

September Encore 2026

Building God's kingdom one life at a time.

Sheldon First Reformed Church
1101 7th Street
Phone: 712.324.2130



START OF 2026-2027 MINISTRY YEAR

Our Wednesday Night programming will begin on September 2nd with the following:

- ♦ Family Night Meal - 5:00-6:15 PM
- ♦ Awana Parent Meeting - 6:30 PM
- ♦ Middle School - 5:30-7:00 PM kickoff
 - ♦ 7:00 PM - Student & Youth meeting (after Awana meeting)
- ♦ High School - 7:15-9:00 PM kickoff
- ♦ Adult Bible Study - 6:30-7:30 PM in overflow area

Our Regular Wednesday Night Schedule Begins on September 9th.

Together 26 Community Unity Service

When: Sunday, September 6

Time: 10 AM

Where: Crossroads Pavilion

Bring your lawn chairs. If you have a golf cart to help transport people from parking to the worship area, please contact the church. The Sheldon Ministerial are in need of several.

LABOR DAY - September 7

Please consider representing FRC at the Labor Day Parade by riding or walking and handing out pencils and possibly other items.

Many people are needed!

A sign-up sheet will be at the Welcome Table

NOTE: We would like you to wear FRC volunteer t-shirts or VBS shirts.

Adult choir is looking for new members! If you love to sing praise to our Lord, please consider joining us. Practices start on Sept. 16th and will run every Wednesday evening from 7:30-8:10 PM. Choir will be done after our December performance. Questions? Please contact JoElyn at moss.joelyn@gmail.com.



MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

DATE: **Thursday, September 10**

TIME: 4:30-6:00 PM

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

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

Caitie is again looking for volunteers to host a supper at your house. Our small groups are increasing in size so hosting in garages or even outside, if the weather allows, is great too! Our small group leaders lead discussion; you provide a space and a meal. Please let Caitie know if you might be interested or if you want to hear more about this opportunity.

There are also some openings as youth leaders and high school Sunday school teachers available. If this is something stirring in your heart, please talk to Caitie to see if it is the right fit for you.

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

Both Sunday school and Children & Worship will **resume on Sunday, September 13.**

A list showing the location and classroom number for each age group is on the FRC Children's Corner easel in the front entry of the church.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

All classes will start on Sunday, September 13. A comprehensive list of classes is on the next page. At this time not all of the classes have been assigned meeting spaces. Watch your bulletins for details. Also check out the easel in the Front Entry for location information.



Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

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

FAMILY NIGHT MEAL - 5:00-6:15 PM

- Sept 2 Burgers/Hot Dogs, Chips, Baked Beans, Watermelon
- Sept 9 Taco/Taco-in-a-bag, Fruit, **Cookies**
(8 people bring 2 dozen cookies)
- Sept 16 Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Lettuce Salad, **Bars**
(12 people bring 9x13 pan of bars)
- Sept 23 Tater Tot Casserole, Applesauce, **Cake**
(12 people bring 9x13 cake)
- Sept 30 Taverns, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, **Cookies**
(8 people bring 2 dozen cookies)

Items that are to be brought in by work group members will follow the meal for that night (in bold lettering). Please make sure you bring a 9x13 sized pan of bars, brownies, etc. as we need to ensure we have enough dessert. The number of people attending the meals is increasing. Please have donated items here between 10 AM to 4 PM on Tuesday. If you can't get items to the church during this time period, call the church office & make arrangements with Wendy.

UPCOMING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEING OFFERED

Classes will begin on September 13

- The adult Sunday School class that meets in the Friendship House studies *"The Guide"*. We study different scripture passages each week and have discussion questions which apply the Scripture to every day living.
- *"Ecclesiastes - Finding Meaning When Life Feels Meaningless"* by Lydia Brownbeck - This ladies class will be led by Sheila Peelen and Laura Kruse.
- *"God's High Calling to Women to Promote Christ Over Culture"* - This 12-week class will encourage us to embrace God's design for our lives and to defend our faith against conflicting worldviews. The class will be taught by Connie Van Meeteren.
- *"New Members Class"* - Is there a stirring in your heart about Jesus? Discover the foundations of the Christian faith, trusting in Jesus Christ, living in a relationship with Him and if so desired, to prepare to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.
- *"Study of Daniel"* - Daniel's faith allowed him to exit the furnace unscathed. As you examine the life of the prophet Daniel, you'll learn how you can possess the courage of conviction and the fruit of godly confidence—all through simple obedience. This men's class will be led by Jett Korver, Evan De Hoogh & Rodney Kruse.

DATE: Monday, September 21

TIME: 5:30-6:30 PM

LOCATION: Living Water
Church

Sheldon Area
Unity Meal



Bring your friends and enjoy the meal and fellowship. The meal is a come and go buffet style meal. A bag of groceries is available to take home with you after you have had your meal. Bring a friend and enjoy some food and fellowship.

As we start the Fall season of the church calendar, it is time to update the pictorial church directory. For all new members and those attending who haven't become a member, we'd like to include a picture so we can get to know you. This includes newlyweds and those that have their contact information in the back of the book, but not a picture. There are a couple of ways to accomplish this. You may submit a personal picture to Wendy Peelen in the church office at frcsecretary@outlook.com or wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.com; or Wendy Vander Plaats will be taking pictures after the morning services in the fellowship Hall on September 20 & 27. If you have any questions, please contact Renee Van Velzen 712-441-6967.

THE ANNUAL SPORTING CLAY FUNDRAISER

hosted by RMS is just around the corner!
(September 26) More information is available at rms.org/sd or by contacting Evan De Hoogh.

Kids & Youth Information

SEPTEMBER AWANA SCHEDULE

2

PARENT & PARTICIPANT
MEETING

9

FIRST MEETING & THEME NIGHT
WEAR YOUR CLUB COLOR!

16

REGULAR MEETING

23

REGULAR MEETING

30

REGULAR MEETING

Theme night-
Club colors:
Cubbies- Blue
Sparks- Red
T&T- Green

Family meal: 5:00-6:30

Awana: 6:00-7:30



First Reformed Church



Join us September 2nd for
our youth group kickoff!!

5:00-6:15 PM: Family night meal
served

5:30-7:00 PM: 7th & 8th graders
come hang out and join us for
laser tag & 9 square! (No worries
if you are late, we just want to
give plenty of time to play!)

~7:00 PM: (following the Awana
parent night meeting)- youth
group meeting for all students &
parents

7:15-9:00 PM: 9th-12th graders
come hang out, eat snacks, play
laser tag & 9-square.

Parents are welcome and
encouraged to join our hangouts
and challenge your teens in a
game of laser tag or 9-square or
both!!



First Reformed Church

FRC KIDS
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN

Awana

Wednesday
6:00-7:30 PM

Christmas

Program
December 20
9:30 AM

Sunday School

Sunday
10:45-11:30 AM



<https://tinyurl.com/FRCkids26>

CREATIVE MOVEMENT

We are looking for kids in
grades 1-6 who would like to
participate in this program. If
you have a child that is
interested, please contact
Jennifer Groote at
jen.groote@gmail.com. A
sign-up sheet will be on the
Welcome Table in mid-
September.

Sept 1	Ted Riepma Andie De Groot Rilee Van Beek	Sept 15	Murray Martens	Sept 27	Vicki Holtrop Brittany Peters
Sept 2	Ashley Jorgensen	Sept 16	Twyla Vogel Brielle Sauer	Sept 28	Marge Warner Judy Meyer
Sept 3	Mark Vander Naald		Allie De Hoogh Summer De Hoogh		Kourtney Dekker
Sept 4	Sam Storm Merry Storm Emmie Storm	Sept 17	Mildred Blankers Myrna Wolfswinkel Mike Vogel	Sept 29	Berdina Vander Naald Carmen Holtrop
Sept 5	Iola Whitsell		Josh Jager Faith Ten Clay	Sept 30	Kristin Van Engen Claire Punt
Sept 6	Kailey Elgersma	Sept 18	Coreen Van Sloten Linda Riemersma Liam Crooks		
Sept 7	Aylah Sauer Emily Groote		Mikayla Dykstra		
Sept 8	Don Dykshoorn - 95 Nel Van Beek Wally Wolthuizen Greg Sawyer	Sept 19	Wayne Den Hartog Carla Kleinwolterink Crosby Van Peursem		
Sept 9	Galen Blankers Nelva De Boer Greg Winkel Madison Den Hartog	Sept 20	Robby Christians Larie De Groot Ella Van Maaren Barrett Korver		
Sept 11	Reka deBoer	Sept 22	Joyce Fedders Toby Maggert		
Sept 12	Kenedie Stellinga	Sept 23	Alyda Roetman		
Sept 13	Ed Jager				
Sept 14	Glenda Riemersma Stan Ten Kley				



Happy Anniversary

Sept 1	Tracy & Kemmy Claude - 25	Sept 10	Eric & Rachel Iedema - 21
Sept 2	Jim & Dixie De Jong - 69	Sept 12	Mark & Donna Koerselman - 52
Sept 5	Gerald & Harriet Van Meeteren - 63	Sept 13	Rick & Carma Nordahl - 40 Kyle & Kelsey Hoekstra - 12
Sept 6	Galen & Renee Van Velzen - 51	Sept 14	Gered & Gina De Hoogh - 24 Nick & Beth Slykhuis - 13
Sept 7	Craig & Sarah Van Meeteren - 18	Sept 17	Gary & Cindy Hassebroek - 50
Sept 8	Larry & Elaine Ebel - 53	Sept 19	Dennis & Sandra Mouw - 62
Sept 8	Brent & Melissa Hofmeyer - 14	Sept 21	Nancy & Murray Martens - 52
		Sept 23	Brandon & Rachel Krukow - 26
		Sept 24	Jason & Renee Bork - 16 Jake & Emily Van Voorst - 10
		Sept 25	Leroy & Barb Theis - 29
		Sept 27	Tom & Karen De Boom - 24

Many thanks to the many people who said prayers, sent cards, sent text messages, made phone calls, visited and brought food during my recovery after surgery. A special thanks to Pastor Paul for his many prayers.

~ Millie Vos

First Reformed Church,
Thank you for letting us host our 100 year celebration in your church.
Thank you to all the people in your congregation who helped make sure everything went smoothly and for the wonderful communication throughout and before the event. It was an amazing time of worshipping and praising the Lord in your church with Legacy Five. We are grateful you allowed us to have this in your church. Thanks so much.

~ Sheldon Christian Retirement Home Board



GENERAL FUND - JULY 2026

	<u>Jul 26</u>	<u>Jan - Jul 26</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 26,905.89		
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
General Fund	85,129.27	382,599.83	622,661.61
Interest Income	26.71	218.94	
Transfer In	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>90,000.00</u>
Total Income	<u>85,155.98</u>	<u>382,818.77</u>	<u>712,661.61</u>
Gross Profit	85,155.98	382,818.77	712,661.61
Expense			
Alliance Dues	0.00	9,284.27	21,000.00
Congregational Care	131.96	6,265.06	17,000.00
Education	9,910.04	20,917.95	24,700.00
Facilities & Grounds	43,904.38	122,964.51	272,850.00
General and Consistory	961.08	9,770.16	18,100.00
Hands of Hope Outreach	3,260.98	13,095.24	18,800.00
Office	786.57	14,716.00	26,100.00
Payroll Expenses	28,046.27	173,000.86	300,211.61
Transfer Out	0.00	40,000.00	
Worship	0.00	1,619.13	9,100.00
Youth Groups	<u>98.91</u>	<u>3,534.63</u>	<u>4,800.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>87,100.19</u>	<u>415,167.81</u>	<u>712,661.61</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-1,944.21</u>	<u>-32,349.04</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Cash Flow	<u>-1,944.21</u>	<u>-32,349.04</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 24,961.68		

Thank you to all who have donated to the Reformed Church Ministries this last year. From the Mother's and Father's Day Bouquet donations and monetary gifts given to us for serving at funerals we were able to give to the support of two of our church's missionaries. \$1,600.00 was given to Jake and Brittany Korver at Ethnos 360, INC and \$1,600.00 to Beth Borgens for her work with CRU. Your gifts are appreciated.
~ RCWM

Thank you so much for your continuous and faithful prayers and support! It is a honor and blessing to have your partnership. Thank you for joining me in ministry. I pray our God will continue to lead and guide the Women's Ministries in Sheldon. May the Lord bless you in all you do.

With many thanks.
~ Beth Borgans

Church Directory Additions & Corrections

Corrections:

- Misspelling - Dennis & Sue and Heather Soat is correct spelling (not Soet)
- Heather Soat's correct email
 - hsoat86@gmail.com
- New room number
 - Larry Ebel - Room 303 @ CRH
- Death
 - Delores Dekker
- New Email
 - lorettavanderlinden@icloud.com
- New Address
 - Shannon Baack
 - 620 4th Avenue, Unit 1, Sheldon, IA 51201

Additions:

- Kourtney Dekker
 - 23343 167th St, Maquoketa, IA 52060
 - Phone: 712.324.0019
- Lisa Hofmeyer
 - 4321 390th St, Hospers, IA 51238
 - Phone: 712.230.1827
 - Email: lisahofmeyer1@gmail.com
- Alee Portz
 - 3611 Nettle Ave, Sheldon, IA 51201
 - Phone: 712.348.1059
 - Email: aleeportz@gmail.com
- Alex Van Surksun
 - 705 4th Street, Apt. 4S, Garwin, IA 50632
 - Phone: 712.346.8268
 - Email: avansurksun@gmail.com

BENEVOLENT FUND - JULY 2026

	Jan - Jul 26	Budget
Beginning Cash Balance as of January 1, 2026	\$ 75,930.13	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Benevolent Fund	57,870.05	189,500.00
Missions	2,223.00	
Sunday School	491.00	
Total Income	60,584.05	189,500.00
Gross Profit	60,584.05	189,500.00
Expense		
Commitments		
Beth (Blankers) Borgens/CRU	3,500.00	7,000.00
Bethesda Christian Counseling	0.00	5,000.00
GraceCovenantMinistry-Annville	3,500.00	7,000.00
Grooters, Jay & Amy-Costa Rica	3,500.00	7,000.00
Harlan Moss-SD Prison Ministry	3,500.00	7,000.00
Inspiration Hills	0.00	7,000.00
Jake & Brittany Korver	3,500.00	7,000.00
JoJo Bong-Asian Youth	0.00	3,500.00
Lay Mission Fund	0.00	10,000.00
Love Inc	4,083.32	7,000.00
Mission & Service Projects	0.00	5,000.00
Mission to India-ChurchPlanters	3,750.00	7,500.00
Mission to India-Literacy Prog	1,250.00	2,500.00
Multiplication Network	0.00	3,500.00
Pascal,Sasha&Sara-Moldova	1,500.00	3,000.00
Reformed Church in America		
Brownell-Japan	3,500.00	7,000.00
Nicole Opgenorth-Nicaragua	3,500.00	7,000.00
Total Reformed Church in America	7,000.00	14,000.00
Reformed Mission Services	0.00	5,000.00
Rise Fest	5,000.00	5,000.00
Rise Ministries	3,500.00	7,000.00
SandalsOnSand Min (B Godbersen)	0.00	2,500.00
Sheldon Christian School	0.00	7,000.00
Talking Bibles	0.00	7,000.00
Touch of Hope Bibles	1,156.68	4,000.00
Touch of Hope Haiti	0.00	7,000.00
Vasileiadis,PavlosMeggan-Greece	3,500.00	7,000.00
Village Northwest Unlimited	0.00	7,000.00
Words of Hope	0.00	28,000.00
Total Commitments	48,240.00	189,500.00
YTD Offerings Paid Out	45,143.05	
Total Expense	93,383.05	189,500.00
Net Ordinary Income	-32,799.00	0.00
Net Cash Flow	-32,799.00	0.00
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 43,131.13	

Did you know there are pledges for the Christian flag & the Bible?

The Original Pledge

The pledge is not a single statement that was only defined by anyone supreme. It's changed over time through different groups of people or communities. Here's the original pledge:
"I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands; one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and in love."

The Alternative Pledges

More conservative Christians and Evangelicals desired something more in line with Christianity and the flag itself. It is unclear who wrote the modified version, though, these different versions still share the structure as the original pledge's. Yet, people commonly used it in covenant Christian school lesson programs, VBS, and churches throughout the United States and around the world.

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands; one Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe."

Some change the wording of "I pledge allegiance to" by simply saying, "I affirm my loyalty to." There could be more different iterations of it. Nonetheless, the pledge in whatever form must maintain the core Christian values that refer to it.

The Bible Pledge to God Holy Words

"I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word, I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God. Amen."

From: <https://share.google/uyhE0PWUXQBNSjse>

August 2 Professions of Faith



*From left to right
Chase Oldenkamp,
Addisyn Kavanagh,
Brielle Mouw, Dulcie
Mouw, Maliyah
Reuvers, Taylor
Stellinga & Kayci
Woelber.*

Professions & Baptism - August 16



Josie Krukow, Brielle Sauer & Alee Portz



Baptism of Alee Portz

On August 16, Galen Van Velzen shared about letting God use you for His kingdom work, even when you may be uncomfortable. (Not sure what Pastor Paul is worried about.)



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

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Those present:

Elders: Dennis Ten Clay, Kendall De Groot, Galen Blankers, Brad Bosma, Larry Vander Plaats, Greg Sawyer, Mike Kleinwolterink

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

Absent:

Elders: Randy Fonkert, Steve Van Beek

Deacons: None

- A. Pastor Paul called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.
- B. Pastor Paul offered opening prayer and devotions from John 3:16-17.
 - 1. We are not servant unto ourselves but to others. We are sent people and exist for God's greater purpose.
- C. Caitie's Quarterly Report
 - 1. Summarized Rocky Mountain High trip – 38 students
 - 2. Blessed to watch God shape and mold young people and restore relationships.
 - 3. Caitie is taking steps to build a leadership team among the youth group.
- D. Roll Call & Approval of minutes from July 21 meeting,
 - 1. **Motion Made Supported & Carried (MMSC)** to approve.
- E. Celebrations and Thanksgivings were discussed.
 - 1. Celebrate Galen Van Velzen's testimony.
 - 2. Thankful for Caitie and all the youth sponsors.
- F. Report from Deacons meeting - reported by Tyler Drenkow,
- G. Report from Elders meeting - reported by Mike Kleinwolterink.
- H. Pastor's Report
 - 1. Scaled back the Consistory Agenda.
 - 2. Reviewed purchasing local guidelines.
 - 3. Staff will come before consistory on a quarterly rotating basis to speak on their goals, plans, and to summarize recent activities.
 - 4. Approval of letter to congregation regarding building needs including group meeting dates of September 22, 24 & 29. The letter is to be sent on Monday, August 24.
 - a. **MMSC** to approve.
- I. Financial reports were discussed.
 - 1. **MMSC** to approve.
- J. Committee Reports were discussed.
 - 1. **MMSC** to approve.
- K. Next Meeting: September 15, 2026 Prayer: Andy Cooper
- L. Adjourn: **MMSC** to adjourn at 8:45 PM.
- M. Brent Hofmeyer closed in prayer.

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

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

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



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 Peursem

Willie Greenfield – 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 – Dean Zoet

*"Building God's
Kingdom one life at a
time."*

1 Peter 2:4-5



Church Contact Information

Church phone number: 712.324.2130

Email: frcsecretary@outlook.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

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.

Missionary Updates

RCA
Global
Mission
Update from

NICOLE OPGENORTH



August 2026



What a joy to write you from Nicaragua and share some ministry updates. Today, I want to share with you Estefany's story.

Estefany is a very vibrant, energetic 30-year-old who I share office space with at Tesoros de Dios. Over the past year and a half, I've gotten to know her more and see just how much of a walking testimony she is to God's miracles. Estefany wasn't always the joyful Tesoros staff member I know today, but rather started as a very fragile student.

At 16 years old, Estefany (to my right) contracted Guillain Barré Syndrome—a virus that attacks those with weak immune systems and essentially causes paralysis, to the point where many can no longer breathe. Estefany first started at Tesoros de Dios when her illness was just starting to progress—working on her balance and range of motion as she had lost feeling in her hands and was slowly losing feeling in her feet and legs. As her illness advanced, she lost the ability to do just about anything on her own and was connected to a ventilator for two years. Many doctors told her mother to disconnect her from the ventilator, that she would never recover, but Estefany's mother refused to give up on her. While hospitalized and recently discharged, Estefany also received hospital and home visits from Tesoros de Dios staff before being able to return to the center to continue therapy.

"Much of my therapy focus was in physical and equine therapy as I had to learn how to do everything all over again—talk, walk, eat, write, everything, because I had been paraplegic in a hospital bed for two years. Thanks to my therapies at Tesoros de Dios, I can walk, talk, eat, and do everything independently—all things I was told I would never do again."

After her hospitalization, while she continued to receive therapies, Estefany also received a scholarship to go to university, where she studied psychology. Still unable to write very well, her mother would go with her to help her with note-taking, and the professors would give her exams orally.

"I wanted to study psychology to help others. It was the psychiatrists and counselors who helped me a lot when I was in the hospital for so long."

In 2020, Estefany started working at Tesoros de Dios in our School Outreach Program, as an Inclusive Education Advocate—providing workshops, evaluations, teacher support, educational plans (IEP's), and more. She also assists Tesoros's home visit program by coordinating visits with the families, logistics, and providing spiritual and counseling support.

"After I graduated from Tesoros, I felt like yes, I had reached my fullest potential. I feel very indebted to Tesoros and that my purpose with them hasn't finished yet. I get to do what I love and help families and teachers by sharing from my own experience."

"Thank you for joining us. Each donation is not given in vain, because it is utilized to the fullest. You have both visible and invisible fruit—we know that many children may be receive a miraculous healing like me, but everyone can be transformed spiritually and emotionally. Your donations also help us to provide our home visit program with the physical therapists for some of our families who are no longer able to arrive to the center for various reasons. That's what sets us apart from other ministries as well."

What a beautiful testament to how the Lord not only miraculously healed Estefany and provided for her recovery in many ways, but how he is now using her to help other families in similar situations. YOU can be part of the change for other students like Estefany who are currently in need of physical therapy and/or home visits by giving through RCA Global Mission.

Another highlight from the past few months was getting the opportunity to host First Reformed Church Oostburg's (Wisconsin) Youth Group. Fifteen people came down for the week to learn about Tesoros de Dios, all of our different programs, and participate in center activities, home visits, and painting. They were able to paint our entire entrance wall a sky blue—giving a much more joyful appearance for families when they enter the center.

What a blessing for us to receive them and a blessing for them to have new experiences—it was almost everyone's first time out of the country! If you or your church would be interested in what a visit to Nicaragua looks like, we would love to host you!

Thank you for earnestly keeping me in your thoughts and prayers—here are a few ways you can pray for myself as well as Tesoros in the coming months:

- There is currently a large outbreak of dengue and chikungunya in Nicaragua—causing fevers, body aches, joint and muscle pain, and more, with many people hospitalized. Many of our staff and students either have had or currently have it, and the recuperation process can be very slow. Pray for the overall health and that this outbreak could be controlled.
- Tesoros has many special projects in order to improve our physical space—may God provide wisdom, discernment, and resources to execute these projects and complete our vision of having Tesoros be a welcoming and comfortable place for families, students, and staff alike.
- I will be doing traveling to our satellite site in Matagalpa soon with visitors to serve as translator—may God provide safe travels and fruitful relationships to be formed.



"Some were persuaded by the things which were spoken and some disbelieved." Acts 28:24

Sharing the Good News of salvation is a high calling we have received from the Lord! I believe fear of what people might say when we witness to them can keep us from telling others about Jesus' love for them! Our courage to speak to others comes from trusting God's presence to go before us!

One of the men who was baptized six years ago is still spreading the Word. I had not visited with him for three months, because sometimes it is difficult to get men to come to the office. The reason is they are either having rec time or they don't hear their name called on the intercom. He had some good news. He was cell mates with a man who did not believe in the Lord. They had many talks about God and the Bible. But now the man is reading the Bible and asking more questions concerning Jesus. Then another man he had been talking with about the Lord is now wanting to know more about Jesus. This man doing the witnessing has admitted to me how dark and discouraging it can get in the prison. He told me, "Sometimes I wish the Lord would just take me to heaven so I could leave this place." I let him know what my Pastor Wheeler says, "When God saved you, He also had other people in mind who you could witness to about Jesus." I encouraged him that he is a light in a dark place, and his prayers, his witnessing in that place will affect others for eternity!

At the last weekly Bible study, I read Psalm 89:14 for opening Scripture which says, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of

Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face." One man in the front row said with tears in his eyes, "If God is the God of justice, why did my brother get shot and killed leaving a family gathering?" I told him I was sorry that happened to his brother. We talked about how often we don't understand why bad things happen. Like Job we need God as the foundation of our lives. My plan was to talk about 1 John 2 during the Bible study, but instead we talked about Psalm 42. The Psalmist in his discouragement continued to remember God as his Rock and as his hope! The Psalm is a reminder that through difficulties in life God needs to remain our hope and our rock! One of the men present commented that we can know if God is our rock by what comes out of our mouth, as Jesus said in the Gospels. At the end of the Bible study one of the men said, "Can you pray a salvation prayer, and we will repeat it after you?" I agreed and reminded them what it meant to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. The thirteen men present prayed the prayer for salvation. Among those present were some saved men, but only God knows the hearts of each person. Praise God for, "So great a salvation!"

This past Monday I visited with some inmates at the county jail. As I came into a dorm of men, the man closest to the door recognized me from being in prison before. He told me, "I just saw you at a gas station last week and I shook your hand and now here you are again. I believe God wants me to get right with Him." God is always on time!

Thank you for your prayer and financial support! Please continue to pray for those who remain in prison and those who are released!

In Christ,

Harlan

Please designate my name in the memo section of your check. Make the checks out to: Converge Heartland, or PLF, the address is: 601 W 57th Street Sioux Falls, SD 57108. Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. My phone: 605-940-4220, Email: harlan@convergeheartland.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends of the Bible,

Every day, people around the world are hearing God's Word for the very first time through the Talking Bible.

For many non-readers and oral learners, hearing the Bible in their own language opens the door to personally connecting with Jesus. Through the simple act of listening, hearts are being changed, faith is growing, and families are finding new hope.

In this newsletter, we are blessed to share stories that reflect the life-changing impact of hearing God's Word. These stories come from different countries and cultures, yet they share the same truth: faith grows when people hear God's Word.

Jesus said in Matthew 11:15,
"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Thank you for helping make God's Word accessible to people who cannot read. Because of your prayers and support, lives are being changed as people hear the Bible in their own language and discover the hope found in Christ.

Respectfully,

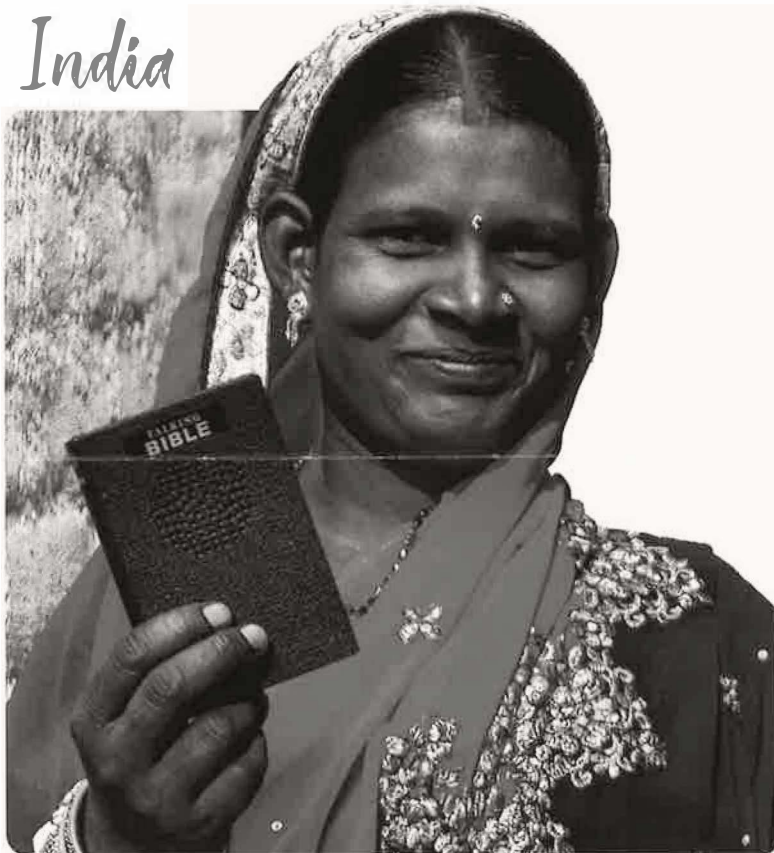


Paul D. Hoekstra
President, Talking Bibles International

***"Faith grows
when people
hear God's Word."***

TURN ON THE TALKING BIBLE

India



In a rural village in India, the only church meets inside Shobha's home.

Her brother-in-law, a local pastor, leads small prayer gatherings there, but for years Shobha and her family refused to participate. Because of their Hindu background, they wanted nothing to do with Christianity—even though the meetings were taking place under their own roof.

Still, **Shobha could not ignore what she was witnessing.**

One after another, sick villagers came to the prayer meetings seeking help. Again and again, she watched them leave healed.

Then the struggle became deeply personal.

Shobha's sister began suffering from what the family believed was demon possession. Desperate for relief, she visited numerous witch doctors, but nothing helped. Finally, Shobha urged her sister to attend one of the prayer meetings in their home.

Continued on Page 3

TURN ON THE TALKING BIBLE (continued)

There, after prayer in the name of Jesus, her sister was healed.

For the first time, **Shobha began to understand the power of God.**

Not long afterward, Shobha herself was healed from years of chronic abdominal pain through prayer. The healing transformed her life and awakened a deep hunger for God.

"If I leave prayer for even two days, I don't feel good," Shobha says. "When I pray, I simply feel like praying longer."

Although her husband and children were grateful for her healing, they remained distant from the church and reluctant to join the prayer meetings.

Then her brother-in-law, the pastor who led the small church in their home, placed a Talking Bible into Shobha's hands.

Because she could not read, **the Talking Bible gave her the opportunity to hear God's Word for herself in her own language.**

Every morning and evening, she played it in her home while the family gathered nearby.

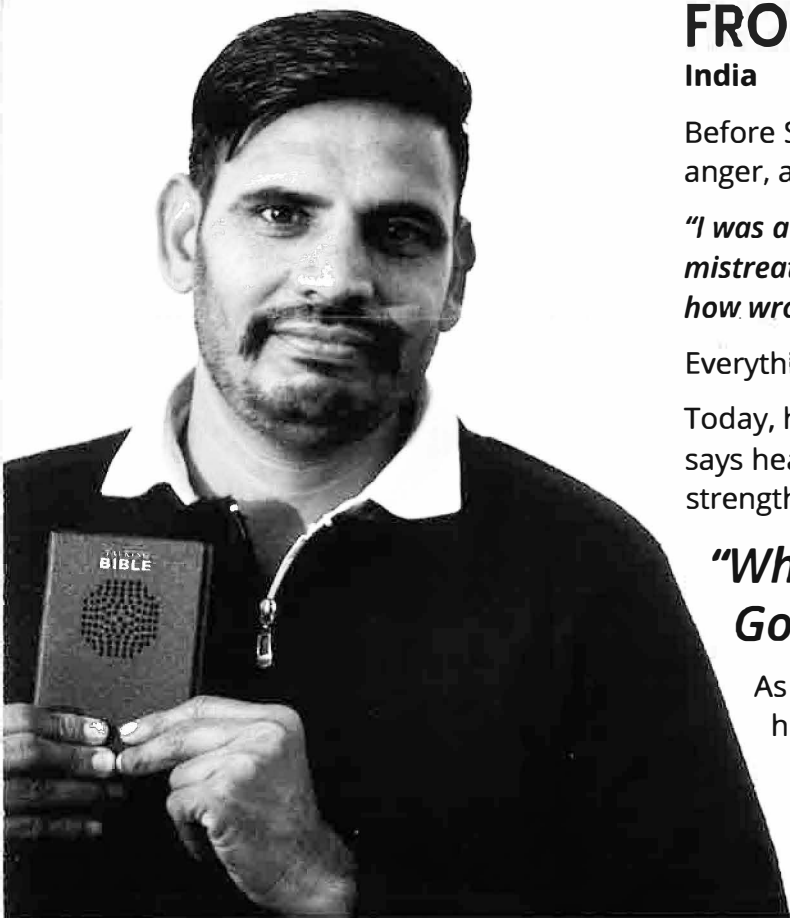
As God's Word filled their house day after day, something began to change.

After only a month of listening together, Shobha's husband accepted Jesus.

Now, each night before bed, he asks her to turn on the Talking Bible so the family can listen together. Even their children—who once refused to attend prayer meetings—now gather eagerly to hear God's Word.

What began with one Talking Bible has transformed an entire family. 📖

"Now, each night before bed, he asks her to turn on the Talking Bible so the family can listen together."



FROM ADDICTION TO NEW LIFE

India

Before Sandeep met Jesus, his life was controlled by addiction, anger, and broken relationships.

"I was addicted to alcohol and smoking," Sandeep shares. "I would mistreat my wife and live in anger. At the time, I didn't even realize how wrong those things were."

Everything began to change after Sandeep came to know Jesus.

Today, he and his wife faithfully follow Christ, and Sandeep says hearing God's Word through the Talking Bible has helped strengthen his faith and transform his daily life.

"When I listen, I share the truth of God's Word with others."

As Sandeep regularly played the Talking Bible in his home, his sister also decided to follow Jesus.

Through the power of hearing God's Word, lives and families are being transformed across India. 📖

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear." - Matt 11:15

"IT INCREASED MY FAITH"

Tanzania

For 15 years, Medadi lived in fear and suffering.

Growing up in Tanzania, Medadi had known about Jesus as a child, but after marrying into a family devoted to traditional spiritual practices, **she was no longer allowed to attend church**. Her husband feared that honoring Jesus would anger the ancestral spirits his family worshiped.

When Medadi began experiencing spiritual torment and chronic pain, her husband sought help from witch doctors and traditional healers. But despite years of rituals and treatments, nothing brought her peace or healing.

Finally, Medadi was allowed to return to a local church.

There, she began finding hope again through prayer and fellowship with other believers. Yet even as her faith grew stronger, she still longed for complete freedom and healing.

Recently, an evangelist from her church placed a Talking Bible into Medadi's hands. Because Medadi had only attended school for a few years as a child, reading was difficult for her, but now, with her Talking Bible, as she works on the family farm or cares for responsibilities around her home, **she is able to listen to God's Word in her own language**.

Last week, Medadi listened to Matthew chapters 8 and 9 and heard story after story of Jesus healing the sick, delivering those oppressed by evil spirits, and responding to the faith of those who came to Him. **The words touched her deeply.**

"Ordinarily, I just go to church and come back," Medadi says. "After listening to the Talking Bible, it increased my faith."

Through the power of hearing God's Word, Medadi has found renewed hope in Jesus and confidence that He sees her suffering and cares for her future.

Even in difficult circumstances, the Talking Bible is helping people personally connect with God's Word — and discover hope through listening. 📖



"After listening to the Talking Bible, it increased my faith."



Medadi and members of her church family in Tanzania



BECAUSE OF YOU...

Your prayers and support are helping people around the world hear God's Word in a way they can understand.

- ✓ Families are listening to the Bible together.
- ✓ Non-readers are personally connecting with Jesus.
- ✓ Faith is growing through hearing God's Word.
- ✓ Lives are being transformed worldwide.

Want to share our newsletter? Email: info@talkingbibles.org, and we'll gladly send you extra copies!



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Beth Borgens

August 2026

Gen Z on the North Myrtle Beach Summer Mission

Anxious and searching for connection, many students encountered life-changing gospel hope on the shores of North Myrtle Beach this summer. In just five weeks, students and staff had 7,306 conversations and saw 440 decisions for Christ!



Eli & Jordan

Overwhelmed by personal struggles and a recent break up, Eli threw a few necessities into his truck and headed to NMB alone and with no plans. A Cru student on the NMB Summer Mission asked him a simple survey question, sparking deep introspection. After several conversations about faith, Eli trusted Christ!

Incoming freshmen Alex and Will, familiar with Jesus but hesitant to commit, placed their faith in Christ after weeks of interaction with Cru students and staff.

After an antagonistic conversation with Jacob, Cru staff Jordan said, "I hope God shows you how incredible Jesus is and how he's worth following." His grace broke down Jacob's walls. He asked Cru student Matt to pray for him. Jacob later explained that God had begun working in his life and Jordan and Matt convinced him to trust in him.

Shared by Jorgan Mancl, North Myrtle Beach Summer Mission

Prayers & Praise

- Praise God for Winter, a student in Thailand, who came to know Jesus through a summer mission.
- Pray for our Cru staff in September. We will officially transition from retiring a 30 year old technology program to a new modern and sparkly technology program. I've been working on coordinating and organizing training for our 9000+ US staff to learn the new system and to lessen the challenges of the transition. The next six weeks will be extra full as I help host training sessions, answer questions and ensure that our staff are well informed and encouraged to prioritize the training.

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
KEY: FNM = family night meal MS = middle school youth (7&8 grades) HS = high school youth (9-12 grades)		1	2 5:30-6:15 1 st FNM 6:30 Awana Parent Mtg 5:30-7:00 MS Kick-off 7:00 Youth/Parent Mtg 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:15-9 HS Kick-off	3 7am Executive Team Mtg	4	5
6 <u>NO SERVICE @ FRC</u> 10am Community Labor Day Service @ Crossroads Pavilion	7 LABOR DAY 2pm Labor Day Parade	8	9 5-6:15 FNM 6-7:30 Awana 6:15-7:30 MS 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 HS	10 4:30-6 Sheldon Food Truck @ Living Water	11	12
13 8am Praise Team Practice C&W resumes Sunday School resumes Distrib Nomination forms for new Elders & Deacons	14 6pm Congregational Care Mtg	15 6:30 Elders/Deacons Mtgs 7:30 Consistory Mtg	16 1:30 Afternoon Circle 5-6:15 FNM 6-7:30 Awana 6:15-7:30 MS 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 HS	17 7pm Evening Circle	18	19
20 8am Praise Team Practice	21 5:30-6:30 Sheldon Unity Meal @ Living Water	22	23 5-6:15 FNM 6-7:30 Awana 6:15-7:30 MS 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 HS	24	25	26
27 8am Praise Team Practice Noon - nomination forms due	28	29	30 5-6:15 FNM 6-7:30 Awana 6:15-7:30 MS - distrib BEC frozen food sales info 6:30-7:30 Adult Bible Study 7:45-9 HS			