



FIRST  
CHRISTIAN  
REFORMED

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**May 8-14**

## CHURCH FAMILY

### From The Elders

At the Elder meeting held Tues. May 7 the elders were pleased to accept the profession of faith of Taylor Byl. Please join us in welcoming Taylor to full membership at First! The elders also transferred the membership of Rev. Sarah Hoogendoorn to the Minnesota Valleys Presbytery of the PC(USA). May God continue blessing Rev. Hoogendoorn's ministry in the VA hospital, St. Cloud, MN through the PC(USA)

### Meal Train

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

### Caring Bridge- Rylan Van Zee

visit: [www.caringbridge.org/visit/rylanvanzee](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/rylanvanzee)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Graduating?-Please fill out by THIS week!

If you/your son or daughter are graduating High School or College this spring, we'd love to celebrate with you! We will be hosting a reception on May 19 for everyone to congratulate the graduates, and featuring them on a slideshow. Let us know all about the graduate by filling out the appropriate form below and sending a picture to [office@firstchristianreformed.org](mailto:office@firstchristianreformed.org)

High School Graduates

College Graduates

### 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.

### The Banner

Did you know that the Banner, the official magazine for the CRC is free for the asking?

If you would like to receive it, or need to change your information click on this link:

<https://www.thebanner.org/signup> where you will find a sign up for weekly email or print copies, and yes, they even have an app.

### Tuition Assistance Ministry

The tuition assistance ministry committee is currently accepting applications for the 2024-25 school year. The deadline for accepting applications is May 15. This ministry is designed to help families who desire christian education for their students by helping navigate through trying financial situations. Qualifying schools are those which hold to teaching the Biblical truth from the reformed perspective and most often members of Christian Schools International. If enrolling in Sioux Falls Christian applications can be accessed on their website. For questions or application to other schools please contact Tim Ackerman at: [acktig12@gmail.com](mailto:acktig12@gmail.com)

### 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!

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

*Steve Zwart*

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I'm writing this following the storms that rolled through the area on Monday evening. A bright sunny day, turned windy (again), then clouds filled the sky, then hints of dark grey and green-tinted hues filled the sky as the rumble of thunder filled the air – then the storm hit. Tornado warnings were issued and for a few moments, I wondered "what's going to happen next."

Well, the rains came, the winds blew, the sky then cleared, and the sun came up the next day.

Sometimes in life, we can 'sense' something's coming. We look around us and see things change. We begin to wonder what it all means, what's next, and maybe even get concerned that this may not turn out well. Our minds begin to spin the many "what if's" and we hold our breath, hoping it turns out ok.

Jesus said in John 16 that we're going to have trouble in this world. In the beatitudes, Jesus challenged his listeners to focus on today because tomorrow has enough trouble of its own. What is it about our human nature that gravitates to angst when things don't line up like we think they should?

Two words come to mind: power and control. When things are out of our control and the circumstances lead us to feel or experience a measure of powerlessness, something trips in us.

The Scriptures are filled to overflowing with admonitions to "not fear, but trust." Certainly easier said than done. Yet, what better place to go with our out-of-control, powerless circumstances than to the One who calms storms and whose sufficient grace offers perfect power in our weakest moments.

Just as we can figure on more storms to pass through our area this season, life will still present its share of storms too. Pray, worship, wait on the Lord, listen, hide in the cleft of His hand, and know that your today AND tomorrow are in Good Hands.

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# OUR MISSIONARIES

## *Missions Team*

### May Missionary Spotlight Rev Marvin Heyboer- Northern Nigeria African Widows and Orphans Support (AWOS)

Please read the newsletter from Rev Heyboer below to get a better sense of the work going on in Northern Nigeria with AWOS.

[AWOS Newsletter](#)

## FIRST KIDS

### *Jill Smith*

#### **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](#)

#### **Children's Church**

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

## JUNIOR HIGH

### *Al Van Donkersgoed*

#### **JHM**

Our official Sunday Meetings are over, however we plan to meet for a few events this summer. This May we have two open Gym mornings from 9-12noon on May 20 and 22. Come hang out, play basketball, pass a volleyball or whatever you might like. Invite a friend to join you. We will have some snacks on hand to keep up the energy.

## CATALYST

### *Will Grisham*

#### **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! 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](mailto:lbroelofs@sio.midco.net) to see if your project is right for SERVE!

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## HOSPITALITY

*Denae Matherly*

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### Cake Servers Needed May 19 for Grad Reception

We'll be having a graduation reception on May 19 between services with CAKE! We do need servers to help out. If you can help out this way, please fill out the form:

Serve Cake!

### 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:

1. Enter LAST FOUR digits of your phone number
2. Hit "Search"
3. Select present household members
4. Click Done
5. Print tags from the printer next to the iPad.

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## WORSHIP

*Gabby Friez*

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### 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!

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# 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>

## We Need Bikes!

Center of Hope: The Center of Hope Bike Ministry is needing bicycle donations for their Geared-To-Empower Bike Ministry! They currently have 200 bicycles ready to go for their guests. However, 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 (1905 E 8th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57103) Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm. Any questions? Contact Adam Hofer via email at [adam@centerofhopesf.org](mailto:adam@centerofhopesf.org) or by phone at 605-334-9789.

# DEACON'S MINISTRY

## May 12 Cornerstone Prison Church

Cornerstone Prison Church is a ministry inside the South Dakota State Penitentiary. As in the outside world, the church setting is instrumental to helping men grow as mature and faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Coming Up: May 19- Ministry Shares**  
**Communion Offering May 19, Needs Of The Family**

## Offering Totals from Last Week

General Fund: \$ 19,575  
Ministry Shares: \$ 835  
Faith Promise: \$ 1,060  
Building Fund: \$ 287  
Tuition Assistance: \$ 640  
Ukraine-Heytsi: \$ 153

**Weekly Total: \$ 22,550**

# CALENDAR

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

- **Library Work Night**  
6:30–8pm
- **Prayer Meeting**  
7–8pm
- **Catalyst Senior Night**  
7–9pm

## THURSDAY, MAY 9

- **Book Club Study**  
6:45–8:45pm

## FRIDAY, MAY 10

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

## SATURDAY, MAY 11

- **Men of Integrity**  
7:30–8:30am

## SUNDAY, MAY 12

- **Worship**  
8:30 & 10:30am

## MONDAY, MAY 13

- **Senior Circuit**  
10:30–11:30am

## TUESDAY, MAY 14

- **Senior Circuit**  
10:30–11:30am

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

- **Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study**  
6:30–7:30am
- **Collision Meal Ministry**  
10am–12:30pm
- **Prayer Meeting**  
7–8pm
- **Ad Board Meeting**  
7–9pm

Sunday Worship Folder

Watch Sermons

Submit Prayer Request

Email Church Office

Registrations

Room Reservation Request