

For much of the CRCNA's early history, Christmas Day was considered less spiritually significant than Old Year's Eve (Oudejaarsavond).

* A Solemn Christmas:
Early Dutch immigrants were deeply suspicious of the "American" way of celebrating Christmas, fearing it was too commercial and pagan (tied to Santa Claus). In many early CRC churches, Christmas services were stark and solemn. There were no Christmas trees inside the sanctuary, as these were seen as idolatrous additions.

* The Sinterklaas Separation:
The fun, gift-giving aspect was strictly separated from the birth of Christ. Gifts were exchanged on St. Nicholas Day (December 6), while December 25th was reserved exclusively for church services—often held in the morning and afternoon, just like a Sunday.

* The "Oudejaarsavond" Priority:
The spiritual highlight of the season was actually the New Year's Eve service. In the Dutch tradition, this was a deeply emotional service where the pastor would review the congregation's joys and sorrows (births and deaths) of the past year. It was considered the most holy and reflective night of the year, far overshadowing the "merry" nature of Christmas.

It wasn't until the mid-to-late 20th century, as the church became more Americanized, that the full "liturgical calendar" (Advent, wreaths, and trees in church) became a standard part of CRC worship.

Church Calendar

This Week December 28

Door Monitor- Andrew van der Meer
Sound- Paul Cusack
Video- Dan Grimm
Projector- Linda Van Lenten
Nursery- Bev Bentley, Janet Jacobs
KidsChurch- Dana Miller, Alyssa Morin
Coffee- Bob & Janet Jacobs
Prayers Of The People- Bob Jacobs
Children's Message- Kathy Faasse
KidSpace- No KidSpace
Chosen- No Chosen

Next 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-
Chosen-

Second Collections:

December 28- Madison Ave

January 4- Missions

January 11- Madison Ave

January 18- Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center

January 25- FCCRC/ECSA Scholarship Fund

Rev. Moses Kang
Jay & Jess Everett, Worship Leaders



Faith
Community Church

December 28, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GATHERING SONG- "KING OF KINGS"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*GOD'S GREETING & MUTUAL GREETING

*OPENING HYMN- "GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN"

CALL TO CONFESSION- "NEARER, STILL NEARER"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONG OF ASSURANCE- "LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

SPECIAL COLLECTION- MADISON AVE CROSSROADS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*SONG OF PREPARATION- "COME THOU ALMIGHTY KING"

PRAYER FOR THE LIGHT OF THE SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE- JOHN 15: 1-8

SERMON- "THE PURPOSE AND PROCESS OF PRUNING"

*SONG OF RESPONSE- "YET NOT I, BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME"

COMMUNION

*CLOSING SONG- "IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR"

*BENEDICTION

*DOXOLOGY- "WE RECEIVE YOUR BLESSING"

POSTLUDE

TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

EVERYONE IS INVITED FOR A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP IN THE BARN.

~ Deep Roots, Fresh Growth ~

TODAY, December 28,

- Is the first Sunday after Christmas
- We welcome Rev. John Sideco to worship with and lead us in worship
- We will celebrate communion at our morning service. Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." All, then, who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who earnestly desire to lead a godly life, ought to accept the invitation now given and come with gladness to the table of the Lord

NEXT SUNDAY, January 4,

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

FAITH COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A note from Council: A congregational meeting has been called for next Sunday, January 4th, immediately after the worship service to approve the budget for 2026. Council has passed a proposed budget for the congregation to approve and will be 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 next Sunday morning. We hope to see you there!

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

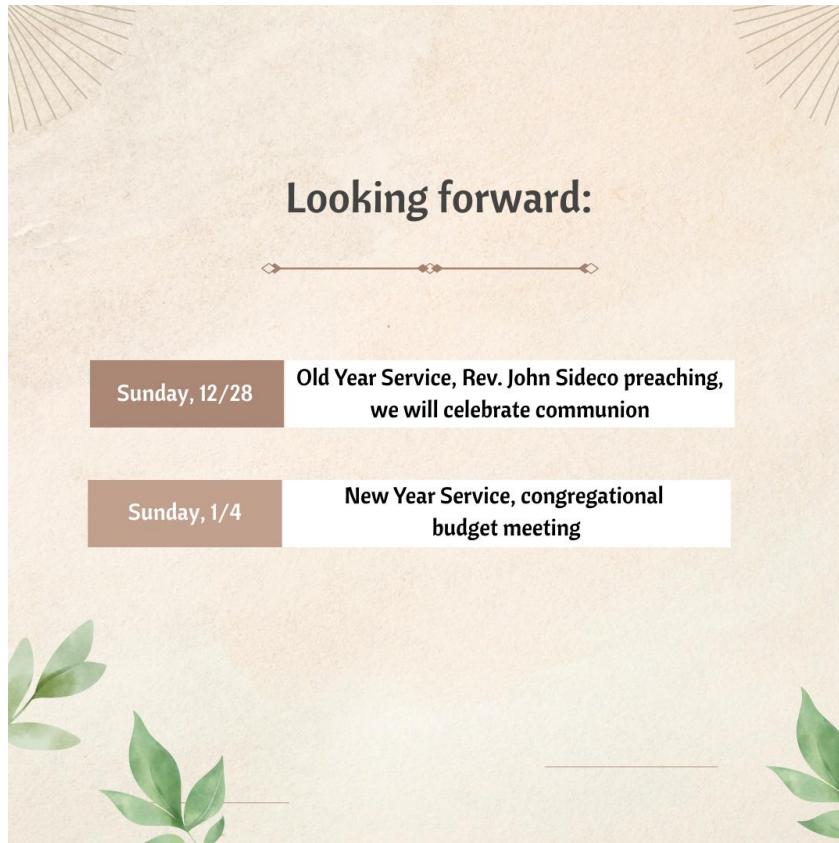
A note to the congregation regarding the budget:

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:

12/21/25- SNL Youth Group, \$696

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY FAMILY

Happy birthday to *Doris Kuiken*, who will celebrate her 93rd birthday on December 29th.

Jackie Pepper is in Christian Health being quarantined for the flu. Please keep Jackie & Bob in your prayers.

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.



12/29 Doris Kuiken

12/29 John Everett

12/31 Keith Davis

1/3 Cheryl Cusack