



The Newsletter

September 2024

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

**Anyone can count the
seeds in an apple. Only
God can count all the
apples in one seed.**

~~Robert Schular

September at a Glance

- 1: Deacon Sample Ballots given out
- 2: Labor Day - Offices will be closed
- 6: 2:15pm BINGO help at Country View
- 8: Bibles will be handed out to 1st & 6th Graders at this service
 - 10:10 am Sunday School begins
 - Deacon Nominations filled out
 - 11:00 am Men's Cooking Competition Round 1.
- 9: 6:00 pm Elder/Deacon meetings
 - 7:00 pm Full Consistory will meet
- 11: 6:30 pm Bible Classes resume
 - 6:30 pm MS Youth Group resumes
 - 7:30 pm HS Youth Group resumes
- 13: 2:15 pm BINGO help at Country View
- 16: 9:30 am Faith Bible Study
 - 3:00 pm Patience Bible Study
- 20: 2:15pm BINGO help at Country View
- 22: Elder Sample Ballots given out
- 25: See You At The Pole - SO High School
- 27: 2:15pm BINGO help at Country View
- 29: Communion Prep Sunday
 - Elder Nominations filled out

*Sundays:

- 9:00 am Praise & Worship Service
- 10:10 am Coffee Fellowship Time
- 10:10 Sunday School for all ages

*Tuesdays:

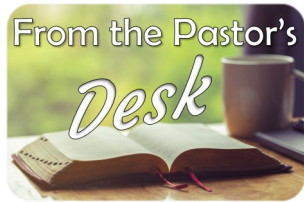
- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

*Wednesday Evening:

- 6:30 pm Bible Classes 1st-5th grades
- 6:30 pm Middle School Remnant
- 7:30 pm High School Remnant

CONTACT INFORMATION: 712-754-2783
sibleyfrcoffee@gmail.com
www.sibleyfrc.org

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



The Outward and the Inward

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

-1 Samuel 16:7

We all have to evaluate others from time to time. We go to buy a used car and we must evaluate the character of the person selling it to us. "Is this guy ripping me off?" we wonder. "Is there something seriously wrong with this car that he knows about and is concealing?" Sometimes that happens. I bought a huge lemon of a Subaru from a nice, honest Mormon once. It cost me \$4500 for head gaskets and a cracked head within weeks after I bought it. Turns out the guy knew. The proof was in mechanics receipts he left in the glove compartment.

An employee is underperforming at work. Is this a character issue, or is there some physical problem, or is there trouble at home? Is this someone we should replace, or someone we should work with to improve performance?

Maybe your college-aged child comes home with a new boyfriend/girlfriend. It's pretty serious. Marriage might be on the horizon. "Is this guy going to take care of my daughter?" a father asks himself. "Is she going to be good to my son?" his mother ponders. Everything looks bright and shiny and flawless right now. Most relationships start off that way. But half of them or better end in bitterness, hatred, recrimination, broken homes, damaged children, and huge legal bills. "I never would have married him/her if I knew he/she was this kind of person," the bitter, angry ex-spouse says ten years later.

Evaluating is something we should do sparingly and very carefully. It is an opportunity for great sin on our part and great pain on the part of the person being evaluated. I know a lot of pastors, and I have counseled several. They are generally a deeply wounded bunch of people who are in a lot of pain. The average pastor experiences more criticism and rejection in a month than most other people get in 5 years, and they have to stand there and smile and pretend it's all OK. To be a pastor, you have got to have a hide like a rhinoceros. So does your family, unfortunately. I know one pastor whose daughter repeatedly overheard people "evaluating" her father and the Children's Ministry Director on Sunday mornings. The self-appointed evaluators probably weren't in a position to know much. They probably weren't volunteering or doing much. They certainly weren't in a position of responsibility in which they were tasked with evaluating the performance of church staff. They just wanted to yammer. The pure meanness and unnecessary character of the yammering has turned her heart away from the church in a pretty substantial way which will take a lot of time to heal.

It's a truism today among young adults who were raised in the church that many professing Christians are just plain mean. It hurts to be in relationship with them, and they don't want much to do with them anymore. A lot of that meanness comes from a sense of insecurity which masks itself as pride and high-handedness. The most vicious evaluators are generally the ones who are the most afraid of being evaluated themselves. When the spotlight is turned on them, often we discover they have good reasons for their fears.

You see, it's possible to look good without being good inside. But eventually what's actually inside will find a way to erupt outwards into your speech and actions. What's generally overlooked in all of this is that people's words and actions spring from deep in their inner being. They spring from a place that Jesus called "the heart."

One time, the Pharisees were busting Jesus' chops over the fact that his disciples ate their food without first doing the complex, ceremonial washing that the Pharisees thought was so important.

Omitting that made the disciples unclean or sinful, the Pharisees argued. This was conclusive proof in their minds that Rabbi Jesus was an imposter. With great patience and insight, Jesus taught them about where the real source of uncleanness in a human being lay. He said, "Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone." Matt 15:17-20.

When the heart is right, the externals will automatically come around right eventually. When the heart is wrong, you can look good. But you can't really be good.

In contemporary evangelical Christianity we have a pretty clear understanding of the idea that Jesus came to deal with the eternal penalty for having all of that corruption within our hearts. We know that his death on the cross can forgive us for the deeds which flow from our unclean hearts. As a matter of fact, we've reduced the whole glorious gospel to just that one point: Jesus died on the cross to forgive your sins so that you can go to heaven when you die. That's the gospel message we usually hear proclaimed. And it's not untrue. I believe that, and you should believe it too. But it's not the whole story. Not by a long shot.

As a matter of fact, that reductionistic version of the gospel has actually distorted the true gospel to the point where people can regularly do the most horrible things with no real sense that they have done much that is wrong or destructive. They can sit talking quietly in a pew before worship starts and damage the heart of a young woman who overhears them, and have no consciousness that they have done something terribly wrong on the cusp of worshipping the triune God. They probably would feel bad if they knew the young woman overheard, but I suspect they would not be horrified by what was going on inside of them that produced such casually ejected poison. They wouldn't say with Isaiah, "Woe is me, I am undone! I am a (wo)man of unclean lips and I dwell among a people of unclean lips!"

No. They would probably only regret that they had been overheard by the minister's daughter. Then they'd either defend and deflect, saying they had done nothing wrong, or they casually claim the forgiveness of the cross and go about their business exactly as they had before, perhaps being more careful to look behind them and lower their voices before they evaluated again.

What is lost today is that God is not just in the forgiveness business. He is in the renovation of the heart business. Jesus deeply wants to engage with us in an interactive way that transforms our hearts, which are the ultimate source of all of our behavior. As a pastor, a big part of my job is to present that possibility to you and then be a reliable guide on the path to heart transformation.

At this point, there is even more confusion in the contemporary church. If you can even get people to see the need for a transformed heart, then the question becomes, "How is the heart transformed?" The answers vary. Some say revival is the only thing that can transform hearts. Some seek extraordinary experiences of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, convinced that if they experience that, it will also solve the heart problem. Some try a posture of passivity. "Let go and let God" they counsel. The boilerplate answer among the modern, conservative Reformed is that the heart is transformed by faithfully utilizing the "means of grace." That means participating in Word and Sacrament (i.e. going to Sunday morning worship faithfully) and mastery of sound doctrine.

All of these approaches have been tried thoroughly and vigorously for over a century in the American church. The evidence is in. None of them reliably produce changed hearts in the people who

Continued on next page...



participate faithfully in them. Perversely, they can even leave the participant convinced that they are doing something powerful and effective, or even meritorious. This in turn makes them superior to the other poor rubes who don't know any better. This is the road to Pharisaism. It leaves the person worse off than they were before.

That's not to say they don't have some genuine value, or that the Lord doesn't use them powerfully in the lives of certain individuals. He does. But they are not reliable, repeatable practices that produce transformed hearts and thus transformed character in a wide-spread way.

The heart is transformed by learning to walk interactively with Jesus in his kingdom. He likens this kingdom walking to being in a yoke with him, like oxen or a team of horses pulling a load. You are invited to walk next to him while he shows you how to live and gives you the ability to actually change your heart as you learn from him. He shoulders most of the load. He calls it an easy yoke and a light burden. He promises that when you take his yoke upon yourself, you will find rest for your soul.

Hear me clearly: Jesus is not interested in helping you carry your self-imposed yoke. I need to say this because the gospel is often peddled this way in our day: "Jesus will help you solve your problems, most of which are self-imposed." Instead, he is interested in teaching you how to walk with him in his easy yoke. If you don't have rest for your soul, then I promise you, the yoke you are carrying is not Jesus' yoke. Best to put yours down, then, and seek above all else the kingdom.

That kingdom is right here, right now. It is available to anyone who truly wants it. It is a place of complete sufficiency and power where we can count on God to meet each need as we learn to walk with him interactively. In the kingdom we learn how to receive power that allows us to live lives of quiet strength and peace no matter what our outward circumstances are, confident that God is at work to redeem each situation for his glory. We are continuously delighted that he we get to participate in that process with him and impact the world around us. All you have to do to enter that kingdom is to place your confidence in Jesus, not just for the forgiveness of your sins and heaven when you die, but for everything. In that walking you discover the absolute sufficiency of God. Walking with Jesus in the kingdom encompasses all of life. Another term for this is discipleship. When you are a disciple, the world is a perfectly safe place for you to be. You discover that there is no human problem that cannot be solved by discipleship. Not a single one.

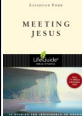

As I mentioned before, this fall we are doing a sermon series called "So Great a Salvation" that unfolds and explains much of what I've talked about here. I am also teaching a Sunday School class on the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' masterpiece that teaches us about how to live in the Kingdom with him.

The Sunday School class will be in the fellowship hall and will start promptly at 10:10. We're going to try to spread the coffee stations around the building a little more to expedite the coffee service and allow people to get to class on time. Please come to my class. But please come on time and prepared to learn. If you don't have time to get a cookie, you'll probably survive.

I look forward to being with you and learning together about life in the kingdom.

To accommodate congregational contact, please add Pastor Brian's cell number, 605-499-8990, to your church directories for future reference. We would like to request you to please be respectful to the use of this number.



Faith Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, September 16 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying lesson #2, "Direction Within Frustration" in our study book *Depending on Jesus*. Scripture will be Acts 16:1-10. Janelle will be leader and Rhonda will serve as hostess. All are invited! If you would like to join, please let us know! Hope to see you there!

Patience Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, September 16 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #3 "Rapture Ahead!" in our book *Heaven: Finding Our True Home*. Scripture for the lesson is 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Barb will lead and Lois will serve as hostess. Come for a time of fellowship and learning.

6:30 pm Sunday Evening Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities!

****Message Discussion and Application Bible Study****

*Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar's home **Begins September 8**

*FRC Fellowship Hall **Begins September 8**

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

This group is currently studying the book of **Genesis**.

FRC Fireside Room

All ages, singles and couples are invited to attend. Childcare can be arranged.

Come, join a group and let's grow together!



**First Reformed is in charge of BINGO
at Country View Manor for the Fridays in September.
Volunteer on the signup sheet on the Information Center.**

Consistory Meeting Highlights August 12, 2024

- **MMSA** a request from Josh Lucas to use the church facilities for a Middle School Lock in to be held on August 23-24.
- **Approval was granted** to Pastor Brian to take vacation time from December 25-29.
- **Pastor Brian stated** he will be doing a Sunday School Class during coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.
- **It was noted** that district 7 is scheduled to help with Christmas Decorating this year.
- **Reminder from Sibley-Ocheyedan** as to our church being the designated meeting place upon a school evacuation.
- **Have asked the property team** to look into having cameras installed in the church.



Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through August 31:

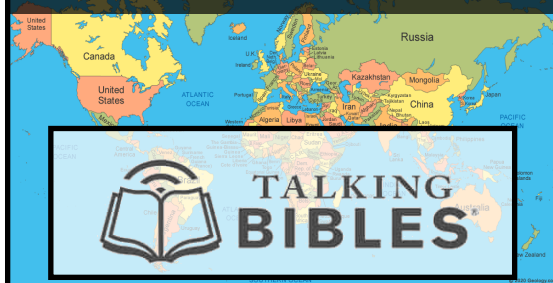
- **General Fund: \$222,930.69**
Budget: \$443,532.29; 50% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: 11,225.81**
Budget: \$68,275.23; 16% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$1605**
Building Fund - Parsonage Updates: \$6750

Average Monthly Offering Needed:
\$42,650

Total Benevolent/General Offerings for August:
\$22,998.60

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

Special Offering for September



FRC invites you to join together for the first
annual
fRC Men's Cooking Competition



**-- Round 1--
September 8:**

***"Smokin'
in the Boy's
Room"***

(smoked or grilled
meat)

Faith In Action for September



Stamps

24lb Copy Paper
20lb Copy Paper
Bottled Water
Canon Ink
#275 & #276
Pop
Hershey Kisses

13 gal Trash bags

30 gal Trash bags
Grocery Cards Gas
Cards
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Keurig K-cups
Regular & Decaf



Joyful Voices Choir

The Joyful Voices choir will begin its new year by preparing special music for World Wide Communion Sunday, October 6. Practices are scheduled for Sunday mornings, September 22 and 29, at 8:20 am in the Fireside Room. All voices, 7th grade or older, are welcome to join us! Together, we will make our plans for other special events. If you have any questions, please contact Peg Van Kley. Hope to see you there!

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 1: E: Reka Post
C: Jr and Imogene Rasmussen
W: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling
- 8: E: Daren Rockman
C: Marlin Roelfs
W: Janice Runia
- 15: E: Marlin and Kathy Runia
C: Dr. Brian and Heidi Sayler/family
W: Eric Schiphoff
- 22: E: Hugh Schiphoff
C: Lynn Schram
W: Ted and Eileen Schutte
- 29: E: Verlyn and Dona Smidt
C: Nancy Soat
W: Dave and Lesa Stofferan

Children & Worship during the service



Leader	Helper
1: Deb Kusters	
8: Deb Kusters	
15: Deb Kusters	
22: Deb Kusters	
29: Deb Kusters	

Willing Hands Group

**Willing Hands
Group #3**
will be responsible for
services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Jamie/Scott Hulstein
- Sandy/Dave Lamfers

Worship Service Nursery

- 1: Abby and Joselyn DeZeeuw
8: Teresa Hurlburt and Maria Mans
15: Maureen and Amelia Heilman
22: Amy Van Marel and Jodi Wagenaar
29: Sandy Heronimus and Sandy Lamfers

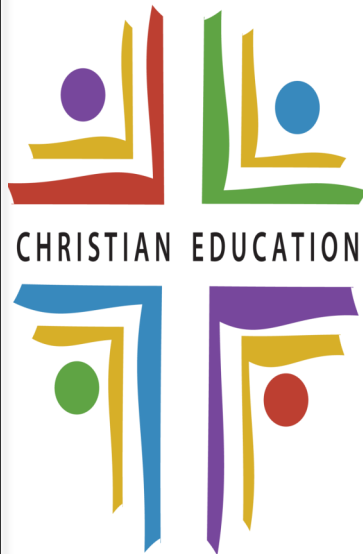
Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 1: Ger and Barb Van Diepen
8: John and Lois Van Diepen
15: Jim and Pauline Van Engen
22: Curt and Peg Van Kley
29: Pam and Duane Vande Hoef

Library Volunteers



- 1: Jan Henrichs
8: Jamie Hulstein
15: Jan Juffer
22: Jeannette Juffer
29: Leona Meendering



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:

Classes begin September 8 at 10:10 am

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

Classes begin September 11 at 6:30 pm.

(No classes on Sept 18 due to coronation)

- **MS and HS Remnant Youth Group:**

Youth Groups begin September 4

◇ Middle School 6:30pm-7:30pm

◇ High School 7:30pm-8:30pm

(No classes on Sept 18 due to coronation)

A very special time in the life of our church begins as we plan for the upcoming education year. Will you join a class? Will you commit to faithfully attending? Will you teach? Opportunities for spiritual growth, learning and ministry are available for everyone.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for students 3yr old - adult will begin September 8, 2024.

Classes will be held from 10:10-11:00 am.

Classes will be held in 2024 on:

Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27

Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24

Dec. 1, 8, 15

Classes will be held in 2025 on:

Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23

Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

April 6, 13, 27

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

Wednesday Night Bible Class will begin on September 11, 2024, for student's 1st through 5th grade. Classes will be held from 6:30 - 7:30 pm.

Classes will be held in 2024 on:

Sept 11, 25

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Nov. 6, 20

Dec. 4, 11, 18

Classes will be held in 2025 on:

Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26

Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26

April 2, 9, 16, 23

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Children & Worship is for children age three through kindergarten.

It is held during the worship service. The schedule for Children & Worship will follow the Sunday School Calendar.

Worship leaders and helpers are needed.

College Addresses

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

Carter Brouwer
2013 Fox Run Trail
Brookings, SD 57006

Mackenzie Beyer
610 W 4th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Ted Van Gelder
617 Jackrabbit Ave
Brookings, SD 57007

Grant Brouwer
1235 SE University Ave
Apt. #205
Waukeg, IA 50263

Marissa Ackerman
#313 Caldwell Hall
Box 2805
Brookings, SD 57007

Halle Block
1343 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy
Apt. #302
Ankeny, IA 50023

Madison Brouwer
901 Rose Street
Apt. #244
Vermillion, SD 57069

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

Makya Dykstra
1631 4th St NE
Apt 115
Watertown, SD 57201-8797

Maverick Elser
612 S. 16th Street
Ames, IA 50010

Jared Kruger
410 Campus Drive
Appt. 4
Calmar, IA 52132

Emma Langstraat
Meadows South
#120C
Brookings, SD 57007

Matthew McDougall
Room #701
IA Lakes Comm. College
3200 College Drive
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

Gannon Rockman
3099c Nest Ave.
Sheldon, IA 51201

Ella Bruxvoort
405 5th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

Aiden DeZeeuw
Drake University
Des Moines, IA 50311

Michael Block Jr.
208 8th St. SW
Unit 103
Orange City, IA 51041
Apiyo Harberts

The Boundary
5350 W. Vision Dr.
#102
Sioux Falls, SD 57107

Uchan Harberts
The Boundary
5360 W. Vision Dr.
#216
Sioux Falls, SD 57107

Grace Bevers
Beede Hall
Room 227-2
702 E. Cherry Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

If your student will have a different address for the 2024-2025 school year please let the office know.



Adult Sunday School Class opportunities:

♦ Sermon on the Mount: Life in the Kingdom

led by Pastor Brian located in the Fellowship Hall

♦ Table Talk led by Gretchen Bartelson in the Fireside Room

(Intergenerational class for High School and adults)

♦ Disciple-Making Guide Class

(formerly the Sunday School Guide Class)

member led, held in the Library



Coffee Hour Revamp: Starting on September 8, we will be offering 4 coffee stations around church.

One in the Fireside Room, one in the Library, one in the Fellowship Hall and one in our newly appointed "Coffee Hour Chat Room" (west Fellowship Hall Sunday School Rooms).

Juice will still be available in the Fellowship Hall. We hope this allows everyone to enjoy their coffee and goodies and still be able to attend a Sunday School Class or Fellowship Time.



PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Pray for our Church | 16. Clark Haken |
| 2. Luella Eggink | 17. Lennis and Marvella Harberts;
Uchan, Apiyo, Ahbea, Aysha |
| 3. Jon and Amy Elser; Mariah, Maverick | 18. Ed and Jan Harskamp |
| 4. Anita Ernst | 19. Bill and LaDonn Hartzell |
| 5. Mim Ernst | 20. Wilma Hatting |
| 6. Paul Feldkamp | 21. Pray for our College Students |
| 7. Pray for our College Students | 22. Pray for our Church |
| 8. Pray for our Church | 23. Kevin and Twila Heemstra |
| 9. Randy and Kalie Fuoss | 24. Dwayne and Janice Heikes |
| 10. Gert Gaalswyk | 25. Dan and Maureen Heilman; Luke, Amelia |
| 11. Russ Gaalswyk; Alexis | 26. Burt and Jan Henrichs |
| 12. Gene and Renae Groen | 27. Derek and Ashley Heronimus;
Kalen, Brooks |
| 13. Robert and Janice Groen | 28. Pray for our College Students |
| 14. Pray for our College Students | 29. Pray for our Church |
| 15. Pray for our Church | 30. Ken and Sandy Heronimus |

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

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR
Like 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
Jeff and Chelsea Lampen

PRAYER JOURNAL

[illegible]



Celebrations

~~Birthday's~~

- 1 Lacey Julius
- 2 Kayla Hoekstra
Kevin Soat
- 4 Michael Wielenga
- 5 Diane Langstraat
Aubrey Hulstein
Dean Van Marel
- 6 Hugh Schiphoff
Levi Christensen
- 7 Makya Dykstra
- 14 Israel Joseph
Allegra Lucas
- 15 Gary Wolter
- 16 Ken Loerts
Luke Heilman
Nolan Mans
- 17 Donna Sterler

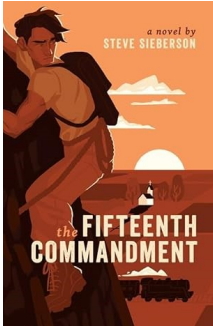
- 22 Hadley Crichton
- 23 Taylor Langstraat
- 24 Jodi Wagenaar
- 25 Emma Langstraat
- 26 Paul Vander Linden
Eileen Schutte
- 27 Jo Hielkema
Jim Van Engen
Alex McDougall
- 28 Kathy Verdoorn
- 30 Gannon Rockman
Austyn Weg

~~Anniversaries~~

- 3 Larry & Rhonda Riebeling -----30 yrs
- 4 Harold & Shelia Van Der Sloom ---60 yrs
- 5 Mitch & Abby Kreykes -----19 yrs
- 13 Derek & Ashley Heronimus -----16 yrs
- 14 Jamie & Jennifer Bruxvoort-----28 yrs
- 16 Larry & Melissa De Boer -----29 yrs
- 21 Dennis & Dar Jurgens -----39 yrs
- 23 Bill & LaDonn Hartzell-----46 yrs



From the library--



We have a new book in the library, and you are thinking, "So what else is new?" Well, this one might offend some of you. First, let me say that it has already been read by a few people in our church who were brought up as strict Dutch Calvinists and they all agree that the author "tells it like it was!" You may remember reading an article in March 2, 2024, issue of THE N'WEST IOWA REVIEW about the author, Steve Sieberson, growing up in the 60's as Dutch Calvinist in Sioux County, attending the Christian Reformed Church; being a student at Western Christian High School in Hull and attending Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, before going to Iowa City to law school. He now lives in Poulsbo, Washington. A copy of the newspaper article is glued in the book if you missed it.

As a note of interest, if you grew up in the Sioux County area, you will recognize the larger cities he refers to as well as the Palisades State Park in southeast South Dakota, as a bit of humor, Orange City becomes "Klompen," Hull is "Hemel" and Sioux Center is "New Holland."

Here is the synopsis from the back cover of the book, THE FIFTEENTH COMMANDMENT by Steve Sieberson. "It is the summer of 1965, and seventeen-year-old Nick Baarda is under pressure from his religious sect to conform to its rigid rules of behavior, including prohibitions on "worldly" activities like dancing and going to movies. On the other hand, Nick and his best friends are determined to enjoy modern life to the fullest, and they devise their own Commandment to give themselves free rein. They also plan to leave town the following year when they graduate from their parochial high school. When a new minister arrives, he makes it clear that he intends to keep the boys firmly under his thumb, and this sets in motion an extended contest of wills. Complicating things is the pastor's daughter, who becomes Nick's intellectual soulmate while not reciprocating his romantic overtures. The result for Nick is a roller coaster of infatuation and frustration, while he and the other boys share raucous adventures and deal with sex, conflict, and calamity. Through it all, Nick wrestles with the quirks and hypocrisy he sees in his religion, and as graduation nears, he is forced to decide whether he will stay or break free."

DISCLAIMER: THERE ARE TIMES SWEAR WORDS ARE USED AND, ON OCCASION, THE WRITER GETS EXPLICIT; but remember the story is about teenage boys and boys that age don't hold back.

We realize that users of the church library are woman, however since this book's main characters are Nick Baarda and guy friends, members of the male persuasion will be able to relate to the boys and find THE FIFTEENTH COMMANDMENT interesting, too!!

NOTE: The "Love Inspired" book case is filled and the pocket/purse-sized books are back just waiting to be checked out. The books are "Suspense" so if you like sitting on the edge of your seat and don't want to put the book down because you need to know what happened, these are the books for you. Check out the small book case filled with blue jacketed books on the north wall the next time you are in the library.

--Jeannette Juffer
Alfreda Verdoorn



Basket in the Water

“There comes a time - many times, actually - in the lives of our children where we have to put the basket in the water. We have to let go and trust the plan of the Father. The world is a scary place - a place where we fear our children could drown. But we must remember that we have to let go so that God can draw them from the waters for His great purpose. He has called us to be their parents, but they were His first.

My friend, whatever water you may be getting ready to put your basket into - remember that you have to put them in the water for God to draw them out and place them into His perfect plan. Though you might not be physically present with your child as much during the next phase of life, you can always petition the heart of the Father on their behalf.”
 ~~ Ashlei Woods ~~

5TH QUARTER

Sibley Parks & Recreation is looking for sponsors for the 5th Quarter program! 5th Quarter is held on eight Friday night home football or basketball games throughout the school year for grades 5th-6th & 7th-8th. The evenings are led by the Osceola County Ministerial Association along with volunteers. Students who attend 5th Quarter have the opportunity to play games, have pizza, and hang out with their friends in a safe environment at the Sibley Legion Hall.

We are asking for your involvement in this community event! 5th Quarter would not be possible without volunteers and donations. There are a couple different ways you can support the 5th Quarter program.

- 1) Sponsor an evening by providing pizza, drink, & 2-3 volunteers.
- 2) Donate (All donations are used to cover the food, drink and supplies.)
- 3) Volunteer

We are looking for sponsors for 5th Quarter this coming school year. The program is held on Friday nights from 9:30PM - 11:00PM.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| - August 30 | 5th & 6th Grade |
| - September 6 | 7th & 8th Grade |
| - September 20 | 5th & 6th Grade |
| - October 11 | 7th & 8th Grade |
| - December 6 | 5th & 6th Grade |
| - December 20 | 7th & 8th Grade |
| - January 17 | 5th & 6th Grade |
| - January 24 | 7th & 8th Grade |

We greatly appreciate the community support! If you would like to be involved with 5th Quarter please reach out to the Sibley Parks & Recreation Department at sibley.rec@gmail.com or 712-720-7005.

Donations may be mailed to City of Sibley Attn: 5th Quarter PO Box 126, Sibley, IA 51249

A Google Doc Link has been set up to help organize volunteers.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/13YndrVPqnApre_AKzI5ETmPsl8yK_P7e1dykMVwNJcQ/edit?usp=sharing

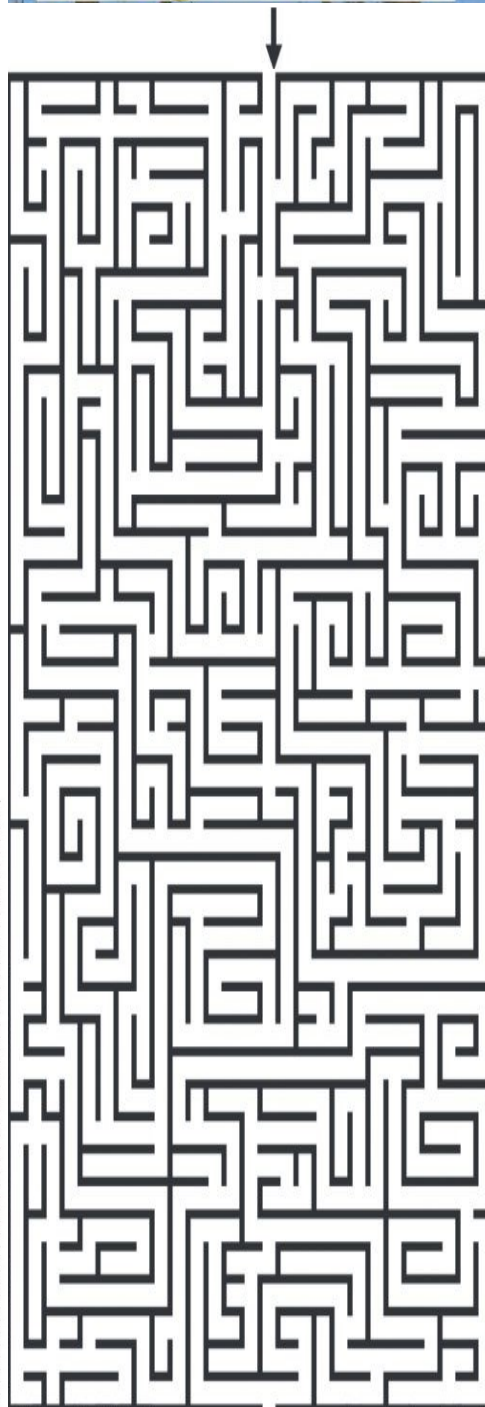
A paper version can also be found on the Information Center.

Fall Word Search

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

FALL
AUTUMN
LEAVES
HARVEST
PUMPKIN
HALLOWEEN
THANKSGIVING
FOOTBALL
SWEATER
APPLE CIDER
SCHOOL
ACORN
ORANGE
YELLOW
BROWN

CORN MAZE



Pumpkin Patch

4 3 2 1 2 3 7 1 6 7 2 3 4 6 8 9 6 9 1
5 5 6 9 1 8 1 4 5 3 5 3 5 4 1 2 1 5 8
1 6 9 2 7 2 3 2 7 4 4 2 3 1 7 1 3 3 2
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6 1 9 2 3 8 3 4 4 5 3 2 5 2 5 2 2 6 5
5 3 2 1 5 4 3 2 6 1 5 3 2 8 7 5 6 3 5
2 1 1 9 7 8 5 7 4 3 2 7 5 6 3 8 7 5 6
3 5 4 6 1 2 3 8 7 5 5 4 3 2 9 5 4 3 6
8 7 2 8 9 5 4 2 6 9 1 6 9 3 2 1 1 3 4
5 1 4 2 3 5 7 9 7 5 3 3 3 1 2 6 9 7 3



find Sums of 10

Finish

FRC invites you to join together for the first annual

FRC Men's Cooking Competition

-- Round 2--

November 10: "Birds of Prey"

(chicken, turkey, or wild game bird)



-- Round 3--

December 1:

"It's Starting to Get Chili in Here"

-- Round 4--

January 12: "Fresh Wind"

(bean dish)



2025

Phone/Address Directory

Office Phone: 754-2783
Kitchen, Office phone: 754-2366

Visit us at:
www.sibleyfrch.org
Facebook: First Reformed Church Sibley, IA
YouTube: Sibley First Reformed Church

1010 6th Street, Sibley, Iowa



First Reformed Church

Reminder:

Photo and info submissions for the 2025 Church Photo Directory need to be turned in no later than October 27 to the church office.

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Trivia Fun Time

1. What was in the Ark in the Tabernacle?
2. In the Bible, what kind of seed becomes a very large tree?
3. How many Mary's are mentioned in the Bible?
4. What was the name of the woman who was called "The Seller of Purple"?
 5. What is the last line of the 23rd Psalm?
 6. Jesus said that He would rebuild the temple in how many days?
 7. The manger is to Jesus as the basket in the bulrushes is to whom?
 8. Who said, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"?
 9. On what mountain did Moses receive the law?
 10. Who replaced Moses as the leader of the children of Israel?

Sportsmen's Devotional

Today's Photograph Do Not Leave Behind Your Christian Faith And Principles When You Go Trout Fishing



Bible Study Verse

Proverbs 4: 25-27

“Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.” (NIV)

Thoughts

As you were growing up, how many times did you hear, "Look where you are going." That sentence conveys a strong message for a fly fisherman when he is wading a stream or river.

I was nine years old when my father hired a professional fishing guide to teach us how to read trout waters, and his first comment was, "Look, before you take your first step. Locate a path for good footing, then look for trout. Learn to trust the Lord and visually appreciate His creation; for not everyone has this opportunity to witness the splendor of a trout stream."

Years later I attended a two-day fly fishing seminar conducted by one of the West's foremost trout fishing guides. He encouraged, "When entering and fishing a trout stream, a fly fisherman should spend seventy-five percent of his time looking for trout and twenty-five percent of his casting to the fish."

Action Point

Trust in the Lord, for He was the greatest fisherman. Do not leave behind your Christian faith and principles when you go trout fishing.

The winner is not the person who catches the biggest trout nor the most. The one who demonstrates his faith and principles, and shares these virtues with his fishing companions becomes a winner.

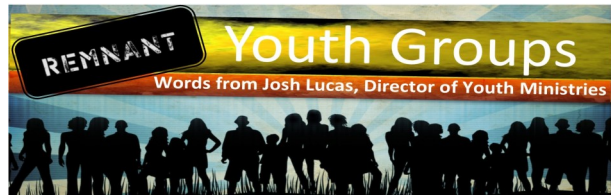
Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Always wear polarized glasses when wading a trout stream. These lenses help you look beneath the surface and select the best path for footing, avoiding boulders, potholes and other tripping hazards.

Trivia Time Answers:

1. Ten Commandments, Aaron's Rod, Pot of Manna (Hebrews 9:4)
2. Mustard (Matthew 13:31,32)
3. Six - Mary the mother of Jesus; Mary Magdalene; Mary the mother of James and Joseph; Mary the sister of Martha; Mary the wife of Cleophas; the Mary Paul greeted in Romans
4. Lydia (Acts 16:14)
5. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever
6. Three (John 2:19)
7. Moses (Exodus 2:3,10)
8. John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-2)
9. Sinai (Exodus 24:12-16)
10. Joshua (Joshua 1:1-9)

Hello First Reformed Church,



I just have one question for you all, are you ready? If your answer was a quiet little “yes” I will restate. I SAID, “ARE. YOU. READY?!” We are so close to the start of the school year, the beginning of youth programming, and all of the chaos that brews with that. It can really get overwhelming. Not to fear though because we serve and believe in a sovereign God who loves us, cares for us, and is there to hold us up and give us strength when we are weak. With the start of the new year around the corner here are some things that you will need to know as parents. First, please check your church mailboxes as there will be an information packet there for you. In it you will find some forms that will need to be filled out and brought to youth group, and yes, they need to be filled out and turned in! Second, please make sure to subscribe to the Remind app. I am wanting to get that going again so that parents get text messages of updates, reminders, and other things that come up with youth group. If you are not signed up with Remind, please come see me and I will get you plugged in. Third, if you are on social media please make sure to follow us on Instagram or Facebook. The name of the Instagram page is “Remnantyouth116.” This page is for both middle school and high school, if this turns out to be useful then we will look at having two individual pages for middle school and high school, but for now they are both on one page. Finally, please remember to check your emails and do not delete the ones that I send out. They contain important information and should not be ignored. If you do not receive my emails, please let me know so I can add you to the list.

In my closing remarks here, I want to give you all a glimpse into youth ministry. One of the key things to be successful in youth ministry is flexibility. What do I mean by that? Simply put, when it comes to youth, things change. Weather comes up, schedules change, kids get sick, whatever the case may be, things change in an instant. Please be flexible with us as we are doing everything we can to make sure everything goes according to plan. As September begins, we are going to also begin our Middle School and High School youth group stuff on September 4th by playing our large group game, Light in the Darkness from 6:30-8:30pm. We will then kick off the education year and Youth Group time officially on September 11th! We are looking forward to an amazing year. If you would like to know what we are studying in youth group, please let me know and I will be happy to share that information with you. If you ever have any questions, please let me know.

Blessings,
Josh

Dad Jokes with Josh:

I built a model of Mt. Everest. My daughter asked me, “Is it to scale?”
And I said, “No, it’s to look at.”



The Fourth of July event was a memorable day, with the campus buzzing with many activities. The community Independence Day parade, with a record number of entries, concluded on the campus. Following the parade, over 30 vendors set up their

booths, offering a variety of goods and services. The sunny weather made the pool and inflatables a popular choice, while the car show and concert on the campus green added to the day's charm.

The overwhelming feedback from participants, such as "What a fantastic day!" and "Today, I think we quadrupled the population of Annville, " indicates the event's success.

Hosting events of this size creates extra work for our staff. However, it does give us a platform to advertise our services and camps. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the community members, event participants, and supporters who made this event a success. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and makes these events possible.

Join us in praying that the campus will be viewed by all who enter its gates as a safe place where the presence of the Holy Spirit will be evident. We are thankful for the opportunities that are being presented. Your faithful support of our efforts is greatly appreciated.

Jake Moss
Tommy Miracle



Who can be a Senior Companion?

- Men & women age 55 and older
- Individuals who are in good health & able to volunteer 5 to 40 hours each week
- People who are committed to serving their community and have a desire to help others in need.

"Spending time with others and helping them has filled a void in my life."

What are the Benefits?

- Tax-free stipend provided to those who meet income guidelines
- Transportation & meal reimbursement
- Local placement
- Flexible hours
- Monthly training
- New friendships
- Gratitude and appreciation from the client and their family.
- The joy of helping others

Senior Companions. . .

- assist other seniors and home-bound adults maintain their dignity of independent living.
- are paired with clients or assigned to volunteer sites in their own local community.
- provide companionship through visiting, playing cards or games, etc.
- provide transportation to appointments, stores, or errands.
- are a connection between the client, their family and friends.
- offer brief relief services for primary caregivers.
- benefit physically, mentally, and emotionally from being needed and staying active.



Who can be a Foster Grandparent?

- Men & women age 55 and older
- Individuals who are in good health & able to volunteer 5 to 40 hours each week
- People who enjoy working with children & want to remain active in their community

"15 years ago I said I'd give it a try - and I am still doing it!"

What are the Benefits?

- Tax-free stipend provided to those who meet income guidelines
- Meals & transportation reimbursement
- Local placement
- Flexible hours
- Monthly training
- New friendships with fellow seniors & your community
- Love from children served

Foster Grandparents. . .

- volunteers serve in schools, pre-schools, and non-profit daycare centers.
- serve as mentors, tutors, and caregivers for children and youth who would benefit from individual support.
- use their life experiences to provide assistance, love, and encouragement.
- work one-to-one or in small groups under the supervision of trained professional staff.
- help children develop skills, confidence, and strength to succeed in life.
- benefit physically, mentally, and emotionally from being needed and staying active.
- forever change the lives of the children they serve and their own lives as well.



 **Foster Grandparent** program
of Greater Siouxland

 **Senior Companion** program
of Greater Siouxland

1510 14th St.
Rock Valley, IA 51247
Phone: 712-476-2628
Fax: 712-451-6889

313 Cook Street
Sioux City, IA 51109
(By appointment-Call
the Rock Valley Office)