

To *everything*  
there is  
*a season*  
and time  
to every purpose  
*under*  
*Heaven*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

### October at a Glance

- 2: World Wide Communion Sunday
- Elder Nominations filled out
- 10: 6:00 pm Elder/Deacon meetings
- 7:00pm Full Consistory will meet
- 17: 9:30 am Faith Bible Study
- 3:00 pm Patience Bible Study
- 31: 4-5pm Trunk or Treat downtown

#### \*Sundays:

- 8:15 am Joyful Voices Choir Practice
- 9:00 am Praise & Worship Service
- 10:10 am Sunday School for 3yrs-Adult
- 10:10 am Coffee Fellowship Time
- 6:30 pm Fellowship Bible Studies

#### \*Tuesdays:

- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

#### \*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:

- 6:30-7:30pm 1st-5th gr. Bible Classes
- 6:30-7:30pm MS Remnant will meet
- 7:30-8:30 pm HS Remnant will meet

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
712-754-2783  
sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com



View our Website at: [sibleyfrc.org](http://sibleyfrc.org)





## Stewardship & Giving

### Offering Summary through September 29:

- **General Fund: \$246,480.71**  
Budget: \$315,827.88; 78% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$31,208.76**  
Budget: \$70,626.12; 44% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$1255**

## Special Offering for October



### Good News! Great Joy!

*Pack a box. Impact a life.*

# Faith In Action for October: Center of Hope



Clean your closets and bring any winter coats, scarves, mittens and caps, that are in good shape, to church. They will be put to good use.



We are looking for individuals and families willing to participate in our Trunk or Treat event during downtown trick or treating in Sibley on

October 31 from 4-5 pm. We will be setting up in the Klaassen Realty Parking Lot. This is a fun event not only for children in our community but also for those who participate by decorating their vehicles. Please use the sheet on the information center to get signed up for this fun outreach opportunity!! If you have questions as to what is involved with Trunk or Treat, please talk to Josh Lucas.



### How You Can Access These Resources:

**Church Website:** [www.sibleyfrc.org](http://www.sibleyfrc.org)

click on Right Now Media to be taken directly to their site.

**Website Link to set up your account :**

[https://www.rightnowmedia.org/  
Account/Invite/](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/)

[FirstReformedSibley](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/)

**Google Play Store App:**

Right Now Media

QR Code:





GLADYS HUNT  
WOMEN OF THE  
OLD TESTAMENT



**Faith Bible Study**, will meet on **Monday, October 18 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying Lesson #6, "Naomi" based on Ruth 3-4 in our book *Women of the Old Testament* by Gladys Hunt. Anita Ernst will be leader and Jan Henrichs will serve as hostess. Hope to see you there!

BARBARA CONWAY  
SEVEN LETTERS TO  
SEVEN CHURCHES



**Patience Bible Study**, will meet on **Monday, October 18 at 3:00 pm**. We will begin studying our new book with lesson #1 "The Lord Who Speaks" based on Revelation 1:9-20 in our book *Seven Letters to Seven Churches*. Barb will lead and serve as hostess. You are invited to join us as we dive into this new study.

### Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities at 6:30pm:

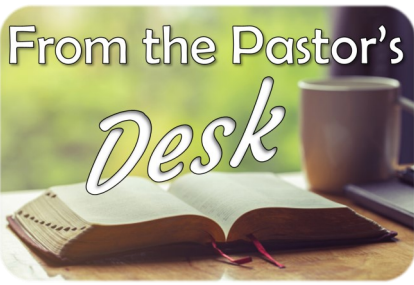
1. **Message Discussion and Application** \*Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar's home & \*FRC Fellowship Hall
2. **Digging into God's Word: Ecclesiastes** \*Kevin and Laurel Klaassen's home

All ages, singles and couples are invited to attend. Childcare can be arranged. Come, join a group and let's grow together!

## Trivia Time!!

1. What Bible person cut his hair only once a year?
2. Name the gentile king that made Esther his queen?
3. Who said the following and to whom...  
"Because you have mocked me: If there were a sword in my hand, I would kill you."?
4. The mother-in-law of Ruth was Naomi. What was the name of her father-in-law?
5. What is the name of the man who was seduced by his daughter-in-law and what was her name?
6. How many times did Balaam hit his donkey before the donkey spoke to him?
7. How many years were added to Hezekiah's life?





Dear First Reformed Church,

Grace and Peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and Jesus the Christ, our Lord,

Over the last couple of years there has been much discussion around the human sexuality issue and the Reformed Church in America. I am hearing from the Consistory and members of First that you have felt out of the communi-

cation loop and have been wondering exactly what is happening. The box to the right summarizes the three decisions that were made by General Synod in October of 2021.

Much time has been spent trying to decide what is best for each individual congregation and we will take the time to discern for First, Sibley as a congregation and consistory, what God's emerging future is for us. Here are some things that I would like you to be aware of as we begin the conversation this fall. **First, the RCA has not changed its official position on marriage and ordination. The RCA maintains a "traditional" view meaning that marriage is a lifelong covenant between a man and a woman.** Not everyone in the RCA sees this the same way but it is the "official" position.

**Second, East Sioux Classis, to which we belong holds this same traditional view and that is who we are accountable to as pastors and a congregation.** There may be people within our congregation who do not agree, but I believe our elder board continues to maintain the position that marriage is a lifelong covenant between a man and a woman.

**Third, God is faithful.** Churches do not need to be in a rush to leave the RCA nor must they abandon what they believe to be God's teaching on marriage and ordination. First's Consistory will continue to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek God's emerging future for the denomination and our congregation.

Just in the form of reminder, there were three recommendations from the team that came to the floor of General Synod:

- 1) **Restructuring**- this recommendation included changing from geographical classes to affinity classes and formed a team to investigate how this could best be accomplished. **This passed.**
- 2) **Form a Separate Global Mission Agency**- global mission has always been important in the RCA and we have a strong presence outside of the North American continent. This recommendation would have formed a separate agency so that churches who were thinking to leave the RCA would still be able to support our missionaries. **This did not pass.** Global Missions remain under the RCA denominational structure.
- 3) **Generous Separation**- this recommendation allows congregations to leave the denomination and join another denomination while taking their assets with them. It spells out and streamlines the procedure. A congregation will be required to pay 4 quarters of assessments to the RCA. **This passed.**



Over the coming months we will have opportunities to gather to discern who we are as a congregation, and how God is calling us to minister to the community of Sibley and the world beyond. This will start with Discernment Gatherings where you will be invited to gather as a congregation, to hear information and to discern together God's will. It is with this information that the consistory will ultimately decide regarding the Reformed Church in America.

As your Transitional Pastor, I count it a privilege to be able to journey with you in this discussion. There are hard decisions ahead for you. I encourage you to remain thoughtful and rational. Listen well to each other so that you remain connected as a community of faith. I am so happy to be serving Jesus with you as we journey into God's emerging future for First.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Troy



Meeting  
Minutes

### Consistory Meeting Highlights September 12, 2022

- MMSA to approve Amelia Hoekstra's request to make a profession of faith. Date to be determined by Amelia's family at a later time. They will contact the office.
- MMSA to approve Chad and Megan Travaille's request to have their daughter Margaret Sylvia baptized on September 25th.
- MMSA to allow the Worship team to startup and staff the nursery again.



The **New 2023 Church Directory** will be printed with the photo section included once again. If you would like an updated photo or if your information has changed, please get those updates into the office no later than November 1st. If you need a new photo taken please contact the office and arrangements will be made. If you do not submit a new photo (which is fine) the current photo will be printed again.

## Praise and Worship Greeters

- 2: E: Cory and Anne Maxwell/family  
C: John and Kim McDougall  
W: Dave and Jessica McDyer
- 9: E: Leona Meendering  
C: Dick and Marcia Oldenkamp  
W: Lyle Peelen
- 16: E: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling  
C: Marlin Roelfs  
W: Janice Runia
- 23: E: Brian and Heidi Sayler/family  
C: Eric Schiphoff  
W: Hugh Schiphoff
- 30: E: Ellen Schram  
C: Lynn Schram  
W: Ted and Eileen Schutte



## Nursery

Nursery Volunteers needed. Please contact any member of the Worship Team to Volunteer. Worship Team members are listed in your church directories.



## Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 2: Nate and Angela Buysman  
9: Glenn and Paul Doorenbos  
16: Merlyn and Karen Doorenbos  
23: Ron and Nancy Dykstra  
30: Gene and Renae Groen

## Children & Worship during the service



- 2: Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper:
- 9: Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper:
- 16: Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper:
- 23: Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper:
- 30: Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper:

## Willing Hands Group



### Willing Hands Group #3

will be responsible for services during the month.

#### Co-chairpersons are:

- Jamie/Scott Hulstein
- Sandy/Dave Lamfers

## Library Volunteers



- 2: Marilyn De Boer  
9: Gert Gaalswyk  
16: Jan Henrichs  
23: Jamie Hulstein  
30: Jan Juffer



# Sportsmen's Devotional



## Bible Study Verse

Ecclesiastes 3:20

All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. (NIV)

## Thoughts

Do you have someone you love listening to when it comes to telling about an outdoor adventure? Well, this past week I had the privilege of seeing two family patriarchs laid to rest - my wife's grandpa and a very good friend from work. Both of these men lived for Christ and dedicated their lives to making a difference for their savior. I loved listening to my wife's grandpa tell his hunting stories. His eyes would light up when he started to share them, usually accompanied by a sheepish grin. As a young Christian and entering my wife's family through marriage, Grandpa became an important part of my own faith journey. As I was just getting grounded in the faith, we would have a family gathering - Thanksgiving, Christmas, or maybe the 4th of July. He was always there, and he was always quietly living out his faith. In his humble unassuming way, he was a steadying influence for all of us in the family.

As his wife faced Alzheimer's, he visited her every day in the nursing home for over a year. Most days, she didn't know who he was, but it didn't stop him from loving her until she passed. After she passed on, he moved to northern Michigan to live in his cabin. He pressed on for ten more years - until the age of 93, finding ways to contribute to his local church, neighborhood, and our family.

He encouraged me and helped build my own faith - just by watching the way he lived his life. He was a true Christian Patriarch for our family.

## Action Point

I recently read that you really will never know the quality of a person until their later years in life:

- Why do the kids keep visiting?
- Why do the grandkids keep stopping by?
- Why are the neighbors always going over to that house for coffee?

When you've spent your life investing well in the things of God, there will be fruit - but it may not be seen until many years have gone by.

If you are like me and living a very busy life, just pause and take some time today to reflect on the quality of the life that you are living. Are you giving everything and every day to Christ?

There's going to come a time, when you and I are no longer on this earth. We will be dust. Make sure that you invest today and every day in the things that really matter to Christ.

I will miss Grandpa and my work buddy, but I know that they invested well and they are with Jesus today. I can only hope that one day, my life and the fruits of it will look like theirs.

## Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

If you have specific desires about passing on pieces of your outdoor legacy to your kids or grandkids, make sure to include specifically who the equipment is to be given to in your will.

# Operation Christmas Child



## SHOEBOX STORIES

### Dania & A Radio

I was born in the Middle East in a country where 97 percent of the population—including my parents—didn't believe Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord. My parents moved our family to another country in the region to pursue a better future. There they met a pastor who shared with them the hope of the Gospel, and they gave their lives to Jesus.



But instead of finding a better life, things were very difficult. The room we lived in was empty except for a few pieces of cloth we had to eat and sleep on. My dad worked two jobs, but it was still hard for him to provide for our family. Many nights I went to bed without food, or if there was some, it was raw onions and bread.

My wish as a 5-year-old was to have something of my own that was not passed down to me from other people. I told my mom, "I just want something new to help me feel that I am valued." Being a wise and Godly lady, she said to me, "Dania, I know it's hard for you to understand. Your dad and I can't give you new things, but I know Someone who can."

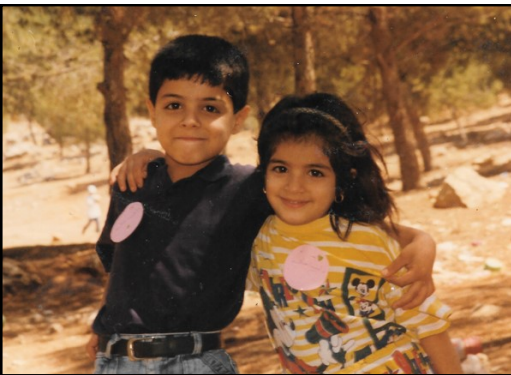
She taught me Psalm 23 and I prayed, "Lord, I want my own new things—things that will put a smile on my face that are not passed down to me from other people."

At that time, my family wanted to be able to keep up with the news from our home country, but we couldn't afford a radio or a television. So, we prayed together and waited.

After a little while, we went to church and found out they were giving away shoeboxes. I didn't know what that meant as I'd never received a gift of any kind before. When I eventually received my box, nothing mattered more to me. It put a joy in my heart that I'd never had before.

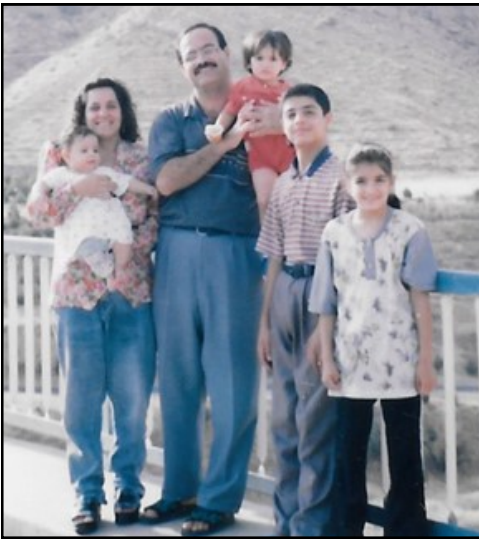
Before I could open it, I had to walk about an hour home because we couldn't afford a taxi. When I finally opened my shoebox gift, I was speechless. Everything in there was brand new! I found pencils, an activity book, a calculator, a stuffed bear, and soap that smelled so good. It hit me that this was the answer to my prayer. These items were my own from people we didn't even know.

Inside the shoebox was another surprise—a tiny radio! Out of a million shoeboxes, this one came to my family the year we prayed for a radio. We all knew this could not happen apart from God. When I went to bed that night, I counted all the items in my shoebox and thought, *God is good*.



After living in that country for seven years, we went back to our own country to preach the Gospel. It was hard for us, though, because the Good News was often not accepted. As I watched my parents be harshly persecuted because of their faith, I was convicted that I needed to accept Christ for myself personally.





Alone in my bedroom one evening, I prayed through tears, “I am a sinner. My life is all yours, Jesus. Use it as you will.”

As a believer, I was bullied by the teachers and students at my school. Despite this treatment, my dad continued to have Christian meetings in our home because we could not have a church.

One morning we went to my dad’s shop where he fixed and sold watches and found oil poured over the front door. He found a note that said, “If you don’t stop preaching the Gospel, we’ll burn this door and kill you and your family.” We still talked about Christ, though, and people were saved.

After nine years in that village, it became so dangerous for us that we had to get out of the country. As we departed, I had to leave everything behind—including my shoebox items. This was really hard for me.

After we moved to a third country in the Middle East, we applied to be refugees. Again, we prayed and waited. In 2010, more than a year after our application, God opened the door for us to come to the United States.

After being here two months, a woman from our church asked if I wanted to process shoebox gifts. Up until that point, I had no idea where shoebox gifts came from. When I arrived at the processing center, I was amazed to find so many people working like elves. But when I looked up and saw a banner with the [Operation Christmas Child](#) logo on it, I froze and realized these boxes were like my shoebox. I never imagined that I’d pack and process shoebox gifts like the one I received.

In May 2017, I graduated from Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with a degree in education. Looking back, my shoebox was the colorful thing in my black-and-white childhood. It was proof to me that what my parents taught us about prayer was true: it is a strong weapon. Even though we were poor, <https://sp-comm-arkfiles.s3.theark.cloud/website/images/occ/occ-shoebox-stories/article-gallery/Dania/Dania-and-her-brother-600x435.jpg> prayer made us feel rich. I thank God for what He has done for me.



# PRAYER LIST

BE A  
*Prayer*  
WARRIOR  
Luke 21:36

## PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

1. Pray for our College Students
2. Pray for our Church
3. Dave and Michelle Saul
4. Dr. Brian and Heidi Sayler;  
Grace, Levi, Elijah
5. Garrett and Carly Sayler
6. Madeline Sayler
7. Eric Schiphoff
8. Pray for our College Students
9. Pray for our Church
10. Hugh Schiphoff
11. Ellen Schram
12. Harold and Lynn Schram
13. Jennie Schram
14. Ted and Eileen Schutte
15. Pray for our College Students
16. Pray for our Church
17. Verlyn and Donna Smidt
18. Kevin and Nancy Soat
19. Donna Sterler
20. Le Roy and Karen Stevenson
21. Dave and Lesa Stofferan
22. Pray for our College Students
23. Pray for our Church
24. Bob and Gladys Tiedeman
25. Jenny Timmer
26. Jackie Tjaden; Alexa
27. Ken and Sharalyn Tjaden
28. Greg and Tami Tracy; Lindy
29. Pray for our College Students
30. Pray for our Church
31. Chad and Megan Travaille;  
Lawrynn, Margaret

### College Students:

Mackenzie Beyer  
Logan Bruxvoort  
Kaden Maxwell  
Teddy Van Gelder

Carter Brouwer  
Andrea Leusink  
Austin Wassman  
Tyler Feldkamp

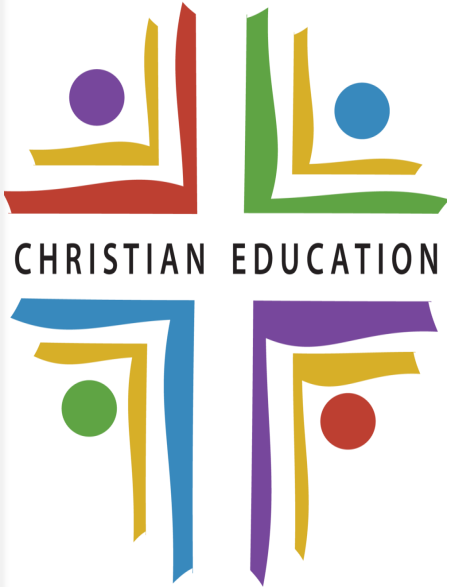
Dalten Bremer  
Ashilyn Hulstein  
Natalie Klaassen

Leah Ackerman  
Grant Brouwer  
Tanner Dykstra  
Jaeger Johnson  
Alex Mc Dougall

Ryan Van Marel







## Education Schedule:

Please remember the following Weather Cancellations Procedure:  
If there is NO school, or school is released early due to inclement weather, there will be NO WEDNESDAY Night activities.

- **Sunday School 3 yr - Adult:**  
October: All Classes as Scheduled
- **Wednesday Bible Classes (1st-5th grades):**  
October: All Classes as Scheduled
  - **MS and HS Remnant Youth Group:**  
October: Youth Group meets as Scheduled

# College Addresses

### **Hudson Feldkamp**

230 Dakota Trail  
Brookings, SD 57007

### **Ryan Van Marel**

804 Medary Ave. South  
Brookings, SD 57006

### **Alex Mc Dougall**

2040 Hawthorn Ct. Drive  
#7122  
Ames, IA 50010-9169

### **Jagger Johnson**

4709 Steinbeck Street  
Apt 11  
Ames, IA 50014

### **Tanner Dykstra**

3029 N. 47th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68504

### **Grant Brouwer**

DU 2335  
700 7th Street NE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250

### **Leah Ackerman**

5008 W. Equestrian Pl.  
Apt 217  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

### **Ashilyn Hulstein**

718 9th Ave  
Brookings, SD 56007

### **Dalton Bremer**

Rm# 612 A-2  
1110 North Dubuque St.  
Iowa City, IA 52245

### **Tyler Feldkamp**

SDSU  
Binneweis #115  
Brookings, SD 57007

### **Austin Wassman**

1434 Tyler Ave  
Ocheyedan, IA 51354

### **Andrea Leusink**

BVU Box 2461  
610 W. Fourth Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

### **Carter Brouwer**

SDSU  
Room 421  
Binnewies Hall  
Box 2805  
Brookings, SD 57007

### **Ted Van Gelder**

SDSU  
Room #324-A1  
Young Hall  
Box 2807  
Brookings, SD 57007

### **Kaden Maxwell**

104 S. Harmon Drive  
Mitchell, SD 57301

### **Logan Bruxvoort**

230 10th Ave.  
Worthington, MN 56187

### **MacKenzie Beyer**

610 W. 4th Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

If your student will have a different address for the 2022-2023 school year please let the office know.



# Celebrations

## ~~~*Birthdays*~~~

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Russell Gaalswyk<br>Katie Kruger                                       | 10. Ethel Jurgens<br>Carol Iedema<br>Ken Heronimus<br>Gina Jacobsma | 18 Jason Jacobsma  |
| 2. Leona Meendering<br>Joanne Klaassen<br>Peg Van Kley<br>Hezekiah Joseph | 11. Britta Harberts<br>Marlin Runia<br>Marissa Ackerman             | 19 Addison Weg   |
| 3. Jada Wills   | 12 Dr. Greg Kosters   | 21 Kolby Block   |
| 4. Eugene Groen<br>Gretchen Bartelson                                     | 13 Jerry Bosma  | 23 Halle Block<br>Kira Christensen                       |
| 5. Pam Kruger   | 14 Cliff Mehls<br>Derek Ackerman                                    | 27 Pauline Van Engen<br>Kaylee Maxwell<br>Katie Klaassen |
| 6. Karen Doorenbos  | 16 Elijah Sayler<br>Levi Sayler                                     | 29 Janice Runia<br>LeRoy Stevenson<br>Jodie Kruger       |
| 7. Marcus De Boer   | 17 Marlys Brink   | 30 Duane Vande Hoef                                      |
| 8. Jane Buysman<br>Harvey Van Ruler<br>Alecia Juelfs<br>Megan Travaille   |   | 31 Cole Dykstra<br>Collin Van Diepen                     |
| 9. Renae Wolter<br>Addison Mc Dyer<br>Logan Ver Steeg                     |   |  |

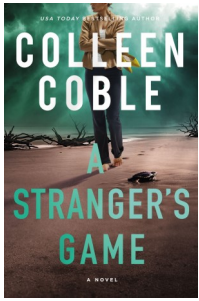
## ~~~*Anniversaries*~~~

- 2 Cory & Amy Dykstra ..... 23 years
- 4 Alan & Lacey Julius ..... 8 years
- 5 Gary & Sandy De Vries..... 49 years
- 6 Jerry & Sylvia Bosma ..... 61 years
- 8 Clint & Jamie Klaassen..... 6 years
- 10 Dale & Marilyn De Boer ..... 60 years
- 11 Joe & Nisa de Boom ..... 19 years
- 12 Levi & Kira Christensen..... 9 years
- 13 Cory & Anne Maxwell ..... 21 years
- 20 Terry & Chrissy Ackerman ..... 15 years
- 20 Dwayne & Janice Heikes ..... 43 years
- 21 Dan and Maureen Heilman ..... 16 years



## From the library--

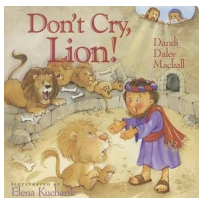
Three more books have been added to the library, read about them below.



The first book is *A STRANGER'S GAME* by Colleen Coble. “Even though Torie Bergstrom hasn’t been back to Georgia since she was ten, she’s happy to arrange a job for her best friend at one of the family properties on Jekyll Island. But when Torie learns that her best friend has drowned, she knows it is more than a tragic accident—Lisbeth was terrified of water and wouldn’t have gone swimming by choice. Torie goes to the hotel under an alias, desperate to find answers. When she meets Joe Abbott and his daughter rescuing baby turtles, she finds a tentative ally. The more Torie and Joe dig, the more elusive the truth seems. One thing is clear: someone will risk anything—even more murder—to keep their secrets buried.”



Lynette Eason wrote *LIFE FLIGHT*, book #1 of the “Extreme Measures” series. “EMS helicopter pilot Penny Carlton is used to high-stress situations, but being forced to land on a mountain in a raging storm with a critical patient—and a serial killer on the loose—tests her skills and her nerve to the limit. She survives with FBI Special Agent Holt Satterfield’s help. But she’s not out of the woods yet. In the ensuing days, Penny finds herself under attack. And when news reaches Holt that he may not have gotten his man after all, it will take all he and Penny have to catch a killer—before the killer catches one of them.”



The last book is for children ages 3-7. Have your children experienced a “Bully?” *DON'T CRY, LION!* BY Dandi Daley Mackall might be of help to you. “Little Lion cowers in a corner of the lion’s den—he’s afraid of a bully! But Daniel teaches this scaredy-cat how feeling safe is just a prayer away, and an angel even lends a helping hand!”

Make plans to visit the library soon!!

Jeannette Juffer

### Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. Absalom (2 Sam 14:25,26)
2. Ahasuerus (Esther 2:16,17)
3. Balaam to his donkey (Num. 22:28,29)
4. Elimelech (Ruth 1:2-4)
5. Judah was seduced by Tamar (Gen. 38:13-18)
6. 3 times (Num 22:28)
7. Fifteen (Isaiah 38:5)





## The Role of Empowerment in Poverty Alleviation

“They must want it more than you want it.” You might have been told that once or twice if you have ever invested time into a person going through hardships. There is wisdom in those words. So often, poverty alleviation is portrayed as an easy process

where all you have to do is give people what you think they need and they will thrive. If only poverty alleviation was that easy. We have learned at the Center of Hope that the needs of people in poverty are more complex than mere handouts. They must want to get well. They must be willing to put in the work to get well. If they aren't willing, they will remain in poverty. Period. What people in poverty need is empowerment. They must be empowered to 1) grow in their relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, 2) use their God-given gifts to bless our community, and 3) view work as a form of worship. That is why we started our Earn-Your-Way program. In the program, guests who are looking for work can earn bicycles, IDs, birth certificates, work clothing, and work shoes/boots through community service at our partnering agencies (Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, Union Gospel Mission, The Banquet, Kingdom Boundaries, Salvation Army, and Health Connect of South Dakota).

The program officially started last summer as the Earn-A-Bike program in our Geared-To-Empower Bike Ministry but due to the success of the program, we expanded what we offered in the program and changed the name to Earn-Your-Way. We hope that this program will be the first domino that falls to lead people to self-sufficiency. We have been greatly encouraged by the number of people who have been helped through the program. Our guests have earned what they need to get back on their feet in dignifying and empowering ways by using their God-given gifts to bless our community through community service.



When our guests leave the Center of Hope with a bike, helmet, and bike lock, they leave with dignity knowing they earned everything they received. There is no shame. No hierarchy of giving. They do not owe us anything for the items earned. They leave the Center of Hope as equals knowing they made a positive difference in our community. They leave connected to a local nonprofit that cares for them, and they know where to go if they ever want to give back to the community again. Poverty alleviation is all about empowerment. People must want to get well to get well. They must have some sweat equity in their growth. Don't rob people of working towards their own betterment. You can walk alongside, guide, pray for, and encourage. However, let them have some ownership in their growing process and empower them to press on. We understand this at the Center of Hope. We understand that mere handouts are not sufficient as we walk alongside people getting out of poverty. There is a time and place for handouts. However, empowerment is key. Empowerment to live into our purpose of loving God and people through work will bring about lasting change.



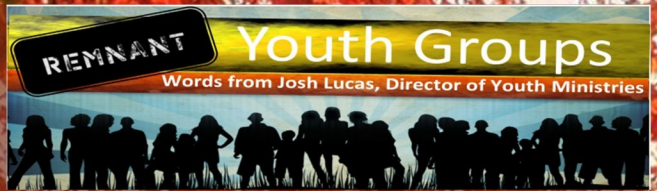
Hello First Reformed Church,

I came to the sad realization this week that I had dedicated one newsletter article to Joanna when she was born, and I had not included one of Allegra yet!

So, here are a few pictures from her first year of life! She just turned one on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022!

If you have not met her yet, she is the one year old that is constantly smiling and now that she is on the move (walking), you may have a hard time catching her.

Blessings,  
Josh Lucas



Dad Jokes With Josh:

Q: What is a pirate's favorite letter of the alphabet?

A: You'd think it's "R" when in fact it's the "C."