November 2026

First Reformed Church

1101 7th Street , Sheldon Iowa 51201
Phone: 712.324.2130 www.sheldonfirstreformed.com

NOVEMBER AWANA SCHEDULE

4	REGULAR MEETING
11	THEME NIGHT- GOD'S PROMISE
18	REGULAR MEETING
25	NO AWANA- HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Theme night- God's Promise: Wear as many colors of the rainbow as you can!

Family meal: 5:00-6:30
Awana: 6:00-7:30

First Reformed Church

NOVEMBER SERVICE EXTRAS

- November 8 - Creative Movement
- November 15 - Choir Sings
- November 29 - 1st Advent Sunday





OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Youth Ministry Needs

Middle School Adult Volunteers

If you have any questions or are willing to help, please contact Caitie at caitie@sheldonfirstreformed.com.

OPEN CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP POSITIONS

- 3rd Grade Sunday School Co-Teacher (every other week)
- Awana Sparks (K-2) Large Group Leader (1x/month)
- Awana Sparks (K-2) Small Group Leaders - 2
- Awana T&T (3-6) Small Group Leaders - 2

Please contact Sami if you are willing to fill one of these areas at sami@sheldonfirstreformed.com.

SPORTS SNACK PACKS

We will be making snack packs for Sheldon students involved in activities. We would like to collect Gatorade and granola bars. Please bring these items and place them in the tubs in the Fellowship Hall.

Creative Movement Performance: November 8

Please be here at 8:45 AM to practice. Wear black pants/leggings and a white of black shirt/tank top.



JOIN US! OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Samaritan's Purse — OPERATION Christmas Child

GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY. FOR EVERY CHILD.

Let's bless children around the world with the *love of Jesus!*

3 WAYS TO DONATE!

1 FILL A BOX *for a child*



Pack a box with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and fun gifts that will bring joy and share God's love!

2 DONATE ITEMS *to be packed during Awana*

Purchase the items from a list in the blue basket.

Return them to the box under the table.



3 DONATE MONEY *to purchase items or sponsor shipping on a box*

Shipping is *$10 per box.*

Your donation helps us share the love of Jesus with children around the world!

COLLECTION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 8



Every box is a chance to change a life!

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM AT SHELDON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

November 11, 2026 at 9:00 AM in the gym. The speaker is Dr. Dunn-Junius. All are welcome to attend, and we would love to have any/all veterans attend as well to honor their service to our country.

MOBILE FOOD TRUCK

DATE: Thursday, November 12
TIME: 4:30-6:00 PM
LOCATION: Living Water Church
Bring a box for your groceries.

FROZEN FOOD DELIVERY

WHEN: Saturday, November 14
TIME: 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Youth house

If you want to pick up your order, contact Caitie ahead of time so the kids don't pack your order with the items they will be delivering. Kids will be delivering your order to you on that day, unless you make other arrangements with them. **Please note that the church does not have room to store your items**.

Once again, thanks so much for your support of our youth. Without your help, they would not be able to attend Power Connection, the Middle School Retreat, and other activities throughout the year! Thank you so very much!



VETERANS & FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EVENT

Saturday, November 14 from 8:00-10:00 AM at the Sheldon Community Center.

We will be serving pancakes and sausage. Please encourage all veterans and first responders in our community to attend so that the community members can thank them for their service past and present.

We will need help with this event, sign up sheets are on the Welcome Table.

CHOIR SINGS - NOVEMBER 15

Please meet in the Youth at 8:30 AM in the Youth House.

DATE: Monday, November 16
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.



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

Nov 4 Scalloped Potatoes w/ Ham or Hotdogs, Green Beans, **Cookies**
[8 people bring 2 dozen cookies]
Nov 11 **NO Family Night Meal - Please attend RCYF Soup & Pie Supper**
Nov 17 Thanksgiving Meal - Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Roll, Green Bean Casserole, **Pie**
[15 people bring a pie]
Nov 25 **No Family Night Meal - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

Items that are to be brought in by work group members will follow the meal for that night (**in bold red 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.*

NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE

Evening Circle Members

Due to the original date of November 19 conflicting with the Village Volunteer Appreciation Event, the **Circle meeting has been moved to Tuesday, November 17.**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

5:00 - 6:15 PM: Family Night Meal
6:00 - 7:30 PM: Awana
6:15 - 7:30 PM: Middle School
6:30 - 7:30 PM: Adult Bible Study
7:30 - 8:10 PM: Choir Practice
7:45- 9:00 PM: High School



Thank you

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and telephone calls while I recovered from my heart procedure. I am so grateful for all the kind words and support. My sincere thanks.

~ Bill Lawson

To my church family,
I don't have enough words to properly thank you for the love, support and prayers that you have shared with me and my family. I pray that God blesses you as much as you have blessed us.

In Christ's Love,
Nancy, Justin, Jaci Martens and Luis Rodriguez

Tri-State TEC
Teens Encounter Christ

Tri-State Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is accepting applications for the upcoming weekend at Maurice Reformed Church in Maurice, Iowa. TEC is an interdenominational three-day Christian retreat designed to help high schoolers learn more about their faith and their community. The next TEC is November 20-22, 2026. If you would like to learn more about TEC or register, please visit www.TriStateTEC.org or email TriStateTEC@gmail.com. The cost is $50 and includes a t-shirt & other special gifts. Scholarships are available upon request.

Baskets are on the table at the back of the sanctuary (in the narthex) for Alora and Dixie, twin daughters of Don & Emily Tune. Please add items to their baskets by Monday, November 23.





Nov 7 Don & Mary Jo Getting - 45
Jordan & Brittany Holtrop - 11
Nov 8 Glenn & Sharon Davey - 51
Nov 20 Aaron & Courtney Jenkins - 5
Nov 25 Darrell & Twila De Groot - 62
Nov 28 Arlan & Pam Van Wyk - 11
Hunter & Kennedy Jager - 6
Nov 29 Dave & Gina Van Wyk - 40



Throughout the month of November kids will be practicing their songs for the Christmas Program on Wednesday nights during Awana. Practices started on October 28. Regular attendance helps a lot as we prepare for the Christmas Program.

Practice Schedule

6-6:20 PM - PK & K - practice in Rm 12 (kids singing room)
6-6:20 PM - Grades 1-3 practice in Ark Room
6:20-6:40 PM - Grades 4-6 practice in Ark Room



NOV 29	10:40-11 AM Pre-K & K 11-12 PM Grades 1-6	
	10:40-11 AM Pre-K & K 11-12 PM Grades 1-6	DEC 6
DEC 13	10:40-11 AM Pre-K & K 11-12 PM Grades 1-6	
	9:30 AM Christmas Program	DEC 20

November 25 - Thanksgiving Eve Service

TIME: 7 PM

Come join us in a service of remembrance for the many blessings that God provided in 2026.

- Message by Pastor Paul
- Special Thanksgiving offering - The deacons have set our goal for this offering at $130,000. You may also give via the website using the pull-down tab.







Our church will host the 25th annual Thanksgiving meal on Thursday, November 26 at 12 noon. Please encourage those who would like a home-cooked meal and some fellowship to attend. All are welcome. Of course we will need many hands to do this. Sign up sheets will be put out on the Welcome Table.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED IN THE CHURCH

The church depends on its members to help in various areas on a volunteer basis. Right now we could use help in the following areas, in addition to those listed on the first page:

Sound and Camera Techs

- We could use several more people (2) to run the sound board. We are looking for people who are in high school or older.
- We could use 4 people to run the cameras. Ideally we are looking for kids in 5th/6th grades, middle school or older individuals as well.

If interested, please contact Wendy by calling 712.324.2130 or emailing her at wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.com.
Training will be provided until you are comfortable on your own! And it is really easier than you may think. Talk with one of the current techs and come up to the balcony to see what it entails. A team usually works once every 1-2 months.

Important Information from the Office

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, **the office will be closed on both Thursday and Friday, November 26 & 27**. This means that the bulletin and Encore will be printed on Wednesday, November 25. So if you want something included in either of them, please get your items to Wendy no later than 4 PM on Tuesday to allow for time to proofread both of them before they are printed.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Monday, November 30
TIME: 7 PM

We encourage you to attend because we will electing new Elders and Deacons.

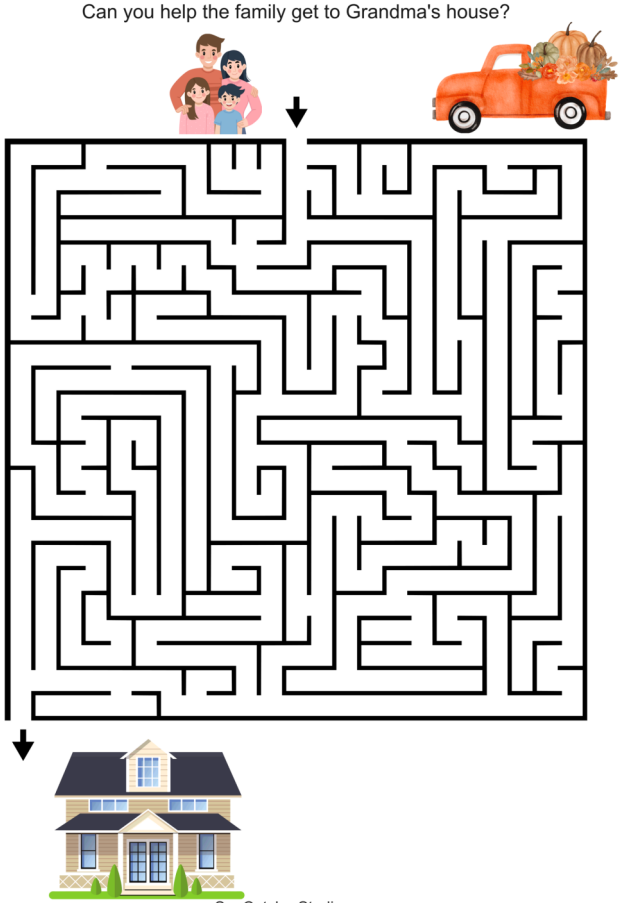
November Birthdays

Nov 1 Darla Reuvers
Nov 2 Denise Blankers
Nov 3 Dwayne Siebrands
Gary Meyer
Lisa Story-Kruse
Kristin Oldenkamp
Tyler Freeman
Nov 4 Herb Struyk
Idelle Mastbegen - 90
Sami Fox
Daniel Westphalen
Jager Roozeboom
Kipp Haack
Nov 5 Marv Van Riesen
Jewel Doely
Paula Sawyer
Beth Slykhuis
Malakai Vermeer
Nov 6 Devin Van Regenmorter
Nov 7 Dave Van Beek
Donna Dykstra
Deb Zebedee
Nov 8 Art Franken
Kirk Dekker
Nathan Punt
Taylor Stellinga
Wyatt Spanjer
Nov 9 Karri Spanjer
Tyler Drenkow
Nov 10 Colton Jager
Caiden Jager
Nov 12 Cindy Hassebroek
Ethan Woelber
Nov 13 Ingrid Fox
Nov 14 Savannah Sauer
Jagger Hoekstra
Nov 15 Jamison Snyder
Isla Rozeboom
Nov 16 Loretta Boender
Nov 17 Carol Sterk - 91
Jill Van Meeteren
Dawn Meyer
Nov 19 Brad Verburg
Haley Jager
Nov 21 Jacob Laubach
Nov 22 Josh Van Beek
Nov 24 Larry Storm
Dianne Wolthuizen
Nov 25 Larry Christians
Brady Van Meeteren
Alex Van Surksum
Ryker Jager
Nov 26 Braxton Wolthuizen
Nov 27 Makinley Vermeer
Bree Christians
Reece Dibbet
Nov 28 Kamdyn Hoekstra
Nov 29 Bonnie Fonkert
Nov 30 Devon Schaeffer



THANKSGIVING MAZE

Can you help the family get to Grandma's house?



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Thanksgiving "Foods"

V	O	V	O	E	L	W	R	S	E	Q	S	N	J	Q	T	Y	X
L	T	D	R	E	S	S	I	N	G	U	E	J	N	C	J	U	A
D	C	I	I	I	R	X	C	S	M	J	O	V	U	O	C	B	Y
U	Z	R	S	B	H	R	Z	A	F	J	T	B	T	R	O	G	E
F	L	Y	A	N	G	S	F	O	R	K	A	T	S	N	R	B	K
S	U	Z	O	N	J	R	C	C	O	R	T	R	N	B	N	S	R
T	P	G	O	I	B	K	E	A	E	B	O	E	H	R	S	C	U
U	R	U	R	S	Q	E	Q	E	S	V	P	T	A	E	A	P	T
F	U	R	M	A	Z	E	R	E	N	S	T	W	S	A	L	E	Z
F	S	O	G	P	V	W	E	R	V	B	E	E	L	D	A	C	L
I	Q	S	J	H	K	Y	V	K	I	G	E	R	L	F	D	A	P
N	U	E	F	O	P	I	U	X	O	E	W	A	O	L	S	N	V
G	A	O	X	N	A	R	N	V	R	G	S	D	N	L	A	P	L
W	S	T	E	E	B	M	S	P	B	R	E	A	D	S	E	I	Y
V	H	A	I	Y	S	L	B	I	I	L	W	F	P	R	C	E	A
I	N	T	P	E	L	Q	C	M	O	E	C	W	X	E	M	J	M
V	J	O	C	O	Q	Q	V	I	Y	H	A	M	I	T	A	H	S
F	H	P	R	L	K	H	O	G	W	L	B	W	K	I	F	S	T

Word list: bread, carrots, casserole, corn, cornbread, cranberries, dressing, gravy, greenbeans, ham, nuts, peas, pecanpie, pie, potatoes, pumpkinpie, rolls, salads, squash, stuffing, sweetpotatoes, turkey, yams

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Benevolent Fund - October 2026

	Jan - Sep 26	Budget
Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2026	$ 75,930.13	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Benevolent Fund	68,997.80	189,500.00
Missions	2,223.00	
Sunday School	636.05	
Total Income	71,856.85	189,500.00
Gross Profit	71,856.85	189,500.00
Expense		
Commitments		
Beth (Blankers) Borgens/CRU	5,250.00	7,000.00
Bethesda Christian Counseling	0.00	5,000.00
GraceCovenantMinistry-Annville	5,250.00	7,000.00
Grooters, Jay & Amy-Costa Rica	5,250.00	7,000.00
Harlan Moss-SD Prison Ministry	5,250.00	7,000.00
Inspiration Hills	0.00	7,000.00
Jake & Brittany Korver	5,250.00	7,000.00
JoJo Bong-Asian Youth	0.00	3,500.00
Lay Mission Fund	0.00	10,000.00
Love Inc	5,249.92	7,000.00
Mission & Service Projects	0.00	5,000.00
Mission to India-ChurchPlanters	5,625.00	7,500.00
Mission to India-Literacy Prog	1,875.00	2,500.00
Multiplication Network	0.00	3,500.00
Pascal,Sasha&Sara-Moldova	2,250.00	3,000.00
Reformed Church in America		
Brownell-Japan	5,250.00	7,000.00
Nicole Opgenorth-Nicaragua	5,250.00	7,000.00
Total Reformed Church in America	10,500.00	14,000.00
Reformed Mission Services	0.00	5,000.00
Rise Fest	5,000.00	5,000.00
Rise Ministries	7,000.00	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	5,250.00	7,000.00
Village Northwest Unlimited	0.00	7,000.00
Words of Hope	0.00	28,000.00
Total Commitments	70,156.60	189,500.00
YTD Offerings Paid Out	47,577.80	
Total Expense	117,734.40	189,500.00
Net Ordinary Income	-45,877.55	0.00
Net Cash Flow	**-45,877.55**	**0.00**
Ending Cash Balance	$ 30,052.58	

2026 Directory Changes

Shannon Baack's Address
620 4th Ave. #1
Sheldon, IA 51201

Janice Bolkema's Address
4715 Algonquin Drive, Apt. 1306
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Ryer Dacken's Address
712 Washington Ave.
Sheldon, IA 51201

Kourtney Dekker's Address
23343 167th Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060
712-324-0019

Marv & Luann Donkersloot's Address
800 Country Club Road Unit #116
Sheldon, IA 51201

Larry Ebel's Address
1414 Elm Court #303
Christian Retirement Home
Sheldon, IA 51201

Bob Engel's Address
2501 E. 6th Street #110
Sheldon, IA 51201

Randy Fonker's e-mail
randyfonkert@gmail.com

Bryan Godbersen's phone #
712-631-0487

Bev Heemstra's Address
711 4th Ave. Apt. #8
Sheldon, IA 51201

Chad Jager's Phone #
712-869-0331

Brandon & Janna Kats's Address
890 Prairie Trail Road
Sheldon, IA 51201

Ashley Jorgensen's e-mail
jorgensena@hotmail.com

Frances Kroeze's Address
2501 E. 6th St. Apt. 101
Sheldon, IA 51201

General Fund - October 2026

	Sep 26	Jan - Sep 26	Annual Budget
Beginning Cash Balance	$ 79,555.93		
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
General Fund	46,086.66	488,434.91	622,661.61
Interest Income	19.13	238.07	
Transfer In	0.00	50,000.00	90,000.00
Total Income	46,105.79	538,672.98	712,661.61
Gross Profit	46,105.79	538,672.98	712,661.61
Expense			
Alliance Dues	0.00	9,284.27	21,000.00
Congregational Care	1,704.86	13,289.95	17,000.00
Education	451.13	22,844.93	24,700.00
Facilities & Grounds	56,805.61	197,892.15	272,850.00
General and Consistory	1,413.13	12,162.60	18,100.00
Hands of Hope Outreach	569.00	16,378.26	18,800.00
Office	2,037.71	17,447.04	26,100.00
Payroll Expenses	22,460.12	220,060.31	300,211.61
Transfer Out	0.00	40,000.00	
Worship	76.01	2,366.83	9,100.00
Youth Groups	17.11	4,268.85	4,800.00
Total Expense	85,534.68	555,995.19	712,661.61
Net Ordinary Income	-39,428.89	-17,322.21	0.00
Net Cash Flow	**-39,428.89**	**-17,322.21**	**0.00**
Ending Cash Balance	$ 40,127.04		

2026 Directory Changes

Rachel Krukow's e-mail
krukowra@gmail.com

Connor Kruse rank update
SRA Connor Kruse
661 Boothey Ave.
Unit 27 Travis AFB
Fairfield, CA 94535

Molly McDonald's Address
Pleasant Acres
309 Railroad Street
Hull, IA. 51239

Audrey Moet's Address
2501 E. 6th Steet #154
Sheldon, IA 51201

Brady & Brittany Peters's Address
2917 McKinley Avenue
Sheldon, IA 51201

Darla Reuver's e-mail
darreuvers@gmail.com

Jager Rozeboom's Address
1160 11th St.
Sheldon, IA 51201

Keely Simonsen's Address
522 Sweetgrass Drive Apt. 204
Brookings, SD 57006

Noah & Taylea Sterk's Address
704 7th St.
Sibley, IA 51249

Ken & Paula Van Aalsburg's Address
701 26th Ave.
Sheldon, IA 51201

Norma Van Gorp's e-mail
nvangorp7@gmail.com

Alex Van Surksum's address & e-mail
705 4th St. Apt.4S
Garwin, IA 50632
avansurksm@gmail.com

Loretta Vander Linden's e-mail & ph #
712-344-2890
lorettavanderlinden@icloud.com

Larry Vander Plaat's e-mail
Plaats58@yahoo.com

Marty & Katie Van Peursem's phone #'s
Marty: 507-215-1291
Katie: 507-306-8694

Gladys Van Veldhuizen's Address
118 N. 7th Ave. Room 103B
Sheldon, IA 51201

Gert Van Wyk's Address
Fieldcrest Assisted Living #137
2501 E. 6th Street
Sheldon, IA 51201

Ed Verburg's Address
1414 Elm Court #219
Christian Retirement Home
Sheldon, IA 51201

Darlene Verrip's Address
2501 E. 6th Street Room #100
Fieldcrest Assisted Living
Sheldon, IA 51201

Millie Vos's e-mail
milvos@nethtc.net

Cheryl Wolthuizen Address & Phone #
1017 5th Ave.
Sheldon, IA 51201
712-403-1876

Deaths
Andrew Kanengieter
Clara Boone
Bob Stellinga
Greta Wildeman
Murray Martens

Please make these corrections to the current pages in your church directory. There will NOT be new pages that reflect these changes.

Minutes of the Consistory Meeting – First Reformed Church, Sheldon, IA
Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Those present:

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

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

Absent:

Elders: Steve Van Beek

Deacons: Brady Peters. Brent Hofmeyer

A. Pastor Paul called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.
B. Pastor Paul offered opening prayer and devotions from Hebrews 11:1-3.
    1. We were reminded to fix our eyes on Him.
    2. We need to let go of sin.
    3. Be encouraged by those who served before.
C. Staff Report
    1. Shannon Baack, Music Director, answered questions pertaining to praise teams, choir, etc. and how music is always selected to praise God.
    2. She also gave an overview of the current status of music programs.
D. Roll Call & Approval of minutes from September 22, 2026.
    1. **Motion Made Supported & Carried (MMSC)** to approve.
E. Celebrations and Thanksgivings were discussed.
    1. Thanks to all teachers, youth leaders, and Wednesday night meal prep team.
F. Report from Deacons meeting given by Tyler Drenkow.
G. Report from Elders meeting given by Mike Kleinwolterink.
    1. **MMSC** to approve.
H. Building Team asking list
    1. Discussion emphasized importance of transparency of process and receiving input from the congregation.
    2. "Town Hall" small group meetings to be scheduled before meeting with architect.
    3. Building Team asking list vote **MMSC**
        a. Cleiton Zanela
        b. Galen Blankers
        c. Blaine De Groot
        d. Dianne Wolthuizen
        e. Daniel Ten Clay
        f. Jill Van Meeteren
        g. Mark Van Beek
I. Pastor's Report
J. Committee Reports were discussed.
    1. **MMSC** to approve.
K. Financial reports were discussed.
    1. **MMSC** to approve.
L. Next Meeting: November 17, 2026 Prayer – Dan Bracy
M. Adjourn: **MMSC** to adjourn at 8:40 PM.
N. Galen Blankers 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

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

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 Peursem

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 Pomerenke

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 or
wendy@sheldonfirstreformed.com

IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION

- **WEBSITE:** www.sheldonfirstreformed.com
- **WORSHIP VIDEO:** www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/worshipservices.cfm
- **BULLETIN:** www.sheldonfirstreformed.com/media/weeklybulletin.cfm **OR** paper copies are available in the bulletin box outside the north kitchen door along with the most recent Encore and devotional
- **RADIO BROADCAST:** Sundays at 10 AM on FM 100.7
- **TV BROADCAST:** Tuesdays at 4 PM on local cable channel 12
- **FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/sheldonfirstreformed
- **E-GIVING LINK:** Text the word "SFRC" to the number **833.484.7253** 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 of the black offering boxes **OR** drop it off in the church office.
- **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 **7AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday, and from 7 AM-12 PM on 2nd & 4th Fridays**. During the week you may use the north & south doors to get your mail or drop off offerings etc. in the office. You will need to ring the door bell (silver button) to the right of these doors to enter the church. Wendy will buzz you in from the office.
- **SUNDAY MORNINGS:** The church doors will lock at 9:30 AM. If you find the doors locked upon your arrival, go to the front/east door and a team member will welcome you into the church
- If you would like to receive church emails & don't currently receive them, please call the church at 712.324.2130 & provide Wendy with your email address. You may also fill out the connection card with this info & place it in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.
- If you have moved, made changes to your emails or phone numbers, please contact the church office with the updated information by calling 712.324.2130 or emailing 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 inclusion in the December Encore is Tuesday, November 24. (Earlier than usual due to Thanksgiving.)**

NOTE: To access videos & bulletins, note the above information in **green**. If you cannot find bulletins, look under the media tab. If you still need help, call the church and we will help you navigate the website.

MISSIONS NEWS

Volunteers are needed for the Reformed Mission Services (RMS) trip to the Dominican Republic, January 4–11, 2027. This year, the team will help replace a church's roof. Visit rms.org/dominican-republic to see photos from previous years. If you are interested or have questions, contact Steve Poll at steve@rms.org.

Visit rms.org/tasc to explore next year's host churches and find the location that works best for you. Locations include Grace URC in Alto, MI; Immanuel Fellowship Church in Kalamazoo, MI; and Trinity URC in Visalia, CA, June 19–26; Cornerstone URC in Edmonton, AB, July 3–10; and Bethany URC in Wyoming, MI, and Mount of Olives in Uruapan, Mexico, July 24–31. For questions or more information, contact tasc@rms.org.



Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center

1242 280th St. Inwood, IA 51240 I 712.986.5193
Website: inspirationhills.org
Email: ihills@inspirationhills.org

We are excited to share that **registration for our 2027 retreats and events at Inspiration Hills will officially open on Monday, November 9, at 9:00 AM!**

We have an exciting lineup of retreats and opportunities planned for the upcoming year, and we would LOVE your help spreading the word to your congregations, families, and youth groups!

2027 UPCOMING RETREATS & EVENTS

- **Art of Parenting Retreat | January 15–17, 2027**

An opportunity for parents to step away from the busyness of everyday life, find encouragement, connect with other parents, and grow in their God-given role as parents.

- **Single Moms Retreat | January 29–31, 2027**

A special weekend dedicated to encouraging, refreshing, and supporting single moms through fellowship, rest, and Christ-centered community.

- **4th–6th Grade Winter Retreat | February 12–14, 2027**

A fun-filled weekend for students in grades 4–6 to reconnect with camp friends, experience exciting activities, and grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus!

- **Digging Deeper Bible Workshop | March 13, 2027**

A day dedicated to diving deeper into God's Word through biblical teaching, meaningful discussions, and opportunities for spiritual growth.

- **Art of Marriage Retreat | April 2–4, 2027**

A weekend designed for married couples to reconnect, strengthen their relationships, and invest intentionally in their marriages through biblical encouragement and fellowship.

REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, AT 9:00 AM!

At Inspiration Hills, our heart is to create opportunities for people of all ages and stages of life to step away from everyday distractions, grow in their relationship with Christ, and experience meaningful Christian community.

Thank you for partnering with us in ministry and helping us reach individuals and families throughout our communities. We are looking forward to all that God has in store for 2027!

If you have any questions about our upcoming retreats or events, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Blessings,
Madison Van Meeteren
Program Director
Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center
ihills@inspirationhills.org

TANZANIA, AFRICA

The Part of the Bible They Don't Want to Skip

For Angelina, a familiar list of names helped the story of Jesus become more personal.
When someone begins listening to the New Testament, it starts with something many of us tend to skim over: a long list of names.
Matthew chapter 1 traces the family line of Jesus—fathers, sons, and generation after generation. We often hurry through it to "get to the good part."

But for Angelina, this is the good part.
Angelina is a 57-year-old farmer from Tanzania. Although she knows how to read, she could never afford a printed Bible. The only Scripture she heard was what her pastor read during church on Sunday mornings.
When Angelina received a Talking Bible, she could listen to any passage she chose—in Kiswahili and whenever she wanted—for the first time.

One passage especially captured her attention: the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1.
"Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah…"
For Angelina, these names were not something to skip.

Family lines and ancestry carry deep meaning in her culture. A person's story is connected to the names and generations that came before them.
As Angelina listened to the family line of Jesus, she began to understand more clearly how He came into the world.
Hearing the names of His ancestors made Jesus feel rooted in real people and real history.
It made her feel that she knew Him better.

Name after name, the story unfolds:
Abraham…
Isaac…
Jacob…
David…
And finally:
"Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah." *MATT 1:16*

Angelina's experience helps us understand why hearing Scripture in a familiar language can be so powerful.
Across Tanzania, students are also gathering to listen to Talking Bibles during Religious Education classes. Passages that may seem distant or difficult can suddenly feel familiar, understandable, and personal.
For a child who understands the importance of family lines, Matthew 1 may not simply be a list of names.
It may be the moment Jesus becomes real—and His story begins to feel like good news meant for them, too.

We are grateful to share how God's Word is reaching people like Angelina and students throughout Tanzania. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and partnership in this ministry.

Update from
NATHAN AND NOZOMI BROWNELL



October 2026

It is our joy to share what the Lord is doing in Yokohama, Japan. The Green House Youth Center remains active. This season we've welcomed many young people to a safe and warm environment. Here God's good news is being shared with them. As you know, the pressure around and on the youth is heavy, whether it is in the U.S. or in Japan. We call our youth center the Green House not just because of the color of its exterior walls is light green, but because it signifies the nature of this space. We hope it to be like an actual green house where in our case the students can grow up in a warm and safe space regardless of the severity of the climate outside. We are creating a "spiritual greenhouse" for the young people to live and grow in the light and warmth of Christ.



Hope College Group Visit

In May, we welcomed 12 students and 2 professors from Hope College. They were visiting Japan for their May Term study abroad. They came to our Thursday afterschool program for the mission school students. The friendly manner of the Hope College students and their professors helped the Japanese high school students master up the courage to try communicating in English. For the Hope College students who are studying Japanese, it was an opportunity to practice their Japanese as well. It was a beautiful sight to see the young people trying to connect with each other is such an organic and positive way.

Another highlight this season was the hosting of a joint youth gathering with several local area churches. As is often the case some of these churches only have a few youth or, in some cases, no youth program in their church. So, we offer the Green House for them to gather the youth from several different churches where they can find friends in their same age range and realize that there are other Christians their age and that they are not alone. This program is initiated by the local pastors who bring their youth together here. About a dozen students gathered this time enjoying a day of worship and fellowship. This program leads into the joint Summer Camp which is held every August where students gather from all over Japan.

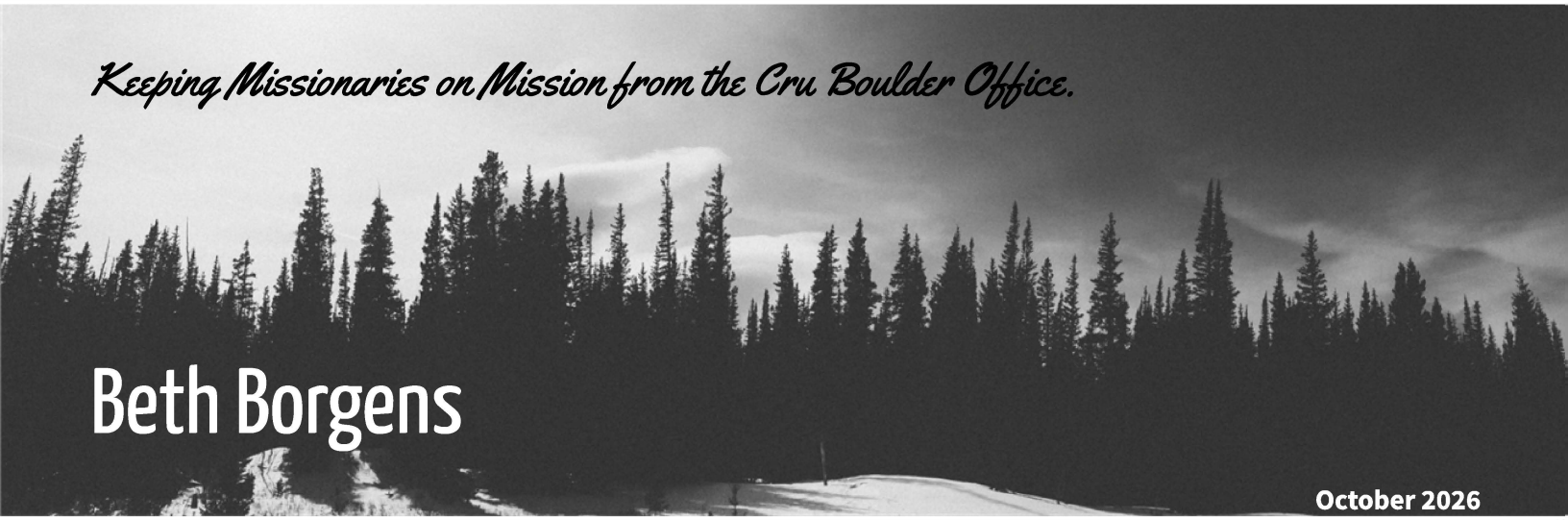
Nathan has been faithfully working at Ferris Girls' School. This is his 20th year. In January and July, he was asked to lead the Bible study for the parents at the school. Ferris is a mission school but in Japan there are not many Christians. The mission schools here shine the light of Christ through education. It is a great opportunity to share the faith with the families related to the school. More than 60 parents attended the Bible study and could hear the word of God inviting them to walk with God.

Nozomi had an opportunity to speak at a special event commemorating the Foreign Mission Service at another mission school in the area back in June. They were commemorating the founding missionaries and to raise awareness of the present mission work around the world. Nozomi regards it a huge blessing to speak about the Good News of Christ and about the missionaries who brought the gospel to Japan in front of 600 high school students.

This year God also blessed us with a new English teacher from one of the local mission schools to join the Green House team. Here name is Sara Anderson. She is from Canada and showed up to Green House one Thursday afternoon while Nozomi was waiting for the students to come for the afterschool program. Sara began her work at the school this April and met one of the Green House teachers at a church. She was invited to join the Green House and so she did! She has a passion for Jesus and love for the students.

We are so grateful for your support and prayer. You are always with us in this mission. Because of your prayers and supports, we are indeed sustained. Please continue to pray for us and for the Green House team, for the students, young adults, people who are learning Children & Worship (C&W) and the children. Nozomi is starting to volunteer with one of the area churches from this summer. She is going to host a Bible study and fellowship time once a month in a hurting church. Please pray that the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness. May the Lord continue to bless your church as well.

Nathan and Nozomi Brownell



Keeping Missionaries on Mission from the Cru Boulder Office.

Beth Borgens

October 2026

From Instagram Follows to Fellowship: Building Greek Cru at Quinnipiac

Shared by Staff at Quinnipiac University



What began with a simple follow request on a phone screen sparked a faith-based movement inside fraternity and sorority houses at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut.

Last spring, Cru staff members in Arizona took a leap of faith and expanded their campus outreach into Connecticut! Hoping to connect with fraternity and sorority members, they launched a dedicated Greek Cru Instagram account and began reaching out directly to students online.

This social media outreach soon paid off. Two Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity members stepped up to help lead the initiative. After receiving leadership training from the Cru staff, the duo visited fraternity and sorority chapters on campus, inviting students seeking spiritual growth to join.

Their efforts culminated in the launch of Quinnipiac's first Greek Cru Bible study, bringing together students from across the Greek system to build community and explore their faith.

Presenting at Lakehart



Once again I was back at Lakehart, Cru's worldwide headquarters in Orlando, this month. I had the opportunity to meet with our executive leaders and share how we could better resource our staff as they work on short term assignments. The following day I shared with a group of Project Managers from many different Cru ministries about the challenges we face in the Campus ministry as we tackle our short term work. Two very different audiences but thankfully a similar presentation.

Prayers

- I came home from Orlando with Influenza A which went through our family. It was a rough week for us all. I have now had Influenza twice in 2026.
- For our family's health. 2026 has been illness after illness for us, and after a month off we are back at it. Please pray for our immune systems to be strong and for God's presence and perseverance to comfort us during this season of non-stop illnesses.

elizabeth.borgens@cru.org Give.cru.org/0611276 3174 W 135th Ave, Broomfield, CO 80020

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER October, 2026



"So shall My word that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

God never changes and His Word never changes! There is no one as dependable as God. "In Him was life and that life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." What great news, even in our difficult and dark times, God's light will shine through!

Last month I wrote about a man who came to the Chaplain's office by mistake. His cellie is the person I expected to show up. It had been three weeks since I talked with him. This time when I visited with him, he took the Bible along with him and laid it on the desk. "I have read it cover to cover, there is sure a lot of genealogies in the Bible," he told me. The Bible I gave him was new, but now looked used, so I believed him. When I asked him if he believed the Bible to be true he said, "Oh yes I believe it is true, but I am not ready to commit my life to Christ yet. I have had religion pushed on me all my life, and I want to be sure that it is by my choice this time." We went over the gospel message again and he agreed with it but wanted to wait to receive Christ into his life. I know the Holy Spirt is at work in him and will not let him rest until he commits his life to Christ.

A young man who was baptized a few years ago requested to visit with me. He had been transferred to the Hill shortly after baptism, but now was transferred back to Jameson. He fell back when he got reacquainted with some of his old friends who were not good for him. Now the Lord is working in him to get serious about his relationship with Him. God knows those who are His and will bring them back to Himself.

One of the men who came back to prison a few weeks ago, had a great testimony of how God changed his life several years ago in prison. At that time, he was into witchcraft and was a miserable person. When Christ came into his life, he threw all his witchcraft items away. I remember that the staff asked him, "What happened to you, there is such change your life?" He would tell them, "Jesus changed my life." We talked about his change and how he couldn't stop smiling after Jesus changed his life. He was released four months ago and was doing well, in fact very well! God has given him a great talent in a very productive industry. His top supervisor asked him where he achieved his knowledge. He told him, "God gave me this talent." His supervisor bragged about him and that built up his pride. The problem came when other people in this industry had a party to celebrate his & their accomplishments. This celebration included alcohol, which was his problem in the past and so he couldn't stop once he started. From there on it was downhill for him and he ended up back in prison. I believe the Lord will grow him deeper in his faith during his time in prison.

The Angel Tree program for inmates' children is again in process. If you would like to donate to that program the website is, prisonfellowship.org.

Thank you for your prayer & financial support! You are a blessing to this ministry!

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

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER November, 2026



"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." Matthew 9:12

Everyone needs Jesus as their Savior. When a person is lost in sin they don't realize their need for Him. It is usually when an individual goes through hardships that they think about life and what it is all about! Thankfully the Lord is near to the brokenhearted!

A young man requested to talk with me. I was not familiar with him, but he told me, "I am tired of living a sinful life. The other day when I was on the phone to my family, I could hear my aunt praying. I realized I was on a dark path! That night I got out of bed onto my knees and prayed for the Lord to forgive me and change my heart and life! My life has been different since that night last week!" The next week when we talked, he said, "I realized the temptations would come after becoming a Christian. Not only do I receive ridicule from old friends, but some of the rules have become more difficult. The reason for that is because of some of the men acting out against staff. I know that this new life will be difficult, it is better than the old life I lived!" I know it is difficult for new believers, because many of the men are not living out their Christian confession.

A Christian man I have known for a long time in prison has many struggles in his walk with the Lord. He has fallen and got back up several times. This time when I visited him in Segregation, he told me, "I was told that I was going to get a new cellie. When I found out who it was, fear took hold of me at first. This new cellie was in the gang that I had come out of sometime back." Usually, a guy doesn't get out of a gang in prison without being threatened or getting jumped. He went on to say, "When my new cellie moved into my cell, he told me, 'I am getting out of the gang as well, and just so you know, I am a Satanist!' I told him I was a Christian, a follower of Jesus. He listened to me talk about Jesus Christ and how he could have salvation. I told him how God could forgive his sins and wipe them off his record. He said Christianity was not for him. A few nights later I woke up in the middle of the night, and he was sitting by the little iron table in the cell. I asked him if he was okay, because he looked like he didn't feel good. He said, 'I believe it is time to trust Jesus as my Savior.' So, we prayed together and he gave his life to Christ that night! Even though I got myself in trouble and am in Segregation, God used me!" God can use us no matter what. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

I was referred to a young man from a person who had mentored him in high school. When I visited with him the first time, he told me "For two years I was going down a bad road and have repented. I want to follow Jesus and get to know Him." I am always amazed with God's timing! He is always on time!

Thank you for your generous prayers and financial support! You are a blessing!

In Christ, *Harlan*

P.S. Christmas is around the corner. I am including/attaching a letter about donations for the Christmas sacks for the inmates, if you are interested.

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

2026 SD Prison Chaplains Association Christmas Sack Project

Each year the chaplains' group that serves those incarcerated in our prisons and jails packs and distributes a Christmas treat sack to every person incarcerated at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, the minimum-security unit in Yankton, the Women's Prison in Pierre, and those in the Minnehaha County jail in Sioux Falls. Last year we distributed over 4000 sacks. Unfortunately, due to DOC policies, home-made fudge is no longer allowed in any of these facilities.

For many, the Chaplains Treat Sack is the only "special" thing that they will receive at Christmas. In prison, Christmas is just another day, but with your generosity, we can make the Christmas season just a little better.

Here is how you can help us.
We need your financial support. Everything we give out must be prepackaged items from the factory, which means we must purchase everything we hand out. This increases the cost of this project significantly. We expect to distribute goodies to over 3,800 inmates this year.

Our goal is to raise $40,000 by Friday, November 20th so we have time to order the goodies and receive them in time to hand them out by Christmas Eve.

Please consider your financial gift to support this effort to provide each inmate with a little something for Christmas. Christmas time is a very difficult and lonely time for the inmates and this small gesture of kindness goes a long way to lift their spirits and reminds them that are not forgotten.

Please mail donations to:
SDPCA Christmas Sacks
PO Box 89331
Sioux Falls, SD, 57109

Please put "Christmas Sacks" in the memo line of your check.

Please remember, the deadline for financial gifts is Friday, November 20th.

Thank you very much for your generosity and support.

Peace,

SD Prison Chaplains



To donate with a credit card, please use the QR code.

November 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8am Praise Team Practice 4:30pm Creative Movement Practice	**2** 6:30pm Hands of Hope Mtg	**3**	**4** 5-6:15pm FNM 6-7:30pm Awana 6:15-7:30 MS 6:30-7:30pm Adult Bible Study 7:30-8:10 Choir Practice 7:45-9pm HS	**5** 7am Executive Team Mtg	**6**	**7**
8 8am Praise Team Practice Creative Movement Performance	**9** 6pm Congregational Care Mtg	**10**	**11** No Family Night Meal 5-7pm RCYF Soup & Pie Supper 6-7:30pm Awana 6:15-7:30 MS 6:30-7:30pm Adult Bible Study 7:30-8:10 Choir Practice	**12** 4:30-6pm Sheldon Food Truck @ Living Water	**13**	**14** Frozen Food Order Delivery
15 8am Praise Team Practice Choir Sings	**16** 5:30-6:30pm Sheldon Unity Meal @ Living Water	**17** 6:30pm Elders/Deacons Mtgs 7pm Evening Circle 7:30pm Consistory Mtg	**18** 1:30pm Afternoon Circle 5-6:15pm FNM 6-7:30pm Awana 6:15-7:30 MS 6:30-7:30pm Adult Bible Study 7:30-8:10 Choir Practice 7:45-9pm HS	**19**	**20** TEC @ Maurice Reformed Church	**21** TEC @ Maurice Reformed Church
22 8am Praise Team Practice TEC @ Maurice Reformed Church	**23**	**24**	**25** NO FAMILY NIGHT MEAL NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	**26** Thanksgiving 12pm Community Thanksgiving Meal @ FRC Church office closed	**27** Church office closed	**28**
29 1st Advent Sunday 8am Praise Team Practice No Sunday School & C&W Christmas Program Practice 10:40-11am PK & K 11-12pm grades 1-6	**30** 7pm Annual Congregational Mtg					