

First
Reformed
Church
Sibley, Iowa
Glorify
Grow
Go

The Newsletter January 2026

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



January at a Glance

- 4. No Sunday School
- Installation and Ordination of new Elders and Deacons
- 7: Bible Classes and Remnant resumes
- 11: 11am Chili/Cinnamon Roll Feed
- 12: 6:00 pm Elder & Deacon Meetings
7:00 pm Full Consistory will meet
- 19: 9:30am: Faith Bible Study will meet
- 3:00pm: Patience Bible Study will meet
- 23: February Newsletter Deadline

*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 Evening:

- 6:00 pm Family Night Supper
- 6:30 pm Pioneer Clubs for 1st-5th grades
- 6:30 pm Various Adult Bible Classes
- 6:30 pm Middle School Remnant
- 7:30 pm High School Remnant

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<https://www.sermonaudio.com/solo/>



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[@sibleyfirstreformedchurch566](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



Making Spiritual New Year's Resolutions by faith gateway

Every January, millions of people begin their year with New Year's resolutions. Losing weight, getting organized, exercising more, eating healthier, and managing finances better are some of the most common resolutions.

But what about making spiritual New Year's resolutions?

We make commitments and tell our friends and family on January 1st, only to give it all up by January 3rd. But as humans, our struggle for consistency goes way beyond resolutions. Making commitments we can't keep runs all through society, back to Biblical times. In the Bible, James spoke of some people who can teach us a valuable lesson about great intentions that aren't aligned with God's will: *Listen carefully, those of you who make your plans and say, "We are traveling to this city in the next few days. We'll stay there for one year while our business explodes and revenue is up." The reality is you have no idea where your life will take you tomorrow. You are like a mist that appears one moment and then vanishes another. It would be best to say, "If it is the Lord's will and we live long enough, we hope to do this project or pursue that dream." But your current speech indicates an arrogance that does not acknowledge the One who controls the universe, and this kind of big talking is the epitome of evil. So if you know the right way to live and ignore it, it is sin—plain and simple.* — James 4:13-17 (The Voice)
Better Resolutions

Our plans may or may not be God's plans. If we want to be successful with any New Year's resolution, we must seek God's will. By his strength we might lose weight, eat better, or become better stewards of our finances. What does God want for our lives? When he convicts, he also equips us to follow through with the plan. When we know we are following God's plan, then we have more strength to stick to it, allowing him to work well beyond our normal January 3rd quitting date.

For this reason, my brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the return of the Lord. Look! The farmer knows how to wait patiently for the land to produce vegetables and fruits. He cannot harvest a freshly planted seed. Instead, he waits for the early and the late showers to nourish the soil. You need this same kind of patience, so in the meantime, strengthen your resolve because the Lord will be coming soon. — James 5:7-8 (The Voice)

The farmer waits patiently for the Lord to bring the growth, but it doesn't mean he sits on his porch doing nothing. The farmer works hard, watering and weeding, repairing equipment, and completing all of the daily chores. When a farmer does what a farmer is supposed to do, God is able to do the things that only he can do. It's not easy being patient.

Would the Lord be honored if our bodies (the temple of the Holy Spirit) were in better shape? Would he be blessed if our financial affairs were in order? Is it possible that he would use us mightily if we serve in a ministry, or shared our faith? The answer to each of these questions is the same. Certainly the Lord can be in these things. However, committing to lose weight does not mean sitting on the couch with a bag of chips watching the Biggest Loser. Like the farmer, we must to do what we need to do, so that God can do what only he can do to produce results in our lives.

But, why is it that we only make resolutions about weight, exercise, and money?

God would be honored if we made spiritual resolutions. Read the Bible, get involved in ministry at church, share our faith with friends, make a step of faith that is so big that only God can make it happen. Resolve to represent him no matter what the cost.

"Let's then go out to Him and resolve to bear the insult and abuse that He endured." —

Hebrews 13:13 (The Voice)

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. — 1Peter 4:19 (NIV)

Making Spiritual New Year's Resolutions Continued...

The Best Resolutions

Here are a few possible resolutions we might consider before setting out on any path in the new year.

Spiritual Resolution #1 – Pray About It

Seek God's face, and pray David's prayer every morning for the next year.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God;

restore within me a sense of being brand new.

Do not throw me far away from Your presence,

and do not remove Your Holy Spirit from me." — Psalm 51:10-11 (The Voice)

Spiritual Resolution #2 – Give Your Time & Attitude to the Lord

Let's resolve to give our attitudes to the Lord. Commit to making a difference at home, in the workplace, the marketplace, on the roads, and even at church.

You could make this passage your resolution:

"But above all these, put on love! Love is the perfect tie to bind these together. Let your hearts fall under the rule of the Anointed's peace (the peace you were called to as one body), and be thankful." — Colossians 3:14-15 (The Voice)

Spiritual Resolution #3 – Don't Do It Alone

Thomas Fuller, well-known preacher from England, understood how to be successful in our resolve. In the mid 1600's Fuller made this statement: **Seek Him and His wonderful plan for your life.** The two of you will make a great team—united in your determination to fulfill your destiny. A strong will, a settled purpose, an invincible determination can accomplish almost anything. — Thomas Fuller
The two of you make a great team! What an empowering statement. So often we think we are forging our path alone. We live as though life is completely up to us. Yet, if we are "In Christ" we are part of a team.

"This expression of God's restorative justice displays in the present that He is just and righteous and that He makes right those who trust and commit themselves to Jesus." — Romans 3:26 (The Voice)

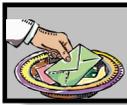
"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." — Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

Life is not always easy. Following through on simple commitments can even be difficult when bombarded by every day affairs. In addition, the attacks of the evil one will challenge us at every turn. Because of this, we offer this prayer on your behalf.

Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. — Acts 20:32 (NIV)

Consistory Meeting Highlights December 8, 2025

- Year-end disbursements were discussed.
- Ministry Team Assignments were made
- Business for the 2026 year was discussed and consistory positions were assigned.
- Ordination and Installation will be held on January 4, 2026.



Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through December 27:

- **General Fund: \$387,081.98**
Budget: \$363,794.52; 106% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$38,415.80**
Budget: \$61,125; 63% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$1290**
Kitchen Fund offerings to date: \$5601.98

**Average Monthly Offering Needed:
\$35,493.29**

**Total Ben./Gen. Offerings through December 27
\$32,934.87**

*Total Ben/Gen offering does not include
"Special Monthly Offering" donations as they
are technically not part of the estimated budget.*

Special Offering for January



Osceola Communities Express

Faith In Action for January: Layettes for the Center of Hope



This month we are collecting items that a new Baby or New Mom might be in need of. We only ask that all donated items



2 Kings Trivia Time

1. You were eight years old when you became king in Jerusalem, and you reigned 31 years. Who are you?
2. The morning after Elisha spoke, water flowed into the desert. From which direction did it flow? From a) Moab, b) Edom, c) Dothan, d) Egypt
3. When Josiah destroyed the high places that Solomon had built for the vile gods Ashtoreth, Chemosh and Molek he covered the sites with what?
4. Who said, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."?
5. What king of Judah did Awel-Marduk king of Babylon, release from prison?
6. Who secretly accepted unauthorized gifts and therefore became leprous?
7. You are the prophet Elisha in the nation of Israel. A neighboring king is ill and has sent to ask you if he will recover from the sickness. You answer that he will recover but will actually die. What do you mean by that? a) You were instructed to deceive him b) you are secretly planning an overthrow, c) He will recover but then be murdered, d) his sickness will return to kill him
8. Who killed King Josiah at Megaddo? a) Pharaoh Necho, b) Pharaoh Ramses, c) Queen Jezebel, Araunah the Jebusite

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 4: E: Greg Tracy/family
C: Randy Van De Berg
W: Duane and Pam Vande Hoef
- 11: E: Paul Vander Linden
C: Collin and Lexi Van Diepen/family
W: Ger and Barb Van Diepen
- 18: E: Jim and Pauline Van Engen
C: Curt and Peg Van Kley
W: Dean and Amy Van Marel
- 25: E: Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler
C: Jena Ver Steeg/family
W: Bryan Verdoorn



Library Volunteers



- 4: Alfreda Verdoorn
11: Kathy/Joel Verdoorn
18: Ruth Ann Wiersma
25: Gert Gaalswyk

Pastoral Visitation Link

To allow easy Pastoral Visit Scheduling a new link has been created.

Please visit the following link:

<https://calendly.com/frcpastorbrian>

Or scan the QR Code. Please contact the office if you have questions or would like to personally schedule a visit.



Children & Worship during the service



	Leader	Helper
4:	Deb Kusters	Donna Smidt
11:	Deb Kusters	Olivia Daiker/Grace Hoekstra
18:	Deb Kusters	Donna Smidt
25:	No Children and Worship	

Worship Service Nursery

- 4: Megan Ackerman and Chelsea Hulstein
11: Peg and Curt Van Kley
18: Heidi and Grace Saylor
25: Laurel and Natalie Klaassen

Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 4: Ed and Jan Harskamp
11: Bill and LaDonn Hartzell
18: Bert and Jan Henrichs
25: Scott and Jamie Hulstein

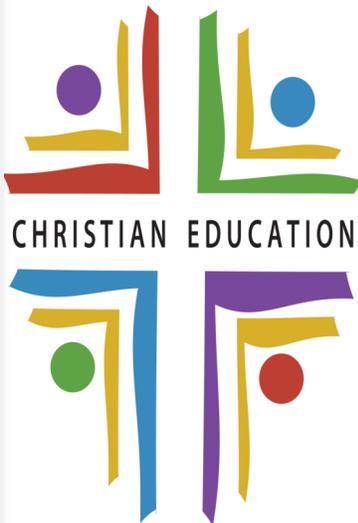
Willing Hands Group

Willing Hands Group #1

will be responsible for services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Diane/Arnie Langstraat
- Gretchen Bartelson



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:

January 4:

No Sunday School due to Christmas Break

Wednesday Pioneer Clubs (1st-5th grades):

January 7

Classes resume

MS and HS Remnant Youth Group:

January 7

Classes resume

College Addresses

Carter Brouwer
2013 Fox Run Trail
Brookings, SD 57006

Ted Van Gelder
815 3rd Ave.
Brookings, SD 57007

Grant Brouwer
2295 SE Glacier Trail
#115
Waukee, IA 50263

Halle Block
4710 Mortensen Road
Unit 201
Ames, IA 50014

Madison Brouwer
20 Alumni Street
Apt. 206
Vermillion, SD 57069

Keegan De Zeeuw
812 University Street
Box #173
Pella, IA 50219

Maverick Elser
802 6ht Street
Apt. 206
Ames, IA 50010

Emma Langstraat
502 12th Ave
Brookings, SD 57006

Michael Block Jr.
208 8th Street SW Unit
PO Box 103
Orange City, IA 51041

Grace Bevers
808 N. University Street
McFadden 304
Vermillion, SD 57069

Ella Bruxvoort
409 12th Ave NE
Sibley, IA 51249

Aiden DeZeeuw
204 Beach Road
Room 532
Ames, IA 50013-0025

Karissa Hulstein
One Triton Circle
#812
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Alex Bosma
100 Currier Hall
N220
Iowa City, IA 52242

Elliot Daiker
Welch Hall, Ayres
255 Richardson Ct,
#1262
Ames, IA 50013-0023

Cole Dykstra
2801 Ohio St.
RID-136
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Sofia Hisek
610 West 4th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Alexis Hulstein
5929 230th Street
Melvin, IA 51350

Alyssa Jacobsma
1101 W 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Addysen Langstraat
861 Jackrabbit Ave.
Binnewies Hall
303 A1
Brookings, SD 57006

Andrea Leusink
104 East 7th Street
#165B
Coralville, IA 52241

Kaylee Maxwell
4644 200th Street
George, IA 51237

If your student will have a different address for the 2025-2026 school year please let the office know.



Faith Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, January 19 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying lesson #6, "Experiencing God, Experiencing Rest" in our study book *Experiencing God*. Scripture will be Acts 16:11-34. Leader and Hostess will be everyone. All need to come prepared to be a part of the discussion, just like we always do.



Patience Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, January 19 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #8 "Jesus the Servant Leader," in our book *Meeting Jesus*. Scripture for the lesson is Mark 10:32-45. Barb will lead and serve as hostess. Come for a time of fellowship and learning.

Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities!

****Sermon Discussion Group****

Library at 6:30 pm Sunday Evenings

****Digging into God's Word****

FRC Fireside Room Sunday Nights at 6:30pm

****From Dust to Glory****

Couldn't make it to Sunday School on Sunday morning?

Join us for a repeat of the class at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room on Wednesday Evenings

January Family Supper Menu:

- Jan 7:** BBQ's and Mac and Cheese
- Jan 14:** Penne Pasta Dish
- Jan 21:** Baked Potatoes with Toppings
- Jan 28:** Enchiladas

All meals include fruit & fresh vegi option, cookies/bars, and milk, water or juice to drink. Ham sandwiches are available in place of the main entree.

January Offering:

- Cake, Cookie and Brownie Mixes
- Cans of Frosting

6:00 Family Night Supper

**6:30-7:30pm 1st-5th Grade
Pioneer Clubs Activities**





PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Jon and Amy Elser; Maverick | 17. Pray for our College Students |
| 2. Anita Ernst | 18. Pray for our Church |
| 3. Pray for our College Students | 19. Kevin and Twila Heemstra |
| 4. Pray for our Church | 20. Dwayne and Janice Heikes |
| 5. Mim Ernst | 21. Dan and Maureen Heilman;
Luke and Amelia |
| 6. Paul and Sharee Feldkamp | 22. Burt and Jan Henrichs |
| 7. Gert Gaalswyk | 23. Derek and Ashley Heronimus;
Kalen, Brooks |
| 8. Russ Gaalswyk; Alexis | 24. Pray for our College Students |
| 9. Eugene and Renae Groen | 25. Pray for our Church |
| 10. Pray for our College Students | 26. Ken and Sandy Heronimus |
| 11. Pray for our Church | 27. Jo Hielkema |
| 12. Robert and Janice Groen | 28. Melissa Hisek; Sofia, Georgia |
| 13. Clark Haken | 29. Michael and Chelsea Hodapp;
Camden, Brixton |
| 14. Edward and Jan Harskamp | 30. Dale and Karen Honken |
| 15. Bill and LaDonn Hartzell | 31. Anita Hoting |
| 16. Wilma Hatting | |

College Students:

Alex Bosma
 Elliot Daiker
 Cole Dykstra
 Sofia Hisek
 Alexis Hulstein
 Alyssa Jacobsma
 Addysen Langstraat
 Kaylee Maxwell

Grace Bevers
 Michael Block Jr.
 Ella Bruxvoort
 Aiden De Zeeuw
 Karissa Hulstein

Halle Block
 Madison Brouwer
 Keegan De Zeeuw
 Maverick Elser
 Emma Langstraat

Ted Van Gelder
 Carter Brouwer
 Andrea Leusink
 Grant Brouwer

January Celebrations

~~Birthday's~~

1 Jan Harskamp Brenda Wassman	12 Lynn Schram Alexis Hulstein	27 Brady Block Donna Smidt
5 Sandy De Vries	14 Mim Ernst	28 Jon Elser
7 Tracee Brouwer Ashley Heronimus Alan Julius	17 Brayden Bruxvoort	29 Ken Tjaden
8 Angie Buysman Robert Groen	18 Janice Groen Tanya Dykstra	30 Karen Honken
9 Marcia Oldenkamp	20 Kathy Runia	31 Tony Bevers
	25 Kalie Fuoss	
	26 Rhonda Riebeling Brian Saylor	



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

~~Anniversaries~

19 Joel & Kathy Verdoorn	60 years
20 Jim & Jena Ver Steeg	14 years
26 Cole & Kayla Hoekstra	18 years
26 Ken & Sharalyn Tjaden	41 years

If you would like to be included in our Birthday and Anniversary Calendar and do not see your name, please contact the office (sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com or 754-2783) and let us know your dates! We would love to recognize YOU on your special day! Thanks

From the library--

As I am writing this the wind is approximately 45+mph and blowing snow. What a great time to curl up with a good book and let the winds blow! For January, I have selected four new books to add to our collection. Three of the selections are continuations of series we started over the past couple of years. The fourth book, however is a standalone which I am sure you will enjoy!. In the coming months we will also be adding a few new books to our Youth section. Again, if you have a favorite author or series, please let me know. Always looking for good ideas!



Our first two books are books 3 and 4 from the **Lake City Heroes Series** by Lynette Eason. From Book 3, **Serial Burn**: "Now the fire marshal of Lake City, Jesslyn McCormick is determined to find the person who started the fire that robbed her of her family when she was just seven years old. As the twentieth anniversary of the tragedy approaches, a string of fires--including at Jesslyn's church--brings up all those old feelings and offers new evidence. Because church fires are considered a hate crime, FBI Special Agent Nathan Carlisle is called in to work with local law enforcement. As both the case and the chemistry between Jesslyn and Nathan heat up, memories will come flooding in from the past to bump up against hopes for the future. And when Jesslyn comes face-to-face with her worst nightmare, she'll have to confront her fears and rely on Nathan and her friends in order to survive.



From Book 4, **Final Approach**: "Air Marshal Kristine Duncan is not on duty when a hijacker attempts to seize control of the plane she and her friends are on as they head out on a much-needed vacation. Jumping into action and aided by FBI Special Agent Andrew Ross, Kristine thwarts the attack and the plane lands safely. But as the investigation into the incident gets underway, Kristine and Andrew are confused at every step. Nothing about the investigation goes as it should, and each layer they peel back just reveals another layer of perplexity. As the two work together to navigate a web of deception, blame, and personal reckoning, they find there's more to this story than meets the eye.



The third new book is the final edition in the **Shanahan Match Book Series**, **A Wager with the Matchmaker**. After her brother's entanglement with an Irish gang threatens their family's safety, Alannah Darragh flees St. Louis and her troubled past, seeking refuge as a maid for the affluent Shanahan family. Alannah's resolve to avoid romance is tested by the undeniable attraction she feels for Kiernan Shanahan. Determined to maintain her position and the safety it provides, she vows to resist the pull of her heart despite the growing bond between them and their undeniable chemistry.

In the wake of a devastating fire, Kiernan Shanahan sees a shrewd opportunity to invest in a clay mine and brickyard to aid the city's rebuilding. To secure his venture, he seeks a wealthy bride with a substantial dowry. However, the matchmaker he consults has different plans. As danger looms and Alannah fights to keep her brother safe, Kiernan's protective instincts draw them closer, but a future together seems too far out of reach. It will take a miracle--or a wager with the wily matchmaker--to form a match between the unlikely couple.



The final addition to the library this month is a book by Chris Fabry called **Saving Grayson**. Grayson Hayes doesn't remember things as well as he used to, but he's sure his time is running out. Diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's, he realizes he has a small window of time left to right a terrible injustice—he just can't remember what it is.

Convinced of the importance of his mission, he embarks on a journey to the small West Virginia town of his childhood hoping he can put together the fractured

From the library continued--

pieces of his memory and set things right. But as the past becomes more clear, he wonders if God forgives the sins he can't remember.

A thought-provoking story with challenging themes, this book deals with issues like

- what it's like to care for a loved one with memory loss,
- how to live when you feel like you're losing yourself,
- what it is that gives value to a human life, and
- the eternal power of forgiveness and second chances.

Saving Grayson is a wrenching yet hopeful story of a journey to right unknown wrongs and of holding on to what you know even when it feels like everything is slipping away.

Thanks for reading! Please take a moment to visit the library to find some new titles to read during these cold winter months.

January Word Search

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

Hot Chocolate	Wood Stove
Ice Skates	Snowflake
Fireplace	Thermal
earmuffs	Blanket
Jacket	Arctic
Frost	Wind
Melt	cold
Icy	
	Freezing Rain
Jack Frost	Below Zero
Frostbite	Comforter
Freezing	Blizzard
Polar	Heater
Storm	Chill
Sled	Heat
Ski	Ice
Wintertime	Bitter Cold
Snowboard	Snowstorm
Slippery	Black Ice
Scarf	Mittens
Windy	Frosty
Snow	Wool
coat	Fire

Sportsmen's Devotional

Today's Photograph . . . Whitetail Buck



Bible Study Verse

Esther 4:13-14

And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (NKJV)

Thoughts

It had been a long season. It was twenty degrees on a December Saturday morning and I really didn't feel like getting up this early and driving the hour to my deer lease in order to be there by daylight. But an empty buck tag and a good stand site won me over. I rolled out of bed and bundled up.

At 9:30 that same morning, I was standing over a massive nine point buck. Opportunity had knocked and I had answered.

Action Point

In spiritual terms we're very good at seeing opportunities, but how good are we at seizing them? More times than not, we see an opportunity and we tell other people about it in hopes that they will seize that opportunity. How tragic that we're so willing to pass off God's blessing to someone else!!!

You see, God is in the business of bringing people and circumstances into our lives with a purpose for us to fulfill. When we decide that we're not going to seize an opportunity that God has put in front of us, then He will allow someone else to accomplish His will and will bless them instead!!!

You know that thing that you've been worrying over or fretting about? Yeah, that thing. God wants you to see that as an opportunity to do something for Him. You've been put right here for such a time as this. Look at life differently from here on. SEE opportunities around you and SEIZE them!!! Perhaps we have been placed here "for such a time as this."

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

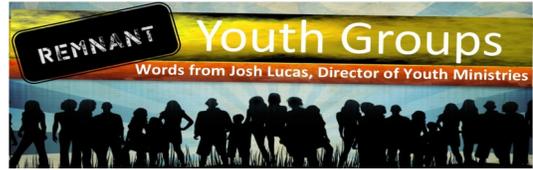
Winter and early Spring is a great time to inventory your hunting and fishing equipment, fix broken equipment, or cull it if it's not fixable. Mend holes in torn clothes, refletch arrows, clean firearms, brace up deer stands, clean out the tackle box.....in a word.....seize the opportunity to do some clean up and organization.

Trivia Time Answers:

1. Josiah (22:1)
2. From Edom (3:20)
3. Human Bones (23:12-14)
4. Elisha (5:10)
5. Jehoiachin (25:27)
6. Gehazi (5:23-27)
7. Recover then murdered (8:7-15)
8. Pharaoh Necho of Egypt (23:29)

Hello First Reformed Church,

Margarett was such a fun and happy little daughter of God. There was one aspect of her life that I think is very important for all of us to remember, she had devout faith in Jesus Christ. She said something that I will never forget, "Don't worry, God's got this." This warmed my heart when I first heard it. This little girl was going through one of the most horrific things a child could go through, and yet at the end of the day had a smile on her face and said, "Don't worry, God's got this." I believe that this is the sign of what our faith needs to look like. Jesus all throughout His gospels speaks about His love for children and how we as Christians need to have the faith of a child. This does not mean that we never grow in our faith or understanding, but that in times of distress, trial, tribulation, or persecution, we do not try to "adult" our way out of it, but that we have the child like faith and say, "Don't worry, God's got this." When we have faith like a child what we are doing is submitting fully to the will of God, just like a child submits to their parents. They do not know what is happening or why it is happening, but the child trusts that their parents are keeping them safe and they have been taught to listen and obey their parents. I think the greatest lesson that we can learn from Margarett is this concept, to have the faith of a child.



This is why I love our Christmas Program, Youth Sunday, and Children's Choir, so much! Seeing children of all ages singing songs about Jesus to Jesus, puts things into perspective. Again, this does not mean that we do not grow in our faith, instead it means that we do not try to fix things that are outside of our control on our own, we need to relax say a prayer and just simply say, "Don't worry, God's got this." Many times this can be easier said than done, but here is the truth beloved in Christ, a three-year-old suffering from stage four liver cancer was able to have that mindset, I think we can too.

Finally, Margarett as often as she could was telling others about Jesus. I read stories about how she would tell nurses about her faith in Jesus. Her stories about conversations she had about Jesus was shared across the US, and possibly even the world. Margarett revealed to us why we need to share the gospel and tell others about Jesus. Her lasting testimony reminds us why we should never waste any time on this earth. Hug your kids, pick up the phone and call your parents, serve the church, tell others about Jesus, because we never know when our time on this earth is done.

In closing, if you are struggling with anything just remember that you do not have to do it alone. You have a church body that is there for you when you need it most. Pastor Brian and I are here for you to help you through any struggles that you are going through. Your Heavenly Father loves you and cares for you. Go to Him in prayer and make your requests known to Him. Above all else I am sure that Margarett would like you to remember, "Don't worry, God's got this."

Blessings,
Josh

Dad jokes with Josh:

**Q: What's a clock's favorite time?
A: It's got to be 6:30, hands down!**



**Chili and
Cinnamon Roll feed
Sunday,
January 11
at 11:00am
(following Sunday School)**

DUST to
An Overview of the Bible with R.C. SPROUL
GLORY
Class times:
Sundays at 10:10am and
Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm

A LOVE NOTE

*To the Woman Feeling
Stagnant in Her Faith*

That gentle ache for “more” is the Holy Spirit inviting you back into closeness. Your small, imperfect steps matter. One whispered prayer. One open Bible. One quiet moment of turning your face toward Him. Your faith is not dead. It is being rekindled by the One who loves you more than you know.

*Draw near to God, and he
will draw near to you.
— James 4:8*

I am with you, says the Lord.

Haggai 2:4

