

The Newsletter

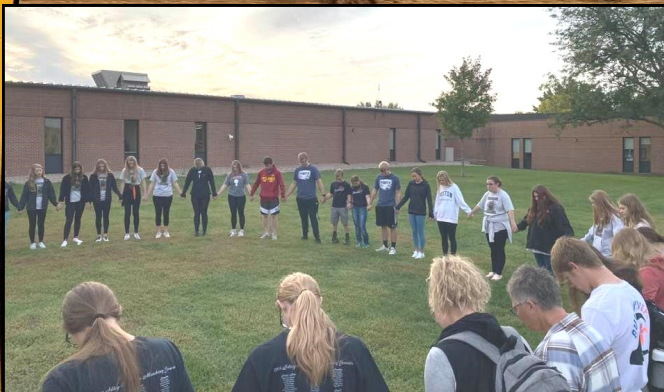
November 2021

glorify God in all we do,
grow with Him daily &
go with Him to share His love.

November at a Glance

See You
at the
Pole
2021

- 9: 6:00 pm Elder/Deacon Meetings
- 7:00 pm Full Consistory
- 10: 6-6:45pm Congregational Spaghetti Supper
- 7:00 pm Congregational Meeting
- 15: 9:30pm Faith Bible Study
3:00pm Patience Bible Study
- 17: **6:30-8:30: MS/HS Remnant Food Find**
- 9:00 am Mothers Together
- 24: 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service
7:30 pm Christmas Decorating



*Sundays:

- 9:00 am Sunday School 4yrs - Adult
- Coffee Fellowship Time
- 10:00 am Praise and Worship Service

*Tuesdays:

- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:

- 6:30 pm Bible Classes 1st-5th grades
- 6:30 pm MS Remnant Youth Group
- 7:30 pm HS Remnant Youth Group



CONTACT INFORMATION:
712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com

View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org





Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through October 25:

- **General Fund:** \$280,921.31
Budget: \$299,173.35; 93% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund:** \$37,448
Budget: \$71,025.61; 52% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date:** \$2380.70

Faith In Action for November:



**Share the love of Jesus, through
the power of a simple gift, with
children around the world.**

Shoeboxes are due back to church by:

November 15th

Special offering for November:

Sharing Christmas Families



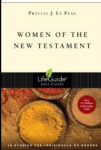
Trivia Time

1. What was the name of the Jewish man who called himself greater than King Solomon?
2. After David knocked Goliath to the ground with a stone from his sling, he cut off Goliath's head with his own sword. True or False?
3. What nation of people got sick and tired of eating quail for dinner?
4. Which came first--the plague of lice or the plague of frogs?
5. What was the name of the Bible prophet who was fed by birds?
6. About whom was the following statement made? "Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than _____?"
7. On what mountain did Noah's Ark come to rest?
8. What was the name of the queen who came from a far country to witness for herself the wisdom of King Solomon?
9. What was the name of the man whose clothes were made out of camel's hair?
10. At whose command were 300 pitchers broken?

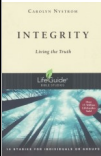
Bible Study Opportunities

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, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, November 15 at 9:30 am** in the Library. We will study chapter 6 “**Mary and Martha: Facing Death and Grief**” in the book Women of the New Testament. Scripture for the morning will be John 11:1-44. Luella Eggink will lead the lesson and Jan Harskamp will serve as hostess.



Patience Bible Study, who meets the third Monday of most months, will meet on **Monday, November 15 at 3:00 pm** in the Fireside Room. We will bring our new book, Integrity by Carolyn Nystrom. Barb will lead lesson #1, “Intimate Jesus” Lois will serve as hostess. If you are interested in joining us for this new study, please contact Barb Van Diepen and she will be sure to have a book for you.

If you have an address or phone number change please let the office know so changes can be made to the directory prior to printing.

If those changes were communicated to LaDonn when you submitted your directory photo, the office has those changes.

Also, if you still need to turn in a picture for the directory please do so soon. Thanks!



2022
Phone and Address Directory

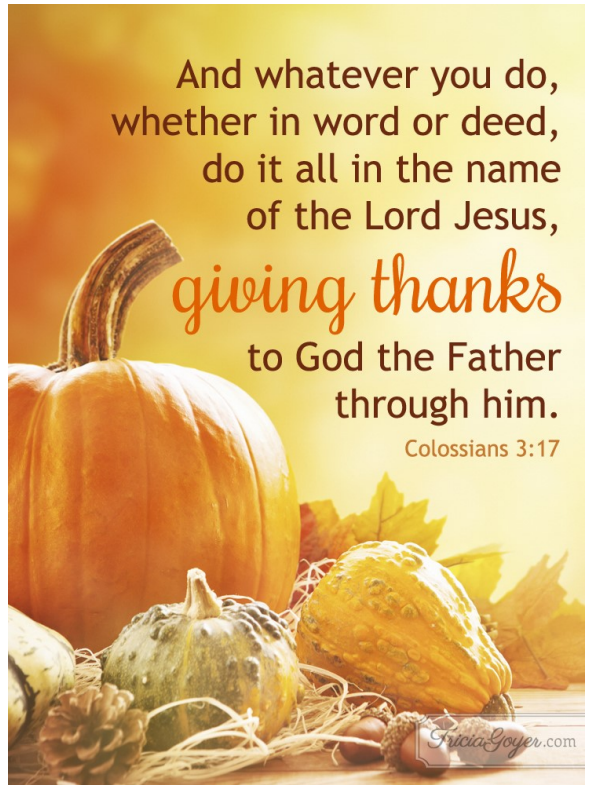
Office Phone: 754-2783
Kitchen, Office phone: 754-2366

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

1010 6th Street, Sibley, Iowa

And whatever you do,
whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name
of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks
to God the Father
through him.

Colossians 3:17





Praise and Worship Greeters

- 7: E: Dave and Jessica McDyer/family
C: Marlin and Kathy Runia
W: Greg and Tami Tracy/family
- 14: E: Brian and Heidi Sayler/family
C: Verlyn and Donna Smidt
W: Chad and Megan Travaille
- 21: E: Dean and Amy Van Marel
C: Randy Van De Berg
W: Ger and Barb Van Diepen
- 28: E: Paul and Phyllis Vander Linden
C: Steve and Leanne Van Kley
W: Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler

Nursery

The Nursery will be open for use,
but unstaffed.

Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 7: Scott and Jamie Hulstein
14: Chris and Teresa Hurlburt
21: Roger and Carol Iedema
28: Elesson and Kelsey Joseph

Children & Worship



10:00 am during the service

Leaders:

- 7: Jamie Hulstein
14: Deb Kusters
21: Karen Honken
28: Deb Kusters

Willing Hands Group



Willing Hands Group #5

will be responsible for
services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Dar/Dennis Jurgens
- Deb/Greg Kusters
- Shelia/Harold Van Der Sloom

Library Volunteers



- 7: Jamie Hulstein
14: Jan Juffer
21: Jeannette Juffer
28: Leona Meendering



The Pastoral Search Team has been busy interviewing candidates. They narrowed the choices down to one person and have passed this information on to the Consistory. By the time you read this update, the potential pastor will have been interviewed by the Consistory.

If the Consistory supports this candidate then they will let us know what the next steps are. If they reject the candidate then the Consistory will work with the Search Team to determine the next plan of action.

The important thing is that we find the right person to lead our congregation. This is a long and complicated process for all churches and we continue to ask for your prayers and your encouragement.

~~Gretchen



Consistory Meeting Highlights

October 12, 2021

- **MMSA** transfer in Merlyn and Julie Janssen from the American Reformed Church in Worthington, MN.
- **MMSA** for the election of Elders: There are 6 names on the nomination slate. We will elect the 3 needed for the expired terms, and then select an elder by lot from the remaining names to finish Henry Fisher's term out (until Dec 31, 2023).
- **MMSA** to do a survey before the Congregational meeting as to what worshippers' preferences are as to worship and Sunday School times, to give Consistory input on this decision.
- **MMSA** to approve 2022 Budget

Let us give thanks

**Thanksgiving
Eve Service**

Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 PM
All Are Welcome



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.

- Wednesday Evening Bible Classes & Youth Groups:
There will be class on November 3 & 17

There will **NOT** be class on November 10 (Congregational Meeting)
or November 24 (Thanksgiving Eve Service)

- Sunday School: to run as scheduled. Start time is currently 9:00am

College Addresses

Hunter DeJong
109 Wilder Place
Ames, IA 50014

Peyton Crichton
2820 S. Duluth Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Kalie DeBoer
815 8th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

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

Tanner Dykstra
3029 N. 47th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504

Alyssa Wassman
Foundation Residence
Apartments 103
1410 Birch Street
Marshall, MN 56258

Alex Mc Dougall
2040 Hawthorn Ct. Drive
#7122
Ames, IA 50010-9169

Grant Brouwer
DU 2335
707 7th Street NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250

Leah Ackerman
503 10th Ave.
Sibley, IA 51249

Ryan Van Marel
804 Medary Ave. South
Brookings, SD 57006

Ashilyn Hulstein
Hyde-139B-A1
1451 8th Street
Brookings, SD 57007

Hudson Feldkamp
230 Dakota Trail
Brookings, SD 57007

Dalton Bremer
100 Daum Hall
Room #5407
Iowa City, IA 52242

Mariah Elser
University Suites - 128A
1780 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Austin Wassman
1434 Tyler Ave
Ocheyedan, IA 51354

Carter Brouwer
208 8th St SW
Unit 122
Orange City, IA 51041

Wyatt Dykstra
4647 Stone Ave
Box #364 Prairie Place
Sioux City, IA 51106

Dahson DeJong
810 Commons Circle SW
#405
Mt. Vernon, IA 52314-1000



~~Birthday's~~

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 Matthew McDougall | 14 Paul Doorenbos
Karla Crichton | 24 Jen Schram
Braelyn Hurlburt |
| 2 Melissa De Boer | | |
| 3 Jennifer Bruxvoort
Lincoln McDyer | 15 Bobby Baker | |
| 4 Rodney Hulstein
Sami Fox | 16 Dalten Bremer
Jaeger Ackerman | 25 Carter Brouwer
Teddy Van Gelder |
| 5 Scott Hulstein
Jamie Hulstein
Hudson Feldkamp | 17 Dwayne Heikes | 26 Mitch Ackerman |
| 6 Parker Loerts | 18 Derek Heronimus
Jenny Timmer
A.J. Weg | 27 Geneva Wissink
Junior Rasmussen
Jagger Johnson
Alyssa Jacobsma
Kristen Beyer |
| 7 Nisa de Boom
Wyatt Dykstra
Haley Klaassen | 20 Marvella Harberts
Amy Dykstra
Amelia Heilman | 28 Carl Berkenpas
Dave Kleinwolterink |
| 11 Dan Heilman
Kavan Beyer | 21 Roger Iedema
Addysen Langstraat | 29 Cal Runia
Kevin Heemstra |
| 13 Steve Van Kley
Marlin Roelfs
Tiffany Wynia
Jill Boeke
Anne Maxwell
Julie Janssen | 22 Nathan Buysman | 30 Kaitlyn Mulder |
| | 23 Maverick Elser
Kody Wills | |

~~Anniversaries~~

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 3 Lawrence & Ruth Ann Wiersma | 43 yrs. |
| 3 Mitch & Angie Ackerman | 14 yrs. |
| 6 Paul & Phyllis Vander Linden | 57 yrs. |
| 13 Merlyn & Julie Janssen | 45 yrs. |
| 14 Charlie & Brenda Ackerman | 29 yrs. |
| 16 Jacob and Alecia Juelfs | 2 yr. |
| 17 Kevin & Nancy Soat | 32 yrs. |
| 19 Scott & Marlys Dykstra | 39 yrs. |
| 24 Dave & JoAnn Calsbeek | 54 yrs. |
| 25 Dale & Amy Carda | 4 yrs. |
| 26 Harold & Mim Ernst | 61 yrs. |





Shoeboxes are due on Monday, November 15

You may bring back your completed boxes at any time.

It's Operation Christmas Child SHOEBOX time again!! In case you wondered, last year most of the Shoebox gifts from this area went to Ukraine. This year our church was blessed with FREE BOXES to pack our shoebox gifts in. They will be available on the table in the narthex. Please take one and start thinking about what you'd like to pack this year.

There are a few completed boxes on the table to give you some ideas.

Visit our website: <https://www.sibleyfrc.org/missions/operation-christmas-child.cfm> for more information about shoeboxes.

The shipping and handling cost for *each box* remains at \$9.

There are several ways you can pay this.

1. You may make out a check in the envelope attached to the **How to Pack a Shoebox** brochure (available on the narthex table) **and place them in the box provided on the table.**
2. You can use a self-sticking **FOLLOW YOUR BOX LABEL** (available on the narthex table) and follow the instructions to pay online.
3. You can go to: **[samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box/](https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box/)** to pay for your box(es) and print out labels that you can affix to your finished boxes.

Opening Eyes and Ears in Ecuador



Nestled in the mountains of the Pichincha province of Ecuador, Pastor Segundo Santacruz leads a large church that meets in a very small building. “Amor a la Vida” (Love for Life), as the congregation is called, reaches out to the Quechua community around them in a variety of creative ways such as hosting an Operation Christmas Child outreach event in partnership with Samaritan’s Purse.

When 12-year-old Romina attended this special event, she listened intently to stories from the Bible including how Jesus calmed the storm and raised Lazarus from the dead. She was excited to hear these stories communicated in a manner that made sense to her.

“I had already heard those stories from the Bible and had not understood them,” she said. “The way they explained them today was much better and I could understand them.” Romina was quiet and observant during the presentation, watching carefully as Operation Christmas Child volunteers shared the message and distributed the surprise of shoebox gifts! “How they talked and treated me gave me confidence,” said Romina. “I felt that if I could trust Operation Christmas Child, I could also trust Jesus.” As a result of what she’d heard and observed, she gave her life to the Lord Jesus Christ!

Romina had also recently taken an interest in drawing and decided the way she could learn would be to have some fine-tipped, colored markers. She had seen them online but had no idea how she could obtain them in her remote village of Carabuela. Romina asked her mother for these specific art supplies, but she informed her daughter that there was no way she could afford them. Disappointed and not knowing where else to turn, Romina lifted up the desire to God in prayer. To her delight, when she opened her shoebox gift at the outreach event, she found a pack of fine-tipped, colored markers sitting right at the top of her box! They were just the kind for which she’d prayed! Also, inside the box was a ball and a pink stuffed animal, as well as other toys and a notebook for drawing, but she loved the markers best of all. Romina remains grateful for the markers she received and for Jesus’ continuing presence in her life. Now in addition to her drawing, she dreams of becoming a singer when she grows up, so she can sing for God.

“Never”

I will never be a perfect mother.
I will never be a perfect wife.
I will never be a perfect friend. Daughter.
Sister. Employee. Coworker. Neighbor.
I will never have it all together.
I will never say and do all the right things.
I will unintentionally hurt people.
I will forget things.
I will lose my patience.
I will make mistakes.
You will make mistakes.

Thankfully, we have a God who loves us in spite of our shortcomings. He has never asked for perfection. He has simply asked that we come to Him. As we are. That we lay our burdens at His feet. And allow Him to transform our hearts and minds.

There is freedom in letting go of the notion of perfection. In recognizing we can't be perfect, and that we were never intended to be.

There is one person who was perfect. And He died over 2,000 years ago for all of our imperfections.

I love that God uses messy people. I love that He transforms hearts and minds and brings us from the dark places into the light. I love how He uses our stories to encourage others. I love how He is so patient and tender and gentle with us.

A friend of mine recently said, “He is a gentleman.” And I completely agree.

I will strive to know God more. I will give Him my hurts and my wounds and I pray I am always changing and growing and learning and healing and letting go of the sin that so easily entangles.

But in all of the changing and the growing and the learning and the healing, I also know I will still fall.

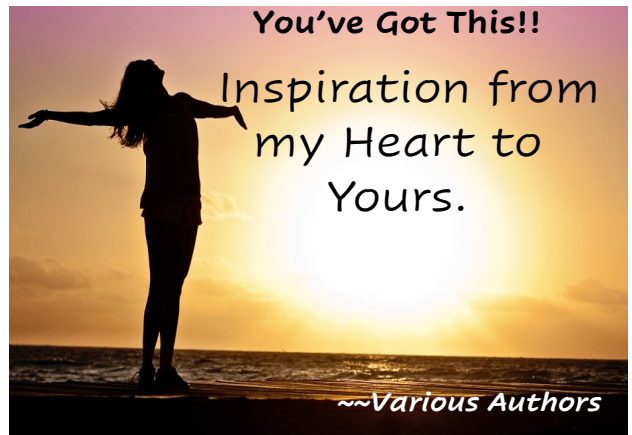
And I will get back up again. And He will love me through it all.

Because I will never be perfect.

I was never meant to be.

But I was made to worship the One who is.

~~Truly Yours, Jen - Jennifer Thompson, Writer



BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR
Luke 21:36

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

PRAYER JOURNAL



PRAY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

1. Preston and Britta Marco

2. Frank and Darcy Martinez

3. Cory and Anne Maxwell;
Kaden, Kaylee, Kyler

4. John and Kim Mc Dougall;
Alex, Matthew

5. Dave and Jessica Mc Dyer;
Lincoln, Addison

6. Pray for our College Students

7. Pray for our Church

8. Leona Meendering

9. Steve Mulder

10. Lisa Nissen

11. Vanessa Odens; Gracie, Landon

12. Dick and Marcia Oldenkamp

13. Pray for our College Students

14. Pray for our Church

15. Lyle Peelen
16. Marlys Pietz

17. Brenda Post

18. Reka Post

19. Junior and Imogene Rasmussen

20. Pray for our College Students

21. Pray for our Church

22. Larry and Rhonda Riebeling

23. Daren Rockman; Hunter, Gannon

24. Marlin Roelfs

25. Cal and Kathy Runia

26. Marlin and Kathy Runia

27. Pray for our College Students

28. Pray for our Church

29. Janice Runia

30. Dr. Brian and Heidi Sayler;
Madeline, Grace, Levi, Elijah

College Students:

Carter Brouwer	Dalten Bremer	Leah Ackerman	Kaitlyn Bechler
Jayden De Boer	Faye Carda	Grant Brouwer	Kalie De Boer
Dahson De Jong	Jennifer Cuadros	Tanner Dykstra	Jaden Abels
Wyatt Dykstra	Clint Henrichs	Jagger Johnson	Hunter DeJong
Andrea Leusink	Ashilyn Hulstein	Alex Mc Dougall	Hunter Rockman
Austin Wassman	Natalie Klaassen	Lane Tangeman	Ryan Van Marel
		Alyssa Wassman	Mariah Elser
			Peyton Crichton
			Hannah Lucas

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!



Once again it is time for Christmas! I know this seems too early, we haven't had Thanksgiving yet. However, with the publication schedule of our newsletters, this needed to be published before the next newsletter if we are going to prepare ourselves for Advent.

Besides, I know that most of us are already thinking about the season and those of you who have started shopping and thinking about decorations know who you are!

Advent always begins four Sundays before Christmas Day—so it varies in length from year to year. This year our first Sunday in Advent is November 28, the Sunday right after Thanksgiving.

The Worship Team has decided to publish an Advent devotional guide for you to use with your family. You will find the guide in your mailboxes by November 21!

Every week there will be a lesson, a series of daily Bible verses to read, a prayer to share, and some hymns to sing (*or listen to on YouTube*). The goal is to prepare all of us, as a congregation, to keep our eyes focused on our wonderful savior during this crazy, busy, season.

Let us glorify our God together as we focus on his wonderful gift of salvation through his son Jesus Christ. *Soli deo gloria.*

GB

WE AREN'T FORGETTING THANKSGIVING!

I can't think of Thanksgiving without thinking of Christmas and Easter. We have so much for which to be thankful. When we gather to celebrate our American heritage of thanksgiving, we can't set aside the pilgrims who came to this land to worship God in freedom. So, when buying your turkey and making pies, also sing songs of praise to the God that planned for our salvation from eternity.

Prayer Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world. Thank you for the sure and certain promise He will come again. As we focus on Jesus Christ today and this season, we remember, we ponder and we look ahead; and we ask that the truth of Christ's first and second comings would mark, form and shape our lives, both now and until the end of the age. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF ADVENT

What does Advent mean?

Advent (from the Latin *Adventus*, meaning coming or arrival) is part of the larger season in the Christian year, an aspect of the church's gathered worship leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

Although not a biblical mandate for the church, Advent has been and remains an important aspect for many churches for most of Christian history. In fact, according to the Christian year, Advent marks the beginning for the people of God in their annual calendar, not January 1.

Our lives are not only lived between Christ's first and second comings, they are also marked, formed and shaped by His two comings.

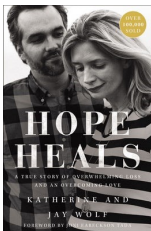
What is the Significance of Advent?

- It is a time to remember the birth of Christ (Matt. 1:18-25; Lk. 1:5-2:20; Gal. 4:4), the time at which the promises for the Messiah in the Old Testament were fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ (cf. Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; 9:2-6; Mic. 5:2).
- It is a time to ponder the person of Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:1-18; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-20; 1 Tim. 3:16).
- It is a time to look ahead to the time when Christ will return in great power and glory (Matt. 24:30; 26:64; Rom. 1:4) to judge the living and the dead (Acts 10:42; 17:31; 2 Tim. 4:8; cf. 1 Thess. 4:15).
- Remembering causes us to thank and praise the Lord for sending His Son to be the Savior of the world. Pondering causes us to worship. Looking ahead to the future return of Christ leads to a time of examination to ensure one is ready, prepared, and properly waiting for Christ's second coming (Matt. 25:1-30; Phil. 3:20-21; 2 Thess. 2:6-13).

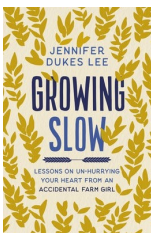
THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTION AS YOU PREPARE FOR ADVENT.

1. How will you remember?
2. How will you ponder?
3. How will you look ahead?
4. What difference will remembering, pondering and looking ahead make during this season of Advent?
5. What difference will this make in your life?

From the library--



There is a new book that has been added to the non-fiction section: HOPE HEALS by Katherine and Jay Wolf—A true story of overwhelming loss and an overcoming love. “With her six-month old sleeping in the next room, Katherine Wolf screamed for her husband, Jay, and crumpled to the ground. Her modeling career was just taking off in Malibu, California, and Jay was ready to take his final law exams in a few hours. But those plans changed in an instant. On April 21, 2008, Katherine suffered a massive brain stem stroke. She was rushed into micro-brain surgery, where the neurosurgeon told Jay, ‘I need you to know there’s a good chance she will not survive.’ As the sun rose the next morning, Katherine had survived the removal of part of her brain. And that’s when the hard part began.”

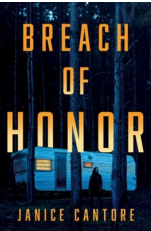


Another non-fiction book is GROWING SLOW by Jennifer Dukes Lee, “lessons on un-hurrying your heart from an ‘accidental farm girl.’” “With eloquent truths and vivid storytelling, Jennifer reflects on the lessons she learned from living on her fifth-generation family farm and the insights she gathered from the purposeful yet never rushed life of Christ. GROWING SLOW charts a path out of the pressures of bigger, harder, faster, and into a restful yet active and far more satisfying way of living.”



We have incorporated a new author into our fiction section, Kelly Irvin. She has written the first book of the “Amish Blessings” series entitled LOVE’S DWELLING. “Young Cassie Weaver only wants what is expected of an Amish woman: a good husband and a large family. But she’s happy as Job and Dinah Keim’s housekeeper, which includes helping Dinah, who is losing her sight due to diabetes. For two decades the Keims have prayed for the salvation of their two children who left the community in a cloud of shame and mystery. Mason knew there was more to his mother’s past than she let on, but nothing could have prepared him for learning about his Amish roots upon his mother’s sudden death. Even more surprising, his mother named her Amish parents, Job and Dinah, as guardians to her five children. Now Mason has to trust this this couple, and their pretty housekeeper, can take care of his younger siblings, even when all he wants is to take care of them himself. As the children adjust to their new lifestyle, Mason finds himself pulled back to the Keims’ home. Yes, he wants to see his siblings, but it’s the conversations with Cassie that keep him lingering on the front porch long after the children have gone to bed. Is there more to this Amish faith, and how does it play into his own past? Cassie guards against her growing feelings for Mason, because there can be no happy ending for a Plain girl in love with an **Englisch** man...right?”

From the Library Continued...



Another addition to the library is a book written by retired police officer Janice Cantore. Her newest book is **BREACH OF HONOR** and is a book that is difficult to put down because you want to know what “happens next.” “As a police officer in Table Rock, Oregon, Leah Radcliff puts her life on the line to help others every day. But at home, Leah’s battling her own personal nightmare: Brad, her abusive husband is a fellow officer, celebrated hero and beloved son of a powerful, prominent family. Brad’s violent outbursts and suspicious activities have left Leah physically and emotionally scarred, until one desperate action to put a stop of his abuse results in deadly consequences. Though public opinion seems ready to convict Leah, Officer Clint Tanner is one of the few to believe she acted in self-defense. As he works with Leah’s attorney to produce the evidence they need, new truths about Brad’s dark side come to light—and reveal a deep-rooted problem in Table Rock. There are some who have breached their sworn duty to serve and protect...and they’ll do anything to keep their secret safe.”

Be sure to visit the library soon.

~~Jeannette Juffer



Mothers Together

With God in the Middle

Are you a mom of young children? Do you wish there was somewhere you could meet other moms who are facing the same daily challenges that you are? Then Mothers Together is the place for you. **Mothers Together is a non-denominational group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month during the school year from 9am-11am.** Quality child care is available so you can get that much needed “mom time”.

This year our theme will be Motherhood. "Motherhood is hard. One second, we think we're doing a good enough job; the next, we feel like the worst mom on the planet. which is why we need the refreshing truth of the gospel to be repeated over and over again, giving us hope in the everyday moments." -- Risen Motherhood: Gospel Hope for Everyday Moments. Hope to see you there!!

**Mothers Together will be meeting on:
November 3 and 17**



Honoring All Veterans on Veterans Day

We thank you for your service and sacrifices. We are forever grateful!

Being the

The Center of Hope--Sioux Falls, SD



Poverty is not just a cash flow issue. In this blog post we delve into why hope is so much more than a full stomach and bills paid.

CENTER OF HOPE
Hands & Feet of Jesus

We at the Center of Hope strive to meet people where they are, assess their needs and provide them with information, durable goods, encouragement, transportation, communication, etc. But if meeting only their physical needs were the whole answer we'd be out of work. The particulars of poverty are complex. The back stories of our guest vary greatly, but one theme that seems to be common among most is that of broken relationships and dysfunctional family structures. Daniel Patrick Moynihan's 1965 report on the breakdown of family and its correlation to poverty garnered some attention then, and was revisited by the author and others in the 1990's. Though the original, all too prophetic report cited particularly African Americans, it has turned out to be relevant for all races and nationalities across the world.

Believing and understanding the core identity of self as a innately valuable, uniquely designed, loved and forgiven child of God is the most transforming and hope-giving element of restoration for any individual.

The breakdown of what many would call the core social structure of any healthy society has contributed to an increasing need for stability, identity, sense of purpose, and ultimately spiritual healing for thousands of folks just in the Sioux Falls region. This is why Center of Hope's mission to bring hope through physical AND spiritual ministry to individuals and families is so important.

The Necessity of Gospel Transformation

Believing and understanding the core identity of self as a innately valuable, uniquely designed, loved and forgiven child of God is the most transforming and hope-giving element of restoration for any individual. But this is especially so for someone who has never known the beautiful, powerful simplicity of the Gospel message. God loves you. God sent a solution to our brokenness in the form of Jesus. The forgiveness and wholeness found in Him is available freely and completely to any who would believe and receive. These are transforming truths that bring folks from hopeless to hopeful and from desperate to empowered.

We strongly desire your prayers for our staff and volunteers at the Center of Hope as we strive to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our guests. Maybe you are looking for a way to help make a difference. You might prayerfully consider being a volunteer in one of a number of areas. Either way, thank you for partnering with us in ministering the Good News to those who are struggling in some way.



Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verse

Exodus 16:13-15

That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. (NIV)



Thoughts

As usual before I write one of these devotionals, I asked God to give me His words to benefit all of you who read it. I just said that prayer, and opened my Bible to this quotation! Now, that is God in action! Even when we doubt, or as the Israelites, grumble amongst themselves, if we trust God, He will ALWAYS deliver.

Last week on a duck hunt with some friends, the day started off slow. However, we had a short devotional time that morning and asked God to let us have a good day in His creation. The faithful were blessed with not only a nice bunch of mallards, but a bonus pintail and gadwall to finish the day. The best part was spending time with friends and enjoying our view of God's creation. Now that was cool!

Action Point

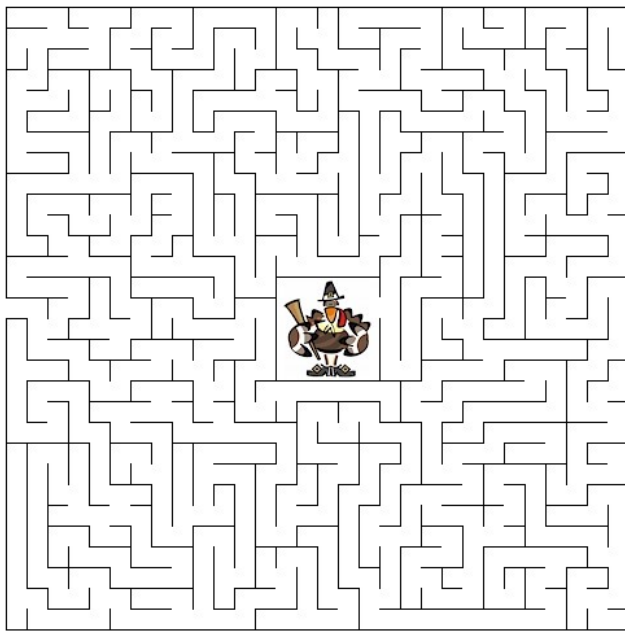
Throughout my life I have been blessed to travel on numerous great adventures. Sometimes I still get more concerned about the fish I catch or the game I harvest. The best adventures of all are always the ones that I enjoy myself and worry little about the catch or the harvest. Those always seem to come through the grace of God.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

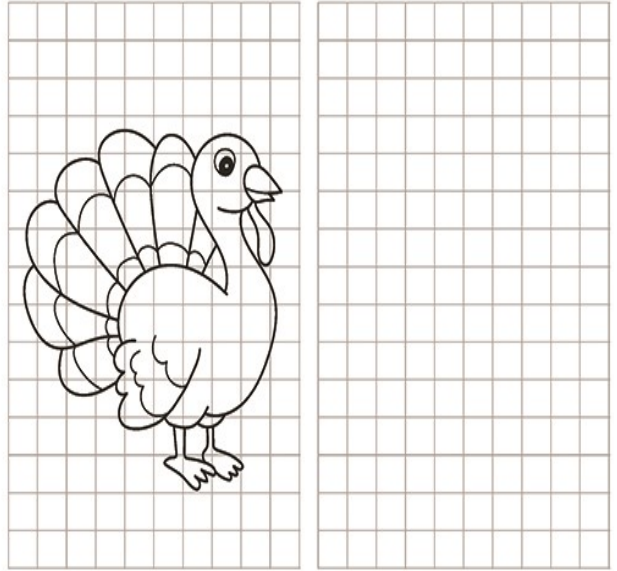
Some ducks decoy better than others. Pintails seem to ignore a lot of our hard work, go about their day, and give us little credit for our enthusiasm. But beware. They can drop in on you when you least expect it. If pintails are around, stay alert for these extremely beautiful ducks to grace you with their presence.

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. Jesus (Matthew 12:42) **2. False** (1 Samuel 17:50,51) **3. Nation of Israel** (Numb. 11:32,33) **4. Frogs** (Exodus 8:1-18) **5. Elijah** (1 Kings 17:1-6) **6. John the Baptist** (Luke 7:28) **7. Ararat** (Genesis 8:4) **8. Queen of Sheba** (1 Kings 10:1-10) **9. John the Baptist** (Matt. 3:1,4) **10. Gideon** (Judges 7:16,19).



Copy the picture onto the grid.

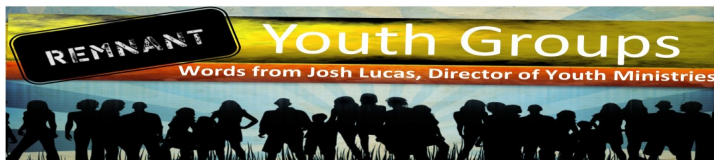


BRAIN QUEST'S THANKSGIVING WORK SEARCH



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THANKSGIVING
NATIVE
AMERICAN
PILGRIM
SHARING
TURKEY
STUFFING
FAMILY
CORNUCOPIA
GRATEFUL
TRADITION
PIE
GOBBLE
HARVEST



Dear First Reformed Church,

This is your former Devil Crushing Ninja Trainer (Youth Director for short) here to give you one final newsletter article. My hope with this final letter is to inform you as a congregation as to why I decided to move in the direction that I have recently taken. I have accepted a position as a Correctional Officer with the Minnehaha Sheriff's Office. I will begin working on Monday November 1st and I will be spending the first four weeks in training. If you have not heard Hannah and I have decided that for now instead of moving to Sioux Falls, we want to stay here in Sibley and be involved with FRC where we can. We hope to stay involved in the youth group and Hannah has recently started leading Mother's Together, therefore we would like to still be involved in those groups.

You are probably asking yourself, "Why would Josh want to do that?" I understand that this new job is a complete 180 from what I have been doing for the last nearly five years. However, I have always had this desire to want to be some form of a Chaplain, either with corrections or in the military. In my pursuit of information toward becoming a Chaplain I was told that the two things I lack are, education and experience. One of the best ways to gain experience is to start from the bottom as one spokesperson put it. With me becoming a Correctional Officer I will be able to gain knowledge and experience to discover if this is really a path that God wants me in. My hope is to also help rehabilitate and encourage individuals who have made some bad decisions and help them to make better choices to hopefully come to Christ. I was also told that there are a handful of former youth pastors and pastors who have left their churches to become Correctional Officers, because they have discovered that there is more mission work in the jail then in their respected churches. It will be nice to know that there are other individuals who are in the same boat as I am.

I really would just like to take a moment and say that I am so beyond grateful for the love and encouragement that myself and my family have been shown over the last five years. FRC is the church that gave me my start in ministry, and I have honestly done some amazing things here and I just hope that I have impacted this church as much as she has impacted me. Even though I will still be around I will miss being the director of youth ministries. I plan on being around so please feel free to come and talk to me and ask me questions about my job and the ministry that I hope to take part in up there. As always, if you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has got one for you!

Blessings,

Josh Lucas

Dad Jokes with Josh:

Kid: "Dad, did you get a haircut?"

Dad: "No, I got them all cut."

Hello there brothers and sisters in Christ, I greet you all in the divide name of the Lord Jesus. May the power of the Holy Spirit be upon you and your church. I've been praying for you guys and the church. Please remember Haiti in your prayers because every day you hear something different and I know for sure the Lord answers and helps us out in these times. Haïti need prayers, churches need prayers! I pray that everything is going well for everyone of you. Thanks!



From Pastor Colas

Colas Montrema: Lead pastor Church of Christ, Lagossette Haiti!

The Empty Chair Prayer

The pies are in the freezer,
the turkey's on the list,

But this Thanksgiving, oh how
a loved one will be missed!

Lord Jesus, please hear our
Thanksgiving prayer,

For those gathered around
a table that has an empty chair,

Oh Lord, comfort their hearts -
we know that you are able,

And let them know that this year,
there's another chair at Heaven's Table!

- Erica Parkerson -

