

To drop off items in the kitchen when the church is not open, use the code provided to you by your work group leader.

# Family Night Meal - 5:00-6:30 PM

Oct 1 Taverns, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Cookies

[6 people bring 2 dozen cookies] Goulash, Veggie, Bread, Bars

Oct 8 Goulash, Veggie, Bread, Bars
[7 people bring 9x13 pan of bars]

Oct 15 Creamed Chicken/Bun, Chips, Oreo Fluff, Cake

[7 people bring 9x13 cake]

Oct 22 Hot Beef, Corn, Brownies

[7 people bring 9x13 pan of brownies]

Oct 29 Pulled Pork/Bun, Baked Beans, Cheesy Potatoes, Bars

[7 people bring 9x13 pan of bars]

Items that are to be brought in by work group members will follow the meal for that night (in bold lettering). Please have donated items here between 10 AM to 4 PM on Tuesday. If you can't get items to the church during this time period, call the church office & make arrangements with Wendy.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL FROZEN FOOD FUNDRAISER

On October 1, sales sheets will be distributed to the Middle School youth group. They will be selling a variety of items like mini donuts, pies, soups, pizzas, cookies and more. See a later page for pictures. Youth will have a table set up with samples following the church service on October 5. Students will also take orders from anyone interested in ordering that day, and again on October 12 & 19 as well. Frozen food sales will end on October 22. Delivery of items will be November 15. Please note that this is one of the primary ways the Middle School youth group funds its activities, so your purchases are very much appreciated!



# **OCTOBER 5**

Come partake of communion with other believers around the world at our 9:30 AM worship service.



If you are unable to attend the morning service you are invited to share communion with those at the Christian Retirement Home at 6 PM.

# **OCTOBER 8**

Both the Middle School and High School youth groups will be going to "Fields of Fun".

Middle School: be here @ 5:45 PM to load vans Departure time: 6 PM

Return time: approximately 8:15 PM High School: be here @ 6:45 PM to load bus

Departure time: 7 PM
Return time: approximately 9:15 PM

Bring money if you want to buy snacks. Entrance fees are covered.





# MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

DATE: Thursday, October 9 TIME: 4:30-6:00 PM LOCATION: Living Water Church

Bring a box for your groceries.

If you have lightly used (or new) adult or kids coats that you would like to donate, please drop off the clean coats at Love INC at 611 Park Row, Sheldon.

Distribution dates: October 9 &

November 13

These dates are in conjunction with the Iowa Food Bank distribution held at Living Water Church.



ABOVE ARE PICTURES OF SOME OF THE ITEMS BEING SOLD BY THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP FOR THEIR FUNDRAISER.

START DATE: OCTOBER 1 -- ENDING DATE: OCTOBER 22 DELIVERY DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

# PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

The children will begin practicing their songs for the Christmas Program, on December 21, starting on October 12 in their singing time. If you plan to have your child participate in the Christmas program, it is important to have your children attend Sunday school as much as possible so they can learn the songs. If you have any questions, please contact Sami@sheldonfirstreformed.com or Norma @ 712.631.0977.



# Dates Choir will sing

- October 19
- November 9
- December 7

It is not too late to join the adult choir. Practices are on Wednesday nights at 7:30-8:15 PM. We would love to have you join us in song! If you have any questions, call JoElyn @ 712.441.0168.

# SOME HELP NEEDED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

We have had an amazing response to filling our needs for teachers, helpers & volunteers for Awana, Sunday School and youth. However, we still are in need of:

- ◆ 3rd grade co-teacher for Sunday School
- Games leader for Awana until harvest is done
  - Safety leaders for Awana
  - Substitute teachers for Sunday School
  - 2 sponsors for the High School youth group

If you are able to help in one of these areas, call the church office. If you have questions, contact Sami at sami@sheldonfirstreformed.com or Caitie at caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com.

# Middle School Lock-in

When: Friday, October 17 & Saturday, October 18 Time: 9 PM - 7:30 AM Where: Youth House

All students will need to have a parent come and sign an expectation sheet when they are dropped off.

DATE: Monday, October 20 TIME: 5:30-6:30 PM LOCATION: Living Water Church

Bring your friends and enjoy the meal and fellowship. The meal is a come and go buffet style meal. A bag of groceries is available to take

Sheldon Area Uni/y Meal



home with you after you have had your meal. Bring a friend and enjoy some food and fellowship.



Fall is here and that means it is time to update our church directory. If you have begun attending FRC this year, your picture can be included, so everyone, can put your face with your name. If you would like to update a picture or if you want to add a picture because you only have contact information in the directory, please make a submission. Pictures can be submitted to Wendy Peelen at frcsecretary@outlook.com.

If you like, a picture can be taken of you. Please let Wendy Peelen know and we will schedule a time that works for you and the photographer, Wendy Vander Plaats. Pictures must completed by October 15. If you have any questions, please contact Renee Van Velzen at 712.441.6967.

# **CREATIVE MOVEMENT**

Look for a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table. It is open to kids in grades 1 - 6. Please provide contact information - name, parents name & phone number.

Practices will be on Sundays from 5:00-5:30 PM in the sanctuary.

The first practice will be on Sunday, November 9.

# THE FALL SCHEDULE IS:

November 9: practice November 16: practice November 23: practice

November 30: NO PRACTICE

December 7: practice
December 14: performance



# Trunk of Treat Date: Friday, October 31 Time: 4:30-6:30 PM Location: In the FRC north parking lot Decorate your trunk and bless the community in the name of Jesus with candy and fun!

Please sign up at the Welcome Table!

Oct 1 Oct 2	Cleiton Zanela Jen Sawyer Amanda Christians Brittany Holtrop	Oct 14	Marlene Heerde Peggy Jager Kristi Punt Kathi Stellinga		Craig Van Meeteren Maison Oostra Piper Drenkow Marv Donkersloot
Oct 3	Mason Sauer		Aniston De Ğroot	Oct 27	Donna Schaeffer
Oct 4	Marsha Sterk Lyle Van Heuvelen	Oct 16	Preston Wolthuizen Ethan de Boer		Dulcie Mouw Camden Hofmeyer
Oct 5	Dennis Van Meeteren	Oct 18	Millie Vos - 91	Oct 28	Jerry Wolthuizen
	Roger Helgerson		Dee Van Beek	_	Hadley Van Peursem
	Joe Wildeman		Marv Nieuwendorp		Ellen Van Maaren
	Melissa Mouw		Larry Vander Plaats	Oct 31	Mary Swoyer
Oct 6	Brandon Krukow		Chelsey Wolthuizen		
Oct 7	Makena Oostra	Oct 19	Katie Vander Naald		
	Clay Kruse		Kylie Schnoor		· <b>《米</b> * 6 * 6 * 6 * 6 * 6 * 6 * 6 * 6 * 6 *
Oct 8	Dee Helgerson		Keaton Mouw		HAPPY
	Mark Ten Kley	Oct 21	Marvin De Bruin		PINIMDAY 1
Oct 9			Rachel ledema		<b>* * *</b>
Oct 10	Janice Vander Pol	Oct 22	Laura Kruse		<b>4</b>
Oct 11	Arlan Van Wyk		Cael Christians		Octoben
	Logan M Van Meeteren	Oct 24	Renee Bork		Wy co chi
Oct 12	Gretchen Bosma		Dayten Van Beek		**************************************
Oct 13	Jared Schaeffer		Quinn Walker		



Oct 6 Lee & Darla Reuvers—18

Oct 7 Darren & Amanda De Groot—19

Oct 11 Bob & Linda Stellinga – 50

Oct 14 Lyle & Melissa Laubach–37

Oct 17 Larry & Eileen Fedders-55

Oct 20 Arnie & Glenda Hoogers—58 Jay & Darla Van Wyk—35 Matt & Dawn Meyer—24

Jared & Cally Holtrop—7

Oct 21 Todd & Sheila Van Beek—30 Oct 23 Mike & Kristin Oldenkamp—26

Oct 25 Bob & Peggy Jager – 51

Oct 30 Mary & Luann Donkersloot - 66



Dear Friends,

Than you to all who contributed time and treasure to the Labor Day Outreach. We had a great presence in the parade with the float. We gave out 4,000 pencils that say, "Jesus loves you!". 500 band-aid packs with the FRC website QR code, and 500 reusable cold packs with the QR code.

~ Thanks for helping

FRC,

During the Clay County Fair a young lady stopped at the Touch of Hope booth and asked if we had a Bible she could understand. She explained that she has a learning disability and often struggles when reading scripture. We spent some time together looking at options, and she quickly fell in love with the NIV Quest Study Bible.

When we talked about the price, she realized she had just enough to cover it. But when I asked if she had eaten lunch yet, she said she would rather skip lunch than miss the chance to have the Bible. That's when I told her about the Bible Fund and the we could help cover the cost. With tears in her eyes, she was overjoyed.

I want to thank the church for making this possible. Because of the Bible Fund, we were able to be the hands and feet of Jesus—meeting people right where they are!

~ Julie Heerde

It has been a long journey helping Jan live the best life possible. Thanks a lot for all the visits, prayers, cards, memorial gifts and words of support during this time. All were greatly appreciated. Thanks be to God for nearly reaching 68 years together with the one I loved. Thanks to all who brought cakes and served the meal. Thanks to Pastor Paul for the message and special music, and to all those who helped me carry Jan to the gravesite. Also thanks for the Gideon Bibles donated in her memory. God is good!

~ Love to all, Don Dykshoorn

# **TEC#17**

# Weekend of November 21-23, 2025 First Presbyterian Church, Sibley, Iowa

REGISTER FOR A HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME! Tri-State Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is accepting candidate applications for the upcoming weekend at the First Presbyterian Church in Sibley, Iowa. TEC is an interdenominational three-day Christian retreat designed to help high schoolers learn more about faith in Jesus Christ. If you would like to register for TEC or learn more, please visit <u>www.TriStateTEC.org</u> or email TriStateTEC@gmail.com. The cost is \$50 and includes a t-shirt & other special gifts. Scholarships are available upon request.



# Minutes of the Consistory Meeting - First Reformed Church, Sheldon, IA Thursday, September 18, 2025

Those present:

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

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

Absent:

Elders: None Deacons: None

- A. Pastor Paul called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
- B. Pastor Paul offered opening prayer and devotions from Mark 1:35.
  - Exhortation to have a daily quiet time with Jesus.
  - 2. We need to make it a priority in our lives.
- C. Roll Call & Approval of minutes from August 21, 2025.
  - 1. Motion Made Supported & Carried (MMSC) to approve.
- D. Celebrations and Thanksgivings were discussed.
  - 1. 90 kids are registered for Awana.
  - Thank you to Sami Fox.
- E. F. Report from Deacons meeting given by Brady Peters.
- Report from Elders meeting given by Mike Kleinwolterink.
- G.
  - We have had some unforeseen bumps in Awana kick-off, but we are moving forward in a positive direction.
- New Business
  - 1. The Consistory encouraged Pastor Paul to speak on the recent events from the pulpit. The assassination of Charlie Kirk and the murder in Charlotte of a young lady have both on video feeds and social media, etc. They have caused trauma and a great range of emotions, especially among young people.
  - 2. We have a generation of nihilistic behavior among our youth, and we need to have a biblical response and stand strong in our faith in the word of God.
  - 3. After discussion, Pastor Paul decided it would be appropriate and right to speak on the matter this Sunday, September 21.
- Financial reports provided by Evan De Hoogh and were discussed.
  - 1. MMSC to approve.
- Committee Reports were discussed.
  - MMSC to approve.
- Next Meeting: October 21, 2025 Prayer - Marty Van Peursem
- Adjourn: MMSC to adjourn at 8:20 PM.
- Jared Schaeffer closed in prayer.

# General Fund - September 2025

	Aug 25	Jan - Aug 25	Annual Budget
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 58,500.66		
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
General Fund	60,416.74	414,672.83	587,810.06
Interest Income	31.58	394.97	
Total Income	60,448.32	415,067.80	587,810.06
Gross Profit	60,448.32	415,067.80	587,810.06
Expense			
Alliance Dues	0.00	9,584.89	19,000.00
Congregational Care	86.36	3,950.22	17,000.00
Education	2,220.18	15,898.63	21,850.00
Facilities & Grounds	13,239.81	66,580.08	128,000.00
General and Consistory	3,966.45	14,983.90	15,600.00
Office	1,189.87	11,729.58	21,645.00
Outreach	1,613.59	13,397.72	24,300.00
Payroll Expenses	22,358.12	192,978.79	331,365.06
Safety & Security	0.00	15.00	
Transfer Out	0.00	45,000.00	
Worship	572.71	2,021.01	4,100.00
Youth Groups	76.57	1,118.74	4,950.00
Total Expense	45,323.66	377,258.56	587,810.06
Net Ordinary Income	15,124.66	37,809.24	0.00
Net Cash Flow	15,124.66	37,809.24	0.00

from https://christian.moral-stories.com/2014/03/ freedom-faith-and-fellowship.html

A talented teacher used to start his class by stating a story and raising a query to arouse in the students an interest in the subject of study. The students of the school admired his style of teaching and listened to him with ardent attention. They answered his questions with innocence and he listened to them with patience.

Once he had to teach them about the struggle for freedom led by the leaders of the nation. He narrated a story to introduce the concept of freedom, liberation and independence. "A prisoner had to spend several years in prison. After years of painful confinement within the prison bars, he was released. Returning to his native village, he saw a man selling caged birds to customers passing along the road. He saw the scene and rushed to the man. He purchased the caged birds by paying all the money he had with him. Then he opened the cages and let the birds fly high in the sky and return to their natural nests.

Continued on next page

**Ending Cash Balance** 

\$ 73,625.32

# THE EAGLE AND THE WOODCUTTER

from www.sharingexperience.com

There lived a kind woodcutter in a village. He once freed an eagle from a trap. One day he went to the hills to cut trees for wood. The hill was steep, so the woodcutter could not come down and needed help.

Upset, he sat down on the rock and waited for some help. Suddenly, an eagle flew down close to him and took away his hat. The woodcutter was angry and he started chasing the bird. After some time, he realized he had found the way down the hill.

It occurred to him that the bird was the same eagle he had once rescued. He now understood why the eagle flew away with his hat. He thanked the eagle for its brilliant idea and said, "You took away my hat so that I can follow you and reach here. You are a true friend. Thank you!"

Moral: Kindness is always rewarded. We should always help others selflessly.



Lower Level Renovation	9/25
	Aug 31, 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
General Fund	
Lower Level Renovation	245,272.99
Total General Fund	245,272.99
Transfer In	
Endowment Interest	7,575.00
Total Transfer In	7,575.00
Total Income	252,847.99
Gross Profit	252,847.99
Expense	
Facilities & Grounds	
<b>Building Improvements</b>	
Lower Level Renovations	238,857.18
Total Building Improvements	238,857.18
<b>Total Facilities &amp; Grounds</b>	238,857.18
Total Expense	238,857.18
Net Ordinary Income	13,990.81
Net Cash Flow	13,990.81

# Benevolent Fund - September 2025

	Ja	n - Aug 25	Budget
Beginning Cash Balance as of January 1, 2025	\$	90,325.63	
Ordinary Income/Expense	•	00,020.00	
Income			
Benevolent Fund		27,223.98	187,250.00
Missions		1,100.00	
Sunday School		776.00	
Total Income		29,099.98	187,250.00
Gross Profit		29,099.98	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
Grooters, Jay & Amy-Costa Rica		3,500.00	7,000.00
Harlan Moss-SD Prison Ministry		3,500.00	7,000.00
Inspiration Hills		2,500.00	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		4,083.31	7,000.00
Mission & Service Projects		11,619.28	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		61,295.53	186,500.00
RCA College Scholarships		750.00	750.00
YTD Offerings Paid Out		14,582.98	
Total Expense		76,628.51	187,250.00
Net Cook Flow		-47,528.53	0.00
Net Cash Flow		-47,528.53	0.00
Ending Cash Balance	\$	42,797.10	

# FREEDOM (continued)

After telling this story, the teacher asked the children, "Now tell me, why did he buy the caged birds and let the birds free to fly in the air?" The students thought deeply. One of them replied innocently, "Sir, it was because he needed only the empty cages!" The teacher was lost for words.

But in the Christian concept, true freedom is a kind of voluntary bondage. It is obtained only in outright obedience to Almighty God and the filial fellowship with His children. The Psalmist declares, "In my distress I called to the Lord; He answered me and set me free." {Psalms 118:5}.

Jesus said to those who believed in Him, "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" {John 8:31-32}. "If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free." {John 8:36}.

St. Paul exhorts us to preserve our freedom: "Freedom is what we have – Christ has set us free! Stand, then, as free people, and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again" {Galatians 5:1}. He adds that the gift of freedom should promote the spirit of love, service and charity, "You were called to be free. But do not let this freedom become an excuse for letting your physical desires control you. Instead, let love make you serve one another." {Galatians 5:13}.

Written by Dr. Babu Philip



# 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**

Larry Vander Plaats - 712.348.4626 plaats58@yahoo.com

# TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Brady Peters - 712.541.7640 brdyptrs@gmail.com

# WOMEN TO WOMEN

Brenna Haack - 712.441.0050 brennahaack@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 Peursem 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 Pomerenke
- 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

"Building God's

kingdom one life at a

time."



Church Contact Information Church phone number: 712.324.2130 Email: frcsecretary@outlook.com

- 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 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
- E-GIVING LINK: Text the word "SFRC" to the number 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.
- PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISES: Call the church office at 712.324.2130 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.
- MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL: Follow us on Instagram & Facebook @ Fresheldonstudent ministries for upcoming activities & any updates. To be added to the email list please email Caitie at caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com.
- BRIEDRICH BEREICHER BEREICH BEREICHER BEREICHER BEREICHER BEREICHER BEREICHER BEREICHER BEREICH BE DURING THE WEEK: The church is open from 7AM-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 fresecretary@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 November Encore is Wednesday, October 29.

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.

# Missionary News

# Pascals in Moldova

# Soccer Ministry Kick Off

We began bi-weekly practices with three teams: U16, U13 and Legacy Junior. Each week, alongside soccer, we share a devotional from the Word of God. Below is a list of names, please pray for them and their families.

- LEGACY JUNIOR: ages 7-11
   Artiom, Bogdan, Valeria, Vinor, Cosmin, Alma, Lia, Adela, Iurie, Amelia, Isabella, Artiom, Daniil, Daniel, Lera, Iasmina, Ksenia, Liza and Marious
- FC KEGACY U13: ages 11-13
   Maxim, Cristian, Vlad, Georgel, Bogdan, Nichita, Vadim, Miroslav, Antip, Razvan, David, Danil, Darius and Nichita
- FC LEGACY U16: ages 13-16
  Denis, Nikita, Iuliana, Alexandru, Adrian, Nikita, Valentin, Daniil, Nicolae, Leonardo and Laurentiu

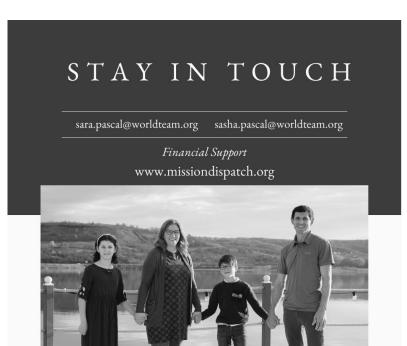


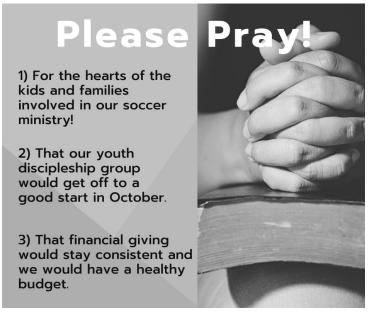
# Bring a Team!

Is your church, youth group or family looking for ways to serve overseas, use your passions for the gospel to help an ongoing mission, or see needs in other parts of the world? Come spend ten days with us in Moldova, serving the kids and youth in our neighborhood! To learn more, send us a quick email and we will send our short-term service trips opportunity form.

There are summer ministries we would love to do but we need your help!

Get started mobilizing a short-term team now!





# NICOLE IN NICARAGUA

SEPTEMBER 2025



Friends, God really does have a sense of humor sometimes. As I look back on the past few months, I am reminded of just how much He cares for us, both in our greatest needs and biggest desires.

When I was growing up, I used to BEG my parents for a pet. My mom, being very allergic to all things furry, would tell us, "When you have your own house, you can have your own pet." But as a kid, adulthood felt so far away. Now, it seems like God is making up for lost time.

Not only do I have my dog and two cats at my home, but I get some puppy love at work, too! There are three big labs (Onyx, Oso, and Canela) who serve as therapeutic dogs during the day, and guard dogs at night.

For whatever reason, these dogs love me (I promise I did not bribe them with treats!). During staff devotional time, they often sit next to me, and throughout the day, they will sleep under my desk. Recently, Onyx has been especially affectionate, and decided to be a lap dog for an afternoon. I don't think he realizes just how big he is!

It seems like a such a small thing, but it brings me so much joy each day to pull up to work and be happily greeted by the dogs.

# Ministry Updates

God did not just bring me joy in the dogs at work, but also my new teammates. They are a BIG answer to prayer!

Kate (left), Paola (middle), and myself make up the communications team. Kate manages our volunteers, Paola our sponsorship program, and myself the donor relations.

Good teammates make a HUGE difference in ministry.
I am so grateful that I am part of a team where I can share ideas, openly ask for help, and laugh with each other every day.

I recently had the opportunity to travel with a group and interpret for them. We visited several families to hear about how their church was becoming a more inclusive place thanks to working with Tesoros de Dios.

Living in Nicaragua and working with visiting groups, I have interpreted A LOT

over the past few years, but never have I ever had more fun translating than for Adriana.

Adriana is a very sassy 10-year-old who experienced bullying at school because of her Attention Deficit Disorder. As she was sharing, she would say things like:

I would tell the mean girls at my old school,
'What? Have you never seen a girl with glasses before?
Have you never looked in the mirror? We all have defects!
Just because I wear glasses and have crooked teeth
doesn't mean you can make fun of me!'

I was in tears having to translate for her from laughing so hard. I am happy to share she has switched schools, which has led her to have lots of new friends. She also attends kids programming at her church, where she gets to learn about God in an accessible and inclusive environment.

Friends, this month's newsletter is full of the highlights of life abroad. There are mountaintops and there are valleys, but right now, I feel like I'm just in a really sweet spot. I can see where the Lord has shown favor and has affirmed this new partnership with Tesoros de Dios, while recognizing the ways in which we can grow and have good vision for the future.

I am humbled to be part of this ministry and honored to have you partner with me!

# Prayer Requests

- PRAISE for this new partnership, it has been a blessing to me in so many ways already.
- As we grow under a new director, may God guide our steps.
- I am currently looking for new housing here in Managua. May the Lord provide just the perfect place for me to live.



Many Blessings,

Nicole Opgenorth

# ROCK VALLEY URC FLOOD RELIEF UPDATE

At the time of writing (June 3, 2025), I am watching a light rain fall in early June. Yesterday, a thunderstorm came through our region of northwest lowa with several inches accumulating in some towns. There was even a flash flood warning. We give praise to the Lord for answered prayers in replenishing the dry ground for the crops, but all this rain gives pause also to revere the Lord in awe and godly fear.

It was one year ago, on June 22, that an extended period of heavy rainfall brought the Rock River to crest over some twenty-seven feet in our region. The nearby Little Sioux River crested twenty-one feet, while the Big Sioux reached forty-six. The devastation was widespread. Along with the community of Rock Valley, several of the members of our United Reformed Church received damage in their homes, ranging from minor to complete loss. The basement of our church building also needed extensive repair, which we thought might take a few years before it could be restored.

It was at this time that RMS came to our congregation at the United Reformed Church. Volunteers from all over North America arrived within the week to bring aid, support, and elbow grease. Many cheerful givers sent relief by way of funds to assist in the restoration of homes and the church basement. At this point, almost a year later, the church is approximately 99.9% complete (rebuilt to be more "flood-friendly" to minimize damage, should our new flood-response procedures fail). The lives of congregants have returned to normal, but with further reasons to praise the name of the Lord in His steadfast love and mercy unto His people. That has been the wondrous fruit of this entire time of trial. Praise and thankfulness. Not primarily for the financial provision and help in physical labor (though we are very, very grateful), but praise and thankfulness for the communion of the saints (as in Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35). Christ's love was shown to us and our community through His body during our time of great need. And we praise and thank God for RMS - yes, for its organizational skills in connecting and mobilizing the saints, but also for being there, praying with us, checking in, answering questions, and so much more.

Thank you for demonstrating our Lord's words in Matthew 25:36-40, "I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

On behalf of the Council and congregation of Rock Valley United Reformed Church, Rev. Caleb Castro June 03, 2025



# Current Projects

At Reformed Mission Services (RMS), we are grateful to support ministries and missionaries around the world. We do this by raising funds for projects that will help Churches and other ministries to spread the gospel and serve local communities.

Thanks to God's providence through your generous donations, RMS has been blessed to raise money to help with the purchase of land and materials for new church buildings, ministry centers, and other facilities. At times, it is more cost-effective to send funds directly to the missionaries or ministries, who then hire local workers for construction. This helps boost the local economy. Other times, we assemble groups of volunteers to work through the local church, and alongside the local people, which benefits both the team and the local church.

Below is a brief summary of the projects we are currently seeking financial support. To explore more details and see how you can get involved, visit rms.org/projects or email Rob at rob@rms.org.

# Upcoming Trip/Project -Funds and Volunteers Needed!-

# **Dominican Republic - Church Roofs**

- Cost: \$45,000 (\$15,000 each for three churches)
- Raised: \$14,000Remaining: \$31,000
- Description: Replacing wooden roofs with concrete roofs for three churches in the Sabana Grande de Boya region.
   RMS will send volunteers to assist with the work Jan.
   2026. Learn more at (rms.org/dominican-republic).
   These roofs will allow the church to expand by adding more levels over time.

# **Domestic Projects**

# Carbondale, PA - Covenant Reformed

- Cost: \$45,000
- Description: Renovations for a recently purchased building for Sunday School, Bible Study, and community outreach

## West Michigan - Ministry Center

- Cost: \$600,000
- Description: Constructing a shared ministry center for Reformed Fellowship, RYS, and IRBC

# **Global Projects**

# Africa & Philippines - Student Aid

- Cost: \$7,000
- Description: Funds to provide LOGOS Bible software and internet service to seminary students through Heidelberg Theological Seminary

#### Liberia - New Church Building

- Cost: \$8,000
- Description: Constructing a new church building for the local congregation in partnership with the Presbyterian Reformed Denomination

# El Salvador - Seminary Construction

- Cost: \$20,000
- Description: Perimeter fence and foundations for a seminary to train local pastors and laypeople

# Mexico - Church & Parsonage Upgrades

- Cost: \$30,000
- Raised: \$8,200
- Remaining: \$21,800
- Description: Upgrades and improvements to church facilities and parsonages in Villahermosa

# Nepal - Aashish Church & Clinic

- Cost: \$60,000
- Description: Building a new church and onsite clinic for people from 12 area villages

# **Darjeeling Hills Bible College**

- Cost: \$80,000
- Description: Completion of the Mount Zion School building for accreditation with the local state government

#### Costa Rica - Los Cuadros Church

- Cost: \$13,500
- Raised: \$4,250
- Remaining: \$8,750
- Description: Phase 2 involves soil testing, permitting, and perimeter fencing for church construction

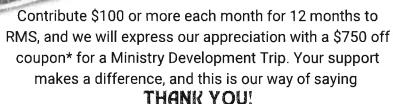
#### **Peru - Various Church Proiects**

- **El Carmen**: \$10,000 for the first floor of a new church building
- Alto Qosqo: \$10,000 to complete the construction of a new church sanctuary
- Picchu: \$6,000 for a new metal roof for the existing church structure
- Challwacocha & Huacahuasi: \$1,000 for cementing church walls to protect against rain damage

<u>Visit rms.org/powerful-giving to explore how you can give in a way that may increase your impact — and potentially offer significant tax benefits.</u>

Give Monthly & Get \$750 Toward a Ministry Development Trip!





\*Coupon details and restrictions apply.

Learn more and start giving today at rms.org/monthly

# WUPCOMING MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT TRIPS

**Japan** Nov. 13-25, 2025

Visit <u>rms.org/trips</u> to learn more about upcoming opportunities to help build the Church abroad! Haiti

2026 if possible

Mexico

Multiple sites and dates in 2026!

Costa Rica

DV in 2026

Dominican Republic

January 6-14, 2026

Peru

Dec. 1-11, 2025

To request additional copies of this newsletter, please reach out to us at rms.org/connect







6607 Center Industrial Dr.

Jenison, MI 49428
616.466.8214 contact@rms.org



# **Prayer Warrior**

Annville Institute/Grace Covenant Ministries
PO Box 340, Annville, KY 40402
Phone 606-364-5151

Email: contact@gcmannvilleinstitute.com
September 2025

# "You Meant It for Evil, God Meant It for Good" "Beauty from Ashes"

The above two sayings (from Genesis 50:20 and Isaiah 61:3) have been resonating among our staff and board of directors since the fire that destroyed Lincoln Hall on the evening of July 30. As we begin the cleanup of the rubble, it is challenging to envision beauty. However, we are reminded of God's sovereignty. We are grateful that no one was injured and that the adjacent buildings were spared from the blaze.

A significant amount of ashes ended up in our nearby swimming pool, which created operational issues with the filtration system. As a result, we decided to close the pool for the year to carry out extensive repairs. Several end-of-the-year parties had to be canceled because of this situation. However, an idea emerged to host a "Back to School Bash." We rented some inflatables, and students and their families had a fantastic time at the event. It turned into a wonderful celebration that arose from the "ashes". We are now considering making this an annual event.

Our vision statement is "Impacting a broken and hurting world with the Christ of redeeming love." This reminds us that God can bring beauty from our brokenness, which is especially evident in our Project Restart program. This initiative allows us to work with selected inmates from the local detention center. Under our supervision, these inmates assist in unloading trucks at our thrift store and help with campus cleanup. Through our interactions with them, the inmates learn to trust us, and we have the opportunity to share the Gospel message—illustrating that our Lord is willing to forgive and will never fail us. It's a story of hope, a story of beauty emerging from our brokenness.

We do ask for your prayers, as we continue to navigate through the aftermath of the fire, for protection as we go through the cleanup process, and as we seek God's guidance on how to replace the building. Thank you for your partnership with us.







**Back to School Bash** 

# PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER September, 2025



"Who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory." Ephesians 1:11-12

God's ways are so much higher than our ways! Isaiah 55:9 says, "So are My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." He is working all things according to His will, and God gets all the glory! Some people do the sowing, some people do the watering, but God gives the increase! God is the One who works in the hearts of people to save their souls!

Jason wanted to visit with me, because he just found out several days earlier about the death of his friend. He and his friend had been motorcycling buddies for many years. Jason said, "This was the third friend I have lost due to a motorcycle accident. When I was in jail last week, I asked him on the phone if he could help my mother with a window air-conditioner that she needed. He was glad to help her, but that afternoon he was killed in a motorcycle accident. Then when I talked with my eleven-year-old son, he said, 'Dad, God is working everything out for our good. You are where you need to be right now!' That broke my heart! After going to your Bible study and church service, I was convicted that my son knows more about God than I do. My grandmother told me many years ago that, 'God is going to use you as a preacher someday.' I now remember this statement from her. God is working on me and touching my heart." Jason was very open to hearing the gospel and responded to it desiring to know Jesus as his Savior. We prayed together and he felt the burden of his sin lift! Jason went on to say, "Four years ago I was strapping a saddle bag onto my motorcycle when a lady came up to me and told me she had something for me.

She said, "My husband was a biker and he died. I want to give you this round little pin for your vest."
On it were three crosses. This lady went on to say, "My husband in his younger years rode with Hell's Angels, but God transformed his life. He became a biker pastor. He is dead now so I would like you to have this pin with three crosses!" Jason told me, "Wow, I was shocked, why me! Now I know that nothing happens by accident! The Lord has put people in my pathway over the years to show me that He loves me." The next thing he wants to do is get baptized. This will happen as we baptize others in the prison!

Even though things are difficult at the prison, a number of men are getting serious about Christ! At church a few weeks ago, there were seven guys baptized. Several weeks before that several were baptized! A number of other men have been baptized previously this year! Our Bible studies and church services are great because we can feel God's presence in a powerful way. The men are hungry to know more about the Lord! Several men who used to be in a gang now have changed lives! One of the men just found out that his dad died. Staff members were concerned about how he was going to respond when he got the news. When I visited with him, he told me that staff keep asking him if he is okay. He said, "I am not the same old person I used to be a year ago. I would have acted out a year ago. I sent my dad a picture of me with my baptism certificate a month ago. He was so excited for me, so I know I will see him again! I have been reading my Bible morning and evening and God has given me peace!" What a great testimony of God's transforming, and powerful work!

I know that the revival that is going on at the prison is due to all your many prayers! I am privileged to see the fruit of God's work behind the walls! Thank you for your prayers and financial support!

In Christ, Harlan

Address: Prison Lighthouse Fellowship, 601 W. 57th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57108 My phone: 605.940.4220 Email: harlan@convergeheartland.org



We are filled with gratitude for all the ways God has been at work through the ministry of Inspiration Hills. From joyful campers and a milestone 50th celebration, to exciting fall programs and retreats ahead, there's so much to celebrate and look forward to. We invite you to stay connected, join us at upcoming events, and continue being part of the Inspiration Hills story.

#### Summer Camp 2025

Summer 2025 at Inspiration Hills was a season overflowing with God's goodness! Over 1,300 campers experienced Christ's love through 9 weeks of camp, 10 unique programs, guided by 31 incredible summer staffers who grew deeply as leaders in their faith. Each week was filled with the Gospel truth that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) We are so grateful for your continued support and prayers that make this ministry possible—thank you for being a part of what He is doing here!

# Upcoming Events

# Campfire Coffee Club: First Thursday of every month

Join us for Campfire Coffee Club, held the first Thursday of every month at 9:00 AM! It's a relaxed time to enjoy coffee, community, and fellowship while learning more about what's happening at camp. Come connect with others, meet our staff, hear updates, or even take a tour of the grounds—we'd love to share life and camp with you!

Dates: October 2, November 6, December 4

#### Middle School Retreat: October 10-12

Mark your calendars for the Middle School Fall Retreat, October 10–12! This exciting weekend will dive into the theme "Who Are You?" as we unpack Ephesians 2:10 and discover more about our identity in Christ. Packed with worship, teaching, games, and time with friends, it's a weekend you won't want to miss. To catch a glimpse of what's in store for the weekend, visit our website to watch the recap video from last year!

Dates: October 10-12

Ages: 6th-8th graders

Scholarships available!

Register Now!

Camp Connection: High School Youth Group Retreat

Our Camp Connection retreat is a youth group retreat hosted by the Inspiration Hills staff! Bring out your youth group to experience connection within your youth groups, with other youth groups and of course, connection with the Lord. The weekend will be filled with activities, teaching, worship, bonding, fires, s'mores and the list goes on.

YOUTH LEADERS! Visit https://www.inspirationhills.org/hsretreat to get your students registered! If you have any questions, call Lucas at 712-986-5193

Dates: November 7-9

**Ages**: High Schoolers (9th-12th)

Scholarships available!

Register Now!

Annual Fundraiser: Banquet-November 13th

Save the date for our Annual Fundraiser! This year we will be having a fundraising banquet on Thursday, November 13th here at Inspiration Hills.

More details coming soon.

Art of Parenting Retreat: November 14-15

Inspiration Hills invites singles and couples to join us for a weekend retreat focused on Christ-centered parenting. Together we'll explore practical tools and biblical wisdom to help raise children who know and love the Lord. Whether you're just starting your parenting journey or looking for fresh encouragement, this retreat offers teaching, discussion, and fellowship to equip you in guiding the next generation in faith. Check out more details here.

Dates: November 14-15

Cost: \$25 per couple for commuters, \$50 per couples for overnights guests

**Register Now!** 

## Stay With Us!

This fall, make Inspiration Hills your getaway destination! We offer cozy cabins, private rooms, and campground spots perfect for a retreat or family escape. Add some adventure to your stay with activities like axe throwing, archery tag, or our thrilling high ropes course with a zipline! Visit our website for full details or give us a call—we'd love to help plan your perfect stay.

# Book Your Holiday Party!

Reserve your family or friend Christmas party with us!

\$1,180 includes....

- 4 private rooms for 2 nights
- a dinner for 20 people
- a night hike to a campfire with & more!

\*\*Be the person who refers your organization or company to host their Christmas or Thanksgiving Party with us and receive 1 FREE Summer Camp Registration for 2026!\*\*

#### **THANK YOU FOR 50 YEARS!**

We had a wonderful time celebrating Inspiration Hills' 50th Anniversary with an amazing turnout of alumni, supporters, and new friends! It was a weekend full of memories, laughter, and God's faithfulness. You can check out photos from the celebration here and don't miss your chance to grab a piece of history—we still have exclusive retro 50th collection merchandise available in our online store or right here at camp!

As the seasons change, one thing remains the same: God is moving at Inspiration Hills. Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and participation in camp life. We can't wait to see you at an upcoming event or retreat!

# OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5-6:30pm Meal 6-7:30pm Awana 6:15-7:30 MS - BEC sales info 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:30-8:15 Choir Practice 7:45-9 HS	2 7am Executive Team Mtg	3	4
5 World Communion Sunday Sam Praise Team Practice Profession - Lindsay Maggert BEC samples after service & MS frozen food sales 6pm Communion @ CRH	6 fpm Congregational Care Mtg 6:30pm Hands of Hope Mtg	2	\$ 5-6:30pm Meal 67:30pm Awana 5:45-8:15 MS to corn maze 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 6:45-9:15 HS to corn maze 7:30-8:15 Choir Practice	9 4:306pm Sheldon Mobile Food Truck @Living Water	10	11
8am Praise Team Practice MS frozen food sales after service	13	14	15 1:30 Afternoon Circle 56:30pm Meal 6-7:30pm Awana 6:15-7:30 MS 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:30-8:15 Choir Practice 7:45-9 HS	16 6:30pm Elder/Deacons Mtgs 7pm Evening Circle 7:30 Consistory Mtg	17 9 pm Middle School Lock-in	18 7:30am Middle School Lock- in
19 8am Praise Team Practice Choir sings MS frozen food sales after service	20 5:306:30pm Sheldon Unity Meal @ Living Water	21	22 5-6:30pm Meal 6-7:30pm Awana 6:15-7:30 MS - BEC sales due 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:30-8:15 Choir Practice 7:45-9 HS	23	24	25
26 8am Praise Team Practice	27	28	29 5-6:30pm Meal 6-7:30pm Awana 6:15-7:30 MS 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:30-8:15 Choir Practice 7:45-9 HS	30	31 Halloween 4:30-6:30pm Trunk or Treat	