

Heritage CRC

2857 South 11th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(just south from Stadium Drive)

Phone: 269.372.3830
Prayer Line 372.3830 x 5
churchoffice@heritagecrc.org
Pastor Simon:
pastorsimon@heritagecrc.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP:@ 9:30 AM

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Thursday by 8:00 am. Call,
leave a note, or e-mail to
churchoffice@heritagecrc.org.

OFFICE HOURS:
Wednesday: 8:00 am —12:00 pm
Thursday: 8:00 am —12:00 pm

Volunteer Schedule...

COFFEE SERVERS:

Dec. 24 & 31 Norbert & Joy Hegelmann/Bob & Jane Pangle
Jan. 7 & 14 Nick & Melissa Piontek/Ron & Sharon Stryd

PRAYER LINE MINISTRY: Glen Wagner/Donnie Waterhouse

PRAYER EMAIL MINISTRY: prayerline@heritagecrc.org



SERVICE MINISTRY: Judy Wieringa/Kathy VanderMeer

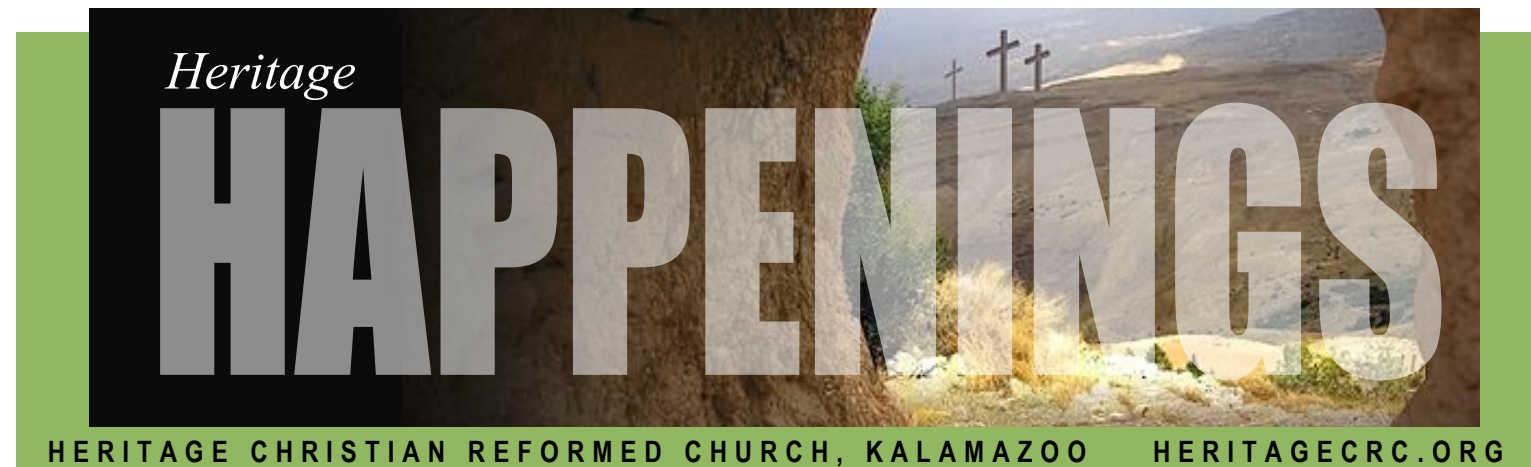
MULTIMEDIA MINISTRY:

Dec. 24 - Lisa Durian
Dec. 31 - Ian Tuin
Jan. 7 - Ian Tuin
Jan. 14 - LillieAnn Durian

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS:

12/24 - Barb Razenberg & Kim Bruinwood
12/31 - Mary Deters & Joyce Truscott
1/7 - Sue Florian & Ruth Mathe
1/14 - Melissa Piontek & Joy Knurr

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				21	22	23
24 9:30 am Pastor Simon "God's Promise: Salvation Will Come Through My Servant" Isaiah 42:1-9 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 am Rev. Michael VandenBerg "Amazing Message of Love" Luke 2:22-40	1 	2 9:30 am Coffee Break	3 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	4 9:30 GROW Group	5	6
7 Communion Sunday 10:00 am Pastor Simon "The Superiority of Jesus" Hebrews 1:1-14	8	9 7 pm Admin. Council	10	11	12	13

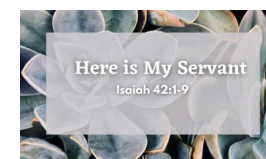


HERITAGE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH, KALAMAZOO HERITAGECRC.ORG
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December 21, 2023

What's up in Worship

This week Pastor Simon concludes his Advent series "Prepare Him Room". This Sunday's sermon is based on Isaiah 42:1-9, "God's Promise: Salvation Will Come Through My Servant."



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Come celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 6:00pm. Through music, song and the lighting of candles we will celebrate the coming of Jesus as the light of the world. Note: We will still meet Sunday morning at 9:30 for our regular gathering of worship.

Better: A Journey Through Hebrews – There has always been pressure on those who belong to Jesus to deny Him and find something better. Join us in this series on the book of Hebrews as we discover its re-sounding message that Jesus is better than everything we might try to satisfy the deepest longing of our hearts. The series begins January 7, 2024.

Celebrations...

Birthdays...

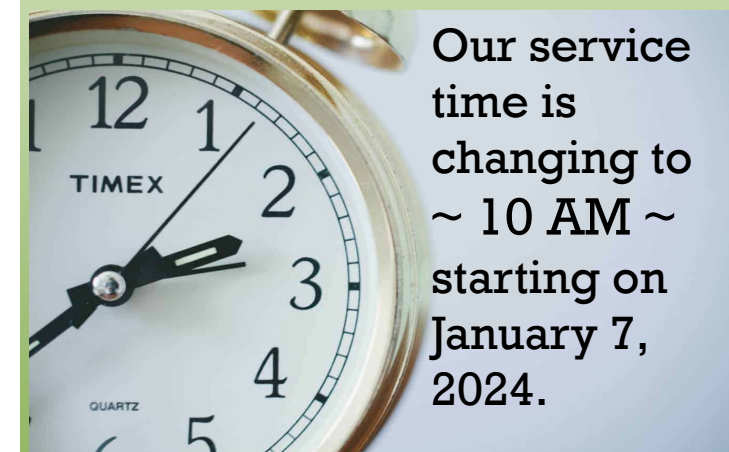
Amanda Miller ~ December 29
Matthew Carlisle ~ December 31



Thank you for your prayers, cards and kind expressions of sympathy on the passing of my brother. We are so grateful for the Family of God at Heritage. Rose & Pete Dame

As we celebrate the gift of Christ, it continues to be a wonderful gift to be a part of the Heritage Church family. May the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus continue to be with you this Christmas and in the New year. Merry Christmas!

~ Pastor Simon, Heather, Connor & Ian



Out-of-the-Office: Pastor Simon will be away from the office Tuesday through Thursday (December 26-28) as he and his family will travel to Ontario to spend time with family for Christmas.

Needed: Sunday Operations Manager ~
After almost 20 years of opening and closing the Church on Sundays and for special services, Jerry & Ruth Mather will step down from this position at the end of 2023. We thank them for their ministry and are now in search of someone willing to fill this position. A job description is available upon request. Please contact Matt Durian or Jim Bosch if you are interested or have any questions.

A BIG THANK YOU to the Ladies of Coffee Break. We were able to collect enough money to bless two families with a family sized water filter. Plan to meet on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 9:30 am when we will resume our discussion of the fruits of the spirit - lesson 4 - Peace.

The Nicaragua Revolving Seed Fund

The Heritage Deacons have chosen to support the Solanos in their ministry to create a micro financing agricultural fund to be used as part of their economic development program in Nicaragua. They are asking the churches that support them to get 10 families to each give a one time donation of \$250 to support one family in their efforts to farm the land that produces income for them.

If you feel led by God to make a one time donation of \$250 please pick up a packet of information on the table outside the office that explains the program that Jairo & Kelly Solano are asking our help with. If you have any questions please see Cheri Gavin.

Checks should be made out to Jairo or Kelly Solano and sent to 4908 Weston Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49006.



Offering Schedule

- Dec. 24 General Fund & Building Fund
Loose Change: Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries
- Dec. 31 General Fund
Loose Change: Park Village Pines
- Jan. 7 General Fund & Christian Ed. Assistance
Loose Change: Rehoboth Christian School
- Jan. 14 General Fund & Ministry Shares
Loose Change: Luke Society

Offerings (deposited for December 17, 2023)

- Benevolence Fund ~ \$200.00
- Building Fund ~ \$10.00
- Christian Ed. Assistance ~ \$10.00
- Faith Promise ~ \$475.00
- General Fund ~ \$7,035.00
- Growing Hope Globally ~ \$228.00
- Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries ~ \$350.00
- Loaves and Fishes ~ \$250.00
- Ministry Shares ~ \$30.00
- World Missions ~ \$10.00
- World Renew (CRWRC) ~ \$25.00

From the Deacons: December 31, 2023 marks the end of the year for financial gifts that will be included in the 2023 summary of tithes and offerings to Heritage Church. All contributions received and deposited after January 1 will be included on your summary for 2024. In January, the deacons will place this summary in the mailbox of each member for whom a report is available. Questions? Please contact one of the deacons.



It's that time again. Time to make room for new winter wear! Once more, the Coffee Break ladies will be gathering winter coats, hats, scarves, blankets, etc. for those in need within the community. This will be an ongoing effort until the holiday season is over! Right after the year's end we will gather the many blessings and deliver them to Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries. *Look for the box in the lobby area to place your donations.* Any questions, talk to Barb Nieboer (343-5378) or Joyce Truscott (342-1686). Thank you!



Severe Weather Cancellation: In the event of severe weather and Sunday services are cancelled, closing information will be posted on Channel 3 WWMT at least 1 hour prior to the worship service start time. You can also sign up to receive text or email alerts from Channel 3. Go to WWMT website, click on weather, then closings. Then sign up to receive texts on your phone or email alerts for Heritage Christian Reformed Church.



Hey, do you like to do puzzles? Want a fun activity for those long winter months? We now have a "puzzle swap". You can find a nice variety of puzzles

available in the north wing of the foyer. Please feel free to share any puzzles you may have. Enjoy!



Today Booklets: The Jan/Feb booklets have arrived. Please pick up a copy outside the southeast sanctuary doors if you so desire a copy.

A Gift of Christmas Music: Brad Smith is a 25-year Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra musician (Oboe) who with his wife, Wendy has been attending Heritage Church the past few years. He has kindly provided a gift of Christmas music in the form of a CD he produced 2 years ago. The CD is available at the information center and you are encouraged to take one home with you.

The music from this CD and a Christmas CD he produced and recorded in 1995 is also available on his website: <https://bradsmithoboe.com/free-download>.

Family Faith Formation Tip

Kathleen Norris wrote, "True hospitality is marked by an open response to the dignity of each and every person." As you go through your week, focus on approaching every person you meet with this kind of open response. At the end of the week, look back at how this approach changed your attitudes and actions. Learn more at crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner: Christmas Love for God's Global Family - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Just like the wise men, we can choose to follow Jesus. By accepting the gift of his love, we give him a big gift: our hearts. God's family is together by the love of Jesus, which was shown on the first Christmas. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net, like the Bible story podcast "The Wise Men."

Groundwork: Jesus: Our Prince of Peace - As we celebrate Christmas, join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 9:6, Psalm 137, Isaiah 49:6, Isaiah 53:4-12, Ephesians 2:14-19, and Luke 2:1-21 to discover the deep and meaningful shalom Jesus brought to us in his birth, that he promises to establish permanently when he returns, and how we can be his agents of peace in our world here and now. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Family Fire - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.