

Reformed Informer



First Reformed Church, Sully, Iowa
February 2024

In the beginning God created...

This summer Doyle and I took our family on a vacation to Estes Park, Colorado. Most of our family members have been to Colorado but I have never been. Not knowing what to expect was exciting and was not disappointed. As we traveled to Colorado with our family, we were able to see God's beauty change from farmland of corn and beans in our wonderful state of Iowa, to land with pasture and hay (lots of hay) in the desolate state of Nebraska, to the changing scenery of the mountains in Colorado. As we arrived at our destination in Estes Park, the scenery was just beautiful. For me, I was in awe! I couldn't believe my eyes. I kept thinking about God's creation and how He did it.

When the first mountain was spotted driving down the interstate, excitement was in the air and what a site to behold. And, to think this was created by God, our creator. How did He do it? How do the trees survive living on mountains? While looking at the mountains with pine trees growing on them, it makes one think how amazing. How do the trees grow on the rocks? How did God create all of the lush green on the mountains or the rocks that form the mountains? There is so much beauty to behold and it's so breathtaking. I kept thinking to myself, just look at God's great handiwork!

We had a lot of family time which was so enjoyable. It was fun to be together without all of the everyday schedules that home brings. We only had a schedule so we knew what activity was taking place that day and who cooked each meal. We spent time enjoying several activities, riding horses, attending a local church, white water rafting, side by side riding, and driving in the mountains. Once again taking in all of the wondrous beauty of nature, and thinking of our Creator and His creation.

We had a safe trip back home, which brought us back to the reality of life and busy home schedules. But we are still reminded of our Creator and creation. Iowa may not be as glorious as Colorado with the mountains and trees, but we have the lush green farmland and a lot of open space to enjoy.

If you haven't enjoyed God's beauty in Colorado, hopefully someday you will be able to enjoy it! In the meantime enjoy the creation we are surrounded with each day.

It's God's creation!

"Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end." Ecclesiastes 3:11

Sometimes I lead you up a high mountain with only My hand to support you. The higher you climb the more spectacular the view becomes; also, the more keenly you sense your separation from the world with all its problems. This frees you to experience exuberantly the joyous reality of My Presence. Give yourself fully to these Glory-moments, awash in dazzling Light. I will eventually lead you down the mountain, back into community with others. Let My Light continue to shine with you as you walk among people again. (Jesus Is Calling)

P.S. As I finish up my article for the Informer, Iowa is covered with snow from a snowstorm with lots of roads drifted shut and school closings. I have a desire to see Colorado again to see the snow covered mountains. Stay warm!

Guest writer: Karna Ver Ploeg



A word from the Pastor

Hello FRC Family!



This month marks the beginning of the season of Lent, where we reflect and remember what Jesus went through in order to save us from our sin. Typically it is a tradition for Christians to participate in a 40-day long fast from something in order to draw attention away from our world cares and concerns and towards Christ. As Colossians 3:2 says, “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” When we hear the word “fast” I think we normally think of fasting from food. But that’s not the only thing we can fast from. Whatever zaps your attention the most may be the thing to fast from in this season. Maybe that’s the nightly news, or maybe it’s social media, only you can determine what that is.

But it’s also a tradition to not only fast from something, but in the space that’s made to add something (e.g. spiritual discipline). And I have something that I want to suggest to you...

For many of us, the Lenten and Easter season is something we’ve celebrated for many years. And like anything in life, the more we do something the more “used” to it we get, or the more “normal” it becomes. There is a serious threat to our faith if the story of Easter becomes normal, because it’s anything but normal. It’s miraculous. It’s world-shaking. It’s eternity-changing.

There’s a reason that Jesus encourages us to have a childlike faith. Nothing is normal to a child. Everything is amazing and awesome all the time! Even the smallest things. Many of us need to recapture this type of perspective.

So during the season of Lent I’m going to be preaching from a storybook Bible, specifically The Jesus Storybook Bible, and my encouragement would be for you to read through it, too, regardless if you’re 1 or 100! We will have copies of this Bible for sale for \$5 right outside the church office, and if you don’t have one I’d encourage you to pick one up.

Let’s rekindle a childlike faith together. Let’s see the Story through the eyes of a child.

Getting to Know you

Gary & Dorothy Van Genderen
Birthdays: Gary - August 24
Dorothy - August 5
Anniversary: September 6, 1968



Gary and Dorothy Van Genderen met on a blind date. Gary had grown up on a farm south of Sully with his parents, Paul and Marjorie Van Genderen (both deceased) and his two brothers, Melvin (Shirley) and Dennis (Nancy). Dorothy was raised on a farm west of Prairie City, with her parents, Dick and Gertrude Van Ryswyk (both deceased) and three siblings; Harold (deceased); Mary (Alvin) Fopma; and Judy (Jim) McCrory. Prairie City Reformed Church on a beautiful September day is where Gary and Dorothy were married. When they got ready to leave the church, they had four flat tires on the car!

Their family has grown to include four grown children and their families; Rod (Sheryl) Van Genderen with their two boys, Austin (Jordan) with their daughters Adalyn and Ava and Dylan; Bradley (Kris) Van Genderen and their children, Hannah (Jack) Pieza, Hailey and Zach; Kimberly (Nathan) Jansen and their children Sydney and Garrett; and Jeremy (Jeanette) Van Genderen with their children Breanne, Kara and Ben.

Gary and Dorothy are interested in traveling, going on work trips, and helping their children and grandchildren. Locally, they work at Legacy Thrift in Pella, formerly know as Bibles For Missions, sorting items that come in, checking batteries on toys and games, among many other duties. Gary also loves to read. All of his life Gary he has been engaged in farming which was his occupation for many years. Dorothy was a stay at home mom and helped on the farm where ever needed. Now, being retired, they find their hobbies occupy most of their time.

First Reformed holds many special memories for them, one being the 100th anniversary of the church. Also on the list is sewing days, choir, both of them were teachers with the children through adults and their small group Bible study. They enjoy the way the church cares for one another, the many opportunities to serve, and the encouraging fellowship!

Thank you Gary and Dorothy Van Genderen for letting us “Get To Know You Better!”



YOUTH NEWS

FW - & - IMPACT

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY

FIRST REFORMED YOUTH

Impact -Sunday nights 5:00

Faithwalkers -Sunday nights 6:30

FEB 4-Who do you say Jesus is?

FEB 11- no Impact/no Faithwalkers

FEB 18-Your RELATIONSHIPS-Special speaker and guests

FEB 25-Family Fellowship FRC Chili Cookoff. Come as a family and fellowship 5:00

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP JOIN US FOR DONUTS AND JUICE 7:30 FRIDAY MORNINGS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT:
HS-DIG DEEP 6:30 DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

JR. HIGH-ACTION BIBLE

contact: Bob and Diana Scandridge
dscandridge@gmail.com



What: Middle School Retreat is a weekend retreat for middle school students and their leaders filled with filled with worship, large group sessions, breakout sessions, recreation and games all organized by college students.

When: Friday, April 12 around 7 p.m. - Sunday, April 14 around 11 a.m.

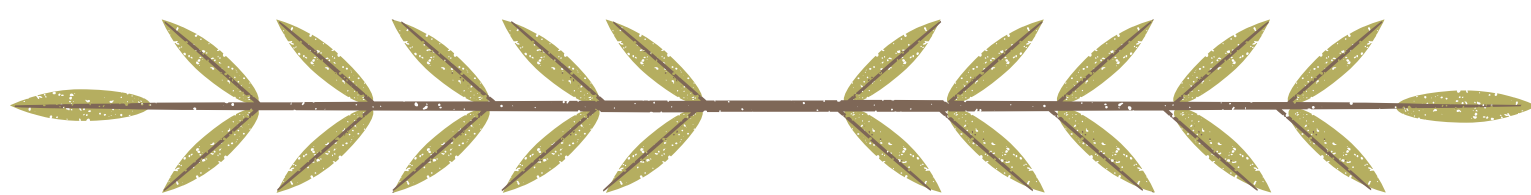
LOCATION: Hidden Acres Christian Center Dayton, IA

A camp with outdoor recreation, wilderness to explore, 9 square, ball games, snack bar, indoor pool, board games, and more!

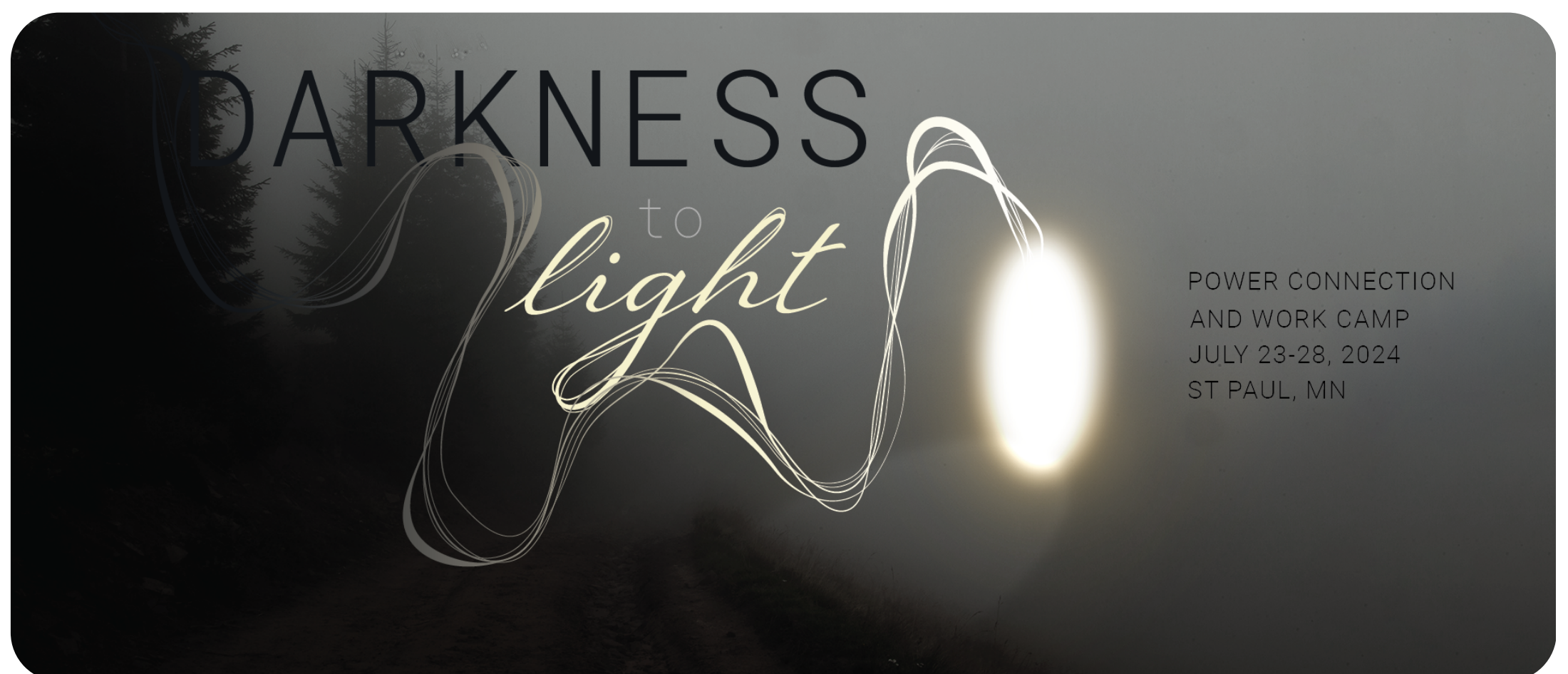
Theme:

"Nothing Else" is all about putting Jesus and the gospel message above everything else. It means that nothing is more important for a Christian than following the teachings of Jesus and understanding the gospel. This theme encourages students to strip back their faith to just Jesus, making him and the values he taught the most important thing in their lives.

REGISTRATION: Registration opens February 1 - March 6 - Forms were sent home with kids after Impact on Sunday - If you have any questions please reach out to Bob or Diana Scandridge.



COMING SOON
MORE
INFO ON
POWER
CONNECTION
THIS
SUMMER
MARK YOUR
CALENDARS



POWER CONNECTION
AND WORK CAMP
JULY 23-28, 2024
ST PAUL, MN

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Annette Zimmerman

email: annettefrcsully@gmail.com or 641-594-2935 ext. #5

Now that February is here I'm certainly starting to anticipate spring and Lent and Easter, and we all know that February suggests (or demands) that we spend due time thinking about love. I think that's fitting since Lent starts on February 14th this year. What greater form of love can we think of than Christ going to the cross for us? John 3:16 tells us of the Father's unconditional love for us—that He doesn't need us, but it's we who need Him. Yet, He gave the world His only Son to make a way back to the Father's loving presence. God didn't owe anything to humanity and still, He showed us unconditional love.

This leads me to ask myself, how can I show my children unconditional love? I look to *The 5 Love Languages of Children: The Secret to Loving Children Effectively* by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell for some advice in this area (you may have read other books in this series by Chapman). If you haven't yet, I highly recommend figuring out your child's love language to help you both connect a little better. This could be by physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, gifts or acts of service. Chapman writes, "Only as we give our children unconditional love will we be able to deeply understand them and deal with their behaviors, whether good or bad... Whatever love language your child understands best, he needs it expressed one way—unconditionally. Unconditional love is a guiding light, illuminating the darkness and enabling us as parents to know where we are and what we need to do as we raise our child. Without this kind of love, parenting is bewildering and confusing." Chapman also explains that when a child's "emotional tank" is filled with love, he is much easier to discipline and train than when it's empty, and the most effective way to fill that tank is to speak his primary love language.

Maybe as a Valentine's gift for your child you can go out of your way to love them in their language!



STARS

Thank you to everyone who lent us hammers for our project! They can be reclaimed in the church office. Thank you also to the extra handy helpers who joined us the past few weeks!

We are looking for donations of quart-size mason jars with lids and 3-6 inch smooth rocks for upcoming activities.

The next family night meal will be held on February 7.



Children in Worship

Our puppet friends recently interviewed Miss Sheep from Psalm 23 since the children have been learning about the Good Shepherd and His sheep. Following that will be a sequence of lessons on God's creation.

Sunday School

Mark your calendars for **Palm Sunday, March 24th** when the **1st-5th graders** will be leading off our worship service as always. Parents, please plan to drop your children off at church early for rehearsal. More details to come.

For more information about volunteering in any of our children's ministries, please contact me at annettefrcsully@gmail.com.

Look for family Lent devotionals (for families with children in 3 years--5th grade) to be in your mailbox by February 7.

Consistory highlights - January 2024

Pastor Jeff opened the meeting with scripture. He read from Ephesians 4:1-6. He then introduced the book LEAD to the consistory. Pastor Jeff led in prayer.

Information from the **elder's meeting** was shared.

- Dylann Williams and Jager Huyser were present to make their profession of their faith in Jesus Christ. It was moved and supported to accept Dylann and Jager's profession of faith. Doug Huyser will be the assisting elder. Tammy Sneller's membership was placed on inactive.

The **Deacons reported** the following: Review December giving: General - \$48,671.93; Mission - \$15,686.25; Sunday School - \$1,574.50; Building - \$11,991.07

- Donating Valentine's gift baskets for our college students assembled by Bob & Diane Scandridge. Cost of \$40 per student
- Donating two \$100 gift baskets for After Prom to be assembled by Bob & Diana Scandridge .
- Combining Faithwalkers and Impact checking accounts.
- Mission Funds will be dispersed as follows:
 - Agape - \$1,000.00 Discover Hope 517 - \$1,000.00 LakeView Camp - \$500.00
 - Sheep Gate(Teen Challenge) - \$1,000.00 Faithwalkers - \$2,000.00 Daniel & Sarah Zagami - \$1,000.00
 - Hope Ministries - \$1,500.00 KCWN - \$1,000.00 Meggan & Pavlos Vasileiadis - \$1,000.00
 - The Well - \$2,000.00 New Life Prison Church - \$1,000.00 Christian Opportunity Center - \$1,000.00
 - TEC - \$500.00 Impact - \$1,500.00 Many Hands for Haiti - \$1,000.00
- Rental facility updates: non-church members wedding rental to \$600, for Gathering Place with kitchen and dishwasher use rental to \$300 (non-member), for Gathering Place without kitchen use \$225 (non-members), for use of the Well to \$125 (non-members), and Funeral rental rate is \$100 for custodian pay for all funerals

Review of treasurer reports and prayer and praise concerns were discussed.

Committee reports:

Buildings and Grounds

- A master shut-off for the boiler must be installed to meet codes.

Christian Ed Committee reported:

- Pastor Jeff summarized on-going youth activities.

Worship:

- Thursday, March 28, 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Service with Communion Sunday, March 31, 9:30 am – Easter worship service

Stewardship

- Mission shares through the Rozendaal Fund. Kathryn (De Penning) Stoddard was removed. Projected Giving for 2024 below: Jeremy & Susan Beebout... Niger, Africa - \$6,900; Tom & Aichatou Johnson . Haiti - \$6,900; Chad Vanden Bosch. Audio Scripture - \$3,450; Brett Rockvam. Center of Hope, Sioux, SD - \$3,450; Mission India. \$3,000; Meggan & Pavlos Vasileiadis. \$3,000; Lake View Camp. \$3,000; Infaith Org. Bonnie Ellis. \$3,000

New & Old Business

- Calling Care Team instructions were gone over as well as the Consistory retreat led by Corem Deo, Saturday, January 27, 2024. The meeting concluded with prayer by Jeremy Rozendaal.

Coffee

WITH THE PASTOR

After 3 weeks of cancelling this event due to weather, Tuesday, January 30 was our first coffee time with Pastor Jeff. This was a great time of cookies and fellowship! Our next time will be Tuesday, February 20 from 9 - 10 am!



Instant  Church Directory

We are in the beginning stages of putting together an **online pictorial directory**. (A printed copy will also be available.)

There is an informational sheet that each family will need to fill out. This is in your church mailbox as well as in the bulletin. This will need to be turned into the church office. This is going to be a great tool to keep in touch with our congregation.

You can submit your own photo or we will be taking photos at church if needed. Keep an eye out with more details.

BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 1	NICOLE DUNSBERGEN DYLAN ROOZEBOOM SOPHIE VANDEN HOEK PAVLOS VASILEIADIS
FEBRUARY 2	DONOVAN DE PENNING
FEBRUARY 3	JUDY ZEGERS
FEBRUARY 4	LINKOLN TORRES
FEBRUARY 5	NICK BEYER KACEY KESLING SCOTT ROLFFS
FEBRUARY 6	JIM VAN ZANTE
FEBRUARY 7	CHARLES BRAND KENDRA VAN WYK
FEBRUARY 8	ERVIN ARKEMA MARLIS VAN ZANTE MEGAN VAN ZANTE
FEBRUARY 9	MARY ANN VAN MAAREN GILBERT VAN WYK (91)
FEBRUARY 10	KATELYN BEYER ROWYN VOS
FEBRUARY 12	KAISER KESLING REAGAN ROOZEBOOM
FEBRUARY 14	IVA BAARDA (91) CAROLINE ROZENDAAL JEAN VAN DER KAMP JOEL VAN WYK
FEBRUARY 17	ARIE SCHOLTEN
FEBRUARY 24	DUSTIN DUNSBERGEN
FEBRUARY 25	BROOKLYN CHAPMAN GABE ROZENDAAL STEVE VOS
FEBRUARY 27	HOLLAND NIKKEL JORDAN VOS
FEBRUARY 28	PATTY SNELLER



ANNIVERSARY

FEBRUARY 1	Darrell & Susan Maasdam (27 yrs)
FEBRUARY 2	Ken & Verna Hackert (63 yrs)
FEBRUARY 5	Cody & Kelly Kesling (20 yrs)
FEBRUARY 10	John & Jennifer Kramer (28 yrs) Ervin & Carolyn Van Waardhuizen (63 yrs)
FEBRUARY 13	Marvin & Iva Baarda (71 yrs)
FEBRUARY 18	Verlan & Helen Brand (58 yrs)
FEBRUARY 23	Alvin & Shirley Rozendaal (62 yrs)
FEBRUARY 26	Melvin & Shirley Dunsbergen (59 yrs)
FEBRUARY 27	Beryl & Velda Dunsbergen (54 yrs)

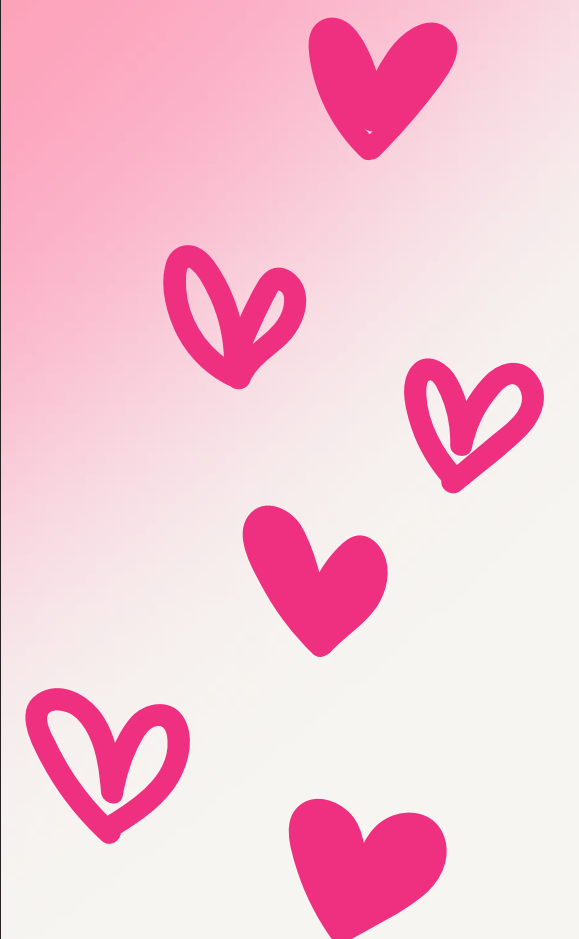


UPCOMING EVENTS

Love

BEARS ALL THINGS
BELIEVES ALL THINGS
HOPES ALL THINGS
ENDURES ALL THINGS
Love never fails

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14
5 - 7 PM IN THE GATHERING PLACE
FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, SULLY

Lenten
PANCAKE NIGHT



IHOP Pancakes with all the toppings:
strawberries, blueberries, maple syrup,
sorghum, whipping cream
Sausage links Milk, juice and coffee
Freewill offering - go towards nursery upkeep

Join Us

Chili
COOK OFF

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 25

4:00 PM JUDGING BEGINS IN
THE GATHERING PLACE AT
FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Make the
best chili to
bring home
a trophy

FREE TO ENTER &
FREE TO TASTE

CHILI SUPPER TO
FOLLOW AT 5 PM
EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Chili Cook Off Competition will
be held in the Gathering Place
at FRC. The competition will be
judged by a panel of judges

For more information & enter:
email:
firstreformedsully@gmail.com

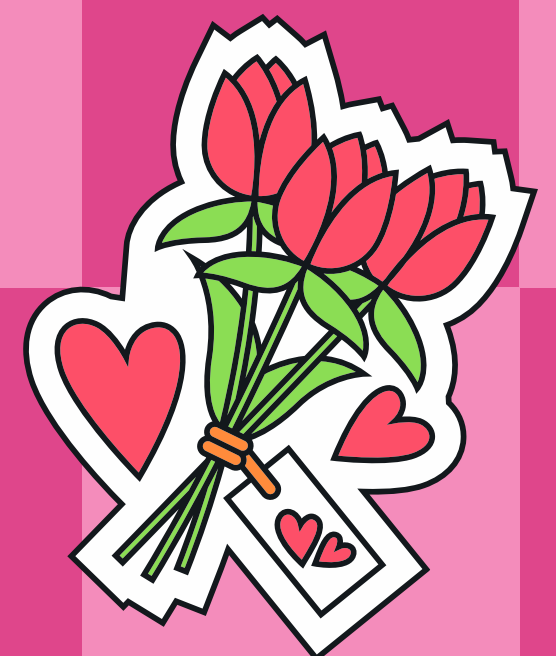


FEBRUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Kendall, Marlene & Asher Rozendaal 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-2	2 Randy & Shelly Rozendaal 1 CORINTHIANS 13:3-4	3 Rod & Dana Rozendaal 1 CORINTHIANS 13:5-6
4 Russ & Lois Rozendaal 1 CORINTHIANS 13:7-8A	5 Bob & Diana Scandridge PROVERBS 17:9	6 Cooper Scandridge 1 CORINTHIANS 16:14	7 Payton Scandridge COLOSSIANS 3:12-14	8 Matt, Dawn, Asher, Peyton, Lucy & Sam Schechinger 1 JOHN 4:7-8	9 Dick Schnell 1 JOHN 4:9-10	10 Allen Scholten 1 JOHN 4:11-12
11 Andrew & Emily Scholten 1 JOHN 4:13-14	12 Arie & Elaine Scholten 1 JOHN 4:15-16	13 Mark & Sarah Scholten 1 JOHN 14:17-18	14 Drew, Shelby Carter & Henry Shinkle 1 JOHN 4:19-21	15 Paul & Patty Sneller ROMANS 8:37-39	16 Kevin, Kelly & Riley Terlouw EPHESIANS 4:14-	17 John & Dawn Terpstra MARK 12:29-31
18 Warren & Alma Terpstra MATTHEW 5:43-44	19 Felix & Tia Torres MATTHEW 5:45-46	20 Jennifer Torres Marlee Torres & Max Gebhart MATTHEW 5:47-48	21 Tony, Deana, Mathias, Elizabeth, Ellie & Lincoln Torres PSALM 94:18-19	22 Brett & Sophie Vanden Hoek PSALM 63:1-2	23 Tena Vanden Hoek PSALM 63:3-5	24 Tim & Marsha Vanden Hoek JOHN 13:34-35
25 Jerry & Pam Vander Beek 1 JOHN 3:1	26 Bryce & Shirley Van Der Kamp- ROMANS 13:8	27 Roger & Jean Van Der Kamp JOHN 15:12-13	28 Lois Vander Leest 1 PETER 4:8	29 Caleb Vander Molen EPHESIANS 4:2-3	1 Jeff & Shelley Vander Molen PSALM 34:1	2 Jeremy, Trisha, Kylie, Bailey & Carson Vander Molen PSALM 34:4

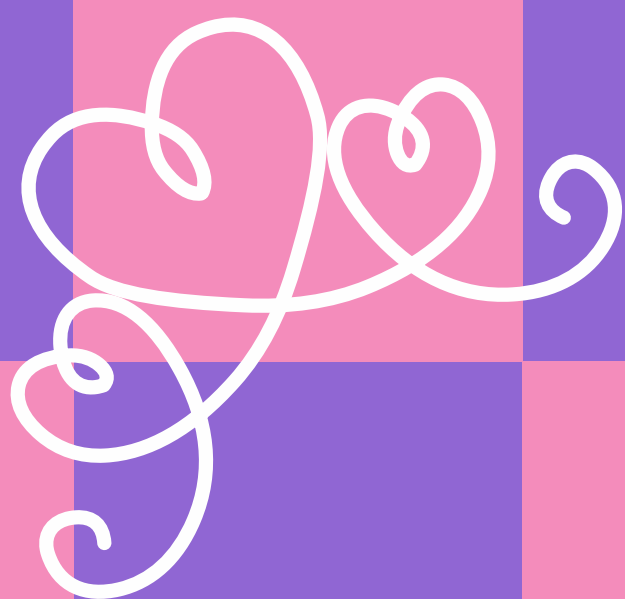
PRAYER & SCRIPTURE
WRITING CALENDAR
"NO GREATER LOVE"



FEBRUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
					7:30 am Fellowship Friday	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 am Pastor Jeff Knouse 10:45 am Coffee time 10:45 am Sunday School for ALL Ages 5 pm IMPACT Youth 6:30 pm Faithwalkers		1 - 4 pm Sewing Days	3:30 pm STARS Afterschool 5:30 pm STARS Family night Meals 6:15 pm 6th - 8th Small Group 6:30 pm 9th - 12th Small Group		7:30 am Fellowship Friday	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 am Pastor Jeff Knouse 10:45 am Coffee time 10:45 am Sunday School for ALL Ages NO YOUTH GROUPS	9 am Sisters in Christ in the Gathering Place		3:30 pm STARS Afterschool 5 - 7 pm Lenten Pancake Night 6:15 pm 6th - 8th Small Group 6:30 pm 9th - 12th Small Group		7:30 am Fellowship Friday	4:30 pm Rental in the Gathering Place
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 am Pastor Jeff Knouse 10:45 am Coffee time 10:45 am Sunday School for ALL Ages 5 pm IMPACT Youth 6:30 pm Faithwalkers		9 - 10 am Coffee with Pastor Jeff 1 - 4 pm Sewing Days	3:30 pm STARS 5:30 pm Family night Meals 6:15 pm 6th - 8th Small Group 6:30 pm 9th - 12th Small Group 6:30 pm Elders/Deacons Mtg. 7:30 pm Consistory Mtg.		7:30 am Fellowship Friday	9:00 am Rental in the Gathering Place
25	26	27	28	29	MARCH 1	MARCH 2
9:30 am Pastor Jeff Knouse 10:45 am Coffee time 10:45 am Sunday School for ALL Ages 4 pm Chili Cookoff judging 5 pm Chili Supper			3:30 pm STARS Afterschool 5:30 pm STARS Family night Meals 6:15 pm 6th - 8th Small Group 6:30 pm 9th - 12th Small Group		7:30 am Fellowship Friday	



Activity Calendar