

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

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING 2020



**THANK YOU TO THE 38+  
PEOPLE WHO WENT OUT  
CAROLING ON DECEMBER 9.  
WHAT A GREAT WAY TO  
SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!**



### January at a Glance

- 1: Happy New Year!!
- 3: Installation and Ordination of 2021 Elders and Deacons at the 2nd service (11:00am)
- 6: 9:00am Mothers Together will meet
  - 6:30 & 7:30 pm Youth Groups begin
- 10: 10:10am Sunday School begins
- 12: 6:00pm Elder & Deacon Meetings  
7:00pm Full Consistory will meet
- 13: 6:30 Bible Classes begin for 1st-5th
- 20: 9:00am Mothers Together meets
- 31: Communion Sunday

#### \*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:

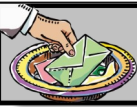
- 6:30-7:30 Bible Classes for 1st-5th
- 6:30-7:30 pm MS Remnant
- 7:30-8:30 pm HS Remnant

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com



View our Website at: [sibleyfrc.org](http://sibleyfrc.org)



## Stewardship & Giving

### Offering Summary through December 18:

- General Fund: \$314,600.92;  
Budget: \$291,112; 108% of budget
- Benevolent Fund: \$48,001.49  
Budget: \$73,913; 65% of budget
- Building Fund offerings to date:  
Undesignated \$1908 / Video \$7260.85

### Special offering for January: Osceola Communities Express



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



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

Thanks!

## 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**, will not meet in January.

**Patience Bible Study**, will not meet in January. Thank you Bible Study members for your offerings from earlier this year. As in the past, the money was used to buy gifts for the Sharing Christmas families. We had \$102.00 to spend. THANK YOU!!

~~Barb Van Diepen

# A "NEW" QUIZ FOR A NEW YEAR

**1. What wise man in the Bible once penned these words; "...there is no new thing under the sun."?**

- A. David                      B. Moses                      C. Paul                      D. Solomon

**2. The book of Daniel tells the story of the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar's capture of the city of Jerusalem and of four young men of nobility who were brought into the king's service. Daniel's friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were given "new" names and are better known as whom?**

- A. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego                      B. Saul, Simon, and Barnabas  
C. Cain, Abel, and Seth                      D. Jonathan, Uriah, and Micah

**3. In Exodus 1:8 (KJV) it is said that some time after the death of Joseph, a "new" king who hadn't heard of Joseph took over Egypt. What did this king do to the Israelites?**

- A. He didn't do anything about them                      B. He adored them  
C. He enslaved them                      D. He banished them

**4. What was the 'new command' which Jesus gave to His disciples in John 13:34 (NIV)?**

- A. To pray for one other      B. To serve one another      C. To love one another      D. To help one another

**5. Although things looked really hopeless at the time, God told the prophet Isaiah to forget the past and see what new thing He was doing! According to Isaiah 43:19 (NIV), where was God making a new path and new streams?**

- A. in the prosperous countries that bordered Israel                      B. in the fertile fields towards the north  
C. in the wilderness and wastelands                      D. in the mountains and hills

**6. In the book of Revelation, Jesus promised those who overcometh something new when speaking to the church at Pergamos. What was that new thing?**

- A. A new staff of iron to rule the people                      B. A new golden crown in glory  
C. A new name written in a white stone and hidden manna                      D. A new robe dipped in red

**7. In the 1st chapter of the book of Mark, what had Jesus done to cause people to believe that a "new" doctrine was being introduced to them?**

- A. He did not honor the custom of washing before meals      B. He had turned water into wine  
C. He had cast out a demonic spirit                      D. He disputed the word of the religious leaders

**8. Paul was a testimony of a life turned around by Christ. According to Paul, in 2 Corinthians 5:17(KJV), if any man be in Christ, he becomes what new thing?**

- A. a new sinner                      B. a new creature                      C. a new thief                      D. a new criminal

**9. When Joseph of Arimathea asked for the body of Jesus, and buried him in his own new tomb, whose prophecy of the Messiah was fulfilled, in Christian belief?**

- A. Ezekiel                      B. Isaiah                      C. Jeremiah                      D. Daniel

**10. In the book of Revelation, John relates his vision of Jesus's return to earth and the final judgement of mankind. In Chapter 21, verse 1, he tells of seeing what new things as he stands before the throne of God?**

- A. Seven new armies sent to defeat Satan                      B. Twelve new plagues in Egypt  
C. The dead with new bodies                      D. A new heaven and earth



## Cornerstone Service Greeters

- 3: E: Josh and Hannah Lucas/ family  
 C: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling  
 W: Pam Kruger
- 10: E: Gretchen Bartelson  
 C: Jodi and Clayton Wagenaar  
 W: Justin and Angela Van Tilburg/family
- 17: E: Jodene Kruse  
 C: Leona Meendering  
 W: Larry and Alfreda Verdoorn
- 24: E: Chris and Teresa Hurlburt  
 C: Paige Hurlburt  
 W: Scott and Jamie Hulstein
- 31: E: Joel and Kathy Verdoorn  
 C: Jeannette Juffer  
 W: Joanne Klaassen

## Children & Worship Schedule



9:00am	11:00am
3: No children & worship due to Christmas Break	3: No children & worship due to Christmas Break
10:	10:
17:	17:
24:	24:
31:	31:



**Mothers Together**  
 With God in the Middle

Will Meet at 9:00am on:  
 January 6 and January 20

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.



## Willing Hands Group



**Willing Hands Group #1**  
will be responsible for services during the month.

### Co-chairpersons are:

- Marvella/Lennis Harberts
- Diane/Arnie Langstraat

## Library Volunteers



3: Marcia Van Ruler  
10: Phyllis Vander Linden  
17: Alfreda Verdoorn  
24: Kathy/Joel Verdoorn  
31: Ruth Ann Wiersma

## Fellowship Coffee Servers



No Coffee Fellowship at this time.

## Nursery

The Nursery will be open for use, but unstaffed.

## Belgic Confession

### Article 7: The Sufficiency of Scripture

We believe that this Holy Scripture contains the will of God completely and that everything one must believe to be saved is sufficiently taught in it.

For since the entire manner of service which God requires of us is described in it at great length, no one— even an apostle or an angel from heaven, as Paul says—ought to teach other than what the Holy Scriptures have already taught us.

For since it is forbidden to add to the Word of God, or take anything away from it, it is plainly demonstrated that the teaching is perfect and complete in all respects.

Therefore we must not consider human writings— no matter how holy their authors may have been— equal to the divine writings; nor may we put custom, nor the majority, nor age, nor the passage of times or persons, nor councils, decrees, or official decisions above the truth of God, for truth is above everything else.

For all human beings are liars by nature and more vain than vanity itself.

Therefore we reject with all our hearts everything that does not agree with this infallible rule, as we are taught to do by the apostles when they say, “Test the spirits to see if they are from God,” and also, “Do not receive into the house or welcome anyone who comes to you and does not bring this teaching.”



## January 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 January 3**
- **No Wednesday Night Bible Class on January 6**
- **Remnant Youth Group resumes on January 6**
- **Sunday School resumes on January 10**
- **Wednesday Night Bible Classes Resume on January 13**

# 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**

106 Barton Anders  
285 Richardson Ct Rm 106  
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

**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

I Timothy 4:7-8

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. (NIV)



## Thoughts

Saltwater anglers fishing Texas coastal waters all agree that wade fishing is a great way to catch fish. Slip into the water from your boat along a shoreline or drive up to the beachfront and wade in.

At first glance for someone who hasn't waded much, it looks like a pretty simple way to sneak up on a bunch speckled trout, redfish or flounder. However the neophyte to this type of fishing doesn't realize what a workout this type of fishing can be. Normally the wade fishing angler doesn't stand in one place unless he is along an ambush where moving tidal water is pushing or pulling fish by.

It's done mostly by shuffling along, while keeping your eyes tuned to birds diving for shrimp, slicks, mud boils or tell-tale signs of fish activity. Experienced waders might shuffle half a mile or more, casting, looking for fish activity.

The bottom varies from compacted or shifting sand, shell or just plain mud. I have come to the point in my life where if the bottom is mud, I'm not going there. I don't care if there are redfish boiling all along the shoreline, they can stay there. Pulling one foot out of ankle sucking mud after the next foot isn't worth it.

## Action Point

Experienced wade fishing anglers know you have to be in good physical shape to do this type of fishing. After wading along and casting a beachfront or shallow water flat for about an hour or more over varied assortment of bottoms, the "hike" back to the boat or parked vehicle sure can look like a long trek prompting the statement, "Gee, I wish I hadn't gone that far!"

At times our everyday life can get to be a struggle if you haven't done some preconditioning, reading God's Word and praying, before the muddy bottoms pop up.

Spend time alone with God every day, having a spiritual workout. Just 10 minutes a day will help you handle the events of the day. "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ," Romans 10:7 (NIV).

Ask yourself, how does what you read apply to your life? What does it say about mankind? Then pray. Confess your sins to God. Thank Him for what He has shown you. Pray for yourself and others. Make preconditioning a daily workout. It will strengthen every area of your life.

## Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

When driving along a beach looking for a good place to start your wade fishing day, be aware of the tidal flow for that day. Not only for matching up your fishing efforts to fish movement, but also to where you park your vehicle. You might come back and find it surrounded by water.

### **Trivia Time Answers!!!**

1. Solomon, Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 KJV
2. Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego
3. He enslaved them, Exodus 1:8
4. To love one another
5. In the wilderness and wastelands, (Isaiah 43:18-21 NIV)
6. A new name written in a white stone and hidden manna (Rev. 2:17 KJV)
7. He had cast out a demonic spirit (Mark 1:27-28 KJV)
8. a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)
9. Isaiah (Isaiah 53:9 KJV)
10. A new heaven and earth (Rev. 21:1 NRSV)

# PRAYER LIST

BE A  
*Prayer*  
WARRIOR  
— Luke 21:36

## PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

1. Charles and Katha Kruger
2. Pray for our College Students
3. Pray for our Church
4. Pam Kruger
5. Richard Kruger
6. Tim and Jodi Kruger; Jared, Katie
7. Jodene Kruse
8. Charlie and Brenda Kuhl
9. Pray for our College Students
10. Pray for our Church
11. Dave and Sandy Lamfers
12. Arnie and Diane Langstraat
13. Mark and Melissa Langstraat;  
Emma, Addysen, Taylor
14. Cindy Larson
15. Gary and Wilma Leusink
16. Pray for our College Students
17. Pray for our Church
18. Brad and Sarah Loerts;  
Parker, Blake, Brynna
19. Brian and Megan Loerts;  
Brysen, Jaxton, Nash, Ellie
20. Ken and Wilma Loerts
21. Josh and Hannah Lucas; Joanna
22. Frank and Darcy Martinez
23. Pray for our College Students
24. Pray for our Church
25. Cliff and Linda Mehls
26. Steve and Lynn Mulder; Kaitlyn
27. Vanessa Odens; Gracie, Landon
28. Dick and Marcia Oldenkamp
29. Lyle Peelen
30. Pray for our College Students
31. Pray for our Church

### **College Students:**

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

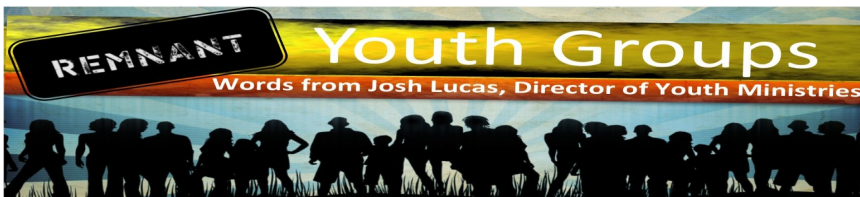
Leah Ackerman  
Michaela Block  
Grant Brouwer  
Cody Dykstra  
Tanner Dykstra  
Jagger Johnson  
Alex Mc Dougall  
Madeline Saylor  
Lane Tangeman  
Carson Van Westen  
Alyssa Wassman

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 Saylor  
Makayla Tangeman  
  
Jena Van Marel  
Troy Soat  
  
Hannah Lucas







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 in youth group have been going very well! We have been having an easy-going December. We took part in the Christmas Caroling event with the Congregational Care Team, and the kids all had a good time doing it. We hope that the congregation and other residents at the assisted living facilities enjoyed it as well. This is a pretty crazy time we are living in! The year 2020 has had many different moments of shocks and scares. One of which is Pastor Luke accepting the call at another church. I really wanted to speak on this for a moment, and I hope that this encourages you. All throughout the Bible we see different people going through changes and unexpected obstacles being put in their place. One of the biggest changes, in my opinion, was when Jesus ascended to heaven after His resurrection. Can you imagine how the disciples were feeling? The man that they had been doing ministry with for so long and seeing Him resurrected was now in an instant gone. What was the one thing Jesus told them to do? Wait.

Obviously, He gave the commission for the disciples and His church to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19), but He told the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them and then they will be fully equipped (Luke 24:49). Not long after that command the Holy Spirit came upon them and they were fully equipped and ready. My point here is that everyone goes through a time of transition, and I just want to reassure you that God knows our situation and He will work it all out for the good. We just have to remain faithful as a Church. Faithful to serving others and each other, God's word, and to be the church. Remember church just because we do not have a lead pastor does not mean that we are no longer the church. I am very encouraged to see that the ministry teams have been continuing to do work and trying their best to do what they can to continue to do ministry. I am deeply humbled to be serving this church.

The promises of God are not that everything will be sunshine and rainbows, but the promise is that He will work everything for the good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). It may not work out the way we want it to, but just remember that God is in control. The final encouragement during this time is that Jesus will always be with us till the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). If you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has got one for you!

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

**Q: Did you hear about the crook who stole a calendar?**

**A: He got twelve months**

# THE REFORMED CHURCH—VISION 2020

The Reformed Church in America is undergoing serious discussions about the future of the denomination and the options open to those who disagree with one another. If you have been carefully reading **RCA Today** (*our denominational magazine*) for the past few years you will be very familiar with the ideas that both unite and divide our denomination.

In 2018 a commission was formed to find ways to stay unified, or to separate peacefully. The report – Vision 2020 – was released in 2019 and was to have been considered and voted on at the 2020 General Assembly in June of this year. Unfortunately Covid made it impossible to hold the Assembly, and the vote has now been postponed until June 2021. Make sure you read what is written in the report—and keep up by reading the magazine.

Our congregation will be called upon to make some big decisions in the near future. In order to do this to the glory of God, this space in our monthly newsletter is going to devote itself to an explanation of what we historically believe, what the challenges before us are, and how the Bible should inform our decisions.

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## VISION 2020—3 MAJORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

After two years of intensive work, the Vision 2020 team appointed by the General Assembly in 2018 , presented a report in May 2020 that did not resolve the differences between churches and classes, but suggested three solutions that they believe will **ALL be necessary** moving forward.

- 1. Together, Yet Changed (Recommendation 1—Restructuring)** This would provide ways for all churches/ classes who wish to remain with the denomination to do so in spite of the serious differences of theological positions. Classes would be reorganized as affinity-based, rather than geographically based, Classes would be responsible for decisions related to ordination and marriage, disciple of consistories would reside with the classis, and regional and general synods would be re-examined.
- 2. Preserving Our Shared History (Recommendation 2—A New Mission Agency)** In order to preserve our missionary/evangelistic outreach in the world a new Mission Agency would be established that both those who remain in the RCA and those who leave could support.
- 3. Forward with Grace (Recommendation 3—Mutually Generous Separation)** Realizing that separation is inevitable, the RCA would provide new streamlined rules for separation from the denomination. There are significant organizational and financial obligations that are part of membership in the RCA and these ties need to be broken legally and graciously. Currently there is no single solution for future denominational membership for churches wishing to leave the RCA.

<https://www.rca.org/synod/vision2020/reformed-church-in-america-vision-2020-team-final-report/>

# THE REFORMED CHURCH: WHO ARE WE?

We use lots of terms today to describe what we believe, and who we align ourselves within the broader Christian Community. We need to clearly define these terms—they are not interchangeable. Think of it more as a Venn diagram with some overlap, but also with distinctives. Reformed theology is deeper and more specific the basic principles of Evangelicalism or Fundamentalism.

**Evangelicalism** is a term that defines the movement that tries to bring all Bible believing Protestants together—while *minimizing any distinctives*. It is an umbrella term that seeks to refer to four shared ideas including: 1) commitment to the Bible; 2) cross centered salvation; 3) the need for conversion and evangelism, and; 4) an activism that adapts worship and doctrine to the times.

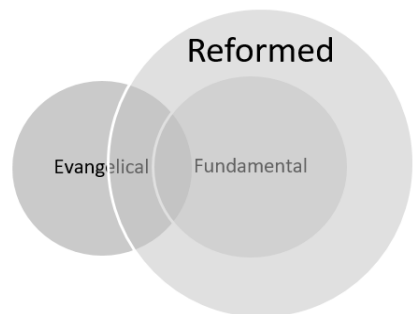
Today it also may refer to a type of churches and as a complete theological position. Many congregational churches (*no external church government*) would fall into this category. Evangelicalism has moved from being an umbrella to being its own thing that has very little depth, and is easily changeable by changes in culture. It is deeply tied to American individualism. *We'll discuss this more next month.*

**Fundamentalism** is a term that is used less today, *primarily because of the negative connotation of the word from Islamic fundamentalism*. However, the five points of this movement help to distinguish the differences between liberal and conservative theology. Developed in the early 20th century by orthodox theologians, the Five Fundamentals are: 1) the Bible is the word of God, and without error; 2) Jesus was born of a virgin; 3) Christ performed real supernatural miracles; 4) Jesus rose physically from the dead, and 5) Christ will return in person.

Mainline denominations have become increasingly liberal, rejecting the miraculous nature of Christianity and the authority and inerrancy of the Bible. The RCA is considered a mainline denomination. Our east and west coast congregations tend to be more liberal, while the heartland tends to be more conservative. *Keep this in mind when considering Vision 2020.*

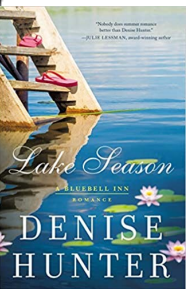
Historical **Reformed** theology accepts the basics of evangelicalism and all of fundamentalism, but it is more—much more! Being Reformed is a maximalist rather than a minimalist position. We are called to teach the whole gospel—not just part of it. We have distinctive beliefs about salvation, worship, sacraments, biblical interpretation of the Bible, and the sovereignty of God, would be removed from our beliefs if we decide to identify as simply Evangelical or Fundamentalist.

We may call ourselves Evangelical or Fundamentalist in the common language of the times but as Reformed believers we are not limited to those definitions.



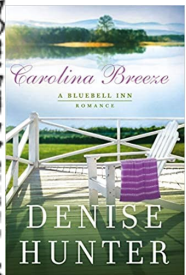
## From the library--

With the New Year we have more “new” books in the library. Here are summaries from a few books to wet your reading appetite!



There is a trilogy called “Bluebell Inn” by Denise Hunter. The first one is titled: LAKE SEASON—When their parents die in a tragic accident, Molly Bennett and her siblings pull together to fulfill their parents’ dream of turning their historic Bluebell, North Carolina home back into an inn. Staying in town would be temporary—three years at most—then they plan to sell the inn, and Molly can get back to chasing her own dreams. Adam Bradford (pen name Nathaniel Quinn) is a reclusive novelist with a bad case of writer’s block. Desperate for inspiration as his deadline approaches, he travels to the setting of his next book, a North Carolina lake town. There, he meets a young innkeeper who fancies herself in love with his alter ego, Nathaniel Quinn.

Molly and Adam strike up an instant friendship. When Molly finds a long-lost letter in the walls of her inn, she and Adam embark on a mission to find the star-crossed lovers and bring them the closure they deserve. But Adam has secrets he isn’t ready to share. Past and present collide as truths surface, and Molly and Adam will have to decide if love is worth trusting.



The second book is CAROLINA BREEZE and features Molly’s brother, Levi Bennett, who, as the oldest sibling and male, has taken on the title “head of the household” much to his sisters’ chagrin. The final book is AUTUMN SKIES and features the baby of the family, Grace Bennett. Each book has mystery and romance. If you are the reader who likes a mystery but doesn’t like nail biting suspenseful books then the “Bluebell Inn” series would be a good fit for you.



The “Global Search and Rescue “ trilogy by Susan May Warren has been completed with THE PRICE OF VALOR. Kidnapped by rebels while serving as a humanitarian aid worker in Chechnya, Signe Kincaid has spent the past decade secreting out valuable information about Russian assets in the US to her CIA handler. Fearing for her daughter, Aggie, after being discovered as an operative, Signe sends Aggie to former Navy SEAL Hamilton Jones for safekeeping. Signe is ready to give her life for her country, and she can hardly expect Ham to rescue her after breaking his heart over and over. Hamilton Jones has never forgotten the only woman he loved—and he can’t believe after all these years she’s shown up alive. But can he forgive her

for her secrets? And, when Ham discovers the reason Signe has kept her distance he must choose between love for her and love for the nation he has vowed to protect. What is the price of valor? The other two books THE WAY OF THE BRAVE and THE HEART OF A HERO are already in the library.

Visit the library soon.

~~Jeannette Juffer



## Meeting Minutes

# Consistory Meeting Highlights

December 14 2020

- MMSA Communion Dates for 2021: January 31, March 7, April 1, June 6, July 25, August 22, October 3, December 5
- MMSA to pay Josh Lucas for Pulpit Supply at our current rate while Administrative Ministry Team evaluates Josh's duties.
- MMSA to move the monthly Consistory meeting to the 2nd Tuesday of the month with the same starting time of 6pm
- MMSA to designate the Christmas Eve Offering to go to ATLAS.
- Sunday, January 3rd, 2021 at 2nd service Ordination/Installation of elders/deacons  
Ordination: Jon Elser & Cole Hoekstra;  
Installation: Henry Fisher, Ken Loerts, Jon Elser & Cole Hoekstra
- Newly appointed positions: VP-Harold Ernst, Clerk-Greg Kusters, Asst. Clerk-Stan De Zeeuw, Gen. Fund Treas.-Nate Buysman, Asst. Gen Fund Treas.-Mitch Kreykes, Chairman of the Deacons-Dan Heilman, Property Chair-Scott Hulstein

### \*\*\*\*\*New 2021 Calling Districts \*\*\*\*\*

**District 1: Dr. Greg Kusters/Jon Elser:**  
Charles Ackerman-Kailey Bruxvoort

**District 2: Ken Heronimus/Scott Hulstein:**  
Jane Buysman-Ron Dykstra

**District 3. Marlin Roelfs/Cole Hoekstra:**  
Scott Dykstra-Dale Herrboldt

**District 4. Harold Ernst/Larry De Boer:**  
Jo Hielkema-Dennis Jurgens

**District 5. Stan De Zeeuw/Mitch Kreykes:**  
Ethel Jurgens-Josh Lucas

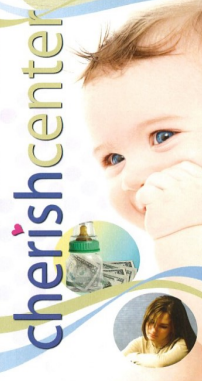
**District 6. Marlin Runia/Dan Heilman:**  
Frank Martinez-Hugh Schiphoff

**District 7. Henry Fisher/Ryan Wiersma:**  
Ellen Schram-Joel Van Gelder

**District 8. Ken Loerts/Nate Buysman:**  
Barb Van Hattem-Chris Wynia

Changing LIVES...  
Strengthening FAMILIES

- ♥ Maternity Home for Teens
- ♥ Parenting & Prenatal Education
- ♥ Mentor Moms



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**We  
can  
do it!**  
**Yes, we can  
make a  
difference!**

**Take home a baby  
bottle, fill it with  
change & bills and  
return to the church  
by the designated  
date on the bottle.**

**Bottles are due back to church  
by: February 7, 2021**



## Update from Abraham and Sayuri Kist-Okazaki

For all of us 2020 has certainly been a very challenging year. Here in Japan there had been so much expectation building up for the Tokyo Olympics. I was kind of excited because I had been selected to be one of the chaplains to serve for the English-speaking Olympic athletes. In the aftermath of all that has happened and the midst of all that continues to be going on, the postponement of a sporting event seems so very trivial. One of the shocking things to me is how this global pandemic, which has impacted us all, seems to have heightened divisions among people rather than causing a greater sense of unity throughout the world.

With almost no foreign travel being allowed into Japan, I really have felt more like a foreigner in Japan than at any other point in my twenty-five years living here. With international flights from Japan running at 4% of the pre-pandemic level, leaving is not an easy task. We had a neighbor who had to wait nearly two months to return home to California

However, throughout this year, I never felt isolated or distant from all those who have been supporting us through the years. We have felt constantly uplifted by your prayers and support. It has also been wonderful that we've been able to join the Zoom and Facebook worship services of so many congregations in America. If you would like to watch one of our bilingual worship services at Kugahara Church, please go to: <https://www.youtube.com/user/minamishiku>

Since the Summer most of the churches that we are working with in Japan are worshipping with about half of the congregation in the sanctuary and the rest worshipping online at home. We have noticed that in this time of uncertainty, the number of first-time visitors to Sunday worship has been somewhat higher than anticipated which has been an unexpected blessing.

We pray that God has given you strength to go through the many challenges of 2020 and we look forward to the time when we can once again meet face to face. Our prayers are with you in the coming New Year and we pray for God's blessings on your lives.

Much Love to all,  
Abraham and Sayuri Kist-Okazaki

### New Year's Word Search

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BABY</li> <li>BALL</li> <li>CALENDAR</li> <li>CELEBRATION</li> <li>CLOCK</li> <li>CONFETTI</li> <li>COUNTDOWN</li> <li>EVE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAMILY</li> <li>FRIENDS</li> <li>HAPPY</li> <li>JANUARY</li> <li>MIDNIGHT</li> <li>NEW YEAR</li> <li>NOISEMAKER</li> <li>PARTY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RESOLUTION</li> <li>TOAST</li> </ul>
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# January Celebrations

## ~~*Birthdays*~~

- |   |   |    |  |    |   |
|---|---|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Jan Harskamp<br>Brenda Wassman                    | 9  | Henry Fisher<br>Marcia Oldenkamp                                 | 24 | Jayden De Boer  |
| 5 | Phyllis Vander<br>Linden<br>Sandy De Vries        | 11 | Kevin Michelson  | 25 | Kalie De Boer   |
| 6 | Damian Van Der<br>Sloot                           | 12 | Lynn Schram<br>Alexis Hulstein                                   | 26 | Rhonda Riebeling<br>Dr. Brian Saylor<br>Heath De Jong |
| 7 | Tracee Brouwer<br>Ashley Heronimus<br>Alan Julius | 14 | Jacob Fox<br>Mim Ernst   | 27 | Brady Block<br>Donna Smidt                            |
| 8 | Angie Buysman<br>Robert Groen                     | 17 | Brayden Bruxvoort  | 28 | Jon Elser   |
|   |   | 18 | Janice Groen<br>Matthew Runia<br>Tanya Dykstra<br>Tanner Dykstra | 29 | Ken Tjaden  |
|   |   | 20 | Kathy Runia  | 30 | Karen Honken  |
|   |   |    |  | 31 | Jurnea Bos  |

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

## ~~*Anniversaries*~~

- |    |                         |          |
|----|-------------------------|----------|
| 19 | Joel & Kathy Verdoorn   | 55 years |
| 20 | Jim & Jena Ver Steeg    | 9 years  |
| 26 | Cole & Kayla Hoekstra   | 13 years |
| 26 | Bubba & Sharalyn Tjaden | 36 years |



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