


 [www.facebook.com/firstreformedsibley](https://www.facebook.com/firstreformedsibley)  
 [@sibleyfirstreformedchurch566](https://www.youtube.com/@sibleyfirstreformedchurch566)



## Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through May 28:

- General Fund: \$143,032.99**  
Budget: 443,532.29; 32% of budget
- Benevolent Fund: \$13,693.33**  
Budget: \$68,275.23; 20% of budget
- Building Fund offerings to date: \$745**  
Building Fund - Parsonage Updates: \$1500

## Special Offering for June

### Freedom's Gate!!



*Freedom in Christ*

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36 NIV.

# Faith In Action for June

## Shut-ins/Nursing Home Residents

Make it a point to send a card, visit or make them feel special in some way.



### Congregational Meeting Highlights

#### May 13, 2024

- MMSA to allow Kalie DeBoer's request to use the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen for their wedding rehearsal supper on July 26, 2024.
- Vital Decisions and Policies for the Church was tabled to next month's consistory meeting.

### Summer Word Scramble

KEIB	<div></div> <div>○</div> <div></div> <div></div>	KIEH	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	NSU	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
ACPM	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	TOSSRH	<div></div> <div></div> <div>○</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	ELKA	<div>○</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
ATHE	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>○</div>	EIFR	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	MEUSRM	<div>○</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
ANF	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	LOPO	<div></div> <div>○</div> <div></div> <div></div>	DNSA	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>
				EHCBA	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>○</div> <div></div>

Why does ice cream always get invited to the party?

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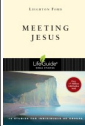
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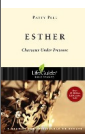
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# GROWING IN THE WORD



**Faith Bible Study** will meet on **Monday, June 17 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying lesson #12 "Jesus the Dying King" in our book *Meeting Jesus*. Scripture will be John 19:16-42. Lynn Schram will be leader and Jeannette Juffer will serve as hostess. All are invited! Hope to see you there!



**Patience Bible Study** will meet on **Monday, June 17 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #1 "Preparing a Place," in our new book *Heaven: Finding Our True Home*. Scripture for the lesson is John 14:1-9. Barb will lead and serve as hostess. Come for a time of fellowship and learning.



**6:30pm Sunday Evening Fellowship Bible Study Opportunity!**

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

\*Fireside Room

**\*\*The Sermon Discussion Groups are on break until fall.\*\***

## **Trivia Fun Time**

1. How many days was Saul blind while in Damascus?
2. Who were the people who found frogs on their beds and in their ovens?
3. Who said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other"?
4. What was the name of the Bible character who was a cupbearer to a king and also an engineer?
5. What was the name of the man who came to Jesus by night to talk with him?
6. How old was Methuselah when he died?
7. Name the fruit of the Spirit.
8. How many windows were in Noah's Ark?
9. What was the name of the man who was released from prison by an angel?
10. In what book of the Bible do you find the words, "Of making many books there is no end"?



# Celebrations

## ~~Birthday's~~

- 1 Jessica McDyer  
Kimberlie Alexander  
Travis Boeke
- 2 Lennis Harberts  
Kalen Heronimus
- 3 Alexis Van Diepen
- 6 Frank Martinez
- 7 Sandy Lamfers
- 8 Abby De Zeeuw  
Kelsey Joseph  
Jena Ver Steeg
- 9 Lawrence Wiersma  
Kelsey Doorenbos  
Ahbea Harberts  
Aysha Harberts
- 10 Addison De Zeeuw
- 11 Dale De Boer  
Nancy Dykstra
- 12 Georgia Hisek
- 13 Donna Kleinwolterink
- 14 Kimberly Alsip  
Grace Bevers
- 16 Chris Hurlburt

- 18 Janelle Van Drunen  
Mark Langstraat  
Colby Wagenaar  
Joselyn De Zeeuw
- 19 Gabe Bevers
- 20 Lois Van Diepen
- 22 Charles Kruger  
Chelsea Hulstein
- 23 Joel Van Gelder  
Mike Block Sr.

- 24 Stan De Zeeuw  
Colt Klaassen
- 26 Karissa Hulstein  
Merlyn Janssen
- 28 Jarred Brouwer  
Jaxton Loerts  
Ken Huls
- 30 Jaden Ables  
Keshia Bean

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

## ~~Anniversaries~~

- |    |                                |          |
|----|--------------------------------|----------|
| 4  | Marlin & Kathy Runia -         | 36 years |
| 4  | Jared and Jena Meyer           | 2 year   |
| 9  | Jarred and Tracee Brouwer -    | 24 years |
| 10 | Ed and Jan Harskamp -          | 60 years |
| 11 | John & Sharon Bartels -        | 58 years |
| 11 | Dr. Brian and Heidi Sayler -   | 30 years |
| 12 | Loren and Deb Hulstein -       | 39 years |
| 15 | Collin & Alexis Van Diepen -   | 5 years  |
| 18 | Chris and Tiffany Wynia -      | 25 years |
| 20 | AJ and Jenny Weg -             | 9 years  |
| 21 | Lennis and Marvella Harberts - | 39 years |
| 22 | Cody and Kristen Hurlburt -    | 5 years  |
| 23 | Charles and Katha Kruger -     | 40 years |
| 25 | Brad and Sarah Loerts -        | 19 years |
| 26 | Junior and Imogene Rasmussen - | 60 years |
| 27 | Ron and Nancy Dykstra -        | 49 years |
| 27 | Curt and Peg Van Kley -        | 32 years |
| 28 | Mark and Tanya Dykstra -       | 27 years |



## Praise and Worship Greeters

- 2: E: Ed and Jan Harskamp  
C: Bill and LaDonn Hartzell  
W: Dan and Maureen Heilman
- 9: E: Burt and Jan Henrichs  
C: Derek and Ashley Heronimus/family  
W: Ken and Sandy Heronimus
- 16: E: Melissa Hisek/family  
C: Cole and Kayla Hoekstra/family  
W: Dale and Karen Honken
- 23: E: Loren and Deb Hulstein  
C: Mark Hulstein  
W: Michael and Chelsea Hulstein/family
- 30: E: Rodney Hulstein  
C: Chris and Teresa Hurlburt  
W: Cody and Kristen Hurlburt/family



## Worship Service Nursery

Nursery is open but unstaffed during the summer months.



## Sunday School Nursery

Sunday School is on Summer Break.  
See you all in the Fall!!

## Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 2: Nate and Angela Buysman  
9: Ed and Jan Harskamp  
16: Luella Eggink & Lynn Schram  
23: Merlyn and Karen Doorenbos  
30: Family of Duane and Pam Vande Hoef

## Children & Worship during the service



Children and Worship is on Summer Break.  
See you all in the Fall!!

## 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



- 2: Jan Henrichs  
9: Jamie Hulstein  
16: Jan Juffer  
23: Jeannette Juffer  
30: Leona Meendering

# Sportsmen's Devotional

**Today's Photograph . . . . When Bottom Fishing In Deep Water**

## **Bible Study Verse**

Micah 7:19

He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (NKJV)



## **Thoughts**

Like many of you, I've had some humorous things happen to me in the outdoors. I remember growing up in Ohio and fishing the Great Lake Erie. On one particular night, I made a cast that seemed to go out forever. Finally, my friend and I heard a faint splat. He turned to me and exclaimed, "I think you just hit Canada!"

We joked about me having to get a Canadian fishing license and other nonsense. It was indeed a long cast but in reality the line was only out a little ways. Night fishing, however, provides an open season to the imagination.

## **Action Point**

It's no joke what God will do with our sin. When we confess it, He is faithful and just to forgive it and to clean us up. Read I John 1:9. He takes away our sin for good and forever. God helps us understand this in ways we can relate to:

- He casts our sins into the depths of the sea. Or, as the psalmist sings, He removes our sins as far as the east is from the west, Psalm 103:12.
- When Jesus was nailed to the Cross, He canceled the debt of sin we owe, Colossians 2:14.

Jesus paid it all! If you have not done so already, confess to Him that you are a sinner and confess that Jesus is Lord. There's beauty in the Blood regardless of the curse of the Cross. That, my friend, is a wonderful view of salvation from this side of the depths of the sea.

## **Sportsmen's Tip of the Day**

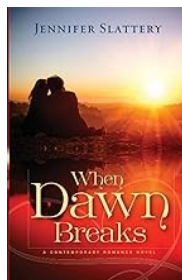
When bottom fishing in deep water, place your sinker on a leader that is long enough to allow the baited hook to be suspended several inches. This will:

- Minimize snags;
- Present the bait in a more suitable feeding zone for most game fish.
- Reduce the chances of losing bait to bottom-feeding scavengers.

## From the library--



New books are continually being added to the library. The first book this month is *STARFISH PIER* by Irene Hannon. “Opposites may attract—but can two very different people find lasting love? A year ago, ex-Delta Force operator Steven Roark left the rigors of combat behind to run fishing charters in Hope Harbor, decompress, and talk some sense into his kid brother. Business is good—but making peace with his past is more challenging than he expected. First grade teacher Holly Miller leads a low-profile existence—until she's recruited to advocate for a cause that's dear to her heart. When she solicits Steven's assistance, sparks fly—especially after they find themselves on opposite sides of an issue that disrupts their placid seaside community. As these two seemingly incompatible souls wrestle with their differences, might they discover more common ground than they expect—and a future filled with promise?”



The next book is written by Jennifer Slattery and titled *WHEN DAWN BREAKS*. “As the hurricane forces Jacqueline to evacuate, her need for purpose and restitution forces her to head north to her estranged daughter. The same path leads her right into the arms of a handsome new friend dealing with his own issues. Jacqueline isn't sure, though, if he will be the one she can lean on during the difficult days ahead. And then—there are the three orphans to consider. Must she relinquish her chance at having love again in order to have peace?”



Jennifer Slattery is also the author of the last book: *INTER-TWINED*. “Abandoned by her husband for another woman, Tammy Kuhn, an organ procurement coordinator finds herself in an altercation with a doctor. Now she is fighting to keep her job and her sanity when one late night she encounters an old flame facing an unthinkable tragedy. Because they both find eternal purposes in every event and encounter, they soon discover their lives are intertwined, but the ICU is no place for romance...or is it? This could be where life begins again.”

--Jeannette Juffer



PRAY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

1. Pray for our College Students

2. Pray for our Church

3. Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler

4. Justin Van Tilburg

5. Jim and Jena Ver Steeg; Aiden, Logan

6. Bryan Verdoorn

7. Joel and Kathy Verdoorn

8. Pray for our College Students

9. Pray for our Church

10. Larry and Alfreda Verdoorn

11. Roger Verdoorn

12. Faye Vos

13. Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar

14. Brent and Brenda Wassman; Alyssa, Austin

15. Pray for our College Students
16. Pray for our Church

17. AJ and Jenny Weg; Addison, Alivia, Austyn

18. Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma

19. Ryan Wiersma

20. Kody Wills

21. Gary and Jessa Wolter

22. Pray for our College Students

23. Pray for our Church

24. Renae Wolter

25. Chris and Tiffany Wynia; Codie, Mackenzie

26. Charlie and Brenda Ackerman; Leah, Marissa

27. Derek and Megan Ackerman; Quinnley, Sydney

28. Mitch and Angie Ackerman

29. Pray for our College Students

30. Pray for our Church

<b><u>College Students:</u></b>	Marissa Ackerman	MacKenzie Beyer	Carter Brouwer
Grace Beavers	Halle Block	Teddy Van Gelder	Andrea Leusink
Michael Block Jr.	Tayler Bremer		
Ella Bruxvoort	Madison Brouwer		
Aiden De Zeeuw	Regan Crichton		
Apiyo Harberts	Keegan De Zeeuw		Dalten Bremer
Uchan Harberts	Makya Dykstra		Natalie Klaassen
Karissa Hulstein	Maverick Elser		
	Jared Kruger		
	Emma Langstraat		
	Matthew McDougal		Grant Brouwer
	Gannon Rockman		Ryan Van Marel



BE A  
*Prayer*  
WARRIOR

## Grace Covenant Ministries

# PRAYER JOURNAL



# FOLLOWERS OF THE WAY

Congratulations to all of our recent graduates and their families. I enjoy watching all of the preparations and attending the parties. What I don't enjoy as much are most of the commencement speeches. After attending three graduations a year in full academic regalia, I got tired of listening to the same tired themes and phrases. *Live your dream! Believe in yourself! You can be anything you want to be!*

I follow the online chatter every year about good and bad, or at least controversial, commencement speeches. This year, the two most talked about were those given by Jerry Seinfeld and Harrison Butker. My all-time favorite is the one delivered by Dr. Peter Kreeft in 2022 to the graduates of Franciscan University. It is called "*The 10 Lies of Contemporary Culture*"; you can see it on YouTube. <https://youtu.be/K7FtUlnIXd0?si=L-RRwWup4SRm9BaM>

Why bring this up? Because commencement is a time of beginning. Graduates are usually relieved to be 'done,' but they are just getting started on the rest of their lives. Similarly, at Sibley FRC, we are also at a point of commencement—a time of beginning. We are making crucial decisions about our future as a congregation and preparing for the ministry of a new pastor. It is just one month until Brian Carpenter and his family will be with us. *Are you ready for this commencement time?*

Paul's great conversion is recorded in Acts 9. The history begins with verses 1 & 2, "*But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.*"

Did you notice what the believers were called before being named Christians? We were known as followers of "**The Way.**" This title was used because the Apostles shared what they learned in the upper room: "Jesus said to him, *'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'*" We, too, are followers of this Way, and I want to focus on two words to help us think through our own Christian lives.

First, consider what it means to follow a 'way'. Way is defined as *a road, a path, a direction, or a method or style of doing something*. Jesus wants us to choose His path, His style, and His ways of doing everything we do.

Next, I want to think about the word 'the'. This word is a *definite article* pointing to a single thing. The article '*an*' means there is more than one, but '*the*' means only one. Jesus is the only way, the only truth, not one that is equal to any other idea.

We live in an age that idolizes 'choice'. Not only do we have many options, but we are called on to make choices to determine what is true or real. In the past few years, we have taken the old cliché

## ... **THE WAY CONTINUED**

“you can be anything you want to be” to absurdity. It isn’t that you can choose to be president if you want to; it means you can choose to deny reality—and yet call it the truth.

Christ called us to a life that is radically different from the lives of those who are lost. Our culture used to be a better place for Christians to live—now it is not. And yet, our culture speaks louder to us than ever in the church's history. Because we listen to media, to cultural influencers, to the pressure of our peers, to the demands of our children, to whatever we listen to – instead of listening to Jesus, we are in trouble. We must follow **The Way**, because it is **The Truth**, and **The life**, and apart from Him we will be lost to the evil one for all eternity.

1. We need to choose the future of our congregation’s association with a denomination based on what would be the best **Way** to follow Jesus. We need to think not only about individual desires, but to consider the needs of those we serve now, and those who will come after us.


“Jesus is the incarnation of the truth,  
the light of the world, the One in  
whom there is abundant life”

*RC Sproul*

2. We also need to prepare to get to work when our new pastor arrives. He is not coming to do all the work of our congregation, but to help us get to work and serve. We are the church that Saul went to persecute, before dying as Paul in that persecution. Is there anything about us that would lead to persecution? If not, maybe we need to examine ourselves.

Over the next few weeks, I hope we each examine our lives to ensure we are following our savior. Wherever we find failings, confess them to Him because he is faithful to forgive. He will work with us to conform our lives to become like Him. He is the Way, Truth, and Life.

Even though it is summer, let’s work to make sure we continue to practice the ‘ordinary means of grace’. We need to study the Word, pray, share in the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s supper, and if necessary, share in the church’s discipline and care of souls. We live *Coram Deo*!



**“But they that wait upon the Lord  
shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings as eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
and they shall walk and not faint.”**  
**Isaiah 40:31**

# SUMMER

Z D L L S I I C G B S P E D Q S A I L I N G X L  
 H R I V L S N G I M O U W A T E R S K I B I E N  
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 G A G M P E T R C I F S U I E L J C T N N E I R  
 X F U U I S A E E H I B T O R R H E A L O V S C  
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 E L R I S N M D N A S P A X V D L L I N C Q A E  
 D U P N U U C S W I M U C M T E I T T I A L D E  
 A Q H G I S W H O U T D O O R P D V A K S O N H  
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 T H L L A B E S A B J Z G O U K Y K A H L P S W  
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independenceday  
 refreshing  
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 backyard  
 popsicle  
 hotdogs  
 outdoor  
 shorts  
 humid  
 june

cheeseburgers  
 sandcastle  
 lightning  
 barefoot  
 roadtrip  
 boating  
 sailing  
 smores  
 ocean  
 pool

bathingsuit  
 sleepingin  
 patriotic  
 baseball  
 shopping  
 bonfire  
 sandals  
 summer  
 party  
 sand

bestfriends  
 lifeguard  
 sunflower  
 icecream  
 vacation  
 frisbee  
 hiking  
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 relax  
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blistering  
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 waterski  
 holiday  
 movies  
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 camp

recreation  
 dramafree  
 waterpark  
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 cookout  
 Netflix  
 picnic  
 beach  
 july

## Trivia Time Answers:

1. Three (Acts 9:8,9)
2. The Egyptians (Ex. 8:3,6)
3. Solomon (1 Kg 3:15,25)
4. Nehemiah (1:11; 2:5)
5. Nicodemus (1:11; 2:5)
6. 969 years old (Gen 5:27)
7. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control
8. One (Gen 6:16)
9. Peter (Acts 12:5-11)
10. Ecclesiastes (Eccl. 12:12)



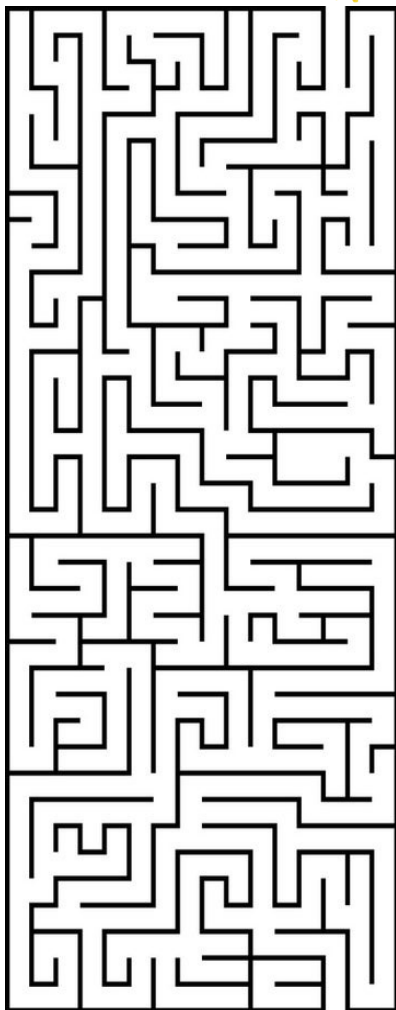


## Education Schedule:

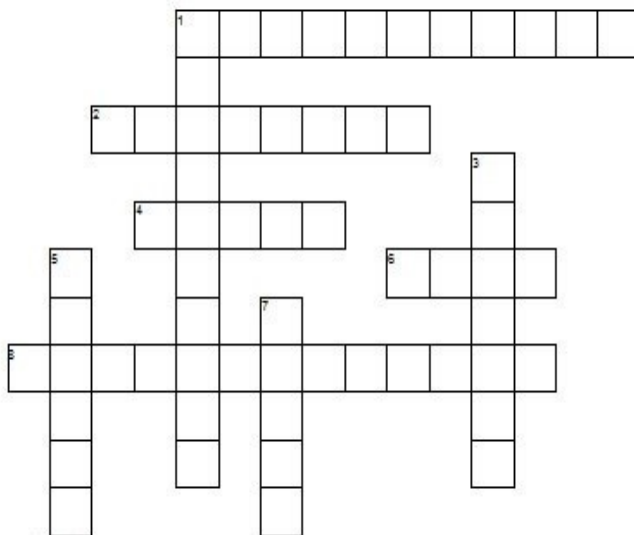
- Sunday School is on break until fall.
- MS Remnant is on break until fall.
- HS Remnant is on break until fall.

Have a fun and safe Summer!!

### Summer Maze



### Beatitudes



www.churchhousepuzzles.com © 2011

#### ACROSS

- 1 Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall be called the children of God
- 2 Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall obtain mercy
- 4 Blessed are the pure in \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall see God
- 6 Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall inherit the earth
- 8 Blessed are those that hunger and thirst after \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall be filled

#### DOWN

- 1 Blessed are they which are \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 5 Blessed are the poor in \_\_\_\_\_: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 7 Blessed are they that \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall be comforted

Hello First Reformed Church,

Have you recently been wondering where is God in my trial? Where is God in my hurting? Where was God when I prayed for healing or something and it did not happen?



I had a lot of my family say this very thing when both of my grandparents passed away within a week of each other. This was truly a tragedy within my family. My grandparents were very involved in all our lives, as grandchildren and even their great grandchildren. I told Hannah when we first started having kids that I have such a high expectation of grandparents because of what my grandpa and Mimi (that is what we called my grandma) did when we were kids. When I heard the news about my grandpa passing, I cried a lot. I came home and just wept with Hannah. A few days later I got the call that my Mimi had also passed, and I lost it in my office. I had to go home once again to tell Hannah and the girls about it. I got into my car and before I started the car I just prayed, "God where are you in this? I prayed for healing for them, and you did not do it. Where are you in this?" I turned on the car as tears are streaming down my face and I am shaking in frustration. As I start to drive home, the song on the radio began with these words, "Where is God in the heartache? Where is God in the fear? Where is God in the sickness that the prayer didn't fix? When it don't make sense, where is God in all of this?" I was sitting in the car going, "Yes, right there! Preach it, this is what I am currently feeling!" The song continued to serve me a piece of humble pie, "He is right here where He's always been. He never left and He never will. Where is God? God is with us." It was in that moment that I realized that I was doubting God, and I was trying to tell God how to be God. I was asking where the omnipresent God was in this moment of life. When He was there the whole time.

We live in a fallen world brothers and sisters. What this means is that all of us, as human Beings, are a part of this world and must deal with sickness, disease, pain, suffering, and death. Death can come to us at any time, but the hope we have is that God is working through all of it. As I said in my recent sermon about God's providence, God has a perfect plan in the works, and it is something that will not and cannot be changed in anyway. Scripture also tells us that not only is God the creator of all things, but He is also a comforter and counselor. This has many different definitions but when we face tragedy, He is there to comfort us during these times. We need to remember that God is working through our tragic moments. God has not abandoned us and left us alone. He never has and He never will. God will carry us through our sadness and our grief. He has given us the church, prayer, and the Holy Spirit to carry us through these moments in our lives.

When we have moments of loss and worry let us go to God in prayer and earnestly pray for healing and comfort during these times. God is faithful to hear our prayers and work through them. Trust in God and He WILL carry you through this hurt. God bless all of you!

Blessings,  
Josh Lucas

Dad Jokes with Josh:  
I made a chicken salad yesterday. Turns out they prefer grain.



## Update from Adrian and Bernardeth Bobb-Kelly

Our ministry is still functioning, so we are so thankful to God and to you for your financial support. With your financial support, we were able to secure a meal a day for each child and

thus keep the children in school for the whole school year. Eight of them went from preschool to primary, six from primary to high school, and two finished their high school studies and are looking towards going to college in 2024. Thanks to that one meal a day that we together (you and us) provide from Monday to Friday—that made a difference in the lives of these children. We hope the Lord will continue to help us serve the needy in our area.

On our last river trip, we couldn't reach to Makantakita, the last village. Debris blocked our way so we couldn't reach them.

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On our last river trip, we couldn't reach to Makantakita, the last village. Debris blocked our way so we couldn't reach them.

Please pray for the feeding centers, the Tabitha Home staff, the medical brigades, and the pastors and midwives. As I write this, I remember that recently one of the elderly pastors who used to attend our training has died. Please remember his loved ones in your prayers. Lastly, please pray for our two girls Abebja and Abayomi.

May the Lord bless you and keep you and make his face shine upon you and give you peace.

In Christ's love,

Adrian Bobb and  
Bernardeth Kelly





# Join Our Jungle Journey!

## FRC VBS June 2-5

**Sunday, June 2 (4pm-8pm)/ Mon-Wed, June 3-5 (5:30-8:30)**

**You are all invited to the Closing Program: Wednesday @ 8pm**

At VBS, kids will sail along on a fun jungle cruise, stopping at seven ports of call. These ports are the 7 C's of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. Kids will discover how these events shape our world, and how to reconnect the Bible to their everyday life.



### 2024 Annual Men & Boys FRC Fishing Trip



**When:** July 11-14

**Where:** Hidden Hill Lodge, Roslyn, SD  
([HiddenHillLodge.com](http://HiddenHillLodge.com))

**Who:** Invite your grandkids, friends or any want-to-be fisherman for this fun filled weekend of fishing and discovering God's Creation.

Sign-up at the Information Center if Interested!

**JUST 4 FUN**



**"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables, why did He make them taste like vegetables?"**