

# JUNE 2026



Sheldon First Reformed Church

## Build-a-Bed Night

Hands of Hope Outreach committee will be holding another bed build on **June 6 at 8 AM -12 PM or so**. We plan to build 10 twin size bed frames for Love Inc. We are looking for a group of 12 people to help with this: high school through senior citizens. Maybe dads or grandpas with children or grandchildren. A sign up sheet will be at the Welcome Table. If you are unable to help physically, maybe you can help financially towards the cost of the beds and mattresses.



## COMMUNION

June 7

During morning service  
6 PM at the CRH

## June 7

Enjoy time sitting around the fire with friends! **Middle school from 6-7:30**, **high school from 7:30-9**.

Games and snacks are available as well!



## A QUICK REMINDER



### Inspiration Hills

CAMP AND  
RETREAT CENTER

Are your kids signed up for summer camp at Inspiration Hills?

Grab a brochure in the Fellowship Hall or visit [inspiriationhills.org](http://inspiriationhills.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.**

**DATE:** Thursday, June 11

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

**LOCATION:** Living Water Church

*Bring a box with you to pick up your groceries.*



## HELP NEEDED AT FRC BOOTH AT RISEFEST

A sign up sheet has been placed on the Welcome Table for those who would like to represent and help at Rise Fest. FRC will have a table in the merch tent and give out some goodies and visit with people.

JUNE 12-13, 2026 | SHELDON, IA

# RISEFEST 26

LEGACY PARTNER  
**ROSENBOOM**  
Custom. Crafted. Cylinders.

I DON'T WANNA LOSE

# 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!

## Sheldon Area Unity Meal



WHEN: Monday, June 15

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.

## Tri-State TEC #19

When: June 19-21

Where: First Reformed Church in Rock Valley, IA

Applications are available at [www.TriStateTEC.org](http://www.TriStateTEC.org).

The cost is \$50 and includes a t-shirt & other special gifts.

Scholarships are available upon request.

## CHILDREN & WORSHIP SUMMER SCHEDULE

JUNE: will meet each Sunday

JULY: will meet on 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> - will not meet during

VBS week (12<sup>th</sup>)

AUGUST: will meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> only

## FATHER'S DAY - JUNE 21

Members of our church family are honoring and remembering their fathers and special men in their lives by giving money to purchase a carnation. Any money collected over the cost of the flowers will help fund Jake & Brittany Korver's service with Proclaim Aviation Ministries training new missionary pilots for the field. The bouquet will go to the Christian Retirement Home after the service. We ask for a donation of \$5/name.

**Deadline to submit names: Wednesday, June 17**

Please bring names & money/checks to the church office.

**Make out checks to Sheldon RCWM.**

## FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

WHEN: June 1-August 14

WHERE: East Elementary - please use the north door

TIME: 11:30 AM- 12:45 PM

Monday-Friday

**Note:** No meal will be served on July 3 due to July 4th holiday

**Children 18 and under eat free!**

Parents are welcome.

There will be free bus transportation again at the in town bus stops.

For more information contact us at Sheldon Community School at 712.324.2501



# TEEN BIBLE STUDY & HANGOUT

Wednesdays 1:00-2:00pm

June 3 - July 22

**COME JOIN AREA YOUTH DIRECTORS  
FOR A SHORT BIBLE STUDY AND GAMES  
THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER!**

For teens entering 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades

We are accepting donations to offset the adult meal costs. We would greatly appreciate any donations that go directly towards adults who are coming with their children.



# MISSION TRIP

**Middle School Service Trip to Des Moines, June 25-28.** We'll be staying at Caitie's home church, Bethany Church and serving alongside their middle schoolers. The cost of the trip is \$50. We will get together to pray for them at 1 PM on Thursday afternoon. Contact Caitie with any questions at [catie@sheldonfirstreformed.com](mailto:catie@sheldonfirstreformed.com).

# MAY 10

## BAPTISM OF ISAAC CARSON PETERS

Isaac is the son of Brady & Brittany Peters and the little brother of Chase, Asher and Rhett.



## JOIN US



JULY 12-16

5:30-8:30 PM

PRESCHOOL (AGE 3)-6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!**

COMPLETE THE FORM ON OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER TODAY!



Use the QR code to the left to sign up your child for VBS. You may also sign up to help with VBS on this form. Please remember that you can help even if you cannot do so on every day. It takes lots of help to carry out this ministry! See you at VBS!

### CHECK FOR YOUR ITEMS

We have serving plates, cake pans and casserole dishes on a table in the church lounge that belong to church members. Some have names on them, while others do not.

### Occasional Office Help Needed

- ◆ A person or persons to stuff mailboxes with materials from outside sources. You can set the time and it will take at most 30 minutes. I'll call you when you are needed.
- ◆ Are you good at details? I am looking for people willing to come in on Thursday mornings (before noon) to proofread the bulletin for errors. I just don't see my mistakes as I read/see what I intended and not what may actually be there.

If interested, please contact Wendy by phone 324.2130 or by email at

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

## Summer Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 7 AM to 5 PM

Fridays the office will be closed.





## Summer Camp 2026

Below is a list of kids who will be attending camp in June. If you would like to send them mail while they are at camp, the address is:

~ Camper's name ~  
 Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center  
 1242 280th Street  
 Inwood, Iowa 51240



**While the kids are at camp please pray for them to learn more about Jesus and to grow in their walk with Him.**

### LODGE 4<sup>TH</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup> CAMP: June 8-12

- Isaac Punt

### LODGE 7<sup>TH</sup>-9<sup>TH</sup> CAMP: June 15-19

- Claire Punt

### LODGE 4<sup>TH</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup> CAMP: June 22-26

- Bree Christians
- Shae Slykhuis
- Madelyn Van Voorst
- Brooklyn Dagele

### DAY CAMP EXPLORERS: June 22-26

- ◆ Haley Coulander
- ◆ Piper Drenkow
- ◆ Asher Peters
- ◆ Chase Peters
- ◆ Kinsley Popkes
- ◆ Jaxon Slykhuis
- ◆ Evelyn Kats
- ◆ Lincoln Kats

## Women's Circle News

### Afternoon Circle

**Wednesday, June 17 will be a regular meeting.**

Due to the July meeting falling during VBS, the open meeting has been moved from June 17 to July 15.

### Evening Circle

**Thursday, June 18**

You will be going to the Brown's Theater in Le Mars and will be leaving the church parking lot at 11 AM.

Because the July meeting falling during VBS, the July meeting has been moved to July 9.

**Tuesday, June 30 @ 6 PM-** Meeting for parents & students attending Rocky Mountain High. Papers will be filled out, so please be there!!

## Rocky Mountain High Prayer Partner Opportunity!



PRAYER PARTNERS ARE ASSIGNED A STUDENT OR ADULT ON OUR TRIP TO PRAY FOR, WRITE SOME ENCOURAGEMENTS TO, AND PROVIDE SOME GOODIES FOR THE TRIP

Contact Caitie with questions or to sign up

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with Awana and Sunday School this year. The FRC Kids programming would not be possible without the dedication of the time and talents of so many. Because of you, we were able to reach over 100 Preschool-6<sup>th</sup> grade students this year!

~ Sami Fox - Director of Children's Discipleship

Thank you to those who helped pack school backpacks. These are summer bags for the kids to take home. Thanks to Jill Van Meeteren for leading and coordinating this project.

Thank You



~ Hands of Hope Community Outreach Team

First Reformed Church,

Thank you for the use of your kitchen to prepare food for our annual fundraiser supper. We also appreciate using the kitchen items to serve our supper. We are so blessed by your support.

~ SCAT

June 1	Luke Jenness Abigail Jenness	June 12	Taylea Sterk Taylor Krukow Harper Van Meeteren	June 20	Darla Van Meeteren Kennedy Jager Holden Fox
June 2	Brian Woelber Lisa Merley Elise Drenkow Kyle Hoekstra	June 13	Mark Van Beek Marra Oldenkamp	June 21	Connie Van Meeteren Evalyn de Boer
June 3	Frances Kroeze - 95 Glenn Davey	June 14	Mary Jo Getting Jolynn Hindt Emily Van Voorst	June 23	Dave Fedders Laura Oldenkamp Nora Cooper
June 4	Hannah Fiekema	June 15	Ev Buren Shannon Baack Jett Korver Harper Groendyke Hudson Groendyke	June 25	Jim Groote Mateo Zanela
June 5	Kimber Mouw	June 16	Dennis Mouw Francine Vander Pol	June 26	Luke Van Beek
June 6	Kelsey Hoekstra	June 17	Willie Greenfield Keegan Adkins	June 27	Trisha Renken Todd Merley Brooks Holtrop
June 7	Jerod Reinking Brittnie Storm Noah Van Voorst Ellie Groote	June 18	Keith Vaandrager Melissa Laubach Paityn Sauer	June 28	Dennis Ten Clay Riley Roozeboom
June 8	Karen Christians Edyn De Hoogh	June 19	Larry Ebel Josie Krukow	June 29	Macie Jurgens
June 9	Callie Koerselman Cody Koerselman				
June 10	Bill Lawson Deirdre Mouw Miles Hoekstra				
June 11	Brittany Korver				

# June Birthdays

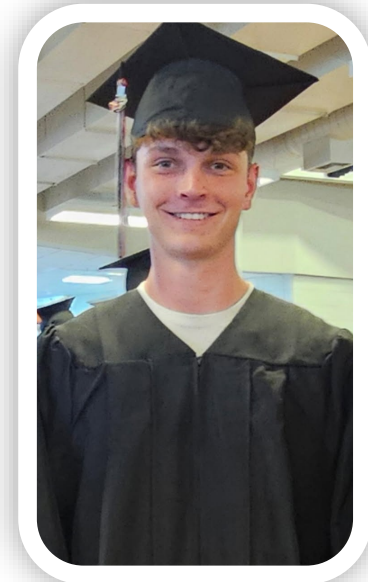


June 1	Roger & Dee Helgersen - 53 Luke & Abigail Jenness - 3	June 13	Dan & Nickie Bracy - 17 Justin & Chelsey Wolthuizen - 17
June 2	Dixon & Darla Van Meeteren - 54	June 14	Marv & Gleora De Bruin - 64 Rod & Laura Kruse - 23 Bryant & Mikayla Dykstra - 1
June 6	Bob & Cheryl Van Meeteren - 57 Dennis & Deb Ten Clay - 46 Brady & Brittany Peters - 11	June 15	Larry & Frances Peelen - 68 Ev & Phyllis Buren - 61 Brad & Jolynn Hindt - 35 Evan & Laura De Hoogh - 19
June 7	Dave & Carol Van Beek - 64 Rick & Carmen Holtrop - 41	June 16	Darwin & Laura Westphalen - 42
June 8	Jacob & Sami Fox - 13	June 20	Gary & Judy Meyer - 51 Nick & Kathi Stellinga - 17 Drew & Brenna Haack - 6
June 9	AJ & Reka de Boer - 20 Charley & Brittnie Storm - 14	June 22	Jim & Jayne Korver - 36
June 11	Ed & Sheryl Alons - 50 Mitch & Jessica Jensen - 10	June 23	Lyle & Tami Kuiper - 42 Shane & Christie Jager - 31 Tyler & Elise Drenkow - 14
June 12	Dennis & Lesa Kruger - 45 John & Loretta Boender - 45	June 25	Gary & Nadine De Hoogh - 55 Jerry & Kim Wolthuizen - 32 Matt & Jodi Vermeer - 27
		June 27	Dan & Trisha Renken - 34 Robby & Amanda Christians - 17
		June 29	Galen & Denise Blankers - 42 Leon & Carla Kleinwolterink - 36 Andy & Kelsey Cooper - 7

# GENERAL FUND - MAY 2026

	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Jan - Apr 26</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Beginning Cash Balance	45,982.54		
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
General Fund	55,688.27	203,144.15	622,661.61
Interest Income	28.05	129.87	
Sunday School	10.00	10.00	
Transfer In	0.00	0.00	90,000.00
Total Income	<u>55,726.32</u>	<u>203,284.02</u>	<u>712,661.61</u>
Gross Profit	55,726.32	203,284.02	712,661.61
Expense			
Alliance Dues	4,411.73	4,411.73	21,000.00
Congregational Care	1,331.21	4,511.52	17,000.00
Education	592.57	3,179.12	24,700.00
Facilities & Grounds	6,821.28	36,581.76	272,850.00
General and Consistory	1,967.99	6,732.68	18,100.00
Hands of Hope Outreach	1,534.38	6,993.60	18,800.00
Office	1,930.70	11,268.05	26,100.00
Payroll Expenses	23,366.19	98,221.43	300,211.61
Transfer Out	0.00	25,000.00	
Worship	739.00	1,576.78	9,100.00
Youth Groups	88.55	3,331.34	4,800.00
Total Expense	<u>42,783.60</u>	<u>201,808.01</u>	<u>712,661.61</u>
Net Ordinary Income	12,942.72	1,476.01	0.00
Net Cash Flow	<u>12,942.72</u>	<u>1,476.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 58,925.26		

CONGRATULATIONS  
GRADUATES



Taylor Krukow graduated from the Powerline program at NCC. He is the son of Brandon & Rachel Krukow and the grandson of Gladys Van Veldhuizen.

	<u>Apr 30, 26</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
General Fund	
Lower Level Renovation	<u>244,543.07</u>
Total General Fund	244,543.07
Transfer In	
Endowment Interest	<u>7,575.00</u>
Total Transfer In	<u>7,575.00</u>
Total Income	<u>252,118.07</u>
Gross Profit	252,118.07
Expense	
Facilities & Grounds	
Building Improvements	
Lower Level Renovations	<u>250,629.85</u>
Total Building Improvements	<u>250,629.85</u>
Total Facilities & Grounds	<u>250,629.85</u>
Total Expense	<u>250,629.85</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>1,488.22</u>
Net Cash Flow	<u>1,488.22</u>

Lower - Level Renovation Fund  
May 2026



Macy Jager graduated from NCC from the Business Management program. She is the daughter of Michael & Erica Jager, the granddaughter of Bob & Peg Jager and the great-granddaughter of LaVonne Van Essen.

# BENEVOLENT FUND - May 2026

	<u>Jan - Apr 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Beginning Cash Value as of January 1, 2026	75,930.13	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Benevolent Fund	23,613.41	189,500.00
Missions	2,223.00	
Sunday School	250.00	
Total Income	<u>26,086.41</u>	<u>189,500.00</u>
Gross Profit	26,086.41	189,500.00
Expense		
Commitments		
Beth (Blankers) Borgens/CRU	1,750.00	7,000.00
Bethesda Christian Counseling	0.00	5,000.00
GraceCovenantMinistry-Annville	1,750.00	7,000.00
Grooters, Jay & Amy-Costa Rica	1,750.00	7,000.00
Harlan Moss-SD Prison Ministry	1,750.00	7,000.00
Inspiration Hills	0.00	7,000.00
Jake & Brittany Korver	1,750.00	7,000.00
JoJo Bong-Asian Youth	0.00	3,500.00
Lay Mission Fund	0.00	10,000.00
Love Inc	2,333.34	7,000.00
Mission & Service Projects	0.00	5,000.00
Mission to India-ChurchPlanters	1,875.00	7,500.00
Mission to India-Literacy Prog	625.00	2,500.00
Multiplication Network	0.00	3,500.00
Pascal,Sasha&Sara-Moldova	750.00	3,000.00
Reformed Church in America		
Brownell-Japan	1,750.00	7,000.00
Nicole Opgenorth-Nicaragua	1,750.00	7,000.00
Total Reformed Church in America	<u>3,500.00</u>	<u>14,000.00</u>
Reformed Mission Services	0.00	5,000.00
Rise Fest	5,000.00	5,000.00
Rise Ministries	1,750.00	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	1,750.00	7,000.00
Village Northwest Unlimited	0.00	7,000.00
Words of Hope	0.00	28,000.00
Total Commitments	<u>26,333.34</u>	<u>189,500.00</u>
YTD Offerings Paid Out	<u>14,793.41</u>	
Total Expense	<u>41,126.75</u>	<u>189,500.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-15,040.34</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Cash Flow	<u>-15,040.34</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 60,889.79	



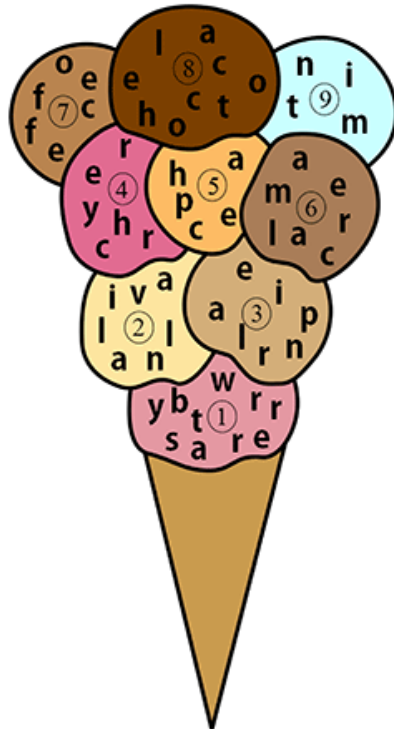
Kourtney graduated from ISU with a degree in Animal Science. She is the daughter of Kirk & Tina Dekker and the granddaughter of Delores Dekker. She is the Pig Flow & Animal Health Coordinator with Pipestone Systems in Maquoketa, Iowa.



Brady Van Meeteren graduated from Dordt with a degree in Plant Science and a minor in Theology. He is the son of Brian & Jill Van Meeteren and the grandson of Lois Van Meeteren. He is working for Green Key Ag in NW Iowa.

Andrew couldn't decide what flavor of ice cream he wanted most, so he just asked for a nine scoop cone. Unscramble the letters on each scoop to find out what flavors he enjoyed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_



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# KIDS PAGE



## PK-6<sup>th</sup> grade Summer Church Challenge

Pick up your Family Summer Activity Journal at the Welcome Table.

Return the completed journal to Mrs. Fox for a prize by August 23



## Jokes for Young Folks

- ◆ **Q:** Why did the banana go to the doctor?  
**A:** Because it wasn't peeling well!
- ◆ **Q:** What do you call a sleeping bull?  
**A:** A bulldozer!
- ◆ **Q:** How do you make a tissue dance?  
**A:** Put a little boogie in it!
- ◆ **Q:** Why was the math book sad?  
**A:** Because it had too many problems!
- ◆ **Q:** Why was the cell phone scared to go to the dentist?  
**A:** He didn't want him to remove his blue tooth!
- ◆ **Q:** What did one bug on the windshield say to the other bug on the windshield?  
**A:** I bet you don't have the guts to do that again!
- ◆ **Q:** What do dinosaurs and the 9th planet in our solar system have in common?  
**A:** They're both extinct!
- ◆ **Q:** What do you give a scientist with bad breath?  
**A:** Experi-mints!
- ◆ **Q:** Where does a scientist wizard work?  
**A:** In a labracadabratry!
- ◆ **Q:** What did Benjamin Franklin say when he discovered electricity?  
**A:** Nothing. He was too shocked to speak!
- ◆ **Q:** Why was the Roomba late for class?  
**A:** It overswept!
- ◆ **Q:** What did the picture do to end up in jail?  
**A:** Nothing. He was framed!
- ◆ **Q:** What word has 5 letters and starts with "gas"?  
**A:** Truck!
- ◆ **Q:** What is a robot's favorite snack?  
**A:** Computer chips!
- ◆ **Q:** Why did the motorcycle not want to go hiking?  
**A:** Because he was two-tired!
- ◆ **Q:** What did the baby laptop call her father?  
**A:** Data!

# Minutes of the Consistory Meeting – First Reformed Church, Sheldon, IA

## Tuesday, May 19, 2026

### Those present:

**Elders:** Greg Sawyer, Randy Fonkert, Brad Bosma, Larry Vander Plaats, Kendall De Groot, Mike Kleinwolterink, Galen Blankers, Dennis Ten Clay, Steve Van Beek

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

### Absent:

**Elders:** None

**Deacons:** Rodney Kruse

- A. Pastor Paul called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.
- B. Pastor Paul offered opening prayer and devotions from 1 Timothy 4:12 and Titus 2:6.
  1. As office bearers we are to be examples by doing what is good and right – people notice. He emphasized church attendance this summer.
- C. Approval of minutes from April 21, 2026.
  1. **Motion Made Supported & Carried (MMSC)** to approve.
- D. Celebrations and Thanksgivings were discussed.
  1. Thanks to Galen and Rodney for organizing bed build
  2. Thanks to all our Sunday school teachers
  3. Thanks to volunteers for construction and design of material for VBS
- E. Report from Deacons meeting given by Taylor Drenkow.
- F. Report from Elders meeting given by Mike Kleinwolterink.
- G. Financial reports provided by Brady Peters.
  1. Approval **MMSC**
- H. Committee reports were approved.
  1. **MMSC**
- I. New Business
  1. Building & Grounds recommendations
    - a. Pastor Paul prayed for discussion of renovation of Fellowship Hall and expansion of current building.
    - b. Deacons looking for directions on how to proceed.
    - c. Dan Bracy read letter detailing problems of current space for youth ministries. The congregation needs to be made aware of constraints facing youth ministry.
    - d. Deacons will create a survey for congregation seeking input on this matter. The survey will be reviewed by the Executive Team and will be brought back to the full consistory meeting on June 16, 2026.
- J. Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 16                      Prayer – Rodney Kruse
- K. Adjourn: **MMSC** to adjourn at 9:25 PM.
- L. Brady Peters closed in prayer.

## Church Database Update

Summertime is when things slow down enough to update the church database. Have you moved, changed your phone number or your email? If so, please contact Wendy at 712.324.2130 or by email at [wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.com](mailto:wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.com) with your new information.

## Church Directory Updates

**Noah & Taylea Sterk's new address is:**

- 704 7th Street, Sibley, Iowa 51249

**Audrey Moet's new address is:**

- Fieldcrest Assisted Living, Rm. 154, 2501 E. 6th Street, Sheldon, Iowa 51201

# 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

Kendall De Groot - 712.324.1410  
kdegroot@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

Elise Drenkow - 712.324.1182  
emdrenkow@hotmail.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 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: Kendall De Groot & Tyler Drenkow**

Ed Alons – Darren De Groot

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

Kendall De Groot – 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  
or frcsecretary@outlook.com

# 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 July Encore is noon on Thursday, June 25. It will be printed on June 26.**

**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.

# News from Our Missionaries



Every day, the Bible echoes through Joshef’s taxi as he drives the crowded roads of Andhra Pradesh, India.

Passengers come and go. Long hours pass behind the wheel. But now, the quiet moments between rides are filled with something very different — **the hope found in God’s Word.**

For most people in Joshef’s community, life follows a path that is already chosen for them. Joshef became a taxi driver because it was what was expected. Long days on the road, exhaustion, and addiction were simply part of life.

But deep inside, Joshef knew something was missing.

After several frightening car accidents and a serious health scare, he began searching for something more — something that could truly change his life.

Then, through hearing the Bible, **Joshef discovered a Savior who could.**

Today, as he waits for passengers beneath the hot afternoon sun or drives dusty village roads, Joshef spends hours listening to his Talking Bible. The stories and teachings of Jesus now fill his days.

Joshef completed the 9th grade and can read some, but he says listening to the Bible has transformed the way he learns and understands God’s Word.

**“One hour of reading is tiring, but 10 hours of listening is easy.”**

As Joshef continues hearing the Bible in his own language, his life is changing.

The addictions that once controlled him no longer define him. Instead of simply living the life expected of him, Joshef is now walking closely with Jesus and serving others in his community.

Two days every week, he volunteers both his time and his taxi to drive his pastor to ministry meetings and church gatherings throughout the region.

The same taxi that once carried hopelessness and addiction is now carrying the Word of God across the roads of Andhra Pradesh.

And every day, more people are hearing about the hope of Jesus because one man chose to listen.

Paul D. Hoekstra

President, Talking Bibles International



Update from

**NICOLE OPGENORTH**



This spring has been full of some fun and exciting things at Tesoros de Dios here in Managua, Nicaragua.

At the end of March, Tesoros de Dios hosted a women’s retreat for all of the girls on staff. Don’t worry, the men got their own retreat,

too! We spent time at a very nice hotel where we learned about different leadership abilities from women in the Bible—Deborah, Ruth, Abigail, Mary, and more. It was great to spend time with my coworkers outside of the office and get to know them more while studying Scripture.

I then had the privilege of hosting the General Synod Council President, Rev. Sarah Palsma, with other Global Mission representatives and missionaries from Brazil. We spent time with our physical therapists to



work among us will bring it to the completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” So, we try to remain faithful with things entrusted to us.

The Green House youth center, which we manage, has been opening its doors to the youth. During the first quarter of this year, we have been holding the weekly gatherings for high school students, every Thursday and the monthly Sunday Afternoon Fellowship (SAF) on every Third Sunday. During the Spring Break, we hosted a youth fellowship for the area churches.

We also host the Children and Worship training program which has weekly meetings for the adults who are learning to be worship leaders. In February and March, Nozomi also lead two full day special seminars.

Nathan and I are full of joy for all the opportunities to reach out to the people. We are also thankful to God for those who help us. God has always sent the right people at just the right time to labor with us. Even now, we have close to 20 Christians who share the same vision with us and faithfully support each program. Jo and Hannah are Nathan’s co-workers at Ferris Girls School, and they are the Thursday team who welcome the high school students every week. The monthly SAF outreach has its organic team who help several aspects of the program as well. Nozomi is also receiving a lot of help from the faithful worship leaders who help carry on the C&W training program.

We feel your prayers and support which are always with us. Through your emails and online meetings, we have been receiving many encouragements. In January, we had a visit of 35 people from a Korean church which has a burden for the mission in Japan. We were blessed and encouraged by a time of fellowship and prayer. On Easter Sunday, we had surprise guests from a supporting church in South Dakota. It was a great joy for us to be able to meet and talk with them.

As for news from our family, our second son, Raymond was installed as an associate pastor to an Evangelical Free Church in Kawaguchi in Saitama prefecture. Raymond came with us to Japan when he was just six years old. In God’s mercy, he is responding to the call to be a minister in Japan.



*Installation of our son, Ray, as an associate pastor. Two Japanese pastors as well as a senior missionary and Nathan are praying over Ray.*

#### **Please pray for:**

- **Sunday Afternoon Fellowship (SAF)** – we started the program in 2023 with a little over a dozen people, but now it is increasing to 30 people this year. Green House is full. It is at the point where we need to decide whether to hold that gathering twice a month or other ways to spread things out. If we are to expand it, we need to allocate more planning and dedication to this project. Please pray that we can make a right decision. Pray also for those who are attending to SAF that the Holy Spirit would move them to commit their lives to Christ.

Last month, a lady in her 70’s joined us, saying that 40 years ago on the same date she attended a Christian house gathering for the first time. She decided to become a Christian on that very day. She told us the name of the missionaries who hosted that house meeting. They were Ted and Mary Flaherty who had served her years ago. We witnessed the fruits of their labor and we, too, hope to bear the fruits that remain even if we ourselves may not see all of it ourselves.

- **Pastors’ Fellowship** - We are planning to host a gathering for the pastors this season. We have been saddened to see or hear of many pastors who are struggling in this area. Several young pastors and their families have found themselves isolated, lonely, and lacking support. Some of them became physically or mentally burnt out and some even gave up the ministry. Although the problem is so big and we do not know how to remedy it, we feel compelled to try and support them and grow together. We will attempt the first dinner fellowship soon. Please pray that it will be a good thing in the eyes of the Lord so that he will bless this group.

Thank you for making us a part of your ministry. May the Lord continue to bless you and your family.

Hope in God,

Nathan and Nozomi Brownell

# Pascals in Moldova - May 2026

## Champions

We are so proud to announce that FC Legacy U16 got first place this season in our 6v6 soccer league. Our U13 team fought hard and we ended in 2nd place out of 11 teams. Winning feels good because everyone likes to win. For our family it feels like more. It feels like a testament to the hours spent with these kids, the hours praying, researching practice plans and tactics, worrying about them and loving them. It is also a testament to God's goodness when he opened the doors to soccer ministry in our area.

Each season was ended with a Bible talk from one of the coaches. At one event, a coach spoke about value. The championship is fleeting. We may not have soccer ministry forever. Our hope is that each kid who joins our club will know their value in Christ Jesus and know that their value never changes.

## June Events

June brings two big events: Camping by the river (June 10-13) and EDGESports Soccer Camp (June 29th-July 4th)

### Please pray:

- **Health:** Sasha will see how his wrist is healing this week with an x-ray. Also, last time we went to camp, Adela got so sick we had to come home. Pray we stay healthy and safe.
- **Registration:** That the right kids for each event will come. We love spending time with our players and these event give extended time to know them better.
- **Finances:** That we would have the funds to cover our family's fees and help the students with fees for these events.
- **Bible Talks:** When we go camping we will be talking about how God looks at the heart and the difference between being religious and being a disciple of Jesus. Soccer Camp's theme is "Outside the Box."

Summer comes with extra ministry expenses and we are still praying to help have these covered.

We are praying for \$3,000 to help fund our summer ministry activity.

Thank you to those who already give faithfully! Without you, nothing would be possible.

## Sasha, Sara, Adela and Miroslav



2026 is well under way now, and we've had a great year so far. We had our staff meeting in February, and it is always a blessing to be together as a team. We enjoyed meals together, and were able to dig into our values and procedures for opening new institutes, among other topics.



Jay & Amy Grooters

## STAY IN TOUCH

sara.pascal@worldteam.org sasha.pascal@worldteam.org

Financial Support

www.missiondispatch.org



Over the past year or so, you have probably heard us use the word “growth” quite often. In God’s grace, He has continued to allow us in grow in many areas: staff members, institute locations, partners, and much more. We are excited to share that someone who is probably very familiar to many of you has stepped into a new role with IBAC. Melanie Wilson is no stranger to IBAC. She has served in many ways since IBAC began, and she has now stepped into the role as Director of Institute Operations. In this role she oversees all funding and budgeting aspects of each institute. She also continues the amazing work she does with compassion teams that serve alongside various institutes. Jay Grooters has paved an excellent path for Melanie to follow, and we are thankful that both Melanie and Jay will be able to serve in areas within IBAC that fit their gifting and talents.



We have had one institute in an undisclosed Latin American location complete the full 15 course curriculum. What a testimony of perseverance and faithfulness to complete the whole curriculum while facing less than ideal circumstances and opposition many times! We are very thankful for Bethel Bible Church’s partnership and their involvement in this institute!

A new institute has also started in Mendoza, Argentina. We had a great first course and look forward to continuing to partner with the local pastors in Mendoza and Community Bible Church to equip the leaders there.

We have seen God do things only He can do over and over again, and we are eager to see the amazing things He will continue to do in the next few months. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we seek to mobilize Kingdom resources to equip Kingdom leaders.

Praise the Lord with us for:

- For our partners who generously give to help meet our ministry needs

Pray with us for:

- Safety for our staff and teams as they travel.
- For the institutes taking place in May and June: Santa Cruz, Bolivia; Bulo Bulo, Bolivia; San Bartolome, Guatemala; Jurquilla, Mexico; Salamanca, Mexico; Paquera, Costa Rica; Guasapa, El Salvador
- Wisdom for our leaders as they manage a variety of challenging situations.

Blessings,  
The IBAC team



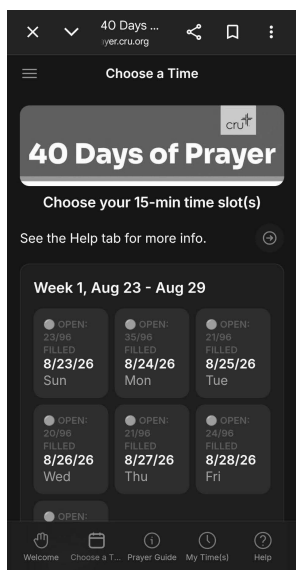
COME TO ME, ALL  
YOU WHO ARE  
WEARY AND  
BURDENED, AND I  
WILL GIVE YOU REST.

MATTHEW 11:28

# Beth Borgens

May 2026

## 40 Days of Prayer for Cru Campus



In 1951, Cru was birthed on the UCLA campus with a 24-hour prayer chain. The same God who moved then is moving today on the campuses of the world. I was asked to lead a project with an amazing group of prayer and technology leaders to create a tool that could allow staff, students, volunteers, ministry partners and prayer warriors to sign up for a 15 minute spot to pray for the Campus ministry. The 24 hour prayer chain will begin August 23 and finish on October 1.

We did a soft launch this past month introducing the tool and prayer initiative with our Campus staff, and then we will officially invite all to participate later this summer as we get closer to the event. A personal highlight was hearing that our Campus leadership shared the tool with Cru's Board of Directors a few weeks ago and they were excited to sign up.

I am excited to see how God will change lives through this prayer experience!

## Prayers

- We are still praying for health for all of us. We are not out of the woods yet. We celebrated Violet's first birthday earlier this month and also experienced our largest snowfall of the year. Which promptly melted later that day, but we still had a little left to sled on.
  - Please pray for our summer missions that are currently happening. Pray for our staff and students as they take bold steps to share their faith.
  - Pray for the Lord to be at work in the lives of people hurting. Pray for healing in their hurt and for them to be drawn back to His Holy Presence.



# Beth Borgens

April 2026

## Hoops and Hope: How a Pickup Game Led to Six New Believers

Basketball and the gospel aren't always on the same team, but for one southern Wisconsin intern on spring break, they proved to be a winning combination.

The first day of the mission trip in Panama City Beach, Florida, a group of high schoolers, who also happened to be from Wisconsin, invited Cru intern Justin to a late-night pickup game. When Justin mentioned he was in town with Cru to help students know Christ, the teens joked that that "work" must be a cover for trouble—a prompt that opened the door for a deeper conversation. Justin shared his faith testimony. The mood shifted when Justin asked, "Do you guys have a faith?"

They exchanged phone numbers and on the third and final time hooping together, Justin asked, "Do you guys know what the gospel is?" They admitted they weren't sure and invited him to share it. **Right there on the court, all four players prayed to receive Christ!** On the final night, Justin met up with a couple more of their friends and shared again. **Two more gave their lives to Christ!** What started as an unexpected invitation to "hoop" ended with six lives changed through bold conversation.

- Shared by Justin Heineck, Southern Wisconsin Team

## Prayers

- We are still praying for health for all of us. More ear infections, fevers, coughs, stomach bugs and I still need an inhaler a couple times a week.
- Even though I've been the sickest I've ever been this year, I've still been hard at work. Last week I had 22 meetings, that might be a personal record. This summer Cru is saying goodbye to 30 year old technology and transitioning to a new one. I helped develop a training plan, and now I am working with an Oracle training consultant and Cru subject matter experts to make sure we have necessary training ready so that come July 1 we can still hire around 300 interns, issue paychecks, update benefits, addresses and work tax locations. All things that rarely get talked about in newsletters. The training that I am helping to coordinate will be experienced by all of our U.S. staff across every U.S. ministry, so 7000+ people. Please be praying for this project, this significant transition and for our staff as they experience change in their work life. Change is hard.
- I've also been the project manager on a prayer project that launches next week and I am looking forward to sharing more about that next month after the official launch.



## *Prison Light House Newsletter - May 2026*



***“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12***

The battle is real! I want the new believers to know that they are in a war, and if they don't know that, they will lose every time. It is essential to know who we are as believers. Eph. 2:5-6 says, “God made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus.” Therefore, we have authority over the lies and temptations of the evil one.

One of the men who came back to prison after four years asked me if I remembered that we had visited four years ago in the office. He told me he had prayed with me to receive Christ, but that now he realized he was not ready to surrender to Christ's authority at that time. He prayed to surrender all, and to follow Jesus. In the next few weeks of visiting with him, he was hungry for knowing more about the Bible.

A man who I have known for a few years, is getting more responsibilities, because he is faithful in doing his work well. He stays out of the way of trouble. He told me, “I want to surrender to the Lord, but it is like holding on to a rope. God is telling me to let go of the rope. I am getting rope burns from holding on to the rope, when all I need to do is simply let go of the rope. It is so hard to surrender my life into God's hand since I am used to of being in control my whole life.” We talked about resting in the God Who saved our soul and knowing He has our best interests in mind!

One of the men who has attended a Bible college, still struggles in his faith. He told me, “Every time I start getting into the Word and get

serious with God, trouble and temptation surround me.” We talked about what Jesus said in John 15:18, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.” When we follow Jesus, He never promises us an easy road.

I had the opportunity to visit with a young man who is a kitchen employee. We were waiting outside the prison for the gate to open. I asked him if he had any spiritual beliefs. He told me he was a Baptist, so I asked him if he knew what it meant to be born again from above. He said, “I always wondered what it meant to be born again.” We talked about how to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Then as we walked through the gate, he said, “I would like to talk with you again about this subject.” The Lord always provides opportunities to share with others the love of Christ and His salvation!

An inmate who had good job was taken to SHU (Security Housing Unit). No one could believe that he did anything wrong, because he was serious about his job and his faith. When an inmate goes to the SHU they lose their job. When I visited with him later, he told me, “I don't know why I went to the SHU. I didn't do anything wrong. I do a few things I should not, but officers don't care about these things. They didn't even write me up for doing anything wrong! We talked about how easy it is to rationalize the little things we do just because we can get away with it. My encouragement to him was that he should live above reproach and listen to the Lord in all that he does. We talked about Proverbs 3:5-7 and not to “Lean to our own understanding...Don't be wise in your own eyes.” I want the men to know that the Lord wants everything we do to honor Him and not to compromise!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support! C.H. Spurgeon said, “Prayer moves the arm that moves the world.” You all are a blessing!

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*

# Prayer Warrior

APRIL  
2026

It is finally time to announce some big news about the Trade Store! But before we do that, we want to take a moment to explain a little about the ministry that is the Trade Store.

The Trade Store is a vital part of our ministry here at Grace Covenant Ministries. The funds that come from the sales at the Trade Store help to support our Summer Camp ministry, help to provide funds to continue having a swimming pool available for the county, help to pay for staffing and is a place for the community to receive goods at a discounted price. GCM pays for the trucking of these goods from other ministries around the country. Some of the goods we receive are brought here by short-term mission groups who come to serve the community during the summer. The funds we receive from the sales of these goods goes directly towards ministry! The Trade Store itself is also a hub of ministry! The more goods we sell the more people we are able to help! The more people we are able to help, the more we are able to share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Last year we began using social media to share the goods we have for sale with the community and the surrounding area. The result has been a huge increase of sales which in turn results in an increase of our ability to minister to the community. This summer is going to be filled with summer camps! Also, due to more people coming into the Trade Store, there have been many more opportunities to minister to those in need, whether it be helping a family whose home burned down or someone who doesn't have funds to purchase clothes or simply someone who came into the store needing "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."

But wait, there's more! God has been working in the heart of a man who grew up in Annville. He loves GCM and the people of Annville. He wants to see to it that the ministry continues to thrive and so he has donated all of the funds to build a NEW TRADE STORE! God is so good!

# Prayer Warrior

APRIL  
2026

The new Trade Store will be across the street from GCM, on the corner across the street from the Pond Creek Fire Station. The old Trade Store will be repurposed for other ministry opportunities. We will be using the old warehouse as a woodworking shop. We also want to use the space to teach home-maintenance/repair classes, as well as an opportunity for young people to learn a little about electrical, plumbing, HVAC, construction basics, etc. — so they can gauge their interest in the trades. We hope to begin construction by July 1st.

We are excited and humbled at this opportunity. Our theme at GCM this year is "**BUT GOD!**" We have had some trials this past 12 months—esp. Lincoln Hall burning to the ground and some of our equipment being stolen ... **BUT GOD!** Two verses have been quoted many times in the middle of those trials:

Genesis 40:20 — "What you intended for evil, God intended for good!"

Romans 8:28 — "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

God is good. God is at work. God is faithful! Thank you for your prayers as we continue the planning for the new Trade Store. Please also be in prayer for our Board Retreat on May 8th & 9th as we continue seeking God's will for GCM.



*A concept photo of the new Trade Store*



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# The Midwest Network Newsletter

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## A Word from the President

CODY MORET

Summer is coming! With it, many activities get planned, and we often find ourselves trying to pack as much as possible into these few short months. Trips to the lake, time at the cabin, family vacations, and sports tournaments are just a few of the things that can fill our calendars and divide our time. These days, many of those activities fall on weekends, which can mean time away from church and worship. I am not saying any—or all—of these things are bad. What I am saying is that it is easy to let good things distract us from the main thing.

**So, what is the main thing?** In John 14:6–8, Jesus says: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you know my Father also. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” Then Philip says, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” The main thing is knowing Jesus and knowing the Father. Jesus makes it simple: it is through him that we come to the Father, our Creator.

So, what does that look like during a busy summer full of activities? It looks like making quiet time with him. When I preach or stand up front at Faith Church, I sometimes ask, “Where did you see God today? This week? This month?” Asking ourselves that question helps us slow down and look for him. It invites us to spend time with him, reflecting on where we have seen him at work and what he may be doing in and around us. That is one way we can keep the main thing the main thing during a hectic season. I encourage you to enjoy your summer. Enjoy your family time. Enjoy the lake, the cabin, the vacations, and the ball games. But most importantly, enjoy your time looking for God at work and growing in your knowledge of Jesus—the way, the truth, and the life.

May God bless each and every one of you and your families.

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## Prayer Team Update

FRED WILGENBURG

For any prayer requests feel free to email us at [midwestnetprayer@gmail.com](mailto:midwestnetprayer@gmail.com)

### **May prayer concerns**

- Continued prayers for those battling cancer
- Praises to God for good health reports
- Prayers for church leaders, network leadership and Alliance leaders
- Prayers for churches searching for pastors
- Prayers for older church members and leading them to a new purpose in their life

MIDWEST NETWORK  
ANNUAL GATHERING,  
NOVEMBER 13-14, 2026  
BETHANY REFORMED CHURCH  
CANTON, SD  
MORE INFO TO COME

SAVE  
THE DATE

## From the Network Pastor SETH SUNDSTROM

*A Reminder!*

I will be taking a sabbatical from May 26 through August 14, 2026, after ten years of serving in network leadership through denominational transition, the formation of the ARC, and the ongoing work of walking with churches and pastors. This sabbatical is intended for rest, spiritual renewal, and emotional and relational health—ie fishing. During that time, I will step away from coaching, consulting, conflict mediation, meetings, email, and work-related texts. While I am away, please direct questions to the following people:

- *General Questions*
  - **Brenda Van Beek (605)595-7369**
- *CKT/church or pastoral crisis matters*
  - **Rick Van Ravenswaay (605) 906-3340**
- *Board-related matters*
  - **Codey Moret (605)690-9941**

I would be grateful for your prayers, & your help in honoring these boundaries.

Q: WHERE WAS SOLOMON'S TEMPLE LOCATED?

A: ON THE SIDE OF HIS HEAD

## Financial Update BRENDA VAN BEEK

Check out the enclosed summary of our 2026 year-to-date finances - thank you for being in ministry together!

Q: WHY COULDN'T JONAH TRUST THE OCEAN

A: HE KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT IT

**Find helpful guidance on the following topics on our Resources Page below!**

- COMPENSATION & BENEFITS
- MINISTRY PARTNER VIDEOS
- DIRECTORIES & FORMS
- ORDINATION INFORMATION
- COVENANT KEEPERS
- PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

[HTTPS://MIDWESTNETWORK.ORG/RESOURCES](https://midwestnetwork.org/resources)



Seth and our VP Brian Dengler did a video on the importance & meaning of sabbatical. Check it out @ <https://midwestnetwork.org/media>



# Network Happenings

BRENDA VAN BEEK

This year has already been a busy one for the Network and the Alliance! We've held a Pastor's Retreat, launched another course for pastors working through Pathways, wrapped up our revitalization book club, and begun work on the first 5-year renewals of our member churches. Moving forward, our board is preparing to update our bylaws (more details to come soon) and send Seth on a well-deserved sabbatical for the summer.

The Alliance has also been busy making ministry more effective for our churches: You'll hear more about their discipleship and leadership development initiatives at the next Gathering in Michigan; an application for IRS 501(c)(3) group exemption is being pursued; and other practical ministry partnerships continue to emerge and develop. It's an exciting time!

Pastors, elders and deacons are encouraged to get involved with the Network, too - following are some of the opportunities available:

- Pathways coaching: Tier 2 ordained pastors can serve as coaches for our Pathways pastors.
- Revitalization Book club: New book suggestions are welcomed for our next series this fall!
- Youth ministry cohort: Ty Hogue is open to continuing growth of the cohort he's leading.
- Compensation & Benefits Team: This small team meets in the summer/fall and has room for more.

This activity is made possible because our churches are in a healthy rhythm of financially supporting the Network and Alliance.

On a more personal note, an update on my breast cancer journey: I had surgery on March 10, and the follow-up determined that I will require another surgery on June 23, as there were additional areas of concern. I'll also begin radiation treatments soon, and have been put on a prescription that halts the growth of any tumors that remain. God's surpassing peace remains present, and I've recovered well from my first surgery, but I would still appreciate your prayers! The doctors tell me it's all still very treatable with a high likelihood of cure.

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## Transitions/Updates

SETH SUNDSTROM

### Installed

Josh Lucas - First Reformed of Baldwin WI 5/10/2026

### Accepted Calls

Riaan van Staden - Immanuel Reformed of Belmond IA

### Transitions

Riverview Reformed of Yankton, SD

### Seeking Pastor

Bethel Reformed of Brandon WI \*  
Chandler Reformed of Chandler MN  
Delaware Reformed of Lennox SD  
Faith Reformed of Wisconsin Rapids WI \*  
First Reformed of Meservey IA  
Free Grace Reformed of Middleburg IA \*  
Willmar First Reformed of Willmar, MN

\*CURRENTLY WORKING WITH [HTTPS://WWW.CHEMISTRYSTAFFING.COM](https://www.chemistrystaffing.com)

# Pastor's Retreat Pictures 2026





# MIDWEST NETWORK

## ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES

### April 2026 Midwest Network Financial Report

January 1 through April 30, 2026

	Actual year-to-date	Budget year-to-date	2026 Budget
<b>Income</b>	127,012.30	100,000.00	300,000.00
<i>(Includes Partnership Offerings, interest, reimbursements)</i>			
<b>Expense</b>			
Healthy Churches	0.00	15,666.64	37,000.00
<i>(Support for Multiplication, Revitalization, and Living Stone/Freedom's Gate)</i>			
Shepherding/CKT	0.00	500.00	1,500.00
<i>(Support for Covenant Keeper Team Training and Operations)</i>			
Healthy Leaders	5,098.03	14,666.72	44,000.00
<i>(Support for Pathways, Pastoral Renewal, Pastor's Retreat)</i>			
Network Operating Expenses:			
Travel & Meetings	446.12	1,997.42	5,992.38
Phone, Postage & Supplies	530.40	300.00	900.00
Payroll	74,333.14	67,735.70	203,207.62
<i>(Full-time Network Pastor, part-time Clerk/Treasurer and Communication &amp; Engagement Coordinator, benefits, travel expenses, payroll taxes)</i>			
Contingency Fund	7,000.00	17,666.64	53,000.00
<i>(unanticipated expenses)</i>			
Insurance	1,231.00	400.00	1,200.00
Professional Fees	1,532.51	1,066.64	3,200.00
<i>(legal, accounting &amp; software fees)</i>			
Total Network Operating Expenses	85,073.17	89,166.40	267,500.00
Total Expense	90,171.20	119,999.76	350,000
Net Income	36,841.10	-19,999.76	-50,000.00
Total cash on hand, April 30, 2026:	\$334,640.32		
Total churches providing support year-to-date:	59 (80%)		

# June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm HOH Mtg	2	3	4 7am Executive Team Mtg	5	6
7 Communion 6pm Communion @ CRH	8 6pm Congregational Care Mtg	9	10	11 4:30-6pm Sheldon Food Truck	12 RiseFest	13 RiseFest
14 Message: John Meiser	15 5:30-6:30pm Sheldon Unity Meal	16 6:30pm Elders/ Deacons Mtgs 7:30pm Consistory Mtg	17 1:30pm Afternoon Circle	18 11am Evening Circle Open Mtg	19 TEC @ Rock Valley FRC	20 TEC @ Rock Valley FRC
21 FATHER'S DAY	22	23	24	25 Middle School Service Project	26 Middle School Service Project	27 Middle School Service Project
28 Middle School Service Project	29	30 6pm RMH Parent & Student Mtg				