



FIRST
CHRISTIAN
REFORMED

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 15-21

CHURCH FAMILY

Caring Bridge-Darlene Walhof

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/darwalhof>

Caring Bridge-Rylan Van Zee

Please remember in prayer Rylan Van Zee as he had heart bypass surgery in Rochester, MN. Pray for the surgeons as they navigate this delicate procedure. Pray for the family through the waiting process. Updates will be posted throughout the day as they are available to the Caring Bridge site:

www.caringbridge.org/visit/rylanvanzee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Day Weekend

Please Note on your calendars: There will be only **1 combined service on May 26 at 9:30am**. Church and Offices will be closed May 27.

Congregational Meeting- June 9

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, June 9 at 5:pm in the sanctuary for the congregational meeting.

Church Cleaning is Coming Soon!

Church cleaning will happen June 10-13 and June 17-20 with morning shifts from 9-11am and evening shifts from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Stay tuned for more information from your Care Group!

PASTOR'S CORNER

Steve Zwart

Fragile – Handle with Care!

Whether mailing something precious or bundling boxes in a move, there are those items with value and breakability that warrant this simple caution: Fragile – Handle With Care!

Often these labels for mailing are bright red, catching the handlers' eyes so that the right amount of care and caution are exercised to ensure your precious cargo gets where it needs to go.

There's an element of our human existence that we sometimes feel warrants said label. A time of trauma or grief or hardship where the pains and problems have tenderized our souls and that we wish for all that is around us would be "handled with care."

We also know that our times and seasons of this life in general warrant the "fragile" label – knowing that in a moment, blink of an eye, our frailty is exposed and our vulnerability is glaring us in the mirror.

As I write this, our brother in Christ at First, Rylan, is in the OR room for heart bypass surgery. The Pre-Op felt like a "handle with care" session – pouring over every little jot and tittle of life coming into this: health history, current state of heart and mind, and all the "what-if's" asked, and if possible, answered. A good reminder that we're fragile and need to be handled with care.

While we're not guaranteed in this life of proper "handling" by those around us or in the midst of our trouble, we know The One, who's hands are the most gentle, thoughtful, care-filled hands in the universe. It's a great place to be knowing that when life is fragile, we will be handled with care by His Word and Spirit.

And as much as it is up to us, let's do our part to walk with one another with a sense that life at times feels very fragile, and as followers of Christ, we need to handle each other with love.

Pastor Steve

MISSIONS

Missions Team

AWOS- May Missionary Spotlight

Please read the newsletter from Rev Heyboer below to get a better sense of the work going on in Northern Nigeria with African Widow and Orphan Support.

AWOS Newsletter

Kelsi Heard

The mission committee would like to encourage the congregation to pray for Kelsi Heard as she is leaving on 05/15 for southeast Asia with Athletes in Action.

FIRST KIDS

Jill Smith

SCUBA VBS

Scuba VBS happening June 2-6 6:00pm-8:15pm.

Children's Church

The last day of Children's Church will be this Sunday, May 19th.

JUNIOR HIGH

Al Van Donkersgoed

JHM

Junior High has open Gym from 9-12noon Monday and Tuesday next week. Come and burn off some energy and hang out with friends. Feel free to invite a friend or two to join in the fun.. Snacks provided.

CATALYST

Will Grisham

2 Female SERVE Chaperones Still Needed!

Time is running out and 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 and are paid for! If you love being in service and want to see firsthand the impact a summer mission trip can have reach out to Will!

SERVE Worksite Leaders Needed

Please prayerfully consider being a worksite leader July 20th – July 27th for Sioux Falls SERVE. For more information contact Leigh Roelofs [by emailing lbroelofs@sio.midco.net](mailto:lbroelofs@sio.midco.net)

HOSPITALITY

Denae Matherly

Graduation Reception

We'll be having a graduation reception on this Sunday, May 19 between services with CAKE! Come greet and congratulate our High School and college grads as you enjoy cake in their honor!

Name Tag Stations

Name Tag Stations are Up and Running (mostly) Glitch Free.

Thanks to everyone trying the name tag stations. Let's aim for regular nametag use, including kids. It benefits Steve's family and the entire congregation. Your care group is listed on your tag for easy identification. We aim to have helpers at each station, but if not:

Enter LAST FOUR digits of your phone number, SEARCH, Select tags to print, & Done!

Ushers and Greeters Needed!

It's not too late to sign up to be an usher (high school or older) or greeter for the summer season! We are especially low on female ushers. If you are already on the usher and greeter list, there is no need to sign up again. <https://firstchristianreformed.churchcenter.com/people/forms/745441>

WORSHIP

Gabby Friez

Hymn of the Month

The hymn of the month for the 8:30 service during May is "My Only Comfort". The tune may be familiar to you as it is most often used with the hymn "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need". The tune was composed in 1835 but the composer is unknown. The harmonization of the hymn as we sing it today was composed by Dale Grotenhuis in 1990. The text of the hymn is closely connected to Q&A 1 of the Heidelberg Catechism and arranged by Marlene Veenstra in 2003. This hymn will provide us a unique way to confess our faith using the language of the Heidelberg Catechism in song. I hope you enjoy the soaring melody and the rich lyrics as we confess our faith together!

Song of the Month

The song of the month for the 10:30 service during May is "Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me". This contemporary hymn was written in 2018 by CityAlight. The lyrics of this song of assurance are a celebration of the hope that we have in Christ and the strength that we have through him alone. This simple and effective melody will be sure to have you echoing, "yet not I but through Christ in me" long after we end our service on Sunday!

COMMUNITY

RiseFest 2024

Mark your calendars for June 7-8 for RiseFest 2024 in Sheldon, IA. RiseFest is a two-day Christian Music Festival that features the nation's top Christian artists and speakers, as well as seminars, activities for kids of all ages, ministry outreach, camping, and much more.

In 2024, RISE is on a mission to create history, and YOU have the chance to be part of this incredible journey. We're aiming for an extraordinary feat: 25,001 strong, gathered right here in Sheldon, Iowa, breaking Sheldon's previous largest gathering attendance of 25,000 during a dark period in history. For more information check out <https://www.riseministries.com/risefest>

Hope Haven Summer Benefits

Check out these great opportunities to support Hope Haven during the summer months, such as a Fishing Benefit at the Fort Randal Dam, a Golf Benefit in Arnolds Park, and a Trail Ride in Newton Hills. For more information check out their website under Events:

<https://www.hopehaven.org/events/>.

We Need Bikes!

The Center of Hope Bike Ministry is needing bicycle donations for their Geared-To-Empower Bike Ministry! They are expecting to go through 800 this year (mostly this summer). If you have bicycles you want to donate, please bring them to the Center of Hope Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm. Any questions? Contact Adam Hofer via email at adam@centerofhopesf.org or by phone at 605-334-9789.

DEACON'S MINISTRY

May 19 Ministry Shares

Ministry Shares proves the power of shared resources by helping the individual congregations of the Christian Reformed Church participate in regional and global ministries. The program provides everyone at First CRC the opportunity to fund ministry efforts around our region and all over the world while operating at very high efficiency.

May 19 Communion Offering- Needs Of The Family

The Needs of the Family Fund at First CRC provides financial assistance to those within our own congregation who need temporary help.

Coming Up: May 26- General Fund

Offering Totals from Last Week

General Fund: \$ 16,775
Ministry Shares: \$365
Faith Promise: \$ 225
Building Fund: \$ 100
Tuition Assistance: \$ 358
Cornerstone Prison Church: \$ 3,247

Weekly Total: \$ 21,070

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

- Prayer Meeting
7–8pm
- Ad Board Meeting
7–9pm

FRIDAY, MAY 17

- Senior Circuit
10:30–11:30am

SUNDAY, MAY 19

- Worship
8:30 & 10:30am
- Graduation Reception
9:30–10:30am

MONDAY, MAY 20

- Junior High-Open Gym
9am–12pm
- Senior Circuit
10:30–11:30am

TUESDAY, MAY 21

- Junior High-Open Gym
9am–12pm
- Senior Circuit
10:30–11:30am

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

- Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study
6:30–7:30am
- Prayer Meeting
7–8pm

Sunday Worship Folder

Watch Sermons

Submit Prayer Request

Email Church Office

Registrations

Room Reservation Request