



FIRST
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 10-16

CHURCH FAMILY

Meal Train- New Dates Added

Gil & Jan Blankespoor: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/51olrz>

Caring Bridge- Rylan Van Zee

visit: www.caringbridge.org/visit/rylanvanzee

Update From The Elders

We'd like to start this update from the elders with a note of apology! For many years, Council updated the congregation on new membership transfers, both into our congregation and those choosing to worship elsewhere. Due to many reasons, that fell by the wayside over the last couple years and as Elders we apologize for that. With last month's Elder update, we are trying to restart that and will have a brief update in the newsletter in the weeks after the Elders meet. The Elders would like to apologize to those who have joined First over the last years and didn't get officially announced to the congregation! Please don't hesitate to contact your Care Group Elder, or really any elder, if you have questions!

Again, the Elders apologize for the lapse in communication!

At the April 2 Council meeting the Elders officially noted Brothers and Sisters in Christ who are worshipping in new faith communities. Prayers and blessings for:

Bryce Enger

Jeffery and Jennifer DeWild and children Blake, Austin, and Mackenzie

Darlo and Angela Verdoorn and children Noah, Caleb, and Ava

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior And Friends

Senior and Friends will meet at 9:30 AM in the Fireside Room at 1st CRC on Saturday, April 20. We have invited Pastor Steve to spend some time sharing his story with us over doughnuts and coffee. We are hoping that his wife, Angela, will be able to join us too, pending a full schedule with weekend guests and moving activities. Let's give them a warm welcome and share a time of get-acquainted fellowship.

PASTOR'S CORNER

Steve Zwart

To stand or to sit... that is the question. 'Tis nobler to... be free.

Ok. Ok. Not exactly "Shakespearian", but a thought or two along these lines.

Our worship tradition, stemming back into medieval times, has implemented a variety of rituals and traditions throughout the centuries to accompany our heart-felt, Spirit-led worship. One element of that worship is posture.

Generally speaking: standing indicated reverence, sitting connotated quiet listening, kneeling spoke of solemn surrender. Over time, we've attached these posture elements to the various stations of our worship order. A mix of standing and sitting for singing. Sitting for prayer and the message. Certain traditions still implement kneeling for time of confession and some prayers. And in recent times, a resurgence of standing for the reading of Scripture, a custom from the Old Testament when the Torah or Law was read... with all elements of posture purposed to aid in our worship of God.

The key word is "aid." As the Apostle Paul reminds us that a willing, cheerful spirit (II Corinthians 9:7-8) and a grace-filled approach to the secondary elements of rituals and traditions (Colossians 2:16), is our best "posture" before the Lord and with one another.

All that to say: your standing, sitting, kneeling, raising hands or folding them is not primarily indicative of your spiritual well-being. It may be that you have a physical condition that limits or prohibits you from certain postures. For others, a song or other moment of worship draws you to sit or kneel versus stand with everyone else or raise your hands high or fold them intently/sincerely. The primary concern is the worship of your heart. Physical postures are secondary. We must bless and not second-guess when certain postures are chosen. Our main concern is the heart worshipping God.

Next time you're asked to stand, sit, or kneel – whatever posture you choose – we will trust each other that we are worshipping God first and foremost. Choose freely and be not under obligation.

Galatians 5:1,13 CEV

Christ has set us free! This means we are really free. Now hold on to your freedom and don't ever become slaves of the Law again. My friends, you were chosen to be free... Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love.

OUR MISSIONARIES

Missions Team

April Missionary Spotlight Vasya and Maranda Heytsi



Vasya & Maranda Heytsi New Life Church, Ukraine

Spring 2024

Fall 2023

April 2023

Heytsi Updates

To get to know the Heytsi Family and the work God is doing in the Ukraine and through New Life Church, please read their newsletters from the past year.

New Missionary Newsletters

Brauning Newsletter- New!

Van Ruler Newsletter- New!

FIRST KIDS

Jill Smith

We NEED Nursery Volunteers!

We are looking for students to help out in the nursery! We would LOVE to see your students consider helping out! They are the perfect age to help in nursery as they still love to play toys, read books and give out hugs and snuggles!

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17nYXefYLGw4XyGsi-5EqNt56hYqdn7eHZxy7s6wrOgU/edit?usp=sharing>

SCUBA VBS

Scuba VBS happening June 2-6 6:00pm-8:15pm. The Summer event that helps kids dive into friendship with God!

SCUBA VBS Sign UP

VBS Donations

Needed to make under the sea decorations:

Cardboard boxes of any size, Cardboard Egg cartons, Cardboard tubes (Toilet paper/paper towel/wrapping etc). Plastic lids (pop, juice, milk etc)

Please bring these downstairs to the marked area!

Ministry Season End Dates

The last day of Sunday School will be April 21st. Thank you to all of our Sunday School teachers who have helped with this ministry.

The last day of Children's Church will be May 19th. Thank you to all who have helped with this ministry.

Christian Illusionist Matt Adams- Registration OPEN!

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 1st as Christian Illusionist and Evangelist Matt Adams joins us to perform an amazing show. Great for kids, but open to all ages, Registration is open NOW. Cost is \$5 person, ages 5 and under are free.

Christian Illusionist Sign Up

JUNIOR HIGH

Al Van Donkersgoed

JHM

We meet this Sunday, April 14, to serve floats after the Hymn Sing. Students will meet at 5pm to start preparing and should be done by 6:45pm. Come enjoy the Hymn Sing, drop your student at the Activity Center, sing praise to our King, and then enjoy an old fashioned root beer float, coke float, arctic orange float, and great fellowship afterwards. Pick up between 6:45 and 7pm.

Our final official meeting is April 28th at Thunder Road from 6-8pm. Bring a \$5 donation, if able, to get you two hours of indoor Thunder Road fun. Bumper cars, laser tag, mini bowling, arcade and 7 D theatre. They do have concessions available at your own cost.

CATALYST

Will Grisham

SERVE Chaperones Needed!

We still need female chaperones for two of our SERVE mission trips! We need one leader for Holland, Michigan and one leader for Muskegon, Michigan. Both trips go from July 6th to July 13th! If you love being in service and want to see firsthand the impact a summer mission trip can have reach out to Will!

SERVE Worksites Needed!

Do you have a project that needs completing? We may be able to help! SERVE Sioux Falls is happening from July 20th – July 27th and we need worksites. Whether it's painting your house or pulling your weeds we have students ready and willing to help. Contact Leigh Roelofs at lbroelofs@sio.midco.net to see if your project is right for SERVE!

HOSPITALITY

Denae Matherly

Nametags

Thank you to those of you who have tried our name tag stations. We keep making changes to make it better! We now have 5 up and running! 2 by the back wall, 1 by the sanctuary, 2 by the coffeeshop entrance. Try it out! You only have to put in your phone number and can print out your whole family. Please Note: Kids in Sunday School and Nursery will need separate tags when they check in to Sunday School or Nursery for safety reasons so they can be accurately accounted for in case of an emergency.

WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

Spring Hymn Sing This Sunday!

Do you love to sing hymns? Do you have a favorite from the hymnal that we haven't sung for a while? Join us for our Spring Hymn Sing on **April 14 at 5 pm** in the Sanctuary. Bring your hymn suggestions and your voices and join us in a night of worship!

Stay for Old Fashioned Floats!

Come and enjoy an old fashioned float after the Hymn Sing! The Junior High Ministry will be serving coke floats, root beer floats, arctic orange floats, chocolate and strawberry cream soda floats and of course the purple cow. See you then!

Hymn of the Month

April's hymn of the month for the 8:30 service is "See, What a Morning (Resurrection Hymn)" by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty. Both Townend and Getty have been on the forefront of the contemporary hymn

movement. A contemporary hymn is a song written within the last 50 years with a hymn-like structure specifically to be used for corporate worship. "See, What a Morning" was written in 2003 and tells the story of the resurrection with a reoccurring declaration "Christ is risen from the dead".

Song of the Month

April's song of the month for the 10:30 service is "Psalm 34 (Taste and See)" written by Joe Rigney and Shane Barnard and made popular by Shane and Shane. This is the song that Pastor Steve introduced to us during his installation service. This song is a beautiful setting of Psalm 34 that boasts a soaring chorus that has been in my head frequently over the last few weeks, "Magnify the Lord with me. Come exalt His name together. Glorify the Lord with Me. Come exalt His name forever."

COMMUNITY

Annie!

Sioux Falls Christian High School Fine Arts will be performing the musical "Annie" on April 18, 19 & 20 at 7pm. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

Inspiration Hills Summer Worship Leader

We are looking for a talented and passionate individual to lead worship at Summer Camp! As a Summer Worship Leader, you will have the opportunity to inspire and uplift campers through music and praise in an exciting Christian atmosphere.

The job runs from May 19-August 9 and includes weekly pay, room, and board. Our location is Inwood, IA which is roughly 40 minutes south east of Sioux Falls, SD. To apply, visit www.inspirationhills.org/work, call us at 712-986-5193, or email lucas at lucas@inspirationhills.org

Collision Celebration

Join us Sunday, April 21, 2024 from 5-7pm at the Sioux Falls Convention Center for an evening of appetizers and impact as we celebrate how God has equipped students to share the hope of Jesus to transform lives! For more information check out www.collisioncelebration.org

Center of Hope

The Center of Hope is expecting a record year in their Bike Ministry offering bicycles to income-eligible individuals and families needing them as transportation. With that being said, they are needing bicycle donations! Please consider dropping off bicycle donations Tuesday-Friday 9am-5pm.

New Roots

What do you think about helping new American adults get their driver's license? It meets a huge need for individuals and their families, the city appreciates safe drivers, and friendships are developed. New Roots Ministry empowers immigrants and former refugees in various ways, including lining up volunteers to bless people with driver training. Those being trained must provide an insured, running vehicle, and a special brake is available, all to improve safety. Please text or call Fred at (605)376-6330, or email him at sfnewroots@gmail.com, if you are interested or have questions.

DEACON'S MINISTRY

April 14: Offering of the Day – ITEM

International Theological Education Ministries (ITEM) is a religious and educational non-profit corporation serving in the countries of the former Soviet Union, as well as Central and Eastern Europe. It assists denominations by offering training to equip local pastors to accomplish their God-given callings and bring the gospel to their own people.

Coming Up: April 21- General Fund

Offering Totals from Last Week

General Fund: \$ 21,915
Ministry Shares: \$ 875
Faith Promise: \$ 885
Building Fund: \$ 337
Tuition Assistance: \$ 1,105
SIMDEL- Give Up to Give: \$ 730
St. Francis House: \$ 490
Ukraine-Heytsi \$ 530

Weekly Total: \$ 26,867

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APR 11

- **Book Club Study**
6:45-8:45pm

FRIDAY, APR 12

- **Young Adult Men's Study**
6:30-7:30am
- **Senior Circuit**
10:30-11:30am

SATURDAY, APR 13

- **Men of Integrity**
7:30-8:30am

SUNDAY, APR 14

- **Worship**
8:30 & 10:30am
- **Faith Talk for HS**
9:45-10:15am
- **Vocal Choir Rehearsal**
9:45-10:15am
- **Sunday School**
9:45-10:15am
- **Hymn Sing**
5-6pm
- **Junior High Ministry**
5-7pm

MONDAY, APR 15

- **Senior Circuit**
10:30-11:30am
- **Men's Life Bible Study**
6:45-8pm

TUESDAY, APR 16

- **Senior Circuit**
10:30-11:30am

Sunday Worship Folder

Watch Sermons

Submit Prayer Request

Email Church Office

Registrations

Room Reservation Request