



Building God's kingdom one life at a time.

First Reformed Church
1101 7th Street, Sheldon IA
712-324-2130

August 2025



Children & Worship

There will be no Children & Worship during the month of August. It will resume on Sunday, September 7 when our Fall Ministry season begins.

Staff Vacations

Pastor Paul: July 28- August 3
Caitie: August 1 - 7

When Pastor Paul is gone, please direct any calls to the office. If there is an emergency, please contact Dan Dykstra at 712.752.8199 (home) or at 712.230.0379.

**It's Time for a
new
Challenge!**



**Pick up your
July scavenger
hunt at the
welcome table**

Due August 3



Summer Camp

We encourage you to pray for and send mail to our kids attending camp.

July 28- August 1: Day Camp Explorers

♦ Remington Drenkow

Mailing address:

Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center

1242 280th Street

Inwood, Iowa 51240

Love INC and law enforcement agencies will be hosting Shop With a Cop the evenings of Tuesday, August 5 and Wednesday, August 6. Many volunteers are needed to help kids shop for new school clothes! Please let us know if you are interested in helping by calling 712.324.9707 or emailing linda@sheldon-loveinc.org.



NEW BABY GIFT BASKET

A basket is on the table at the back of the church (in the narthex) for Nora Jean, daughter of Andy & Kelsey Cooper. The basket will be on the table under the Missions bulletin board throughout the month of July and until August 10.

Please bring your baby gifts to add to the basket by August 10.

PART-TIME CHURCH CUSTODIAL OPENING

Ted Riepma has resigned as our part-time church custodian effective at the end of August. We are accepting resumes and applications for church custodian. Applications and a job description are available in the church office. If you are interested, please return your resume or application via email or paper to Paster Paul.

August 8-10,2025 Inspiration Hills Camp and Retreat Center will be celebrating 50 years of “Providing an environment for individuals to come to know Christ, grow in Him, and be challenged for life in God’s kingdom”. God has been so faithful to Inspiration Hills through these 50 years we want to celebrate Gods goodness and unfailing love. These 3 days will be filled with worship, music, fun/games, Jason Gray concert, and reminiscing with friends and supporters of Inspiration Hills. There will be lodging and camping available and if interested in staying on site the entire time, you can do so by RSVP and contacting the camp.

Our church will be sponsoring the Saturday, August 9 noon meal. Inspirational Hills will procure the food, supplies and drink for the meal. We need 2 or 3 volunteers to assist in serving the meal. The camp’s kitchen facilities will be used. Call the church office if you are willing to help out.

CELL PHONES

For the sake of knowing and loving Jesus and to minimize distractions, mobile phones, electronic devices and toys, will no longer be welcomed or permitted in the classrooms or large group spaces at FRC. This applies to children and teens, Preschool - 12th Grade. A student may be permitted to use a phone or other device at the direction of a teacher, but only for a limited time. If a phone is brought in, it shall be turned off completely and stored in the basket provided in each classroom until the end of the class or learning time. Parents, thank you for helping your child to know and love Jesus and for helping his or her teachers and sponsors to minimize distractions. We also ask that the teachers and sponsors limit the use of their cell phones and electronic devices unless they are needed for the lesson. We need to set an example for our children and youth to follow.

Some help needed: At 10 AM on Saturday, August 9

We could use 5 people to help mop between the pews in the sanctuary and overflow area. With this many people, we estimate it should take between 1/2 - 1 hour. If you can help out, please call the church office at 324.2130 or email the office at frcsecretary@outlook.com.



WHEN: Monday, August 18
TIME: 5:30 - 6:30 PM
WHERE: Living Water Church

A come and go buffet will be served. A bag of groceries is available to take home with you after you have had your meal. Come Join us for some food and fellowship. Bring a friend!



Sheldon Mobile Food Truck

Date: Thursday, August 14
Time: 4:30 - 6 PM
Location: Living Water Church
 Bring a box with you to pick up your groceries.

END OF SUMMER SERVICE

WHEN: August 24
TIME: 10:30 AM
WHERE: in the church sanctuary
SPECIAL MUSIC: provided by “Happy the Dog”

Catered Meal in Fellowship Hall

- Meal will be catered by Home Plate.

Tentative menu is:

- Pulled pork
- Chicken breast
- 2 salads
- Cheesy potatoes
- Green bean casserole

We're excited to host **"Happy the Dog"** again this year. They are a team of gifted speakers and praise & worship leaders who are committed to serving the Lord while serving others. They work through scripture, word and song to lead youth through adults to a lifelong relationship with Christ. Their ministry is with churches, camps and other Christ-centered organizations.

Come join us August 24th at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary. Stay for dinner in the Fellowship Hall.



Aug 1 Linda Stellinga Gina Van Wyk Marty Van Peurseem Mazie Storm Hattie Fox Reece Jager	Aug 8 Amaulah Gardfrey Bailey Van Engen	Aug 20 Chad Jager Lenora Drenkow
Aug 2 Korey Woelber	Aug 9 Marlys Den Hartog - 93 Bob Stellinga Lyle Kuiper Sue Fonkert Rob Roozeboom Isabelle Freeman	Aug 21 Norman Beltman Brad Hindt
Aug 3 Beau De Groot	Aug 10 Betty Gonnerman Patty Ferguson Darin Tutje Gered De Hoogh	Aug 22 Nadine De Hoogh Nicole Woelber
Aug 4 Brandi Fuersenberg	Aug 11 Colette Bracy	Aug 24 Paul Sauer
Aug 5 Carol McGilvrey Renee Van Velzen Larry Oldenkamp	Aug 12 Nyla King	Aug 25 Scott Simonsen
Aug 6 Sharon Davey Erica Jager Georgia Kamstra Chloe Sawyer	Aug 13 Tyler Walker	Aug 26 Andy Cooper Olivia Ten Kley Cambria Sauer Lincoln Kats Keisel Bracy
Aug 7 Darwin Westphalen Gavin Hofmeyer Blake Hofmeyer	Aug 14 Kayla Dykstra	Aug 27 Parker Kamstra
	Aug 15 Peggy Riepma Leon Kleinwolterink	Aug 28 Preston Hoekstra Kai Korver
	Aug 16 Roger Sterler - 96	Aug 30 James Borgens Rachel Jurgens Mallory Oostra
	Aug 17 Rick Nordahl	Aug 31 Esther Warntjes - 92 Rodney Kruse Jake Korver
	Aug 18 Derek Kamstra Keely Simonsen Zach Bork	
	Aug 19 Skyler Hoekstra	



Aug 1 John & Shantel Oostra - 28	Aug 8 Mark & Carisa Ten Kley - 27
Aug 3 Dennis & Ladonna Van Meeteren - 64	Aug 9 Mike & Ruth Vogel - 39
Aug 5 Greg & Linda Winkel - 31	Aug 10 Ted & Peggy Riepma - 51
Aug 7 Chad & Angela Jager - 21	Aug 11 Larry & Connie Van Meeteren - 47
	Aug 12 Edgar & Phyllis De Vries - 70 Stan & Jan Ten Kley - 58 Randy & Sue Fonkert - 36 Jett & Ashley Korver - 8 Don & Emily Tune - 2
	Aug 15 Wally & Dianne Wolthuizen - 45
	Aug 21 Dan & Jennifer Van Regenmorter - 27
	Aug 23 Jamie & Peggy Elgersma - 23
	Aug 24 Brad & Gretchen Bosma - 40



2025 Community Unity Worship Service

WHEN: Sunday, August 31

TIME: 10 AM

LOCATION: RiseFest grounds

Bring your lawn chairs. Rides will be available for those needing them.

I want to thank all the people who visited me at the hospital and my home. Thank you for Pastor Paul's and Gary De Hoogh's visits. Thank you for the food brought to me and for the cards that were sent to me. I appreciate my First Reformed family. You were so good to me!

~ Cheryl Wolthuizen



Thank you for the prayers and beautiful notes of sympathy for me and my family in the loss of our mother and grandmother, Hazel Kuiper. After 104 years she is "Finally Home" with Jesus.

~ Loretta Vander Linden

Dear RCWM & FRC,

Thank you for remembering me and the mission work I do. Thank you so much for the generous gift and for your continued prayers. I pray God will continue to pour his blessings on you and that all of you have a wonderful summer!

With Thanks,
~ Beth Borgens

My sincere thanks to all who remembered me with cards, visits, flowers and especially prayers during my hospital adventure. As the song says, "I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God."

~ Marie Westra

First Reformed,

Thank you so much for your help and support in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Inspiration Hills Camp. We have been so blessed by your support through the years to make Christ known.

To God be the Glory,
~ Kristi Schaeffer

"Thank you" seems so inadequate to express our appreciation and gratitude for the love and compassion shown to our family! One year has passed since our precious daughter-in-law, Lori, went to be with the Lord. The past year has been a time of healing and reflection as we recall both our beautiful, happy memories with her, but also the memories that bring sadness and tears. Lori was an amazing young woman and loved the Lord with her whole being! Even as her health continued to decline and the treatments proved ineffective, her faith remained unwavering and steadfast. We were beyond blessed to have her in our family and she truly left a beautiful legacy. We are extremely grateful for the outpouring of love and support we received both at the time of Lori's passing and throughout this past year. The prayers, memorial gifts, and genuine concern for Kyle and our precious grandchildren meant more to us than you will ever know! We love and appreciate our wonderful church family more each passing year and our hearts are forever filled with gratitude! May God richly bless each of you!

~ Mark & Donna Koerselman

First Reformed Church,

Thank you so very much for thinking of our family as we celebrate the addition of Violet to our family! Thank you for the basket of goodies for Violet! We are incredibly blessed by your generosity.

With many thanks,
~ Beth, James, Emma & Violet Borgens

BACKGROUND CHECKS

If you work with children/youth in any way, please check your home mailbox for background check forms that have been sent to you. We are trying to update our files and need these forms from all people who are working with children/youth for our fall ministry season. Please, fill out the forms and return them to the church office or fold them and put them in Wendy's church mailbox or the slot on the office door.

If you are in need of help with clean up following the derecho, the Reformed Mission Services Disaster Response Committee is willing to send a team to help. You can email them at disasterresponse@rms.org.

Lower-Level Renovation July

Jun 30, 25

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
General Fund	
Lower Level Renovation	244,772.99
Total General Fund	244,772.99
Transfer In	
Endowment Interest	7,575.00
Total Transfer In	7,575.00
Total Income	252,347.99
Gross Profit	252,347.99
Expense	
Facilities & Grounds	
Building Improvements	
Lower Level Renova-	226,083.79
tions	
Total Building Improve-	226,083.79
ments	
Total Facilities & Grounds	226,083.79
Total Expense	226,083.79
Net Ordinary Income	26,264.20
Ending Cash Balance	26,264.20

BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

TEACHERS NEEDED

Please consider teaching Sunday School or Wednesday Night- Family night! We cannot run our programs without our volunteers!

SUNDAY MORNING- 10:45-11:30
WEDNESDAY EVENING- 6:00-7:30

Please reach out to Sami Fox if you are interested in volunteering.

sami@sheldonfirstreformed.com
712-363-0765



AUGUST FRC KIDS CHALLENGE

*We need
your help!*



Kids may be asking you to sign their August challenge paper. Please take a few minutes to have a conversation and help them out. It is a great opportunity for them to get to know members of our church!

Thank you for supporting our kids!



First Reformed Church

CHURCH SIGNAGE

- ◆ *When life isn't a bed of roses, remember who wore the thorns.*
- ◆ *When the rapture comes, who's going to change the sign? Will you?*
- ◆ *Some people forget how to pray until the cop makes a U-turn.*
- ◆ *Forgive your enemies - it messes with their heads!*
- ◆ *If the truth hurts. Then it is working.*
- ◆ *If Mary is the mother of Jesus, and Jesus is the Lamb of God, does that mean Mary had a little lamb?*
- ◆ *Staying in bed shouting, "Oh God!" does not constitute going to church.*
- ◆ *Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - No point!*
- ◆ *Stop - Drop - Roll: it won't work in Hell.*
- ◆ *Acting perfect in church is like dressing up for an x-ray.*
- ◆ *Jesus is watching, but the police have radar.*
- ◆ *Faith can move mountains, but don't be surprised when God hands you a shovel.*
- ◆ *When life gives you more than you can stand ... kneel.*
- ◆ *If we're not hungry for Christ, we're probably too full of ourselves.*
- ◆ *We don't change God's message, His message changes us.*
- ◆ *CH CH What's missing? UR*
- ◆ *Choose the bread of life or you are toast.*

General Fund - July 2025

	<u>Jun 25</u>	<u>Jan - Jun 25</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 54,905.17		
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
General Fund	54,133.52	299,415.75	587,810.06
Interest Income	45.68	328.06	
Total Income	<u>54,179.20</u>	<u>299,743.81</u>	<u>587,810.06</u>
Gross Profit	54,179.20	299,743.81	587,810.06
Expense			
Alliance Dues	5,170.62	9,584.89	19,000.00
Congregational Care	0.00	3,863.86	17,000.00
Education	6,769.13	9,963.40	21,850.00
Facilities & Grounds	27,420.26	49,927.82	128,000.00
General and Consistory	1,293.50	10,110.77	15,600.00
Office	1,776.87	10,014.02	21,645.00
Outreach	841.38	8,886.39	24,300.00
Payroll Expenses	22,061.17	142,683.29	331,365.06
Transfer Out	0.00	45,000.00	
Worship	59.39	1,448.30	4,100.00
Youth Groups	57.07	442.17	4,950.00
Total Expense	<u>65,449.39</u>	<u>291,924.91</u>	<u>587,810.06</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-11,270.19</u>	<u>7,818.90</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Cash Flow	<u>-11,270.19</u>	<u>7,818.90</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 43,634.98		

Benevolent Fund - July 2025

	<u>Jan - Jun 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2025	\$ 90,325.63	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Benevolent Fund	21,323.98	187,250.00
Missions	1,100.00	
Sunday School	411.00	
Total Income	<u>22,834.98</u>	<u>187,250.00</u>
Gross Profit	22,834.98	187,250.00
Expense		
Commitments		
Beth (Blankers) Borgens/CRU	3,500.00	7,000.00
Bethesda Christian Counseling	0.00	4,000.00
GraceCovenantMinistry-Annville	3,500.00	7,000.00



Just Plain Funny

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked the children in my Sunday School class.

"NO!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!"

"Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my wife, would that get me into Heaven?" I asked them again.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

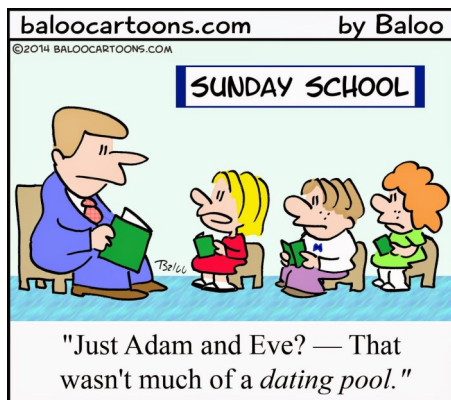
"Well, I continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, **"YA GOTTA BE DEAD!"**

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A few more generations and no one will know what clockwise is anymore.

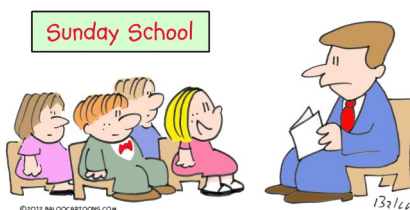


## Benevolent Fund - July 2025 continued

|                                  |            |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Grooters, Jay & Amy-Costa Rica   | 3,500.00   | 7,000.00   |
| Harlan Moss-SD Prison Ministry   | 3,500.00   | 7,000.00   |
| Inspiration Hills                | 0.00       | 7,000.00   |
| Jake & Brittany Korver           | 3,500.00   | 7,000.00   |
| JoJo Bong-Asian Youth            | 0.00       | 3,500.00   |
| Lay Mission Fund                 | 0.00       | 15,000.00  |
| Love Inc                         | 3,499.98   | 7,000.00   |
| Mission & Service Projects       | 10,782.00  | 5,000.00   |
| Mission to India-ChurchPlanters  | 3,750.00   | 7,500.00   |
| Mission to India-Literacy Prog   | 1,250.00   | 2,500.00   |
| Multiplication Network           | 0.00       | 3,500.00   |
| Pascal,Sasha&Sara-Moldova        | 1,500.00   | 3,000.00   |
| Reformed Church in America       |            |            |
| Brownell-Japan                   | 3,500.00   | 7,000.00   |
| Nicole Opgenorth-Nicaragua       | 3,500.00   | 7,000.00   |
| Total Reformed Church in America | 7,000.00   | 14,000.00  |
| Rise Fest                        | 5,000.00   | 5,000.00   |
| Rise Ministries                  | 3,500.00   | 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             | 92.94      | 4,000.00   |
| Touch of Hope Haiti              | 0.00       | 7,000.00   |
| Vasileiadis,PavlosMeggan-Greece  | 3,500.00   | 7,000.00   |
| Village Northwest Unlimited      | 0.00       | 6,000.00   |
| Words of Hope                    | 0.00       | 28,000.00  |
| Total Commitments                | 57,374.92  | 186,500.00 |
| Mission and Service Projects     | 157.87     |            |
| RCA College Scholarships         | 750.00     | 750.00     |
| YTD Offerings Paid Out           | 16,732.98  |            |
| Total Expense                    | 75,015.77  | 187,250.00 |
| Net Ordinary Income              | -52,180.79 | 0.00       |
| Net Cash Flow                    | -52,180.79 | 0.00       |

Ending Cash Balance

\$ 38,144.84



# Professions of Faith

On June 29, Justina made her Profession of Faith. She is the daughter of Dan & Jennifer Van Regenmorter.

On July 6, Avery, Cambree & Carly De Hoogh made their Professions of Faith. They are the daughters of Gered & Gina De Hoogh and granddaughters of Gary & Nadine De



July

6-9

**Learning about  
Jesus - Fun - Games  
Crafts - Worship**





Rejoice



VBS  
2025  
was  
the

BOMB



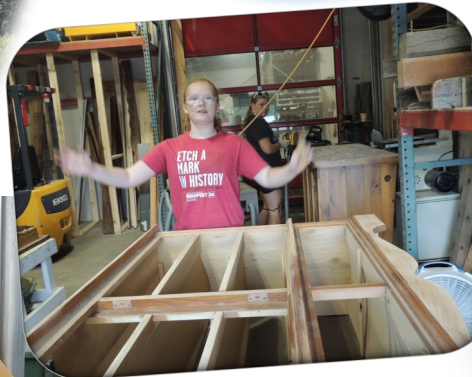
# Mission Trip 2025



**Rapid City,  
South Dakota**



**August 13-19**



**Work, fun &  
enjoying God's  
creation**



**Building relationships**





# Power Connection 2025



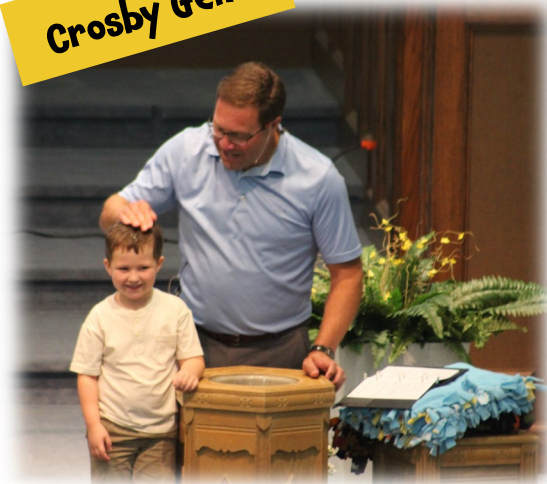
**August 22-24 Work camp**

**August 25-27 Power Connection  
at Bethel University in  
St. Paul, MN**

A big thanks to our  
sponsors - Nathan &  
Kristi Punt, Norma  
Van Gorp and Tyler &  
Elise Drenkow.

**BAPTISMS  
July 27, 2025**

**Crosby Gene**



**Jude Mark**



**Sons of Marty  
& Katie Van  
Peursem.**



# Important Church Information

- ◆ **WEBSITE:** [www.sheldonfirstreformed.com](http://www.sheldonfirstreformed.com)
- ◆ **WORSHIP VIDEO:** [www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/worshipservices.cfm](http://www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/worshipservices.cfm)
- ◆ **BULLETIN:** [www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/weeklybulletin.cfm](http://www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/weeklybulletin.cfm) **OR** paper copies are available in the bulletin box outside the north kitchen door along with the most recent Encore and devotional
- ◆ **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](http://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](http://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 712.324.2130 or email Pastor Paul at [paul@sheldonfirstreformed.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 712.324.2130 & 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.
- ◆ If you have moved, made changes to your emails or phone numbers, please contact the church office with the updated information by calling 712.324.2130 or emailing [frcsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:frcsecretary@outlook.com).
- ◆ **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 September Encore is Thursday, August 28.**

**NOTE:** To access videos & bulletins, note the above information in **green**. 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.

# 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  
standaide@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

Larry Vander Plaats - 712.348.4626  
plaats58@yahoo.com

## TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Brady Peters - 712.541.7640  
brdyptrs@gmail.com

## WOMEN TO WOMEN

Molly Sauer - 712.363.4268  
pmsauer12@gmail.com

## WORK GROUPS

Joyce Fedders - 712.539.9945  
jfedders@nethtc.net



# 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 you may be 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. contact your Care Elder or Deacon as well. In all these situations, an appropriate prayer to the Lord will be offered.

**The names of your Care Elder & Deacon are located above the group in which your last name falls.**

**Team 1: Bob Stellinga & Tyler Drenkow**

Ed Alons – Gered De Hoogh

**Team 2: Brad Bosma & Nathan Punt**

Jim De Jong – Betty Gonnerman

**Team 3: Leon Kleinwolterink & Marty Van Peurse**

Johnny Granstra – Shane Jager

**Team 4: Dixon Van Meeteren & Jared Schaeffer**

Luke Jenness – Jaci Martens

**Team 5: Larry Vander Plaats & Rodney Kruse**

Murray Martens – Carol Pomerence

**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 2:4-5*



### **Church Contact Information**

Church phone number: 712.324.2130

Email: frcsecretary@outlook.com

# News from our Missionaries

July 2025

Dear Friends,



Warm greetings from Yokohama, Japan. Thank you so much for your generous gifts and earnest prayers for our family and for the people of Japan.

Here is a bit about where we minister. The Christian population of Japan is said to be less than 1 percent. Fortunately, some polls suggest that some people have a generally positive image of Christianity. However, we are also facing difficult demographic trends:

1. Japan has a very low birthrate of just 1.15 children per/woman. This is well below the 2.1 TFR (Total Fertility Rate) necessary to replenish the population.
2. Japan's population has been in decline for the past 15 years. Last year, for the first time, new births fell to approximately 680,000 children. This rate of decline had been projected but not until 2039. Despite having generally good health care and longevity 1.6 million people died in Japan last year for a net loss of approximately 920,000 people.

These trends are impacting on the churches in a serious way. Many churches are struggling to survive.

Since 2007 we have been called to help raise up the next generation of Christians in Japan. Nathan continues his work at Ferris Girls' school (RCA founded), and Nozomi trains worship leaders for Children & Worship. Together we operate the Green House youth center, mainly for junior and senior high school students at the area mission schools, as well as for graduates.

When we see the statistics and the situation of the church, sometimes we are tempted to be discouraged. We cry out to the Lord, who says,

*A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out (Isaiah 42:3).*

We must keep our eyes on the Lord for he also says,

*What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.*

Please continue to pray for us so that we can follow Jesus searching for the little ones, even just one.

## Two Weddings

May was a joyful month for Nathan and Nozomi as there were two weddings. One of the Ferris graduates, Risa, whose baptism Nathan witnessed a couple of years ago, got married. Nathan was able to attend the wedding. When we think about the small number of young people in the church, it like a miracle to see a Christian couple come together to start a Christian home. We pray the Lord will grant them children. We thank God for allowing us to be a part of Risa's journey to faith.

The other wedding was that of our eldest son, Ken. God also provided him with a wonderful Christian woman named Kisaki. We praise God for raising Ken to be a man who follows the Lord. He was just 10 years old when our family was sent here to Yokohama Japan. Adjusting to the Japanese school system was not easy for him, but God guided and poured out so many blessings so that he could come to know the living Christ. Kisaki became Christian when she was studying in the U.S. Through her personal struggles, she entrusted

her life to Christ. They are thrilled to live together for God.

Both weddings were planned to give glory to God and to invite their non-Christian relatives and friends to see the goodness of the Lord. Both young couples are small lights, but they are shining in the darkness for people to see.

### Children and Worship

Nozomi continues training worship leaders. The Green House center provides a place and time for the worship leaders to share their experiences and encourage one another. Through this community of service, new trainees receive the courage to practice in front of others and eventually lead children in worship in many different contexts. It always surprises Nozomi how bold they can become to lead the program. The Holy Spirit gives them ideas and courage to tell the Bible stories and to lead the worship with children, their parents, and with the staff of various schools. One of the unique ways that God uses this ministry in Japan is that non-Christian parents and school staff also come to know God. Most Japanese do not grow up with Bible stories and typically do not take an interest. However, somehow the C&W program raises their interests and opens their hearts.

### Prayer requests and invitation

- Please continue praying for God's protection over the Green House youth center.
- Pray for the Japanese churches to be revitalized by the Spirit of the Lord.
- Ask the Lord if your church might be able to send a small mission team or even an individual or two to participate in the Green House programs. Your visit would also be an encouragement to our churches. Please consider Japan as a destination.

May the Lord continue to bless your church and your families.

For the gospel to the next generation,

Nathan and Nozomi Brownell

## Hello from the Pascals

**We are spending our summer in the USA, sharing about God's work in Moldova with churches and friends that partner with us in ministry.**

This summer we were invited to share at four different churches about ministry in Moldova. We have been to three so far and are looking forward to Victory in Lynden this Sunday. Each church, Antioch in North Carolina, our sending church Redeemer and Rome Community Bible Church in Washington State, have been such a wonderful experience. Thank you for supporting us and caring for us. More importantly, thank you preaching the good news of Jesus in your communities. We love experiencing churches that want Jesus glorified throughout the world.

We will be in Washington State until August 18th and then head back to Moldova to begin soccer, school and other ministries. Pray that we stay healthy, have easy travel and that God is glorified through all of the updates we give while here in the U.S.

Pray that we see more supporters added to our team.

*Sasha & Sara, Adela and Miroslav*



*A core principle of the Christian faith is to love and serve others. Love INC provides a way for churches to connect with community members in need and offer meaningful support.*

## April - June 2025 Ministry Report

**182**

local Christian volunteers were mobilized to provide service or connect with those with needs in our community!

**28**

different churches were represented by these volunteers!

Your church's involvement is listed on the reserve side of this sheet.

**589**

hours were served by these local Christian volunteers!

### Volunteers served in the following ways:



distributed household furniture and other housewares to those in our community living without

**150**  
items!



provided rides to medical, counseling, and dental appointments for people in need of rides

**80**  
rides!



served through the Life Together ministry. This ministry equips community members with new skills, encouragement, and accountability as they look to lead quality and productive lives.

**50**  
class meetings!



88 adults and 58 children benefited from receiving furniture or other housewares or rides to appointments



43 adults and children attended the Life Together ministry (life skills classes, financial mentoring, and life coaching)

# 2025 April - June

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## First Reformed Church

**Janice Vander Pol** volunteers each week through the Life Together ministry, using her financial knowledge to equip others. She volunteered 27 hours in this role last quarter!

**Ingetta Tutje** volunteers in the Love INC. She served 204 hours in this role last quarter!

**Steve and Katie Van Beek** taught a 10 week class through the Life Together ministry.

**Sue Fonkert, Cindy Hassebroek, Wendy Peelen, and Gina Van Wyk** served in the childcare rooms at Life Together so parents could attend life skills classes. Together, they invested more than 19 hours of time into the lives of children in our community!

**Larry Sterk** served as a life coach through the Life Together ministry.

**Sue Fonkert** serves on the board of directors.

**Cindy Hassebroek, Dee Van Beek, and Dixon Van Meeteren** provided transportation to ensure people were able to attend medical appointments.

**Katie Van Beek, Renee Van Velzen, Wendy Vander Plaats, and Dianne Wolthuizen** provided refreshments for volunteers and community members attending the Life Together ministry.

### Your church's financial support of the Love INC partnership:

| 2025       | 2024       | 2023       | 2022       | 2021       |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| \$3,499.98 | \$7,150.00 | \$7,150.00 | \$8,916.47 | \$6,600.00 |

# Korver Mission Update - July 2025



A year ago we were eagerly anticipating a long-term move to serve in the Philippines with Ethnos360 Aviation, where Jake would be flying an R66 helicopter to sustain roadless church-plant locations. This followed six years of nearly full-time training and four moves. However, prenatal ultrasounds and the subsequent birth of our daughter Meredith in December 2024 revealed that her right femur was, and still is, half the length of her left one. It has been challenging to process all of what this means in our future. Specialists have told us that her limb discrepancy is “severe” and that if nothing were to be done, at maturity the difference would be around *10 inches* – geometry that would drastically affect her mobility. Along with mission leadership and others, the decision was made that we would stay in the US for a while as we embark on a very drawn-out and complex medical journey to address this discrepancy and give Meredith the best mobility possible for the rest of her life. We are so thankful the Lord faithfully goes before us and that His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Right now we are in a period of letting her little body grow and are periodically getting new imagery of her hips/legs. Around the end of this year we anticipate Meredith being fitted for a “foot-on-foot” prosthesis to allow her to learn how to walk. Around the end of 2026 we anticipate her first operation – a hip reconstruction. Following that will be lots of therapy and something like 12-15 surgeries throughout her childhood to slowly lengthen the right femur.



*Not Meredith. Example of what's next.*



*Jake gets to train pilots like Nathan.*

We remain as member missionaries with Ethnos360 and still consider ourselves part of their Aviation team; although, for the foreseeable future we are “seconded” to Proclaim Aviation Ministries in Worthington, MN, where Jake is the main flight instructor/mentor pilot for the lower-experience pilots who are working their way to the mission field. There have been lots of different types of flights associated with this role. Lately, Jake has been averaging more than 50 flight hours per month across six different airplane types, which is a lot. Brittany continues to keep the ship afloat at home with the kids.

Currently there is no involvement with helicopters, but we trust that God does not waste anything and that there was a reason why He led us through the helicopter training right before our change of plans. It has already allowed Jake to speak into certain things and answer questions coming from pilots working their way towards the mission field.

## Prayers:

- Praise God for a perfect housing solution near Worthington! Moving soon.
- Pray for contentment and focus in this shift in ministry.
- Pray for Meredith's leg to grow at a faster rate than anyone could expect.

Learn more, sign up for emails, & find giving instructions at [www.korvermission.com](http://www.korvermission.com)

## Thank you!

Contact us at [jake\\_korver@ntm.org](mailto:jake_korver@ntm.org) or call/text 712-348-1583

# AUGUST 2025

| SUN                                                                                                                                         | MON                                                            | TUE | WED                                   | THU                                                                                      | FRI | SAT |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| <b>Vacations:</b><br>Pastor Paul: 7/28-8/3<br>Caitie: 8/1-8/7<br><b>No Children &amp; Worship this month</b>                                |                                                                |     |                                       |                                                                                          | 1   | 2   |
| 3<br><b>8 AM Praise Team Practice</b><br>No C&W<br>Message - Ken Snyder                                                                     | 4<br>6 PM Congregational Care Mtg<br>6:30 PM Hands of Hope Mtg | 5   | 6                                     | 7<br>7 AM Executive Team Mtg                                                             | 8   | 9   |
| 10<br><b>8 AM Praise Team Practice</b><br>No C&W                                                                                            | 11                                                             | 12  | 13                                    | 14<br>4:30-6 PM Sheldon Food Truck @ Living Water                                        | 15  | 16  |
| 17 <b>8 AM Praise Team Prac</b><br>No C&W<br>Baptism: Nora Cooper<br>Jim Iwema update on Reformed Mission Services<br>Q&A following service | 18<br>5:30-6:30 PM Sheldon Unity Meal @ Living Water           | 19  | 20<br><b>1:30 PM Afternoon Circle</b> | 21<br>6:30 PM Elder/Deacons Mtgs<br><b>7 PM Evening Circle</b><br>7:30 PM Consistory Mtg | 22  | 23  |
| 24<br><b>10:30 AM End of Summer Service</b><br><b>Music by "Happy the Dog"</b><br>Catered Meal after Service                                | 25<br><b>1st Day of School</b>                                 | 26  | 27                                    | 28                                                                                       | 29  | 30  |
| 31<br><b>No Service @ FRC</b><br>10 AM Community Worship Service @ Risefest Grounds                                                         |                                                                |     |                                       |                                                                                          |     |     |