



# FIRST CUTLERVILLE

*Christian Reformed Church*

## **Mission**

We are a church family who seeks to glorify God by worshipping Him wholeheartedly, witnessing His love to all people and by working to bring His kingdom to every area of life.

## **Church Information**

**Name:** First Cutlerville Christian Reformed Church

**Year of establishment:** 1893

**Location of church :** Byron Center, Michigan

**Search Committee Contacts:** Tiffany Snyder and Jeff DeVries

**Address:** 1425 68th Street SW, Byron Center, MI 49315

**Phone:** 616.531.3978

**Website:** <https://www.fvcrc.org>

**Email address:** [search@fvcrc.org](mailto:search@fvcrc.org)

## **Church Demographics**

**Total number of members:** 429

**Average weekly attendance:** Approximately 300

Our members are committed to extend and embrace grace, grow, value community, celebrate our spiritual gifts and fully give as the Lord has blessed us all.

**Age distribution:**

<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Percentage of Membership</b>
0-11 years old	14%
12-18 years old	12%
19-24 years old	9%
25-34 years old	6%
35-49 years old	14%
50-64 years old	16%
65 years and older	29%

**Duration of membership:**

<b>Number of Years</b>	<b>Percentage of Membership</b>
Less than 5 years	8%
5-10 years	18%
More than 10 years	74%

**Recent pastors:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Duration of service</b>
Dr. Douglas Kamstra: Specialized Transition Pastor	May 2017 to present
Dr. Randall Blacketer	September 2012 through November 2016
Rev. Daniel Gritter	February 2001 through December 2011
Rev. Kenneth VanWyk	January 1997 through June 2012

See Appendix A for First Cutlerville CRC Membership Requirements

## Our Values

First Cutlerville CRC is a church committed to...

**Biblical Teaching** because God's truth is the catalyst for spiritual growth and it shapes our everyday living.

Being a **Caring Community** that provides love and care to meet people's physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

**Glorifying Worship** where participants bring glory and honor to God.

**Spirit Led Prayer** as a body of believers that helps us to be fully and courageously dependent on the Holy Spirit to discern God's will and further God's kingdom.

**Embedding Scripture** in all of our ministries so that God's word is firmly planted and deeply rooted in people's hearts and lives.

**Embracing Community** by loving others through knowing, engaging and serving our neighbors.

**Empowering Giftedness** by discovering, cultivating, and using our unique spiritual gifts for the sake of others and for God's glory.

**Mission Shaping Discipleship** that intentionally makes more and better disciples who are fully devoted to growing, going and blessing.

See Appendix B for First Cutlerville CRC Annual Plan 2018-2019

## Church Highlights

We celebrated our 125th anniversary as a church in 2018 with great joy and anticipation of God's continued faithfulness.

We successfully completed Renewal Lab and have implemented many new ideas and practices.

As a result of Renewal Lab, we have established a clear and defined mission for our church.

We established a new leadership structure which includes the empowerment of teams working within their areas of giftedness.

We participated in a church wide discernment process regarding the role of women in leadership with our church which resulted in affirming women for the office of deacon in 2019 with subsequent affirmations in other church leadership positions starting in upcoming years.

Our physical church building is fully paid for and we consistently meet our budget needs every year.

See Appendix C for Discernment Process

See Appendix D for Pictures of our Property and Building

## **Leadership**

We are a team of teams and value shared leadership. We desire to engage those who are actively serving in our ministries in order to empower and tap into the gifts of all of our members.

We have positions that are held by individuals who are nominated and affirmed by our church members. We have a nominating team made up of congregation members that provides the guidance for this process.

The positions filled through our nominating process include the offices of deacon, administrative elder and shepherd elder. As of January of 2019 we currently have a woman serving in the role of deacon. In July of 2020, women may be nominated and affirmed for leadership as a shepherd elder and for administrative elder in July of 2021. Upon installing our new lead pastor, women can supply our church with a pulpit fill. Calling a female lead pastor will be an option for our church after the term of our next lead pastor.

Administrative elders are responsible for governance and implementation of the mission, vision, and values of the church.

Shepherd elders are responsible for meeting the pastoral and spiritual needs of our church.

Deacons are responsible for stewardship and diaconal outreach.

Our church staff consists of a lead pastor, worship coordinators, three discipleship positions (children, MS/HS youth and adults), retired visitation pastor as well as additional church support staff.

See Appendix E for First Cutlerville CRC Governance Organizational Chart

## **Worship**

We currently have a worship planning team, including the worship coordinators, which meets regularly to plan our services.

In our worship services we seek to be blended - both rooted and fresh - specifically when it comes to music. We have a talented and energetic church body which engages our congregation in a rich worship experience in order to bring glory to God.

We value the involvement and active participation of people of all ages, including youth and children, in all aspects of our service.

We have a typical liturgy that we use for rhythm and routine but are not hesitant to deviate from that for special series such as Lent or Advent.

Spirit led prayer as a body of believers during our services helps us to be fully and courageously dependent on the Holy Spirit to discern God's will and further God's kingdom.

We desire Biblical teaching because God's Truth is the catalyst for spiritual growth and that which shapes our everyday living.

We desire to present the gospel clearly, with joy and enthusiasm.

Sample bulletins can be found at <https://www.fvcrc.org>

See Appendix F-H for sample orders of worship

## **Our Strengths**

Discipleship and spiritual growth opportunities including both faith formation as well as personal evangelism training for all ages \*

Engagement in partnerships with outside organizations such as Byron Ministries, Streams of Hope, Kids Hope, Stephen Ministry, Omega House, World Renew and others in our community and beyond

Financial stability and strong budget support every year

Value for Christian education through generous financial support

Active prayer ministry

Tremendous physical facilities including including updated sanctuary, which can be used as a gym, commercial kitchen, community garden, softball field, large property for potential expansion, ministry spaces such as a wood shop and crafting room

Active youth in worship services, youth group, service projects

Cross-generational church members' commitment to serve and volunteer within areas of giftedness

\*more information: <https://www.fvcrc.org>