

God's Word Gives Our Lives Direction



701 West Blackburn Road  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360-336-2405

[www.firstcrcmv.com](http://www.firstcrcmv.com)

Pastor John Knoester

Pastor Brad Diekema

Worship Service: 10:30 AM

Church School: 9:30 AM  
September—May

I thank <sup>my</sup> God  
every time I  
remember  
you. philippians 1 vs. 3

**December 31, 2023**

The Loop System is provided for those using hearing devices by using the telephone mode on your device. This is available beginning in row 5

***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***  
***Pastor John Knoester***  
***December 31, 2023***

**10:30 A.M. Worship Service**

**\* Please stand if you are able.**

*"All my life You have been faithful"*

Prelude

Welcome

**\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #281 v. 1, 2, 4**

*"God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"*

1. God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:  
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.
2. Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
in this free land by thee our lot is cast;  
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;  
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.
4. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;  
lead us from night to never-ending day;  
fill all our lives with love and grace divine;  
all glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Words: Daniel C. Roberts, 1876, alt., P.D. CCLI #678905

**\* Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 90)**

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.

**People: Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Leader: May your deeds be shown to your servants,  
your splendor to their children.

**People: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;  
establish the work of our hands for us –  
yes, establish the work of our hands.**

- Psalm 90:1-2, 16-17

\* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #405 v. 1-4

*"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

1. O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:
2. Under the shadow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is your arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting you are God,  
to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in your sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

PSALM 90; Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719, alt., P.D.; Music: William  
Croft, 1708, P.D.; CCLI #678905

\* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

*"And all my life You have been so, so good"*

Announcements

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Leader: God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**People: For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**—Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1, NIV**

God's Will for our Lives: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually,

<sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit.

<sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.

May your whole spirit, soul and body

be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

\* Hymn of Response: LYUH #353 v. 1,2,4 *"Rejoice, O Pure in Heart"*

1. Rejoice, O pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your King.

*Refrain*

Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

2. Yes, on through life's long path,  
still chanting as you go;  
from youth to age, by night and day,  
in gladness and in woe.

*Refrain*

4. Praise God, who reigns on high,  
the Lord whom we adore:  
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
one God forevermore.

*Refrain*

Rejoice, rejoice,  
rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

*Words: Edward H. Plumptre, 1866, alt., P.D.; CCLI #678905*

Offering: 1st: General Fund; 2nd: Benevolence Fund

Offertory

*(Immediately following the offering children ages 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
are invited to attend Children and Worship)*

\* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #585 v. 1-2

*"With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring"*

1. With grateful heart my thanks I bring;  
before the "gods" your praise I sing.  
I worship in your holy place  
and praise you for your truth and grace;  
for truth and grace together shine  
in your most holy Word divine,  
in your most holy Word divine.
2. I cried to you, and you did save;  
your word of grace new courage gave.  
The kings of earth shall thank you, LORD,  
for they have heard your wondrous word;  
yes, they shall come with songs of praise  
for great and glorious are your ways,  
for great and glorious are your ways.

*PSALM 138; Words: Psalter, 1912, alt., P.D.; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1863,  
P.D.*

*"With every breath that I am able"*

Scripture Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***“Growing in Love”***

Time of Prayer

\* Hymn of Application: LUYH #585 v. 3-4

*“With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring”*

3. O LORD, enthroned in glory bright,  
you reign alone in heavenly height;  
the proud in vain your favor seek,  
but you have mercy for the meek.  
Through trouble though my pathway be,  
you will revive and strengthen me,  
you will revive and strengthen me.

4. You will stretch forth your mighty arm  
to save me when my foes alarm.  
The work you have for me begun  
shall by your grace be fully done.  
Your love forever will endure:  
your mercy, LORD, is ever sure;  
your mercy, LORD, is ever sure.

*PSALM 138; Words: Psalter, 1912, alt., P.D.; Music: William B. Bradbury,  
1863, P.D. CCLI #678905*

*(During the singing of this hymn the children will be returning from  
Children and Worship and the elders are invited forward to serve  
communion)*

*“Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God”*

We Meet Our Lord at His Table

*(This model liturgy for the Lord’s Supper features a structure similar to  
the traditional Jewish Passover celebration, in which a young child asks  
the adults in the community about the meaning of the meal.)*

Pastor: This is the Lord’s table.

Our Savior invites those who trust him  
to share the feast that he has prepared.

Child: *Why do we give thanks and praise before this table?*

**People: We give thanks for God’s work of creation,  
liberation, and salvation.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and delight,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks to you, O holy Lord, eternal God.  
You created the heavens and the earth  
and all that is in them;  
you made us in your own image;  
and in countless ways you show us your mercy.  
Therefore, with choirs of angels  
and the whole company of heaven,  
we worship and adore your glorious name,  
joining our voices in their unending praise:

**People (spoken): *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

Pastor: All glory and blessing are yours, O holy God,  
for in your mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ.  
He took our human nature and suffered death  
on the cross for our redemption.  
There he made a perfect sacrifice for the sins  
for the whole world.  
We praise you that before he suffered and died,  
our Savior gave us this holy sacrament  
and commanded us to continue it  
until he comes again.

*Child: Why do we eat bread at this table?*

Pastor: On the night before he died, Jesus took bread.  
After giving thanks, he broke it and gave it  
to his disciples, saying,  
“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

*Child: Why do we drink from the cup at this table?*

Pastor: The same night Jesus took the cup, saying,  
“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,  
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

*Child: What do we remember at this table?*

Pastor: We remember God's gracious love for us,  
Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's  
tender care for us. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People: Dying, you destroyed our death; rising,  
you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Pastor: Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts  
of bread and wine, that in eating and drinking  
we may be made one with Christ and one another.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: All who are truly sorry for their sins,  
who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior,  
and who desire to live in obedience to him,  
are now invited with gladness to the table of the Lord!

### **Distribution of the Elements**

**Communion Songs** (*As the elements are being served*)

◆ *Goodness of God*" – Sheri Link

#### **Solo**

1. I love You Lord  
Oh Your mercy never fails me  
All my days I've been held in your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
I will sing of the goodness of God.

#### *Chorus:*

- All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God.
2. I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In darkest night You are close like no other  
I've known You as a father  
I've known You as a friend  
I have lived in the goodness of God.



*Chorus*

*Bridge:*

Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
With my life laid down I'm surrendered  
Now I give you everything  
Your goodness is running after me  
It's running after me

*Chorus: (2x)*

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CCLI #678905

◆ LUYH #833 v. 1-3 *"There is a Redeemer"*

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

*Chorus:*

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;  
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

*Chorus*

3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face;  
there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

*Chorus*

Words and Music: Melody Green (b. 1946)©1982 Birdwing Music(ASCAP)/BMG  
Songs (ASCAP)/ Ears to Hear Music (ASCAP), admin. EMICMGPublishing.com  
CCLI# 678905

◆ LUYH #844 v. 1-5 *“Lift Up Your Hearts Unto the Lord”*

1. Lift up your hearts unto the Lord,  
lift up your hearts unto the Lord.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
lift up your hearts unto the Lord!
2. In Christ the world has been redeemed,  
in Christ the world has been redeemed.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
3. His resurrection sets us free,  
his resurrection sets us free.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
his resurrection sets us free.
4. Therefore we celebrate the feast,  
therefore we celebrate the feast.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
therefore we celebrate the feast.

**Acapella**

5. Sing alleluia to the Lord,  
Sing alleluia to the Lord.  
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;  
Sing alleluia to the Lord.

Words: st. 1-4 from early Christian liturgy; st. 5 Linda Stassen, 1974, © 1974 Linda Stassen; Music: Linda Stassen, 1974; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986, © 1974, 1986 Linda Stassen; CCLI #678905

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup:**

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35)

*(When we are ready to eat the bread)*

Take, eat, remember and believe that the body  
of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness  
of all our sins.

*(When we are ready to drink the cup)*

Take, drink, remember and believe the precious blood  
of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness  
of all our sins.

## Response of Praise and Prayer

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: "All Glory Be to Christ" v. 1-3

### **Solo**

1. Should nothing of our efforts stand,  
no legacy survive;  
unless the Lord does raise the house,  
in vain its builders strive.  
To you who boast tomorrow's gain,  
tell me what is your life?  
A mist that vanishes at dawn;  
all glory be to Christ.

### *Chorus*

*All glory be to Christ our king!  
All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,  
all glory be to Christ!*

### **All Sing**

2. His will be done, His kingdom come,  
on earth as is above,  
who is Himself our daily bread;  
praise Him, the Lord of love.  
Let living water satisfy  
the thirsty without price;  
we'll take a cup of kindness yet;  
all glory be to Christ.

### *Chorus*

3. When on the day the great I Am,  
the faithful and the true,  
the Lamb who was for sinners slain,  
is making all things new.  
Behold our God shall live with us  
and be our steadfast light.  
And we shall e're his people be;  
all glory be to Christ.

*Chorus*

*All glory be to Christ our king!  
All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,  
all glory be to Christ!*

**Chorus: Sing acapella**

Words and Arrangement by Dustin Kensrue; Music: Traditional Scottish Folk  
Tune© 2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music (Admin. by Music Services,  
Inc.); CCLI #678905

**\* Postlude**

**Welcome!** Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." Our Savior invites us to His table, a table of love that has been prepared for us. Jesus, Our Savior, lived, died and lives again for each one of us. *The Lord's Supper is a table of grace. All those who have received the grace of Christ and confess Him as Lord and Savior of their life are warmly invited to participate. Yet, know too that there is also 'grace' from this community of faith for those who do not yet confess Christ as Lord. And if that's the case then we encourage you not to partake until you have the genuine desire to receive God's grace and are ready to proclaim Christ as your Lord.* Let us worship our God today and praise Him for His love. After the worship service, we invite you to join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

<b>Tech Team</b>	<b>Today: 12/31</b>	<b>Next Week: 1/7</b>
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Isaac D.	France B.
Video:	Brandon S.	Tim H.
Offering:	1st: General Fund 2nd: Benevolence Fund	General Fund

# First CRC Bulletin Announcements

**December 31, 2023**

***The deadline for announcements is Thursday, 9:00 A.M.***

***The Lord's Supper:*** This morning, we will commemorate Jesus' death and resurrection as we celebrate the Lord's Supper. By faith, Jesus' death fully covers all our sin and by His resurrection power He gives us everlasting life. May Christ's Spirit strengthen us in faith, hope, and love as we draw near to Christ Jesus through His Spirit. *The Lord's Supper is a table of grace. All those who have received the grace of Christ and confess Him as Lord and Savior of their life are warmly invited to participate. Yet, know too that there is also 'grace' from this community of faith for those who do not yet confess Christ as Lord. And if that's the case then we encourage you not to partake until you have the genuine desire to receive God's grace and are ready to proclaim Christ as your Lord.* After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

## **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

Dear Friends,

The main purpose of John's letters to the early church is to lead those who already believe to a deeper understanding of faith and to greater assurance of salvation. In addition, John is also writing to combat the various false teachers and teachings that had infiltrated the church.

No doubt John's letters to the early church is just as relevant and applicable for the church today. Therefore, in the months to come, we are going to spend some significant time studying this particular book of the Bible. The purpose of doing so is not only for deeper understanding of faith and greater assurance, but so that such faith will be evident through both obedience to God's commands and greater love for one another. ... May God bless us as we engage in this important study together.

In His Grace, Pastor John and Pastor Brad

Tentative Sermon Schedule (Texts & Titles to be added as we go)

1. October 8 (I John 1:1-4) – "Introduction to I John and The Word of Life"
2. October 15 (I John 1:5-2:2) – "Walking in the Light"
3. October 22 (I John 2:3-11) – "A Profound Obedience"
4. November 12 (I John 2:12-14) – "Christian Assurance"
5. November 19 (I John 2:15-17) – "Loving the World"
6. November 26 (1 John 2:18-27) – "Who do We Listen To?"
7. January 7: (1 John 2:28- 3:10) – "Remain in Christ"

**Fireside Chats - Jan. 7 and 14:** There is currently no Sunday School scheduled for January 7 and 14. However, we will be having a couple of "Fireside Chats" with Pastor Don Lagerwey in the church fellowship hall before the service. During this time we will hear a little bit about his story of faith, calling to ministry, and some of the joys and challenges he has experienced through the years. We'll also open it up for a time of question and answer near the end of each session. So please join us from 9:30 - 10:15 AM on both January 7 and 14!

**Hospitality - Church Use:** The Skagit SonShine Youth Choir is a local Christian youth choir of about 45 participants. It began practicing over a decade ago at Bethany Covenant Church and in recent years has been meeting at Sunrise Christian Center in Sedro-Woolley. Beginning **Wednesday, January 10** they will be returning to Mount Vernon and start practicing in our church sanctuary on Wednesday afternoons between **4-6 PM**. In addition, they generally have two concerts a year - both a Christmas and Spring concert. More details on this year's spring concert will be forthcoming, but in the meantime if you are at church on Wednesday afternoons please take the time to warmly welcome them and make them feel at home. Thank you!

***Worship Service YouTube Links:***

Christmas Eve: [https://youtu.be/ZiRGU\\_KHyRc](https://youtu.be/ZiRGU_KHyRc)

Christmas Day: <https://youtu.be/n-QU1LDEsnw>

First CRC offers the option to give *your offerings online, donations*. For information on this and other ways to give please check the "Give" page on the church's website: [https://firstcrcmv.com/?page\\_id=1509](https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509)

**Pastoral Care – Heather Village:** Pastor Don Lagerwey, a well-known, beloved, and retired CRC pastor is currently living near our church. Recently he graciously offered to carry out any pastoral visiting and/or pastor care calls specifically to those living in Heather Village, or nearby the church. The council is deeply grateful for his willingness to serve and minister. If interested in receiving a visit from Pastor Don – please don't hesitate to call him or his wife Joanne at either of the following numbers: 360-202-1369 or 360-333-5582.

**Calendar:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts:**

1-31-23 - Bryan & Deanna Van Beek, Henry & Jayne Hammingh

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week:**

January 7 – Brooke Knoester; Henry & Sharon Kuipers

**Worship Team:**

December 31: Greg & Beth B., Emmalyn S., Nellie VDH

January 7: Juli O., Mandi D., Kiera L., Nellie VDH

**Nursery:**

Today: December 31 – Julissa Oostra, Adriana Speck

Next Week: January 7 – Juliana LeClair, Emily Van Hofwegen

**Children in Worship:**

Today: Heidi B., Joel L.

Next Week: Heather V.H., Caleb L.

**This Week:**

Jan. 3, 6:30pm: GEMS Christmas Party!!

**Upcoming Dates to Note:**

January 14 at 6:30 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study

January 10: Cadets

**ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:**

We embrace the joy of this time of year as we think about the coming Savior on Christmas, but many places in our world still haven't heard the Good News of salvation in Christmas, but many places in our world still haven't heard the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ! The people of First CRC are helping to sow seeds of the Gospel through your recent support of the Luke Society. Besides physical healing, our world needs spiritual healing. We are grateful to have you on our team as we support doctors and nurses committed to proclaiming Jesus to the world. – The Luke Society

## **CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

World Renew: Giving Thanks at Christmas - Thank you for sharing God's love through the World Renew Gift Catalog during Advent. Your donation of a chicken, water filter, or goat can be a miracle for people who face poverty and hunger. You can also give in the New Year! Go to [worldrenew.net/gifts](http://worldrenew.net/gifts) or call 800-552-7972. Thank you!

**ReFrame Ministries: Kids Corner: Big Plans** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Do you like to make plans? By making plans, you can be excited about what's coming and anticipate what you may need to prepare. But did you know God has made even bigger plans for you? Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net), like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

**Groundwork: Your Questions about Scripture and Hope** - Join Groundwork as we study Matthew 6:9-13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 11:13-16, Revelation 20:1-6, John 15:18-25, and Psalm 46 to look at some of the questions you asked this year in response to our discussions on the Lord's Prayer, Joshua, and Revelation; then we'll talk about the issues that feel most pressing for our faith right now and where we can find the hope and encouragement to keep living faithfully each day. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Thrive: Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - Eugene Peterson says of Scripture engagement, "Reading is an immense gift, but only if the words are assimilated, taken into the soul—eaten, chewed, gnawed, received in unhurried delight." Read your favorite Scripture passage that way today. Take time to savor and "gnaw" on it, noticing any new insights that come to mind. Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

<b>Tech Team</b>	<b>Today: Dec. 31</b>	<b>Next Week: January 7</b>
Sound:	Henry H.	Mardick S.
Projection:	Isaac D.	Franchesca B.
Video:	Brandon S.	Tim H.
Offering:	1 <sup>st</sup> : General Fund; 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Benevolence	General Fund





How can  
we  
**PRAY**  
for you?

People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at [secretary@firstcrcmv.com](mailto:secretary@firstcrcmv.com) or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

**CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

We express our Christian sympathy to **Dick & Linda Gudmunson** and family in the recent passing away of Dick's mother. Pray for peace and God's guidance in the days ahead.

Continue to remember the Meischke family and others who have recently lost loved ones. May God be close to each one of them as their loved one is missed at this time of year.

Please continue to pray for **Maxine Greidanus**, as she resumes her chemotherapy, that it will take care of any remaining cancer.

Please continue to pray for **Juli Oostra's** platelet levels!

**Yvonne Boon** had her last chemo for a bit on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December and will have a bone marrow biopsy in January. Please pray that the chemo takes care of the remaining percentage of bad cells.

Pray for continued healing for **Margaret VanderPol** as she strives to get her strength back with physical therapy.

**SHUT INS:** ***Nell Annema and Marion Ekkelkamp*** at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; ***Shirley Boonstra*** at Country Meadow Village in Sedro-Woolley, ***Marjean DeGroot*** at Mountain Glen in Mount Vernon; ***Mary Koopmans*** at Where the Heart is in Burlington; ***Hans Meischke*** at Kenmore Living in Kenmore, WA, ***Adrianna Swanson***, and ***Clarence Vander Griend*** at Home Place in Burlington; ***Hank VanderVeen*** at *The Bridge in Mount Vernon*; ***Grace Feddema and Sally Reehoorn*** at Creekside in Burlington; ***Bev Van Slageren*** with family in Grandview, WA.

## **OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)**

### **Monday December 25: World Renew: Christmas Day**

We give thanks to God for the opportunity to love and serve our brothers and sisters around the world this holiday season. May the Lord be at the center of all our activities as we celebrate the birth of the Savior. We ask God for mercy and justice for all who are experiencing disaster, conflict, poverty, and other challenges.

### **Tuesday December 26: Candidacy Committee: Harvest workers**

There are more CRCNA churches searching for a pastor than there are available candidates and ministers. Please join the Candidacy Committee in prayer for the Lord to send laborers into the harvest field!

### **Wednesday December 27: Resonate: Central Asia**

Pray for Resonate missionaries preparing to leave for Central Asia, where they will be working in church planting. Ask God to continue to develop a strong support network for them, for comfort as they move away from family and friends, and for open doors as they begin ministry on the field.

### **Thursday December 28: Educational Care: Eastern Africa**

December through February are busy times for Educational Care in Eastern Africa. Pray for open hearts among participants and for strength and resilience for our facilitators, some of whom will be away from their families for a month as they work with different groups each week. May the light of God bring growth for everyone involved.

### **Friday December 29: ReFrame: Japan**

“Mr. O” has been using our podcast episodes to share his faith with Muslim believers in his area. Pray for him and others who listen to these audio programs, and may the episodes help them grow in faith and strengthen them to share the love and good news of Christ with others.

### **Saturday December 30: Resonate: Florida**

Many people who have left Haiti have found a home in Florida—and a faith community through one of several Christian Reformed church plants. Pray for strong partnerships between Resonate, classes, church planters, and established congregations as they seek to serve the Haitian community.

### **Sunday December 31: CRCNA Leadership: New Year's Eve**

At the end of 2023, please give thanks for God’s faithful work among our churches as they share God’s love in their local communities and through global connections. Pray that in 2024 the Holy Spirit will raise up pastors, chaplains, elders, deacons, and missionaries to shepherd God’s people and encourage them in works of service and evangelism.