



The Newsletter

December 2023

*Glorify God in all we do,
Grow with Him daily &
Go with Him to share His love.*



**Operation
Christmas
Child**

Way To Go First Reformed!!

Thanks to your generosity,
we were able to pack
119 shoeboxes this year!!
Thank you for making 119 children's
Christmases extra special!



December at a Glance

1. **2:15pm:** FRC helps with BINGO at CVM Fridays in December
- 2: Nativity Set Displays here at FRC
- 6: **7:30pm** Papa Murphy Pizza Pick Up
- 10: **5:00pm** Children's Christmas Program
 - Sharing Christmas Family gifts are due at the church
- 11: **6:00 pm** Elder & Deacon Meetings (New 2024 Elders/Deacons are invited to attend all meetings)
- **6:30 pm** Consistory Supper followed by Full Consistory Meeting
- **7:00 pm** Full Consistory will meet
- 13: **7:00pm** Remnant Evangelism Night
- 18: Faith Bible Study (please watch your bulletins for an update)
- **3:00pm:** Patience Bible Study
- 20: FRC Christmas Caroling
- 24: **No Sunday School**
- **5:00pm** Christmas Eve Service
- 28: **No Bible Classes/Youth Group/Choir**
- 31: **No Sunday School**

***Sundays:**

- **9:00 am** Praise and Worship Service
- **10:10 am** Sunday School 4yrs - Adult Coffee Fellowship Time
- **6:30 pm** Fellowship Bible Studies

***Tuesdays:**

- **8:30 am** Quilting Chicks will meet

***Wednesday Evenings:**

- **6:30 pm** Bible Classes 1st-5th grades
- **6:30 pm** MS Remnant Youth Group
- **7:30 pm** HS Remnant Youth Group

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



View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org



Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through November 20:

- **General Fund: \$304,881.36**
Budget: \$315,827.88; 96% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$39,099.47**
Budget: \$70,626.12; 55% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$2005**

Special Offering for December



Faith In Action for December: Sharing Christmas Families



Gifts need to be brought to Church by:

December 10

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
December 10.



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!

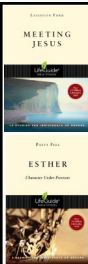


Meeting
Minutes

Consistory Meeting Highlights November 13, 2022

- MMSA transfer request from Rachel Wills to move her membership to FRC Sheldon.
- MMSA request from Joel and Kathy Verdoorn to use the church on Sunday, November 26th and Saturday, December 23.
- MMSA suggested communion dates for 2024
- MMSA to extend Pastor Troy's contract for 3 months, ending on March 31st.





Faith Bible Study, will be meeting for their Christmas Salad Luncheon in December. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for time and location to be announced.

Patience Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, December 18 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson 6, "Recognizing Unrighteousness" in our book, *Esther*. Scripture for the lesson is Esther 6. Barb will lead. Please bring a Christmas Treat to share with the group.



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!







December Celebrations

~~Birthday's~~

- 1 Marlys Dykstra
- 2 Trudy Dykstra
Brent Wassman
Michael Block Jr.
- 3 Jamiey Bevers
Witten Julius
- 4 Kaden Maxwell
- 6 Marcia Van Ruler
Reka Post
- 8 Amelia Hoekstra
- 9 Laurel Klaassen
- 10 Davis Beyer
Brysen Alexander

- 11 Clint Henrichs
Zoe Ackerman
- 13 Meggan Block
- 14 Gracie Odens
- 15 Ella Bruxvoort
- 16 Easton Beyer
- 17 Merlin Doorenbos
Chrissy Ackerman
Brynna Loerts
- 19 Curt Van Kley
Sarah Loerts
- 20 JoAnn Calsbeek
Jodene Kruse

- 21 Mike Hustoft
Dave Stofferan
Alfreda Verdoorn
- 22 Gert Gaalswyk
Melissa Hisek
- 24 Glenn Doorenbos
- 29 Ryan Van Marel
- 31 Deb Hulstein



I have found
THE ONE
Whom my soul Loves
SONG OF SOLOMON 3:4

~~Anniversaries~~

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 18 Mike and Andrea Block | 31 years |
| 19 Elesson and Kelsey Joseph | 8 years |

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 3: E: Loren and Deb Hulstein
C: Mark and Rosie Hulstein
W: Michael and Chelsea Hulstein/family
- 10: E: Rodney Hulstein
C: Scott and Jamie Hulstein/family
W: Mike and Mary Hustoft
- 17: E: Merlyn and Julie Janssen
C: Jeannette Juffer
W: John and Jan Juffer
- 24: E: Alan and Lacey Julius/family
C: Dennis and Dar Jurgens
W: Joanne Klaassen
- 24: Christmas Eve (6:00pm)
E: Jodene Kruse
C: Mark and Melissa Langstraat/family
W: Brad and Sarah Loerts/family
- 31: E: Kevin and Laurel Klaassen
C: Dr. Greg and Deb Kusters
W: Mitch and Abby Kreykes/family



9:00am Worship Nursery

- 3: Anne Maxwell & Ruth Wiersma
10: Kira Christensen & Kathy Verdoorn
17: Teresa Hurlburt & Peg Van Kley
24: No Sunday School
31: No Sunday School

Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 3: Jan Henrichs
10: Jamie Hulstein
17: Jan Juffer
24: Jeannette Juffer
31: Leona Meendering

Children & Worship during the service



- 3: Leader: Karen Honken
Helper:
- 10: Leader: Jamie Hulstein
Helper:
- 17: Leader: Karen Honken
Helper:
- 24: No Children and Worship
31: No Children and Worship

Willing Hands Group

Willing Hands Group #6

will be responsible for services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Peg/Curt Van Kley
- Rhonda/Larry Riebeling

Library Volunteers



- 3: Jim and Pauline Van Engen
10: Curt and Peg Van Kley
17: Duane and Pam Vande Hoef
24: Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar
31: Lawrence and Ruth Wiersma

Sportsmen's Devotional

Today's Photograph...

Like The Lone Tree Brand We Are Also Branded. " I Have Indelibly Imprinted (Tattooed A Picture Of) You On The Palm Of Each Of My hands"



Bible Study Verse

II Corinthians 1:20-22

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through Him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (NIV)

Thoughts

In Wyoming we still brand our horses to prove ownership. I was able to retrieve a stolen horse 300 miles from home just because he bore my brand.

If I value them, I brand them. If I'm traveling out of state, it's easy to prove ownership at the borders. Even if they get lost in the wilderness, a game warden or forest service personnel is likely to come across them and I'll get them back.

Action Point

I Peter 2:24 reminds us, "Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed," (NCKJV). Our brand pictured above is called the "Lone Tree" brand, the cross on the hill. Isaiah 49:16 says, "Behold, I have indelibly imprinted (tattooed a picture of) you on the palm of each of My hands; [O Zion] your walls are continually before Me," (Amplified). That makes for a pretty iron clad relationship. I'm branded His and He's branded mine.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

If you're an "outlaw" you won't like this idea cause it will reveal you. But, we all fill out the luggage stickers at the airport to get our lost luggage back. Something a lot more convenient than three sentences of address information is to brand your valuables. I've branded a wood pistol, knife grips, leather saddle bags, and scabbards. When the grand kids inherit the stuff, they'll know it was Grandpa's.





THE CRADLE AND THE CROSS

It's Christmas season again, and you may be asking yourselves, "Where did the year go?" We are entering the season of Advent, preparing to celebrate (*again*) the coming of our Redeemer, and life is becoming busy, busy, busy!

It is a busy season, and nobody needs to tell you how manic the holiday can become. We know we have to stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas, and we know how difficult that can be.

I'm not really into many of the holiday decorating themes, but I do love my nativity sets. I have one from Bethlehem, one purchased in Taiwan when I was 14 years old, and many others. One thing I always do is add a cross to my nativity—to remind me that Jesus came to earth to die for the sins of his people.

As we dig deeply into what Jesus did, we see that he died to save us from the penalty of sin and from the power and reality of our own sinfulness. We impute our sin to him, and he imputes his righteousness to us.

All my life, I have loved the Christmas hymns, and sadly, we can't sing them more often. My mom usually tried to have a *Christmas in July* service so that we could enjoy the carols during the hot summers in the South. With that in mind, I find myself keeping focused throughout the day by singing Christmas hymns.

Right now, I have a hymn by Charles Wesley running through my mind. In 1744, he wrote the hymn "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus". In this hymn, he has captured the truth of the cradle by reminding us of the cross.

Real peace is not political; it is peace with God. That peace is only possible when we are set from our sin and when we rest in Christ alone. This is what God's people should long for, and when he comes again, we will see the end to all suffering and sorrow.

Until he returns, we hope and we pray, and we live in the confidence that we are at peace with God. Merry Christmas to you, and yours!



First Reformed Church will be hosting nativity set displays during the Sibley Tour of Homes, on Saturday, December 2. As

you unpack your holiday décor, please consider lending your set for display that Saturday. A card, with the owner's name will be displayed, along with a short description of the set, if the owner wishes. Please contact Diane Langstraat, if interested.

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

— Charles Wesley

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE STORY?

Can you answer these questions correctly? The answers are below.

1. Who told Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?
2. True or False: Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus because they were following a star.
3. What form of transportation did Mary and Joseph use to get to Bethlehem?
4. Which Old Testament prophet had the most to say about the birth of Christ?
5. In the accounts announcing the birth of Christ (Matthew 1 and Luke 1 and 2) how many times did an angel or angels appear?
6. Who told Joseph the baby's name was to be Jesus?
7. What are the meanings of the names Jesus and Emmanuel?
8. The shepherds and the wise men went to see Jesus. Which group followed a star and which group went to find the baby because an angel told them where to look?
9. What did the angels sing to the shepherds?
10. When the shepherds went looking for Jesus, what was the sign they were to look for?
11. How many wise men or kings or magi came to see Jesus?
12. Matthew 2:8 says that Herod asked the wise men to inform him where the baby Jesus was. Why does this verse say he wanted to know?
13. How old was Jesus when the wise men found him?
14. What are the three gifts which are mentioned being given by the wise men?
15. Which king ordered all the young children be killed?
16. What animals does the Bible say were present at the birth of Jesus?

.....
Answers (1) Caesar Augustus. He ordered the people to go back to the city of their forefathers. Joseph's family was from Bethlehem. Luke 2:1. **(2)** False. As in the previous answer, they went not because an angel told them or because a star led them. They were obedient to the established governmental authority. **(3)** The Bible does not say how they went from Galilee to Bethlehem. It was an 80 mile trip for them. It is likely that they rode some type of animal, but the Bible gives no details. **(4)** The book of Isaiah has much to say about the birth of the Savior. **(5)** At least 3 angelic announcements for the birth of Christ and 1 for the birth of John. For Christ an angel appeared before Mary and Joseph individually and a multitude of angels spoke to the shepherds. For John's birth announcement in Luke 1 Gabriel appeared before John's father to announce the birth of John the Baptist. Matthew 1:20-24; Luke 1:11-20; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:9-15. **(6)** An angel in Matthew 1:21. **(7)** Jesus means Savior and Emmanuel means God with us. Jesus is the same name as the Old Testament name Joshua which also means Savior. Matthew 1:21, 23. **(8)** The shepherds followed the instructions of the angels in Luke 2:9-15. The wise men followed the star to find the place where Jesus was. Matthew 2:1, 2. **(9)** Technically angels are never said to "sing" in the Bible. Each time they appear they only speak. However, to answer the question, the angels praised God with these words: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14. **(10)** A baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Luke 2:12. **(11)** The Bible does not say how many wise men there were. Tradition says there were three because of the three gifts. **(12)** So that he could worship the child. But we know that his intentions were far from worship. Matthew 2:11-18. **(13)** It is certain that Jesus was somewhere between a month old and a couple of years old. The wise men saw His star at his birth and began following it. If the journey was 500 miles from Persia and Mesopotamia (around modern day Iraq) then it would have taken at least a month. By the time they arrived Jesus and His family had moved into a house. Later in the story Herod ordered all the children aged 2 years and younger to be killed. Therefore, Jesus was at least a month old and not yet 2 years old. Matthew 2:9-18. **(14)** Gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:11. **(15)** This was Herod. He ordered all the children in Bethlehem and the outlying areas who were 2 years old and younger to be killed. However, Jesus and His family had already moved to Egypt (Matthew 2:13). **(16)** In the New Testament accounts of Christ's birth there is no mention of any animals. However, Isaiah 1:3 could be a prophecy talking about at least a donkey seeing the crib of his Master (God). It could allude to the fact that an ox was there too. If a bunch of shepherds were there, one would assume sheep would have been present. But there is no definite list of animals mentioned in the Bible.



PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Kelsey Doorenbos | 16. Pray for our Church |
| 2. Pray for our College Students | 17. Jon and Amy Elser; Mariah, Maverick |
| 3. Pray for our Church | 18. Anita Ernst |
| 4. Merlin and Karen Doorenbos | 19. Mim Ernst |
| 5. Paul Doorenbos | 20. Paul Feldkamp |
| 6. Cory and Amy Dykstra; Wyatt, Cole | 21. Gert Gaalswyk |
| 7. LaVon Dykstra | 22. Russel Gaalswyk; Alexis |
| 8. Mark and Tanya Dykstra; Tanner, Makya | 23. Pray for our College Students |
| 9. Pray for our College Students | 24. Pray for our Church |
| 10. Pray for our Church | 25. Gene and Renae Groen |
| 11. Pray for our Ron and Nancy Dykstra | 26. Bob and Janice Groen |
| 12. Scott and Marlys Dykstra | 27. Clark Haken |
| 13. Trudy Dykstra | 28. Lennis and Marvella Harberts;
Uchan, Apiyo, Ahbea, Aysha |
| 14. Luella Eggink | 29. Ed and Jan Harskamp |
| 15. Pray for our College Students | 30. Pray for our College Students |
| | 31. Pray for our Church |

College Students:			
Marissa Ackerman	MacKenzie Beyer	Carter Brouwer	Dalten Bremer
Halle Block	Kaden Maxwell	Andrea Leusink	Ashilyn Hulstein
Tayler Bremer	Teddy Van Gelder		Natalie Klaassen
Madison Brouwer			
Regan Crichton			
Keegan De Zeeuw			
Makya Dykstra			
Maverick Elser			Grant Brouwer
Jared Kruger			Ryan Van Marel
Emma Langstraat			
Matthew McDougal			
Gannon Rockman			

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR
Luke 21:36

Luke 21:36

Our Missionaries

Dr. Bernadeth Kelly &
Adrian Bobb
Sayuri Kist—Okazaki
Brian & Donna Renes
J.J. & Tim TenClay
Rowland & Jan Van Es
Grace Covenant Ministries

Helen Vander Veen

[illegible]



Our Church has adopted 3 larger families for the Christmas Season. Families are posted in the Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to check which items you would be willing to provide for these families in need.

All items will need to be wrapped, tagged with Family number and recipient (ex. Child age 1) and dropped off at church no later than December 10th.

Thank you in advance for your generosity! Lets make these families' Christmas celebrations just a little extra special this year.

Family #9

Adult Female: 2XL Sweatshirt/Tops
Gas Cards/Grocery Cards

Boy age 16: Size Medium Sweatshirt,
Cologne, Hey Dude Shoes size 11,
Walmart Gift Card

Girl age 11: Size Medium shirts, books, Body
Spray/Lotion, My Life Dolls and
Accessories

Boy age 5: Size 5T/6T Warm shirts, socks,
Super Hero Toys, Mind Craft Toys

Family #8

Adult Male: 1XL Sweaters, Warm Gloves,
Warm Hat, Socks, Tools,
Gas/Grocery Cards

Adult Female: Large Sweats,
Body Spray/Lotion, Bath Towels,
Kitchenware, Gas Cards/Grocery Cards

Girl age 9: Bluetooth headphones, Coloring
books, Dolls, Size Large Hoodie

Girl age 6: Size small/6x clothing,
Bluetooth headphones, Barbies/Dolls,
Blanket

Boy age 2: size 3T Winter Coat, Board
Books, Toys of any kind,
3T Clothes of any kind

Family #15

Adult Male: Size 18 Shoes, 2XL Hooded
Sweatshirt, Gas/Grocery Cards

Adult Female: XL Hooded Sweatshirt,
Size 10 Shoes, Body Spray/lotion,
Gas Card, Grocery Cards

Girl age 9: Size 8/10 Clothing, Horses/
Ponies, Books

Girl age 8: Size 8/10 Clothing, Baby Dolls,
Coloring Books

Boy age 6: Size 7/8 Clothing, Cars, Trucks,
Race Track Mat

Boy age 4: Size 7/8 Clothing, Dinosaurs,
Animal Books, Farm Books



The Gift

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years or so. It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it. The frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry, and the dusting powder for Grandma—the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else. Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended and shortly before Christmas there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church, mostly black.

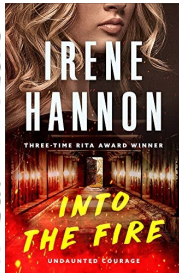
These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only things holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of sweet pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly. "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids—all kids—and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in the succeeding years.

For each Christmas, I followed the tradition. One year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their Dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their Dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation watching as their fathers take down the envelope. Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us. May we all remember the Christmas spirit this year and always.

From the library--



The first book this month is written by Irene Hannon, she has started a new series, "Undaunted Courage" and the book is INTO THE FIRE. "As a former smokejumper, arson investigator Bri Tucker knows her way around fires. But after a mysterious blaze takes the life of a former colleague, Bri inherits a curious puzzle from him that raises questions about several fiery deaths. Someone, however, doesn't want her picking up where he left off in search of answers. When she teams up with ATF Special Agent Marc Davis to solve the puzzle, the case heats up—as does the attraction between them. Sparks fly as the danger escalates, but will they manage to track down the person behind the mysterious deaths before their budding romance—and maybe even their lives—go up in flames?"



Mary Connealy wrote the next book and it, too, is book number 1 of a series: "Wyoming Sunrise." In FORGED IN LOVE "Mariah Stover is left for dead and with no memory when the Deadeye Gang robs the stagecoach she's riding in, killing both her father and brother. As she takes over her father's blacksmith shop and tried to move forward she soon finds herself in jeopardy and wondering—does someone know she witnessed the robbery and is still alive? Handsome and polished Clint Roberts escaped to western Wyoming leaving his painful memories behind. Hoping for a fresh start, he opens a diner where he creates fine dishes, but is met with harsh resistance from the townsfolk, who prefer to stick with their old ways. Clint and Mariah are drawn together by the trials they face in town and Clint is determined to protect Mariah at all costs when danger descends upon her home. As threats pursue them from every side, will they survive to build a life forged in love?"



"Walnut Creek" book #3 by Shelley Shepard Gray, THE PROTECTIVE ONE is the last book this month. "The tragic and untimely death of an old friend has made Elizabeth Anne rethink not only her priorities but also her courtship with David, her longtime neighbor and suitor. Though he is Mennonite like herself and has her parents' approval, she feels that a spark is missing. Desperate for a change, she breaks things off—wondering if perhaps, she's the one who's missing a spark. When her family becomes upset with her decision, E.A. turns to her friends for support, namely Will, a man with a good heart who has always been there for her. As the two bond over their shared struggle to navigate a future everyone else seems to have figured out they are surprised to realize that they have feelings for each other. But E.A.'s world makes a sudden turn when she realizes she's not the only one struggling; Marta, one of her sewing students, is in a desperate need of protection. With the aid of Will and several other friends, Elizabeth Anne begins a journey that is more difficult and rewarding than she would have ever imagined...one that ultimately enables her to find everything she's been searching for.

Make plans to visit the library the next time you are in church!!

Jeannette Juffer

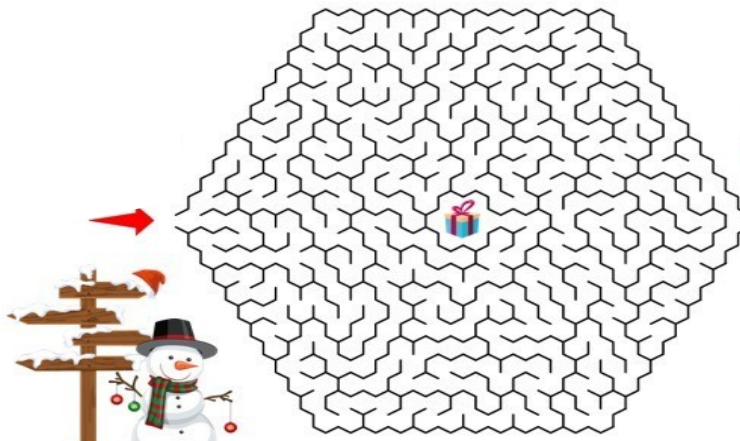
ISPY Christmas



2 4 4 2 4 5 7 4 6 5
 1 6 7 1 3 6 7 4 7 4
 3 2 4 6 2 7 3 9 6 3

Christmas Word Scramble

- . Groceos _____
- . Naclorig _____
- . Rats _____
- . Scunttshe _____
- . Porduhl _____
- . Naast _____
- . Skagceap _____
- . Dressephh _____
- . Gramen _____
- . Galen _____
- . Limesotte _____
- . Vaniyitt _____
- . Gotscink _____
- . Virasou _____
- . Traweh _____
- . Gisehl _____
- . Wamsonn _____
- . Ejuss _____
- . Stranneom _____
- . Scamsthir _____





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 yrs - Adult:

- December 24: No Class due to Christmas Break
- December 31: No Class due to Christmas Break

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

- December 27: No Class due to Christmas Break
- January 3: No Class due to Christmas Break

MS and HS Remnant Youth Group:

- December 27: No Class due to Christmas Break
- January 3: No Class due to Christmas Break

College Addresses

Ryan Van Marel

804 Medary Ave. South
Brookings, SD 57006

Ashilyn Hulstein

718 9th Ave
Brookings, SD 56007

Dalton Bremer

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

Andrea Leusink

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

Carter Brouwer

707 11th Street
Apt. #313
Brookings, SD 57007

MacKenzie Beyer

610 W. 4th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Ted Van Gelder

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

Kaden Maxwell

104 S. Harmon Drive
Mitchell, SD 57301

Grant Brouwer

1235 SE University Ave
Apt. #205
Waukee, IA 50263

Marissa Ackerman

Binnewies Hall 326
Box 2810
SDSU
Brookings, SD 57007

Halle Block

204 Beach Road
Room #201
Ames, IA 50013-0025

Taylor Bremer

SDSU
Young Hall 273
Box 2807
Brookings, SD 57007

Madison Brouwer

901 Rose Street
Apt. #307
Vermillion, SD 57069

Regan Crichton

Iowa Lakes CC
Estherville, IA

Keegan De Zeeuw

812 University Street
Box #173
Pella, IA 50219

Makya Dykstra

1020 West Norway
Apt. 206
Mitchell, SD 57301

Maverick Elser

3455 Holdrege Street
Lincoln, NE 68503

Jared Kruger

410 Campus Drive
Appt. 4
Calmar, IA 52132

Emma Langstraat

Young Hall 273
SDSU
Box 2807
Brookings, SD 57007

Matthew McDougall

Room #206
IA Lakes Comm. College
3200 College Drive
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

Gannon Rockman

3099c Nest Ave.
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,

Please make sure to read this entire newsletter article to find out more details about the newest ministry opportunity that the Outreach team wants to start, Babies Blessings. First, the name is one that is very important to this ministry. You'll notice that there are two possible meanings to this name, and we did that on purpose. We are wanting to bless babies and their mothers. Also, we want to revolve around the phrase, "All babies are a blessing." No matter the circumstance we recognize that ALL babies are a blessing, not just in life, but from God. What is "Babies Blessings"? The vision for this ministry is to have it be somewhat like the food pantry here in town. We not only want to love on the new mothers in our own church, but we also want to bless the mothers in our community. How this will work is we will have a table of giving for people to donate baby items: diapers, pacifiers, bibs, neutral onesies, etc. We store it somewhere in our church building and mothers can come make an appointment and take what they need for their baby. We are still in the early stages of this ministry. We do not know the potential of this ministry, but we see a need and we want to do something to fill that need.



Why "Babies Blessings"? That is a great question. Originally the idea came from one of our members on Outreach who said that they have a family member who attends another church and they do something like this for the new mothers in their church. We started having discussion and it ended up with this concept. Second, if we truly say that we love babies then this is one of the ways that we can show that we love babies. Furthermore, we talked about the cost of having a child is a scary thought and with new babies there is very little room to need to worry about diapers, formula, things like that. We also recognize the horrors of abortion and we want to do what we can to make sure that money is not a reason to murder a child. What if the baby is the result from a sinful action? For example, sexual immorality, sex before marriage. That is a good question, well refer back to the reason for the name, babies are a blessing. The method of how they came about is not a factor in our minds. The baby is an innocent child who did nothing wrong and does not deserve to be punished for any sin of their parents. We would like to talk with the parents if they are caught in sexual immorality and try to help them through that, but it is not our place to condemn anyone for their sins. Hence why we want to bless the parents and the baby. In fact, we will not even ask about the situation, and even if we did it would not matter.

Finally, "what can I do to help"? Well, thanks for asking that important question! First, since this is in the startup phase, we could use a couple of people who would like to work with this ministry, not to run it, but to help work it. We need people to be available to come and help parents pick stuff out and to make sure they do not abuse this ministry. We also need willing people to help us kickstart the ministry with some fresh ideas on how to get it started and to keep it running. Also, be ready to donate items in a month's notice. There may come a time where a mother comes with a request and we will call upon you to help with that need. These are some of the ways that you can help start growing this very important ministry. If you have any other questions about Babies Blessings or if you want to get started with helping with this, please reach out to me and I will be happy to sit down with you and discuss. Thank you for your time and if you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has one for you.

Blessings,
Josh

Dad Jokes With Josh:

I read somewhere that by law you have to turn on your headlights when it's raining in Sweden..... How in the world am I supposed to know when it's raining in Sweden?!



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Today we are ending a five-part series of stories highlighting how the people of God showed up in bold and beautiful ways to care for refugees and displaced people this summer... so

much so that I'm calling this the Summer of Yes!

On May 14, 2023, Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Mocha directly hit Sittwe, Myanmar, which is home to more than 100,000 Rohingya—a group of people the United Nations has called “the most persecuted minority group in the world.” More than 100 Rohingya died in Sittwe. The cyclone also caused massive destruction in the Cox's Bazar area of Bangladesh, home of the largest refugee camp in the world, where almost 1 million Rohingya refugees live in forced displacement.

This was—yet again—another example of how the majority of refugees and displaced people are not safe after fleeing their homes, and continue to live in areas of the world affected by repeated natural disasters, violent conflict, political or economic instability, and other factors that threaten their lives and liberties.

With the generous partnership of so many of you, RCA Global Mission raised \$65,000 to support eight schools for Rohingya children (2 in Myanmar and 6 in Bangladesh). By May 15, RCA Global Mission had received word from our mission partners who run the schools—Partners Relief & Development—that all eight schools had experienced some damage from Cyclone Mocha, and four of them were severely damaged. Partners immediately shifted their work to emergency relief care, including distributing food and water to the cyclone survivors, but by July, Partners had fully assessed the situation, as well as took account of their funds, and reached out to RCA Global Mission with a proposal.

Partners still had just over \$9,000 from the RCA Global Mission fund remaining and asked if we would approve the use of those funds to repair two of the severely damaged schools—one in Sittwe, Myanmar, and one near Cox's Bazar.

Our answer was an immediate and resounding “Yes!”

And by September, Partners sent me these amazing photos. Not only had they used the RCA Global Mission money to rebuild the two schools as promised, but they also used some of the funds to purchase umbrellas to safely transport the children to and from school during the ongoing rainy season!

This is love in action, and I am deeply grateful to work with trusted, compassionate mission partners like Partners Relief & Development who have committed to sharing the love of God with some of the most vulnerable people groups in the world (including the Rohingya), developing long-term relationships with a focus on empowering these communities, pivoting as needed when new crises arise, and doing so with a commitment to faithful stewardship of the funds entrusted to them.

And I am so grateful for every one of you who played a part in the Summer of Yes!

In Deep Gratitude,
JJ TenClay



DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

Christmas PARTY

BINGO
BLACK TIE
BONFIRE
BOSS
CANDLES
CANDY CANES
CAROLS
COCOA
COLLEAGUES
COOKIES
EGGNOG
FRIENDS
GAMES
GARLAND
GIFT EXCHANGE
LAUGHTER
MINGLE
MISTLETOE
MOVIES
NEIGHBORS
PARTY
PUNCH
SANTA
SCAVENGER HUNT
TREATS
UGLY SWEATER
WREATH



Remnant Food Find



2,600 approx. lbs. of food!



350+ grocery bags collected!



Remnant Spaghetti Supper



Thank you for your donations!!