

**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 Pruiksmā, 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 zij."

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



- 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 8th 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 10th.*

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 31st 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 15th, 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 Steiginga* 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