

First Christian Reformed Church

801 15th Ave
Fulton, IL 61252
815-589-3790



*Growing Closer to God
Through Service & Love*

Church Email: FirstCRCFulton@live.com

Website: www.FultonFirstCRC.com

Facebook: Fulton 1st Christian Reformed Church

First CRC Fulton
January 11, 2026 - 9:00am
" Living Hope"

We Gather in Praise and Worship

Prelude: Raise a Hallelujah

Welcome: Stacy S.

Announcements: Stacy S.

Call To Worship: (based on the Nicene Creed) Lynda V.

Leader: People of the Triune God- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - who is the creator and sustainer of your life?

People: Our one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Leader: P People of the Triune God- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - who is the source of your salvation?

People: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.

Leader: People of the Triune God- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - who is the sole originator of your strength?

People: The Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

All: Amen

God's Greeting: Pastor Jake

Mutual Greeting

Worship Through Song:

No Longer Slaves

10,000 Reasons

Congregational Prayer: Brenda A.

Worship Through Song:

Christ our Hope in Life and Death

Not I but Christ in Me

We Prepare For & Hear God's Word

Scripture: The Book of Ruth – Various Verses

Thematic Texts

1 Corinthians 13:13 - *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

1PE 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you

Heidelberg Catechism

H. C. Part II: Deliverance: God the Father, Lord's Day 9 Q&A

26 What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?"

That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ his Son. I trust him so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and he will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends me in this sad world. He is able to do this because he is almighty God; he desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

Sermon: "Living Hope" – Pastor Jake

WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING

Blessing: Pastor Jake

Parting Song: By Faith

Announcements

Today we welcome Pastor Jake Ritzema. We look forward to worshipping with you today. Thank you for sharing your love and talents with our congregation.

Please send prayer requests or updates and *all* bulletin information to FirstCRCFulton@live.com by Thursday.

January Birthdays

1 Audrey Atherton	15 Bodey Stephenson
1 Angie Vander Eide	15 Mark Dykstra
4 Joe Vander Eide	21 Fred Phillips
4 Jean Medenblik	24 Charlie Elliot

January Anniversaries

15 Roland & Celia Behrens

Deacons' News

Offerings Received 1/4/25:

General Fund

Budget: \$2,180.00

Building Fund: \$290.00

Received: \$3,688.00

Over: \$1,508.00

Offerings Today: General Fund & Faith Promise

Offerings 1/18/2026: General Fund & TBD

Please place your offering in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.

CRC News

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Galatians 3:28 reminds us of the profound unity we share as believers in Christ, regardless of our backgrounds or perceived differences. As members of God's diverse yet unified family, we are called to live into the vision proclaimed in this verse. This week, as we commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—a faithful advocate of this very vision—consider how you and your family or friends might actively embrace and embody this unity by building

relationships with families of different racial and cultural backgrounds. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Go Deeper in Faith Through a Trip with Resonate - Come on a journey with Resonate Global Mission. The trip is April 17-28, 2026 with an application deadline of January 31, 2026. Learn more and let us know you're interested at www.resonatglobalmission.org/move

Community News

Roseland Christian Ministries silent auction & fundraiser---
Join us for an afternoon supporting RCM’s women & children’s shelter, meal programs, food pantry and other vital services. “Rise Up Roseland” is Saturday, February 7th at the Firehouse Art Studio in Chicago (1123 Roosevelt) from 3pm-6pm. Tickets at <https://roselandchristianministries.yapsody.com/>. Your presence and support truly matter! Call 773.264.5665 for more details.

Calvin Seminary Upcoming Opportunities

Paul’s Missionary Journeys in Greece (April 3 - 13. 2026):
Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (3 days) to sites connected with Paul’s second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at [616-328-3110](tel:616-328-3110) or weimje@calvinseminary.edu

Weekly Calendar		
Today	Sunday Worship	9:00 am

	January 11th	January 18th
Pastor	Jake Ritzema	John Byker
Recorder & Sound	David D.	Paul T.
Nursery Attendant	Michelle V.	Celia B.
Snack Provider	Michelle V.	Sara B.
Server	Michelle V.	Eric & Sara B.

Living Hope

I. 2026! Anticipation, Expectations, Resolutions, Hope

Complete the following sentence:

I hope that _____

Does a message on the Book of Ruth seem familiar?

II. Expectations

Ruth 1: 1 - 2

What is the connection between the Israelites and the Moabites?

Elimelech _____ that as famine refugees they would be welcomed in Moab

What else do you think Elimelech was thinking about as he packed up his family to head to Moab?

III. A Bitter Pill to Swallow

Ruth 1: 3, 5, 11-12, 20

Naomi as a widow was dealing with her own f _____
c _____

Food for thought # 3:

Your life is so full, things are going so well and then
all of a sudden l _____ is so e _____

IV. God's Sovereignty in The Midst of Sadness

Ruth 1: 16 – 18; 19-21

List two examples in Ruth 1 that shows Naomi was aware of God's Sovereignty

1. In Moab Naomi still lived out her f _____
2. Even in her time of b _____ she acknowledged G _____

Food for thought # 4

Even in the midst of a painful experience _____ is still
_____. (1 Peter 5: 7)

V. Living Hope

Ruth 2 – 3

In Chapter # 2: Boaz supplies Ruth with p_____ and
p_____

In Chapter # 3 Naomi does something that runs counter to our culture, she
p_____ to _____

If you have never read the Book of Ruth chapter # 4 has us on pins and
needles, why?

As the story ends we find out that Ruth was King David's g_____g_____
m_____

In the first chapter of the Apostle Peter's letter to the church he
emphasizes that faith in Jesus give us what? _____ - - - - .

Are you anxious about the future? Read Eugene Petersen's paraphrase of
1 Peter 1: 3 – 4 in The Message.

Alistair Begg in his sermon series "*Investing in Eternity*" explains 1 Peter
by reminding us that we having everything to live for because
..... (???)

Answer sheets are available on the tables in the back of the church