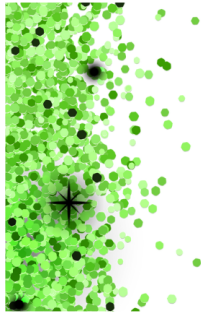
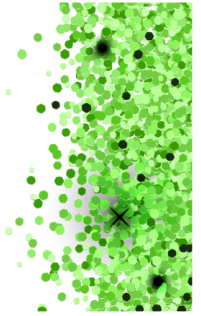


**BUILDING
GOD'S
KINGDOM
ONE LIFE
AT
A TIME.**



MARCH 2025

First Reformed Church



Creative Movement Performance March 2



Please have your daughter here at 8:45 AM to get ready & to practice. They are to wear black leggings & a white tank top or T-shirt.



March 4 at 2 PM

You are cordially invited to attend a presentation by Dr. John Hartog, who will speak about "The life of Jesus and the places where he lived in Nazareth and other places in Galilee".

We will enjoy photographs of his travels to this Holy Land. We look forward to seeing you there!

Middle School Retreat

When: April 11-13

Where: Hidden Acres Christian Center, Dayton, Iowa

If your student would like to attend this camp they need to contact Caitie at caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com and she will help with the registration process.

The registration deadline is March 5.

March 12th Alpha Teens Pasta Supper



Our Middle School Youth Group, Alpha Teens, will be serving several kinds of pasta and sauces for this fundraiser. **The meal will be served from 5-7 PM.** A free will donation will be collected. This is a primary way for the middle school youth to attend camps, Power Connection, and other activities. Your attendance and generous contributions will be greatly appreciated! They are hoping to raise \$7,000 at this fundraiser.

YOUTH OUTING

WHAT: Broomball at All Season's Arena in Sioux Center

WHEN: MARCH 5

WHO: Middle School will leave at 6 PM & return at 8 PM.

High School will leave at 7 PM & return at 9 PM.

Parental note: If students do not follow the rules parents will be called to come pick up their student.



DATE: Thursday, March 13
TIME: 4:30-6:00 PM
LOCATION: Living Water Church



Bring a box with you to pick up your groceries.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

You are invited to Love INC of Greater O'Brien County's annual banquet on **Friday, March 21 at 6:00 PM. Please RSVP by calling (712) 324-9707 by March 7!**

FAMILY NIGHT MEAL- 5:30-6:30 PM

- Mar 5 Pork Loin, Cheesy Potatoes, Veggie, **Cake**
[7 people bring a 9x13 cake]
- Mar 12 **NO FAMILY NIGHT MEAL - Please attend the Alpha
Teens Pasta Supper from 5-7 PM**
- Mar 19 Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Veggie, **Bars**
[7 people bring a 9x13 pan of bars]
- Mar 26 Pulled Pork/Bun, Chips, Cole Slaw, Baked
Beans, **Cupcakes**
[6 people bring 2 dozen cupcakes]



Items that are needed to be brought in by work group members will follow the meal for that night (**in bold lettering**). **Please have donated items here no later than 4 PM on Tuesday.** *If you can't get items to the church by this time, call the church office & make arrangements with Wendy or use the code provided to you by your workgroup leader.* Please mark your name in the blue notebook when you leave your item in the kitchen and label any containers and pans that you want back. Your items are greatly appreciated and allow us to provide desserts with the meals. The kids (and adults) really love your desserts!!

Creative Movement Schedule

- March 9 Practice: 5 pm in the sanctuary
- March 16 Practice: 5 pm in the sanctuary
- March 23 Practice: 5 pm in the sanctuary
- March 30 Practice: 5 pm in the sanctuary
- April 6 Practice: 5 pm in the sanctuary
- April 13 Performance

VBS WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT

VBS this year is over 4 days, July 6 - 9 from 5:30 - 8:30 PM. To help defray the costs of VBS we are asking church members to contribute to this important children's ministry. There is a blue donation box on a table at the back of church as well as an option on Pushpay to make your contribution! This will help cover costs of food, decorations, inflatables, and other activities for the kids!

Please watch for registration information which will be available soon.



3 YEAR OLDS - KINDERGARTEN

The kids have been practicing the songs that they will be singing on Palm Sunday, April 13. Please have your children attend Sunday School each

Sunday if possible, so they will be prepared to share their musical talents with our congregation. They will also be practicing in the sanctuary during Sunday School on March 30, so mark your calendars!



Registration for summer camp at Inspiration Hills is open. Grab a brochure in the Fellowship Hall or visit inspirationhills.org to review the camp offerings and register.

FRC will cover half the cost of camp for your child and one of his or her friends. Register early because camps fill up quickly! Save money by registering before April 15.



The Sheldon Community Ambulance Team (SCAT) would like to recruit you! We are seeking interested community members to serve as EMTs, Paramedics -RNs and Drivers! You would be serving your community, be part of a high-functioning team that feels like family, have a flexible schedule that you pick the hours that work for you and be paid to be on call, while on a call and attending the bi-weekly meeting. If you are interested in knowing more, we offer ride-along opportunities or please contact any SCAT member or Director Krysten Haan at 712-631-4779 or khaan@cityofsheldon.com for more information.

FRC WOMENS GROUP

PUZZLE PARTY

SATURDAY APRIL 5
4:00-6:00

GET YOUR GALS TOGETHER FOR A FUN FILLED AFTERNOON WITH PIZZA AND PUZZLES!
EACH TEAM WILL RECEIVE A 300 PIECE PUZZLE TO COMPLETE
PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PLACE

SIGN UP INDIVIDUALLY OR A TEAM OF 4
COST IS \$10 PER PERSON
SIGN UP AFTER CHURCH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OR WITH WENDY IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

Love INC's spring session of classes will be held **Thursday evenings from April 3 – June 19 from 6:20 PM-7:30 PM**. Class offerings include: Moving Forward, Parenting, Identifying Destructive Relationships, GriefShare, and Bible Study. Please call to register: 712.324.9707.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

DIGGING DEEPER WORKSHOP

Saturday March 8 | 8:30am - 4:00 PM at Inspiration Hills

Register online At inspirationhills.org/deep
The purpose of this workshop is to help you learn the tools necessary for studying God's Word accurately and in a fulfilling way! Learn how to understand, interpret, and apply God's word through patience and prayer in a group setting so you can bring it home to your own personal quiet time. Lunch and snacks will be provided.
The cost is \$25 per person. Visit inspirationhills.org/deep to register for this event or learn more.

ART OF MARRIAGE RETREAT

Event on March 21-23 at Inspiration Hills
Register online at inspirationhills.org/marriage

This weekend retreat includes guided video lessons from Familylife's Art of Marriage curriculum as well as discussion time with other couples and activities that will strengthen marital bonds. Register online to be a part of this powerful weekend.

The event will take place from 5:30 PM on Friday the 21st to 12 PM on Sunday the 23rd. The deadline for registration is March 7. The cost of registration is \$50 per couple and \$25 for couples who commute for the weekend.

To register for this event or learn more, visit inspirationhills.org/marriage.



March Birthdays

Mar 2	Barry Whitsell Melinda Van Beek Brayden Meyer Aaliyah Wassenaar Abigail Wassenaar Maren Jensen	Mar 8	Caitie Fagen Bennett Cooper	Mar 22	Darrell De Groot Beckett Sawyer
Mar 3	Carmen Nordahl Sharla Roozeboom	Mar 9	Emma Van Meeteren	Mar 24	Chad Beukelman Matthew Meyer
Mar 4	Phyllis De Vries - 91 Brandon Kats Asher Peters	Mar 10	Denise Portz	Mar 25	Mike Kleinwolterink Laura De Hoogh Mikayla Meyer
Mar 5	Bev Heemstra - 91	Mar 14	Ed Verburg Ivan Korver	Mar 26	Denise Wolthuizen
Mar 6	Dixie De Jong Dennis Popkes	Mar 16	Karen De Boom Natalie Jorgensen	Mar 27	Blaine De Groot
		Mar 17	Janice Bolkema Haley (Christians) Walhof Chase De Groot	Mar 28	Bonnie Verburg Kayley Kreykes
		Mar 18	Edgar De Vries - 92 Carol Pomerence Brad Zeutenhorst Nichole Freeman	Mar 29	Sarah Van Meeteren Kaden Kamstra Nora Fox
		Mar 19	Mike Oldenkamp	Mar 30	Jan Koerselman Olivia Van Maaren
		Mar 20	John Oostra Brielle Mouw	Mar 31	Eileen Martens Jasmine Holtrop Joshua Nieuwendorp Adaline Crooks

March Anniversaries

Mar 6	Mark & Katie Vander Naald - 21	Mar 18	Brad & Janice Vander Pol - 19
Mar 10	Ron & Jan Koerselman - 53	Mar 25	Larry & Laura Oldenkamp - 48
Mar 11	Adam & Savannah Sauer - 19	Mar 28	Brian & Char Woelber - 45 Myron & Vicki Holtrop - 25 Beth & James Borgens - 4
Mar 12	John & Carolyn Meyer - 60 Wayne & Deb Den Hartog - 43	Mar 29	Dave & Denise Wolthuizen - 50
Mar 16	Bryan & Brenda Godbersen - 46 Kirk & Tina Dekker - 23	Mar 30	Jordan & Ashtyn Hoekstra



Thank you for supporting Talking Bibles. Because of your generosity, last year 2,275 churches and schools in Tanzania will receive Talking Bibles. That means that over 500,000 children will hear God's word in their own language! Over 2,000 have already accepted Jesus as their Savior. The people of Tanzania are a culture that learns through hearing. In one school they had a competition to see who could learn the most Bible verses. The winner of this competition learned 59 Bible verses!

Praise God for your support,
~ Mark Klaassen

Thanks to everyone for their prayers, visits, and cards while I was in the hospital and while I am recuperating at Fieldcrest. I am so thankful for my church family and the love they have extended to me.

~ Elmer Den Hartog

General Fund - February 2025

	Jan 25	Annual Budget
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 157,357.11	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
General Fund	33,813.53	586,110.06
Interest Income	63.34	
Total Income	<u>33,876.87</u>	<u>586,110.06</u>
Gross Profit	33,876.87	586,110.06
Expense		
Alliance Dues	0.00	19,000.00
Congregational Care	495.09	17,000.00
Education	415.43	20,150.00
Facilities & Grounds	3,886.37	128,000.00
General and Consistory	3,577.56	15,600.00
Office	665.84	21,645.00
Outreach	1,634.13	24,300.00
Payroll Expenses	32,133.50	331,365.06
Worship	159.35	4,100.00
Youth Groups	0.00	4,950.00
Total Expense	<u>42,967.27</u>	<u>586,110.06</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-9,090.40</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Cash Flow	<u>-9,090.40</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 148,266.71	

Be-Attitudes

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you, when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Matthew 5:3-12

"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?"

Psalms 118:6

"True faith means holding nothing back. It means putting every hope in God's fidelity to His Promises."

—Francis Chan,
Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by
a Relentless God

RD

There must be no discrepancy between what we say and what we do, between our walk and our talk.

~ Billy Graham

Benevolent Fund - February 2025

	Jan 25	Budget
Beginning Cash Balance as of January 1, 2025	\$ 90,325.63	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Benevolent Fund	2,605.00	187,250.00
Missions	1,000.00	
Sunday School	98.00	
Total Income	<u>3,703.00</u>	<u>187,250.00</u>
Gross Profit	3,703.00	187,250.00
Expense		
Commitments		
Beth (Blankers) Borgens/CRU	0.00	7,000.00
Bethesda Christian Counseling	0.00	4,000.00
Grace Covenant Ministry-Annville	0.00	7,000.00
Grooters, Jay & Amy-Costa Rica	0.00	7,000.00
Harlan Moss-SD Prison Ministry	0.00	7,000.00

Words to Live By

From busypastorsermons.com

"The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor."

~ Charles Stanley

"If the Holy Spirit guides us, He will do it according to the Scriptures and never contrary to them."

~ George Muller

"In our prayers, we talk to God, in our Bible study, God talks to us, and we had better let God do most of the talking."

~ D.L. Moody

"Revival is when God gets so sick and tired of being misrepresented that He shows Himself."

~Leonard Ravenhill

"What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace."

~ John Wesley

"It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor."

~Martin Luther

"We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first."

~ Oswald J. Smith

Benevolent Fund - Feb. 2025 (cont.)

Inspiration Hills	0.00	7,000.00
Jake & Brittany Korver	0.00	7,000.00
JoJo Bong-Asian Youth	0.00	3,500.00
Lay Mission Fund	0.00	15,000.00
Love Inc	0.00	7,000.00
Mission & Service Projects	0.00	5,000.00
Mission to India-ChurchPlanters	0.00	7,500.00
Mission to India-Literacy Prog	0.00	2,500.00
Multiplication Network	0.00	3,500.00
Pascal,Sasha&Sara-Moldova	0.00	3,000.00
Reformed Church in America		
Brownell-Japan	0.00	7,000.00
Nicole Opgenorth-Nicaragua	0.00	7,000.00
Total Reformed Church in America	0.00	14,000.00
Rise Fest	0.00	5,000.00
Rise Ministries	0.00	7,000.00
SandalsOnSand Min (B Godbersen)	0.00	2,500.00
Sheldon Christian School	0.00	6,000.00
Talking Bibles	0.00	7,000.00
Touch of Hope Bibles	0.00	4,000.00
Touch of Hope Haiti	0.00	7,000.00
Vasileiadis,PavlosMeggan-Greece	0.00	7,000.00
Village Northwest Unlimited	0.00	6,000.00
Words of Hope	0.00	28,000.00
Total Commitments	0.00	186,500.00
RCA College Scholarships	750.00	750.00
YTD Offerings Paid Out	850.00	
Total Expense	1,600.00	187,250.00
Net Ordinary Income	2,103.00	0.00
Net Cash Flow	2,103.00	0.00

Ending Cash Balance

\$ 92,428.63

"When we work, we work. When we pray, God works."

—James Hudson Taylor

RD

"Submission ... involves getting rid of everything which hinders God's control over our lives."

~ Billy Graham

"He said "Love...as I have loved you." We cannot love too much."

—Amy Carmichael

RD

Minutes of the Consistory Meeting – First Reformed Church, Sheldon, IA

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Those present:

Elders: Dixon Van Meeteren, Leon Kleinwolterink, Dan Dykstra, Mike Kleinwolterink, Larry Vander Plaats, Brad Bosma, Randy Fonkert, Bob Stellinga

Deacons: Brandon Krukow, Evan De Hoogh, Nathan Punt, Jared Schaeffer, Brady Peters, Rodney Kruse, Tyler Drenkow, Marty Van Peurseem, Cleiton Zanela

Absent:

Elders: Greg Sawyer

Deacons: None

- A. Pastor Paul called the Meeting to Order at 7:40 PM.
- B. Pastor Paul offered opening prayer and devotions from 1 Peter 4:1-6.
 1. "Are you weird?"
 2. We need to stand out in society.
- C. Roll Call & Approval of minutes from January 16, 2025.
 1. **Motion Made Supported & Carried (MMSC)** to approve these minutes.
- D. Celebrations and Thanksgivings were discussed.
 1. Thanks to the volunteers helping to fill Julianna's responsibilities.
 2. Thanks to organizers of 'A Night Out'.
 3. Thanks to those who prepare Wednesday night meals.
 4. Celebration that our church funded 2,275 Talking Bibles for schools/churches in Tanzania which have reached upwards of 500,000 kids.
- E. Report from Deacons meeting-reported by Brady Peters.
- F. Report from Elders meeting-reported by Mike Kleinwolterink.
- G. Pastor's Report – Pastor Paul's Report
 1. We need to emphasize merging efforts of Outreach and Love on the Locals. We need to make a greater impact on the community.
 2. We need to be intentional about discipleship – to know, love and follow Jesus.
 3. We need to change relevant bylaws at our March meeting.
 4. We received Midwest Network's year-end financial report.
- H. Financial reports were provided by Evan De Hoogh and discussed.
 1. **MMSC** to approve.
- I. Committee Reports were reviewed.
 1. **MMSC** to approve.
- J. Next Meeting: March 20, 2025 Prayer – Evan De Hoogh
- K. Adjourn: **MMSC** to adjourn at 8:30 PM.
- L. Dixon Van Meeteren closed in prayer.

More Words to Live By

From busypastorsermons.com

"God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on him."

~ Hudson Taylor

"Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them."

~ Elisabeth Elliot

"People often get upset when you teach them what is in the Bible rather than what they presume is in the Bible."

~ N.T. Wright

ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS TO THE CHURCH

DIRECTORY FOR 2025 (* denotes a regularly attending non-member)

DEATHS:

- ◆ Marie Van Veldhuizen
- ◆ Don Riemersma

BIRTHS:

- ◆ Helix John Holtrop - son of Jared & Cally Holtrop
- ◆ Cale David Crooks - son of Joel & Katlyn Crooks
- ◆ Cora Kay Crooks - daughter of Joel & Katlyn Crooks

CORRECTIONS:

- ◆ Merlin Beersmann's new address
 - ◆ Ava's House, Rm #11, 1320 W 17th St, Sioux Falls SD 57104

ADDITIONS:

- ◆ Nick* & Beth* Slykhuis [Shae & Jaxon]
 - ◆ 1888 Kingbird Avenue, George, IA 51237
 - ◆ Phone: 605.464.0266
 - ◆ Email: dpbeth@hotmail.com
- ◆ Coreen* Van Sloten
 - ◆ Christian Retirement Home, Rm 223, 1414 Elm Ct, Sheldon, IA
 - ◆ Phone: 712.348.7162



Books of the New Testament



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

WORD LIST

ACTS
 COLOSSIANS
 CORINTHIANS
 EPHESIANS
 GALATIANS
 HEBREWS
 JAMES
 JOHN
 JUDE
 LUKE
 MARK
 MATTHEW
 PETER
 PHILEMON
 PHILIPPIANS
 REVELATION
 ROMANS
 THESSALONIANS
 TIMOTHY
 TITUS

2025 SHEPHERDING TEAMS

First Reformed Church, Sheldon

The congregation is divided into nine groups - one for each Elder/Deacon pair. Your Consistory shepherding team is responsible for keeping in regular contact with the families listed under their names. If you are experiencing some significant trial or illness or are involved in a crisis situation such as a job loss, major life change, or family death feel free to contact your Care Elder or Deacon. If your family has experienced a joyful occasion like the birth of a baby, the marriage of a son or daughter, a wedding anniversary, a promotion at work, or retirement, etc., please let your shepherding team know of the special occasion. In all these situations, an appropriate prayer to the Lord will be offered.

Your Shepherding Team is directly above the list of families to whom they are assigned:

Team 1: Bob Stellinga & Tyler Drenkow

Ed Alons – Kendall De Groot

Team 2: Brad Bosma & Nathan Punt

Evan De Hoogh – Betty Gonnerman

Team 3: Leon Kleinwolterink & Marty Van Peurseem

Johnny Granstra – Shane Jager

Team 4: Dixon Van Meeteren & Jared Schaeffer

Luke Jenness – Kent Lode

Team 5: Larry Vander Plaats & Rodney Kruse

Eileen Martens – Carol Pomeranke

Team 6: Randy Fonkert & Cleiton Zanela

Caleb Popkes – Noah Sterk

Team 7: Dan Dykstra & Brady Peters

Roger Sterler – Norma Van Gorp

Team 8: Mike Kleinwolterink & Brandon Krukow

Lyle Van Heuvelen – Darlene Verrips

Team 9: Greg Sawyer & Evan De Hoogh

Marwin Vogel – Brad Zuetenhorst

*“Building God’s Kingdom
One Life at a Time”
1 Peter 2:5-6*



2025 Ministry Teams Contact People

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Pastor Paul - President
Dan Dykstra - Vice President
Mike Kleinwolterink - Clerk
Evan De Hoogh - Chairman of Deacons
Brady Peters - Secretary of Deacons

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Nathan Punt - 712.449.9001
punt76@gmail.com

CALLING ELDER

Gary De Hoogh - 712.348.2647
gndehoogh@msn.com

CHURCH PRIVILEGE

Larry Vander Plaats - 712.348.4626
plaats58@yahoo.com

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Bob Stellinga - 712.348.3330
stell@nethtc.net
We Care - Norma Van Gorp - 712.631.0977
rvangorp@netllc.net

ENDOWMENT FUND

Evan De Hoogh - 712.541.3521
evan@gecabinetryinc.com

MEMORIAL FUND

Evan De Hoogh - 712.541.3521
evan@gecabinetryinc.com

MISSION COMMITTEE

Rodney Kruse - 712.348.4232
rodneykruse@hotmail.com

NURSERY

Kelsey Cooper - 712.348.2636
kelseydh34@gmail.com

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mike Kleinwolterink - 712.348.1161
standaid@premieronline.net

PRAYER CHAIN COORDINATOR

Brenda Godbersen - 712.348.0392
brendagodbersen@gmail.com

PULPIT SUPPLY

Dan Dykstra - 712.230.0379
faddjd@hotmail.com

SACRAMENTS

Dixon Van Meeteren - 712.324.1600
dixvm@nethtc.net

SAFETY & SECURITY

Greg Sawyer - 712.348.1021
sawyerconstructioninc@gmail.com

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Brady Peters - 712.541.7640
brdyptrs@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Brenda Godbersen - 712.348.0392
brendagodbersen@gmail.com

WOMEN TO WOMEN

Molly Sauer - 712.363.4268
pmsauer12@gmail.com

WORK GROUPS

Joyce Fedders - 712.539.9945
jfedders@nethtc.net



IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION

- ◆ **WEBSITE:** www.sheldonfirstreformed.com
- ◆ **WORSHIP VIDEO:** www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/worshipservices.cfm
- ◆ **BULLETIN:** www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/weeklybulletin.cfm **OR** paper copies are available in bulletin box outside the north kitchen door
- ◆ **RADIO BROADCAST:** Sundays at 10 AM on FM 100.7
- ◆ **TV BROADCAST:** Tuesdays at 4 PM on local cable channel 12
- ◆ **FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/sheldonfirstreformed
- ◆ **E-GIVING LINK:** Text the word “SFRC” to the number [833-484-7253](tel:833-484-7253) or give online at www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/give
- ◆ **TRADITIONAL GIVING:** Mail to Sheldon First Reformed Church, 1101 7th Street, Sheldon, IA 51201 **OR** drop your offering in the slot on the church office door during the week
- ◆ **MY CHURCH APP:** Download on Google Play or the App Store **OR** text the words “SFRC APP” to the number [833-484-7253](tel:833-484-7253)
- ◆ **PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISES:** Call the church office at 324-2130 or email Pastor Paul at paul@sheldonfirstreformed.com
- ◆ **NEXT STEPS CODE:** The QR code is on the bulletin cover. Using your smartphone device scan the code & it will bring you to a page that will take you to our Connection Card, Prayer Requests, or Giving.
- ◆ **PARENTS:** Children’s bulletins are available at www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/children-s-bulletin.cfm.
- ◆ **SUNDAY SCHOOL GUIDES:** Pick up in the youth house.
- ◆ **ALPHA TEENS & RCYF:** Check the Remind App & Instagram for upcoming activities & any updates. To be added to the email list please email Caitie at caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com.
- ◆ **KIDS PROGRAMS:** To keep up with what is going on with our kids’ program, sign up to receive reminder text messages from FRC Kidz. Just text the following: **Text@ frckidz to the number 81010**
- ◆ **DURING THE WEEK:** The church is open from **8 AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday, and from 7 AM-12 PM on 2nd & 4th Fridays**. During the week you may use the north & south doors to get your mail or drop off offerings etc. in the office. You will need to ring the door bell (silver button) to the right of these doors to enter the church. Wendy will buzz you in from the office.
- ◆ **SUNDAY MORNINGS:** The church doors will lock at 9:30 AM. If you find the doors locked upon your arrival, go to the front/east door and a team member will welcome you into the church
- ◆ If you would like to receive church emails & don’t currently receive them, please call the church at 324-2130 & provide Wendy with your email address. You may also fill out the connection card with this info & place it in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.
- ◆ **BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER ITEMS:** If you would like items included in either, please get the items to the office by 10 AM on Thursday morning for the bulletin & the Thursday of the last full week of the month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter. **The deadline to submit items for inclusion in the April newsletter is 10 AM Thursday, March 27.**

NOTE: To access videos & bulletins, note the above information in **white**. If you cannot find bulletins, look under the media tab. If you still need help, call the church and we will help you navigate the website.



March 2025

Dear First Reformed Church,

“I can learn the Word of God from the Talking Bible,” says Bharathamma.
“Personally, I’m getting encouraged every time I listen.”

Bharathamma’s story is one of transformation and hope. Living in a small farming village in India, she never had the opportunity to go to school. Like many women in her community, she spent her life raising children and working in the fields.

Fourteen years ago, when she became a follower of Jesus, she longed to read the Bible. But unable to read, she relied on her pastor’s Sunday sermons, memorizing scripture as best as she could. Her pastor often repeated Bible stories just so she could retain every word.

A year ago, everything changed.

Bharathamma’s pastor gave her a Talking Bible. For the first time, she could hear the scriptures in her own home, not just on Sundays. She began listening to God’s Word for an hour every day with her son and daughter-in-law.

The results have been life-changing.



Her daughter-in-law, who had previously professed faith but stopped attending church, and her son, who had been distant from the faith, started listening with her. Over the course of a year, the scriptures began to work in their hearts. **Now, the entire family attends church together every week.**

“Easily I can understand now,” Bharathamma says. **“It’s really good to have the Talking Bible in my family. I keep it safe so that I can use it for a long time.”**

Stories like Bharathamma’s are happening across India, where millions of people cannot read but long to know God’s Word.

A Talking Bible opens the door for individuals and families to experience the life-changing power of Scripture—bringing hope, faith, and renewal.

With your help, stories like Bharathamma's become possible. Your generosity brings the Word of God into homes, inspiring transformation and hope.

Thank you for joining us in placing a Talking Bible in the hands of someone like Bharathamma!

Your gifts are transforming not only an individual's life but also their entire family and community.

Millions of non-readers in India, like Bharathamma, are eager to hear God's Word and share it with their loved ones. **Together, we are equipping them with Talking Bibles—a tool that helps them grow in faith and bring others to Jesus.**

Your gifts are making an eternal impact, allowing families like Bharathamma's to deepen their faith and share God's love with others.

Thank you for helping bring God's Word to those who need it most!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul D. Hoekstra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul D. Hoekstra
President, Talking Bibles International

P.S. Every Talking Bible you provide brings hope and encouragement to families like Bharathamma's. **Thank you for giving generously each month and helping share the life-changing power of God's Word!**



The Midwest Network Newsletter

A Word from the President REV. D. MARC DE WAARD

Ditat Deus

We just returned from the state of Arizona. A direct Allegiant Air flight from Sioux Falls to Mesa made the travel easy. While the weather on that end was cool at the start, it warmed up by the end of the week (and all the while here in SD the weather warmed up and then cooled considerably upon our return!). In the 1930's, the slogan was begun that Phoenix was "the valley of the sun." Well, this recent Alliance Gathering made the greater Phoenix area (Glendale actually) – the "valley of the SON!" Jesus was sung to, was honored, was worshiped, was thanked for what He was doing throughout the Alliance of Reformed Churches.

The seal for the state of Arizona contains these words, Ditat Deus. That's Latin for "God enriches."

The 241 of us from all over the country that attended this three-day Alliance Gathering in AZ experienced firsthand, God's enrichment of us!

The Thursday afternoon through Saturday afternoon event was titled "One Hope: Kingdom and Covenant."

Each of the three days had a main session that looked at the Alliance's past, present, and our future. Our first board president, lawyer Joel Baar, led off sharing about our startup and recent past. The second session had the eight network leaders (our Seth Sundstrom representing us) sharing what was happening in each of the networks (joys and challenges). Our third session saw our duly affirmed new Executive Director, Greg Alderman, commend us to stay kingdom focused and to remain in covenant with God and each other. Tying those sessions together were corporate worship times, and in between those were opportunities to attend different break-out sessions that were for learning, resourcing, and encouragement.

This gathering was well designed (and our own Brenda Van Beek was a vital piece of the planning team).

It was hosted well by the church family and on the campus of Christ's Community Church in Glendale. We worshiped together, formed deeper and even new relationships with one another, ate together (had five different culturally diverse food trucks feed us for one meal), and chortled robustly with a presentation from a Christian comedian (Robert G. Lee). This pastor and spouse (Kathy) were glad that they went and are looking forward to a future gathering – one where pastors, elders, deacons and laity can all gather again to worship, grow, and celebrate. The motto Ditat Deus reminiscences Arizona's God-given land riches. And it captures well what Happened at the national Alliance of Reformed Church's Gathering. We were enriched. Thanks
be to God.

Soli Deo Gloria!

The Network has started to compile a collection of resources for our churches. Resource topics cover compensation and benefits, ordination, covenant keepers, as well as directories and forms.

<https://midwestnetwork.org/resources>

Password: Midwest2024

Financial Update

BRENDA VAN BEEK

Our churches continue to support the Network's activity with faithful Partnership Offerings, and as a result, our financial condition remains healthy. At the Annual Meeting, each church received a binder with a January-September 2024 budget report and the 2025 budget (which was approved during the meeting). Throughout the year, our admin team noted that our income was greater than anticipated, so we were able to support our churches in new ways during 2024: Mallory Schouten was hired to help with communication and engagement; a "Being Reformed" class for Pathways candidates is being held in partnership with Horizon Network; our first Pastors' Retreat was held at Inspiration Hills; new teams have been launched for renewal and multiplication; and our Annual Meeting lunch got an upgrade, too. Our year-end financial report is enclosed. It is our prayer that our churches continue to enjoy strong support from Network initiatives in 2025 and beyond!

Q: HOW DID JOSEPH MAKE HIS COFFEE?

A: HEBREWED IT

Q. HOW DO PASTORS LIKE THEIR ORANGE JUICE?

A: WITH PULPIT

From the Network Pastor

SETH SUNDSTROM

How's Your Charging System?

Recently I've had to put my mechanic hat back on and help a couple people replace their alternators. If you've ever had a dead battery, good chance you had a faulty charging system. Some of you also know that, even with a bad alternator (charger), you can start and run a vehicle by jumping or charging the battery. But, without fixing the charging system, you're limited and will end up with a dead battery again. If you want to see how this works, go sit in your car and start/stop it a whole bunch of times without letting it run long enough for the charger (alternator) to replenish the battery.

As Christians, we're built with a purpose, and to fulfill this purpose we need to stay charged (spiritually healthy). The good news is, God has given us a charging system - a wonderful gift called Sabbath. In Exodus 20, we find this gift between the commandments about our relationship to God (1-3) and those about others (5-10). It's the one self-care command, and it is the longest and most descriptive. In the midst of loving God and loving others, we are commanded to take care of ourselves.

Have you become so busy serving God and others that your lights are getting dim? Maybe you need to check your charging system. Sabbath looks a little different for everybody, but we all need it. If you're feeling drained, I'd love to assist you in diagnosing your charging system and finding a good way to get recharged.

Give me a call. No car questions please.

Seth 605-351-4373



Prayer Team Update

JACOB VAN DER LINDEN

FEBRUARY'S PRAYER GUIDE IS ENCLOSED

For any prayer requests feel free to email us at midwestnetprayer@gmail.com.

Transitions/Updates

SETH SUNDSTROM

Pastor Transitions

Mark Schwarz has finished his call at Free Grace Reformed Church in Middleburg and has started serving as the Executive Director of Okoboji Bible Conference in Arnold's Park, IA. Mark welcomes invitations to do pulpit supply! okobojiconference.org

Seeking Lead Pastor

FRC of Sioux Falls SD

Immanuel Reformed of Belmond IA

Bethany Reformed of Clara City MN

Grant Reformed Church of Grant MI

Seeking Staff or Associate Pastor

FRC of Volga SD

FRC of Platte SD

The Reformed Church of Steen MN

SAVE THE DATE PASTOR'S RETREAT

WITH A FOCUS ON PRAYER, YOUR
CALL AND FINISHING WELL
MORE DETAILS TO COME

WHEN: APRIL 28-30, 2025

WHERE: INSPIRATION HILLS - INWOOD, SD

**PICTURES FROM THE GATHERING
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
JANUARY 2025**



Healthy Churches: Revitalization Cohort

When: February 18th @ 7pm

via Zoom

Who is this for:

Church leaders who have experienced growth or decline and are wrestling with what is next.

What will we do:

Talk with fellow church leaders who are in similar situations, and share our ideas, struggles and our love of Jesus.

This is meant to be a place of encouragement and accountability.

Topic:

Why do we do church?

Understanding Vision

Contact Seth Sundstrom for more info & zoom link

sethsundstrom@gmail.com

Midwest Prayer Guide:

Ways to pray for the Network February Edition

Pray for the Leadership of the Local Churches in the Midwest Network. Pray for God's Spirit to give them the wisdom and guidance they need as they lead their churches. God gives us the compassion and courage we need to serve our churches well. Use the gifts that you have given these leaders to serve their church through worship, outreach, discipleship and fellowship.

Pray for the raising up and discipleship of future leaders in our church. Pray for Pathways as it navigates the many candidates considering serving in Ministry. Pray for the ordination team as they work with these various individuals.

Pray for the health of ministry leaders and of their families.

Pray for the Pastor's Retreat that will be happening at the end of April.

Pray for those struggling with cancer in our Network and their relatives and friends. There are just a lot of cases we have been hearing about in local churches.

Pray for the Network's Health Churches Revitalization team as they seek to serve churches going through various times of transition.

Pray for the Network's Revitalization Cohort as the group meets together. May this be time for encouragement and accountability. God bless the many churches in our Network wrestling with what the future of their church looks like, while also wrestling with the fundamental question of why do we do church.

Pray for the Network's Multiplication Team. God guide them on how you are leading them. Praise God for their recent resource video meeting, and the need for raising help leaders as we seek to see multiplication in our Network.

Pray for the churches that are still looking to fill their pastoral vacancy or who have been going through a tough time of conflict/transition. God give these churches the patience and comfort they need as they discern God's will for them at this moment.

Pray for the Alliance Gathering as people go home and reflect on how the time together went. Be with those reflecting on what they learned or the relationships they developed at the meeting. We pray that God will give the Alliance guidance as they move forward. We pray that those watching the meeting later will be blessed and that we will grow in relationships with our brothers and sisters in this Alliance of Churches.

For any prayer requests feel free to email us at, midwestnetprayer@gmail.com.
Blessing from the Midwest Network Prayer Gathering: Kim, Dennis, Fred and Jake



“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” John 1:12

It is great to know that we are children of our heavenly Father. We want others to know our great God, because in Him there is peace, joy, and everlasting life! There is so much drama, confusion, and difficulties in men’s lives behind the walls. Jesus Christ is the only answer to how they can start putting their lives back together.

George has been in prison for many years. He has been a Christian for a long time. Now that he is past middle age, he has been more mellow. I had not talked with George one on one for a while. I asked him if he would like to visit, and he readily agreed. He said, “Out of the goodness of my heart I shared my commissary food with some other guys expecting them to repay me when they had some money. I was wrong and they have no intention of paying me back! So now I have to go without. I have been getting very upset thinking about it and my anger is starting to rise. Some thoughts have entered my mind to fight these men, and I know that is not right. I found out my daughter is not following the Lord and is going down the wrong road. You talked with me at the right time.” Then he said, “Did someone tell you to call me?” I told him, “No.” George said, “God’s timing is right, He knew I needed to talk with you today.” He took a verse out of the bible on my desk which is full of Bible verses. He picked James 1:12 which says, “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” George threw his hands up in the air and said, “Praise the Lord, He knew what Scripture I needed today!”

When I was in the hall the other day there was a group of inmates coming back from lunch and a young man came up to me and asked me who I was. I told him and he said, “I just arrived here a few days ago and I got a letter from my dad yesterday. He has been visiting with a Christian pastor lately. He mentioned that I should visit with you.” We walked back to the office where he informed me that he grew up Muslim. I explained the gospel to him, and he listened very intently. I gave him a Bible and told him to read the book of John. He seemed very serious about knowing more about Jesus and His Word. PTL!

By his request I have visited with Jade weekly for over a year. His life has been full of losses of friends and family. Most of these losses have been caused by addiction problems. His father, who he didn’t know very well, was killed last year. Jade was out of prison for a week and was brought back. I was standing next to him when another inmate whispered to him. Immediately Jade hit the other man, and it was an all-out fight. Two officers cuffed them after a bloody fight. A week later when Jade saw me in the hall he said, “I am sorry Harlan for what happened. I disrespected you by my fighting.” Three weeks later we visited one on one. Jade had a difficult time looking me in the eye and was ashamed of the incident. He was not ready to be released from prison because he never took God seriously, but he liked our friendship. Jade promised to do better, but I told him that is not the answer. We talked about the problem we all have, it is a heart sickness called sin. After going over the gospel, he wanted to pray to invite Christ into his life and repented of his sin. Praise the Lord, He works in mysterious ways!

Please pray that those in authority will be more favorable to the chaplains. There seems to be much spiritual warfare against us.

Thank you all for your prayers and financial support!
Blessings!

Harlan

Please designate my name in the memo section of your check. Send them to: Prison Lighthouse Fellowship (PLF) or South Dakota Prison Chaplain’s Association (SDPCA), 601 W 57th Street Sioux Falls, SD 57108. Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. My phone: 605-940-4220, Email: harlan@convergeheartland.org



MARCH 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 8am Praise Team Practice Creative Movement Performance	3 6pm Outreach Mtg	4 7am Men's Bible Study	5 Ash Wednesday 5:30 Meal 6:15-7:30 TeamKID 6:15-7:30 Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 High School	6	7	8
9  8am Praise Team Practice 5pm Creative Movement Prac 1st Lenten Sunday	10	11 7am Men's Bible Study	12 5:30 Meal 6:15-7:30 TeamKID 6:15-7:30 Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 High School	13 4:30-6pm Sheldon Mobile Food Truck @ Living Water	14	15
16 8am Praise Team Practice 5pm Creative Movement Prac 2nd Lenten Sunday	17 Saint Patrick's Day  5:30-6:30 Sheldon Unity Meal @ Living Water	18 7am Men's Bible Study	19 1:30 Afternoon Circle 5-7pm AT Pasta Supper 6:15-7:30 TeamKID 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 High School	20  6:30 Elders/Deacons Mtgs 7pm Evening Circle 7:30 Consistory Mtg	21	22
23 8am Praise Team Practice 5pm Creative Movement Prac 3rd Lenten Sunday	24	25 7am Men's Bible Study	26 5:30 Meal 6:15-7:30 TeamKID 6:15-7:30 Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 High School	27	28	29
30 8am Praise Team Practice 5pm Creative Movement Prac 4th Lenten Sunday	31					