

NOVEMBER 2025



First
Reformed
Church

Building God's Kingdom one life at time



Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

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

- Nov 5** Scalloped Potatoes with Ham or Hotdogs, Green Beans, Cookies
[7 people bring 2 dozen cookies]
- Nov 12** **NO FAMILY NIGHT MEAL**
RCYF/High School Soup & Pie Supper - please attend & support our youth
- Nov 19** Thanksgiving Meal - Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Bean Casserole, Pie
[15 people bring a pie]
- Nov 26** **NO FAMILY NIGHT MEAL OR WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES** *Enjoy your Thanksgiving!*

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.

Operation Christmas Child

Ornaments with shopping lists are on the bulletin board on the north wall in the Fellowship Hall. Please take one more of these ornaments and purchase the items listed. Bring the items to the church and place in the tote by the bulletin board. We ask that all items be here by Monday, November 3.

The kids will be packing the Operation Christmas Child boxes on November 5. We could use help that evening getting things organized and helping kids fill the shoeboxes with the needed items.



Donations for postage would be most appreciated as well. Drop off checks in the office (specify postage on memo line of your check).

November
9th

Choir will be singing at our morning service. Choir members need to be in the Youth House at 8:30 AM to warm up.



November 11th

Annual Sheldon Christian School Veteran's Day Program will be held at 9 AM in the gym.



ARE THESE YOUR CONTAINERS ?



Check the kitchen for storage containers, cakepans and other items in which you brought desserts to the church for Wednesday night meals or morning coffee. There are quite a few of them, and some don't have names on them.

KINGDOM STUDENT MINISTRIES

SOUP & PIE SUPPER

NOV 12
2025



FREE WILL DONATION TO
HELP US PAY TO GO TO
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

5:00-7:00PM



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
SHELDON, IOWA



Mobile
Food Truck



DATE: Thursday,
November 13

TIME: 4:30-6:00 PM

LOCATION: Living
Water Church
Bring a box for your
groceries.

T
H
A
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K
S

FROZEN FOOD DELIVERY

WHEN: Saturday, November 15

TIME: 9 AM - 12 PM

Our youth will be delivering your order to you on that day. If you are not going to be at home on that day, please make alternate arrangements with the youth from whom you ordered. **Please note that the church does not have room to store your items.**

Once again - thanks for your support!

Sheldon Area
Unity Meal



DATE: Monday, November 17

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 home with you after you have had your meal.



DEADLINE TO GET ITEMS IN DECEMBER ENCORE

Due to Thanksgiving, the November 30 bulletin and December Newsletter will be printed on Wednesday, November 26. So please get items to Wendy by noon on Tuesday.

Wednesday
Nights

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

5:00 - 6:15 PM: Family Night Meal

6:00 - 7:30 PM: Awana

6:15 - 7:30 PM: Middle School (Alpha Teens)

6:30 - 7:30 PM: Adult Bible Study

7:30 - 8:15 PM: Choir Practice

7:45 - 9:00 PM: High School (RCYF)



Curious About following Jesus?
Thinking about professing your faith in Jesus?
Has it been a while and its time to reaffirm
your faith in Jesus?

DISCOVER MEMBERSHIP

LEARN | CONNECT | BELONG

The 2 month journey began October 26, after worship in the prayer room. Let Pastor Paul know if you're coming. It's not too late to join the class, but you need to let him know so he can prepare materials for you!

Congregational Meeting



WHEN: Monday, Nov. 24 at 7:00 PM
WHERE: FRC sanctuary

Everyone is invited to attend. The meeting will include the regular business of Elder and Deacon approval and selection, a year-to-date financial report from the Deacons, and any other items the consistory would like to present to the congregation. All these items will be included in the agenda packet that will be available on Sunday, November 16th. While voting is limited to those who have joined the membership of FRC, everyone is invited to attend. Would you like to become a member at FRC? Contact Pastor Paul and he will help you take that next step.

A basket is on a table at the back of the sanctuary (in the narthex) for Jack Michael, son of Hunter and Kennedy Jager. Please place your items in the basket for him. The basket will be there for the month of November. The deadline to donate items to Jack will be November 30.



TEC# 17 - Weekend of November 21-23, 2025 @ the First Presbyterian Church in 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 www.TriStateTEC.org or email TriStateTEC@gmail.com.

The cost is \$50 and includes a t-shirt & other special gifts. Scholarships are available upon request.

Christmas Practice

Wednesday Nights

October 15- December 17
Music only!
K-3rd- 6:00-6:20
4th-6th- 6:20-6:40

Sunday Morning

Preschool/Kindergarten: 10:40-11:00
1st-6th Grade: 11:00-12:00

November 30
December 7
December 14

Please attend ALL 3 practices or let Sami Fox know if you cannot.



HOUSEKEEPING: With the onset of autumn, we are getting more and more people bringing drinks into the sanctuary and into the classrooms. Please dispose of you cups in provided trash cans. If a spill occurs, please clean up the mess. Please encourage your kids to NOT bring drinks downstairs to the classrooms. They often spill their drinks, or dispose of partly full cups in the trash cans. This creates a great deal of extra work for our part-time custodians. Your help keeping carpets and floors free of spills would be most appreciated!



Special Thanksgiving Offering

The FRC deacons, with direction from the Missions Committee, have set a goal of \$130,000 for the 2025 Thanksgiving offering. These funds go 100% to local, national, and global missions outside the walls of First Reformed Church through the Benevolent Fund. This offering is essential for us to meet our remaining 2025 commitments and fund partially the commitments in 2026. The Lord's providence is clearly on display through the generosity of this congregation, to not only support the yearly needs of First Reformed, but also in sharing our countless blessings in the mission work of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Thank you for prayerfully considering a gift to this work as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas season.



November 26 - Thanksgiving Eve Service

TIME: 7 PM

Come join us in a service of remembrance for the many blessings that God provided during this year.

- ♦ *Message by Pastor Paul*
- ♦ *Special Thanksgiving offering will be collected. You can also give via our website using the pull-down tab.*

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 27. and on the following Friday. Bulletins will be printed on Wednesday. If you need something in the bulletin that week, get it to Wendy by Tuesday. The Encore will also be printed on that day so get things submitted to the office for inclusion in the December Encore Newsletter.

November 27 Thanksgiving

Our church will host the 24th annual Thanksgiving meal at noon on Thanksgiving Day. Please encourage those who would like a home-cooked meal and some fellowship to come. All are welcome. Of course we will need many hands to do this. Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Table at the front entrance of the Church.

We need lots of help!



Happenings in FRC

On October 5 Lindsey Maggert made her profession of faith. We also welcomed both Toby & Lindsey as new members of FRC.



On October 19 FRC welcomed Dennis and Lesa Kruger as new members to our church.





Nov 1	Darla Reuvers	Nov 5	Marv Van Riesen	Nov 16	Loretta Boender
Nov 2	Denise Blankers		Jewel Doely	Nov 17	Carol Sterk
Nov 3	Dwayne Siebrands		Paula Sawyer		Carolyn Storm
	Gary Meyer		Beth Slykhuis		Jill Van Meeteren
	Kristin Oldenkamp	Nov 6	Devin Van Regenmorter	Nov 19	Dawn Meyer
	Tyler Freeman	Nov 7	Dave Van Beek		Brad Verburg
Nov 4	Herb Struyk		Donna Dykstra		Matt Dykstra
	Idelle Mastbergen		Deb Zebedee		Haley Jager
	Sami Fox	Nov 8	Art Franken	Nov 21	Jacob Laubach
	Daniel Westphalen		Kirk Dekker	Nov 22	Josh Van Beek
	Jager Roozeboom		Nathan Punt	Nov 24	Larry Storm
			Taylor Stellinga		Dianne Wolthuizen
			Wyatt Spanjer	Nov 25	Larry Christians
		Nov 9	Karri Spanjer		Brady Van Meeteren
			Tyler Drenkow		Alex Van Surksun
		Nov 10	Colten Jager	Nov 26	Braxton Wolthuizen
			Caiden Jager	Nov 27	Makinley Vermeer
		Nov 12	Cindy Hassebroek		Bree Christians
			Ethan Woelber		Reece Dibbet
		Nov 13	Callie Hoelker	Nov 28	Kamdyn Hoekstra
			Collin Wolthuizen	Nov 29	Bonnie Fonkert
			Ingrid Fox	Nov 30	Sherri Zeutenhorst
		Nov 14	Savannah Sauer		Devon Schaeffer
			Jagger Hoekstra		



We want you to know that your kindness at this time is more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks can express. Thank you for the Bible donations in honor of Roger.

~ The Roger Sterler family

Thanks for the gift of the Bible! The Bible is new for me. I am excited to learn. Please pray for me to grow in my faith and I learn and read God's Word. May God bless you.

~ Marselino Sue

FYI - This is from a gentleman who received his Bible via our Bible Fund at Touch of Hope.

Minutes of the Consistory Meeting – First Reformed Church, Sheldon, IA
Thursday, October 16, 2025

Those present:

Elders: Greg Sawyer, Randy Fonkert, Leon Kleinwolterink, Brad Bosma, Bob Stellinga, Mike Kleinwolterink

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

Absent:

Elders: Dan Dykstra, Dixon Van Meeteren, Larry Vander Plaats

Deacons: Cleiton Zanela

- A. Pastor Paul called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.
- B. Pastor Paul offered opening prayer and devotions from Revelation 2:1-7.
 - 1. Letter to church in Ephesus – main points
 - a. Love Jesus first.
 - b. Stand against wickedness.
 - c. Know truth and have zeal for the Lord.
 - d. Don't forget Jesus in the midst of good works.
- C. Roll Call & Approval of minutes from September 18, 2025.
 - 1. **Motion Made Supported & Carried (MMS)** to approve.
- D. Celebrations and Thanksgivings were discussed.
 - 1. Handing out children's Bibles.
 - 2. We have a full slate of Elders and Deacons.
- E. Report from Deacons meeting given by Brady Peters.
- F. Report from Elders meeting given by Mike Kleinwolterink.
- G. Pastor's Report
 - 1. Five-year reaffirmation for Pastor Paul is completed.
 - 2. Administrative handbook needs to be completed.
 - 3. Congregational meeting is on November 24th at 7 PM.
 - 4. January 9-10 is the training for office bearers.
- H. Financial reports provided by Evan De Hoogh and were discussed.
 - 1. **MMS** to approve.
- I. Committee Reports were discussed.
 - 1. **MMS** to approve.
- J. Other Business
 - 1. Cell phone help for parents discussed
 - i. What responses are available?
 - ii. How best to communicate this information?
- K. Next Meeting: November 20, 2025 Prayer – Brady Peters
- L. Adjourn: **MMS** to adjourn at 8:25 PM.
- M. Marty Van Peurse closed in prayer.

BENEVOLENT FUND

OCTOBER 2025

A Thanksgiving Story - The Indian Stranger

By Michael Griego

from <https://biblicalviewpoint.com/2014/11/27>

The first Thanksgiving in 1621 was celebrated with gratefulness for God's provisions and survival, including a "special instrument sent of God..."

In the days before America was founded, an American Indian named Tisquantum (Squanto for short) would travel across the Atlantic Ocean six times in his 42 years of life. This was quite unusual for one born into the American Patuxet tribe who lived on what is today Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

In **1605**, at the age of 25, he was captured by Captain George Weymouth and taken to England, where over 9 years he was taught English and trained to be an interpreter and guide. In **1614** he secured passage on Captain John Smith's vessel and traveled home to America. He wasn't home with his family and tribe long before he was lured with 26 other unsuspecting Indians aboard the vessel of Captain Thomas Hunt, part of Smith's expedition, under the pretext of trading with them. Once the Indians were onboard, Hunt's crew clamped them into irons and took them to Spain, where they were sold into slavery.

Many never returned to their homeland. Squanto was rescued by Spanish priests who introduced him to the Christian faith. Squanto found his way back to England and became a hired servant to a wealthy merchant named John Slaney. Eventually he managed to get passage on another American-bound ship in **1619**. However, when he arrived back on Cape Cod, he learned that every single person in his tribe had died. In **1617** smallpox had ravaged his people, and no one had survived.

It would be hard for him, or anyone, to

Beginning Cash Balance as of January 1, 2025

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Benevolent Fund

Missions

Sunday School

Total Income

Gross Profit

Expense

Commitments

Beth (Blankers) Borgens/CRU

Bethesda Christian Counseling

GraceCovenantMinistry-Annville

Grooters, Jay & Amy-Costa Rica

Harlan Moss-SD Prison Ministry

Inspiration Hills

Jake & Brittany Korver

JoJo Bong-Asian Youth

Lay Mission Fund

Love Inc

Mission & Service Projects

Mission to India-ChurchPlanters

Mission to India-Literacy Prog

Multiplication Network

Pascal,Sasha&Sara-Moldova

Reformed Church in America

Brownell-Japan

Nicole Opgenorth-Nicaragua

Total Reformed Church in America

Rise Fest

Rise Ministries

SandalsOnSand Min (B Godbersen)

Sheldon Christian School

Talking Bibles

Touch of Hope Bibles

Touch of Hope Haiti

Vasileiadis,PavlosMeggan-Greece

Village Northwest Unlimited

Words of Hope

Total Commitments

RCA College Scholarships

YTD Offerings Paid Out

Total Expense

Net Ordinary Income

Net Cash Flow

Ending Cash Balance

Jan - Sep 25

\$ 90,325.63

Budget

187,250.00

187,250.00

187,250.00

187,250.00

187,250.00

187,250.00

7,000.00

4,000.00

7,000.00

7,000.00

7,000.00

7,000.00

7,000.00

3,500.00

15,000.00

7,000.00

5,000.00

7,500.00

2,500.00

3,500.00

3,000.00

7,000.00

7,000.00

14,000.00

5,000.00

7,000.00

2,500.00

6,000.00

7,000.00

4,000.00

7,000.00

7,000.00

6,000.00

28,000.00

186,500.00

750.00

22,082.98

187,250.00

0.00

0.00

\$ 16,853.10

GENERAL FUND - OCTOBER 2025

	Sep 25	Jan - Sep 25	Annual Budget
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 75,572.32		
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
General Fund	48,774.35	465,394.18	587,810.06
Interest Income	29.70	424.67	
Total Income	48,804.05	465,818.85	587,810.06
Gross Profit	48,804.05	465,818.85	587,810.06
Expense			
Alliance Dues	5,121.23	14,706.12	19,000.00
Congregational Care	5,359.87	9,310.09	17,000.00
Education	4,363.09	21,071.27	21,850.00
Facilities & Grounds	12,993.91	79,573.99	128,000.00
General and Consistory	1,394.58	14,753.20	15,600.00
Office	1,137.48	13,300.91	21,645.00
Outreach	569.00	13,966.72	24,300.00
Payroll Expenses	22,052.89	215,031.68	331,365.06
Safety & Security	0.00	15.00	
Transfer Out	20,000.00	65,000.00	
Worship	172.24	2,193.25	4,100.00
Youth Groups	0.00	1,500.62	4,950.00
Total Expense	73,164.29	450,422.85	587,810.06
Net Ordinary Income	-24,360.24	15,396.00	0.00
Net Cash Flow	-24,360.24	15,396.00	0.00
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 51,212.08		

imagine that his personal tragic life thus far would be a unique equipping for a profound impact on a future American nation.

Pilgrims, 1620

In November of 1620 the Pilgrims reached the shores of Cape Cod. They were part of a Christian Protestant congregation in England that refused to conform to the Church of England. These "separatists" did not want to pledge allegiance any longer to the Church of England, which they believed was nearly as corrupt and idolatrous as the Catholic Church it had replaced. They originally had fled to Holland, but after 12 years they set sail for America to build a new life, fearing their children would lose their English identity. They settled in a place they called Plymouth, named after the town in England where they started their voyage on a ship called the Mayflower. The Pilgrims were but 40 of the 102 total passengers seeking a new life on the other side of the Atlantic.

Fortunate Landing

The settlers soon discovered that Indians had cleared the land at

Plymouth but had not farmed it for some time. The following March, after a devastating first winter of hardship, sickness and death, an English-speaking Indian named Samoset, a friend of Squanto, walked into the Plymouth settlement. From Samoset the Pilgrims learned that they had settled on the homeland of the Patuxets, the tribe that disease had wiped out 4 years earlier. Samoset informed the Pilgrims that the Patuxets had been a large, hostile tribe that viciously murdered any white man who encroached upon their shores. After the death of the Patuxets, no other Indians had inhabited the land for fear of the death curse that might fall on any who settled there.

So it came about that God led the Pilgrims to perhaps the one plot of unsettled land on the East Coast, the very land where Squanto had grown up.

Squanto and the Pilgrims

Samoset introduced the Pilgrims to Squanto that March of 1621. Squanto helped the Pilgrims negotiate a peace treaty with the great Massasoit, chief of the Wampanoag and leader of most of the surrounding tribes. This treaty would last for decades and protect the early settlers.

But the Pilgrims were in dire straits and living in great hardship. Nearly half had died during the previous winter, lacking the skills for survival in their new land. Squanto showed the Pilgrims how to fertilize and protect the corn they planted, how to catch fish from the streams, and how to harvest the food the land provided.

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims and Wampanoags celebrated the **first Thanksgiving** after reaping a successful crop. If God had not intersected this uniquely qualified individual with the Pilgrims, they would never have survived. One of the Pilgrims called him *"a special instrument sent of God for our good, beyond our expectation."*

Do you believe God uses people and circumstances to achieve His greater purposes?

Lower-Level Renovation

October 2025

Sep 30, 25

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

General Fund

Lower Level Renovation 245,372.99

Total General Fund 245,372.99

Transfer In

Endowment Interest 7,575.00

Total Transfer In 7,575.00

Total Income 252,947.99

Gross Profit 252,947.99

Expense

Facilities & Grounds

Building Improvements

Lower Level Renovations 238,857.18

Total Building Improvements 238,857.18

Building Maintenance & Repair

Parsonage Bath/Laundry 564.96

Total Building Maintenance & Repair 564.96

Total Facilities & Grounds 239,422.14

Total Expense 239,422.14

Net Ordinary Income 13,525.85

Net Cash Flow 13,525.85

Almost Home for the Holidays

By Richard King from Guideposts

Our car broke down when we were almost home. Who would repair it on Thanksgiving?

I was a college student in Illinois that Thanksgiving, and I couldn't wait to get home to Massachusetts for the holidays. A friend's mother offered me a lift as far as upstate New York, where my parents were going to pick me up.

Mrs. Case and I drove all through the chilly night. Just after sunrise on Thanksgiving morning, the engine quit and we rolled to a stop on a deserted highway somewhere in western New York.

Mrs. Case said calmly, "God doesn't get you just halfway. Let's pray, Richard." After we prayed a little, she turned the key again. The engine coughed and started. The car lurched down the road. We barely made it to a garage at the next exit. I found the owner in back.

"Lucky you caught me," he said. "We're closed today. I just came in to clean up." He checked the engine, then gave us a funny look.

"Who pushed you in from the highway?" We told him no one. He shook his head. "That's impossible," he insisted. "A part is burned out and the engine can't run without it."

He didn't have the part, and he told us no other shops were

A Thanksgiving Turkey on Every Table

We'd given our turkey to a family that was even more needy. But who would help us?

By Mary Jarvis, Pawhuska, Oklahoma from Guideposts

I lifted the heavy lid of our old freezer in the garage and peered inside, looking for some vegetables to make for dinner. For the past year, we'd scraped by on my small teacher's salary while my husband, Mike, was away at graduate school. With three hungry teenagers to feed, it was a challenge to stretch our grocery dollars. Now, one glance at the half-empty freezer made me question what I'd done on impulse a week earlier.

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Kathy, my 14-year-old, blurted out that one of her friends wasn't celebrating the holiday because her mother couldn't afford it. "We could give them our turkey, Mom," she said. "We don't need it since we're going to Uncle Pat's." How could I explain to her that I was saving our turkey for Christmas? We didn't have enough money for Mike to come home for Thanksgiving. The kids and I were going to my brother-in-law's so I wouldn't have to invest in a big dinner. How could I afford another turkey before Christmas?

We taught our kids to help others. But to help someone else when we could barely help ourselves? Still, I knew I couldn't say no. *Lord, I hope you have a plan because I sure don't.*

We gathered up a bag of potatoes and cranberry sauce I had in the pantry. I sent my son, Matt, out to the freezer in the garage to get some vegetables—and the turkey. When we brought Kathy's friend the food, her mother cried tears of joy. At the time, their happiness made me feel better about giving away our turkey. But now, looking into our freezer, I wondered, *Who's going to help us?*

I rummaged through the frozen containers—broccoli, carrots, some blackberries from our garden. I pushed aside some frosted bags of green beans and corn. Wait... something was there. Suddenly I stopped and stared. Nestled among the vegetables was a newly bought turkey.

I never found out who the mysterious donor was. Does it matter? Whoever it was knew exactly what we needed, when we needed it.

open that day. "I doubt anybody has it in stock anyway," he said.

Seeing our stricken expressions, he said, "Won't hurt to try, I suppose." He went to make a call. In a few minutes, he was back. "My buddy's shop is closed, but he just happened to be there doing some paperwork. Strange, huh? He's got the part you need."

Mrs. Case delivered me to where my parents were waiting with their car. At home in time for Thanksgiving dinner, I said a special thank you, because now I knew: God doesn't get you just halfway.

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

Willie Greenfield – 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

Dennis Popkes – Noah Sterk

Team 7: Dan Dykstra & Brady Peters

Charles & Brittne Storm – 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



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

Brenna Haack - 712.441.0050
brennaahaack@gmail.com

WORK GROUPS

Joyce Fedders - 712.539.9945



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 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](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 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 @ Frcsheldonstudent ministries for upcoming activities & any updates. To be added to the email list please email Caitie at caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com.
- ◆ **DURING THE WEEK:** The church is open from **7AM-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 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.
- ◆ **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 December Encore is Tuesday, November 25.**

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.

NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES



PO Box 340
Annville, KY 40402
Phone 606-364-5151

Greetings from Jackson County, Kentucky! In a few weeks, you should receive a copy of this year's "Echoes From the Hills" in your mailbox. This edition will introduce you to some of our staff and highlight the changes that have taken place this year.

We are excited about several new ventures coming up soon. On October 31, we will host an outdoor movie night for families to enjoy. Please pray for good weather to ensure a pleasant evening. Then, on November 29, we invite local artists and crafters to participate in a Vendors' Fair at the Reflection Center. This event aims to provide our local artisans with exposure and an opportunity to supplement their income.

As we set out on these new initiatives, we are reminded of Rev. William Worthington's vision for the Annville Institute, which began over a century ago. His dream was to create a place that would uplift our community, and that mission continues to resonate today.

Your support plays a crucial role in our success as we seek to share the redeeming love of Christ with a world that is broken and in need, one opportunity at a time.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Your Partners in Missions,

Ehad

Interim Executive Director

Jake

Director of Development



PASCALS in MOLDOVA
Sowing in Abundance

sara.pascal@worldteam.org

sasha.pascal@worldteam.org

Sharing God's Goodness

With the start of tournaments, we have had an abundance of opportunities to share about God's goodness. I (Sara) was honored to share on the theme 'essentials' to around 100 kids at the EdgeSports U13 yearly kick-off. I shared with the youth that just like their coaches are prepping them with the essentials of soccer, the Bible preps us with the essentials things to know about God and life

Big events aren't the only time we have opportunities to share about God's goodness. Each practice we have a time of devotion. In the photo above Sasha is sharing with the youngest group about excellence in soccer and in life. He shared that all the we do, we do for the Lord.



With the start of our discipleship group in our home, we started our disciple-making curriculum, talking about God's call to obedience and how the Holy Spirit can help us obey the word of God. We also talked about the importance of repentance when we sin. We are excited that this group is regularly seeing around 7 youth attending.

We also have natural connections with players and parents. As we are spending time with them, God gives us easy conversations about what we believe with the Trinity, or how we can help a player through prayer while they work on self-control. We are praising God for these open doors and appreciate your prayers as we continue to share with unbelievers and disciple those who are willing.

I (Sara), submitted a story to an organization called Velvet Ashes and it was chosen for the compilation: *Yet We Still Laugh: Stories of Humor and Hope from Women Serving Around the World*. It is a huge honor to be included among such women and be a part of this book.

We don't receive anything if you purchase the book, but it may be a nice gift for someone on the mission field or a great set of stories for a funny, encouraging read.

Prayer Needs

- ◆ For our soccer ministry
- ◆ Thanksgiving outreach on November 15
- ◆ Our disciple making group on Tuesday evenings
- ◆ Health and peace for our family

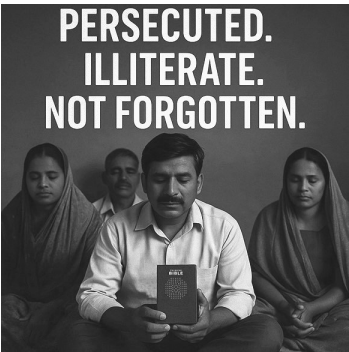
Thank you for praying!

We are still praying for a few more monthly-support partners to help keep our funding up. Our ministry in our neighborhood has gone from 25 kids to over 40, so some of the small costs have risen. If you want to partner with us with either a one-time gift or a monthly commitment, you can do so through Mission Dispatch. Thank you for considering partnering with us!



Today marks the official launch of our **Fall Campaign**—a mission to bring God’s Word to persecuted Christians across India who are suffering for their faith.

In many regions, believers are ridiculed, cast out of their families, denied jobs, and threatened with violence. They cannot openly carry a Bible, attend church, or share their faith. Yet their desire for God’s Word remains unshaken.



This fall, we are responding with hope—with **Talking Bibles**.

Why This Campaign Matters

- **Safe & Private:** Believers can listen quietly, even where persecution is severe.
- **Accessible:** Reaches those who are illiterate or isolated from any church.
- **Life-Changing:** God’s Word strengthens faith, brings courage, and renews hope.

Our Campaign Goal

This fall, we are raising funds to place **10,000 Talking Bibles in 2026**, the first step toward our goal of **40,000 devices** that year—reaching approximately **150,000 persecuted Christians** in some of India’s most hostile regions.

Thank you for helping launch this powerful movement. Together, we will bring God’s Word to persecuted believers who stand firm—no matter the cost.

With gratitude,

Paul D. Hoekstra
President, Talking Bibles International

P.S. Your gifts toward India this fall give persecuted Christians a **lifeline of hope, courage, and God’s Word** in a place where following Jesus comes at a great cost.



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 them meaningful support.

July-September 2025 Ministry Report

171

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

25

different churches were represented by these volunteers!

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

1,214

hours were served by these local Christian volunteers!

Volunteers served in the following ways:



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

110
items
given!



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

82
rides provided!



helped children select new school clothing.



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.

40
class meetings!



166 adults and 141 children benefited from receiving furniture or other housewares or rides to appointments. This includes 75 children who participated in the Shop With a Cop ministry!



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

2025

July-September

First Reformed Church

Janice Vander Pol volunteers each week through the Life Together ministry as the mentor coordinator. Also, she and **Brad Vander Pol** taught a 10 week class on managing money.

Ingetta Tutje volunteers in the Love INC office.

Gavin De Hoogh volunteered with the household goods ministry, distributing furniture and other housewares to people in our community living without.

Cindy Hassebroek, Marlene Lawson, Wendy Peelen, and Gina Van Wyk served in the childcare rooms at Life Together so parents could attend life skills classes.

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

Sue Fonkert serves on the board of directors.

Jewell Doely, Cindy Hassebroek, and Dianne Wolthuizen provided transportation to ensure people were able to attend medical appointments.

Connie Van Meeteren serves on Love INC's event planning committee.

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

Sue Fonkert, Cindy Hassebroek, Kristin Van Engen, Gina Van Wyk, and Dianne Wolthuizen volunteered with the Shop With a Cop ministry.

Sheila Peelen and Brian Van Meeteren served as panelists for the financial class offered through the Life Together ministry.

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

2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
\$5,249.97	\$7,150.00	\$7,150.00	\$8,916.47	\$6,600.00



2026 TASC EVENTS

TASC 2026

TASC 2026 Sites & Dates

- June 6-13 – Zion Reformed Church, Ripon, CA
- June 13-20 – Faith URC, Beecher, IL
- June 20-27 – New Haven URC, New Haven, VT
- June 20-27 – Trinity URC, Caledonia, MI
- June 20-27 – Zion Reformed Church, Menno, SD
- July 25-August 1 – Dutton URC, Dutton, MI
- July 25-August 1 – The Mount of Olives Children's Home, Uruapan, MX

We are looking forward to the 2026 TASC events!

To read the letter with details about registration, reservations, and more, please visit rms.org/tasc. You can also see photos from this year's TASC events there.



Reformed Mission Services has many ongoing projects across the globe, and we're raising funds to support them! From Africa to the Philippines, Liberia to El Salvador, Mexico, Nepal, Costa Rica, and Peru, RMS is helping build churches, seminaries, and homes for pastors.

🙌 Your support helps bring lasting change—whether it's constructing churches and homes, partnering with missionaries, or serving alongside local communities.

💰 Tip: This is a wonderful way to use your RMDs for 2025! rms.org/powerful-giving

📖 Learn more and see how you can get involved: rms.org/projects

🌍 Make a Difference Around the World! 🌍

Reformed Mission SERVICES

rms.org



UPCOMING

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT TRIPS

RMS.ORG/TRIPS

Volunteers Needed for RMS Ministry Development Trips!

 **Japan – Nov 13–25, 2025** RMS was introduced to this work in the summer of 2024 through members of Escondido United Reformed Church and the “Reformation Japan” project. This initiative helps NAPARC missionaries and churches strengthen existing congregations and establish new ones affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in Japan (PCJ).

 **Peru – Dec 1–11, 2025** ⚠️ *Note: This trip takes place at elevations exceeding 10,000 ft. Those with compromised health should consider the risks before registering.* RMS has been serving in the Cusco region since 2010, supporting MINTS Theological Seminary and assisting with the construction of churches in the surrounding Andes villages. This year’s trip focuses on a local church building just across town from where it all began!

 **Dominican Republic – Jan 6–14, 2026** RMS has been active in and around Sabana Grande de Boya for several years, helping construct and repair churches, develop the ministry center, and renovate homes for pastors. This region also has a rich Reformed heritage, as Dr. Neal Hegeman lived here in the 1980s–1990s, building strong relationships that guide our ongoing work.

 Serve, learn, and grow in your faith while helping local communities!  Learn more at rms.org/trips

Take a Look



Witness 9.3

This edition of The Witness includes reports on TASC 2025 written by students, sponsors, and hosts, and it also reveals the dates and locations for next year. You’ll also find details about current projects we’re raising funds for, info about our past trips to Peru and Costa Rica, plus an update on flood relief in Rock Valley. It also contains future trips that, Lord willing, we will be leading at the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026!

rms.org/witness

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER, October 2025



*“For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord...Therefore encourage one another and build one another up just as you are doing.”
I Thess. 5:9-10*

We are living in some interesting and difficult times. No matter what happens in the world we need to keep our focus on Jesus Christ. People will never find satisfaction in living for themselves. Our only hope is found in the Bible, the gospel of our salvation. God continues to bring people to Himself, where there is true joy and peace!

Jim, one of the men who was baptized a few months ago was told that his father had passed away. The staff who knew Jim before he was a Christian were worried about how he would respond to the bad news. As the week went on some concerned staff would ask him, “How are you doing?” Jim told them that he was sad but coping with his dad’s death. He told me, “They thought I would act out like I did before I was a Christian. My dad was a Christian and I know it is not ‘Goodbye, but see you later.’ He would always tell me not to say goodbye but see you later.” Jim told me how he heard his cellie talk to his grandparents disrespectfully. Jim told him, “That is no way to speak to them just because you didn’t get money on your account when you wanted.” Jim’s cellie asked him what he should do about it. Jim told him to call them back and apologize to them. He did that and they thanked Jim for talking with their grandson about his ungratefulness.

Sam was not a Christian when he found out that he has terminal cancer. One of the Christian men came alongside him and listened to him. They cried together and he prayed with him. I was informed about Sam’s news the next day. I have known Sam for several years. We talked about how life is meaningless without God. He talked about how his stepparents wanted him to follow Christ. Sam rebelled and turned his back on God at fifteen years old. Now it is more than two decades later, and he found himself in this situation. Sam admitted that he did not live a good life. I explained the gospel to him and how Christ through a painful death paid the price on the cross. Sam was broken and had a hard time making it through the prayer for salvation. Afterward he felt relief and a burden lifted. Sam felt assured and thankful that when he died he would be with Jesus! Sometimes God uses difficult circumstances to bring His people to salvation! Sam continues to want to know more about Jesus and the Bible.

Freddie, a young man who has been in and out of lockdown told me it is time for a change in his life. When Freddie was fifteen years old his high school counselor had a cookout for some young people. That is where he heard the gospel and gave his life to Christ. He said, “It was like a light came on within me. Then I went home to my mother who was addicted to drugs. I went down the road of addiction and now the Lord is telling me I need to repent,” which Freddie did that day. Praise the Lord!

Thank you again for your prayers and financial support! God is at work in a powerful way in the prison. In Christ, 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

AN UPDATE FROM Beth Borgens

Keeping Missionaries on Mission from Cru's Boulder Office

September 2025

Badger Cru Tradition Leads to Life Change

Every fall in football town, Madison, Wisconsin, thousands of freshmen Badgers storm the field for their first pep rally. Cru staff and student leaders took advantage of the hype, handing each student a Badger Cru rally towel.

A QR code attached to the towels led to a spiritual interest questionnaire. Could these towels, waved wildly as students made a giant red W for Wisconsin on the field, be used to lead students to Christ?

Yes! In fact, 2,383 students completed the questionnaire. To the question, "Would you be interested in hearing about how you can know God personally?" 1,188 students answered "Yes (49.8%)," and 707 students answered "Possibly (29.7%)."

The following day, two Cru staff members contacted one freshman who had ranked his interest in knowing God personally a 6 out of 10. He readily admitted he didn't know God, but wanted to. Right in the student union, he made a decision to trust Christ!

-Ministry experience shared by the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Cru team.



Updates and Prayer

GOLD

I'm happy to share that I will be participating in a Global Operations Leadership Development (GOLD) program in 2026. I was originally going to be participating in this program this current year, but as you know God had family plans for us. This program is a leadership development journey that I will be navigating through with other Campus Crusade for Christ International operation leaders from around the world.

As with any good program there is pre-program work that I will be working through this Fall before it officially kicks off next February. I'm looking forward to continuing developing my leadership skills along side my colleagues from countries around the world.

Spotlight Tool

Like many companies right now, Cru is going through significant technology updates to better serve our staff, students, and ministry partners. I was recently informed that one of our ministry platforms will most likely be 'retired' next year sometime as they move those processes to a new platform. As a result, our Spotlight tool will need to be updated to accommodate the proposed changes. So I will be preparing this ministry tool for this transition as well as for a predicted increase in our user base.

-Please continue praying for me as I am still dealing with health issues related to recovering from my difficult pregnancy. Praise God that my stress fracture in my foot is finally healed.

Update from Beth Borgens

October 2025

Ohio State Football Players Give Invitation to Follow Jesus

Nearly 2,000 students and community members descended on Ohio State's College Green Park for its second annual Fall Kickoff: An Invitation to Follow Jesus. The Ohio State football team partnered with Cru and 15 other student organizations and churches for the event, which drew a crowd double the size of last year's.



Five current OSU players explained that Christ is the center of everything they do. "No play we make on the field—no touchdown, no interception—can compare to the kingdom of God," said Buckeye safety Caleb Downs, as quoted in OSU's school newspaper's article. More than 100 students came forward to make significant decisions for Christ and more than 50 students were baptized, including multiple players from the football team!

One article in The Silver Bulletin (Ohio State paper) said, "One of the main messages from the athletes over the last two seasons has been that they have been blessed with a platform and they want to use it to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

*ministry experience shared by Ohio State team

Update & Prayers

Out with the old technology and in with the new! Cru is updating their 20+ year old HR technology to a new system. I have recently joined this HR project team as one of the Change Managers for this transition as well as providing any project management insight to the project manager team as needed. My responsibility is to help our US staff make this transition as smoothly as possible. This is the most complex project I will have ever participated in so I am looking forward to the opportunity to learn more and sharpen my project management skills.

- Prayer for recovery from my ongoing health issues.
- Prayer for safe and healthy travels to Orlando in November for a week of meetings.

elizabeth.borgens@cru.org

Give.cru.org/0611276

3174 W 135th Ave, Broomfield, CO 80020

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BLESSED	FEATHERS	HARVEST	PILGRIM	THANKFUL
BOUNTY	GATHER	HUSK	POTATOES	THANKSGIVING
CORN	GRATEFUL	INDIAN	PUMPKINS	THURSDAY
FALL	GRAVY	LEAVES	SHARING	TURKEY
FAMILY	GREEN BEANS	NOVEMBER	STUFFING	YAMS

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Daylight Savings Time Ends <i>8am Praise Team Practice</i> Baptism: Jessa Jensen		3 <i>6pm Congregational Care Mtg</i> <i>6:30pm Hands of Hope Mtg</i>	5 5-6:15pm Meal 6-7:30pm Awana <i>6:15-7:30pm Middle School</i> 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study <i>7:30-8:15pm Choir Practice</i>	6 7am Executive Team Mtg	7	8
9 <i>8am Praise Team Practice</i> Choir sings be here @ 8:30am 5-5:30pm Creative Movement Practice	10	11 Veteran's Day 9am Veteran's Day Service @ Christian School	12 5-7pm RCYF Soup & Pie Supper 6-7:30pm Awana <i>6:15-7:30pm Middle School</i> 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study	13 4:30-6pm Sheldon Food Truck @ Living Water	14	15 9am Middle School Frozen Food Delivery
16 <i>8am Praise Team Practice</i> 5-5:30pm Creative Movement Practice	17 5:30-6:30 Sheldon Unity Meal @ Living Water	18 <i>7pm Evening Circle Mtg - bring you Love gift offering</i>	19 1:30 Afternoon Circle 5-6:15pm Meal 6-7:30pm Awana <i>6:15-7:30pm Middle School</i> 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study <i>7:30-8:15pm Choir Practice</i> 7:45-9pm High School	20 6:30pm Elders/Deacons Mtgs 7:30pm Consistory Mtg	21 TEC @ Sibley 1st Presbyterian Church	22 TEC @ Sibley 1st Presbyterian Church
23 <i>8am Praise Team Practice</i> 5-5:30pm Creative Movement Practice TEC @ Sibley 1st Presbyterian Church	24 7pm Congregational Meeting	25	26 No Family Night Meal No Awana or Wednesday Night Activities No Youth Activities 7pm Thanksgiving Eve	27 Thanksgiving Office Closed 12pm Community Thanksgiving Meal	28 Office Closed	29
30 <i>8am Praise Team Practice</i> No Creative Movement Practice						