

The Newsletter June 2028

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

# What is a Father?

aithful, to God and family.

A ble, to discern God's will in trying times and good times.

hankful, for all the joys and trials of life.

appy, no matter what the life brings.

- nthusiastic, about a life lived with purpose.
- ighteous, rock-solid in heart and mind, from a growing relationship with Jesus.

# <u>June at a Glance</u>

4-8pm VBS

4:

- 5-7: 5:30-8:30pm VBS (Mon-Wed)
  - : Quilters will not meet due to VBS
- 12: Consistory will NOT meet in June
- 19: 9:30 am Faith Bible Study 3:00 pm Patience Bible Study
- 23-27: MS Ark Encounter Trip
- 28: 2:00 pm FRC is in charge of Nursing Home services

#### \*Sundays:

- 9:00 am Praise & Worship Service
- 10:10 am Coffee Fellowship Time Sunday School is on Summer Break

#### \*Tuesdays:

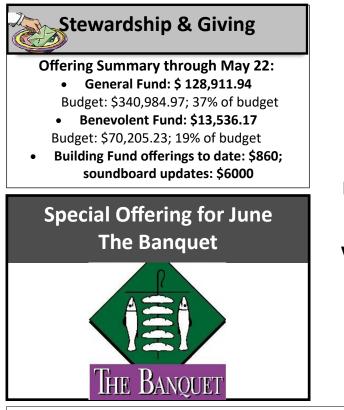
- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet
- \*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:
- On Summer Break! See you in the fall!

CONTACT INFORMATION: 712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com www.sibleyfrc.org



For these things and so many more we praise God For our Fathers, this Father's Day and always.



# 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.



# Trivia Time!!

- 1. What man in the Bible killed sixty-nine of his brothers?
- 2. How much money did the brothers of Joseph make when they sold him into slavery?
- 3. What Bible-song composer is given credit for writing 1005 songs?
- 4. Who were Jannes and Jambres? A: Two spies to the promised land, B: Two priests in Israel, C: Two men who started a rebellion against Joshua D: Two of Pharaoh's magicians E: Two children of Reuben?
- 5. In order to bind a contract, what Bible person took off this shoe and gave it to his neighbor?
- 6. What is the name of the five-year-old boy who ws dropped by his nurse and became crippled for life?
- 7. What woman in the bible gave a man butter and then killed him by driving a nail through his head?
- 8. Two lawyers are mentioned in the Bible. What are their names?
- 9. What is the name of the king who became herbivorous and ate grass like an oxen"?
- 10. In what book of the Bible is bad breath mentioned?

### GROWING IN THE



ARD

#### Praise and Worship Greeters

- 4: E: Ken and Wilma LoertsC: Josh and Hannah Lucas/familyW: Cory and Anne Maxwell/family
- 11: E: John and Kim McDougallC: Leona MeenderingW: Nick and Maria Mans/family
- 18: E: Dick and Marcia Oldenkamp
  - C: Lyle Peelen
  - W: Junior and Imogene Rasmussen

**Worship Service Nursery** 

- 25: E: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling
  - C: Daren Rockman
  - W: Marlin Roelfs

## Children & Worship during the service

# Children & Worship is on Break until Fall

## Willing Hands Group



#### Willing Hands Group #6

will be responsible for services during the month.

#### Co-chairpersons are:

- Peg and Curt Van Kley
- Rhonda and Larry Riebeling

#### **Fellowship Coffee Servers**

- 4: Leona Meendering & Joanne Klaassen
- 11: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling

4: Jennifer and Ella Bruxvoort

11: Megan Travaille and Heidi Sayler

18: Ashley Heronimus and Jenny Weg

25: Teresa Hurlburt and Chelsea Hulstein

- 18: Ted and Eileen Schutte
- 25: Dave and Lesa Stofferan

#### **Library Volunteers**

- 4: Jan Juffer
- 11: Jeannette Juffer
- 18: Leona Meendering
- 25: Janice Runia



- 1 Jessica McDyer Kimberlie Alexander Travis Boeke
- 2 Lennis Harberts Kalen Heronimus
- 3 Alexis Van Diepen
- 4 Tammy Breitweiser
- 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
- 15 Avery Zylstra
- 16 Chris Hurlburt

- 18 Janelle Van Drunen Mark Langstraat Colby Wagenaar Elizabeth Wynia Joselyn De Zeeuw
- 20 Lois Van Diepen
- 22 Charles Kruger Chelsea Hulstein
- 23 Harold Ernst Joel Van Gelder Mike Block Sr.

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



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4	Marlin & Kathy Runia -	35 years
4	Jared and Jena Meyer	1 year
9	Jarred and Tracee Brouwer -	23 years
10	Ed and Jan Harskamp -	59 years
11	John & Sharon Bartels -	57 years
11	Dr. Brian and Heidi Sayler -	29 years
12	Loren and Deb Hulstein -	38 years
15	Collin & Alexis Van Diepen -	4 years
18	Chris and Tiffany Wynia -	24 years
20	AJ and Jenny Weg -	8 years
21	Lennis and Marvella Harberts -	38 years
22	Cody and Kristen Hurlburt -	4 years
23	Charles and Katha Kruger -	39 years
25	Brad and Sarah Loerts -	18 years
26	Junior and Imogene Rasmussen -	59 years
27	Ron and Nancy Dykstra -	48 years
27	Curt and Peg Van Kley -	31 years
28	Mark and Tanya Dykstra -	26 years
30	Kody and Rachel Wills -	11 years

# WHY? WHY NOT?



Have you ever thought about what you are saying when you ask why or why not? Generally, we are looking for reasons to do, or not to do something. It's easy to ask, *"should we go to the movie tonight?"* But it is very different to ask, *"Should I get married? Change jobs? Buy a new house?"* Those are BIG questions and they can be difficult.

As a congregation we are asking **big questions**, ones with eternal consequences. We are facing the decision to leave, or to stay with the RCA. It's hard! Our denomination has been in continuous existence longer than any

other denomination in America. The RCA was founded in 1628 as a branch of the Dutch Reformed Church. In 1819 we separated from the old country, and continued as an American church.

Throughout nearly 400 years the RCA has continued, but not without controversy. In 1856 the CRC separated and more churches joined them in 1882. Recently, more than 100 churches have joined the Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC) and Kingdom Network, although other congregations have joined the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). More churches are in the position that we are, deciding to stay or to go. And, if we decide to go, we have to decide where we are going.

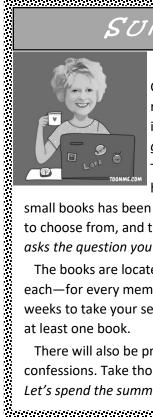
**But what are good reasons to stay or to go?** I love the conversations, and the questions that are being asked—and answered. We need to decide in the light of what pleases God, rather than doing what a family member or friend says we should. As my mama used to ask, "If your brother jumps off a bridge are you going to follow?"

Here are some of the questions that the Discernment Teams are asking. Maybe they will help you think this decision through carefully. *And in all things, "pray without ceasing."* 

- Does the denomination make decisions based on the word, or on societies views? Historically, denominations that start to ask "Did God really say...." are ones that begin to wander from the truth and become liberal. Our discussions and study indicate that we want to remain faithful to the inerrant word of God.
- 2. What does the denomination believe? Are we in agreement? I think we have generally come to consensus in the past few months that the RCA statements of doctrine and faith are true and we uphold them. While we may not read them, we did decide this is what we believe.
- 3. Does the denomination practice what it preaches, are they consistent? These could be questions of doctrine and practice, or mission and practice. For example, the RCA upholds marriage between a man and a woman. Is that what we practice? Or, if a denomination claims to be mission focused, are they? Do they have a robust mission program?
- 4. How does the denomination support teaching the congregation and providing for spiritual care? Do they have colleges, seminaries, publishing divisions, conferences? How does the denomination interact with individual congregations?

#### WHY? OR WHY NOT? CONTINUED

- 5. What about church government and ministry standards? These are the questions of church government and the requirements of ordained pastors. The RCA is a form of the presbyterian form of government, and generally requires an ordained pastor to have an MDiv, and to undergo examination before ordination. The pastor is a member of the classis, rather than the congregation.
- 6. What does the denomination believe? Are we in agreement? I think we have generally come to consensus in the past few months that the RCA statements of doctrine and faith are true and we uphold them. We aren't just Dutch, we are reformed in our thinking—descendants of Geneva and John Calvin. While we may not read them, we did decide this is what we believe.
- 7. What are the processes we will need to follow? If we leave, the RCA has requirements for us to leave peaceably and any denomination we join has a process.



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# PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- 1. Pam Kruger
- 2. Tim and Jodie Kruger; Jared, Katie
- 3. Pray for our College Students
- 4. Pray for our Church
- 5. Jodene Kruse
- 6. Charlie and Brenda Kuhl
- 7. Dave and Sandy Lamfers
- 8. Arnie and Diane Langstraat
- 9. Mark and Melissa Langstraat; Emma, Addysen, Taylor
- 10. Pray for our College Students
- 11. Pray for our Church
- 12. Cindy Larson
- 13. Wilma Leusink
- 14. Brad and Sarah Loerts; Parker, Blake, Brynna
- 15. Brian and Megan Loerts; Brysen, Jaxton, Nash, Ellie

- 16. Ken and Wilma Loerts
- 17. Pray for our College Students
- 18. Pray for our Church
- 19. Josh and Hannah Lucas; Joanna, Allegra
- 20. Preston and Britta Marco
- 21. Nick and Maria Mans; Loryl, Nolan
- 22. Frank Martinez
- 23. Darcy Martinez
- 24. Pray for our College Students
- 25. Pray for our Church
- 26. Cory and Anne Maxwell; Kaden, Kaylee, Kyler
- 27. John and Kim McDougall; Alex, Matthew
- 28. Dave and Jessica McDyer; Lincoln, Addison
- 29. Leona Meendering
- 30. Cliff and Linda Mehls

#### **College Students:**

MacKenzie Beyer Kaden Maxwell Teddy Van Gelder Carter Brouwer Andrea Leusink Tyler Feldkamp Dalten Bremer Ashilyn Hulstein Natalie Klaassen Grant Brouwer

Ryan Van Marel



Neeting Ninutes

#### Consistory Meeting Highlights May 24, 2023

Minutes from the May meeting were not yet available upon printing. Please watch your bulletins for any Consistorial Updates. Thanks!



# PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

#### **Assisted Living**

Trudy Dykstra Ethel Jurgens Geneva Wissink Larry & Alfreda Verdoorn Margaret Calsbeek Anita Ernst The Nursing Homes Marlys Brink Donna Sterler Kay Jansen

#### **Christian Retirement Home**

Helen Vander Veen

#### Our Missionaries

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

# **PRAYER JOURNAL**



Jagger Johnson graduated from Iowa State University in Ames, IA with a degree in Marketing. He plans to work in Daytona Beach, Florida as an account executive for Hamlin and Associates.

# Grace is when

God gives us good things that we dont deserve. Mercy is when He spares us from bad things we deserve. Blessings are when He is generous with both. Truly, we can never run out of reasons to thank Him. God is good all the time.

@bepositivebehapy



#### Where:

Hidden Hills Lodge in NE South Dakota

#### When:

July 13-16

#### Who:

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

> Questions? Contact Chris Wynia or Dan Heilman

Westview Baptist Church SIN BURN IS PREVENTED BY SON SCREEN		
Flag Day Word Scramble		
1. ASTEST		
2. IANCGVILE		
3. DER		
4. UBEL		
5. SAU		
6. CISUTEJ		
7. TWIEH		
8. RITPESS		
9. ALYIDSP		
10. IEAMRACN		
11. UYTPRI		
12. CESGNROS		
13. EPDARA		
14. VOALR		
15. FFYTI		
16. JEUN		
17. ATSRS		
18. AERPVRNCESEE		
19. FAGL		
20. ERPID		

Hello First Reformed Church,

I heard something really quite amazing on the radio the other day. It was a quick devotional on Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever." That



sparked something in me. It sparked a thought that I had about our time and our priorities. Where are we spending our time and what are we prioritizing? More importantly what are we doing with our children in regard to these things? Now that we have moved on from the school year and are moving toward the summer things are now going to start getting crazy. Our calendars seem to be full and we don't seem to have the time to do much of anything aside from the things we make time for. Think about this for a moment. What is the one thing that will never disappear or fade away? God is the answer. Do we prioritize our faith in Christ? Are we prioritizing helping our children in their daily walk with Christ? The trophies, the awards, the grades, the cars, money, jobs, all of those things are going to fade away at the end of time, but God is the one that is eternal. We need to take time for our kids and their faith. At the end of our lives there is nothing that we can take with us to heaven, but there is one thing that we can attempt to take with us, our friends and family. We cannot ultimately make that decision, that is up to God, but it does not hurt to raise them in the Lord and try to draw them to Christ.

I have heard some say, "Well I'm not qualified for that, that is the Pastor's job." Think about this for a moment, God gave you your children for a reason, it was not done by chance. God knows that you are the perfect parent for your child, this does not mean you are perfect and will never make a mistake, but that you are qualified to help your child in the development of their faith. If you do not have or know where to get resources that is where the church comes in. We are here to equip you parents with how to disciple your children. Maybe you're thinking, "Well my kids are all grown or are teenagers it's too late for me." You are never too old to parent your children. There are plenty of materials out there on how to reach your grown children, I even purchased a book on how to a Godly grandparent. There are so many good resources out there we just have to know where to look.

Let me end with some encouragement. We all make mistakes we all want what's best for our children. If you have your children's best interests in mind and in heart that is a good thing. I want to restate this point again just so then it sinks in, you are the perfect parent for your child. God chose you to be your child's parent. God chose you for this high honor to be called, "Mother or Father." Don't waste this opportunity you have by putting your trust, time, and efforts into the things that will fade and wither away. Put it all into the eternal things, the things that will never fade and never wither away.

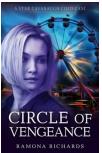
Blessings,

Josh Lucas

Dad Jokes with Josh:

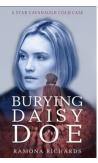
I used to run a dating service for chickens, but I was struggling to make hens meet.

# From the library--



The first book this month is CIRCLE OF VENGEANCE by Ramona Richards Twentyfive years ago, a body was discovered in the Turney family barn--and the locals were all too ready to believe that killing blood ran through Turney veins. Every member of the family came under suspicion, their reputations crumbled to pieces and with no convictions, no one has ever been cleared. Daughter, Jill, now a Chicago lawyer, is ready for this case to be solved and for her broken family to be repaired at last. Who better to find the answers than coldcase PI Star Cavanaugh? But as Star begins to dig into generations-old secrets, the killer resurfaces to make sure none of those skeletons leave the closet—no matter what

the cost. As the danger mounts, Star again joins force with police chief, Mike Luinetti and he begins to uncover truths that the whole town has kept hiddsn. But becoming the target of the determined killer isn't the way Star wants to find the answers. Now its a race to solve the case before it becomes a matter of her life or death."



If you read and enjoyed the book written about above, you will want to read the sequel also by Ramona Richards: BURYING DAISY DOE. "Every small town has one unsolvd case that haunts its memory, festering for generations below the surface with the truth of humanity's darkness. Star Cavanaugh is obsessed with the one that tore her family apart. Other sixty years ago Daisy Doe was murdered and discarded outside Pineville, Alabama, buried without a name or anyone to mourn her loss. When Star's father tried to solve the case, he too was killed. Now a cold case detective with resources of her own, Star is determined to get to the bottom of both crimes. But to do so, she'll have to face an entire town locked in corruption, racism, silence, and fear—and the same dangerous

killer who took two other lives. The only people in town she can trust are her grandmother and the charming Mike Luinetti, and both of them trust a God Star isn't sure she believes in. Can Christians so focused on the good really help her track down this evil?"



On a lighter note, our last book this month is THE PATIENT ONE, Book #1 of Walnut Creek Series, by Shelley Shephard Gray. "Marie Hartman never thought she'd move back to Walnut Creek but, still reeling from a friend's heartbreaking passing, she's desperate for the comforts of home. And she's dtermined to surround herself with people who care more about her heart than her striking looks. Vowing to reconnect with her childhood best friends and find a larger meaning in life, she also decided it's finally time to summon the courage to see if there's something more between her and longtime friend John Byler, than just companionship. Marie's homecoming forces John to reassess his life and his hopes for the future. Though, he still lives at home with the rest of his Old Order Amish

family, lately he's been feeling that God intends for him to go in another direction. But does He really want John to go against his faith and finally do something about his age-old crush on Ma-rie?"

Jeannette Juffer



Last weekend, March 11, strong winds roared across Kentucky. On campus, four old trees came down. We were blessed to have a workgroup from Justice for All (JFA) on

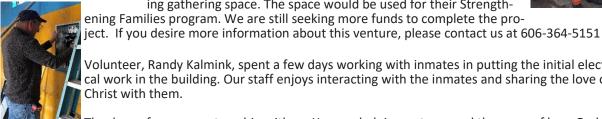


hand to help us clear the trees off of the roadways. Soon, inmates from the local detention center will be cutting the trees into firewood that will be distributed to those in need of some wood for heating and cooking



The old milk house on campus is taking on a new role. Over the years we have been blessed to partner with different organizations to help our community. At this time, we are partnering with the Clay/Jackson County ASAP (Agency for Substance Abuse Policy). The coordinator for ASAP, Ruthie Sizemore, serves on our board of directors. They would like to rehabilitate this building to expand their programming to include a safe, educational, welcoming gathering space. The space would be used for their Strengthening Families program. We are still seeking more funds to complete the pro-





Volunteer. Randy Kalmink, spent a few days working with inmates in putting the initial electrical work in the building. Our staff enjoys interacting with the inmates and sharing the love of Christ with them.

Thank you for your partnership with us. You are helping us to spread the news of how God can take our brokenness and create a radically new person. Your prayers are appreciated as we strive to make a difference one opportunity at a time.

Thank you! Jake Moss and Tommy Miracle

# A Letter from Pastor Colas

Brothers and sisters in Iowa, I greet you all in the name our Christ Lord Jesus! I'm very happy to write to you all in the name of Jesus Christ! Church, I take this time to thank you all for the gift you sent.

Me and another brother, who help at the church, did foot washing with all the church members. We also did communion for



the first time since covid years, where we have people take sacrament in one cup. We read John 13:1-7 and had a wonderful service.

I want to ask that you please pray for my health, my family and my church family. Thank you very much!

Colas, Church of Christ. Lead pastor



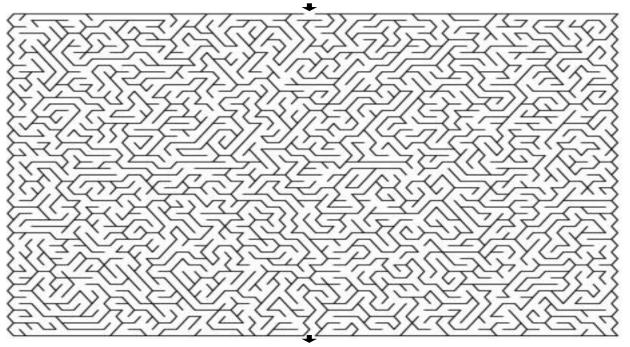




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August barbecue beach biking bonfires books camping holidays ice cream July lake lemonade memories picnics sprinkler strawberries summer camp swimming

canoeing cottage family friends games hammock hiking pool popsicles puzzles reading relax road trips sports traveling vacation watermelon



# **Sportsmen's Devotional**

#### **Bible Study Verse**

#### Galatians 6:9

And let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint.



#### **Thoughts**

Have you ever run a marathon, or a 10,000 meter race? There is a tendency among many to give up . . . to quit. There often comes a point when you are exhausted; every part of your body is aching; you are having trouble getting breath; you are thirsty, and you want to quit. Your body tells you that you can't take the next step - so quit; give up.

**But,** if you take the next step, if you continue, then you "catch your second wind" and wonder why you even had thoughts of quitting, of giving up, especially when you see the finish line and the crowd cheering. WOW! That takes me back to my younger days.

#### Action Point

The same principle can be found in spiritual matters. You start the race, then get knocked down. You get up, and the devil attacks you by trying to convince you that this "so-called Christian life" is not worth staying in the race. You want to quit; you want to give up. Listening to his voice, you almost quit, almost give up.

#### Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

When searching for pheasants or other upland birds, ask yourself two questions: Where's the cover? Where's the food? The area between food and cover (called the edge) is a good place to start when surveying a field for birds. Don't concentrate on where you've known birds to be in the past. Be flexible and patient in your search. Last, but not least, pay attention to the cues from your bird dog.

#### Trivia Time Answers!!!

**1.** Abimelech, Son of Gideon--Judges 9:4-5; **2**. 20 pieces of silver--Gen 37:28; **3**. Solomon--1 Kings 4:30,32; **4**. "D"--2 Timothy 3:8; **5**. Boaz for Ruth--Ruth 4:7-10; **6**. Mephibosheth--2 Samuel 4:4; **7**. Jael--Judges 5:24-26; **8**. Gamaliel and Zenas -- Acts 5:34; Titus 3:13; **9**. King Nebu-chadnezzar--Daniel 4:33; **10**. Job--Job 19:17



How You Can Access These Resources: <u>Church Website: www.sibleyfrc.org</u> click on Right Now Media to be taken directly to their site.

Website Link to set up your account :

<u>https://</u> <u>www.rightnowmedia.org/</u> <u>Account/Invite/</u> <u>FirstReformedSibley</u>

<u>Google Play Store App</u>: Right Now Media





# Calling All Keepers of the Kingdom...

# Mark your calendars!!

Sunday, June 4 4-8pm Mon-Wed, June 5-7 5:30-8:00pm

