

Building God's kingdom  
one life at a time.

APRIL  
2026



**First Reformed Church**

Building God's Kingdom One Life at a Time

1101 7th St, Sheldon, IA 51201

(712) 324-2130

sheldonfirstreformed.com

### Maundy Thursday Service



#### When:

Thursday, April 2 at 7 PM

**Where:** First Reformed  
Church Sanctuary

Come to this special service to reflect on Jesus's sacrifice for all of us and to partake in communion. Communion will be served at the Christian Retirement Home at 7 PM also.



### EASTER BREAKFAST - APRIL 5

We will be serving caramel rolls, coffee & juice **BEFORE** service from **8-9 AM**. Come enjoy some food & fellowship before our Easter Service.

**There will be coffee available after the service. There is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** so you may spend Easter with your family.

### EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 5

There will **NO**  
Children & Worship.

On **Easter Sunday** our attendance is generally large. Please move to the center of the pews so people can find places to sit. It is daunting for visitors when the only space is in the middle of the pew or at the front of the church. Let us help all feel comfortable on this special day.

**The church office will be closed on Monday, April 6.**

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

- Apr 1** Hamburger Hashbrown Casserole, Fruit, **brownies**  
[10 people bring 9x13 pan of brownies]
- Apr 8** Creamed Chicken/Bun, Chips, Fruit Salad, **cookies**  
[7 people bring 2 dozen cookies]
- Apr 15** Tex-Mex Potato Casserole, Fruit, **Bars**  
[10 people bring 9x13 pan of bars]
- Apr 22** **LAST FAMILY NIGHT MEAL**  
Hamburger/Hotdogs, Chips, Baked Beans, **Brownies**, Ice Cream  
[10 people bring a 9x13 pan of brownies]



Items that are to be brought in by work group members will follow the meal for that night (**in bold red lettering**). *If you can't get items to the church by 10 AM Wednesday, call the church office & make arrangements with Wendy. If you can't deliver items when the church is open, use the code provided by your work group leader.*

**DATE:** Thursday, April 9

**TIME:** 4:30-6:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Living Water Church

Bring a box with you to pick up your groceries.



## Don't forget to sign up your kids for summer camp at Inspiration Hills

Grab a brochure in the Fellowship Hall or visit [inspirationhills.org](http://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.](#)

## Sheldon Area Unity Meal



**WHEN:** Monday, April 20

**TIME:** 5:30-6:30 PM

**WHERE:** Living Water Community Church

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



## WOMEN AT THE WELL - APRIL 9-12

Shannon Baack is asking you to please pray for the group of men and women going to South Dakota State Prison for Women in Pierre, SD.

"At the Well" will be planting seeds in the lives of the women imprisoned there. Pray for open hearts that they feel God's love and grace. Also, pray

for the speakers who will be presenting their testimonies that God has put on their hearts to be used to His glory.



## LAST OPPORTUNITY

If you are going to be graduating from high school or college, we would like to recognize your accomplishment by including a picture and a short statement of

your future plans in our May Encore

Newsletter. Could you please submit these items to the church office or to Caitie? You may email the information to either [wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.com](mailto:wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.com) or to [caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com](mailto:caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com).

Caitie will also need a baby picture for the video that will be shown on May 24<sup>th</sup> for Graduation Sunday.

**College graduates and parents of college graduates, please help us out.** We often don't see the graduates here at the church but want them to be acknowledged as well. A graduation picture would be greatly appreciated!

Middle School Retreat is a fun weekend for middle school students, 6th-8th grades and their leaders. Cultivate Co-Op partners with college students to plan a weekend filled with worship, large group sessions, breakout sessions, recreation and games.

## April 17 - April 19

**Departure: Friday, April 17**  
from church parking lot  
@ 4 PM

**Return: Sunday, April 19 -**  
mid-afternoon

Hidden Acres Christian Center  
3837 Union Avenue  
Dayton, IA, 50530

## MSR Packing List

- Casual clothes
- Jacket/sweatshirt
- Outdoor shoes
- Personal toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, etc.)
- Water bottle
- Bible & Pen
- Towel(s)
- Pillow
- Sleeping bag

- Bathing suit
- Flashlight
- Spending \$ for snack bar

## Towels & Linens

- All cabins will be dorm style. You need to bring your own sleeping bag, pillow & towel

FRC WOMEN TO WOMEN  
MINISTRY PRESENTS

# Ladies' Mingo

FRIDAY, APRIL 24  
5:30-7:30 PM  
FRC FELLOWSHIP HALL

SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME TABLE  
BEFORE APRIL 20!

BRING THE GALS AND COME  
ENJOY A NIGHT OF MINGO  
(MUSIC BINGO) WITH PRIZES  
AND A BBQ MEAL!

A FREE WILL DONATION WILL BE  
COLLECTED TO BENEFIT FRC'S  
YOUTH GROUPS.



April 6	Cleiton & Sheila Zanela - 25
April 7	Harlan & Kathy Kuyper - 55
April 8	Rod & Bonnie Fonkert - 61
April 9	Josh & Haley Jager - 4
April 11	Jake & Brittany Korver - 6
April 12	Keaton & Kali Mouw - 2
April 14	Del & Carolyn Van Maanen - 60
	Larry & Karen Christians - 59
	Rod & Gladys Kroeze - 47
April 19	Jim & Jennifer Groote - 12
April 20	Jon & Kristi Fuerstenberg - 30
	Brandon & Janna Kats - 9
April 30	Mike & Kristi Meyer - 22

## Middle School End-of-Year Party

DATE: Wednesday, April 29

TIME: 6:15-7:30 PM

LOCATION: Youth House

Check with Caitie for more details.

## ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO DIRECTORY

- Andy Kanengieter died on February 3.
- Clara Boone died on March 17.
- **Gladys Van Veldhuizen's new address**
  - ◊ Sanford Senior Care, Rm 103B,  
118 N 7th Ave, Sheldon, IA.

## We have a fun opportunity available!

Our high school ministry ends the year on April 29 with The Amazing Race event. This is a favorite among our students! To make this event a success we need individuals, couples, and families willing to host a stop. You can either get creative and come up with an activity/challenge on your own or I can help you come up with something. It's a fun way to get to know our teens a little and make memories in the process! This event will run from about 7:45-9:00 PM, though it doesn't usually take them the entire time. If you might be interested, please let Caitie know.





# APRIL MEETING DATES

Kids  
Corner

**1ST**

Regular meeting

**8TH**

Theme night: Polka Dot  
KNOW YOUR MEMORY WORK!

**15TH**

Regular meeting

**22ND**

Regular Meeting

**29TH**

Award Program!  
Final night of Awana

Family night meal: 5:15–6:30  
Awana meeting time: 6:00–7:30

Contact Sami Fox for more info or to register

July 12-16  
2026

Is there a  
God who cares?

Answers VBS

**EMERALD  
Crossing**  
An Irish Adventure  
Through Psalm 23

Scan code  
to register!



## Volunteer Sign-up for VBS

It takes a lot of people to have VBS. It is a HUGE outreach opportunity for our church to reach people in Sheldon and surrounding communities. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome table. Add your name and the area in which you would like to help. You don't have to work each day, so sign up for when you can. Men - we need your help too!!!



Apr 1 Dave Wolthuizen  
 Apr 2 Phil Kragt  
 Eric Spanjer  
 Sami Reinking  
 Reed Jager  
 Apr 3 Eric Iedema  
 Apr 4 Gert Van Wyk  
 Rod Fonkert  
 Julie Heerde  
 Steven Van Meeteren  
 Apr 5 Greta Postma  
 Charlee Kruger  
 Andrew Jorgensen  
 Apr 6 Carisa Ten Kley

Apr 7 Janna Kats  
 Apr 8 Shane Jager  
 Apr 10 Kendall De Groot  
 Apr 11 Cindy Hofstra  
 Apr 12 Parker Peelen  
 Apr 13 Donna Koerselman  
 Katlyn Crooks  
 Apr 15 Megan (Jager) Paulsen  
 Mady Van Voorst  
 Apr 16 Larry Sterk  
 Brent Van Engen  
 Zach Sawyer  
 Justina Van Regenmorter  
 Apr 17 Kim Wolthuizen  
 Connor Kruse  
 Apr 18 LaVonne Van Essen  
 Carol Van Beek  
 Tom Gonnerman  
 Kathy Kuyper  
 Cally Holtrop  
 Morgan De Hoogh  
 Apr 20 Darlene Verrips - 93  
 Jodi Vermeer  
 Ashtyn Sawyer

Apr 21 Larry Fedders  
 Kylie Winkel  
 Apr 22 Bev Brouwer  
 Gary Hassebroek  
 Hannah (Van Maaren) Feikema  
 Apr 23 Gary De Hoogh  
 Steve Van Beek  
 Apr 24 Matt Jurgens  
 Apr 25 Austin Buurman  
 Lawson Jager  
 Apr 26 Jon Fuerstenberg  
 Jori Woelber  
 Apr 27 Erica Wassenaar  
 Apr 28 Ladonna Van Meeteren  
 Tim Peelen  
 Noah Sterk  
 Nathan Holtrop  
 Apr 29 Char Woelber  
 Evan De Hoogh  
 Tate Hoekstra  
 Jack Walker  
 Apr 30 Bob Jager  
 Kelsey Cooper



Dear First Reformed,  
 Thank you so much for helping us reach our ministry vehicle goal this year! We are so grateful your prayers and support to the ministry. God has called us to South Africa alongside you in Christ.

~ The Bosmans  
 Tara, Arendt & Sophia

Thank you to all of you who have prayed for me while having my knee replacement surgery. Also thanks for the cards, emails, meals and expressions of concern. My church family is most appreciated. I have been so blessed!  
 ~ Wendy Peelen

## IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING

We will not be holding the free garage sale this summer. We will plan to hold it next summer.

~ Hands of Hope Outreach Committee

## Lower-Level Renovation Fund - 3/2026

	<u>Feb 28, 26</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
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><b>4,256.00</b></u>



## Making their professions on March 22

- Edyn De Hoogh, daughter of Evan & Laura De Hoogh and granddaughter of Gary & Nadine De Hoogh
- Ella Van Maaren, daughter of Paul & Courtney Van Maaren
- Cael Christians, son of Robby & Amanda Christians, grandson of Larry & Karen Christians and Larry & Wendy Vander Platts
- Parker Peelen, son of Brett & Sheila Peelen, grandson of Tim & Wendy Peelen and great-grandson of Larry & Fran Peelen

# Professions of Faith

Creative  
Movement



# Benevolent Fund - March 2026

	<u>Jan - Feb 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Beginning Cash Balance as of January 1, 2026	\$ 75,930.13	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Benevolent Fund	16,893.41	189,500.00
Missions	700.00	
Sunday School	134.00	
Total Income	<u>17,727.41</u>	<u>189,500.00</u>
Gross Profit	17,727.41	189,500.00
Expense		
Commitments		
Beth (Blankers) Borgens/CRU	0.00	7,000.00
Bethesda Christian Counseling	0.00	5,000.00
GraceCovenantMinistry-Annville	0.00	7,000.00
Grooters, Jay & Amy-Costa Rica	0.00	7,000.00
Harlan Moss-SD Prison Ministry	0.00	7,000.00
Inspiration Hills	0.00	7,000.00
Jake & Brittany Korver	0.00	7,000.00
JoJo Bong-Asian Youth	0.00	3,500.00
Lay Mission Fund	0.00	10,000.00
Love Inc	1,166.66	7,000.00
Mission & Service Projects	0.00	5,000.00
Mission to India-ChurchPlanters	0.00	7,500.00
Mission to India-Literacy Prog	0.00	2,500.00
Multiplication Network	0.00	3,500.00
Pascal,Sasha&Sara-Moldova	0.00	3,000.00
Reformed Church in America		
Brownell-Japan	0.00	7,000.00
Nicole Opgenorth-Nicaragua	0.00	7,000.00
Total Reformed Church in America	0.00	14,000.00
Reformed Mission Services	0.00	5,000.00
Rise Fest	0.00	5,000.00
Rise Ministries	0.00	7,000.00
SandalsOnSand Min (B Godbersen)	0.00	2,500.00
Sheldon Christian School	0.00	7,000.00
Talking Bibles	0.00	7,000.00
Touch of Hope Bibles	0.00	4,000.00
Touch of Hope Haiti	0.00	7,000.00
Vasileiadis,PavlosMeggan-Greece	0.00	7,000.00
Village Northwest Unlimited	0.00	7,000.00
Words of Hope	0.00	28,000.00
Total Commitments	1,166.66	189,500.00
YTD Offerings Paid Out	10,677.08	
Total Expense	<u>11,843.74</u>	<u>189,500.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>5,883.67</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Cash Flow	<u>5,883.67</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 81,813.80	

## WORDS OF INSPIRATION

<https://ajoyfueledjourney.com/64-powerful-christian-quotes/>

“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.” – [C.S. Lewis](#) (*Mere Christianity*)

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“I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of; for to have been thought about, born in God’s thought, and then made by God, is the dearest, grandest and most precious thing in all thinking.” – George MacDonald

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“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” – C.S. Lewis

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“Sometimes life is so hard you can only do the next thing. Whatever that is just do the next thing. God will meet you there.” – Elisabeth Elliot

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“Consider how precious a soul must be when both God and the devil are after it.” – Charles Spurgeon

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“One of the reasons God saved you is that you might bear fruit in this world. You are living in a hungry world where people are starving for spiritual reality.” – Andrew Murray

# General Fund - March 2026

|                                | <u>Feb 26</u>           | <u>Jan - Feb 26</u>     | <u>Annual Budget</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Beginning Cash Balance         | \$ 56,561.23            |                         |                      |
| <b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b> |                         |                         |                      |
| <b>Income</b>                  |                         |                         |                      |
| General Fund                   | 33,633.35               | 102,250.65              | 622,661.61           |
| Interest Income                | 32.19                   | 69.00                   |                      |
| Transfer In                    | <u>0.00</u>             | <u>0.00</u>             | <u>90,000.00</u>     |
| <b>Total Income</b>            | <u>33,665.54</u>        | <u>102,319.65</u>       | <u>712,661.61</u>    |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>            | 33,665.54               | 102,319.65              | 712,661.61           |
| <b>Expense</b>                 |                         |                         |                      |
| Alliance Dues                  | 0.00                    | 0.00                    | 21,000.00            |
| Congregational Care            | 898.92                  | 1,627.45                | 17,000.00            |
| Education                      | 145.96                  | 379.63                  | 24,700.00            |
| Facilities & Grounds           | 11,217.08               | 15,362.02               | 272,850.00           |
| General and Consistory         | 1,123.02                | 3,828.17                | 18,100.00            |
| Hands of Hope Outreach         | 656.82                  | 4,975.93                | 18,800.00            |
| Office                         | 4,072.71                | 5,145.64                | 26,100.00            |
| Payroll Expenses               | 23,455.32               | 51,559.46               | 300,211.61           |
| Transfer Out                   | 0.00                    | 25,000.00               |                      |
| Worship                        | 410.88                  | 431.69                  | 9,100.00             |
| Youth Groups                   | <u>14.97</u>            | <u>3,227.82</u>         | <u>4,800.00</u>      |
| <b>Total Expense</b>           | <u>41,995.68</u>        | <u>111,537.81</u>       | <u>712,661.61</u>    |
| <b>Net Ordinary Income</b>     | <u>-8,330.14</u>        | <u>-9,218.16</u>        | <u>0.00</u>          |
| <b>Net Cash Flow</b>           | <u><b>-8,330.14</b></u> | <u><b>-9,218.16</b></u> | <u><b>0.00</b></u>   |
| <b>Ending Cash Balance</b>     | <b>\$ 48,231.09</b>     |                         |                      |

“Don’t dig up in doubt what you planted in faith.”- Elisabeth Elliot

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 “Two works of mercy set a man free: forgive and you will be forgiven, and give and you will receive.” – St. Augustine

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 “Abundance isn’t God’s provision for me to live in luxury. It’s his provision for me to help others live. God entrusts me with his money not to build my kingdom on earth, but to build his kingdom in heaven.” – Randy Alcorn

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 “The cross is proof of both the immense love of God and the profound wickedness of sin.” – John MacArthur

## CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 16, 2026, 7:30 PM

*First Reformed Church, Sheldon, Iowa*

**Youth House**

### Those present:

**Elders,** Dennis Ten Clay, Steve Van Beek, Randy Fonkert, Brad Bosma, Larry Vander Plaats, Bob Stellinga, Mike Kleinwolterink,

**Deacons:** Marty Van Peurse, Tyler Drenkow, Rodney Kruse, Brady Peters, Jared Schaeffer, Cleiton Zanela, Dan Bracy, Andy Cooper, Brent Hofmeyer

### Absent:

**Elders:** Greg Sawyer, Galen Blankers

**Deacons:** None

- A. Pastor Paul called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.
- B. Pastor Paul offered opening prayer and devotions from 1 Peter 5:1-4.
  1. Emphasis to Consistory to be shepherds of God’s flock because you are willing not because you must
  2. When the chief shepherd appears, you also appear with him in glory.

- C. Roll Call & Approval of minutes from January 20, 2026.
  - 1. **Motion Made Supported & Carried (MMSC)** to approve.
- D. Celebrations and Thanksgivings were discussed.
  - 1. Recent professions of faith
  - 2. This year our sanctuary is 75 years old
  - 3. Thank you to the ladies in charge of Wednesday night meals
  - 4. Thank you to our organists
- E. Report from Deacons meeting given by Tyler Drenkow.
- F. Report from Elders meeting given by Mike Kleinwolterink.
- G. Pastor's Report
  - 1. Gave an update and review of ordination requirements that need to be completed every 5 years.
- H. New Business
  - 1. General discussion of church security was held. Dan Bracy agreed to research action plan and response alternatives to possible threats.
- I. Financial reports provided by Brady Peters and were discussed.
  - 1. **MMSC** to approve.
- J. Committee Reports were discussed.
  - 1. **MMSC** to approve.
- K. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2026                      Prayer – Jared Schaeffer
- L. Adjourn: **MMSC** to adjourn at 8:50 PM.
- M. Cleiton Zanela closed in prayer.



**Reformed Mission Services is planning a Ministry Development Trip to Japan from April 30 to May 11, 2026.** The team will assist a local church with a retreat in the mountains, connect with believers and community members through English exchange, social events, and Bible studies, participate in college campus ministry in Nagoya, and help with outreach efforts at Christ Center Church in Chiba. More information is available at [rms.org/japan](http://rms.org/japan).

**Reformed Mission Services is looking forward to hosting another SEED event in New York City from July 10 to 18, 2026.** SEED is a week-long event focused on equipping and encouraging participants for evangelism. Through teaching, hands-on ministry, and fellowship, participants are challenged to live missionally in their daily lives. Rev. Paul Murphy will be instructing participants during the week. More information can be found at [rms.org/seed](http://rms.org/seed).

**Reformed Mission Services is raising funds to build a ministry and training center in Las Majadas, El Salvador.** This center will equip local pastors with Reformed theology through short-term courses taught by visiting professors, and it will offer English classes to residents of surrounding towns, helping them gain skills for jobs and daily life. Your support will help provide fencing, dormitory foundations, and essential preparations so this center can train leaders, strengthen churches, and bless the community. To learn more or give, visit [rms.org/projects](http://rms.org/projects)

# 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 are involved in a crisis situation such as a job loss, major life change, or family death feel free to contact your Care Elder or Deacon. If your family has experienced a joyful occasion like the birth of a baby, the marriage of a son or daughter, a wedding anniversary, a promotion at work, or retirement, etc., please let your shepherding team know of the special occasion. In all these situations, an appropriate prayer to the Lord will be offered.

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

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

Ed Alons – Kendall De Groot

**Team 2: Brad Bosma & Dan Bracy**

Evan De Hoogh – Betty Gonnerman

**Team 3: Steve Van Beek & Marty Van Peurse**

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 Kleinwolterink & 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: [wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.com](mailto:wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.com)



# 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  
zanelavineyards@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  
waldian12@gmail.com  
Janna Kats - 712.441.7122  
jannableyenberg@gmail.com

## **MEMORIAL FUND**

Brady Peters - 712.541.7640  
brdyptrs@gmail.com

## **MISSION COMMITTEE**

Rodney Kruse - 712.348.4232  
rodneykruse@hotmail.com

## **NURSERY**

Kelsey Cooper - 712.348.2636  
kelseydh34@gmail.com

## **PRAYER CHAIN COORDINATOR**

Brenda Godbersen - 712.348.0392  
brendagodbersen@gmail.com

## **PULPIT SUPPLY**

Dennis Ten Clay - 712.348.3160  
dennistenclay@gmail.com

## **SACRAMENTS**

Larry Vander Plaats - 712.348.4626  
plaats58@yahoo.com

## **SAFETY & SECURITY**

Greg Sawyer - 712.348.1021  
sawyerconstuctioninc@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

# Important Information

- ◆ **WEBSITE:** [www.sheldonfirstreformed.com](http://www.sheldonfirstreformed.com)
- ◆ **WORSHIP VIDEO:** [www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/worshipservices.cfm](http://www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/worshipservices.cfm)
- ◆ **BULLETIN:** [www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/weeklybulletin.cfm](http://www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/weeklybulletin.cfm) **OR** paper copies are available in the bulletin box outside the north kitchen door along with the most recent Encore and devotional
- ◆ **RADIO BROADCAST:** Sundays at 10 AM on FM 100.7
- ◆ **TV BROADCAST:** Tuesdays at 4 PM on local cable channel 12
- ◆ **FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/sheldonfirstreformed](http://www.facebook.com/sheldonfirstreformed)
- ◆ **E-GIVING LINK:** Text the word "SFRC" to the number [833.484.7253](tel:833.484.7253) or give online at [www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/give](http://www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/give)
- ◆ **TRADITIONAL GIVING:** Mail to Sheldon First Reformed Church, 1101 7th Street, Sheldon, IA 51201 **OR** drop your offering in the slot on the church office door during the week
- ◆ **MY CHURCH APP:** Download on Google Play or the App Store **OR** text the words "SFRC APP" to the number [833.484.7253](tel:833.484.7253).
- ◆ **PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISES:** Call the church office at 712.324.2130 or email Pastor Paul at [paul@sheldonfirstreformed.com](mailto:paul@sheldonfirstreformed.com)
- ◆ **NEXT STEPS CODE:** The QR code is on the bulletin cover. Using your smartphone device scan the code & it will bring you to a page that will take you to our Connection Card, Prayer Requests, or Giving.
- ◆ **PARENTS:** Children's bulletins are available at [www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/children-s-bulletin.cfm](http://www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/children-s-bulletin.cfm).
- ◆ **SUNDAY SCHOOL GUIDES:** Pick up in the youth house.
- ◆ **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](mailto:caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com).
- ◆ **DURING THE WEEK:** The church is open from **7AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday, and from 7 AM-12 PM on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays**. During the week you may use the north & south doors to get your mail or drop off offerings etc. in the office. You will need to ring the door bell (silver button) to the right of these doors to enter the church. Wendy will buzz you in from the office.
- ◆ **SUNDAY MORNINGS:** The church doors will lock at 9:30 AM. If you find the doors locked upon your arrival, go to the front/east door and a team member will welcome you into the church
- ◆ If you would like to receive church emails & don't currently receive them, please call the church at 712.324.2130 & provide Wendy with your email address. You may also fill out the connection card with this info & place it in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.
- ◆ If you have moved, made changes to your emails or phone numbers, please contact the church office with the updated information by calling 712.324.2130 or emailing [wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.com](mailto:wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.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 May Encore is noon on Thursday, April 23. It will be printed on April 24.**

**NOTE:** To access videos & bulletins, note the above information in [purple](#). 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.



## Update from Nicole Opgenorth March 2026

Dear Friends,

It has been a busy start to the year at Tesoros de Dios. After the extended Christmas break, we came back to the office refreshed and ready to get back into our ministry schedule. We welcomed parents and students back to our center to start the new school year (January to December), after reviewing each child's progress and needs to determine which services they will receive in 2026.

In February, I had the privilege of hosting two different groups from West Michigan. It was my first time having groups at Tesoros de Dios, and it was such a great experience. I forgot how much I enjoy hosting and being able to share what life and ministry look like in Nicaragua.

The first group I hosted was extra special, because one of the group members is a wheelchair user herself. She was able to share with many of the students who use a wheelchair and their parents about her own experience of accepting a different lifestyle than what she had imagined. She inspired many of the parents as well. It was good to have people visit that can relate to similar experiences.

In one of our conversations with the parents, a mom, whose daughter (Jobeyda) uses a wheelchair, has been expressing frustration due to her limited mobility. Jobeyda is a teenager now and is just at that age where school can be difficult. She easily gets frustrated watching her friends run around and play games while she feels stuck in her wheelchair. She struggles with self-image, because she wants to be able to put on pretty dresses by herself.

Jobeyda's mom shared about the questions Jobeyda often has about her future. "Will I always be in this chair? When I graduate from high school will you have to push me across the stage to receive my diploma? Why did you give birth to me like this? Why can't I do what other kids my age are doing?"



*Jobeyda's mom, Jobeyda, and  
Sue from Faith Reformed  
Zeeland*

As Jobeyda's mom shared, the group member in the wheelchair just nodded along, because she had asked similar questions and had often felt angry and frustrated when she first started using a wheelchair.

After we shared a time with Jobeyda's mom and other parents, we spent the rest of the afternoon just enjoying one another's presence—playing games and hanging out. The group had brought a parachute, and we were teaching the kids how to use it and the different ways to play. I could see that Jobeyda wanted to go under the parachute like the other kids, so while everyone lifted it extra high, I quickly pushed Jobeyda under. She loved it so much and asked to go again and again and again. It was such a joy to see Jobeyda feel included and have fun, even with her wheelchair.

Jobeyda is currently receiving counseling services from the family counselor at Tesoros de Dios to provide individual attention and follow-up. These conversations have helped her improve her emotional and mental health, and Jobeyda's mom shares that she has been getting frustrated less and has been asking fewer hard questions.

After such positive group experiences, I'm looking forward to hosting more later this year. If you are ever interested in what a trip to Nicaragua looks like or would like to know our availability, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Friends, thank you for the privilege of partnering me with ministry and allowing me to be a witness and share what the Lord is doing here.

Many blessings,

Nicole Opgenorth

## How you can pray:

- Pray for many of our Tesoros de Dios families that have lost a loved one recently.
- The health and wellness of the students, parents, and staff.
- Tesoros de Dios has a couple of job openings—pray that God would provide new staff members and there would be a smooth transition amid change.



1242 280th St. Inwood, IA 51240 | 712.986.5193

Website: [inspirationhills.org](http://inspirationhills.org)

Email: [ihills@inspirationhills.org](mailto:ihills@inspirationhills.org)

## *News from Inspiration Hills*

As we look ahead to another summer at Inspiration Hills, we are so grateful for the campers the Lord has already brought our way. We're trusting Him to continue providing for every need, and right now we are specifically praying for more summer staff to serve these students well.

### At this time, we are still looking for:

- Male Counselors (high school graduates or older)
- Horse Wranglers
- Day Camp Coordinators

Would you be willing to help us spread the word? Sharing these opportunities through your bulletin, announcements, or with individuals who may be a great fit would mean so much to us.

We truly believe there are people in your community who could make a lasting impact this summer. If someone comes to mind, or if you yourself are interested, check out details and apply on our [website](http://inspirationhills.org).

Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry and helping raise up laborers for the harvest the Lord has provided.

Grateful for you,

Madison Van Meeteren

Program Director

Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center

# PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER March, 2026

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*“For which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the Word of God is not chained.”  
II Timothy 2:9*

It is a blessing to know that Spring and longer daylight are coming soon! God promised that the seasons will always come and go as long there is time. He is faithful and true to His Word. There is no way anyone can keep the Bible from where He wants it to go. The apostle Paul knew firsthand what it was like to be in prison and that God’s Word was not bound even in there!

I have been meeting with men who must be chained when we visit in a room alone. Peter, who I wrote about last month, told the captain, “I sure would like to be baptized!” The captain told him, “Sure you can be baptized, but you will have to keep the handcuffs on when you are baptized, and no other inmates can be in the room.” Peter told him he was okay with being cuffed. He was baptized Thursday, before our worship service. Pastor Greg, the lieutenant, and I were present. Peter gave a short testimony and was baptized! It was the first time for me to baptize an inmate in cuffs. He came up out of the water with a big smile on his face! He was determined to obey God’s command, “Believe and be baptized”, his chains had no bearing on him! His hands were chained, but he is free on the inside. I am blessed to be part of what God is doing!

Another man was baptized in the afternoon service! During our visits he told me, “I have traveled around with the circus, but I have had no one to teach me the Bible like we have

been doing the last few weeks. For the last few years, I have felt empty without God, and I have been studying the Bible on my own. I am grateful that I have been learning more these past few weeks and growing in the knowledge of the Lord and His Word.” He asked for a Bible study book so he could learn more. It is great to know people who are hungry for the Lord!

We had an all-day seminar this past Thursday in which Pastor Greg used the Kyle Idleman video series, called “Grace is Greater.” We had 27 men participate, divided into four table groups to discuss the 15-minute video clips. One of the impactful times was when an inmate who has been in prison for 30 years spoke for five minutes. He spoke about the dangers of getting involved in gangs. He said, “I started my prison time with a 22-month sentence and gained all my additional time from being in a gang. If you don’t want to stay in prison for a long time, stay out of the gangs!” That is great advice for the new men coming into prison. The grace study was powerful as well! We were prepared before the seminar to baptize three men. Later in the day two more men testified of their faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized! God’s work is not bound even in prison. He continues to be at work turning men to repentance behind the walls!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support! You are a blessing! Please pray for more access for me to go cell to cell. I am grateful for the three Bible studies each week, and one on one visits I am allowed to have in the prison! Have a blessed March!

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](mailto:harlan@convergeheartland.org)



# APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>5 Easter Sunday</b> 8am Praise Team Practice 8-9am Easter Brunch No C&amp;W today No Sunday school</p>	<p><b>6</b> Church Office Closed</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 5-6:15pm Meal 6-7:30pm Awana 6:15-7:30pm Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>9</b> 4:30-6pm Sheldon Food Truck @ Living Water</p>	<p><b>10</b> Middle School Retreat -leave after school</p>	<p><b>11</b> Middle School Retreat</p>
<p><b>12</b> 8am Praise Team Practice</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 1:30 Afternoon Circle 5-6:15pm Meal 6-7:30pm Awana 6:15-7:30pm Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible</p>	<p><b>16</b> 7pm Evening Circle</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> 8am Praise Team Practice Professors of Faith Middle School Retreat</p>	<p><b>20</b> 5:30-6:30 Sheldon Unity Meal @ Living Water</p>	<p><b>21</b> 6:30pm Elders/ Deacons Mtgs 7:30pm Consistory Mtg</p>	<p><b>22</b> 5-6:15pm Last Family Meal 6-7:30pm Awana 6:15-7:30pm Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 4:30-7:30pm Women to Women Event</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 8am Praise Team Practice</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> 6-7:30 Awana Awards Night 6:15-7:30pm MS End-of-year Party 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9pm High School Amazing Race</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>		
			<p><b>1</b> 5-6:15pm Meal 6-7:30pm Awana 6:15-7:30pm Middle School 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>2 Maundy Thursday</b> 7am Executive Team Mtg 7pm Maundy Thursday Service &amp; Communion 7pm Communion @ CRH</p>	<p><b>3 Good Friday</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>