

It's Only a Little Overcast...

There's only one thing harder for me than trusting God through a storm - trusting Him when it's overcast.

When it's a storm, I'm on my knees reliant. I'm humbled. I know the only way through is to surrender to His will.

When it's overcast, I'm tempted to fear what might be. I'm tempted to think I can get to the other side on my wits. I'm tempted to play the wait-and-see game.


When the skies are just a little gray, it's easier to dismiss difficult truths He has laid on my heart. It's easier to get caught up in the mess of this life. It's easier to pretend 'I've got this.'

'It's just a little cloudy,' I think. 'It'll blow over.'

Or 'This is it. The big one is about to hit. I'm not going to make it this time.'

Really, it's under the overcast that I struggle most to see Him clearly. I'm half here, half there, and squinting to see any sunshine lit road ahead. It's harder to focus on Him in the gray space.

Only, there really is no gray space. He is the same when the sun's out as when thunder shakes the ground beneath my feet. My circumstances in no way alter His goodness or greatness.

He is in control - always. He holds every moment of my life in His sovereign hands. My place is, rain or shine, at the foot of the Cross.

He is in control - even when it's just a little overcast

~~Her View From Home

October at a Glance

- 4: World Wide Communion
- 12: 6:00pm Deacon / Elder Meetings
- 7:00pm Full Consistory will meet
- 19: Please see weekly bulletin for Bible Study information

*Sunday Mornings:

9:00 am Cornerstone Service
**Check Bulletin for current Sunday School Information
11:00 am Open Door Service

*Monday Evenings:

7:00pm Women's Bible Study will meet to study "The Story"

*Tuesday mornings:

Chickadee Quilters are on break

*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes & Youth Group

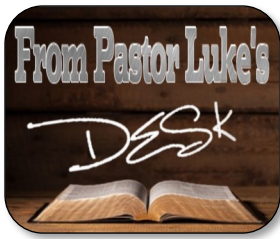
**Check Bulletin for current Bible Class and Youth Group Information

CONTACT INFORMATION:
712-754-2783

sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com

View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org





I don't know about you, but I am sick of it! I am sick of how the Corona Virus has disrupted and changed our lives. I am sick of wearing masks, I am sick of social distancing, I am sick of the information we get from the media. I am sick of the effects on our youth and children. I am sick of the impact on our schools. I am sick of how it is affecting what is happening in church. It isn't easy for any of us and for some, it is affecting them more than others.

I hurt for those in the nursing homes and the separation from their loved ones. I hurt for those who have gotten the virus and the effects on them physically and emotionally. I hurt for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. I hurt for our community, state and country as we try and figure out what to do. I hurt for those in the medical field as they daily are encountering and dealing with this virus. I hurt!

On my desk I have a scripture verse painted on a rock with a cross and it says this; **"THE LORD IS MY ROCK AND MY FORTRESS AND MY DELIVERER; MY GOD IS MY ROCK, IN WHOM I TAKE REFUGE"**
2 Samuel 22:2

As we have been studying in "The Story" and our scriptures, David for 10-15 years endured the complexities of a transition to king as Saul sought to kill and destroy him. I can only imagine the hopelessness and defeat at times he must have endured. But David had a heart for God and he sought God in those times of trial and persecution. It was God who was his rock and fortress. Those words became a song he sung to God. Read the entire chapter, it provides great words of strength as we are "sick of it!"

As we move into the fall there is such an uncertainty where all this is going to go. We held on to the hope this would all be over with by now. Now it looks like it will impact us into next year for sure. In the middle of all this we have the ugliness of elections and the great divide it has created within our country. We are tired of the protest and demonstrations. Then to top it all off, parts of our country are experiencing weather and devastation like they have never seen. So how do we hold up?

We need to be reminded that **"THE LORD IS MY ROCK AND MY FORTRESS AND MY DELIVERER MY GOD IS MY ROCK, IN WHOM I TAKE REFUGE"** As we continue to move through this unique time in our lives God will be there. Take refuge in Him. He will give you the strength to endure and persevere. Eventually David did become king and he received much blessing as he reigned. There is hope and it comes through our focus on Jesus Christ.

I am sick of it! But I can find comfort and strength to endure because the Lord is my Rock and Fortress and He is my deliverer! God is my Rock and it is in Him I take refuge. How about you? As we move through the month of October may you be reminded of the Rock that you can stand on as you encounter the battles before you.

Enjoy the fall season and take advantage of the beauty of God's creation in the changing of the colors. God has given us the opportunity to draw closer to Him and grow our relationship with Him in a time like this. It will work out for our good.

Blessings, Prayers and Love,
Pastor Luke

It's Coffee Time! With the Pastor!!

Please join us for a sit
and chat with Pastor Luke
and Josh on
October 7 at 9:00am.



Stewardship & Giving

Special offering for October: Operation Christmas Child

Offering Summary through August 21:

- General Fund: \$233,709.95;
Budget: \$291,112; 80% of budget
- Benevolent Fund: \$21994.67
Budget: \$73,913; 29% of budget
- Building Fund offerings to date: \$1558



Cornerstone Service Greeters

- 4: E: Joanne Klaassen
C: LaVon Dykstra
W: John and Lois Van Diepen
- 11: E: Ron and Nancy Dykstra
C: Duane and Pam Vande Hoef
W: Dave and Sandy Lamfers
- 18: E: Clint and Jamie Klaassen & family
C: Dr. Greg and Deb Kusters
W: Marlin Roelfs
- 25: E: Robert and Janice Groen
C: Dave and Lesa Stofferan
W: Jim and Pauline Van Engen

Faith In Action for October: Center of Hope



Clean your closets and bring any
winter coats, scarves, mittens and
caps, that are in good shape, to
church. They will be put to good use.

Library Volunteers



- 4: Jeannette Juffer
11: Jan Henrichs
18: Beth Hulstein
25: Jamie Hulstein

Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 4: Dave & Lesa Stofferan
11: John & Lois Van Diepen
18: Keith & Janelle Van Drunen
25: Dave & Sandy Lamfers

Serving may or
may not happen.
Consult your
bulletins.



Nursery

The Nursery will be open for use, but will
not be manned by the church. Parents
please feel free to use the nursery.

Willing Hands Group



Willing Hands Group #4

will be responsible for services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Karen/Dale Honken
- Marcia/Dick Oldenkamp



Keep watching your bulletins for updates for Mothers Together.

Trivia Time!!

1. "At midnight____and____prayed, and sang praises unto God; and the prisoners heard them."
2. God opened the mouth of a donkey and the donkey spoke to_____.
3. What was the name of the centurion from Caesarea who was part of the Italian band?
4. What was the name of Aquila's wife?
5. What is the name of the man who carried the cross for Jesus?
6. To whom was the following spoken?
"Go near, and join thyself to this chariot."
7. What was the name of Timothy's mother?



Children and Worship Leaders/Helpers

Children and Worship will only be offered during the 9:00am service for right now.



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

1 Thessalonians 5:11(NLT)

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

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

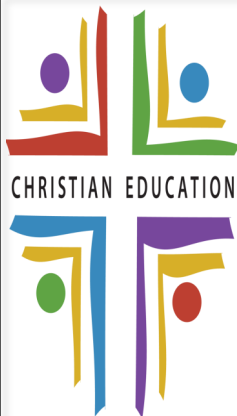
Thanks for participating Sisters!!!



Wanted Volunteers for our FRC Emergency Response Team.

Our Outreach Team is compiling a list of willing workers who could be contacted when a need arises. (tornado, fire, flood etc)

If you feel this would be a good fit for you please sign up on the table by the Sanctuary or contact the church office.



October Education Schedule:

- Decisions will be made as to our Youth Education Times. Please consult your weekly bulletins for up-to-date information as the month goes on. Thanks for your understanding.

College Addresses

Garrett Sayler

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

Jena Van Marel

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

MaKayla Tangeman

9614 University Ave
Unit 202K
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Hunter DeJong

109 Wilder Place
Ames, IA 50014

Peyton Crichton

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

Paige Hurlburt

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

Kalie DeBoer

815 8th Street
Sibley, IA 51249

Nick and Sara Buysman

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

Jaden Abels

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

Troy Soat

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

Tanner Dykstra

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

Alyssa Wassman

Foundation Residence
Apartments 103
1410 Birch Street
Marshall, MN 56258

Alex Mc Dougall

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

Jagger Johnson

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

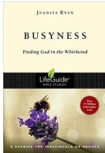
100 Daum Hall
Room #5407
Iowa City, IA 52242

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

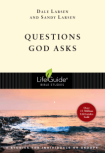
Bible Study Opportunities

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

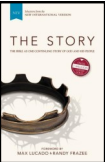
Romans 15:4



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



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



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.



**Hands & Feet
Opportunity:
October 22**

**Volunteers Are Needed
to Prep and Serve**

Please see the sign up sheet by
the Sanctuary to get on the list of
volunteers.

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 _____





Celebrations

~~Birthday's~~

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Russell Gaalswyk
Katie Kruger | 10. Ethel Jurgens
Carol Iedema
Ken Heronimus
Gina Jacobsma | 18 Jason Jacobsma |
| 2. Leona Meendering
Joanne Klaassen
Peg Van Kley | 11. Britta Harberts
Marlin Runia
Marissa Ackerman | 19 Addison Weg |
| 3. Jada Wills | 12 Dr. Greg Kosters | 21 Kolby Block
Cavell Van Westen |
| 4. Eugene Groen
Gretchen Bartelson | 13 Jerry Bosma | 22 Elizabeth Hibma |
| 5. Pam Kruger | 14 Cliff Mehls
Derek Ackerman | 23 Halle Block
Kira Christensen |
| 6. Karen Doorenbos
Will Altoff | 15 Nathan Kraayenbrink | 27 Pauline Van Engen
Kaylee Maxwell |
| 7. Marcus De Boer | 16 Elijah Sayler
Levi Sayler | 29 Janice Runia
LeRoy Stevenson
Jodie Kruger |
| 8. Jane Buysman
Harvey Van Ruler
Alecia Juelfs
Megan Travaille | 17 Marlys Brink | 30 Duane Vande Hoef |
| 9. Renae Wolter
Addison Mc Dyer
Logan Ver Steeg | | 31 Cole Dykstra
Collin Van Diepen |

~~Anniversaries~~

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| 2 Cory & Amy Dykstra..... | 21 years |
| 4 Alan & Lacey Julius..... | 6 years |
| 5 Gary & Sandy De Vries..... | 47 years |
| 6 Jerry & Sylvia Bosma..... | 59 years |
| 8 Clint & Jamie Klaassen..... | 4 years |
| 10 Dale & Marilyn De Boer..... | 58 years |
| 11 Joe & Nisa de Boom..... | 17 years |
| 12 Levi & Kira Christensen..... | 7 years |
| 13 Cory & Anne Maxwell..... | 19 years |
| 17 Ben & Rachel Waits..... | 11 years |
| 20 Terry & Chrissy Ackerman..... | 13 years |
| 20 Dwayne & Janice Heikes..... | 41 years |
| 21 Dan and Maureen Heilman..... | 14 years |
| 31 Cal & Kathy Runia..... | 5 years |



Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verses

Psalm 68:32-34

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the Earth; oh, sing praises to the Lord, Selah. To Him who rides on the Heaven of heavens, which were of old! Indeed, He sends out His voice, a mighty voice. Ascribe strength to God; His excellence is over Israel, and His strength is in the clouds. (NKJV)



Thoughts

Somehow, I think that David the shepherd penned the words of Psalm 68, as he watched powerful clouds in the skies over the Judean wilderness. He imagines the Messiah "who rides on the heaven of heavens," whose "strength is in the clouds." The future king of Israel even describes the thunder as "His voice, a mighty voice."

Meteorologists tell us that the power of a thunderstorm is directly proportional to the altitude of the clouds. The higher the clouds rise up, the more power is built up inside the storm. Lifting up yields storm power. Cloud formations like the one pictured above, over Siesta Key, FL, are called thunderheads. In the same way, the more that the Word of God is lifted up in our hearts and lives, the more power God exercises over us. He is strong in us, when His Word is strong in us.

(Fred B)

Action Point

God's power and the power of His Word are intrinsic, built into His very nature. Because He is in me, His power is available to me. That strength in me is released, unleashed by Him, when I submit to and obey my Master's Words. There are amazing results:

- As I lift Him up in my words and actions, the Holy Spirit glorifies the Son in me. "He will glorify me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you," John 16:14 (NKJV).
- I realize the truth of John the Baptist's words, "He must increase, but I must decrease," John 3:30 (NKJV).
- Then, when we humble ourselves, and lift Him up, others will be drawn to Him.

Sportsmens Tip of the Day

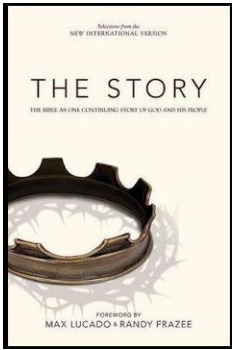
As you hunt, fish or hike, watch the clouds to keep yourself safe from dangerous incoming weather--thunderstorms, lightening, heavy flat-line winds. Also, as you plan your hunts, remember that game activity (feeding and other travel-movement) is usually heavy before and after the front moves through. For making fishing plans, watch for rising or lowering barometric pressures, which will definitely affect your catch.

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. Paul & Silas--Acts 16:25
2. Balaam--Numbers 22:28
3. Cornelius--Acts 10:1
4. Priscilla--Acts 18:2
5. Simon the Cyrene--Matthew 27:32
6. Philip--Acts 8:29
7. Eunice--2Timothy 1:5

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR
Luke 21:36

PRAYER JOURNAL



Prophets, Priests & Kings

Years ago I had to take a Bible knowledge test to see which courses I needed to take, and which I knew enough to be excused. No sweat on the Pentateuch and the Judges, but I did have to study the Kings and the Prophets. My first inkling that I was not doing well was when I read the question “In what year did the kingdom divide?” I had no idea the kingdom divided and that throughout most of the Old Testament there were two nations—Israel and Judah. After Solomon the 10 northern tribes (Israel) rebelled, and split from the 2 southern tribes (Judah). Israel was always un-

faithful, they were the rebels and not one of their kings was righteous. Judah had both good and bad kings, but God remained faithful to the covenants and from Judah came the promised Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Gretchen Bartelson

Remember the Covenants? God has called his people (*then and now*) to live in a binding relationship with himself. We are not without law, or rules, or obligations to God or to others. Unlike the modern world which seems determined to emphasize the desires of the individual over all else. In the real world it is God who is sovereign, God who rules, and God who is right to demand our obedience.

Three roles are evident in the covenant community from the time of King Saul to the end of the Old Testament. Each role in the covenant kingdom had responsibilities to fulfill before God, and also helped keep everyone accountable to God. More importantly, they pointed the way to the perfect prophet, priest, and king that was yet to come—our savior Jesus Christ.

Priest—The role of the priest was instituted after Moses when the Covenant people returned to the promised land. If you can list the original 12 tribes you might have noticed that there were 13 when they left Egypt.

Joseph’s two sons (Manasseh and Ephraim) were counted as tribes. God determined to divide the between all the tribes, except that of Levi, and they became the priests—the Levitical Priesthood. The role throughout the time of the judges, kings, prophets, exile and up until the coming of Jesus, were to serve in tabernacle or temple. They conducted all the religious ceremonies, including the sacrifices and the lifting up corporate prayers to God. Examples: *Eli was a priest, and so was Zacharias the father of John the Baptist.*

Prophets—Prophets entered into the history of the Covenant people at the very end of the Judges and they continued into the New Testament. The last Old Testament prophet was John the Baptist. Their role was to take the word of God to the people. Sometimes that came in the form of telling the future, but most of the time it was only to reveal and teach God’s word to the people. Examples: *Samuel, Isaiah and Jeremiah.*

Kings—The kings were given the task of ruling and protecting God’s Covenant people so that they could live and worship in peace and prosperity. The King was needed to defend the people of God from enemies without, and within. Remember how many times the nation was told to ‘tear down the high places’? The kings should have done that, but did not. Examples: *David, Solomon, and Hezekiah* All three roles (or types) also pointed forward to Jesus, who as our Redeemer was the final, perfect Prophet, Priest and King. *See next page*

JESUS WAS A PSALM SINGER

Our historical approach to the Bible did not allow us time to go over the Poetry and Wisdom Literature: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes. Don't skip reading these books, they are wonderful and more relevant to the modern age than you might imagine!

Think about this—Jesus sang the psalms! These are not just poems, there were the music used in worship by the people of God. In one sense the book of Psalms was the 'hymnal' of God's people for more than 1,800 years when modern worshippers began to write and publish modern hymnals. Until the 1800s many churches only sang the psalms, including our own denomination.

The writers of the New Testament quoted the Psalms more often than any other Old Testament book, followed by the books of Isaiah, Deuteronomy, Genesis, and Leviticus. Jesus also quoted Psalms more than any other, book and used it to establish his claims as Messiah.

Recommendation!

- Read the Psalms, and read them out loud. They are meant to be heard!
- Read "Learning to Love the Psalms" by Robert Godfrey—or get the DVD's from Ligonier Ministries.

Jesus our Redeemer—Prophet, Priest & King

The Westminster Shorter Catechism explains the role of Christ as redeemer in terms of the three-fold office:

Q. 23: What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer? **A:** Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Q. 24: How doth Christ execute the office of a **prophet**? **A:** Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in **revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.**

Q. 25: How doth Christ execute the office of a **priest**? **A:** Christ executeth the office of a priest, in **his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.**

Q.26: How doth Christ execute the office of a **king**? **A:** Christ executeth the office of a king, in **subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.**



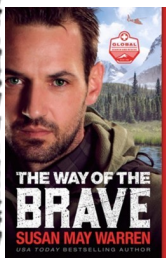
PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Mark and Tanya Dykstra;
Tanner, Makya | 16. Russ Gaalswyk; Alexis |
| 2. Ron and Nancy Dykstra | 17. Pray for our College Students |
| 3. Pray for our College Students | 18. Pray for our Church |
| 4. Pray for our Church | 19. Gert Gaalswyk |
| 5. Scott and Marlys Dykstra | 20. Gene and Renae Groen |
| 6. Trudy Dykstra | 21. Robert and Janice Groen |
| 7. Harold and Luella Eggink | 22. Lucille Groendyke |
| 8. Jon and Amy Elser
Mariah, Maverick | 23. Clark Haken |
| 9. Anita Ernst | 24. Pray for our College Students |
| 10. Pray for our College Students | 25. Pray for our Church |
| 11. Pray for our Church | 26. Britta Harberts |
| 12. Harold and Mim Ernst | 27. Lennis and Marvella Harberts;
Uchan, Apiyo, Ahbea, Aysha |
| 13. Paul Feldkamp; Hudson, Tyler, Tessa | 28. Ed and Jan Harskamp |
| 14. Henry and Barb Fisher | 29. Bill and LaDonn Hartzell |
| 15. Jacob and Sami Fox; Norah, Holden | 30. Wilma Hatting |
| | 31. Pray for our College Students |

College Students:

Dalten Bremer	Leah Ackerman	Paige Hurlburt	Peyton Crichton
Faye Carda	Michaela Block	Kaitlyn Bechler	Andrea Meyer
Jennifer Cuadros	Grant Brouwer	Kalie De Boer	Garrett Sayler
Clint Henrichs	Cody Dykstra	Keyana Gust	Makayla Tangeman
Ashilyn Hulstein	Tanner Dykstra	Jaden Abels	
Natalie Klaassen	Jagger Johnson	Nick Buysman	Jena Van Marel
	Alex Mc Dougall	Hunter DeJong	Troy Soat
	Madeline Sayler	Hunter Rockman	
	Lane Tangeman	Ryan Van Marel	Hannah Lucas
	Carson Van Westen	Mariah Elser	
	Alyssa Wassman		

From the library--



Two new books in the library are written by Susan May Warren. Here are synopsis from THE WAY OF THE BRAVE and THE HEART OF A HERO from “Global Search and Rescue” series. Book #1, THE WAY OF THE BRAVE, “Haunted by the memory of a rescue gone wrong, former pararescue jumper Orion Starr has no desire to join Hamilton Jones’s elite rescue team. But he also can’t shirk his duty when the call comes in to rescue three lost climbers on Denali in Alaska. Jenny Calhoun’s yearly extreme challenge with her best friends is her only escape from her guilt. The former CIA profiler and psychiatrist green-lighted an operation against the Taliban that ended in ambush and lives lost. When her cathartic climb on Denali turns deadly, she’ll be forced to trust her life to the most dangerous of heroes—the man she nearly killed. Orion and Jenny will have to put their wounds behind them to save their friends...and their hearts.”



Book #2, THE HEART OF A HERO: “Jake Silver may not be able to put the memories of his time as a sniper and Navy SEAL behind him, but at least he can put his skills to use as a part of the Jones Inc. rescue team. Saving the life of pediatric heart surgeon Dr. Aria Sinclair on Denali helped too. But now he can’t get her out of his head. Aria has dedicated her life to helping children born with defective hearts. After all, she was one of those children. Driven to succeed, she lives a lonely, stressful life. One she would have lost on Denali if it hadn’t been for Jake. Jake is exciting and handsome, but he’s also dangerous, and she’s already lost one person she loves. She can’t bear it again. It’s not until she finds herself trapped in the middle of a category 4 hurricane that she can admit she needs Jake desperately. With their very survival in the balance, can they hope for a second chance at life and love?”



And then there is WHAT MOMMA LEFT BEHIND by Cindy K. Sproles. “Worie Dressar is seventeen years old when influenza and typhoid ravage her Appalachian Mountain community in 1877, leaving behind a growing number of orphaned children with no way to care for themselves. Worie’s mother has been secretly feeding several of these little ones on Sourwood Mountain. But when tragedy strikes, Worie is left to figure out why and how she was caring for them. Plagued with two good-for-nothing brothers—one greedy and the other a drunkard—Worie must fight to save her home and the children now in her begrudging care. Along the way, she discovered the beauty of unconditional love and the power of forgiveness as she cares for all of Momma’s children.

There are many other books available and now that we are able to access the library again, please stop in, there is bound to be a book or two that interests you. When you find the right book, be sure to take out the card, put your name on it and place it in the yellow card box. There are calendars handy for you to check the date due in two weeks!!

~~Jeannette Juffer



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-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: **[samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box/](https://www.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~~~~~

Shanika & Sherika -and- the Notebooks



We received notebooks and pencils in our shoebox gifts in Jamaica at age 8. Before this, our father cut a notebook and pencil in half so we'd have school supplies.

We grew up in rural Jamaica sharing most things, not because we're twins but because it was a necessity for our family to make ends meet.

Our parents had us in their late teens. They couldn't afford an ultrasound, so having twins was unexpected. Our mom and dad had to stop attending college in order to provide for us. They worked hard—our mom at home and our dad in sugar cane fields.

Both Christians, our parents had faith that the Lord Jesus would provide for our needs. Every morning, they gathered us together for devotions.

To enable both of us to have something to write on at school, our father cut an 8- by 9-inch notebook in half. He also broke a pencil in two and sharpened the lead with a knife because we didn't have a pencil sharpener.

We wished we could have full-sized notebooks and pencils like some of our peers. Our wish came true at age 8 when we heard shriek after shriek of delight in the halls of our school.

Large cardboard boxes with a shoebox plane printed on them were delivered to each classroom. We were so excited about these huge brown boxes and were curious to see what was inside.

We rejoiced when we learned that they contained shoebox gifts for us. One of us received two full-sized notebooks! We shared what was in our shoeboxes so we would each have one. We also received our first calculator—a small, gray one we still love to use.

We received a pair of woolen mittens. We didn't need them for warmth, since we lived in the Caribbean, but we put them to good use as pot holders. Our parents still have them at home in Jamaica. We were glad to receive a game of jacks since previously we used stones or the balls from roll-on deodorant to play the game.

We also each received pencils and pencil sharpeners, as well as crayons, coloring books, and personal care items, such as combs, toothbrushes, washcloths, and soap. One of our younger brothers also received a shoebox gift. He still has the flashlight he received in his box.

At first, we wondered who we knew that would send us these gifts. We had learned the story of the Good Samaritan in Sunday School. So, when we saw Samaritan's Purse printed on the tape that held the shoebox closed, we knew that Good Samaritans had sent us these gifts.

Through the shoebox gifts, we learned that you don't have to be close neighbors in order to help each other. These gifts came from strangers.

The boxes of gifts ultimately reflected the goodness of Christ, showing us that the Lord graciously provides for us. We felt God's love for us as we received them.

Earlier that same year, we both made professions of faith in Jesus Christ during an evangelistic crusade. We each stepped forward that night to dedicate our lives to Him.

The shoebox gifts and [The Greatest Gift Gospel booklet](#) that we received along with them helped us as new Christians to continue to grow in our faith. We read the booklet in Sunday School and together as a family before we went to bed. The lessons, which we read over and over, were such a blessing and comfort to us.

Our parents instilled in us how important it is to study the Bible and pray together. We talked and prayed through any issues that came up, seeing how God works through situations. We sisters still have morning devotions together.

Our parents are so proud that both of us graduated last year with business administration master's degrees from Liberty University, a Christian college in Virginia. Our mom went back to school to earn a teaching diploma and our dad has certifications in food service, hospitality, and nutrition.

It wasn't until we saw an [Operation Christmas Child](#) video at our church in Virginia that we realized those were the gifts we received. We knew that logo—the shoebox plane. And there was that word again—Samaritan. We raised our arms in joy and praise. We exclaimed: "We're shoebox recipients!" We stood and shared our stories right then.

It meant so much to us to learn the background of how our boxes were sent—through churches! It also was moving to see how much church members appreciated hearing us talk about the lasting influence the gifts had on our Christian walk.

Then, we saw the shoebox logo again on our college campus. They pack shoeboxes there, too! That's when we knew we had to keep sharing our story, so the message of how God is working keeps spreading.



Adrian and Bernardeth Bobb-Kelly

First of all, thank you for your prayers and financial support. **God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.**

This year has been a year of testing for our family. Adrian lost his papa on the 18th of May. He got sick suddenly and died. Then in June, all of our staff went into quarantine, plus most of us were infected with COVID-19. Some were more serious than others, but because of the grace and mercy of God, we are all alive and we believe that **because He lives we can face tomorrow**. A lot of well-known people from Bluefields died during that time. For now, very few are getting sick with COVID-19, not as much as in June and part of July. Nevertheless, we are taking care of ourselves and others.

The feeding program is moving forward with new strategies to reach the children. From May, we started to cook and deliver food to the children in their homes. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, parents were not sending their children out or to their schools. In June, we started to give rations to the kids' families so they could feed them at home. For this coming week, to guarantee social distancing between children, we have borrowed a huge sanctuary in the neighborhood in which we plan to gather the larger part of the children and have 15-minutes of praise and send them home with bags of cooked food. The rest of the children will gather at the feeding center with a different schedule. The children in the Beholden neighborhood will gather at the new feeding place building to receive food.

Regardless of the pandemic, our medical brigades to the small villages have not stopped. Thank God that no one was infected with the virus in the small villages we visited.

The girls at Tabitha's Home are doing well. Arleen and Shayan are in their fifth year and will be graduating from high school. Joselyn, who has become a nurse, is doing her social service here in Bluefields. Our two girls, Abebja and Abayomi, went back to Managua to attend classes. Please whisper a prayer for all of them as often as you wish.

Please pray for us and the ministry and for all the churches and individuals that are supporting the programs. May the Lord bless you and protect you from all harm both now and forever.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bernardeth Kelly and Adrian Bobb
(The Bobb-Kellys)



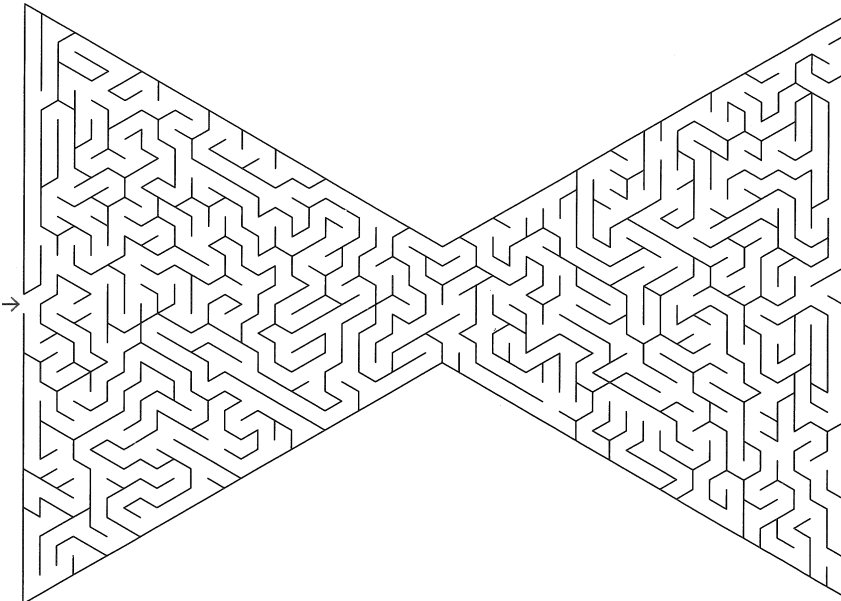


Meeting Minutes

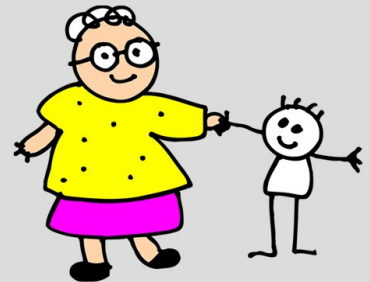
Consistory Meeting Highlights

September 14, 2020

- Membership changes: **MMSA Brooke (Block) Manitz dropped per request.** She is attending First Baptist here in Sibley.
- **MMSA to hold Food Find Wednesday, November 18th, 2020.** The youth groups in the community, instead of joining together in one place, will be given different areas in Sibley and Ocheyedan to collect food, and each group will be responsible for delivering the food to Upper Des Moines or the Food Bank.
- **MMSA to hold a High School fall work trip for the weekend of October 30th-November 1st, working with the Cedar Hills Community Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.** Definitive plans in process.
- **MMSA to have Remnant Youth Group service night at The Banquet, Wednesday, March 10th, 2021.** Plan to be renting a couple of buses for both groups to go, depending on how may the Banquet will allow by that time.
- **MMSA to allow Josh to fill the pulpit for CRC in Sibley on November 15 and December 6th.**
- “See you at the Pole” will be held Sept 23.
- **MMSA opening the doors daily until 4 so UPS/FedEx deliveries can get into church**
- **MMS to re-open the mailboxes per some members’ requests. Motion failed to pass. Mailboxes will remain off limits for now.**
- **MMSA to present the Proposed Budget for 2021 to the congregation before definitive vote for approval in October.**



GRANDMOTHER:
a little bit parent, a little
bit teacher, a little bit
best friend and a little
bit partner in crime.



Autumn Crossword

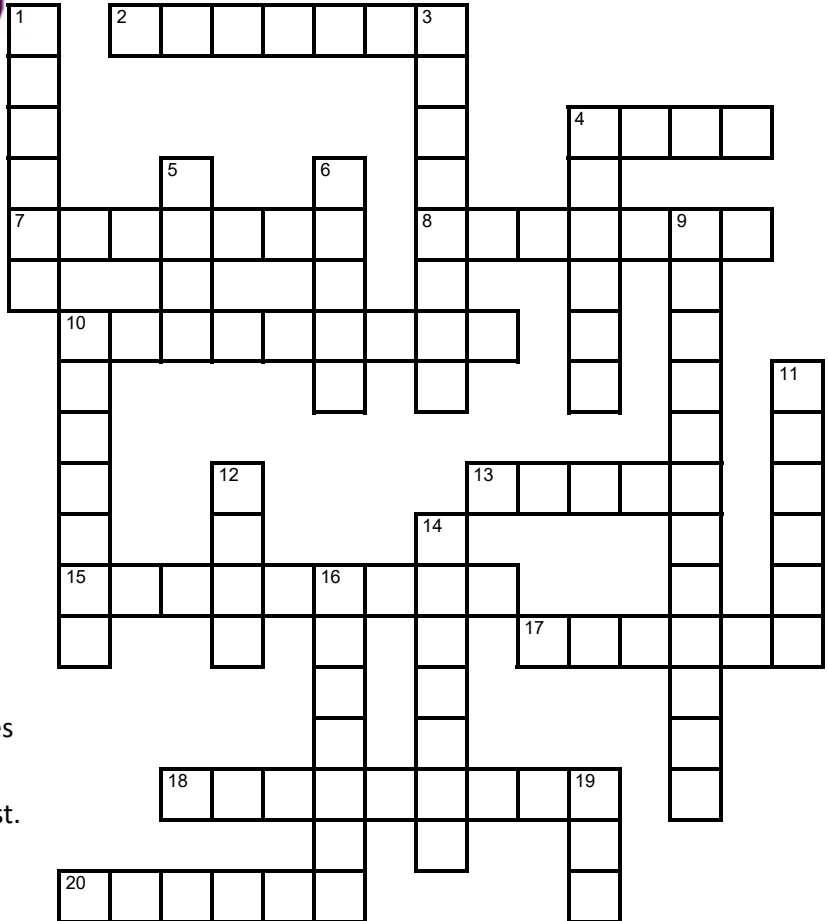


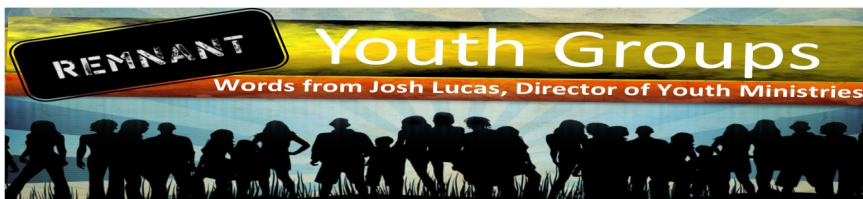
Across

2. Big orange vegetable that grows on a vine.
4. Another word for autumn.
7. The month in the middle of fall.
8. Many birds do this in autumn.
10. A scary celebration in autumn.
13. The food that the farmer grows.
15. It protects the crops from birds.
17. These turn color in fall.
18. The first month of autumn.
20. Another word for cool.

Down

1. A fall color.
3. The last month of autumn.
4. Someone who harvests crops.
5. Fall weather.
6. A fall color.
9. A feast in fall.
10. Gather all of the crops.
11. Red fruit.
12. A yellow vegetable that comes from a tall plant.
14. Kids wear this on October 31st.
16. The opposite of city.
19. A fall color.





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! We have kicked things off this year with a bang! We are meeting every Wednesday night and we changed the format of this school year. This year we have decided to go with an overall theme for the year and then we will have sub-themes every week. Which means that our overall theme of this year is, *"To be the Remnant, chosen by grace."* That is what our focus is going to be this year. We also have four different sub-themes that we choose from. First, is social/service night which is where we will have our night of social gathering or some type of service that we do for the community. Second, is theology night where we will have our deep theological Bible study of a particular theological issue, book of the Bible, or anything else that the students are interested in. Third, is question and answer night where the students will be able to give us questions and we will answer those questions. Fourth, is cultural issue night where we will discuss a particular cultural issue and what the Bible has to say about it.

I wanted to take this opportunity to explain what I mean by "Remnant." Since the youth group's name is Remnant, and we just realized that the students that we currently have do not know where our name comes from and what it means. The word Remnant derives from the Greek word *"leimma"* which simply means, "Remaining." In the Biblical world there was mass persecution taking place and there was also mass apostasy taking place, and so the true Christians were afraid that God had abandoned them and that this was the final judgment. The Remnant served as the sign of hope that God is not done with His work on earth yet. There is still that one small group of faithful Christians who are fighting for the gospel and fighting to save souls from condemnation. We strive to be that group. We strive to face the obstacles of life and to remain faithful to God. We are striving to train up this generation of young students to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

I hope that this answered the question of explaining what the youth group's name means and how we are putting it to use in our group. Everything in youth group is going very well. We have a very good group of students that we are very excited to be ministering to. If you ever have any questions about anything, I encourage you to please come and see me or any of the youth leaders we will be happy to answer any and all of your questions! Thank you all for taking the time to read this and I hope that this was encouraging to you. If you ever need a (distanced) hug this big ole teddy bear has one for you!

Blessings,
Josh Lucas

Dad Jokes with Josh:

Q: Why did the math teacher skip the chapter on circles?

A: Because they were pointless.

Outdoor Sunday School

