

First Christian Reformed Church

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

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those
who were in distress.

—Isaiah 9:1



Advent Week 1 | Photo: Jeyaratnam Caniceus on Pixabay

*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

November 30th, 2025 - 9:00am

"It's Everything You Need!"

We Gather in Praise and Worship

Prelude: Living Hope

Welcome: Bruce B.

Announcements: Bruce B.

Call To Worship: Bruce B.

God's Greeting: Ken Renkes

Mutual Greeting

Worship Through Song:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Blessed Assurance

Advent Reading: Hope

Congregational Prayer: Bruce B.

Offering: General Fund & Fulton PD Toy Drive

Offertory:

Worship Through Song:

The First Noel

Great is Thy Faithfulness

We Prepare For & Hear God's Word

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Sermon: "It's Everything You Need!" – Ken Renkes

WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING

Blessing: Ken Renkes

Parting Song: The New Doxology

Announcements

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

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday December 7, 2025, following the morning worship service. Please check your mailboxes for copies of meeting agenda and the 2026 Budget Proposal.

Poinsettias will be \$10.00 each and the deadline to order is **TODAY.** Please include who the poinsettia is in memory of and who it is from and give the order and payment to Lori or place it in her mailbox.

Christmas Eve Service at 1st CRC will be led by Pastor Jake Ritzema on December 24th at 6:00pm.

Please send prayer requests or updates to Bruce at bjbielema@gmail.com.

Please send *all other* bulletin information to **FirstCRCFulton@live.com** by Thursday at 7:00pm.

December Birthdays

1 Collin Burns
1 Genevieve Tiesman
1 Tucker Smith
5 Kelly Dykstra
6 Rollie Vander Eide
8 Janelle Bradley
9 Brenda Huizenga

12 Don Mathey
14 Alida Hooker
18 Brenda Atherton
21 Sheila Thompson
26 Ana Ton
27 Paige Vander Eide
28 Rachel Elliot
30 Stacy Stephenson

December Anniversaries

6 Mark & Ann Dykstra

28 Albert & Gloria Wiebenga

Deacons' News

Offerings Received 11/23/25:

UCSB: \$316.00

General Fund

Budget: \$2,180.00

Received: \$3,673.00

Over: \$1,493.00

Offerings Today: General Fund & Fulton PD Toy Drive

Offerings 12/7/25: General Fund & Building Fund

Please place your offerings in the plates as they are passed.

CRC News

Thrive Faith Formation Tip – Today is the first Sunday in the season of Advent, a time when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus. There are many different ways we can get ready for Christmas—such as listening to music, reading Christmas stories, and lighting Advent candles. How will you practice getting your heart ready? Check out the Advent page of Thrive's Family Faith Formation toolkit for some ideas: crcna.org/advent-tools. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

Let's End Hunger Together on Giving Tuesday - Right now, families in Sudan and South Sudan are facing a severe hunger crisis due to conflict and displacement. Will you join World Renew to help end hunger and turn crisis into hope? Every dollar you give on Tuesday joins a generous \$1 million challenge gift, providing emergency food and showing God's love to families in Sudan and South Sudan. Learn more and give generously on December 2 at worldrenew.net/givingtuesday.

World Renew DRS Volunteering Opportunity - Nearly a year ago, catastrophic wildfires swept across Los Angeles, with 9,000 homes destroyed in the Eaton fire. World Renew Disaster Response Services' (DRS) local partner is ready to rebuild homes with one-week volunteer groups. Are you interested in getting your congregation involved with this wildfire response? Contact Morgan Tibble from DRS at mtibble@worldrenew.net with questions or to sign up today. Let's share God's love and hope to disaster survivors, together!

Hiring! Temporary Communications Specialist - Resonate Global Mission is seeking a temporary content writer & editor to support our storytelling and donor communications during a 3-month parental leave. This role is ideal for a creative, detail-oriented communicator with strong writing skills and a passion for global mission. This is a part-time, hybrid or remote position based in Burlington, Ont.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; or elsewhere in North America. Learn more and apply before December 8, 2025 at crcna.pinpointhq.com

Community News

Voices of Praise Christmas Cantata 2025 will be held at Emmanuel Church, 202 E Morris St, Morrison, IL, on Friday, December 19 at 7pm, Saturday, December 20 at 3pm, and Sunday, December 21 at 7pm.

Calvin Seminary Upcoming Opportunities

Wisdom in the Age of AI - Mark your calendars for the "Wisdom in the Age of AI" conference to be hosted at Calvin University from October 8-10, 2026. The conference will include as keynotes Paolo Benanti (Artificial Intelligence (AI) advisor at the Vatican), Rosalind Picard (MIT Media Lab), and author and speaker Andy Crouch (Praxis), and six tracks exploring the role of AI in education, church, business,

healthcare, the arts, and STEM. Learn more: calvin.edu/faith-and-technology/faith-and-ai-conference

Formational Reading of Scripture Join us as we explore ways to read Scripture not only for information, but also for transformation—for ourselves and our communities. In this course, students will experience: Historic and biblical practices for formative Bible reading, instruction on how to invite others to read the Bible formationally, and care for their souls as practices are implemented into students' own spiritual rhythms. January 5-22, 2026, Self-paced, Instructor: Dr. Jeff Sajdak, Cost to audit: \$125, Register to audit by Friday, Dec19th, 2025.

Truth, Reconciliation & Exchanging Hearts: A Canadian Model Join us for this unique opportunity designed to equip Reformed Christians to participate more fully in the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous people. In this course, students are formed for contextualized ministry by: Learning from Indigenous stories, practices, and treaty traditions, Critical consideration of historical interactions between Indigenous people and settlers, Reflection on the gifts and responsibilities of contemporary efforts, such as the 2015 report from Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. February 9-March 20, 2026, Online meetings: February 11 & 18 from 1:00-4:00pm EDT, March 11 & 18 from 1:00-4:00pm EST, Instructors: Adrian Jacobs, Cindy Stover & Mike Hogeterp, Cost to audit: \$125, Register to audit by Friday, January 30, 2026

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 info, contact Dr. Weima at [616-328-3110](tel:616-328-3110) or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

	November 30th	December 7th
Pastor	Ken Renkes	Randy Newman
Recorder & Sound	David D.	Paul T.
Nursery Attendant	Celia B.	Sara B.
Snack Provider	Ann D.	Amy D.
Server	Ann D.	Amy D.

Weekly Calendar		
Today	Sunday Worship	9:00 am