

A man named John was sent
from God. He came for testimony,
to testify to the light, so that
all might believe through him.

John 1:6-7

A 3RD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



**FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
901 Pleasant St. Boyden, IA
Pastor Heath De Jong
December 15, 2024**

*First Reformed Church in Boyden will follow God in
being a thriving community church.*

Prelude **Leila Moret**

Welcome

Hymn #144 "How Great Our Joy!"

(the general and building & repair offerings will be collected)

***Hymn #145 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

***Praise Song "Joyful Joyful"** (video)

Children's Message

(Children in Worship dismissed)

The Word of the Lord

*Benediction

***Closing Song "Joy to the World"** (video)

*Postlude

*(those who are able please stand)

PRAYER AND PRAISE

“Thank you for your prayers, food, for the cards, visits, for advice, and encouragement with the journey we had with my foot infection. We are so thankful for successful surgery and good reports, and hopefully things will continue to go well. We are so blessed to have such a loving church family.” Ken & Jeri Hoogendoorn

Thank you to the congregation for your thoughts, prayers and condolences after the loss of my mother. Special thanks to Rod & Lori Bolkema for their visit. Your kindness and care was greatly appreciated. Roger & Lisa Nelson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Boyden First Reformed Church! We are happy you could join us this morning! Nursery services are available during worship in the church basement. After worship, please join us in the basement or the south entrance for a time of coffee and fellowship. Sunday School for kids is at the Boyden United Presbyterian Church at 10:30 am (or following the worship service.) For the adults, you can meet after the service in the room off the sanctuary.

Children in Worship will be practicing for the Christmas Program this morning & next Sunday the 22nd at 9 am.

Christmas Programs! We are excited to share with you the following opportunities to worship for Christmas. Next Sun, Dec 22nd, the Children in Worship will be putting on a short program with Jeff Neuman leading the service. On Christmas Eve, there will be a program at the Boyden United Presbyterian Church at 6 pm by the Sunday School kids. And then on Christmas Day there will be an “unplugged” service here at Boyden First Reformed at 9:30 am. Join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior!

The 2025 Consistory members were chosen by lot at the annual Congregational meeting– **Carla Starkenburg & Alan Warntjes for Elder – Colin Bolkema & Jon Huls for Deacon.** If anyone has any scriptural reason why these individuals should not serve, please see Pastor Heath or a current Elder. Ordination/Installation and Communion is planned for 1/5/25.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boyden Holiday Lighting & Decorating Contest! Voting is now OPEN!! There are 14 locations registered for Boyden's 1st Holiday Lighting & Decorating Contest. Take a joyful drive around town and vote for your favorite display! All ages may vote – one vote per person. Lights will be on from 6-9 pm. Voting will be open until Sunday, Dec 29th. Paper ballots are available at the City Office / Library. Teresa has paper maps if you'd like a copy. You can also get a map and vote online. You can find that on City of Boyden's Facebook page or talk to Teresa and she can email you a link. Good luck to all of the participants and the City of Boyden thanks you for Brightening Up Boyden for the Holidays!

SHARE Group for widows & widowers will meet Thurs Dec 29th at 11:30 am at the Hull Pizza Ranch.

Awana news! Boyden Awana will be back in full swing on Wednesday January 8th! We are excited to welcome the kids and volunteers back after the Holiday break! We are always looking for individuals who love Jesus and wish to help area kids build a relationship with Christ! There are so many ways you can be a blessing – Handbook helper, Prayer warrior, Awana Store donator, the list goes on! Please visit with any current volunteer of Awana and find out how it has changed their lives!! (Current awesome Awana supporters from FRC are Pastor Heath, Wendy De Jong, Sarah Breems-Diekevers, Rosie Diekevers, Brent & Shari Fedders, Teresa Harms, Sheila Hinderks, Ken & Jeri Hoogendoorn, Angela Kooiker, Jeff & Shauna Neuman, Shayla Schmith, Alan Warntjes & Joan Wiertzema.)

Bible verse for the month of December – “He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be their peace.” Micah 5:4-5a

“May the joy of the Gospel be always in our hearts, especially this Christmas.”

Pope Francis

JOY

Scripture Text: Psalm 103:13-18

One Big Idea: Nehemiah 8:10c “For the **JOY** of the Lord is your strength”

Compassion = “sympathetic consciousness of others distress together with a desire to alleviate it”

Vs 13-14 “*Sympathetic consciousness*”

- Earthly father compassion
- Heavenly Father compassion

Vs 15-16 “*Of others distress*”

- Cursed not blessed
- Mortal life

Vs 17-18 *"Together with a desire to alleviate it"*

- Blessed not cursed
- Immortal life

Conclusion

"For the **JOY** of the Lord is your strength"



TODAY – DECEMBER 15, 2024

9:30 AM – WORSHIP

10:35 AM – FELLOWSHIP

10:30 / 10:45 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL

THANKS TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

GREETERS/USHERS: Les Starkenburg & Sam Wiertzema

AUDIO: Andrew Neuman

VIDEO: Jeff Neuman

POWERPOINT: Teresa Harms

KITCHEN: Sheryl Warntjes

COOKIES: Kaitlyn Rosenboom & Angela Kooiker

NURSERY: Lisa Nelson

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: Marissa, Collin & Aubrey Mouw

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Tue Dec 17 – Men's Group 5:30 am at Parsonage
Ladies' Group 7 pm at Parsonage

Sat Dec 21 – 1st Day of Winter!

NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 22, 2024

We welcome Jeff Neuman back to the pulpit.

Practice for Christmas Program – 9 am

Worship – 9:30 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent! Preschool Christmas Program!

Fellowship – 10:35 am

Sunday School – 10:30/10:45 am

Kitchen – Kayla Rosenboom

Cookies – Kayla Rosenboom & Nichole Olson

Nursery – Shauna & Cheyenne Neuman

Boyden Community Christmas Open Houses – Citizen’s State Bank Mon Dec 16 10am-4pm – Boyden Post Office Tues Dec 17 10am-4:30pm – Boyden Public Library Fri Dec 20 10:30 am-3:30 pm. Congrats to the Library for celebrating 90 years!! That is so awesome!!!

Inspiration Hills News – The Single Moms’ Retreat will be held Jan 31 – Feb 2nd. Deadline for registration is Jan 17th. 4th thru 6th Grades Winter Retreat will be held Feb 14-16. Registration deadline is Jan 24th. When there’s snow, the sledding hill will be open and a broom ball court is almost ready! Open positions they are looking to hire for include a Kitchen Manager and Housekeeping Assistant. They also have a wish list for needed items. You can check all this out at www.inspirationhills.org.

To begin a prayer chain – You can either call Max Moret at 348-2929 or Teresa Harms/church office at 725-2366.

2024 Consistory Executive Committee

Vice President – Kathy Ver Meer

Clerk – Rod Bolkema

Assistant Clerk – Kevin Rosenboom

Chair of Deacons – Chris Diekevers

Treasurer – Paul Moret

Assistant Treasurer – Nic Rosenboom

Building & Grounds – Ken Hoogendoorn & David Mouw

Music & Worship – Kathy Ver Meer

Community Impact – Ken Hoogendoorn

Joy – Roger Nelson

Discipleship –

2024 Elders

Rod Bolkema ('26)

Brent Fedders ('24)

Roger Nelson ('26)

Kevin Rosenboom ('25)

Kathy Ver Meer ('24)

2024 Deacons

Chris Diekevers ('24)

Ken Hoogendoorn ('24)

Paul Moret ('25)

David Mouw ('26)

Nic Rosenboom ('25)

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Webpage – frcboyden.com

Facebook – [Boyden First Reformed Church](#)

YouTube Channel - [@frcboyden](#)