

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  
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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 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:

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

OUR FAITH COMMUNITY FAMILY

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

*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 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.



12/29 Doris Kuiken

12/29 John Everett

12/31 Keith Davis

1/3 Cheryl Cusack