

# The Newsletter

November 2023

*glorify God in all we do,  
grow with Him daily &  
go with Him to share His love.*

## November at a Glance

- 1: MS Remnant Papa Murphy Pizza Fundraiser begins
- 8: 6:00 pm Spaghetti Supper sponsored by the Remnant Youth
  - 7:00 pm Congregational Meeting (no Bible Classes/Youth Group)
- 13: 6:00 pm Elder/Deacon Meetings
  - 7:00 pm Full Consistory will meet
- 15: 6:30-8:30 Food Find (see picture on back of newsletter)
- 19: Communion Sunday
- 20: 9:30 am Faith Bible Study will meet
  - 3:00 pm Patience Bible Study will meet
- 20-24: FRC is in charge of Meals on Wheels
- 22: 6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve service
  - Christmas decorating will follow
  - (no Bible Classes/Youth Group)
  - Papa Murphy Pizza orders due
- 23: Happy Thanksgiving!!
- 27-1: FRC is in charge of Meals on Wheels
- 29: 2pm FRC is in charge of Nursing Home Services
- \*Sundays:
  - 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 Evenings:
  - 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

## Thanksgiving Prayer

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food,  
For love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.

For flowers that bloom about our feet;  
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;  
For song of bird, and hum of bee;  
For all things fair we hear or see,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

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





## Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through October 27:

- General Fund: \$277,237.12  
Budget: \$340,984.97; 80% of budget
- Benevolent Fund: \$35,964.47  
Budget: \$70,205.23; 50% of budget
- Building Fund offerings to date: \$1,965

## Special Offering for November

### Sharing Christmas Families



## Faith In Action for November:



**Share the love of Jesus, through  
the power of a simple gift, with  
children around the world.**

Shoeboxes are due back to church by:  
**November 15**

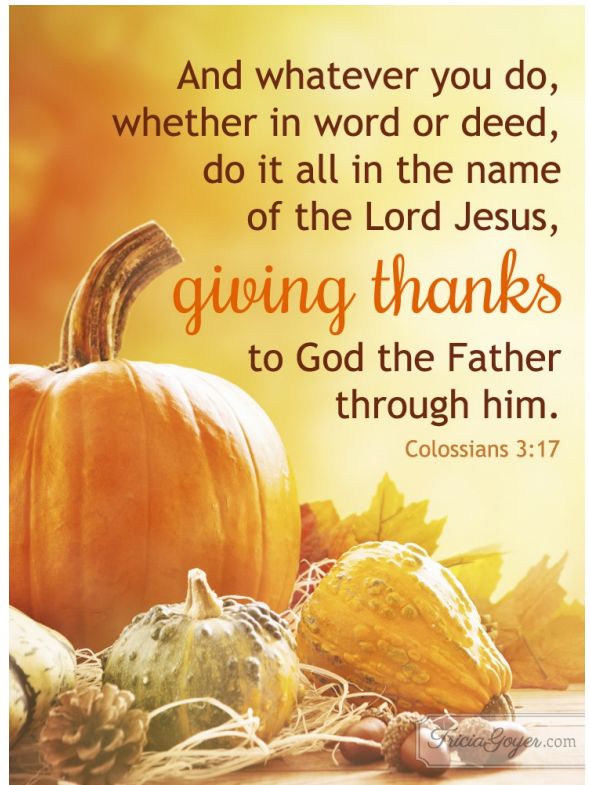
If you have a  
name,  
address or phone  
number change, or  
would like a new  
picture in the  
directory please let  
the office know  
by the end of  
November.



If you would like a new picture  
taken, please contact either the  
office or LaDonn Hartzell to make  
arrangements to have this taken  
care of. Thanks!

And whatever you do,  
whether in word or deed,  
do it all in the name  
of the Lord Jesus,  
*giving thanks*  
to God the Father  
through him.

Colossians 3:17



# GROWING IN THE WORD



CLAYTON BROWN  
WOMEN OF THE  
OLD TESTAMENT



**Faith Bible Study**, will meet on **Monday, November 20 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying chapter #6 "Jesus the Source of Power" in our book *Meeting Jesus*. Scripture will be Mark 9:2-32. Luella will be leader and Rhonda will serve as hostess. All are invited! Hope to see you there!

CLAYTON BROWN  
ESTHER  
A Biblical Study



**Patience Bible Study**, will meet on **Monday, November 20 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson 5, "The Heart of the Matter" in our book, *Esther*. Scripture for the lesson is Esther 5. Barb will lead and Lois will serve as hostess.



## 6:30pm Sunday Evening Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities beginning soon!

### **\*\*Message Discussion and Application Bible Study\*\***

\*Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar's home, \*FRC Fellowship Hall

### **\*\*Digging into God's Word: Daniel\*\***

\*Fireside Room

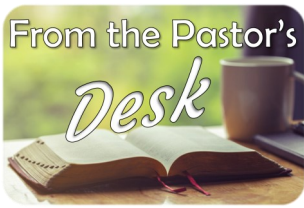
*All ages, singles and couples are invited to attend.*

*Childcare can be arranged. Come, join a group and let's grow together!*



## **Trivia Time!!**

1. Who got so hungry that she ate her own son?
2. What was Queen Esther's other name?
3. There is one place in the Bible where it talks about grease. Which book is it?
4. Where in the Bible does it command brides to shave their heads and manicure their nails?
5. According to Matthew, who were Joses, Simon, Judas and James?
6. Who killed a 7 1/2 foot tall Egyptian giant?
7. Where is the swimmer's breaststroke mentioned in the Bible?
8. 27,000 men were killed when a wall of a city fell on them. What was the city name?
9. What was the name of the man who killed a giant who had 12 fingers and 12 toes?
10. What Bible character burned his son alive as a sacrifice?



Since August, the Consistory has had three regular meetings and one special meeting to consider the path forward for First Reformed Church regarding a decision about our affiliation with the Reformed Church in America. We have been diligent in prayer for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our discussions and fact finding. It has been of utmost importance to seek God's will in determining our journey forward into God's emerging future.

As we have prayed and discussed different paths, a couple of things have become abundantly clear. First, there are no easy paths. Whether we leave or stay, we will experience loss. Possibly from members who disagree with a stay or go decision, most certainly from the RCA if we leave. This is not a simple decision. It is fraught with danger and implications at every turn. Will we be able to find a pastor in a new denomination? To what denomination do we move? The questions and the unknown are often overwhelming. Second, there is a spirit of division that is at work in our church that has been present for a long time that has caused disunity. It has manifested itself in the denominational discussion, but goes even deeper to our theology.

As your consistory has considered the denominational question, it became clear that as a congregation we are not ready to move to a different denomination because we may not even know what we believe about our own faith much less be able to say that we fit within another denomination as a unified body of believers.

At the August consistory meeting the Discernment team presented a list of 6 standards that they used to guide their discernment of the RCA and the other denominations to be considered. Those standards are:

1. Biblical teaching the inerrant word of God
2. Consistency in teaching and belief
3. Best teaching for the spiritual care of the people
4. Long term decision-100 years or more
5. Church government/polity to maintain biblical standards
6. Pastor/seminary education and standards

Your consistory has determined the path forward to be that we as a church need to know what we believe and be able to articulate our faith before we can decide any sort of denomination affiliation question. Their plan is to lead the church to unity around these 6 standards. Their charge to you as the church is that you take to heart and participate in the opportunities that will help build unity. Here is how we hope to do this over the coming months.

### **1. Biblical teaching the inerrant word of God**

This happens every week from our pulpit during our Sunday morning worship service. Not only does Pastor Troy preach the Word of God but all of our worship is connected to scripture through song, liturgy and the sacraments. We also have numerous opportunities for bible teaching in Sunday school and small groups throughout the week. Elders believe that these opportunities are beneficial and should be taken advantage of by our membership.

## 2. Consistency in teaching and belief

Currently, we are affiliated with the Reformed Church in America and our creeds and confessions unite us in our faith. Pastor Troy has led three different classes on the Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds. He has a 4-part sermon series planned on the Heidelberg Catechism and will offer classes on both the Belgic Confession and the Canons of Dort before the end of the year. These creeds and confessions are subject to the authority of scripture but give us a place to stand. As elders and deacons, we take vows to “be loyal to the witness and work of the Reformed Church in America.” Our standards (creeds and confessions) show us what that witness and work looks like.

## 3. Best teaching for the spiritual care of the people

Your board of elders is charged with your spiritual care. They have oversight of all members and they are charged with equipping everyone to live in harmony with God’s Word. They ensure that the word is rightly proclaimed and taught and that the sacraments are faithfully administered. The elders are fulfilling their role and they are encouraging you as members to take advantage of the opportunities. It is not up to them to make you care for your spiritual health. They equip you to do it.

## 4. Long term decision-100 years or more

It was important to the discernment teams, after talking with other churches and the processes that those churches went through to decide to leave, that any decision that we make be one that was long-term. Your consistory plans to abide by this as well. There is concern that some of the organizations and networks that have developed will not be around at some point in the future because they were not well thought out from the beginning.

## 5. Church government/polity to maintain biblical standards

Our church government needs to hold all churches accountable to the biblical standards that we hold too. Currently, East Sioux classis is where our accountability lies and the classis holds to the traditional view of marriage.

## 6. Pastor/seminary education and standards

It is important that our pastors be theological trained and that we maintain the theological standards for our pastors and our seminaries.

Together we will step into God’s emerging future for First, Sibley. Your consistory believes that together we can grow into the unified Body of Christ to which we are called and that there is hope for wonderful ministry as we journey together.



## **Honoring All Veterans on Veterans Day**

***We thank you for  
your service and  
sacrifices. We are  
forever grateful!***



Happy moments, **PRAISE GOD.**  
Difficult moments, **SEEK GOD.**  
Quiet moments, **WORSHIP GOD.**  
Painful moments, **TRUST GOD.**  
Every moment, **THANK GOD.**

-Rick Warren



## Praise and Worship Greeters

- 5: E: Robert and Janice Groen  
C: Lennis and Marvella Harberts/family  
W: Ed and Jan Harskamp
- 12: E: Bill and LaDonn Hartzell  
C: Dwayne and Janice Heikes  
W: Dan and Maureen Heilman/family
- 19: E: Burt and Jan Henrichs  
C: Derek and Ashley Heronimus/family  
W: Ken and Sandy Heronimus
- 22: ***Thanksgiving Eve Service (6:30pm)***  
E: Pam Kruger  
C: Arnie and Diane Langstraat  
W: Dave and Sandy Lamfers
- 26: E: Melissa Hisek/family  
C: Cole and Kayla Hoekstra  
W: Dale and Karen Honken



## Sunday School Nursery

- 5: Teresa Hurlburt & Peg Van Kley  
12: Megan Travaille & Megan Ackerman  
19: Sandy Heronimus & Sandy Lamfers  
26: Chelsey Alexander & Alexis Van Diepen

## Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 5: Ted and Eileen Schutte  
12: Ger and Barb Van Diepen  
19: Dave and Lesa Stofferan  
26: John and Lois Van Diepen

## Children & Worship during the service



- 5: Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper:
- 12: Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper:
- 19: Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper:
- 26: Leader: Deb Kusters  
Helper:

## Willing Hands Group

### Willing Hands Group #5

will be responsible for services during the month.

#### Co-chairpersons are:

- Dar/Dennis Jurgens
- Deb/Greg Kusters
- Shelia/Harold Van Der Sloot

## Library Volunteers



- 5: Kathy/Joel Verdoorn  
12: Ruth Wiersma  
19: Jeannette Juffer  
26: Gert Gaalswyk

# Sportsmen's Devotional

## Today's Photograph . . .

When Our Children Provide Spiritual Insight To Us, Do We Listen And Take Heed

## Bible Study Verse

Ecclesiastes 4:9

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.

## Thoughts

My son and I were sitting in our stand just before dark when we heard the shot ring out from a friend hunting nearby. I said, "Let's get going; she'll need help loading up her kill." We got there just as she was reaching her four-wheeler and went to help her load up. She had shot a nice feral hog. Once loaded, we went back to our vehicle and followed her into camp.

On the drive, my son said, "Do you know why she got that hog?" Having seen nothing to shoot for days, my thoughts ran to, "It was the only thing that stepped out under her feeder." Before I could make the flippant answer, my seven-year-old son quickly replied to his own question, "Because God blessed her."

That hit me hard. I was flooded with embarrassment over the shallowness of my own thoughts and pride over my young son's insight.

## Action Point

Ah, the wisdom of the child. As His disciples were trying to shoo away the children in Luke 18:15-17, Jesus said that the kingdom of God belongs to such as they--trusting, innocent, believing, dependent.

Dependent: dependent upon parents to provide food and shelter; dependent upon parents to provide guidance; dependent upon our Heavenly Father to provide our daily bread.

Are we dependent daily upon our Heavenly Father or our own self-sufficiency? Are we providing spiritual guidance for our children? When our children provide spiritual insight to us, do we listen and take heed?

## Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Always be ready for an opportunity to help another hunter load and butcher their game. You may learn a tip from their methods, or teach them one of yours. Someday, you may be in need of that extra hand yourself.



## **Trivia Time Answers!!!**

1. A woman of Samaria (2 Kings 6:25;29)
2. Hadassah (Esther 2:7)
3. Psalms (Psalm 119:70)
4. Deuteronomy (Deut. 21:11-12)
5. The brothers of Jesus (Matt 13:55)
6. Benaiah (1 Chron. 11:22-23)
7. Isaiah (Isaiah 25:11)
8. Aphek (1 Kings 20:30)
9. Jonathan, son of Shimeah (2 Sam. 21:20-21)
10. Ahaz (2 Kings 16:2-3)



## Shoeboxes are due on Wednesday, November 15

*\*\*You may bring back your  
completed boxes at any time.\*\**

**It's Operation Christmas Child SHOEBOX time again!!** This year our church was once again blessed with FREE BOXES to pack our shoebox gifts in. They will be available on the table in the narthex.

Please take one and start thinking about what you'd like to pack this year.

There are a few completed boxes on the table to give you some ideas.

**Visit our website: <https://www.sibleyfrc.org/missions/operation-christmas-child.cfm>  
for more information about shoeboxes.**

The shipping and handling cost for *each box* remains at \$9.

There are several ways you can pay this.

1. You may make out a check in the envelope attached to the **How to Pack a Shoebox** brochure (available on the narthex table) **and place them in the box provided on the table.**
2. You can use a self-sticking **FOLLOW YOUR BOX LABEL** (available on the narthex table) and follow the instructions to pay online.
3. You can go to: [samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box/](https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box/) to pay for your box(es) and print out labels that you can affix to your finished boxes.

## Marina in Egypt: One Among Many

In the slums of the coastal city of Alexandria, Marina, 11, attended an Operation Christmas Child outreach event where she received a gift-filled shoebox. Brimming with toys such as a stuffed clownfish, a puzzle, a pen, and a stuffed cat dressed in purple overalls, the gift from someone far away delighted her heart.

"The thing I liked most from the box was this cat called Bundle," Marina said. "I love it very much."

But Bundle was far from the most important gift she received that day. She also learned about God's free gift of salvation at the outreach event, and it prompted her to make a significant decision. "When I accepted Christ, it changed my whole life."

Marina went on to participate in follow-up discipleship lessons where she learned about how to follow her newfound Savior and share Him with others by studying 12 Bible stories including creation as well as Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. She said, "Each lesson, I actually learned something new about God."

Now seven years later, Marina teaches these same discipleship lessons to other shoebox recipients at her church. She does so because she desires others to have the same input in their lives as she received and called, "Wonderful!"

She also still keeps her shoebox gift intact with all the items inside it to remind her of God's great love for her. Marina said, "It's not easy to keep something for seven years, but because I like it, I did!"

In addition to opening her heart up to God, the shoebox gift taught Marina a significant lesson about giving.

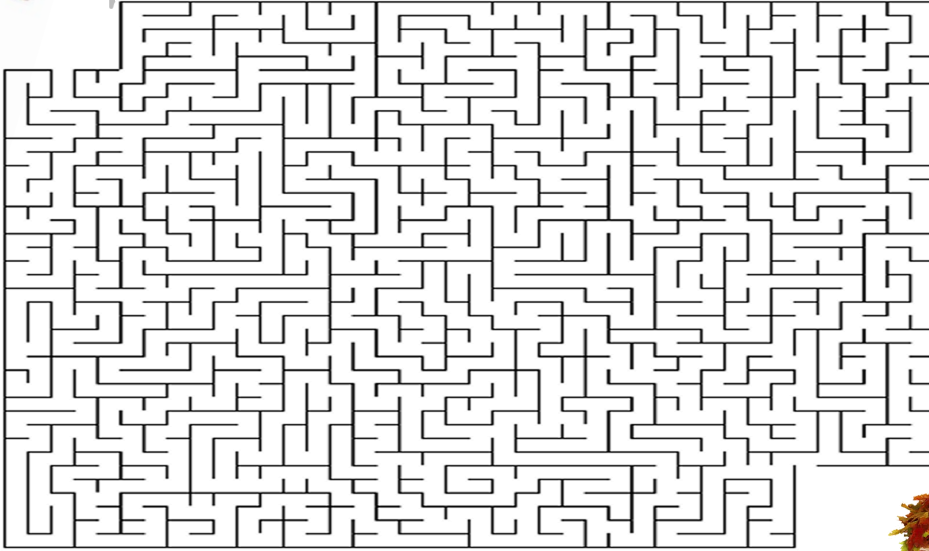
"I think the whole idea is that if I send something to someone, I don't have to appear," she said. "I don't have to be the one that gets the credit, but God can send me something from someone I don't know and it can change my life."

Marina is one of 200 million shoebox gift recipients and 50 million children disciplined, but millions more boys and girls around the world need to discover God's love for them, just as she did. God can use you to help change the lives children like her simply by packing a shoebox! **National Collection Week is coming Nov. 13-20, 2023** when more than 4,500 sites will be open across the country to receive your prayerfully packed gifts.





# Leaf Pile Maze



## Meeting Minutes

### Consistory Meeting Highlights October 9, 2023

- MMSA to all Diane Langstraat to use the kitchen/fellowship hall on Thanksgiving Day.
- MMSA to approve the 2024 Sibley FRC Budget for the congregational meeting
- MMSA to place Q&A books on the Heidelberg Catechism in church members mailboxes.

*Let us give thanks*

**Thanksgiving  
Eve Service**

**Wednesday, November 22 at 6:30 PM**  
**All Are Welcome**



PRAY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

1. Daphne Bremer; Dalten, Tayler

2. Randy Bremer

3. Marlys Brink

4. Pray for our College Students

5. Pray for our Church

6. Jerrad and Tracee Brouwer;  
Grant, Carter, Madison

7. Brayden and Alyssa Bruxvoort

8. Jamie and Jennifer Bruxvoort; Logan, Ella

9. Jane Buysman

10. Nate and Angie Buysman

11. Pray for our College Students

12. Pray for our Church

13. Dave and JoAnn Calsbeek

14. Margaret Calsbeek

15. Levi and Kira Christensen; Connor, Riley
16. Karla Crichton; Regan, Hadley

17. Jennifer Cuadros

18. Pray for our College Students

19. Pray for our Church

20. Dale and Marilynn DeBoer

21. Jaden DeBoer

22. Kalie DeBoer

23. Larry and Melissa DeBoer

24. Le Roy and Glenda DeBoer

25. Pray for our College Students

26. Pray for our Church

27. Mark and Angie DeBoer

28. Gary and Sandy De Vries

29. Stan and Abby De Zeeuw;  
Keegan, Aiden, Joselyn, Addison

30. Glenn Doorenbos

College Students:

Marissa Ackerman  
Halle Block  
Tayler Bremer  
Madison Brouwer  
Regan Crichton  
Keegan De Zeeuw  
Makya Dykstra  
Maverick Elser  
Jared Kruger  
Emma Langstraat  
Matthew McDougal  
Gannon Rockman

MacKenzie Beyer  
Kaden Maxwell  
Teddy Van Gelder

Carter Brouwer  
Andrea Leusink

Dalten Bremer  
Ashilyn Hulstein  
Natalie Klaassen

Grant Brouwer  
Ryan Van Marel

BE A  
*Prayer*  
WARRIOR

Rowland & Jan Van Es  
Grace Covenant Ministries

# PRAYER JOURNAL





# CONFESSIONS OF A HISTORY JUNKIE

I love travel because I love to go ‘see’ history. I like art, old buildings, statues, and old documents. A couple of weeks ago my sister and I headed to Great Britain (*primarily London and Edinburgh*) to take the trip we’ve been trying to take since 2020. It was a great adventure!

We visited museums, art galleries, castles, palaces, cathedrals and Buckingham Palace. I am always drawn to the people and ideas that contributed to the world we live in today.

For example, at Westminster Abbey we got to see one of the 11 existing copies of the Magna Carta. This document was signed by King John and was the first guarantee of religious freedom and protection of the people under the law. It is part of the foundation of our own government as well as that of Great Britain. *If you can’t get to London, the British lent the United States a copy and it is on display at the National Archives in Washington DC.*

I am a Reformation history junkie, and I had such a good time in Scotland! There were several places that were on my bucket list, including St. Giles Cathedral, Greyfriars Graveyard, John Knox’ home, and Holyrood Palace to name a few.

I expected to see most of what we saw, but there were some great surprises! At Knox’s home there was an original copy of Calvin’s Institutes from 1536, along with a Geneva study Bible from the early 1600s. I saw a 10th century copy of the Gospels—that is still in use. Old documents!

The Cathedral at St. Giles was incredible. John Knox, preached from that pulpit, and it is considered the home of Presbyterianism. What surprised me was the way that true Reformed Worship was on display in the sanctuary. Unlike the Church of England cathedrals, St. Giles did not use the altar area or the quire. Instead the church worships in the common area, with a pulpit, a communion table and baptismal font. No Roman influences—just worship the way that Knox and Calvin would have approved.

Also on display at St. Giles was a document that brought me to tears. They have the National Covenant of Scotland, which was signed by about 330,000 Scots in 1638. The Scots refused to bow to the changes that Charles I wanted to make in the church. Charles wanted a more Roman style of worship and church order, and expanded authority as king. Signing the covenant was not rebellion but an appeal to the law of the land (*the Magna Carta*) against the tyranny of the king. To sign it was to say that Jesus Christ was the only head of the church, and so it should be free from any control by the king or the government.

The result was the English Civil War (1542—1651). Many Scots died in Battle, or were martyred, in this war, and the other civil wars that followed. In the end, they helped to end the rule of the Stewart Kings over England and Scotland and established Presbyterianism in England, Europe and America. *Read a book called “Fair Sunshine” for short biographies of some of the martyrs.*



## SOLA SCRIPTURA AT WORK

So, why do all of these old words mean so much to me? As R.C. Sproul always taught, there are ***Consequences to Ideas***. He was right and this drives my desire to understand the ideas of those who have gone before us and have an influence on the world and the church today.

It may seem ridiculous or, at best, unnecessary to most people, but I have spent my adult life looking at how the ideas of the past influence our thinking and behavior today. It may not seem important, but when trying to understand why a politician holds a position that seems off base or a celebrity proposes something outrageous – I can probably tell you what led them to that position. It helps to understand so we can address the problems before us.

***However, nothing, and I mean nothing, has changed the world more than the Bible.*** The words God has given us have had a more significant influence, for the good, than any other words ever! Look at these examples of how God's people, in obedience to his Word, changed the world.

The Roman Empire was a wicked society. They allowed all forms of sexual impurity imaginable, they practiced infanticide, and they allowed widows and orphans to starve. The early Roman Christians not only taught against these sinful practices; they did something about them. They took care of widows, adopted orphans and children left by the road to die, fed the hungry, and they practiced their faith in public. They strengthened family life by practicing marriage between one man and one woman. As a result, by the end of the Roman empire at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, the Christian era had begun. For the next 1,500 years, Christian morality would rule Western civilization. *That era has ended.*

Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) wrote a theory of *Just War*. He taught (*among other points*) that warriors should only fight warriors – not women, children, and innocents. That was a new idea – and it has been part of our war theory in the modern world. We find it abhorrent what Hamas has done to women and children, but Hamas is not Christian and does not believe in Augustine's "just war" theory. They are only doing what all non-Christian Civilizations have done forever.

The Reformation built the modern world partly because Luther and Calvin taught that everyone should read the Bible – not just the clergy. You can't read the Bible if you can't read. So, the Scottish Presbyterians were the first to institute free public education to everyone about 400 years ago. As a result Scotland has been a leader in the development of many modern ideas and inventions, from capitalism (Adam Smith) to the telephone (Alexander Graham Bell). *Read more in "How the Scots Invented the Modern World" by Arthur L Herman.*

If God could do all of this through his people in the past, why not now? Do we really believe the Word is Gods' and we must obey scripture—even to death? Or, do we prefer to ignore the Bible by not reading or obeying it? God has proven over, and over, that he will bless those who call on His name. I believe He can work in America and the world in 2023, if we are faithful to Him. Do you? We must learn to live ***CORAM DEO...before the face of God.***



## ~~Birthday's~~

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1 Matthew McDougall  | 14 Paul Doorenbos<br>Karla Crichton                   | 24 Jen Schram<br>Braelyn Hurlburt   |
| 2 Melissa De Boer  |   |   |
| 3 Jennifer Bruxvoort<br>Lincoln McDyer   | 15 Bobby Baker  | 25 Carter Brouwer<br>Teddy Van Gelder                                     |
| 4 Rodney Hulstein  | 16 Dalten Bremer<br>Jaeger Ackerman                   | 26 Mitch Ackerman   |
| 5 Scott Hulstein<br>Jamie Hulstein<br>Hudson Feldkamp  | 17 Dwayne Heikes                                      | 27 Geneva Wissink<br>Junior Rasmussen<br>Alyssa Jacobsma<br>Kristen Beyer |
| 6 Parker Loerts  | 18 Derek Heronimus<br>Jenny Timmer<br>A.J. Weg        |   |
| 7 Wyatt Dykstra<br>Haley Klaassen  | 20 Marvella Harberts<br>Amy Dykstra<br>Amelia Heilman | 28 Carl Berkenpas<br>Dave Kleinwolterink                                  |
| 9 Bennett Hulstein   |   | 29 Kevin Heemstra   |
| 11 Dan Heilman<br>Kavan Beyer  | 21 Roger Iedema<br>Addysen Langstraat                 |   |
| 13 Jill Boeke<br>Julie Janssen<br>Anne Maxwell<br>Marlin Roelfs<br>Steve Van Kley<br>Tiffany Wynia | 22 Nathan Buysman                                     |   |
|  | 23 Maverick Elser<br>Kody Wills                       |   |

## ~~Anniversaries~~

- |                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| 3 Lawrence & Ruth Ann Wiersma | 45 yrs. |
| 3 Mitch & Angie Ackerman      | 16 yrs. |
| 5 Tony and Jamiey Bevers      | 1 yr.   |
| 6 Josh and Brittany Wagenaar  | 2 yr.   |
| 13 Merlyn & Julie Janssen     | 47 yrs. |
| 14 Charlie & Brenda Ackerman  | 31 yrs. |
| 17 Kevin & Nancy Soat         | 34 yrs. |
| 19 Scott & Marlys Dykstra     | 41 yrs. |
| 24 Dave & JoAnn Calsbeek      | 56 yrs. |
| 26 Harold & Mim Ernst         | 63 yrs. |





# Gobble Gobble!

Y A G A T H E R I N G W T H R  
S L B L E S S I N G S A N S E  
S S I E X Y A D I L O H N R L  
Y E E M D O C C A S I O N C A  
S I Q N A U V V R B I O H N T  
T R N M L F T E J T Z I O O I  
N O E O E U M I A O L Q U I V  
E M E G S I F R T D Y Z S N E  
R E U H N A O K R A X Q E U S  
A M O I L C E E N H R U H E L  
P M S H E E N S G A J G O R A  
E C R D R E N N I D H W L F E  
E Q Y R E B M E M E R T D E M

BLESSINGS	HOLIDAY
CHILDREN	HOME
DECORATIONS	HOUSEHOLD
DINNER	JOY
FAMILY	MEAL
GATHERING	MEMORIES
GRATITUDE	OCCASION

PARENTS  
RELATIVES  
REMEMBER  
REMINISCE  
REUNION  
SEASON  
THANKFULNESS

## Thanksgiving Bible Verses

- ♦ "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1)
- ♦ "I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High." (Psalm 7:17)
- ♦ "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- ♦ "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)
- ♦ "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." Colossians . 3:15"





## 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:

- November: All Classes as Scheduled

### Wednesday Bible Classes (1st-5th grades):

- November 8: No Class due to Congregational Meeting
- November 22: No Class due to Thanksgiving Eve Service

### MS and HS Remnant Youth Group:

- November 8: No YG due to Supper/Congregational Meeting
- November 15: Food Find Event (dress warm)
- November 22: No YG due to Thanksgiving Eve Service

## College Addresses

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### **Gannon Rockman**

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Sheldon, IA 51201

If your student will have a different address for the 2023-2024 school year please let the office know.

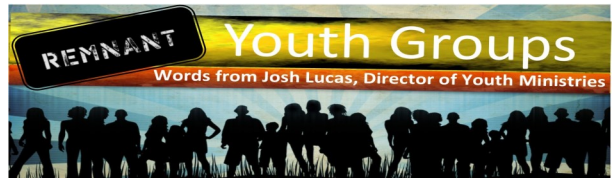
Hello First Reformed Church,

As we approach Thanksgiving in a few weeks there is always something that is brought up either at the table or during the family get-together. Everyone needs to share what they are thankful for. You end up hearing some either amazing things that people are thankful for, or you hear some hilarious things, there is even a couple of surprises thrown in there. Overall, we as human beings understand the need to be thankful.

Does this mean that we know how to show that? How do we show that we are thankful? Some of you might think that you do a pretty good job of it, or you probably feel like you do not have anything to be thankful for. I want to pose a simple challenge for all of us this Thanksgiving. Before I share the challenge let me give you some context about why I want to give this challenge. When I was living in California, I was attending community college. While I was there, I took a Psychology class, and my professor was amazing. She really taught me a lot of things about psychology, but also about how God plays a role in psychology as well. She was a faithful Christian and she attended one of the biggest mega churches in the city of Clovis. She would always invite our class to her events at her church, or she would use some of her pastor's points from his sermon in her lectures, it really was a great class. She came to class on the Friday we had just taken our quarter test during the semester, so she said, "We're going to wing it today." She asked all of us a simple question, "How many reasons do you have to be thankful?" The question took us back a little bit, I don't think any of us students have ever really been asked that before. We have been asked, "What are we thankful for" and things, but no one has ever asked us an amount. She continued to explain that her favorite worship song at the time was "Ten Thousand Reasons." She said that this song inspired her to do something that was a little crazy, but something that she said has changed her outlook on life, strengthened her faith, and has even brought her closer to God.

She told us that she is always keeping a notebook with her, and every time she sees or is reminded of a reason to be thankful to God for her life or anything of that nature, she was going to write it down. She gave us a challenge to come up with Ten Thousand Reasons to thank God. She told us that it made her more aware of the little things, and just how in control God really is. This is my challenge for you. When Thanksgiving comes, or you can start earlier, get a notebook or a notepad or something and write ten thousand reasons why you are thankful to God. It could be as small or big you want it to be but push yourself to find ten thousand reasons to be thankful to God for. Once you have completed it, read it back to yourself and see what God has done within your life. This will be something that I will start for myself, to be honest I never did it when my professor told me about it and I never really thought about it until recently. Let's all do this together! I believe that it is important for us to not just be thankful but to be intentional about the things that we are thankful for. Furthermore, we need to be ultimately grateful to the one who gave us all these things, God. If you have questions, comments, concerns, or complaints about this idea please come and see me, I would love to talk to you about it. Thank you for reading my article and if you ever need a hug this teddy bear has one just for you.

Blessings,  
Josh Lucas

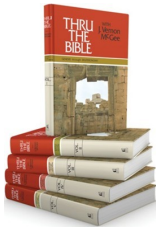


### **Dad Jokes With Josh:**

At the age of 65 my grandma started walking 10 miles a day,  
she's 92 now and we have no idea where she is.



## From the library-



"McGee says..." are two words the Faith Bible Study members heard frequently from Phyllis

Vander Linden. Whether she was leading or taking part as an attendee, Phyllis would often refer to the author of a biblical commentary she owned to help her in her studies. **THRU THE BIBLE with J. Vernon McGee** is a set of five books which take you on an informal study supplemented by personal observations and experiences. There is a careful chapter-by-chapter study and Dr. McGee discusses the most significant verses in each and shows how God's Word speaks to life today. The set consists of Volume I--Genesis-Deuteronomy, Volume II--Joshua-Psalms, Volume III--Proverbs-Malachi, Volume IV--Matthew-Romans and Volume V--I Corinthians-Revelation. The church library is now in possession of the set thanks to Paul Vander Linden's generosity. The books are on a west shelf and ready to be checked out. If you have a particular passage of scripture that is puzzling you, you can read Dr. McGee's interpretation. Or when you are preparing to lead a Bible study group, why not check out the volume pertaining to your study and you also can say: "McGee says..."



A new fiction, LARGE PRINT, book added to the library is **REMEMBER ME, book #1 in a new Tracie Peterson series "Pictures of the Heart."** "Addie Bryant is haunted by her past of heartbreak and betrayal. After her beau, Isaac Hanson, left the Yukon, she made a vow to wait for him. When she's sold to a brothel owner after the death of her father, Addie manages to escape with the hope that she can forever hide her past and the belief that she will never have the future she's always dreamed of. Years later, Addie has found peace in her new life as a photographer, training Camera Girls to operate and sell the Brownie Cameras. During the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Expo in Seattle, Addie is reunited with Isaac, but after the path her life has taken, she's afraid to expose the ugliness of her former life and to move toward the future they had pledged to each other. When her past catches up with her, Addie must decide whether to run or to stay and face her wounds in order to embrace her life, her future, and her hope in God."



Another new fiction book is **COUNTDOWN, book #4 in "Extreme Measures" series by Lynette Eason.** "Flight paramedic Raina Price has been running so long it's hard to stop. To escape a dangerous stalker, she changed her name and disappeared, building a new life with the help of a friend from her time in juvie. It feels good to put her energies into saving people's lives, but because her stalker was never found she's never stopped looking over her shoulder. U.S. Marshal Vincent Covelli's job is to hunt down fugitives and protect those who are assigned to him. When Raina is almost killed right in front of him, he vows to protect her at all costs—whether it's his job or not. Together they work to solve the mystery of Raina's past. But someone is out to make sure Raina doesn't live long enough to succeed."

There is a book waiting to be checked out by you, visit the library soon.

~Jeannette Juffer



## Sampson has an amazing story.

I first met Sampson during a translation workshop in Nigeria, some years ago. The room was filled with translators from different teams and different languages who were all working on a project to get the Bible translated into their

language. Sampson was very quiet and sat in the back. However, I noticed when it got quite warm (actually hot) he would get up and adjust the fans around the room. Then, when some translators would struggle with how to do something on their computer, Sampson would get up, lean over, and offer to help. He did that on his own. He kept surprising me.

At the end of the event, I told the Bible Society that this young man was showing great potential. Sampson was not only able to do the complicated and technical work in Bible translation, he was very aware of others' needs and able to help. I recommended that he be given an opportunity for advanced training.

### A year later that happened

In that training event, Sampson and I were with translation supporters for the entire African continent. Again, like in Nigeria, Sampson was likely the youngest and least experienced person in the room. Instead of being with co-translators from his area and his own country, he was one of over fifty supporters and consultants from dozens of different countries. He interacted and engaged completely. I asked him to do a presentation to the entire group and he took it on and did very well. It was a bit of a test to see if he could rise to the challenge. He did so with "flying colors."



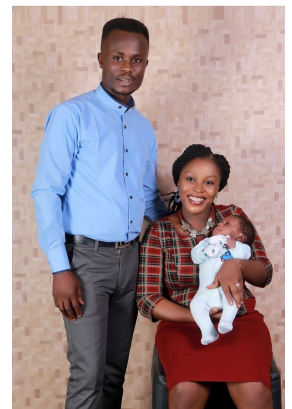
These past three or four years I have spent more time (via Zoom) with Sampson than any other person involved in Bible translation. Nigeria has hundreds of languages and a lot of work to do. I believe the investment of time has and will continue to bear fruit. Sampson is now married. He and Blessing have a son named, Excellent. He has committed to serving others not only in Nigeria but around the world. .

### His amazing story began earlier.

In school, Sampson studied to become a science teacher. After graduating from university, he got a job in a local high school and taught for two years. During the second year, his uncle told him about the need for a Bible translator in their language, Epie. Bible translation into Epie had never been done. Not one verse of Scripture was in their language. Even though Sampson was a Christian, he was surprised that his uncle would suggest he apply for the job of being a Bible translator. He was a teacher. In addition to that, even though Sampson had spoken Epie since childhood, he could neither read nor write his language. Needless to say, respecting his uncle's advice, Sampson applied for the job.

### He was hired.

Not only did Sampson learn how to read and write Epie, but as the translation progressed he became the language and technology expert on the team. Their New Testament was published recently and they are well on their way to finishing the entire Bible. Praise God.







The Middle School  
Remnant Youth will  
be selling  
Papa Murphy's Take  
and Bake Pizzas!!

*These make tasty, fast meals when tied  
for time or when unexpected company  
arrives. These pizzas also freeze well!*

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To place your order, either talk to a  
Middle School Student or fill out one of  
the slips on the Information Center.

Orders will be taken from

November 1-22.

Pizza pick up will be on

December 6 @ 7:30.

Thanks in advance of your support of  
the MS Remnant Youth!!



## Annual Remnant Youth Food Find

When: November 15  
from 6:30-8:30pm

All Non-Perishable foods needed.

### NO FROZEN ITEMS!!!!

Please turn on your porch light if you  
want a student to stop.

Donations can also be dropped off at  
church Monday-Wednesday after-  
noon.

**November 8, at 6:00pm**

*Spaghetti  
Supper*



**November 8, at 7:00pm**  
*congregational*  
**MEETING**

Happy Thanksgiving  
to our loved ones  
who are in Heaven.

We will always love  
and miss you...

*Until we meet again.*

all-greatquotes.com

