

# ON Broadway

Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church Newsletter

November 2016

## Advent Worship Schedule



During Advent this year we will focus on God's word to us in Christ as a demonstration of God's faithful yes to all of God's promises. We will look at the lives of Joseph and Mary, the attitude of the shepherds and then the Magi, along with that of John the Baptist who all spoke their "yes" to God's call and promises and then aligning their lives with God's yes in Christ. Every yes, as we know, comes with a "no." In order to follow Jesus saying yes to him, involves saying no to other allegiances, lifestyles, and attitudes.

### November 27, 8:45 & 11:15 am

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38

### December 4, 8:45 & 11:15 am

Matthew 2:1-17

### December 11, 8:45 & 11:15 am

Luke 1:5-25; 2:57-68; 69-80; 3:1-20

### December 11, Connect Night, 6:00 pm

Please join us for an evening of carol singing with all of our youth choirs. Following our time of singing, we will have a time of fellowship and food.

### December 18: 8:45 & 11:15 am

Luke 2:8-20

### December 18: Festival of Lessons & Carols, 6:00 pm

Led by the Adult Choir: 2 Corinthians 1:20, *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God.*

### Christmas Eve, December 24: 11:00 pm

Luke 2

### Christmas Day, December 25: 10:00 am

Isaiah 9:2-7

### New Year's Day, January 1, 10:00 am

### Loving God, Serving People

Building a community  
loved and changed by Jesus,  
loving and changing  
the world for him.



## 2016 AACRC Faith and Food Garden

Cathy Green



The AACRC Faith and Food Garden just completed its sixth gardening season, and what a season it was! This year's harvest doubled any previous year's, with 856 pounds of produce being delivered to Food Gatherers! IT WAS ASTOUNDING! The bounty was a blessing, in deed, for the many families who received the beans, carrots, peppers, squash and tomatoes from this year's garden. Thanks be to God for providing the nutrients, weather conditions, and workers for the AACRC Faith and Food Garden.

For those of you who may be new to AACRC, here's a little history of the garden and its purpose. It is called a "Faith and Food" garden because we are part of a county wide ministry that grows produce for distribution through Food Gatherers, a Washtenaw county food bank and food rescue program. The Faith and Food organization was founded in 2009, in response to faith-based efforts to address hunger in our community. AACRC joined this network of gardens in 2010, as a way to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors: the poor, the needy, the unemployed, and those on the margins of society. Today, we are 1 of 25 congregations that together have contributed over 100,000 pounds of food to the county. That's a lot of families blessed with fresh produce!

Our total donations for all six years are:

- 2011: 213 pounds
- 2012: 420 pounds
- 2013: 426 pounds
- 2014: 380 pounds
- 2015: 328 pounds
- 2016: 856 pounds



**Grand total: 2,623 pounds**

AACRC's Faith and Food Garden's guiding principle is from Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35,

*"...for I was hungry and you gave Me food;"*

We have truly experienced the Lord's answer to our prayers: to bless this garden for His purposes.

*"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Matt. 9:37*

From its inception, we have had 47 volunteers involved with our garden. Some provided the necessary funds for the project to begin. Some dug the postholes; some built the fences, gate and raised beds; and some helped to prepare the beds for planting and then planted the seeds or seedlings. Some faithfully watered and maintained the garden during the growing season. And still others harvested and delivered the produce to Food Gatherers. We hope you'll choose to join us next spring. It takes many hands and feet to make our Faith and Food Garden an expression of God's love at 1717 Broadway.

# Serve 101: An Invitation and an Update

*Ross Weener & the Leadership Team*

Dear Friends,

While July 22-28, 2017 seems like a long way away to most of us—your Serve Leadership Team has already begun making preparations for Ann Arbor Serve. Here are some highlights:

## **Serve 101, Sunday, November 6th 1-2:30 PM:**

This is an opportunity for anyone from our congregation to come hear what Serve is all about. Youth Unlimited, our partner in hosting, is coming to do a 90-minute presentation with an opportunity for questions at the end. Lunch will be provided. If you plan to attend, let Ross Weener know via email—[rweener@aacrc.org](mailto:rweener@aacrc.org)

As we've had opportunity for conversation with many of you we have run across some questions that have come up more than once. So here are some answers to your FAQ's:

### **Q. How many students will be coming?**

**A.** We expect somewhere between 60-70 students to register to come. They will be accompanied by 12-15 leaders and vehicles. Those leaders act as work & small group leaders.

### **Q. Where will they stay & will they bathe?**

**A.** Our church will be the ministry hub for the week. We will eat, sleep, worship, play, and fellowship right here at AACRC. Our service projects will be done at offsite locations

**A.** Yes, clean middle schoolers are happy middle schoolers! We have a number of options for either getting showers on-site or looking to leverage community connections for shower use. If you have any expertise in this area, please contact someone on the leadership team.

### **Q. How will we keep the congregation “in the loop” regarding planning and volunteer needs?**

**A.** Good question! The Serve Leadership Team has plans to keep the congregation engaged with a multi-pronged communication strategy that includes use of On Broadway, all-church email, visual cues, and Moments for Ministry. In the meantime, please lift the team and the planning process up in prayer.

### **Q. Who can I talk to if I have questions or want to volunteer?**

**A.** Our talented Serve Leadership Team, of course!

Ryan Boes

Hank Byma & Bill Vander Roest,  
Worksite Co-Coordinators

Victor Chen, Community Life Coordinator

Sue De Zeeuw, Spiritual Life Coordinator

Darlene DeVries, Food Coordinator

Ross Weener, Host Team Coordinator

As our leadership team met last week we started our time together by answering the question: what brings each of us into the room? Allow me to share a few responses:

- Because I love Middle School kids and I want to see them thrive!
- Because it is how I understand Mission at AACRC.
- Because I want to help teens understand the connection between faith & service.
- Because Serve is awesome and Ann Arbor is a great place for it!

Our team looks forward to partnering with you to pull off this hugely rewarding (and somewhat scary) task throughout the next year. Come on November 6th to listen well and catch the excitement!

Serving together,

Your Serve Leadership Team

## Ann Arbor/Washtenaw CROP Hunger Walk

*Jim Steenstra*

The 42nd annual Ann Arbor / Washtenaw CROP Hunger Walk, coordinated by the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ), was held on Sunday, September 25. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon, as over 300 walkers gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church to walk in solidarity with those around the world who must walk miles each day in order to get water for their families and to raise funds to help alleviate hunger and poverty.

We began with a short send-off service, featuring music by the Trinity Lutheran choir, a welcome from the pastor, Rev. Lori Carey, and a talk by Tony Lasher, American Red Cross East Central Bay Michigan Executive Director. He shared about what the Red Cross is doing for the Flint community in the midst of the water crisis.

The funds raised by the CROP Hunger walkers will be distributed to Church World Service (75%) for global hunger and poverty relief programs and to local agencies (25%) which include:

- Avalon Housing
- Community Action Network
- Emmanuel House
- Growing Hope
- Hope Clinic
- Packard Health
- SOS Community Crisis Center
- St. Andrew's Breakfast Program

Walkers also brought non-perishable food items for donation to SOS Community Services.

AACRC had 24 walkers, ranging in age from young children to seniors. Kudos to veteran walkers Jim and Lillian Kuiper who have participated in 41 of the walks! Our walkers raised at least \$2,510. Total donations have not yet been released by ICPJ as funds are still coming in. Thank you to all who participated by walking or sponsoring our walkers!



## Christian Reformed Leaders Speak Out About Racism in the US and Canada

Concerned about recent events involving the death of black men killed by police in the U.S. and the killing of an Indigenous man in Canada, the Christian Reformed Church, through its Office of Race Relations together with other agencies and offices, has released a statement on the need for racial reconciliation.

“These events demonstrated growing racial tension,” said Rev. Shannon Jammal-Holleman, collaborative program developer for Faith Formation Ministries and the Offices of Social Justice & Race Relations.

“If we have learned anything from what happened in Ferguson, Mo. (where a black man was killed two years ago by police), it is that the world notices when the Church does not say anything, so it is our Christian witness that demands us to speak.”

As a result, she said, Colin Watson, the CRC's director of ministries and administration, brought a statement to other leaders in the CRC, and they unanimously responded in the affirmative, agreeing that it should be released to the church.

“It is the right time for us to speak. It is an even better time for us to act,” said Shannon Jammal-Holleman.

Here is the Statement on Racism:

*With deep sadness for recent violent events in the United States and Canada, we join others in grieving the deaths of Terence Crutcher, Colten Boushie, and many others across the world. These events, in light of our love for Christ, compel us to speak.*

*We recognize that we have remained silent about racial injustice and unjust actions in our nations all too frequently. Our silence on issues of race has been heard more clearly than our calls for reconciliation with God.*

*With this in mind, we encourage Christian Reformed pastors to preach from their pulpits—clearly and prophetically—about God's call to be ministers of reconciliation, with hearts wide open, willing to sacrifice our pride for the sake of the gospel (2 Corinthians 5:11-6:10).*

*We confess that, like so many other denominations in North America, the Christian Reformed Church has a history of often finding our unity in our shared ethnicity rather than in Christ. We lament this sin, and encourage congregations to join us in committing to continue our learning about racism and its effects in our lives and societal structures.*

*We grieve the deaths of so many as the result of violence. We urge Christian Reformed congregations to pray for our police officers—for their safety and for them*

*to be trained and equipped for responding in non-violent ways. We are grateful for these men and women who risk their safety and their lives, and we owe them our support as they seek to protect and serve.*

*Our Lord Jesus Christ understands being falsely accused, persecuted unjustly, beaten and killed. He is the one that we can go to for comfort when we—especially our family members of color—suffer from similar experiences. Jesus is also one who radically spoke up for those being mistreated, who turned over the tables of those seeking to profit in the temple instead of helping others, who welcomed the marginalized and told his followers to do the same.*

*Racism strikes at the heart of our discipleship. We invite Christian Reformed pastors to join us in answering God's call to be ministers of reconciliation and peace, removing all barriers to the gospel message, including racism. In this way, we can better reflect the light of the love we have in Christ in a world that so desperately needs it.*

*We want this to be a conversation. We would love to hear from you about how God is at work in your congregation. We invite you to send us a prayer, a sermon, a litany, or something that happened in worship that struck you as profound related to this issue. It is our hope that we will continue to have these conversations as we seek justice and peace—together.*

*In Christ,*

**Gary J. Bekker**

Director, Christian Reformed World Missions

**Carol Bremer-Bennett**

Director, World Renew United States

**Moses Chung**

Director, Christian Reformed Home Missions

**Michael LeRoy**

President, Calvin College

**Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo**

Director, World Renew Canada

**Jul Medenblik**

President, Calvin Theological Seminary

**Darren Roorda**, Canadian Ministries Director,

Christian Reformed Church in North America

**Kurt Selles**

Director, Back to God Ministries International

**Steve Timmermans**, Executive Director,

Christian Reformed Church in North America

**Colin P. Watson**, Director of Ministries and Administration,

Christian Reformed Church in North America

## Campus Chapel Solar Panels

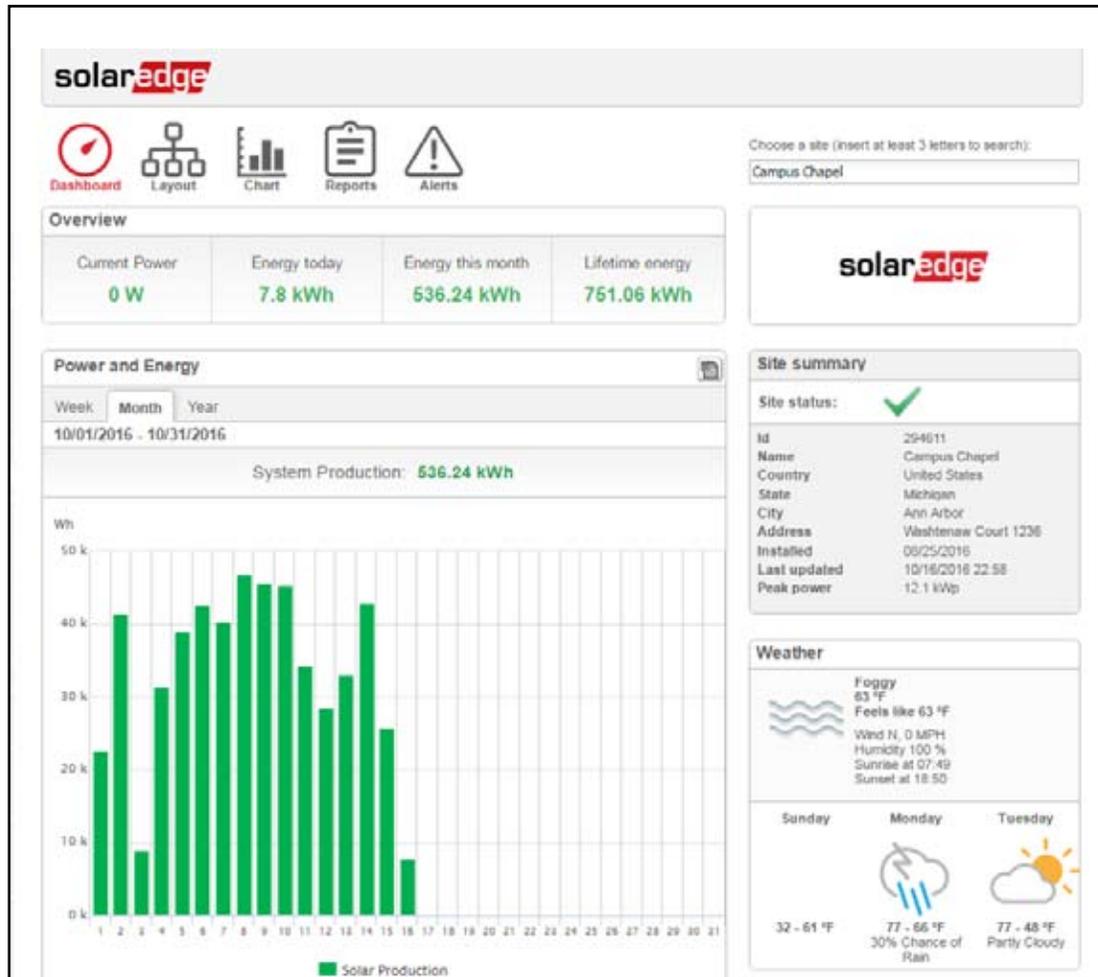
Jim Steenstra



Last year a capital campaign associated with the Chapel's 75th anniversary celebration met its goal of raising \$75,000 toward building renovations and strategic planning for the future. A couple of major projects on the list were solar panels and bathroom renovations.

Prior to the campaign, a group from Chapel worked with several solar panel providers on cost estimates and panel options, including capacity. This summer, with funds on hand, a medium sized installation was chosen and work started on the installation on the southeast-facing Chapel roof.

Homeland Solar installed 44 solar panels capable of producing 12.1 kW of electricity. The installation will produce approximately 11,000 kWh of electricity per year, which pretty much matches the Chapel's average yearly electrical consumption.





### Thanksgiving Worship

Join with your AACRC family, giving thanks to God with scripture, prayer, and songs on Thursday, November 24 at 10:00 am. For the offering that day, gifts of food and money will be received for Food Gatherers.



### Advent by Candlelight

GREAT JOY is the theme for this years Advent by Candlelight to be held on Monday, December 5 at 6:45 pm. This is a Christmas tea and all women are invited as well as all high school girls. We will enjoy dessert, music, a speaker and sweet fellowship. Look for the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall beginning on November 13. If you have questions contact Elaine Henke at 662-9571.

Please send to:



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Reformed Church**  
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