

## A Sweet Tradition: The "Ollie Bol" (Oliebollen)

No New Year's celebration in a Dutch-American home was truly complete without Oliebollen (often referred to phonetically in our community as "Ollie Bolles")

Historically, these treats date back to the early settlers in the Netherlands. They were traditionally served on New Year's Eve and Day because they were filling and provided energy during the cold winter transition. In the CRC community, making Oliebollen was a major family event. Large pots of oil would be heated on the stove, and the house would be filled with the distinct aroma of frying dough. It was a symbol of abundance and joy as families gathered to wait for the stroke of midnight. Today, many still consider the smell of frying Oliebollen to be the "official" scent of the New Year.

### Traditions of the Heart: The New Year's Wish

Following the solemnity of the Old Year's service, New Year's Day shifted toward community and family through the custom of Nieuwjaarswensen (New Year's Wishes). In the early 20th century, this was a day of mandatory visitation and social "mending."

It was the tradition for younger families to spend the entire day traveling to the homes of their parents, grandparents, and especially the Elders and Deacons of the church. This wasn't a casual visit; it was an intentional act of honoring those who provided spiritual and familial leadership. Visitors would offer a formal, often scripted blessing for the coming year, wishing the host God's favor and health.

## Church Calendar

### This Week      January 4

Door Monitor- Julanna Klaasen  
Sound- Paul Cusack  
Video- Paul Cusack  
Projector- Emily Lotz  
Nursery- Kelly Delaney, Jack Delaney, Emma Faasse  
KidsChurch- Kathy Faasse, Olivia Calaski  
Coffee- Trudie Pruiksma, Bev Bentley  
Prayers Of The People- Pastor Moses  
Children's Message- Barb Belanus  
KidSpace- No KidSpace  
Chosen- No Chosen

### Next Week      January 11

Door Monitor- Steve Ruit  
Sound- Paul Cusack  
Video- Jon Englishmen  
Projector- Linda Van Lenten  
Nursery- Renee Kobovitch, Karen Spano  
KidsChurch-  
Coffee- Ed & Laura Lotz  
Prayers Of The People- John Belanus  
Children's Message- Jan Kuiken  
KidSpace- Barb Belanus  
Chosen-

In return, the hosts would provide warm hospitality, serving Oliebollen and coffee to every guest. This custom ensured that any grievances from the previous year were set aside and the social fabric of the church was strengthened for the year ahead. Though the formal "script" and the language have largely faded, the spirit of honoring our elders and seeking God's blessing for our neighbors remains a core value of the Reformed community.

### A Traditional Dutch New Year's Blessing:

"De Heere zegen u in het nieuwe jaar; dat Zijn aangezicht over u lichte en Hij u genadig zijt."

### Translation:

"The Lord bless you in the New Year, may His face shine upon you and be gracious to you."



Rev. Moses Kang  
Rob Flim, Worship Leader

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*GATHERING SONG- "O WORSHIP THE KING"

### CALL TO WORSHIP

### GOD'S GREETING & MUTUAL GREETING

\*OPENING HYMN- "JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

### CALL TO CONFESSION- "NEARER, STILL NEARER"

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONG OF ASSURANCE- "I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF GOD"

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### OFFERING

SPECIAL COLLECTION- MISSIONS

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

\*SONG OF PREPARATION- "OPEN OUR EYES LORD"

### PRAYER FOR THE LIGHT OF THE SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE-      ISAIAH 60: 1-16

### SERMON- "A LIGHT FOR HIS PEOPLE"

\*SONG OF RESPONSE- "ARISE SHINE"

### BENEDICTION

\*DOXOLOGY- "I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF GOD"

### POSTLUDE

*PLEASE STAY FOR OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING,  
FOLLOWED BY A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP IN THE BARN.*

\*Please rise, in body or in spirit

**TODAY, January 4,**

- Is the second Sunday after Christmas & Epiphany Sunday
- We will hold our annual New Year Service
- We will hold a congregational meeting immediately following morning worship

**NEXT SUNDAY, January 11,**

- Is the first Sunday after the Epiphany

#### **FAITH COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A note from Council:** A congregational meeting has been called for TODAY immediately after the worship service to approve the budget for 2026. Council has passed a proposed budget for the congregation to approve and will available from the Deacons after the service. If you have any questions, please forward them to John Belanus, chair of Council.

**Olie bolen will be served** at coffee hour this morning. We hope to see you there!

**Ladies:** please join us for fellowship and Bible Study starting again this Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in the Blue Room. We are going back to the Vanderlaan series. If you need a ride or have any questions, see Linda VanLenten.

**On January 10th at 6 pm** the Christian Singles, will meet for a "Sandwich Social." After supper we will have a devotion and discussion on "*Decorations Ending and the New Year Beginning*" followed by prayer and praises. Come join us in the Barn! For more information, please contact Carol at 973-523-5072. *Also, if the weather is inclement a cancellation notice will be on the phone answering machine (973-523-5072) by 12 noon on the 10<sup>th</sup>.*

**Men's Bible Study** will break until 1/15/26. Please see Bob Jacobs with any questions.

#### **A note to the congregation regarding the budget:**

The congregation approved the 2025 budget with \$37,770 deficit. The financial projections for year end are that we will realize a deficit of approximately that amount. Prayerfully consider this as you make your year-end contributions.

#### **REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Come celebrate the Spalinks!** Join Classis on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at Cedar Hill where they will recognize, honor, and celebrate the Spalinks with a special luncheon in their honor at 12:45 PM. If any church members would like to join, please RSVP by January 15<sup>th</sup>, to office@cedarhillchurch.org or call the church office at 201-652-4277.

**If you're beginning to think** about what may be next for yourself or a loved one, Windmere is a welcoming place to start the conversation. Schedule a tour by December 31, 2025, and receive a beautiful, locally hand-painted glass ornament. Please call (973) 963-9433. We look forward to meeting you!

#### **Second collections recap:**

**12/25/25- Benevolence, \$1,193**

**12/28/25- Madison Ave, \$399**

#### **Second Collections:**

January 4- Missions

January 11- Madison Ave

January 18- Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center

January 25- FCCRC/ECSA Scholarship Fund

#### **OUR FAITH COMMUNITY FAMILY**

*John Butler* has returned home and continues rehabilitation on his wrist.

Please keep *Jack & Pat Steingga* in your prayers as Jack recovers from surgery on his neck.

Please pray for *Carrie Johnson* (wife of Rev. Michael Johnson of Cedar Hill Church) as she undergoes cancer treatment.

*Charlie Ackerman* remains in Oakland Care Center for rehab. Please keep Charlie in your prayers.



1/5 Judy Van Dyke

1/5 Sue Grimm

1/5 Eloise Royle

1/9 Paul Cusack