the retiring members may be nominated for re-election.

The next question was "how shall voting be done?" It was decided to have a secret ballot. A list of total names suggested was made and discussed, after which the nominees would be determined. After ballots were opened, only two persons were chosen for the elder position – Gerrit Van Gorp, and Deacon C. Kloosterman. These two names were then placed on the list for nominees for elder. Since C. Kloosterman (a deacon) was a nominee for

elder, another total list of suggested names was made for the office of deacon. The following names were the results: S. Groot Nibbelink, A. Engbers, C. Kruseman, Arie De Jong, and M. Van Gorp. After a vote was taken, the following were chosen for deacon: S. Groot Nibbelink, A. Engbers, C. Kruseman, and Arie De Jong.

SCHOOL NOTES

Peoria Christian School is again making **Dutch Letters**. Order deadline is TODAY; orders may be placed in the container on the church basement table. Each letter is \$4.25, or 6/\$25, or 12/\$48. Letters will be made on Saturday, March 21, and must be picked up that day at the school or at Chris and Lisa Ver Meer's home in Pella. Any questions may be directed to Michelle De Haan or Nella Veenstra.

Pella Christian High School will conclude their successful theatre season this spring with one of Oscar Wilde's most popular comedies, ***The Importance of Being Earnest***. The Victorian farce is set in 1894 and deals with the adventures of two care-free gentlemen both posing as 'Ernest' to win the girl of their heart. Under the direction of Marlo Van Peurse, *The Importance of Being Earnest* will be presented March 27-28, with reserved tickets available for purchase on-line.

Peoria Christian School is seeking a part-time **Spanish teacher** and a part-time **Resource teacher** for the 2020-2021 school year. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Jeremy Copenhaver (principal@peoriachr.org). Please remember these needs in prayer.

Pella Christian High School has a possible **Bible Instructor** position open for the 2020-2021 school year. Interested candidates may contact Principal Dan Van Kooten (vankootend@pceagles.org) for more information. The teacher application packet for this opening is available on the Pella Christian High School website (www.pceagles.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

SONshine Preschool, an interdenominational Christian Preschool housed in Oskaloosa Christian School, is seeking applications for a teacher position for the 2020-2021 school year. Please visit www.sonshinepreschool.org/home/employment-opportunities for more information. E-mail directorsonshineps@gmail.com with further questions.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men and women alike are invited to the **Bible League Spring Salad Luncheon** to be held on Monday, March 23, 11:45 a.m., in the Trinity Reformed Church Connection Center (enter on the south; an elevator to the basement is available in the SW corner). A mini-concert will be given by a local young singing group, *Molta Voce*. The speaker will be Brian McLemore, who oversees the development of easy-to-read Bibles into the world's most needed languages for Bible League International. A freewill offering will be received for the Bible League.

Dad's Belgium Waffles is coming to Pella Faith CRC on March 25, 5:00-7:00 p.m. A freewill offering will be received, with proceeds benefitting the Faith GEMS program.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the following events have been canceled:

- **Hawkeye Council Cadet-O-Rama** scheduled for Saturday, March 28.
- **Rehoboth Christian High School Choir Concert** scheduled for Saturday, March 28.

If you are being called to **pursue pastoral ministry** in the CRC through seminary training, did you know that Classis Central Plains wishes to support you through prayer, encouragement, and a financial scholarship? To learn more information, please contact Aaron Gunsaulus (pastor.newtoncrc@gmail.com; 641-792-2162).

LENT AT-HOME FAITH FORMATION TIP: During Lent, many Christians try to become more aware of the suffering of others as we remember Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. How might you do this? Consider volunteering as a family, with friends, or on your own at a ministry of mercy, or visiting members of your congregation who can't physically join you in worship on Sundays. (Faith Formation Ministries; www.crcna.org/FaithFormation)