

FEBRUARY 2026

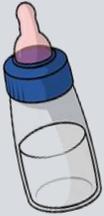
Building God's kingdom one life at a time.



First Reformed Church
1101 7th St
Sheldon, IA

Phone: 712-324-2130

Email: frcsecretary@outlook.com



JANUARY COLLECTION for CHERISH HOUSE

We have been collecting money for Cherish House throughout the month of January. You may still bring in baby bottles on Sunday, February 1. We ask that you return your baby bottles to the church office by Wednesday, February 4.

COMMUNITY Church Service

Sheldon Ministerial annual UNITY service

**Sunday, February 8, 2026
2:00PM**

Service is held at:
Crossroads Pavilion
301 34th Avenue Sheldon

All are welcome!

UNITED IN CHRIST



February 8

Come join us as we celebrate communion in remembrance of our Savior Jesus Christ. If you cannot make the morning service, join us at the Christian Retirement Home at 6 PM.



Inspiration Hills CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Registration for summer camp at Inspiration Hills opens on **February 2**. Grab a brochure in the Fellowship Hall or visit

inspirationhills.org to review the camp offerings and register.

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

TEC# 18 - Weekend of February 13-15, 2026 @ Rock Rapids FRC

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 Reformed Church of Rock Rapids, 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.

TRI-STATE TEC

SIGN UP HERE!

Check out our website for future dates!



tristatetec.org

COME AND SPEND THE WEEKEND LEARNING ABOUT JESUS, AND WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW HIM. MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND EXPERIENCE A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE PURSUING JESUS TOGETHER! HEAR HOW GOD IS WORKING IN THE LIVES OF OTHER TEENS AND EXPLORE WHAT HE IS DOING IN AND THROUGH YOU AS WELL!

Open to all high schoolers and incoming freshman!



DATE: Thursday, February 12
 TIME: 4:30-6:00 PM
 LOCATION: Living Water Church
 Bring a box with you to pick up your groceries.



The Hands of Hope Committee will be collecting groceries and cleaning supplies for NCC's Thunder Cupboard that assists students. Please put your donated items in the tubs in the Fellowship Hall. We will collect through March 8.

Sheldon Area Unity Meal **MONDAY, February 16**
TIME: 5:30-6:30 PM
LOCATION: Living Water Church
 A bag of groceries is available to take home after you have had your meal.
 Come join us for some food & fellowship.

First Reformed will be serving the February Unity meal at Living Water Church.

Many hands are needed to help with this. Please see the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table and sign up to help. You will bless others as well as be blessed yourself!

- | ITEM | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Sugar | • Bananas |
| • Pasta | • Eggs |
| • Brown rice | • Oranges |
| • Jelly | • Apples |
| • Kidney beans | • Butter |
| • Pancake mix | • Tomatoes |
| • Potatoes | • Onions |
| • Ramen noodles | • Feminine products |
| • Tea | • Paper towels |
| • Spaghetti sauce | • Deodorant |
| • Tomato sauce | • Toilet Paper |
| • Salt & Pepper | • Kleenex |
| • Spaghetti & other noodles | • Laundry soap |
| • Tortillas | • Shampoo |
| • Canned chicken | • Dish soap |
| • Wheat flour | • Window cleaner |
| • White rice | • Floor cleaner |
| • Cooking oil | • All purpose household cleaner |
| • Cereal | • Kitchen trash bags |
| • Juice | • Trash bags |
| • Peanut butter | • Household deodorizer |
| • Pinto beans | • Disinfecting wipes |
| • Syrup | • Sink & tub cleaner |
| • Coffee | • Chlorox |
| • Spices | • Toilet bowl cleaner |
| • Tomato paste | |
| • Milk | |
| • Bread | |

Please place items that need to be refrigerated in the North refrigerator & fruit on the counter next to it.



- Feb 9 Eric & Karri Spanjer - 18
- Feb 11 Gary & Marlene Heerde - 54
- Feb 14 Phil & Deann Kragt - 37
- Feb 25 Steven & Teresa Gardfrey - 9

Afternoon Circle will be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday in February. The meeting will still be at 1:30 PM on February 18th on the east side of the Fellowship Hall.

GIVING STATEMENTS for 2025

Check your church mailboxes for them. If you live in Fieldcrest, CRH, Prairie View or Sheldon Senior Care they will be sent or delivered to you. Also if you go south, they will be sent there unless you ask for us to do otherwise. If you need your statement sent to you, call 712.324.2130 and Wendy will see that it is sent to you.

CHANGES OF LOCATION FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

- ◆ “The Guide” class - meets in the overflow area just south of the sanctuary
- ◆ “Biblical Manhood” class - meets in the Youth House

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



- Feb 4 Tater Tot Casserole, Fruit, **Brownies**
[10 people bring 9x13 pan of brownies]
- Feb 12 Goulash, Green Beans, Bread, **Bars**
[10 people bring 9x13 pan of bars]
- Feb 19 Pork Loin, Cheesy Potatoes, Veggies, **Cake**
[10 people bring 9x13 cake]
- Feb 26 Hot Beef, Corn, **Brownies**
[10 people bring 9x13 pan of brownies]

Items that need to be brought in by work group members will follow the meal for that night (in bold lettering). Please have donated items here no later than 2 PM on Wednesday. If you can't get items to the church by this time, call the church office & make arrangements with Wendy or use the code provided to you by your workgroup leader. Please mark your name in the blue notebook when you leave your item in the kitchen and label any containers and pans that you want back. Your items are greatly appreciated and allow us to provide desserts with the meals. The kids really love your desserts!!



- | | | | | | |
|-------|--|--------|---|--------|---|
| Feb 1 | AJ de Boer
Sheila Peelen | Feb 7 | Marcia Balt
Georgia Walker
Aaron Jenkins | Feb 17 | Angela Kamstra
Jonah Dacken |
| Feb 2 | Marwin Vogel
Maggie Whitsell
Isaac Punt
Bensyn Hoekstra | Feb 8 | Frances Peelen | Feb 18 | Emmett Jurgens |
| Feb 3 | Katie Van Beek
Kristi Fuerstenberg
Justin Wolthuizen | Feb 10 | Muriel Kanengieter
Amber Portz
Emersan de Boer | Feb 19 | Eileen Fedders
Norma Van Gorp
Lesa Kruger
Harper Holtrop |
| Feb 4 | Jake Van Voorst | Feb 11 | Greta Wildeman - 91
Don Getting | Feb 20 | Cheryl Wolthuizen
Lee Reuvers
Rachel Krukow
Michael Jager
Nick Slykhuis
Raegan Freeman |
| Feb 5 | Bob Van Meeteren
Chase Oldenkamp | Feb 12 | Melissa Hofmeyer
Cooper Van Beek
Holland Kats | Feb 21 | Brad Bosma |
| Feb 6 | Don Tune
Maliyah Reuvers | Feb 13 | Stacie Woelber | Feb 23 | Brenna Haack
Chandler Kruger |
| Feb 7 | Fran Dykstra
Gladys Kroeze | Feb 14 | Lois Kuiper
Bryant Dykstra
Jace Ten Kley
Teagan Wolthuizen | Feb 24 | Jan Ten Kley
Braden Hindt
Kyla Wolthuizen
Jace Dykstra |
| | | Feb 15 | John Doely
Lyle Laubach | Feb 25 | Dave Van Wyk |
| | | Feb 16 | Twila De Groot
Nick Stellinga
Huxley Holtrop | Feb 26 | Courtney Van Maaren |
| | | | | Feb 28 | Ken Doughty |

JOIN US FOR



A
NIGHT
OUT



FEBRUARY

27

6:00 PM

FRC FELLOWSHIP HALL
TICKETS \$30/PERSON FOR MEAL
SILENT AUCTION
BABYSITTING (FREEWILL DONATION)

RSVP INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK

MENU

CHOICE OF MEAL

- ◆ Chicken Cordon Bleu
 - ◆ Brisket
- ◆ Entrée with sides and dessert

TICKET SALES ARE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AFTER THE SERVICE STARTING ON FEBRUARY 8TH.

Contact

caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com
or call 712.324.2130 to reserve a ticket if you cannot get them after church services.

Buy your tickets early!
SEATING IS LIMITED.

PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH
EXPENSES.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



March 18 - Middle School Pasta Supper

March 29 - Youth Sunday/Palm Sunday - 3 yr olds-K sing & Youth in charge of the service

April 17-19 - Middle School Retreat @ Dayton, Iowa

April 29 - Middle School End-of-Year Party
High School - Amazing Race

May 24 - Graduation Sunday

July 12-16 - VBS

July 25-29 - Rocky Mountain High

"No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9-10



First Reformed,

Thank you for your year-end donation to Inspiration Hills. We are so blessed by donors like you to help close out the year, and ring in 2026 with helping others receive a camp experience. Your gift is funding ministry work to single moms, youth and the surrounding community.

One supporter said, "I give to camp because camp has impacted by walk with the Lord immensely and I want others to be able to have a place where they can also grow in their love and knowledge of the Lord!"

Thank you for being part of creating an impact!

~ Thank you - Kristi Schaeffer

First Reformed Church,

Thank you for the heart warming funeral service for Carolyn! The flowers were beautiful. This meant the world to our family. Just knowing that our family and friends are with us makes the way easier. Thank You for sharing our loss.

~ The family of Carolyn Storm - Larry, Charles, Brittne, Sam, Kelsey and grandkids

Dearest Friends at First Reformed Church,

Thank you for your wonderful support for Talking Bibles. Because of you, 140 talking Bibles will be sent to Tanzanian schools and churches. This means that about 1,200 children will hear God's Word in their own language.

~ Mark Klassen

We just wanted to send a quick thank you for allowing us to use your Youth House for CPI training. It was the perfect space for what we needed, and it worked out really well for both the class portion and the disengagements.

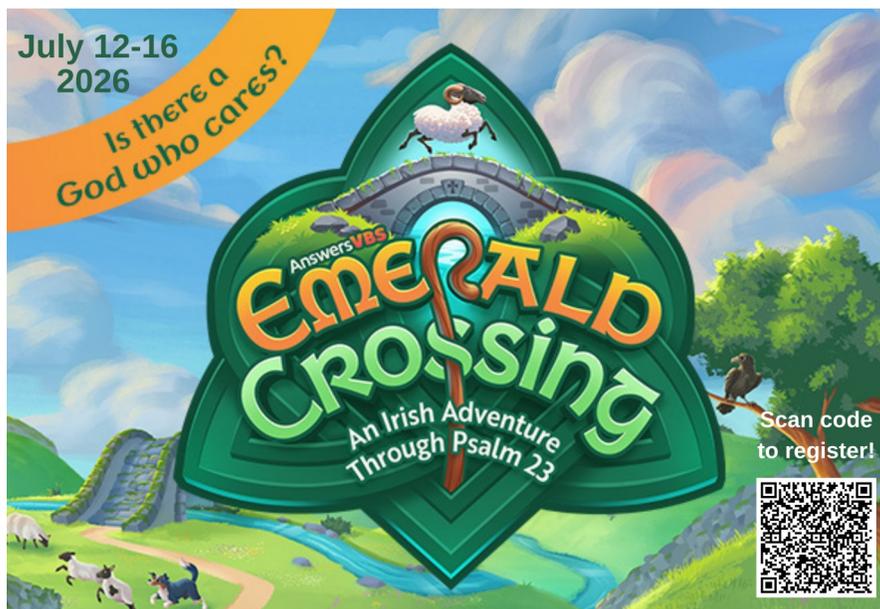
We also really appreciate how flexible and accommodating you were with everything, it made the day run so much smoother. We thank staff for taking the time to help us get everything set up.

~ Thank you again!

Jayden Horken - Seasons Center for Behavioral Health

Thank you to everyone who sent up many prayers, visited us, and sent cards during the last six months. Also a big thanks to Pastor Paul and Leon for their visits and to the Elders and Pastor Paul for serving us communion. God is good. We are so blessed!

~ Arnie & Glenda Hoogers



VBS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Scan the code on the graphic below and you can register your child for 2026 VBS.

As always, we will need teachers and helpers. By getting VBS on your radar now we ask you to mark your calendars and prayerfully consider getting involved in this important community outreach.

If interested in helping, contact Sami at sami@sheldonfirstreformed.com.



FEBRUARY MEETING DATES

- 4TH** Regular meeting
- 11TH** Theme: Superhero Night!
- 18TH** Regular meeting
- 25TH** Regular meeting

Family night meal: 5:00-6:30
Awana meeting time: 6:00-7:30

Contact Sami Fox for more info or to register

Lower-Level Reno - Jan. 2026

Dec 31, 25

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income	
General Fund	
Lower-Level Renovation	<u>245,672.99</u>
Total General Fund	245,672.99
Transfer In	
Endowment Interest	<u>7,575.00</u>
Total Transfer In	<u>7,575.00</u>
Total Income	<u>253,247.99</u>
Gross Profit	253,247.99
Expense	
Facilities & Grounds	
Building Improvements	
Lower-Level Renovations	<u>248,991.99</u>
Total Building Improvements	<u>248,991.99</u>
Total Facilities & Grounds	<u>248,991.99</u>
Total Expense	<u>248,991.99</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>4,256.00</u>
Net Cash Flow	<u>4,256.00</u>



- Whenever I try I fail; whenever I trust He succeeds!
- Anxiety is the rust of life, trust is the oil.
- Patience is waiting without worrying.
- Hurry is the mother of most mistakes.
- TODAY is the TOMORROW you worried about YESTERDAY.
- Faith is the hand of the heart that reaches out and receives God's gift.
- "I have lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered" (J , Ingelow).
- Sin is the greatest of detectives (Numbers 32:23).
- The most deadly sins do not leap upon us; they creep upon us.
- When you daily read the Bible and pray, you take the time OUT to take eternity IN.
- The Bible is like a compass --- it always points the believer in the right direction.
- Ruffled waters cannot reflect mountain peaks and neither can a troubled heart reflect Christ (John 14:1).
- True prayer is a way of life, not just an emergency detour.

General Fund - January 2026

	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 25</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 57,058.48		
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
General Fund	84,176.46	669,639.73	587,810.06
Interest Income	<u>50.05</u>	<u>526.72</u>	
Total Income	<u>84,226.51</u>	<u>670,166.45</u>	<u>587,810.06</u>
Gross Profit	84,226.51	670,166.45	587,810.06
Expense			
Alliance Dues	6,094.67	20,800.79	19,000.00
Congregational Care	1,616.53	13,745.51	17,000.00
Education	1,414.37	31,019.74	21,850.00
Facilities & Grounds	3,415.22	98,575.65	128,000.00
General and Consistory	849.70	16,346.52	15,600.00
Office	454.55	17,986.07	21,645.00
Outreach	1,836.05	16,772.52	24,300.00
Payroll Expenses	25,694.73	286,062.84	331,365.06
Safety & Security	0.00	15.00	
Transfer Out	45,000.00	145,000.00	
Worship	15.92	3,219.13	4,100.00
Youth Groups	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,545.51</u>	<u>4,950.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>86,391.74</u>	<u>651,089.28</u>	<u>587,810.06</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-2,165.23</u>	<u>19,077.17</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Cash Flow	<u>-2,165.23</u>	<u>19,077.17</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 54,893.25		



- A smile can add a great deal to one's face value.
- If men speak ill of you, live so nobody will believe them.

<https://www.middletownbiblechurch.org/lochurch/bullfill.htm>

Benevolent Fund - January 2026

More Food for Thought

<https://www.middletonbiblechurch.org/lochurch/bullfill.htm>

Source is the same for the previous page

	<u>Jan - Dec 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Beginning Cash Balance as of January 1, 2025	\$ 90,325.63	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Benevolent Fund	196,588.17	188,250.00
Missions	1,100.00	
Sunday School	1,498.66	
Total Income	<u>199,186.83</u>	<u>188,250.00</u>
Gross Profit	199,186.83	188,250.00
Expense		
Commitments		
Beth (Blankers) Borgens/CRU	7,000.00	7,000.00
Bethesda Christian Counseling	4,000.00	4,000.00
GraceCovenantMinistry-Annville	7,000.00	7,000.00
Grooters, Jay & Amy-Costa Rica	7,000.00	7,000.00
Harlan Moss-SD Prison Ministry	7,000.00	7,000.00
Inspiration Hills	7,000.00	7,000.00
Jake & Brittany Korver	7,000.00	7,000.00
JoJo Bong-Asian Youth	3,500.00	3,500.00
Lay Mission Fund	0.00	15,000.00
Love Inc	7,000.00	7,000.00
Mission & Service Projects	11,619.28	5,000.00
Mission to India-ChurchPlanters	7,500.00	7,500.00
Mission to India-Literacy Prog	2,500.00	2,500.00
Multiplication Network	3,500.00	3,500.00
Pascal,Sasha&Sara-Moldova	3,000.00	3,000.00
Reformed Church in America		
Brownell-Japan	7,000.00	7,000.00
Nicole Opgenorth-Nicaragua	7,000.00	7,000.00
Total Reformed Church in America	<u>14,000.00</u>	<u>14,000.00</u>
Rise Fest	5,000.00	5,000.00
Rise Ministries	7,000.00	7,000.00
SandalsOnSand Min (B Godbersen)	2,500.00	2,500.00
Sheldon Christian School	7,000.00	7,000.00
Talking Bibles	7,000.00	7,000.00
Touch of Hope Bibles	650.07	4,000.00
Touch of Hope Haiti	7,000.00	7,000.00
Vasileiadis,PavlosMeggan-Greece	7,000.00	7,000.00
Village Northwest Unlimited	6,000.00	6,000.00
Words of Hope	<u>28,000.00</u>	<u>28,000.00</u>
Total Commitments	175,769.35	187,500.00
RCA College Scholarships	750.00	750.00
YTD Offerings Paid Out	<u>38,632.98</u>	
Total Expense	<u>215,152.33</u>	<u>188,250.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-15,965.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Cash Flow	<u>-15,965.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 74,360.13	

- Courage is fear that has said its prayers.
- Grace is everything that is given to someone who deserves nothing.
- Indian definition of Christmas: Jesus Christ came down and pitches His tent right next to mine.
- God has two thrones -- one in the highest heavens; the other in the lowliest hearts (Isaiah 66:1-2).
- He who WAITS on the Lord will not be crushed by the WEIGHTS of adversity.
- It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little. Do what you can! "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10).
- Noah's belief led him into the ark, and the ark, not his belief saved him. Christ is the ARK in which we find salvation.
- There is no limit to God's grace. There is no limit to what a person can be through the grace of God (1 Corinthians 15:10).
- Worldly amusements are the devil's anesthetic for an empty heart.
- Witnessing is simply "show and tell".
- Virtues are learned at mother's knee -- vices at some other joint!
- Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them!
- Some Christians in other countries share Christ with their enemies and are killed; some Christians in America are reluctant to share Christ with their loved ones.
- So live that even your secret hours can bear the Lord's inspection.
- While the conversion of a soul is the miracle of the moment, the growth of a saint is the task of a lifetime.
- God has not made many of us lawyers, but He has done something more for all of us Christians; He has subpoenaed all of us as witnesses (Act 1:8).
- The time to get your spiritual instrument in tune is early in the morning before the concert of the day begins.
- Your children need your **presence** more than your **presents**.



On January 4, both Jack Michael Jager and Kipp James Haack

Kipp is the son of Drew & Brenna Haack.



Jack is the son of Hunter & Kennedy Jager. He is the grandson of Shane & Christie Jager and the great-grandson of Bob & Cheryl Van Meeteren and Edgar & Shirley Jager.

BAPTIZED
IN THE NAME
OF THE
FATHER
AND OF THE
OF THE
SON
AND
HOLY
SPIRIT



January 25
Baptism and
Professions of
Faith

Baptism of Lane Petersen.



Three young men made their Professions of Faith.

- ◆ Sam Van Maaren, son of Paul & Courtney Van Maaren.
- ◆ Lane Petersen, son of Blake & Kim Petersen.
- ◆ Joshua Nieuwendorp, son of Jim & the late Tina Nieuwendorp.



2026 Ministry Teams Contact People

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Pastor Paul - President
Dennis Ten Clay - Vice President
Mike Kleinwolterink - Clerk
Brady Peters - Chairman of Deacons
Tyler Drenkow - Secretary of Deacons

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Dennis Ten Clay - 712.348.3160
dennistenclay@gmail.com

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Cleiton Zanela - 712.230.1501
zanalavineyards@hotmail.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 -

Nancy Martens - 712.348.0590
nkmartens@hotmail.com

ENDOWMENT FUND

Brady Peters - 712.541.7640
brdyptrs@gmail.com

HANDS OF HOPE OUTREACH

Dianne Wolthuizen - 712.348.4679
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Janna Kats - 712.441.7122
jannableyenberg@gmail.com

MEMORIAL FUND

Brady Peters - 712.541.7640
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MISSION COMMITTEE

Rodney Kruse - 712.348.4232
rodneykruse@hotmail.com

NURSERY

Kelsey Cooper - 712.348.2636
kelseydh34@gmail.com

PRAYER CHAIN COORDINATOR

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PULPIT SUPPLY

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SACRAMENTS

Larry Vander Plaats - 712.348.4626
plaats58@yahoo.com

SAFETY & SECURITY

Greg Sawyer - 712.348.1021
sawyerconstructioninc@gmail.com

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Andy Cooper - 712.348.6718
andycooper343460@gmail.com

WOMEN TO WOMEN

Brenna Haack - 712.441.0050
brennahaack@gmail.com

WORK GROUPS

Bev Brouwer - 712.348.4083
brouwerb@premieronline.net

2026 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 – Kendall De Groot

Team 2: Brad Bosma & Dan Bracy

Evan De Hoogh – Betty Gonnerman

Team 3: Steve Van Beek & Marty Van Peurseem

Johnny Granstra – Shane Jager

Team 4: Dennis Ten Clay & Jared Schaeffer

Luke Jenness – Toby Maggert

Team 5: Larry Vander Plaats & Rodney Kruse

Eileen Martens – Carol Pomerence

Team 6: Randy Fonkert & Cleiton Zanela

Caleb Popkes – Noah Sterk

Team 7: Galen Blankers & Brady Peters

Brian Stofferan – Norma Van Gorp

Team 8: Mike Kleinwolverink & Andy Cooper

Lyle Van Heuvelen – Darlene Verrips

Team 9: Greg Sawyer & Brent Hofmeyer

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: fcsecretary@outlook.com

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 the March Encore is noon on Thursday, February 26. It will be printed on February 27.**

NOTE: To access videos & bulletins, note the above information in [green](#). If you cannot find bulletins, look under the media tab. Then scroll down to the date of the bulletin you are looking for and click on it.

NICOLE IN NICARAGUA

JANUARY 2026



Friends,

Greetings from sunny Nicaragua! While many of you are experiencing the cold winter weather, Nicaragua is having the best temperatures of the year - between 75 and 90 degrees with lots of sunshine and a nice breeze. This is why I get so many groups wanting to come in the first couple months of the year - to escape the harsh Midwest winters.



In January, I was invited to a missionary retreat hosted by RCA Global Mission meant for those serving in Central and South America. I traveled to Mexico to meet with others serving in Brazil, Columbia, and Mexico. It was great to actually meet people whose names I've heard of or seen on emails. We shared more about our respective ministry areas and prayed together.

It was encouraging to learn more about RCA Global Mission's impact while also talking with folks who just understand what life on the mission field looks like.

Ministry Updates

We welcomed families back to Tesoros de Dios after the Christmas break to start a new ministry year. We follow the Nicaraguan school calendar, January to December, which means we have adjusted each child's therapies and services received, as well as their schedule. Many of our students are now coming on different days and/or have changed programs as they age and develop.

We trust these changes are positive and will move ministry in the right direction, but change can be hard for everyone, and we are all adjusting to the new routines. Since Tesoros de Dios hired a new Director last year, there are also changes for the staff, which can be challenging, especially for those who have been working here for years. Join me in praying for smooth transitions amid the changes.

I have also been very busy planning for upcoming groups visiting Tesoros de Dios. I have two groups coming in February, the first ones I have hosted in a year and a half. I am excited to have them in Nicaragua and open up these opportunities for partner churches. If you're interested in what a visit to Nicaragua looks like or would like to get on my calendar for this year, please respond to this email so I can provide more information.

Prayer Requests



- The new changes at Tesoros de Dios - that the families and staff would be flexible and understanding amid transitions.
- That the groups I am hosting would have safe travels and an impactful time in Nicaragua.

Many Blessings,

Nicole Opgenorth



2025 Year in Review

Grace Covenant Ministries

A glimpse at what your support made possible

This past year has been a year filled with joy, challenges, successes and new beginnings! Due to your generosity and God's provision, we have been blessed abundantly beyond all we asked or even imagined! There were countless hearts touched, dozens of projects done to people's homes, and many updates were able to be done on campus due to your generosity!

With the help of 11 work groups and your financial support we were able to personally minister to over 75 families with their physical and spiritual needs. One example of how your support made our ministry possible is with a couple named Janet and Barry. We were asked if we could help "fix" a hole in their kitchen floor. When we went to their home, we found that the issue was more than a hole in the floor! Janet and Barry had been told that their house would be condemned if it wasn't fixed. They had spoken with several contractors, each of them saying the house was too far gone as the main support beam holding the house up had rotted away, resulting in the kitchen floor falling to the ground, a bedroom that had been unusable for years, and various electrical issues. Both Janet and Barry are disabled, Barry receives dialysis three times each week, Janet has chronic back problems so they are on a very fixed income. They are living on the property that was homesteaded by Barry's family nearly 250 years ago, so moving was not an option. Due to your generosity and the help of three work groups, we were able to not only repair the damages, but we were also able to provide them with:

- a bedroom suite
- a washer and dryer
- new cabinets in the kitchen
- a new floor through much of the house
- repair all of the electrical issues
- replace an exterior door
- remodel the bathroom
- make the hallway and bathroom handicapped accessible for Barry and his wheelchair
- paint the majority of the house!

All of the appliances and furniture came from our Trade Store thanks to the donations made by so many of you! God's love was shared with Barry and Janet in more than just the deeds done by these groups. We took time to sit with Barry and Janet and share the love of God in word as well, praying with them, building relationships that continue to this day! Both Barry and Janet know the Lord and rely on him each day—"strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow!"

Another person ministered to due to your generosity and God's provision is a woman named Lucille. Lucille is 80 years old and still works at the local Dollar General. Earlier this spring we received a series of storms that resulted in significant flooding. Due to these floods Lucille had a bridge wash out. Without the bridge Lucille had to park her car about 1/2 mile from her home and walk across the broken bridge. Lucille had received a couple of estimates on repairs but couldn't afford them. Thanks to donations and the help of a work group, we were able to provide her a bridge and the opportunity to share the gospel. Every time we see her, she gives us a hug and thanks us for her bridge. These are just a tip of the iceberg. Countless stories could be told of God's faithfulness and how He has used YOU to minister to the people of our community!

Our Camp Ministry saw a record year! We offered six camps to the children of the community including Basketball, Baseball, Art, Dance, Cheer, and VBS. We also offered swimming lessons and water aerobics. Each camp lasts one week and includes a devotion each day, training in whatever the focus is for that camp, meals and time each afternoon to enjoy our swimming pool. We had 200 students involved in our camps last year. For 2026, we will be adding at least four more camps: volleyball, soccer, fishing, and science camps. We look forward to what God has in store for our Camp Ministry this year!



Our Trade Store also saw a record year in 2025! As many of you know, our Trade Store is a huge part of our outreach to the community and beyond. Everything sold at our Trade Store comes from donations from our supporting churches and individuals. This income helps us to support our Camp Ministry and other outreach done throughout the year, including the operations of our swimming pool which is a huge outreach to our community.

Finally, we were able to get several projects done to update buildings on our campus. We were able to replace three roofs, get new siding on our gymnasium and put blacktop down on a couple of the gravel roads which allowed for people to be able to walk around our campus much easier. "Thank-You" does not seem to be enough when it comes to all that our supporters have done this past year. GOD IS GOOD!

Our challenges in 2025

2025 was not without its challenges! In May of 2025, we found ourselves in need of a new Director. But God, as he always does, provided for our need. Chad and Toni Demers had been serving with work groups at Grace Covenant Ministries on several occasions since 1998. They had begun feeling God's call on their lives to serve in some fashion at Grace Covenant Ministries already in late 2024. Chad was the Administrative Pastor at Lighthouse Community Church in Allendale, Michigan, for 20 years. Previous to that Chad had worked in construction and, in fact, while Pastor at Lighthouse had been the General Contractor to build their new worship center and gymnasium. With the background in construction, administration, and ministry, it was as though God had been preparing him for this position. He began serving as Interim Director in May and as of the first of this year became the new Director of Ministries here at GCM. His wife, Toni, had previously owned her own business cleaning houses and as the custodian at Lighthouse. She also has background working in retail which has been a huge asset to our Trade Store as she serves there daily, assisting those who work there. She has also taken on the task of using social media to promote the Trade Store. Again, God provided all that we needed!

Another challenge we faced was on July 31st at 11:30 p.m. A building on our campus that was in the process of being updated burned to the ground. This building was called Lincoln Hall. It was a historic building which had been used previously by the Annville Institute from 1919-1978.

Unfortunately, the fire was determined to be arson. While we don't understand the "why" behind this challenge, we know that "all things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to his purpose." We are trusting God, seeking his will and working through the clean-up and planning stages of rebuilding if God so moves.

Please pray

The most important thing you could for us is to pray! Pray for us as we continue to plan for this coming year! The needs are great and the harvest is plentiful. Pray for wisdom for us as we try to focus where God would have us focus. There are so many needs that it can be very easy to be so busy that we aren't able to build relationships. We can be so busy that we can focus on helping physical needs and not take the time to share what they really need, the truth of God's Word, his amazing grace, and strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Pray for us as we seek God's will concerning rebuilding Lincoln Hall as well as the possibility of other new opportunities to minister to the people in our community.



PASCALS IN MOLDOVA

January 2026

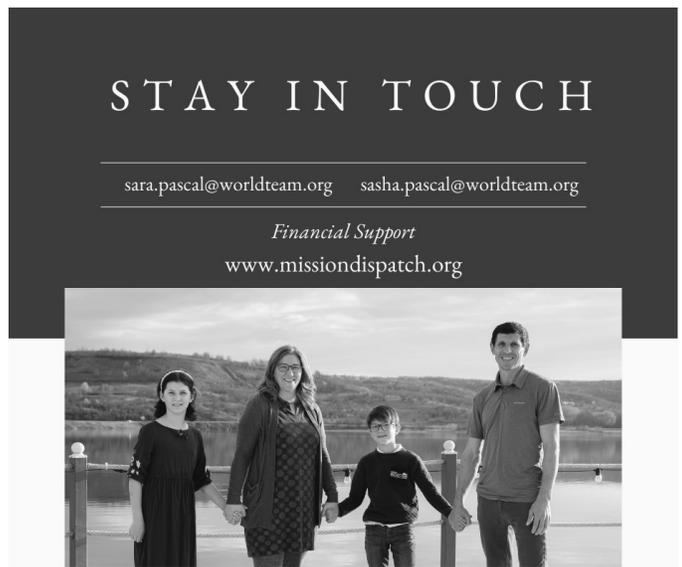
Retention Rates

As we are looking back to 2025 and talking about what we are most excited about, we both said retention rates. An AI search says, *Retention rate is the percentage of customers, employees, or users who continue to use a product, stay with a company, or engage with a service over a specific time, measuring loyalty and value delivery...*

Basically, the kids and families we are ministering to keep coming back and we couldn't be more delighted! We have anywhere from six to ten kids on a Tuesday night bible study in our home. All of our soccer teams have maxed out rosters. What a blessing God has given us, to have a ministry so full of people, learning about Jesus and His goodness week in and week out.

Summer Plans

For 2026 we are most excited about summer plans with those in our sphere of influence. We plan to kick the summer off with a camping trip with boys from soccer, then we have EDGESports soccer camp with other teams from Moldova. We will also do English Camp again this summer and there is a strong possibility of a team coming from the States to help us. We are very excited about this.



These concentrated times of togetherness, Bible teaching and fun, strengthen relationships and help us learn more about how to disciple our players. Kids are more open about spiritual things and we learn a lot about them.

Please Pray

We are thankful to be entering our ninth year on the field this Spring. Missionary retention rate is very low in the world. Around half of missionaries leave the field and the work within the first decade. There are certain things that help missionaries stay on the field, so please, as we start the year, pray for us in these areas. We would love to have many more years making disciples in Moldova.

1. Health: pray we don't bump against any significant health problems that cannot be treated here in Moldova.
2. Kids' Education and Wellbeing: Our kids are thriving with Moldovan friends and other missionary kid friendships. They love school, have great activities and enjoy our church. They have healthy adults that love them. This is a huge plus and helps with longevity on the field.
3. Spiritual Wellbeing: Our marriage and life as disciples of Christ is undergirded by so many supports. We have friends on and off the field, prayer partners, and leaders with World Team that care about our lives in Christ.
4. Financial Health: Every time we receive our giving statement we are amazed by God and His church. Your generosity means we can live life here in Moldova as well as do ministry. We can bring kids to camp, upkeep the van and pay the heating bills that come in the winter. Thank you! Many missionaries leave the field because of lack of financial support.

Freedom to do ministry: There are a lot of circumstances in this country that allow us to share the gospel openly and have an impact on our neighbors through soccer. Pray that freedom continues here, that we continue to have access to the soccer stadium and partners to work with.

This year please pray that each of these areas stays healthy. That God would protect our family from the pitfalls of ministry on the mission field and of sin that so easily entangles. Pray that our financial support would continue to be in the green and we would continue to have religious freedom in Moldova.



To the right is a link that will allow you to opt into receiving emails for the Alliance and the Midwest Network. This will help you keep up on what is going on in the Alliance of Reformed Churches (ARC).



Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center

1242 280th St. Inwood, IA 51240 | 712.986.5193

Website: inspirationhills.org

Email: ihills@inspirationhills.org

Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry,
As February quickly approaches, we want to thank you for the ways you continue to support and partner with Inspiration Hills. We are grateful for how God is at work through this ministry, and we're excited to share what's ahead and how you can continue to pray and come alongside us. Please pass along these updates and events to your congregation and members!

Ministry News

Summer Camp 2026 Registration Opens Soon!

Summer Camp 2026 registration opens **Monday, February 2nd at 9:00 AM!** We're eagerly preparing for another summer filled with faith, fun, and life-changing moments for campers. We encourage families to register early, as spots fill quickly each year.

Summer Staff 2026 Applications Are Open

We are excited to begin hiring our **2026 Summer Staff!** Serving on staff at Inspiration Hills is a unique opportunity to live out the Gospel through relationships and daily ministry.

Staff members can expect to:

- Share the Gospel and make an eternal impact in the lives of campers
- Work closely with children and youth, encouraging growth in faith and confidence

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.

October-December 2025 Ministry Report

108

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

24

different churches were represented by these volunteers!
Your church's involvement is listed on the reserve side of this sheet.

631

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.

186
items given!



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

78
rides provided!



Provided traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas meal kits.



Served through the Life Together ministry. This ministry equips community members with new ways of thinking, encouragement, and accountability as they look to live quality and productive lives.

48
class meetings!



166 adults and 146 children benefited from receiving furniture or other housewares or rides to appointments.



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

2025 October-December

First Reformed Church

Janice Vander Pol volunteers each week through the Life Together ministry.

Ingetta Tutje volunteers in the Love INC office.

Brandon Krukow, Blake & Lane Peterson, and Wally Wolthuizen volunteered with the household goods ministry, distributing furniture and other housewares to people in our community living without.

Sue Fonkert, 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.

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

Sue Fonkert serves on the board of directors.

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

Bev Brouwer, Jewell Doely, Dan Dykstra, Cindy Hassebroek, Dee Van Beek, and Dixon Van Meeteren 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.

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

2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
\$7,200.00	\$7,150.00	\$7,150.00	\$8,916.47	\$7,141.63

Beth Borgens

January 2026

From "Irrelevant Folklore" to a Life-Changing Reality

Growing up, Brayden's family members tried to convince him to consider faith in God, but Bible stories sounded like irrelevant folklore. Now a freshman at Lake Area Tech, Brayden began attending Cru meetings, where he heard fellow student Evan share about the Minneapolis Winter Conference. Though curious, past struggles with depression and mounting stress caused Brayden to hesitate—until Evan gently reminded him of his desire to learn more about God and the Bible.



During the first few days of the conference, Brayden didn't just hear the teaching; he watched his roommates live. He saw them wrestle with real temptations and choose grace in their daily interactions. By Sunday morning, the atmosphere in the ballroom shifted for him. As the music swelled, the intellectual barriers crumbled.

“I realized I can't deal with these problems by myself,” Brayden said. “I needed Jesus. I needed forgiveness.”

The decision culminated later that day, in a car full of students on the way to an outreach event. As they drove down the interstate, Brayden couldn't keep it in any longer. “I want to give my life to Christ,” he blurted out. Right there in the car, Evan and the others walked through the “Knowing God Personally” booklet, and Brayden prayed to receive Jesus as his Savior and Lord.

Evan was ecstatic. “Brayden had been coming to our meetings for quite a while,” Evan said. “Seeing the transformation has been unbelievable. You can definitely see how God has been working ever since he started to study the Bible.”

-shared by Bonnie Roe - Minneapolis Winter Conference

Prayer Requests

I am traveling internationally in February to an area of the world Cru refers to as NAME (for safety reasons). I have not left the country since prior to Covid. This trip is the week-long kickoff meeting for the Global Operations Leadership Development (GOLD) program I am participating in in 2026. I will be joining fellow employees of Cru from all around the world to begin our leadership development journey. Please pray for safe and healthy travels.

Pray for healing for all four of us. January has been a month of multiple ear infections, lingering pesky colds, and one food poisoning. We expected this since it is Emma's first year of school, but are praying for a reprieve soon, especially before I need to travel in a few weeks.

FEBRUARY 2026

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 8am Praise Team Practice Baptism - Ryker Jager	2  6pm Congregational Care Mtg 6pm Hands of Hope Mtg	3 7am Men's Bible Study	4 5-6:15 Family Night Meal 6-7:30 Awana 6:15-7:30 Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 High School Last Day to turn in Cherish House baby bottles	5 7am Executive Team Mtg	6	7
8 8am Praise Team Practice 9:30am Communion "A Night Out" ticket sales begin after service 2pm Community Unity Service @ Pavilion 6pm Communion @ CRH	9	10 7am Men's Bible Study	11 5-6:15 Family Night Meal 6-7:30 Awana - Superhero Night 6:15-7:30 Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 High School	12 4:30-6pm Sheldon Food Truck @ Living Water	13 TEC @ Rock Rapids FRC Caittie gone	14 TEC @ Rock Rapids FRC Caittie gone 
15 8am Praise Team Practice TEC - Caittie gone	16 5:30-6:30 Sheldon Unity Meal @ Living Water FRC in charge	17 7am Men's Bible Study 6:30 Elders/Deacons Mtgs 7:30 Consistory Mtg	18 Ash Wednesday 1:30 Afternoon Circle 5-6:15 Family Night Meal 6-7:30 Awana 6:15-7:30 Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 High School	19 7pm Evening Circle	20	21
22 8am Praise Team Practice Professions of Faith	23	24 7am Men's Bible Study	25 5-6:15 Family Night Meal 6-7:30 Awana 6:15-7:30 Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 High School	26	27 6 PM - "A Night Out" Fundraiser & Silent Auction - to help finance Rocky Mtn High	28