

FAITH & LIFE

August 2024



GROW DEEP LIVE TALL
Jeremiah 17:7-8



First Christian Reformed Church
1401 16th St
Rock Valley, IA 51247
Rev. Matthew Haan
www.firstercrv.com
712-476-5902



Rooted in Church Membership

For the next 5 weeks we are going to be in a topical series entitled: “Rooted in Church Membership. This series and title is similar in scope to the first of two books by Thomas Rainer, entitled I am a church member.

Some have already participated in a class on this resource this past spring and others will be invited to participate in the same class this fall. But the point of both the book and this series are the same. The Leadership of First CRC prays and desires that each member would celebrate and maximize their Church membership!

To this end, we will be going over the following texts and sermon titles in the next 5 weeks.

1. **Ephesians 1:15-16 I love my church membership**
 - a. This sermon will focus on all the benefits of being a church member that exceed merely attending.
2. **1 Cor 12:12-26 You don't go to church, you are the Church**
 - a. This sermon will focus on the fact that being part of a church family is not isolated to a address for worship.
 - b. Being part of a church family is the opportunity to be the Church wherever we are.
 - c.
3. **Cor. 12:27-31 Get in the Game**
 - a. This sermon is about doing something, anything, as an act of service in the church.
 - b. The goal would be by the end of 2025 that every person would, at a very minimum, be participating in some way in worship.
 - i. This would include: Children's choir, bell choir, Adult choir, Special readers for worship, praise team, powerpoint, camera, sound, usher, nursery, Sunday school, catechism teaching, coffee prep, greeters.
 - c. In addition, it would be great if everyone would also be willing to volunteer in some degree for the following:
 - i. Prayer warriors, Gospel mission attenders, Funeral servers, Outreach events, VBS, Youth Group, Care group work, participate in fellowship committee events, CEC projects, Disaster relief efforts, giving rides,
4. **1 Cor 12:1-11 How to share the gospel with a personal story**
 - a. This sermon is focused on being comfortable with sharing your personal story of the Holy Spirit awakening you to the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus.
5. **Eph 6:10-20 How to keep a prayer journal**
 - a. This sermon is about how to keep a prayer journal to spur on your prayer life.
 - b. The effect of this journal is to see how often God answers prayer.

Blessings,

Pastor Matt

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 5 – Fred & Karla Van Kley will be married 54 years.

Aug. 26 – Al & Harriett Van Zanten will be married 69 years.

Aug. 28 – Clarence & Esther De Roon will be married 68 years.

Aug. 30 – Albert & Grace Van Grootheest will be married 64 years.

SPECIAL CONCERNS

--**Marv Faber** underwent surgery to remove a mass from his colon. Please pray for healing and guidance during his continued recovery.

--**Kya Kirkley** underwent surgery to remove growth plates in her legs. Pray for her as she continues to recover.

--**Howard Altena** continues his battle with cancer. Pray for strength for him so he can remain strong enough for chemo treatments.

Continue to pray fervently for all who are anticipating or recovering from surgeries, those dealing with sickness & injuries, and those continuing their battles with cancer.

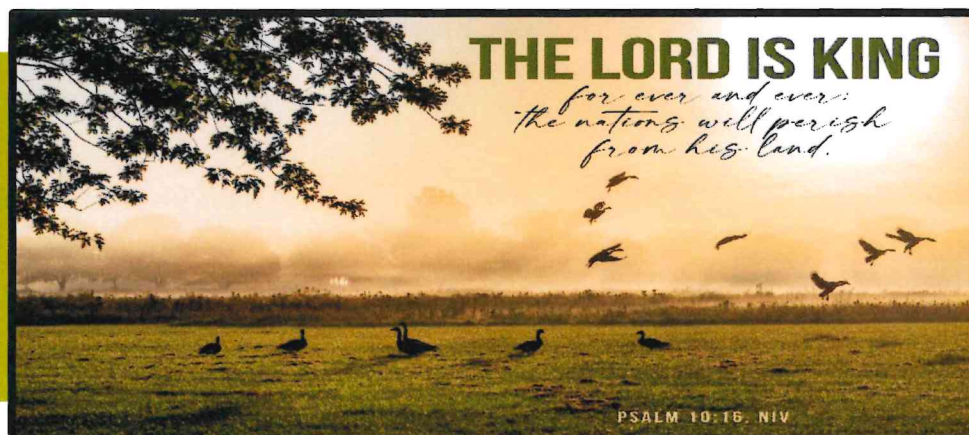
--Continue to pray for all those affected by the flood. The many people displaced from their home/business, the significant loss of personal property, the uncertainty of the future, all the decisions to be made going forward, and patience in the waiting.

--Pray for all the volunteers giving their time to help those in need.
Pray for our community as it recovers.

SYMPATHIES

--We express our Christian sympathy to **Bob Kooima** in the passing of his sister-in-law, Judith Van Tol, who was called to her heavenly home on July 20.

**May the Lord wrap his loving arms around you
and comfort you as only He can do.**



First CRC families RELOCATED due to the flood:

(This list is **ongoing**, please notify us of **anyone not listed that should be added**, **corrections** if something is listed incorrectly, and **updates** to your location as time goes on, etc.)

-- **Don & Lois Postma** - Sheldon Christian Retirement Home, 1414 Elm Court, Sheldon, IA 51201
Phone – 712-541-3228

- **Jim Driesen** – River View Ridge – 712 Westview Drive #114 , Rock Valley
- **Elaine Bolkema** – River View Ridge – 712 Westview Drive #113 , Rock Valley
- **Faye Medalen** – River View Ridge – 712 Westview Drive # , Rock Valley
- **Chad & Sandra Van't Hul family** – 1108 Main St., Rock Valley
- **Eric & Tracy Breuer** – 1201 Park Drive, Rock Rapids
- **Harm & Bonnie Wiersma** – currently in their camper, then to an apt in Hull
- **Verlyn & Sandy Van Bommel** – currently in their camper
- **Kevin & Kristin Jansma** – living with Mary Van't Hul – 800 Golf Course Road, Rock Valley
- **Tim & Kendra Van Tilburg** – 3102 Fig Ave., Rock Valley
- **Jacob & Amanda Maassen** – mail can be sent to Larry & Pam's address – 1010 17th Ave. , RV
- **Starla Van Otterloo & Sam** – 2730 340th Street, Rock Valley, IA (Chris & Whitney's)
- **Warren Van Otterloo** – living with Rick & Bonnie – 2137 340th Street, Rock Valley
- **Lyle & Joyce Van Engen** – 2468 300th Street, Rock Valley
- **Loy & Janice Van't Hul** – 1411 11th Street, Rock Valley (Alyssa's)
- **Josh & Katie Byl** – living with Randy & Pat – 3154 Elmwood Ave., Rock Valley
- **Alvin & Sue LeLoux** – 2793 300th Street, Rock Valley
- **Galen & Paula Kats** – living with Pat – 2746 300th Street, Rock Valley
- **Carl & Melissa Elbers** – Dordt Squares – Send mail to current Rock Valley address
- **Kevin & Diana De Groot** – living with Janice Attema – 1415 29th Ave., Rock Valley
- **Karl & Alyssa Bos** – 822 18th Place, Rock Valley – c/o Arnie De Ruyter
- **Jaden Den Boer** – 2618 Warren Circle, Rock Valley
- **Erin De Kam** – 818 Fairway Oaks Drive, Rock Valley
- **Laura Van Kalsbeek** – 1111 7th St. – Northside Crt, Hull, IA

There are many more congregation members that have been severely affected by the flood, whether it be their home, business, school, farmland, and more. Please continue to pray for our entire community as together we continue to help each other to clean-up, process, recover, and rebuild!



Welcome!
Ryan & Kelci Zevenbergen

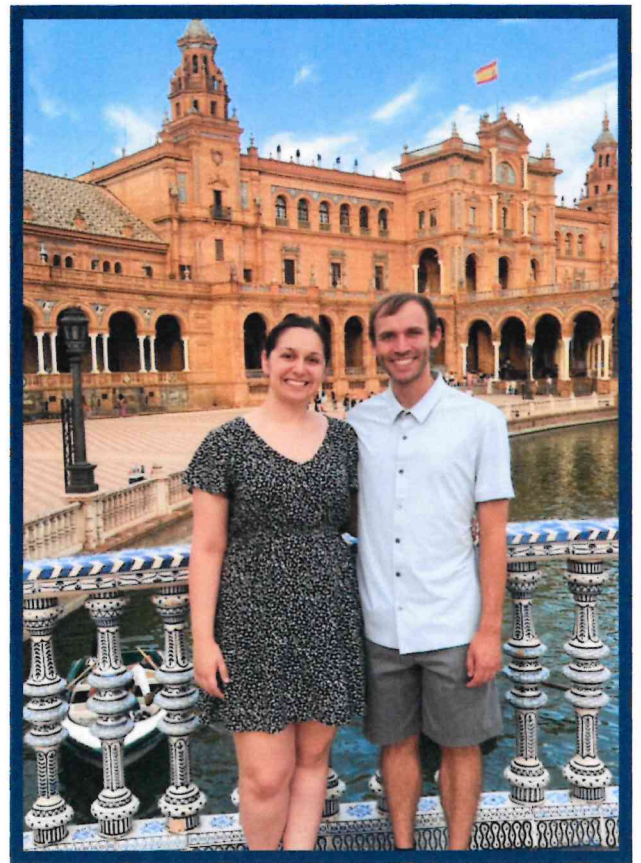
I, Kelci, grew up in Rock Valley and my parents are Dale and Koni Kooima. I have one younger sister, Aubrey.

Ryan grew up in Hull and his parents are Kent and Tami Zevenbergen. Ryan has one older brother, Marcus and a younger sister, Kayla.

We met at Western and both went to Dordt. We got married after graduation in 2020. We lived in West Des Moines for the next 3 years where I went to Des Moines University to become a physical therapist.

Last summer we moved back to Rock Valley to be closer to family. I now work at Hegg and Ryan works at Interstates in Sioux Center. Ryan and I love to go on bike rides and walks with our dog.

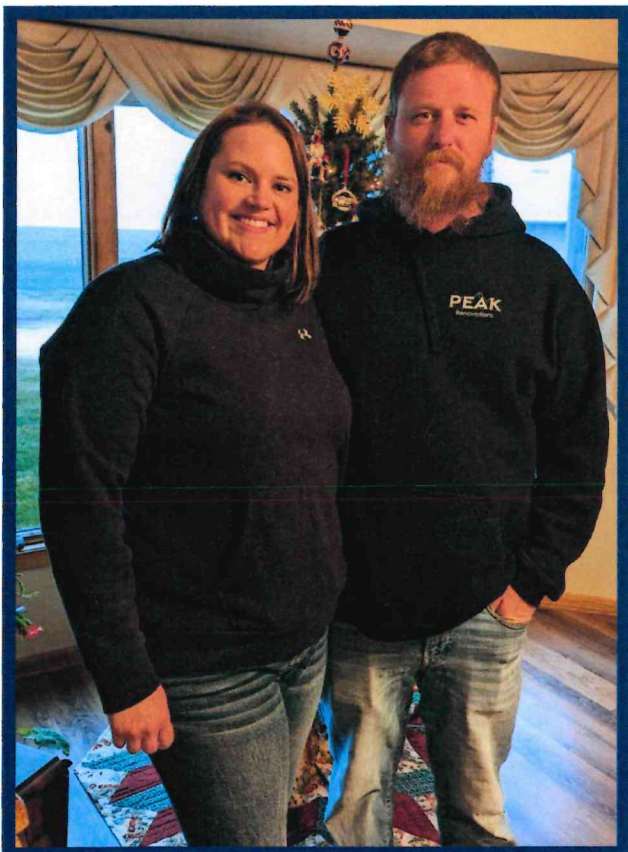
(The picture was taken in Spain when we visited Ryan's brother who was teaching there at the time, which was a really fun trip as we both enjoy traveling.)



Welcome!
Jesse Eppinga & Amber Hazel

New to the First CRC church family are Jesse Eppinga and Amber Hazel, engaged to be married in September 2024. Jesse is originally from the Rock Valley area and is a son of Lori and Kevin Eppinga. Jesse stays busy running his construction business, Peak Renovations. Amber is a veterinarian and originally hails from Minnesota. She works at Trans Ova Genetics in Sioux Center where she enjoys working with their calf and cow populations.

Together they enjoy spending time with their pets, area friends, and going golfing in the summer. They look forward to taking a belated honeymoon once the snow flies and Jesse's business slows down for the season.



AUGUST 7, 2024

YOU'RE INVITED

Root Beer Float Youth
Group Kick-off!

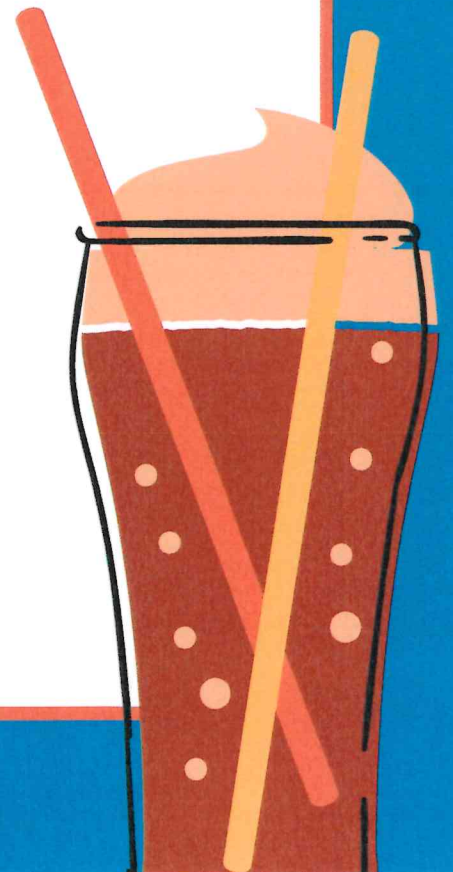
DETAILS

Come play lawn games, enjoy
a root beer float, and hang out!

When: August 7, at 7pm

Where: First CRC Parking Lot

Please bring a lawn chair!



First CRC Youth Group Burger Feed

during Rally in the Valley

Bicentennial Park

**JOIN US FOR DELICIOUS
BURGERS & FRIES & ALL THE FIXINS!**

August 10, 2024

11:00am - 1:30pm



SEE YOU THERE! COME HUNGRY!



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

STARTING AUGUST 11, THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHAPTER IS HOLDING AN ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER CHALLENGE

1 – IMPORTANT/REQUIRED:

*PICK a child(ren)'s name from the name bucket!

*PRAY/SUPPORT the child(ren) throughout their school year!

2 – ENCOURAGED:

*PICK a donation envelope to support the efforts of this year's CEC!

*DONATE the amount on the envelope and drop it in the box. (\$1-\$100)

*KEEP the item gifted inside!

(Checks payable to First CEC)

DID YOU FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY?

Challenge is completed when all of the names in the bucket are picked and the envelope donations have been fulfilled and placed in the donation box!

HOMEWORK REMINDER: THE CHALLENGE IS DUE SEPTEMBER 1



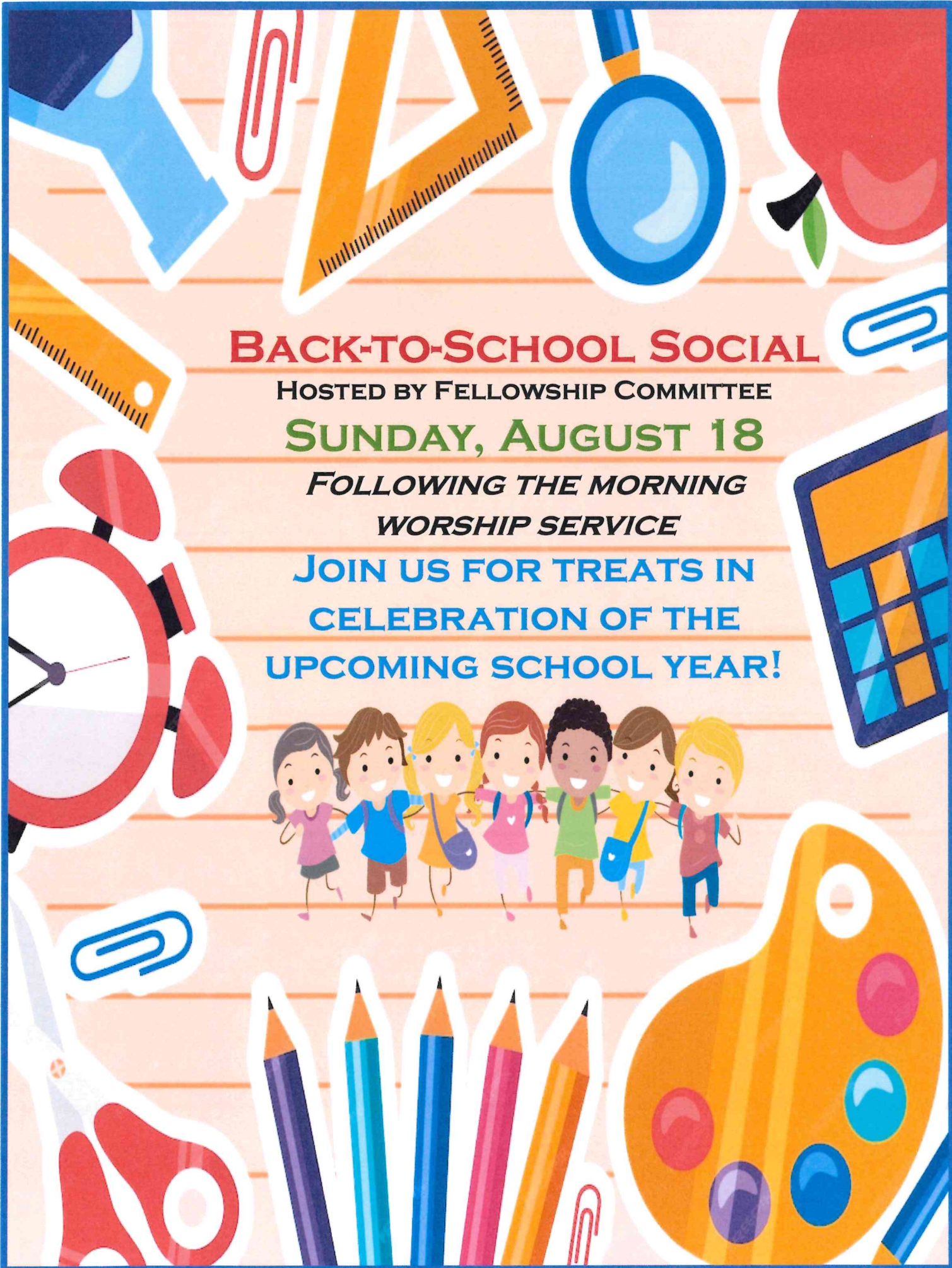
BACK-TO-SCHOOL SOCIAL

HOSTED BY FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

***FOLLOWING THE MORNING
WORSHIP SERVICE***

**JOIN US FOR TREATS IN
CELEBRATION OF THE
UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR!**





“The Song and the Story”

Although I enjoy good Christian music, I have never aspired to be a songwriter. Coming up with the words to fit a song is a task in and of itself not to mention putting those songs to notes and music that fit in the overall scheme of the song, concert, or playlist. I am thankful for writing ability and I admire those who can take that writing ability and turn it into music.

As I look at these two God-given abilities of writing music and writing stories. I see many similarities. Each of the writers is writing about a theme that sparks their interest, has played a role in the lives or is on their hearts and minds. We are using the talents and gifts that we’ve been given to tell what God has done, what he is doing and what he will do. Each person whether it be an author or artist is being led by God to proclaim his message.

I know that we are not alone in the opportunities that we have to tell our stories. There are millions of people today that have taken the opportunity to write as I have here or put to music words and thoughts that describe mountaintop experiences of their lives or deep and low valleys. They have written with a mix of emotions running through their mind, using the opportunities to turn to God in supplication, prayer and praise, pain, happiness, or whatever other emotion one can have or name.

I applaud those who have taken a step forward and told their story in various ways. If I haven’t had the opportunity to hear your story yet, I pray that I may someday cross paths with your journey and get to hear about your story. It takes courage and determination to tell your story and even in the midst of its darkest moments God was there.

What is your song and story? There are some of us who still have yet to tell our stories or to sing the songs of our hearts. I trust and know that God will provide the opportunities for you to tell yours. While you wait, reflect on the goodness of God and where he has led you. This may also cause you to reflect on the hard moments, the missteps that may have been taken. Even in these, one can still see God at work.

There will come a day and an opportunity where your story can be told and ultimately can be a blessing to its hearers. In those moments, God will work through both speaker and listener for his glory and grace. In those moments, God can and will do great things through all of us. Praise him for the opportunity to tell our stories whether in written form or in song. Praise him for the work that he is doing, has done, and will continue to do in each of our lives until he comes again.

“Redeeming ‘Wasted’ Time”

In *Just Like Jesus*, Max Lucado writes that the average American spends a total of six months waiting at stoplights, eight months opening junk mail, 18 months looking for items we’ve lost and five years standing in line. All the while, many of us grumble: “What a waste of time! I could be doing something much more important! Where are my keys?”

But Lucado suggests that we give these moments to God. Rather than whispering to ourselves, we can speak to God in prayer. “Simple phrases such as ‘Thank you, Father,’ ‘Be sovereign in this hour, O Lord,’ ‘You are my resting place, Jesus’ can turn a commute into a pilgrimage,” he writes. “You needn’t leave your office or kneel in your kitchen. Just pray where you are. Let the kitchen become a cathedral or the classroom a chapel. Give God your whispering thoughts.”

When we do this, “the common becomes uncommon,” Lucado adds. What’s more, “wasted” time becomes valuable; boring waits become meditative; the lost — your time, if not also your keys — is redeemed.

“Co-Laborers with Christ”

Rusty Stevens, a ministry leader in Virginia, described trying to finish mowing the lawn before dinnertime. His 6-year-old son darted in front of him and grabbed the mower handle. But when Stevens stopped pushing, the mower soon stopped.

The busy dad fought the urge to tell his son to get out of his way and instead offered to help. Stevens began pushing again, leaning over and walking awkwardly to accommodate his eager assistant.

Although the mowing commenced, it was slow-going and not as efficient as the solo effort.

That’s when Stevens realized a ministry parallel: “This is the way my heavenly Father allows me to ‘help’ him build his kingdom!” The church leader pictured God busy “seeking, saving and transforming the lost, and there I was, with my weak hands ‘helping.’”

Although God surely can tackle all the work of ministry and evangelism alone, he “chooses to stoop gracefully to allow me to co-labor with him,” said Stevens. What a blessing and privilege that God lets us work alongside him!

“Lessons from Hiking”

Whether I’m hiking an easier stroll or a 20-mile trek, I’ve noticed parallels to my journey with Christ.

- This is my journey. Too often I waste time comparing my stride, pace or equipment to that of fellow hikers.
- I don’t know what’s around each bend, but God does. I can’t let anxiety steal my joy.
- It’s best to balance hiking in silence with sharing the trail with friends.
- I’ll be sore tomorrow, and that’s okay. Engaging new muscles leaves a reminder that growth is uncomfortable.
- Being prepared is good; being too prepared makes for a heavy backpack. I need to do my due diligence and let God handle the rest.
- It’s not a race, so finishing quickly offers no reward. When I’m not in a hurry, I tend to notice more of God’s blessings.
- I need to look up, enjoying God’s creation as I let him determine my steps.

Bible Trivia

What musical instrument is mentioned in the final poem of Psalms as a means to praise the Lord?

- A. brass
- B. percussion
- C. strings
- D. woodwinds
- E. all of the above

See next page for answer.



"The Meaning of Membership"

Oklahoma pastor Ricky Jones tackles the meaning of church membership, or being part of Christ's body. "Leaving the church is not simply leaving a club," he writes at the Gospel Coalition website. "When you walk away, you dismember yourself from the body. Jesus and the rest of the body sorely miss you, and bleed after your departure. You cut yourself off from your only source of life and nourishment. Like an amputated hand, you will slowly bleed out, wither, and die."

Jones contends that "being a part of the universal church without submitting to a local church is not possible, biblical or healthy." It's impossible because you need to be part of a smaller community before you can be considered part of a greater community. It's unbiblical because the New Testament epistles are addressed to specific local churches. And it's unhealthy because wanting to independently make your own choices is "at the heart of sin," the pastor writes.

"You need to know we're all in this life together, and we won't walk away from you just because you let us down or we disagree," says Jones. "Together we build each other up into the image of Christ; no one can make it alone."

"A Gardener's Legacy"

I'd like to leave but daffodils to mark my little way,
To leave but tulips red and white behind me as I stray;
I'd like to pass away from earth and feel I'd left behind
But roses and forget-me-nots for all who come to find.

I'd like to sow the barren spots with all the flowers of earth,
To leave a path where those who come should find but gentle mirth;
And when at last I'm called upon to join the heavenly throng
I'd like to feel along my way I'd left no sign of wrong.

And yet the cares are many and the hours of toil are few;
There is not time enough on earth for all I'd like to do;
But, having lived and having toiled, I'd like the world to find
Some little touch of beauty that my soul had left behind.

~Edgar A. Guest

Praise for God's Handiwork
How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!
The heavens declare your glory,
the arch of sky displays your handiwork.
In your love you have given us the power
to behold the beauty of your world
robed in all its splendor.
The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills,
the rivers and lakes all disclose your presence.

The roaring breakers of the sea tell of your awesome might;
the beasts of the field and the birds of the air
bespeak your wondrous will.
In your goodness you have made us able to hear
the music of the world. The voices of loved ones
reveal to us that you are in our midst.
A divine voice sings through all creation.

~From *Earth Prayers*

"Worship in Wonder"

*Worship is a faith-building, faith-sustaining act. It's also a form of service to God.
Remember to worship regularly during the summer, even when you're out of town.*

*"Worship is like corrective lenses for our souls, bringing God clearer into view.
That's important for all of us, especially when life goes off the rails."*

~Louie Giglio

August

Letter Writing to our MISSIONARIES



	RIBBENS	MALETOUNGOU	KLOMPIEN
August 4	Nate VK	Joan VM	Colton VO
August 11	Harvey VO	Kim VO	Mer VO
August 18	Mike VO	Nolan VO	Starla VO
August 25	Mike VR	Andy VR	Eric VS

Resonate Global Mission

Attn: Rev. Michael & Megan Ribbens

1700 28th St SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

EMAIL: mribbens@crcna.org – Mike
mribbens@gmail.com – Megan



Resonate Global Mission

Attn: Rev. Sosthene & Kara Maletoungou

1700 28th St SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

EMAIL: smaletoungou@crcna.org



Resonate Global Mission

Attn: Mark & JinHee Klompier

1700 28th St SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

EMAIL: mklompier@crcna.org

August

GREETERS



August 4	Austin & Allison B Dan & Shannon B Elmer & Lori B	Karl & Alyssa B Eric & Tracy B Josh & Katie B	Rog & Hilaine
August 11	Mitchell & Kelsi B Cody & Em D Rick & Bonnie D	Kevin & Diana DG Zach & Jamie DJ Steve & April DK	Larry & Yvonne
August 18	Tyler & Alli DB Carl & Melissa E Jeff & Steph E	Brian & Renae F Justin & Josie F Marv & Dee Faber	Vern & Ellen
August 25	Bob G Arnold K Brad & Nanci G	Galen & Elsie G Bob & Cherie G Marva H	Harlan & Priscilla

USHERS



August 4	East: Arnold K, Bob G West: Cole VDB, Keith L	AM PM	Kelsi B, Michelle K, Kayla VE, Noah DK Jill M, Jenessa VR
August 11	East: Jeff E, Rick D West: Joe M, Gene L	AM PM	Rhonda L, Lisa P, Addison VH, Ezra H Ellen VB, Kennedy VH
August 18	East: Cody D, Mike B West: Benjamin H, Colton VO	AM PM	Jackie R, Laurie VK, Kaysha A, Jaelyn K Ashley VO, Aftyn B
August 25	East: Josh B, Mike VZ West: Dan B, Darin P	AM PM	Taryn VH, Kelsey VB, Kayla B, Tad M Sharla VR, Titus H

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 the Steve Hoekstra's	3 the Matthew Haan's
4	5 Roger Kempema the Fred Van Kley's (5-4)	6 Kim Allena the Hamm Wiersma's	7	8 Lexi Koedam the Glenn Walls'	9 Julianna Van Otterloo Warren Van Otterloo	10
11 Logan Van Engen Jerry Velgersdyk	12 Evan LeLoux Taryn Van't Hul	13	14	15 Kelsi Byl Carol De Boer	16 Tammy Baartman Jesse Rust the Jeff Van Bommel's	17 Saylor Byl Jordyn Kals Kelsey Ver Burg the Matt Van Engen's
18 Matthew Van Otterloo	19 Evan Vanden Bosch Leah Van Surksrum the Matthew Laman's	20 the Nolan Van Otterloo's	21 Carson Elbers	22 Kayla Bos Sue Hoekstra	23 Benjamin Haan River Rust	24 Laurie Van Kley Nolan Van Otterloo
25 the Brian Mulder's	26 the A/ Van Zanten's (6-9) the Leonard Hoekstra's	27 Wyatt Van't Hul	28 Krista Van Engen Christal Van't Hul the Clarence DeRoos's (6-8)	29 Bonnie Davelaar	30 Vern Van Beek the Kelly Haak's the A/ Van Grootheest's (6-4)	31 Mike Van Regenmorter the Ron LeLoux's