

# The Newsletter

Today I have a short story for you about gratitude. A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which read, "I am blind, please help."



There were only a few coins in the hat — spare change from folks as they hurried past. A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. Then he put the sign back in the boy's hand so that everyone who walked by would see the new words.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon, the man who had changed the sign returned to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?"

The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way." I wrote, "Today is a beautiful day, but I cannot see it." Both signs spoke the truth. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind, while the second sign conveyed to everyone walking by how grateful they should be to see...

When your life seems full of troubles, it seems difficult to maintain an attitude of gratitude, doesn't it? All we see are our problems, like a blackened storm cloud casting a dark shadow over our lives.

And the times when everything just seems to be going smoothly? We often take these precious moments for granted too, don't we? Caught up in the bliss, comfort, and familiarity of it all, we can simply forget to be thankful.

#### So what, then, is gratitude?

Simply put, gratitude is a habit. It's a way of looking at the world and all the good things in it with a feeling of appreciation, regardless of whether or not your current situation is to your liking.

"Nick Ortner"

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

# November at a Glance

- 4: 9:00 gm coffee with the Pastor
- 9:00 am Mothers Together meets
- 9: 6:00 pm Elder/Degcon Meetings
- 7:00 pm Full Consistory
- 15: Elder/Degcon Votes gre que!
- 16: Check Bulletins for Bible Study info
- 18: MS/HS Remnant Food Find
- 9:00 qm Mothers Together
- 25: 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:30 pm Christmas Decorating

#### \*Sunday Mornings:

9:00 am Cornerstone Service No Coffee Fellowship at this time 10:10 am Sunday School for all ages 11:00 am Open Door Service

#### \*Monday Evenings:

7:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study will meet in the Fireside Room

#### \*Tuesday mornings:

Chickadee Quilters are on break

\*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

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View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org

As I sit here this morning I find myself realizing this is my last newsletter to you. I am also reminded that this month is a time in which we take even greater opportunity to give thanks to our Lord and Savior for the many blessing he has brought into our lives in the past year. As I reflect there are so many things I am thankful for in the past 7 years of ministry here at First Reformed Church.

I am thankful for the amazing people within this congregation. I have been blessed over the years to get to know you and do ministry with you. I have seen

people passionate about their relationship with Christ and those who have grown in that relationship. I encourage you to continue to use your giftedness and talents to serve God's kingdom and build this church. Thanks for everyone who came along side me in the many different ministry opportunities.

I am thankful for our ability to love one another. Over the years I have seen compassion and care for so many who are hurting and struggling. I have seen people building each other up, praying for each other and helping supply what someone might need and just loving on each other.

I am thankful for patience and understanding. I am thankful for mercy and grace. Over the years I have learned so much as a pastor. I have grown in ways I could have never imagined. Thanks be to God for the people that have encouraged me, prayed for me and supported me. I am also thankful for the leadership of this church and all the work they have done over the years.

I am thankful for this community. I was privileged to be able to interact with so many beyond our church. I am thankful for those relationships that were built and that I could be an encouraging influence in so many lives. I will miss those relationships built and the memories made especially as I had the opportunity to work with the High School Softball program and substitute bus driving.

I am thankful for the friendships and relationships that we have. God placed so many of you within our lives in various ways. We grew together in trials and hardships, though service and work and still others through Bible studies and other activities we did. The love for each of you is deep and it is those relationships that makes it hard to leave. You will always be loved!

I am thankful for the ability to do ministry. God has truly blessed me in the last 7 years and I hope and pray that somehow and someway you have personally been challenged and grown by the words the Holy Spirit allowed me to speak. In the end it is not about me, but that the gospel message might always be proclaimed and that lives would be changed. As we depart it is my prayer that you will continue to grow to know this amazing and awesome God even more.

I am thankful for the lives that God has given each of us. We have the ability to bring honor and glory to Him. God desires to use us in mighty ways. Our call is to open ourselves up to God's will for each of our lives. We have been saved and redeemed by His precious blood and because of what he has done for us we need to live our lives for Him.

As I finish I just want to say thank you for allowing me to serve you and we love you much! I would like to end with this benediction I often use at the end of our church services. It is from Numbers 6:24-26

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Thanks you for being you! Love you all and farewell,

Pastor Luke





### **Stewardship & Giving**

#### Special offering for November: Sharing Christmas Families

Offering Summary through October 26:

General Fund: \$270,436.92;
 Budget: \$291,112; 92% of budget

Benevolent Fund: \$27,672.49
 Budget: \$73,913; 37% of budget

• Building Fund offerings to date: \$1558

# 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

### Trivia Time!!!

- 1. Paul the Apostle was born in what city?
- 2. What was the name of the prophet who foretold that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem?
  - 3. What relationship was Lois to Timothy?
- 4. "As it is written, \_\_\_\_\_have I love, but\_\_\_\_ have I hated."
  - 5. What is the name of the Old Testament prophet who foretold the virgin birth?
- 6. To whom was the following spoken? "Silber and gold have I non; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."
  - 7. What is the name of the woman who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house?
  - 8. What Bible character saw a city coming down out of heaven?

# Willing Hands Group



# Children & Worship Leaders/Helpers



# Willing Hands Group #5

will be responsible for services during the month.

#### Co-chairpersons are:

- Dar/Dennis Jurgens
  - Deb/Greg Kosters
- Shelia/Harold Van Der Sloot

## **Fellowship Coffee Servers**



No Coffee Fellowship at this time.

### Nursery

The Nursery will be open for use, but unstaffed.



Will Meet at 9:00am on:
November 4 & November 18
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!!

#### 9:00am

1: No Children & Worship

#### 11:00am

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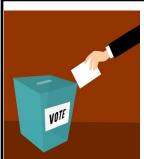
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# Ballots for Electing Elders and Deacons

Are Due Back To Church No Later Than: <u>November 15, at Noon</u>

# Cornerstone Service Greeters

**Library Volunteers** 



1. E: Arnie and Diane Langstraat

C: Curt and Peg Van Kley

W: Burt and Jan Henrichs

8: E: Gretchen Bartelson

C: Jodi and Clayton Wagenaar

W: Justin and Angela Van Tilburg/family

15: E: Bill and LaDonn Hartzell

C: Scott and Jamie Hulstein/Family

W: Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma

22: E: Josh and Hannah Lucas

C: Larry and Rhonda Riebeling

W: Pam Kruger

25: E: Chris and Teresa Hurlburt

C: Paige Hurlburt

W: Joel and Kathy Verdoorn

29: E: Jeannette Juffer

C: Joanne Klaassen

W: LaVon Dykstra

1: Mary Hustoft

8: Jan Juffer

15: Jeannette Juffer

22: Leona Meendering

29: Jamie Hulstein



So encourage each other er 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!!!



# 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



BUSYNESS
Freeling God is the Witchesed

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



<u>Patience Bible Study</u>, please watch your weekly bulletin for current Bible Study Information.



The Monday Night Ladies Bible Study will be studying "The Story." Grab your book and plan to join us in the Fireside Room Monday nights at 7:00 pm. We will meet through November 16th and then take a break until March 2021.

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Find the hidden words in the puzzle. Words can be hidden:  $\rightarrow \downarrow \searrow$ 

ACORN	HARVEST	PARENT	PLYMOUTH
BLESSING	LEAVES	PECAN	PUMPKIN
CANOE	MAYFLOWER	PIE	SETTLERS
COLONIST	NAP	PILGRIMS	STUFFING
GRATEFUL	NOVEMBER	PLANTATION	VOYAGE

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







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** will be held as normal, with social distancing in the classroom and masks in the hallways.
- Wednesday Night Bible Classes will be held as normal with social distancing/masks when needed
- **No Bible Class/Youth Groups** on November 25 due to Thanksgiving Eve Service.



#### **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**

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#### Alvssa 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

535 S 17th Street Apt. 210 Ames, IA 50010

#### **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

# **Sportsmen's Devotional**

#### **Bible Study Verses**

Proverbs 16:9

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. (ESV)



#### **Thoughts**

It was a cold, brisk mid-November afternoon and the hunt was producing very little. Fortunately, we were driving deer through small woodlots rather than still-hunting in the frigid tree stand.

I was walking the edge of the tree line on our last push, when a small buck stepped out of the trees at the end of this small five acre woodlot. I quickly pressed after him, running with my partner right behind me. We approached the open field in hope of getting off a shot, while he was still in the wide open, but the deer was nowhere to be found. We slowly stalked through the field knowing that he had to have been hiding in a depression that we just couldn't see.

As we walked further into the open space the small buck shot up from a shallow irrigation ditch; running broadside to us at about one hundred yards out. The air exploded with booming thunder as each hunter alternated shots. The splattering of snow and dirt revealed the near misses.

I was down to my final shot when I dropped to one knee and readjusted my sights. Fortunately the deer turned at this point and ran directly away from me as I squeezed the trigger. A roar erupted from the barrel of the shotgun as the impact of the shotgun slug knocked the six-pointer to the ground and it never moved.

#### **Action Point**

Some say it was a lucky shot. I prefer to say that it was a skilled shot. The kind of shot that is only taken by trained snipers. But for some reason, my friends laugh at that comment and I grin along with them. Lucky or not it was still a memorable hunt.

This quote best sums up the action point for this story:

1 "For the Christian, there are, strictly speaking, no chances. A secret Master of the Ceremonies has been at work." C.S. Lewis

#### Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

When pushing deer during firearms season with a group of hunters make sure you wear plenty of orange from top to bottom. It is amazing how one tree can block out the view of your hunting partners. Be safe, walk together in a line and spread out enough distance to cover the woods, but always be in range of sight with the hunter on your left or right. If you spread out too far not only is it unsafe, but deer can sneak through your push line if you leave too big of a gap.

#### Trivia Time Answers!!!

Tarsus: Acts 9:11 2. Micha: Micha 5:2 3. His grandmother: 2Timothy 1:5 4. Jacob, Esau: Romans 9:13
 Isaiah: Isaiah 7:14 6. Peter was speaking to the lame beggar at the temple: Acts 3:1-6

7. Rahab: Joshua 2:1-6 8. John: Revelation 21:2

# PRAYER LIST

## PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- Pray for our Church
- 2. Kevin and Twila Heemstra
- Lisa Nissen 3.
- **Dwayne and Janice Heikes**
- 5. Dan and Maureen Heilman
- Burt and Jan Henrichs
- 7. Pray for our College Students
- 8. Pray for our Church
- 9. Rhonda Henrichs: Clint
- 10. Derek and Ashley Heronimus; Kalen, Brooks
- 11. Ken and Sandy Heronimus
- 12. Dale and Josie Herrboldt
- 13. Jo Hielkema
- 14. Pray for our College Students
- 15. Pray for our Church
- 16. Cole and Kayla Hoekstra; Amelia, Grace

- 17. Dale and Karen Honken
- 18. Anita Hoting
- 19. Ken Huls
- 20. Loren and Deb Hulstein
- 21. Pray for our College Students
- 22. Pray for our Church
- 23. Mark and Rosie Hulstein; Dawson, Walker
- 24. Michael and Chelsea Hulstein; Addison, Aubrey
- 25. Rod and Beth Hulstein
- 26. Scott and Jamie Hulstein: Ashilyn, Karissa, Alexis
- 27. Chris and Teresa Hurlburt
- 28. Pray for our College Students
- 29. Pray for our Church
- 30. Cody and Kristen Hurlburt; Braelyn, Adelyn, Caelyn

Peyton Crichton

Col	lege	Stud	ents:

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

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

Leah Ackerman

Paige Hurlburt Kaitlyn Bechler Kalie De Boer Keyana Gust Jaden Abels

Mariah Flser

Andrea Meyer Garrett Sayler Makayla Tangeman Nick Buysman Jena Van Marel **Hunter DeJong Trov Soat** 

Hunter Rockman Rvan Van Marel Hannah Lucas

# The Story— A Remnant

People who sew, *especially quilters*, tend to save pieces of fabric that are small but still good for something. These small pieces of fabric are more than scraps, they are *remnants* of larger pieces of fabric and still have value.

According to Webster's dictionary a remnant is "a small remaining quantity of something."

Did you know that the Bible speaks of remnants? It does. The word is used 84 times in the ESV, 67 times in the NIV, and 86 times in the NASB. Why the differences? There are several words translated into English from the Hebrew, and there are different ways to translate those word into English. Sometimes remnant is translated as "remaining" or "posterity". Translation is very difficult work!

The words that are generally translated as *remnant* are first used in Genesis 45:7 and the last time in Romans 11:5. No matter the circumstances in the Old Testament, God always preserved a remnant of his people.

We have been studying *The Story* and have worked through God's history with his people. As we have looked at the Old Testament we see that God kept his promises to his people, even when they were in rebellion and when they deserved to be destroyed.

The Covenants that God made with his people **always called for faithfulness**. If God's people were faithful to his laws, faithful in worship, and faithful in daily living then they would be blessed. BUT judgement would be the result of disobedience. During the times of the kings God regularly sent prophets to remind the nation that faithfulness to God was necessary for prosperity and peace. Neither Israel nor Judah listened.

In 722 God sent Assyria to destroy the northern kingdom of Israel. The southern kingdom of Judah continued for another two centuries before it suffered *exile* in Babylon. Between 597 and 586 BC the nation was captured and taken to Babylon where they served as slaves. The familiar history of Daniel falls into this 70 year captivity. Babylon fell to the Medo-Persian empire in 539 and Cyrus decreed that that the enslaved Jews should be allowed to return and rebuild their nation.

The **remnant** returned, the temple was rebuilt, and approximately 500 years would pass before the Messiah promised in Genesis 3:15 would be born. God was faithful throughout, always preserving a **remnant!** God will always keep his faithful in the palm of his hand, and he continues to keep all of his promises.

We live in the time after the coming of Jesus Christ. It is the time when the promises to Abraham to make him 'the father of a multitude of nations' that will be a 'blessing to all the earth' is taking place. This was a promised made to his people 4,000 years ago. **God is faithful and he never, ever, ever forgets his promises.** 

Romans 11:5 says, "So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace." Out status as part of the **remnant** is tied to the grace of God and is evidence of his faithfulness. We must never despair, we are protected and cherished. God will never forget to remember.

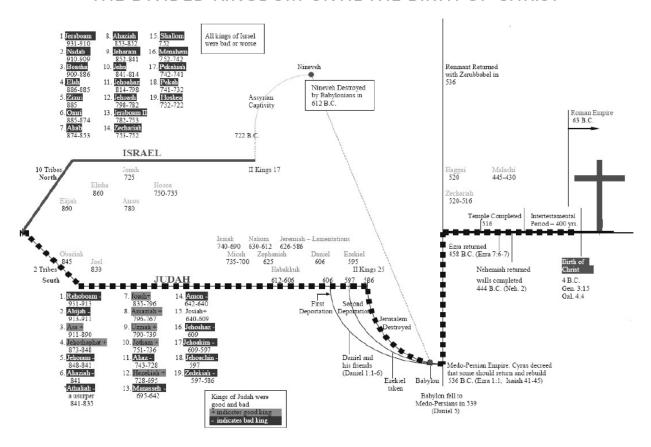
#### CONTINUED...

It seems there are two things to keep in mind in our own day and time as we live in a world that is increasingly difficult and complex. As we look at the daily news we have to admit that things are getting more and more difficult for Christians in America and around the world.

**First,** we must remain faithful to the covenants. We are to live lives of holiness, to maintain proper worship and to spread the gospel (Matthew 26:19). That hasn't changed since Genesis. No matter the circumstances—including Covid—we are called to be a special people (I Peter 2:9). We must not tempted away from our proper worship and fellowship with the body of Christ by the temptations of the world around us.

**Second,** no matter how bad things get, or how complicated life becomes, or how we are persecuted, God will still protect his **remnant**. We are precious to him, we have value because He values us. **The father sent the son to take on our sin so that we are no longer under the penalty of the law.** How great the Father's love for us, how great the sacrifice of the Son for us—although we did not deserve it in any way. It is Amazing Grace!

### THE DIVIDED KINGDOM UNTIL THE BIRTH OF CHRIST





# PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

#### **Assisted Living**

**Ethel Jurgens** Geneva Wissink Larry & Alfreda Verdoorn

# <u>Christian Retirement Home</u> Helen Vander Veen

#### **The Nursing Homes**

**Dutch Kruger** Harold Schram Margaret Calsbeek Marlys Brink

#### **Our Missionaries**

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

PRAYER	JOURNAL
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# Celebrations

# ~~Birthday's~~

- 1 Matthew McDougall
- 2 Melissa De Boer
- 3 Jennifer Bruxvoort Lincoln McDyer
- 4 Rodney Hulstein Sami Fox
- 5 Scott Hulstein Jamie Hulstein Hudson Feldkamp
- 6 Parker Loerts
- 7 Nisa de Boom Wyatt Dykstra Haley Klaassen
- 11 Dan Heilman Kavan Beyer
- 13 Steve Van Kley Marlin Roelfs Tiffany Wynia Jill Boeke Anne Maxwell

- 14 Paul Doorenbos Karla Crichton
- 15 Bobby Baker
- 16 Dalten Bremer Jaeger Ackerman
- 17 Dwayne Heikes
- 18 Derek Heronimus Jenny Tiedemann A.J. Weg
- 20 Marvella Harberts Amy Dykstra Amelia Heilman
- 21 Roger Iedema Addysen Langstraat
- 22 Nathan Buysman
- 23 Maverick Elser Kody Wills
- 24 Jen Schram
  Braelyn Hurlburt

- 25 Carter Brouwer Teddy Van Gelder
- 26 Mitch Ackerman
- 27 Geneva Wissink Junior Rasmussen Jagger Johnson Alyssa Jacobsma Kristen Beyer
- 28 Carl Berkenpas Dave Kleinwolterink
- 29 Cal Runia Kevin Heemstra
- 30 Kaitlyn Mulder



## ~~Anníversaríes~~

3	Lawrence & Ruth Ann Wiersma	42 yrs.
3	Mitch & Angie Ackerman	13 yrs.
6	Paul & Phyllis Vander Linden	56 yrs.
14	Charlie & Brenda Ackerman	28 yrs.
16	Jacob and Alecia Juelfs	1 yr.
17	Kevin & Nancy Soat	31 yrs.
19	Scott & Marlys Dykstra	38 yrs.
24	Dave & JoAnn Calsbeek	53 yrs.
25	Dale & Amy Carda	3 yrs.
26	Harold & Mim Ernst	60 yrs.



# Shoeboxes are due on Sunday, 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-christmaschild.cfm for more information about shoeboxes.

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

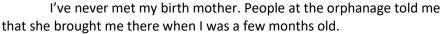
There are several ways you can pay this.

- 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 fol low the instructions to pay online.
- 3. You can go to: **samaritanspurse.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.

# ~~~A Shoebox Story~~~

Jaki and a Toothbrush

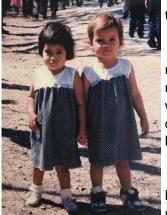
I can attest to the need to put toothbrushes in shoebox gifts—
I shared one with nine other girls in a Guatemalan orphanage.



At the orphanage in Guatemala, the caretakers provided for our basic needs. They taught us, fed us, and clothed us, but their limited resources meant that we ate a steady diet of rice and beans and wore whatever clothes were available, no matter what the size. Sometimes, the girls wore boy clothes because that's what the orphanage had on hand. I don't remember us having any combs or brushes.

We did have a toothbrush—one toothbrush for 10 girls. We shared it, like we shared everything else. That's why I was so excited when we each received our own Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift.







My favorite thing I received in my box was a toothbrush of my very own. I got a lot of use out of it. It was a prized possession. To this day when I pack shoebox gifts, I don't just include one toothbrush—I pack at least four of them in each box! That way, the children can use them for a long time, or have enough of them to give to their friends or family members.

I also received a stuffed animal. I was 5 years old, so I loved to hug it. I was delighted to receive crayons and coloring books. When the girls and I colored, there was no white space left on the pieces of paper. We filled every available space with color.

We received our gifts in plastic containers, so we kept our larger gifts in them. The possessions we really cherished we kept underneath our mattresses. I didn't receive a photo in my shoebox, but some of the other girls did. They kept the photos underneath their mattresses so they could pull them out to look at them then tuck them away again for safekeeping. I always include a photo and a letter in the shoeboxes I pack because I remember how much the girls treasured them. Even if they couldn't read the writing, it meant something to them that they were from those who had given them the gifts.



I had heard about Jesus at the orphanage. When we had received our shoeboxes, we learned the song, "Jesus loves me." But it wasn't until later that I truly knew who He is and that Jesus really does love me.





A year after I received my shoebox, I was adopted by a couple from the U.S. My parents took me to church and, within the year, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

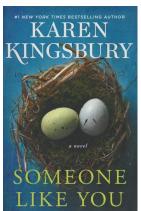
I still love the song, "Jesus loves me." I love to sing—I'm on the worship team at church. I'm also a nanny, so I get to teach the song to the kids. Many of the children are from my church, which has packed shoeboxes for many years—long before I became a part of the congregation and began sharing my story.

I get to help the children pack shoeboxes. I tell them that I received a shoebox

gift and answer their questions about what to put in the boxes. I explain how important basic items like paper and pencils are to a child who doesn't have them. They're amazed that I had to share a toothbrush—they couldn't imagine having to share things like that. But they grasp at an early age what it is to give to others.

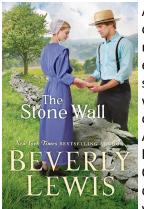
I hope that my story will make a difference in other children's lives—both those who pack shoe-boxes and those who receive them. I'm so thankful that someone took the time to pack one for me.

# From the library--



There are some new arrivals, the latest Karen Kingsbury novel is one of them. Here is something to wet your appetite for reading the book SOMEONE LIKE YOU. It sounds like a book you will not want to put down. "Maddie West is shaken to the core when she finds out that everything she believed about her life was a lie. Her parents had always planned to tell her the truth about her past: that she was an adopted as an embryo. But somehow the right moment never happened. Now, the total stranger who confronts Maddie with the truth tells her something else that rocks her world—Maddie had a sister she never knew about. Feeling betrayed, angry and confused, Maddie leaves her job and fiance', rejects her family's requests for forgiveness and moves to Portland, Oregon, to find out who she really is.

Dawson Gage's life is destroyed when London Quinn, the only girl he had ever loved, is killed. In the hospital waiting room, London's mother reveals to Dawson that London might have had a sibling—the frozen embryo she and her husband donated decades ago. When Dawson invites Maddie to Portland to connect with her long-lost relatives, the Quinns, her biological parents, welcome her into their lives, Maddie is intrigued by their memories of London, who was so much like her. Is this the family and the life she was really meant to have. Now it will take the love of Dawson Gage to help Maddie find her way home."



Author Beverly Lewis seems of be a favorite of a lot of readers. Here is one of her latest: THE STONE WALL. "Anna Beachy is eager to begin a new chapter in her life as a Lancaster County tour guide in the picturesque area where her Plain grandmother once stayed. Anna wishes she could talk with her about those long-ago days, but the elderly woman suffers from Alzheimer's. Beyond a vague comment about an old stonewall, much about her grandmother's time there is a mystery. As Anna settles into her new community, she finds herself unexpectedly befriended by a handsome Mennonite tour guide and a young Old Order widower who manages a local horse retreat serving Amish children with special needs. As Ann grows closer to both men, she's faced with a difficult choice—one in potential conflict with the expectations

of her parents. Will Anna discover true love and the truth about her grandmother's past in Lancaster County? Or will she find only heartbreak."

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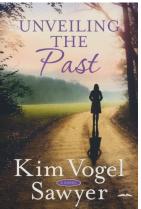


### **Consistory Meeting Highlights**

October 12, 2020

- Approved Cody & Kristen Hurlburt baptism for Adelyn and Caelyn Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> Service. Robert Tiedeman will do elder duty for that.
- Approved Britta Harberts and Preston Marco church use for wedding, June 12, 2021.
- Final Reading of the 2021 budget. **Budget was approved**, knowing that there will be variances based upon recent changes in circumstances.
- Elder's Business: Recommended election changes for Elder and Deacon due to Congregational Meeting changes from COVID concerns were shared. This was Approved.

  MMSA to not hold in person Congregational Meeting this year.
- Pastor Luke shared that his last day will be Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, with unused vacation to follow.



UNVEILING THE PAST by Kim Vogel Sawyer is one more novel added to our shelves. The following is a synopsis of the book: Newlyweds Sean Eagle and Meghan DeFord are no stranger to pain and loss. As cold case detectives, they know intimately the anguish family members can endure after the murder or disappearance of a loved one. But when a new case hits too close to home, it threatens to pull loose the fragile cords of their young marriage.

Sheila Menke was just a girl when her father left for work and never returned. An investigation revealed he had embezzled enough to start a new life elsewhere but Sheila could never accept the court's criminalization of her father, Meghan reluctantly takes the case, secretly fearing it will stir up buried feelings about her own biological father.

And while Sean investigates the mysterious death of two young brothers, he longs to start a family. But Meghan worries that with a negligent mother and an absentee father as her parenting examples, she might never be fit for motherhood.

As they delve deeper into the past, both Meghan and Sheila must choose to either stumble along the road of bitterness and resentment or walk the difficult path toward forgiveness and healing. When the cases begin to break wide open, these young women are poised to discover that while earthly fathers may fail, there is one in heaven who is a father to the fatherless.

With the cold weather upon us already, visit the library to stock up on books so you won't have to go out!!

~~Jeannette Juffer

# The Center of Hope, Sioux Falls, SD

Anticipation and preparation filled the air in 2019 as we prepared to move and it affected how we approached ministry. We focused on the core elements

of how we serve our community as we dreamed of what might be when we arrived at the new Empower Campus.

In the area of Faith Community nursing, we had over 200 more nursing visits

than last year. Our rides to the food pantry increased, as did the number of nursing students that did their clinical training at the Center of Hope. Gloria says Faith Community nursing is about, "being able to help people with their physical needs, building relationships with them, and sharing hope in Christ when the time is right."



Our New Home on the Empower Campus

Pastoral ministry is at the very heart of all we do here at the Center of Hope. We are a place where



people can come and share their hurts, needs, and whatever is going on in their life, and know that we care about them. John loves being a pastor and being able to, "connect on a heart level." These types of pastoral interactions doubled in 2019!

Our Bike-to-Work ministry saw a big increase in the number of guests utilizing our bike ministry. Usage was up from 938 to 1,501 guests coming for service. These service times are times that our guests are working with our staff to repair their bikes. During those times, Adam has the opportunity to talk with them about what is going on in their lives. He gets to encourage them and care for them. Adam says, "It's the interactions while working on a bike that is important."

The anticipation of our move was always on our mind in 2019 as our move was set to happen at the beginning of 2020. We are now in a time of new beginnings. We will have been serving the Sioux Falls community for 20 years this year and look forward to celebrating that milestone at the Fall Benefit on November 14, 2020. Our new location has brought changes to how we function in a new space as well as new opportunities. The campus setting, as all other ministries have now moved in as of June 8, will also bring new guests, new partnership opportunities, and blessings to Sioux Falls. We are excited about these new beginnings. Even the new challenges that COVID-19 and tense race relations provide for sharing the hope we have in Christ.

We have also had staff changes that are going to bring about new ways we do ministry. We are sad to say goodbye to Brian and Maddie from our staff and ask God's blessings on their new endeavors .

In this new beginning in our third location after 20 years in ministry, the work of the Center of Hope is still about "Sowing Seeds of God's love, Physically and Spiritually." A volunteer summed up what he appreciates about his opportunity to serve at the Center saying, "I like being able to help people."





Hello First Reformed Church,

Your Devil Crushing Ninja Trainer (Youth Director for short) here to give you yet another exciting and hopefully informative newsletter. Things have been off to a rocky start since we started youth group in September. With most of our students having to go into quarantine due to the outbreak at the school, students fearful of getting sick, and horrendous amounts of homework it has been somewhat of a difficult few weeks. However, we know that God is faithful and we trust that God will bring all of this chaos to an end. However, with that being said we have been having some very interesting conversations in youth group the last couple of weeks. This last week we had question and answer night where the students were given the opportunity to ask us any questions that they may have. In junior high, questions ranged from, "Can good people get into heaven without Jesus?" to "Abortion." In high school, our questions ranged from, "Since God predestines us do we really have freewill?" to "How did God create different races?" It was a very good night of discussion!

As of right now our youth activities are being suspended until a further date. However, the three big events that we have planned for the summer of 2021 are: Rocky Mountain High, Power Connection, and a Texas Mission Trip. We have yet to have anyone signed up for Rocky Mountain High, so if that is the case we will not do Rocky this summer and go in 2023 when it is back to "normal." Just as a reminder though that we will give it until December to see if anyone signs up. Since they have changed the way of registration for this year, juniors and seniors can register right now, but freshman and sophomores are not able to until November. If you have any questions about this please feel free to reach out to me for more information.

As I have said before if you ever need a hug please let me know and I will put you on the list to receive a hug from this big ole teddy bear! Be safe and make good choices.

With Lots of Love,

Josh Lucas

### Dad Jokes with Josh:

Q: Why did the golfer change his pants?

A: Because he got a hole in one!



# Thanksgiving Riddle Came MATCH THE RIDDLE TO THE ANSWER YOU THINK IT DESCRIBES



1	WHY WAS THE TURKEY THE BANDS DRUMMER?	Δ	PUMPKIN PI
2	- WHERE DO TURKEYS GO TO DANCE?	В	STRAW-BERRIES
3	- WHY DID THE TURKEY CROSS THE ROAD?	C	Count the Calories
4	- WHAT DO MATH TEACHERS DO ON THANKSGIVING?	D	WING!WING!
		E	THE BUTTER BALL
5	WHAT DO YOU GET IF YOU DIVIDE THE CIRCUMFRENCE OF A PUMPKIN BY ITS DIAMETER?	ŗ	HE HAD THE DRUMSTICKS
	WHAT SHIP DID THE PILGRAMS COWS COME TO AMERICA ON?	6	A TUR-KEY
7	WHAT SOUND DOES A TURKEYS PHONE MAKE?	Н	THE CHICKEN WAS TIRED
8	_ WHATS THE KEY TO A GOOD THANKSGIVING?	- 1	THE MOO FLOWER
9	_ WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS A TURKEY WITH A CENTIPEDE?	J	100 DRUMSTICKS
	_ WHICH THANKSGIVING FOOD HAS GRANDKIDS?	K	FOUL WEATHER
		L	GRAN-BERRY SAUCE
	WHAT DO YOU CALL IT WHEN ITS RAINING TURKEYS?	M	PILL-GRIMS
12	- WHATS INSIDE A GENIES TURKEY?	Ň	PLYMOUTH ROCK
13	_ What was medicine for early settlers called?	0	TO KNOCK THE STUFFING OUT OF EACH OTHER
	- WHY DID THE POLICE ARREST THE TURKEY?	P	14 CARROTS
		Q	MISH-BONES
15	_ WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DID THE PILGRAMS LIKE?	R	THEY SUSPECTED FOUL PLAY
16	WHAT IS A SCARECROWS FAVORITE FRUIT?		
17	WHY DID THE TURKEYS FIGHT?		
18	WHAT DO RICH PEOPLE EAT ON THANKSG	IVING	?

