

The Newsletter

December 2020





Operation Christmas Child

Way To Go First Reformed!!

Thanks to your generosity, we were
able to pack
102 shoeboxes this year!!
Thank you for making 102 children's
Christmases extra special!



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

December at a Glance

- 2: 9:00am** Mothers Together
- 14: 6:00 pm** Elder & Deacon Meetings
New 2021 Elders/Deacons are invited to attend
- **6:45pm** Consistory Supper followed by Full Consistory Meeting
 - **7:00pm** Full Consistory will meet
- 13:** Sharing Christmas Family gifts are due at the church
- 16: 9:00am** Mothers Together
- 24: 6:00pm** Christmas Eve Service
- 25:** Merry Christmas!! Offices closed
- 30: 2:00 pm** FRC is in charge of Nursing Home Services

*Sunday Mornings:

- 9:00 am Cornerstone Service
10:10 am Sunday School
11:00 am Open Door Service

*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:

- 6:30-7:30 Bible Classes for 1st-5th
6:30-7:30 pm MS Remnant
7:30-8:30 pm HS Remnant

CONTACT INFORMATION:
712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com



View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org



Stewardship & Giving

Special offering for December: Bethany Christian Services

Offering Summary through November 23:

- General Fund: \$293549.92;
Budget: \$291,112; 100.08% of budget
- Benevolent Fund: \$30,382.48
Budget: \$73,913; 41% of budget
- Building Fund offerings to date: \$1858

The beauty of
Christmas
is not in the
presents but in
His presence.
Matthew 1:23

Faith In Action for December: Sharing Christmas Families



Gifts need to be brought to Church by:

December 13, 2020

Bible Study Opportunities

Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us.
And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait
patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

Romans 15:4



Faith Bible Study, please watch your weekly bulletin for current Bible Study Information.

Patience Bible Study, please watch your weekly bulletin for current Bible Study Information.

Heidelberg Catechism

Question 1: What is thy only comfort in life and death?

Answer: That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with His precious blood, hath fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto Him.

A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. For the journey to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph

- a) walked
- b) Joseph walked, Mary rode a donkey
- c) rode a bus
- d) Who knows?

2. When Mary became pregnant,

- a) Joseph married her
- b) Joseph wanted to dissolve their relationship
- c) Mary left Nazareth for a while
- d) both b and c

3. Christmas has always been observed

- a) on December 25
- b) on January 17
- c) at Grandma's house
- d) none of the above

4. How many wise men came to see Jesus?

5. Who directed Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?

- a) Herod
- b) an angel
- c) Caesar
- d) the IRS

6. Just what is a heavenly host?

- a) an angelic choir
- b) the welcoming angel in heaven
- c) an array of angels
- d) none of the above

7. How many angels spoke to the shepherds?

- a) a multitude
- b) two ... Gabriel and Michael
- c) one
- d) Who knows?

8. What song did the angels sing?

- a) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
- b) "Joy to the World"
- c) "Glory to God in the Highest"
- d) none of the above

9. Baby Jesus was born in a

- a) cave
- b) manger
- c) Bethlehem
- d) none of the above

10. Joseph's family was from

- a) Jerusalem
- b) Nazareth
- c) Bethlehem
- d) none of the above

11. What animals were present at Jesus' birth?

- a) cows, sheep and camels
- b) cows, sheep and donkeys
- c) lions and tigers and bears
- d) Who knows?

12. When did baby Jesus cry?

- a) when he opened the wise men's gifts
- b) whenever babies usually cried
- c) when the cattle started lowing
- d) "no crying he makes"

13. Who saw the star over Bethlehem?

- a) Mary and Joseph
- b) shepherds
- c) three kings
- d) none of the above

14. What in the world are Magi?

- a) Eastern kings
- b) bankers
- c) astrologers
- d) school teachers

15. When the wise men brought their gifts to Jesus, they found him in:

- a) a manger
- b) a house
- c) Vacation Bible School
- d) none of the above

16. What sign were the shepherds to look for?

- a) a star over the stable
- b) a barn outlined with Christmas lights
- c) a baby in a manger
- d) both a and c

17. In what books of the Bible will you find these fascinating facts?

- a) Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- b) Matthew and Luke
- c) Mark and Matthew
- d) Matthew, Mark and Luke

Willing Hands Group



Willing Hands Group #6

will be responsible for services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Peg/Curt Van Kley
- Lois/John Van Diepen

Children & Worship Leaders/Helpers

9:00am

11:00am

6: L:
H:

6: L:
H:

13: L:
H:

13: L:
H:

20: L:
H:

20: L:
H:

27: Christmas Break
No Children &
Worship

27: Christmas Break
No Children &
Worship

Fellowship Coffee Servers



No Coffee Fellowship at this time.

Nursery

The Nursery will be open for use, but unstaffed.



Mothers Together
With God in the Middle

Will Meet at 9:00am on:

December 2 & December 16

Please join us as we continue our Right Now Media Video Study, "No More Perfect Moms" by Jill Savage.

A great place to take that much needed "Mom" time while your kiddos are watched by our expert caregivers!!

Our Outreach Team has purchased some Community Express Bus passes to be given to church family/individuals in need. If you would like a round-trip ticket or know of someone who could use one, please stop at the office.

Community Express

Voucher for Transportation
Provided to you by your local church
Thank you for riding!

Date _____
Signature _____





Cornerstone Service Greeters

6: E: Dick & Marcia Oldenkamp
 C: Duane & Pam Vande Hoef
 W: Ron & Nancy Dykstra

13. E: Dave & Sandy Lamfers
 C: John & Lois Van Diepen
 W: Clint & Jamie Klaassen

20. E: Greg & Deb Kusters
 C: Marlin Roelfs
 W: Bob & Janice Groen

24. Christmas Eve

E: Lawrence & Ruth Ann Wiersma
 C: Jim & Pauline Van Engen
 W: Jamie & Jennifer Bruxvoort

27: E: Arnie & Diane Langstraat
 C: Curt & Peg Van Kley
 W: Burt and Jan Henrichs

Library Volunteers



6: Janice Runia
 13: Jen Schram
 20: Pauline Van Engen
 27: Leanne Van Kley



So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11(NLT)

We hope you are remembering your Secret Sister in your prayers as well as with acts of kindness.

In this time of uncertainty a word of encouragement will mean a lot.

Thanks for participating Sisters!!!



A Fun Family Alternative to Traditional Advent Calendars. Advent Food Collection Calendar

We encourage you this Christmas to read each day's devotion and collect the food item for the day. By the time you get to Christmas you will have a full box of groceries to donate to someone who is in need. All donations can be dropped off at the church and will be delivered to the local food bank. Thanks for participating!!

2020 DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Box of Cereal 	30 Can of Soup Matt 1:1-7 Psalm 1	1 Box of Crackers Psalm 23 Isaiah 11:1-10	2 Can of Tuna Psalm 24 Matt 1:18-25	3 Sm Pkg Toilet Paper Psalm 25:3-8 Matt 7:21-27	4 Can of Fruit Isaiah 29:17-24 Matt 8:5-13	5 Can of Green Beans Isaiah 30:19-21 Matt 9:27-31
6 Can of Ravioli Isaiah 30:23-26	7 Can of Chili/Stew Matt 9:35-10:1 Isaiah 30:23-26	8 Box of Mac&Cheese Psalm 30	9 Can of Tomatoes Isaiah 35:1-10 Matt 11:7-15	10 Hand Soap Isaiah 40:1-11	11 Can of Tomato Sauce Psalm 34:1-8	12 Box of Tissues Isaiah 45:5-8, 18-25
13 Can of Corn Psalm 67 Matt 11:28-30	14 Spaghetti Sauce Psalm 72:1-8	15 Toothpaste Psalm 72:11-18	16 Jar of Jelly Psalm 80 Isaiah 48:17-19	17 Chicken Noodle Soup Psalm 85:8-13	18 Hamburger Helper Psalm 96	19 Box of Pasta Psalm 103:1-10
20 Box of Potatoes/Rice Luke 1:5-25	21 Peanut Butter Luke 1:26-38	22 Roll of Paper Towels Luke 1:39-45	23 Can of Baked Beans Luke 1:46-56	24 Toothbrush Luke 1:57-66	25 Christmas Day	26



December 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 and Wednesday Night Activities:** social distancing in the classroom and masks in the hallways.
- **No Sunday School on December 27th and January 3**
- **No Wednesday Night Activities on December 30**

College Addresses

Garrett Sayler

208 8th Street SW
Unit 846
Orange City, IA 51041

Jena Van Marel

IMT at the Medical Center
8181 Fannin Street
Apt. 2531
Houston, TX 77054

MaKayla Tangeman

9614 University Ave
Unit 202K
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Hunter DeJong

109 Wilder Place
Ames, IA 50014

Peyton Crichton

2001 S. Summit Ave
Mail Box 407
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

Paige Hurlburt

Brookman-222
317 N. Dakota Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

Kalie DeBoer

815 8th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

Nick and Sara Buysman

4101 Lovell Rd.
Apt. 1-319
Circle Pines, MN 55014

Jaden Abels

University of Sioux Falls
1101 W 22nd Street
Box 452
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Troy Soat

1101 W. 22nd Street
USF Box 451
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Tanner Dykstra

Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln
1055 N 16th Street
S519
Lincoln, NE 68508

Alyssa Wassman

Foundation Residence
Apartments 103
1410 Birch Street
Marshall, MN 56258

Alex Mc Dougall

110 Barton Anders
285 Richardson Ct Rm 110
Ames, IA 50013-0023

Jagger Johnson**Mariah Elser**

Grant Brouwer
DU 2335
651 6th St. NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250

Leah Ackerman

503 10th Ave.
Sibley, IA 51249

Madeline Sayler

920 22nd St
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Cody Dykstra

1359 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy
Apt. #307
Ankeny, IA 50023

Carson Van Westen

204 Beach Road Room 321
Maple Friant
Ames, IA 50013-0039

Ryan Van Marel

SDSU Box 2807
Room #0416 Young Hall
Brookings, SD 57007

Mariah Elser**Ashilyn Hulstein**

Ben Reifel-132-A2
1351 8th Street
Brookings, SD 57007

Hudson Feldkamp

230 Dakota Trail
Brookings, SD 57007

Lane Tangeman

502 5th Ave
Sibley, Iowa 51249

Dalton Bremer

100 Daum Hall
Room #5407
Iowa City, IA 52242

If your student will have a different address for the 2020-2021 school year please let the office know.

Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verses

Matthew 6:1-4

"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly." (NKJV)



Thoughts

The above tree is a mystery steeped in tradition. For the last 20+ years, Christmas decorations appear at the end of November and disappear in January. To celebrate July 4th, patriotic decorations appear and eventually disappear. Only God and maybe a few highway patrols may have witnessed the decorating elves, but no one knows their identities. Phoenix newspapers have featured the tree and no identities!!!

The 20 ft tree is near Cordes Junction nestled in the median of Interstate 17 North of Phoenix. The locals love it's welcomed sight and the quiet reminder of what's important at Christmas and at America's Independence Day.

The tree has been endowed with its own watering system which may have been why it has miraculously survived several wildfires in its past. Many believe God has protected this tree. It has been nicknamed "the mystery tree."

Action Point

Don't you just love the creativity that God blessed some individuals with. The authors of the mystery tree must have a lot of spirit and loads of creativity! They sure do well at keeping secrets too!!! Don't know them, but respect them!!!

The above scripture gives us direction on quietly blessing others without tooting our own horns. Deal is if we avoid man's praise, God will honor and bless us openly in His timing and in His ways!

Knowing we blessed someone, knowing we were Jesus to another, knowing we denied ourselves, knowing no one else knows, and knowing God approves should be enough.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Portable solar outdoor lights ranging from \$5 to \$10 can be a ready substitute flashlight in a pinch or around your camp. You just have to remember to put them back so they stay charged and you can find it when you pack up your camp.

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1) d — the Bible gives no record of their means of travel; 2) d — see Matthew 1:19; Luke 1:39,56; 3) d — Dec. 25 was selected late in the fourth century as a day to celebrate Christ's birth; 4) See Matthew 2:11. The Bible doesn't say how many — only that Magi came bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh; 5) c — see Luke 2:1; 6) c; 7) c — See Luke 2:10; 8) d — See Luke 2:13. They didn't sing they spoke. OK, if you picked c, we'll give you a point!; 9) d — See Luke 2:7. We aren't told where Jesus was born, only that after his birth he was laid in a manger; 10) c — See Luke 2:4; 11) d — The Bible doesn't say anything about animals being present; 12) b — He was fully human as well as fully God; 13) d — Three kings are not mentioned in the Bible, only in songs; 14) c — astrologers who dabbled in the natural sciences; 15) b — see Matthew 2:11; 16) c — see Luke 2:12; 17) b — Check it out!



December Celebrations

~~~*Birthdays*~~~

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Marlys Dykstra | 10 Davis Beyer | 19 Curt Van Kley |
| 2 Trudy Dykstra | 11 Clint Henrichs | Sarah Loerts |
| Barb Fisher | Zoe Ackerman | 20 JoAnn Calsbeek |
| Brent Wassman | 12 Wendy De Jong | Kay Jansen |
| Michael Block Jr. | Ruth Dagal | Jodene Kruse |
| 3 Jamiey Daiker | 13 Meggan Block | 21 Mike Hustoft |
| Witten Julius | 14 Gracie Odens | Dave Stofferan |
| 4 Beth Hulstein | 15 Marlys Pietz | Alfreda Verdoorn |
| MaKayla Tangeman | Richard Kruger | Tom Dagal |
| Kaden Maxwell | Ella Bruxvoort | 22 Gert Gaalswyk |
| 6 Marcia Van Ruler | 16 Easton Beyer | Michelle Fox |
| Harold Eggink | 17 Merlin Doorenbos | Melissa Hisek |
| Reka Post | Chrissy Ackerman | 24 Glenn Doorenbos |
| 8 Amelia Hoekstra | Brynna Loerts | 29 Ryan Van Marel |
| 9 Laurel Klaassen | | 31 Deb Hulstein |





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

~~~*Anniversaries*~~~

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| 15 Tom and Ruth Dagal         | 36 years |
| 18 Rod and Beth Hulstein      | 48 years |
| 18 Mike and Andrea Block      | 28 years |
| 19 Elesson and Kelsey Joseph  | 5 years  |
| 22 Dean and Michelle Ackerman | 36 years |



# PRAYER LIST

BE A  
*Prayer*  
WARRIOR  
*John 21:36*

## PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

1. Paige Hurlburt
2. Mike and Mary Hustoft
3. Roger and Carol Iedema
4. Jason and Gina Jacobsma;  
Jaden, Alyssa, Breanna
5. Pray for our College Students
6. Pray for our Church & our Future Pastor
7. Kay Jansen
8. Ashley Johnson; Jagger
9. Papito and Kelsey Joseph; Israel, Hezekiah
10. Jeannette Juffer
11. John and Jan Juffer
12. Pray for our College Students
13. Pray for our Church & our Future Pastor
14. Alan and Lacey Julius; Witten, Sayla
15. Matt and Melissa Julius; Kade, Pierce
16. Dennis and Dar Jurgens
17. Ethel Jurgens
18. Karen Jurgens
19. Pray for our College Students
20. Pray for our Church & our Future Pastor
21. Dianne Kass
22. Kevin and Laurel Klaassen; Natalie
23. Clint and Jamie Klaassen; Haley, Colt
24. Joanne Klaassen
25. Dave and Donna Kleinwolterink
26. Pray for our College Students
27. Pray for our Church & our Future Pastor
28. Dr. Greg and Deb Kusters
29. Laurie Kraayenbrink
30. Mitch and Abby Kreykes; Dawson, Paisley
31. Martha Krikke

### College Students:

Dalten Bremer  
Faye Carda  
Jennifer Cuadros  
Clint Henrichs  
Ashilyn Hulstein  
Natalie Klaassen

Leah Ackerman  
Michaela Block  
Grant Brouwer  
Cody Dykstra  
Tanner Dykstra  
Jagger Johnson  
Alex Mc Dougall  
Madeline Sayler  
Lane Tangeman  
Carson Van Westen  
Alyssa Wassman

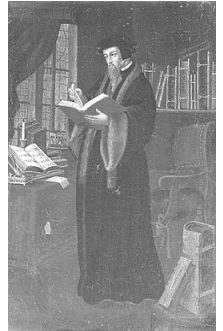
Paige Hurlburt  
Kaitlyn Bechler  
Kalie De Boer  
Keyana Gust  
Jaden Abels  
Nick Buysman  
Hunter DeJong  
Hunter Rockman  
Ryan Van Marel  
Mariah Elser

Peyton Crichton  
Andrea Meyer  
Garrett Sayler  
Makayla Tangeman  
Jena Van Marel  
Troy Soat  
Hannah Lucas

# HISTORY OF THE REFORMED CHURCH

Some people love history and others hate it, but when it is your own history it is more likely to come alive and spark your imagination and understanding of the present.

As you know we are members of the RCA—or Reformed Church in America. We are the theological descendants of the Reformation as it was expressed in Geneva, Switzerland by John Calvin (1509-1564). Calvin trained many, many pastors who left the safety of Geneva for the dangerous mission field of Catholic Holland.



John Calvin

Our denomination is the longest continual protestant denomination in the US. It was founded in 1628 in “New Amsterdam” which is now known as New York. From 1628 until 1754 we remained a branch of the **Dutch Reformed Church** in Holland, and until 1764 all services were held in Dutch. However the changes that were coming as part of the American Revolution (1776) led to many separations and divisions, including one with the churches in Canada.

As the use of the Dutch language in worship declined, and America grew and expanded across the continent, the presence of the word Dutch in the title of our denomination became less important. In 1867 the name was changed to the one we have today—**Reformed Church in America**.

Immigrant groups have had a direct impact on our local churches. In 1847 members of the reformed churches in Holland fled to the US because they were not free to worship without state control. They settled in Pella, Iowa, and Holland & Zeeland, Michigan. The Pella immigrants eventually sent people to our area of the state, especially Orange City and Sioux Center.

Disagreements over worship style (*the singing of psalms, or hymns*), membership in secret societies (*Freemasons*) and the important of Christian education led to a separation that formed the Christian Reformed Church in 1857.

If you want to read more go to the History page on the RCA website, there is much to learn!  
It is: <https://www.rca.org/about/history>

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## QUICK FACTS

- **Headquarters:** Grand Rapids, Michigan. Sibley FRC is a member of the Synod of the Heartland, and East Sioux Classis
- **Congregations**—877 (2016) and **Members**—196, 308 (2018)
- **Colleges:** Central College, Pella, Iowa; Hope College, Holland, Michigan; Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa
- **Seminaries:** New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, New Jersey; Western Theological Sem-



# A CONFSSIONAL CHURCH



Our church is called a **confessional church** because we subscribe to a set collection of standards or confessions that express our doctrinal beliefs. Most denominations are confessional—it is the independent or congregational churches who are not.

A confession is a written, formal statement of beliefs. It provides the church with clear explanations of God’s thoughts from Scripture. It expresses the essential and the distinctive beliefs of a church and gives guidance and direction to members, congregations and church governments. It also helps to outline our differences from other denominations.

For instance, the Belgic Confession outlines the basics of our church government, describes proper worship, and the proper guidance for the sacraments. Many of our denominational divisions over the centuries have been tied to language and worship styles, but they are also tied to doctrinal divisions.

And once again we are facing serious division in the RCA over our differences. If you haven’t been reading about the potential split in the RCA it isn’t too late to get started. Make sure you know what is included in Vision 2020.

In the coming months we will discuss these distinctive theologies and our differences so that we as a congregation can make wise decisions in the coming months and years. To read more on our confessions go to: <https://www.rca.org/about/theology/creeds-and-confessions/>

## STANDARDS OF UNITY—RCA CONFESSIONS

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**Ancient Confessions:** the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. These confessions are widely accepted by churches worldwide.

**The Heidelberg Catechism:** Catechism are generally written in the form of questions and answers and were designed to teach the church doctrine. First published in 1563 it is one of the oldest and most influential catechisms.

**The Belgic Confession :** Published in 1559, it was authored by Guido de Bres, a preacher in the Netherlands who died as a martyr in 1567. It relied heavily on the Gallic Confession of John Calvin written for the French reformed believers.

**The Canons of Dort:** Controversies in the Dutch Church in Holland led to the formation of a general meeting or synod to come to a decision about the correct doctrinal views raised by the *Remonstrants*. It is from this document we derive the mnemonic *TULIP*. It is not a complete confession—rather it addresses one set of questions.

**The Belhar Confession :** This was adopted in 1983 in response to the issues surrounding Apartheid in South Africa.

# Adopt a Family

FOR CHRISTMAS



Our Church has once again adopted 4 larger families for the Christmas Season. Families are posted by the sanctuary. Please take a moment to check which items you would be willing to provide for these families in need. All items will need to be wrapped, tagged with Family number and recipient (ex. Child age 1) and dropped off at church no later than December 13th. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Lets make these families' Christmas celebrations just a little extra special this year.

## **Family #12**

**40 year old Male (2XL):**

*Socks, Gift Card*

**45 year old Female (3XL):**

*Slipper Socks, Walmart Gift Card*

**16 year old Boy (LG):**

*Socks, Cyclone Stuff, Green Bay Stuff*

**14 year old Girl (LG):**

*Socks, LOL Dolls, Cat Stuff, Makeup*

**12 year old Girl (LG):**

*Socks, Unicorn Stuff, Makeup, Shopkin's Stuff*

## **Family #25**

**33 year old Male:**

*Gift Card, Gas Card*

**30 year old Female:**

*Gift Card, Gas Card*

**9 year old Girl (10-12 Youth):**

*Crafts, Music, Books*

**8 year old Boy (8-10 Youth):**

*Crafts, Sharks, Cars, Trucks*

**4 year old Girl (4-5T):**

*Dress Up Stuff, Princess Stuff, Books, Coloring Book*

## **Family #22**

**16 year old Boy (2XL):**

*Vikings Football, Baseball*

**14 year old Girl (Med):**

*Clothes, Makeup*

**8 year old Boy (XL Youth):**

*Vikings Football, Games, Baseball*

**8 year old Boy (8 Youth):**

*Tractors, Monster Trucks, Books*

**10 month Old Boy (24 mo):**

*Clothes, Toys, Board Books*

## **Family #27**

**40 year old Female:**

*Gift Card, Gas Card*

**16 year old Boy (36x32):**

*2X Shirts, Jeans, Hooded Sweatshirt*

**13 year old Boy (14-16):**

*Anything Hunting, Hooded Sweatshirt, Shirts*

**8 year old Girl (10-12):**

*Chelsea Dolls, Mega Blocks, Shirts*

**2 year old Boy (3T):**

*Trucks, Cars, Clothes*



# CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

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



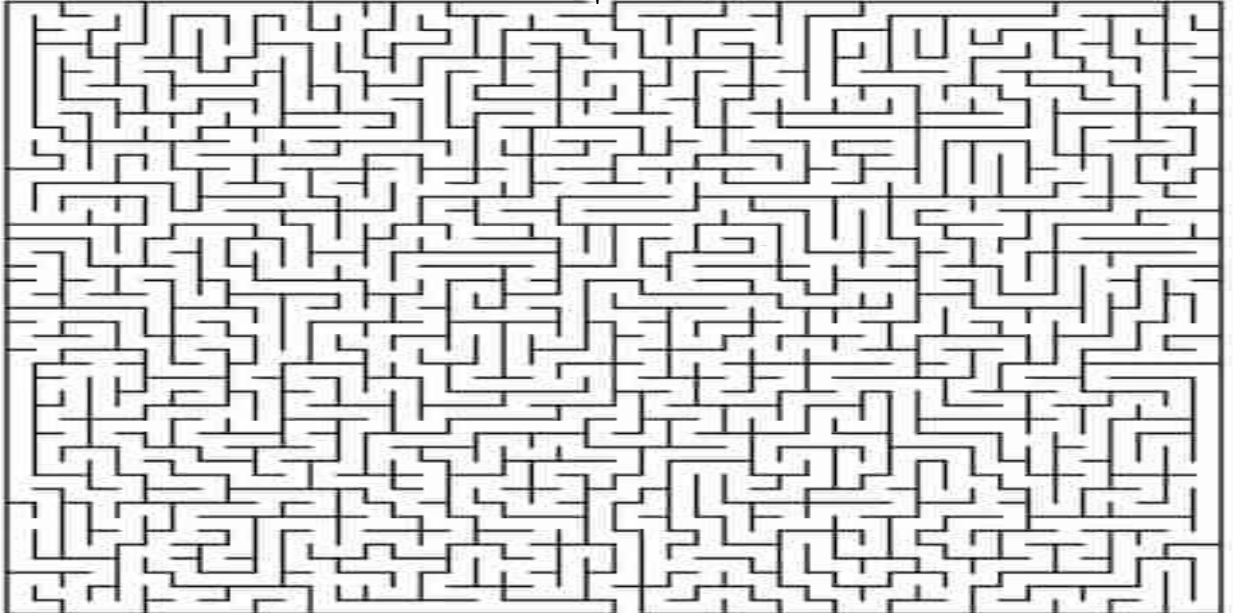
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 ORNAMENT  
 TINSEL  
 RIBBON  
 TWINKLING  
 LIGHTS  
 BELLS



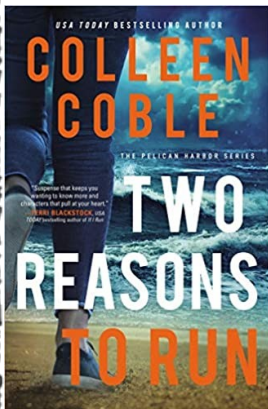
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 PINECONE  
 NUTCRACKER  
 MISTLETOE  
 CARDS  
 FIREPLACE  
 CANDY  
 PAPER  
 BOW  
 NATIVITY  
 SNOWFLAKE



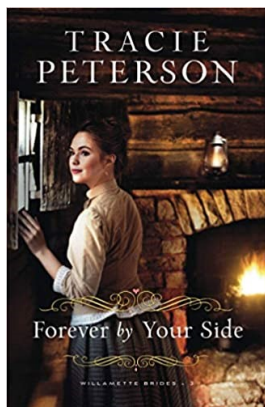
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## From the library--



Did you read the first Pelican Harbor series book by Colleen Coble, ONE LITTLE LIE? If so, it left you hanging at the end and wanting to read the next book TWO REASONS TO RUN. After ordering and being told the book was back ordered we now have it in the library and it is ready for check out. Here is a synopsis from the book: "Police Chief Jane Hardy is still reeling from the scandal that rocked her small-town department just as she took over for her retired father—the man who wrecked her life with one little lie. Now she's finally been reunited with her presumed-dead fifteen year-old son Will, and his father, documentarian Reid Dixon. Then a crisis looms when a murder aboard the oil platform Zeus exposes an environmental terrorist's plot to flood Mobile Bay with crude oil, Jane and Reid must put their feelings for each other behind them and work together to prevent the rig from being sabotaged. And a killer targets her son, when the terrorist puts her son Will's life on the line. Protecting him could be the common ground they need but then ghosts from the past threaten to ruin Jane and Reid for good. SHE'S GOT PLENTY OF REASONS TO RUN, BUT WHAT IF SHE STAYS?"



The third Willamette Brides book FOREVER BY YOUR SIDE by Tracie Peterson has been added to our library. "After years away studying on the East Coast, Constance Browning is eager to return to her family and the reservation they serve as missionaries. She and her best friend and colleague, Thomas Lowell, have worked to get her assigned to his project cataloging the native peoples of Oregon for the Bureau of American Ethnology. But Connie and Tom have another purpose to prove her parents are innocent of a conspiracy to goad the tribes into war. Yet the reservation is much bleaker and the members filled with more animosity than she remembers. And the unexpected, sudden interest of Clint Singleton, the government agent on whom she had a crush as a girl, only confuses things more. With rumors of war brewing, Connie and Tom must discover who is truly behind the uprising force before it's too late. With everything at stake, Connie will have to determine where her heart and future lie."



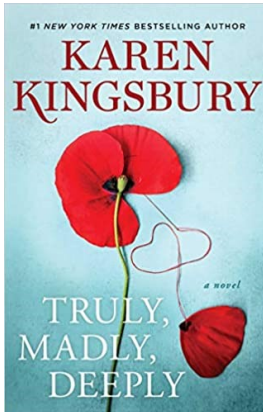


## Meeting Minutes

# Consistory Meeting Highlights

November 9, 2020

- **MMSA to cancel communion Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.**
- School staff appreciation event will happen in November.
- Thanksgiving Eve (6:30 pm)
- Christmas Eve service (6:00 pm)
- Church Christmas Decorating (District 3 Marlin Roelfs & Greg Tracy along with district 3 volunteers) will be done 11/25/20 after Thanksgiving Eve service
- Christmas Sunday School Program canceled for 2020
- **MMSA the “Application for Dissolution of the Relationship” between Pastor Luke and First Reformed Sibley.**
- **MMSA the “Covenant of Separation” between Pastor Luke and the Consistory of First Reformed, Sibley. Effective Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.**
- **MMSA to approve Rev. Cory Grimm from Primghar to serve as moderator.**



For you Karen Kingsbury fans, there is another new book: TRULY, MADLY, DEEPLY. “When 18 year old Tommy Baxter tells his family that he wants to be a police officer, his mother, Reagan, won’t hear of it. After all, she’s still mourning the 9/11 death of her father, and—with civil unrest in the streets—Reagan is determined to keep her son safe from danger. But conflict arises when Tommy’s father, Luke, approved of his son’s decision. After all Tommy would make a kind and compassionate cop. Meanwhile, Tommy is in love for the first time. His sweet relationship with Annalee Miller is almost too good to be true. Tommy begins serious thinking about the far-off day when he might propose, but Annalee hasn’t been feeling well lately. Medical tests come to reveal the unthinkable. While his girlfriend begins the fight of her life, Tommy is driven to learn more about the circumstances surrounding his birth and the grandfather he never knew. Secrets come to light that rock Tommy’s world, and he becomes determined to spend his future fighting crime and making his community safer. Or is this decision just his way of taking on the battle he cannot win—the one facing Annalee?”

Visit the library soon and if checking out a book, please be sure to leave your name on the card and put it in the yellow box. Thank you.

Jeannette

## Update from Brian and Donna Renes



You know the expression, "that's Greek to me." Even though you hear something spoken, you do not understand it or do not learn the language, so you have no clue what was said. These types of phrases (idiomatic expressions) are sometimes very different in other languages. If you speak to someone in Spanish and want to express the same sentiment, you need to say, "That's Chinese to me."

I have seen many Chinese lately. Every day my computer screen has been filled with various sets of Chinese Bibles in different scripts. This morning in my email inbox, a colleague wrote, saying, "In your report to churches, you must write down.., working for an audience of 1.4 billion this month!" So here goes a glimpse of translation (and Bible) work in China.

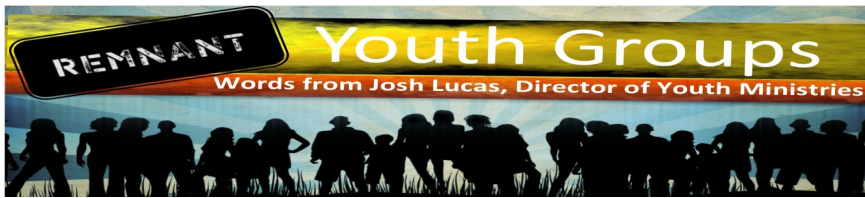


The main languages of China have had a translation of the full Bible for many years. Last year more Bibles were distributed in China than in the United States. In recent years, all reports indicate that the church is growing, especially in the rural areas of China. Like in many contexts throughout the world and history, translation and revision of the Bible is an ongoing process, especially for a thriving church. One aspect that reflects growth and maturity is the desire for study material in the language. This past month I have been working on numerous Study Bibles in Chinese. There are excellent Study Bibles in various languages, and those can be used as models for new work. I have helped new projects get a running start by mirroring the published content to their latest projects. Translators still need to do a lot of work to adapt the study material, but the time to do so is reduced.

With the United Bible Societies and many other organizations, our primary goal is to make the Bible available to everyone in the language and format they desire. For some, that means we start a translation project in a language that has never had the Bible, and for others, it means providing a Study Bible. The Bible is indeed useful for teaching... and training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

On a more personal note, I keep very busy helping teams from our home in Iowa. Even though travel is not yet allowed, remote work is possible, and we are progressing. These past weeks have focused on Chinese Study Bibles, but most months, it has helped teams prepare for publishing - many of which are in Africa. Pray for those translation teams that were hoping to finish this year. Final edits and agreement on precise wording require many meetings. From east to west, north, and south, no better time than now for God's Word to be shared.





Hello First Reformed Church,

Your Devil Crushing Ninja Trainer (Youth Director for short) here to give you an update on what is happening and hopefully to encourage you! Things are going very well with the youth group currently. We have been running pretty consistently for a while now and it has been truly a blessing to do so. We are hoping to start fundraising in December so please be on the lookout for those! I also wanted to spend a good portion of this newsletter to explain a few things and hopefully cure any doubts about me. This is not a negative thing, but I was just thinking I am not sure how many people even know what is happening in my education life. I graduated from Grand Canyon University with my bachelor's degree in Christian Studies in October 2019. I then began my master's program at the beginning of 2020. Currently I am at Grand Canyon University in their master's program to obtain my Master of Divinity degree (MDiv). While being a part of this program it is required that I complete at least 45 hours of ministry work in every eight-week course. Also, one of my job description requirements is to fill the pulpit whenever needed. I promise that the sermons that I prepare are well thought out and done throughout the week. I put a lot of time, effort, and prayer into what I preach.

I hope that this answers any and all questions and helps with any doubts that you may have about me helping the church by filling the pulpit whenever it is needed. I also wanted to say, as well, that if you ever have any questions, concerns, needs, or anything of that nature please do not feel like there is no one left here in the office. Both Jamie and I are more than happy to assist you in anything that you need help with. Finally, I have heard a rumor that Hannah and I are leaving Sibley. This was a situation that was taken out of context and we are not going anywhere, so please do not think that we are leaving anytime soon. We know that God will call us eventually somewhere else, but that time is not right now.

I hope that you have found this newsletter to be informational and encouraging. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to let me know. Thank you so much for your continued support of the youth group and the ministry that we have here. If you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has got one for you!

Blessings,

Josh Lucas

### **Dad Jokes with Josh:**

**Q:** What happens when an artist has trouble finding inspiration?

**A:** They draw a blank.





# Radiate Haiti Ministries

From Papito:

*“Before I moved to the United States, I had no idea that during Christmas time people spend time with family and friends, have a meal together, exchange gifts, or even decide to feed or give gifts for families in need. I remember how things go in Haiti, where families who don’t have an income, have no idea how they’re going to sit around the table and have a meal together for Christmas.*

*Our non profit, **Radiate Haiti Ministries**, dream is to try to reach out and show the love of Jesus Christ to individuals and families, but we can’t do it without your prayers and support. With a donation of \$30 or more you can help a family to have a meal together for the holiday season.”*

For more details contact Kelsey or Elesson (Papito) Joseph.

Checks should be written to Radiate Haiti Ministries and dropped off in the donation box on the Information Table or given directly to Kelsey or Papito no later than December 20, 2020.

All donations will be used to purchase food items to distribute to families in northern Haiti for the holiday season.



Food Find

2020!

1036+ Items

1000+ lbs.

Thanks!!!

