

ON Broadway

Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church Newsletter

October 2017

Worship Update

Pastor Ryan for Council Leadership Team

Hey Friends,

As you may have heard or read, the Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church is moving to a single service starting this Advent (December 3, 2017). We will worship together for one year while we discern where we would like to go in worship after that time. During this year we will have opportunity to ask ourselves and one another questions about what worship could be here at the AACRC.

- What does vital worship look like in our community?
- What things do we value about worship and want to do more of in the future?
- What are some things in worship we have never done but might like to try?
- Would we like to have more than one service? Why or why not?

There are so many more questions about worship and our shared life at the AACRC we hope to explore together over the next year. Our hope is that all of us are given the space and opportunity to engage all of these questions. Our church is a flourishing worshipping congregation, and we want to ask ourselves and one another, “how can we continue to flourish?”

Over the course of the year, council is committed to communicating with you in order that we all have opportunity to voice our thoughts and hopes for what could be. In accordance with that desire, we wanted to present the Sunday morning schedule along with the first few events for the rest of the calendar year.

Sunday Structure*

- pre-service rehearsal
- 9:30 am Service (provide up to 75 minutes for service)
- 10:50-11:05 Children’s choirs
- 11:05-11:50 Sunday School/adult education

*Easter Sunday 2018 would still be two services to accommodate the size of worshipping congregation

Calendar of Worship Discussion Opportunities

October 11—Pastor Ryan will join Gray Matters to discuss the content covered in the special session of Council that was held on September 9th.

October 22—A town hall opportunity to share the vision for this year of focus on vital worship. Council will also share thoughts about how going to one service for a year will create more space for this conversation. 5:30-7:00 pm.

November 12—A congregational meeting with small group breakout sessions to discuss what our hopes and dreams are for worship. 3:30-5 pm.

May God be with us as we discern together what is possible for the AACRC. Grace and Peace.

Hospitality and a Missional Church

Audrey Stob for the Missions Team



David with his wife, Ilka and two daughters

Members of the Mission Committee have been exploring what it means to be a missional church. When discussing mission it is interesting how often the word hospitality comes up. “When you boil it down, **mission is basically hospitality**. To put it simply, Christian hospitality is making room for others at Jesus’ table” (Church Planter, Ben Sternke). Making room for others includes giving hospitality to those who are different from us, sharing our lives with them and supporting them in ministry.

Recently, members of the Mission Committee had the opportunity to extend our hospitality to Nicaragua. We were contacted by representatives of the Christian Reformed Church World Renew organization’s Nehemiah center. The Nehemiah center is impacting numerous churches, businesses, Christian schools, and communities through intensive leadership training and networking. We were asked to provide local support to David Zeladón while he was in Ann Arbor.

David Zeladón is a delightful young man who exuberantly speaks about the Lord and how He has guided him in his career choice and vocation. He works as Technology Support in a Christian School (Nicaragua Christian Academy) in Matagalpa, Nicaragua. He is also part of the leadership of RedProCom, a network of Christian Professors of Computer Science founded in 2010. He had been praying and applying for two years to get into the free Raspberry Pi Academy. He finally was chosen for the two day training to be held in Ann Arbor in July. He was trained to extend computer literacy to the young people of the very impoverished country of Nicaragua.

The **Raspberry Pi** is a series of small single-board computers developed in the United Kingdom by the Raspberry Pi Foundation to promote the teaching of basic computer science in schools and in developing countries.

What follows is an excerpt from David’s blog about his experience in Ann Arbor.

“This trip I attended at Picademy has been a tremendous experience. 40 more educators in which I was a part of were celebrating their Raspberry Pi Certified Educator conference at Ann Arbor District Library Downtown, spending two days of digital making workshops on July 24th and 25th. It has offered me a wonderful way to interact and share to others, opportunities to explore and learn, especially to integrate this technology in a digital making world. I’m still processing all the learning to apply it in the context of Nicaragua, and absolutely in RedProCom, but it is safe to say it was one of the most inspirational conference I’ve ever had. It has been fun but empowering to wake my passions up to interact in this community of educators.

In fact, I also spent time with 3 families members of Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, Dave Stienstra connected me with the Mission Team at CRC. Teressa and her husband Don Streng gave me hosting at their house, I also was invited for dinner with 2 wonderful families (Norm & Barb Fichtenberg, Harvey & Audrey Stob), it was an honor to visit and share them about my role in Nicaragua.

I’ve been reflecting in “Teacher Makers Lead to Student Makers,” this short expression, but powerful has given a lot of thoughts to answer What’s next step? So I’m looking forward and can’t wait to share this to my partners in RedProCom, and also in the public community of educators, we have to inspire them not only in the way of technology but also in a Christian perspective. I know there are many challenges to face in education, but it is my hope that all I have to share will help to equip and inspire teachers in Nicaragua.”

Please pray for David as he discovers how God will use his gifts and new training in Nicaragua.

2017 Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk

Barbara Fichtenberg

CROP Hunger walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service. The Washtenaw/Ann Arbor Walk is organized by the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ). Churches, businesses, schools and others work together to raise funds and awareness to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. More than 1,600 walks take place across the U.S. annually. Typically, 75% of the funds raised are used by Church World Service and its partners for global projects (www.cwsglobal.org), while the remaining 25% is used to support needs within the local community. The organizations receiving support from this year's walk include:

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

You are invited to join the 43rd annual Washtenaw/Ann Arbor CROP Hunger Walk which will take place on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 West Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. and the Walk starts with a send-off service at 2:00 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in this event. You will be able to choose between a 1 mile route and a 5 mile route. It's a great intergenerational opportunity to serve. Families can walk together, with babies or young children in strollers or wagons. In addition, it's a wonderful way to bring people of faith together in a unified Christian witness to the world which so often sees division among Christians.

If you are unable to participate in the Walk, you can still play an important role by pledging your financial support to one of our walkers.

There will be a CROP Walk table in the fellowship hall on October 1 and 8 if you'd like to sign up to walk or support a walker.

Barb Fichtenberg is serving as the recruiter for AACRC this year. If you have any questions, please contact her at bfichtenberg@hotmail.com. Thank you in advance for your support.

Last year, over 400 individuals walked and raised over \$30,000. Will you walk with us?

Communion Listening Session Summary



Back on May 7, many of you participated in a Communion Listening Session in which we reflected on a year's experience with communion as a part of every worship service. We responded to several questions in these sessions: what did you

learn from the experience, what surprised you, and how has your understanding of the Lord's Supper changed? Your responses were gathered, combined, and reviewed by the Shepherding Elders. We (the Shepherding Elders) were impressed by the deep meaning that partaking in communion has for those who participated in the listening session. You have thought about it carefully and prayerfully. We were also impressed by the wide range of responses to the questions, which reflects the rich diversity we have in our congregation. Overall, the great majority of the responses were positive about the change. There were several very good suggestions for improving the experience as well as some concerns about the practice. We are committed to taking these suggestions and concerns into our discussions of communion and particularly its place in the year of reflection on worship that we will enter this Advent season. As always, if you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions, please contact any of the shepherding elders—we value your input.

Larry Gruppen for The Shepherding Elders.



SAVE THE DATE

On Monday, December 4, Advent by Candlelight will once again be held in our fellowship hall.. This special evening is for all ladies including highschool girls. This is a perfect way to begin advent so mark it down and call Elaine Henke (734-662-9571) if you have questions.