

FAITH & LIFE

March 2026



GROW DEEP LIVE TALL

Jeremiah 17:7-8

First Christian Reformed Church

1401 16th St

Rock Valley, IA 51247

Rev. Matthew Haan

www.firstcerv.org

712-476-5902

“Jesus Is Praying For You”



As we begin to see the hope of Spring coming early in the warmer weather of this past week. We should also be reminded of our daily hope found in Christ. Ash Wednesday Feb 15 marked the beginning of lent, the last 40 days (plus Sunday's) that Christ walked on earth before the crucifixion. This is the time in the church calendar generally marked by periods of fasting and remembering the power and might; the sacrifice and the humility that Christ displayed on the cross and the tomb to follow.

This is the time before Easter to confess and repent of our sins and be deeply reminded of the love shown to us by God the Father through the Son. That in the fullness of time he would send his Son to die that we would be completely forgiven and covered by his righteousness.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Paul says:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

People of God, this is your calling. This is your time to be reconciled to God who has already reached out to you through Christ Jesus His Son, your Redeemer. He has sought out reconciliation with you. Will you not be reconciled to him?

Let the power of Christ's work wash over you this Lenten season. Allow him to convict you of your sins. Allow him to point you to himself. Embrace him, rejoice in him who takes on all of your burdens, and all of your sins on himself. He died so that you may live. He died to give you the righteousness that from him you need to receive.

Once you have been renewed and refreshed, then it is your call to go forth to proclaim what Christ has done for you. Go forth and proclaim the power of God in his freely given salvation, that shines in your heart and illuminates your mind. Paul ends his call from 2 Corinthians 5:17 in the last verse of chapter six as he quotes Isaiah the prophet:

“In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.”

Now is your time. Let today be the day that you confess your powerlessness; so that you may finally and forever be filled with the power of God given through Jesus the Son. Come to him this Lenten season empty and be prepared for him to fill you!

Blessings in Christ Jesus our Savior,

Pastor Matt

BIRTHDAYS

March 5 – Lois Postma will be 86 years old.

BABY BLESSINGS

- We rejoice with **Colton & Ashley Van Otterloo** in the birth of their healthy baby girl, Rylee Nicole, on February 12. Welcoming her home are her siblings Hayden & Sawyer.
- We rejoice with **Zach & Jamie De Jager** in the birth of their healthy baby boy, Chase Henry, on February 14. Welcoming him home are his siblings Olivia & Chetson.
- We rejoice with Andrew & Amy Den Hartog in the birth of a healthy baby boy, Alexander James, on January 23, 2026. Welcoming him home are his siblings Alyssa, Austin, & Aiden. Proud grandparents are **Mike & Gert Van Regenmorter** and Rod & Lisa Den Hartog. ***This is Mike & Gert's 16th Grandchild!***

SYMPATHIES

- We express our Christian sympathies to **Carol Van't Hul & Mary Van't Hul & extended families** in the loss of their sister-in-law, Harriet Vande Kamp on January 22.
- We express our Christian sympathies to **Ryan & Kelci Zevenbergen** in the loss of Kelci's grandfather, Vernon Serck, on January 30.
- We express our Christian sympathies to **Loy & Janice Van't Hul, Gerrit & Kay Vis, & Chad & Sandra Van't Hul and all grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and extended families** in the loss of their mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Alvina Van't Hul, on February 5.
- We express our Christian sympathies to **Lois Postma & her family** in the passing of her beloved husband, Donald Postma, on February 9.
- We express our Christian sympathies to **Brad & Brenda Postma & family** in the passing of Brenda's father, John Koehler, on February 9.

We pray that our Heavenly Father will wrap all those who are mourning in His arms of comfort and surround them with His peace.

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Church Family:

- **Joe Miller** – Pray for Joe as he underwent spinal fusion surgery on February 20 and anticipates cervical fusion surgery in April. Pray for wisdom and guidance for the doctors and smooth recoveries for Joe.
- **Kya Kirkley & Family** – Pray for Kya as she continues to recover and receive therapy for her arm lengthening surgery, for Malorie as she cares for Kya in her recovery in Florida, and for Brett, Ada, & Faith as they support them from home.
- **Mer Van Otterloo** – Pray for Mer as he anticipates treatments for his thyroid cancer.
- **Nate Van Kley** – Pray for Nate and his ongoing recovery from cancer treatments.



Prayer Day Service
March 11, 2026 - 7:00pm
First CRC

Congratulations Trevor & Lexi Koedam!

Congratulations to Trevor & Lexi Koedam who were blessed with a baby boy, Riggs Alan Koedam born on November 11, 2025.

He was welcomed home by his big sister, Kylah, who just turned 2 on January 13!

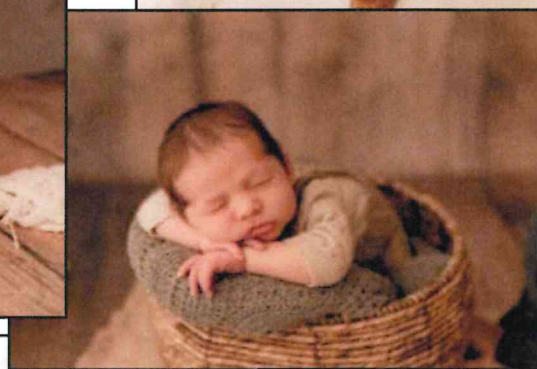
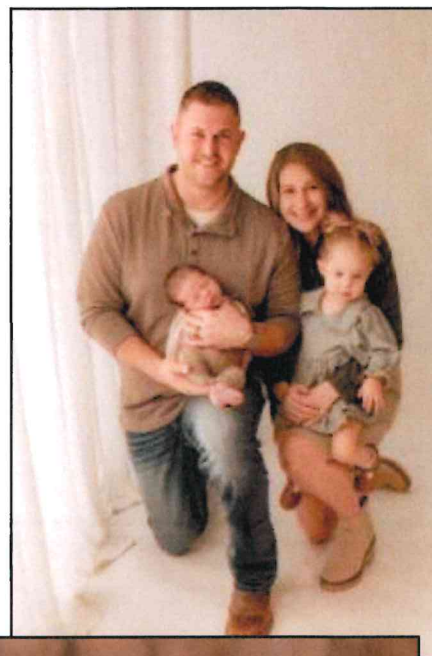
Riggs tipped the scales at 9 lbs and was 21 inches long.

His proud Grandparents include Nate and Jodi Anderson & Rick and Kari Koedam – all from Rock Valley.

Great-Grandparents are Joel and Faye Kooima, Lynn Anderson, Darwin and Helen Rus, Nina Koedam, and Great-Great Grandma Flossy Brunsting.

Riggs' mom is a Medsurg/ ER/ Labor & Delivery nurse at the Sioux Center Hospital and Trevor owns his own construction company, Rock River Construction!

They make their home in Rock Valley.



Remembering Harriet Vande Kamp

Harriet G. Vande Kamp, 89, of Sioux Center, formerly of Rock Valley, Iowa, was taken to her heavenly home on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Crown Pointe Estates in Sioux Center.

A Service of Celebrating God's Grace in the life of Harriet was held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, January 29, 2026, at First Christian Reformed Church in Rock Valley with Rev. Matthew Haan officiating.

Harriet Gladys (Van't Hul) Vande Kamp was born November 4, 1936, to Bert and Gertrude (Van Maanen) Van't Hul on a farm near Rock Valley, IA. She grew up in a loving home with eleven siblings. She attended Rock Valley Christian School. She took one year off to help with her family before attending and graduating from Western Christian High School in 1955. Following high school, she taught at Lebanon Christian School from 1955 to 1957. She later graduated from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD

in 1990 at age 53 with a BA Degree in Education. Harriet was involved in education most of her adult life beginning at Lebanon Christian School, teaching at Hope Haven, signing in the classroom for students that were Deaf and Hard of Hearing, serving as a resource and Bible teacher at Rock Valley Christian School, and a Foster Grandparent at Rock Valley Christian School. Harriet spent many hours tutoring students who needed extra academic help.

Harriet married Marvin Vande Kamp on August 6, 1956. They farmed southeast of Rock Valley, after which they moved to Rock Valley in 1995. Marvin died July 7, 2018. Harriet moved to Four Seasons in Rock Valley in 2017 and to Crown Pointe Estates in Sioux Center in 2023.

Harriet enjoyed hosting Bible studies, reading, and crocheting. She enjoyed singing with her sisters, Dorothy, Albertha, and Geraldine, playing the piano and organ, and spending time with her children and grandchildren. Harriet had an extraordinary green thumb with a large garden that fed her family both on the farm and when they moved to town. She was especially well-known for her jam, home-made bread, and pies. She was a long-term attendee of Ruth's Circle. She frequently visited residents of Whispering Heights, those in Rock Valley Hospital, and was a dedicated supporter of missionaries.

Those left to cherish her memories are three sons and one daughter, Kelvin (Joan) from Worthington, MN, Philip (Susan) from Minneapolis, MN, Joel (Rebecca) from Chicago, IL, and Carol (Steven) Manning from Omaha, NE; eleven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; two sisters, Joyce (Fred) Smits of Sioux Falls and Joanne (Rodney) De Weerd of Sioux Center; one brother, Orville (Arlene) Van't Hul of Hull; sister-in-law, Carol Van't Hul of Rock Valley, and sister-in-law, Mary Van't Hul of Rock Valley. Also from Marvin's family are Allan (Marlene) Vande Kamp of Rock Valley, Vernon (Leona) Vande Kamp of Orange City, Norma (Nelson) Nikkel of Pella, Marla Vande Kamp of Orange City, and Darla Vander Wilt of Hospers; and many nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Vande Kamp; parents, Bert and Gertie Van't Hul, brother Lawrence and his wife, Maxine; brother Junior, brother Harlan, sister Albertha and Louis Altena, sister Dorothy and George Van Beek, sister Geraldine and Norman Vande Vegte, two sisters who died in childhood, Joyce and Joan Van't Hul, and great grandchild Jaelee Vande Kamp; and from Marvin's family, Gerrit and Priscilla Vande Kamp, Hilbert and Loraine Vande Kamp, Geneva and Leonard Vanden Bosch, George Vande Kamp, Celia and Marvin Ten Napel, Winnifred and Alfred De Jong, and Geri and John T. Van Holland.

Special thanks to the family for sharing some of their memories with us.

Kel (son): Mom had a lot of talents. She was cherished for her cooking and baking, hosting, music, teaching/sign language, leading small group Bible studies, sewing, needle work and gardening. She used these talents throughout her life for her family, her church and community, and ultimately for God's glory.



-Joan (daughter-in-law): Prior to watching the Rock Valley Fire Dept. burn the old farmhouse down, Mom allowed our boys to draw and scribble on the walls of the farmhouse.

-Carol (daughter): Mom was great at offering hospitality to friends and family members and was dedicated to education and spiritual growth. She did this by welcoming Deaf people to her home for fellowship and Bible Study. I appreciate the support both my parents made to my language development as a child.

-Steven (son-in-law): Mom was a very dedicated person with a great passion for making each person feel worthwhile in the eyes of the Lord. She made a great difference in each person's life.

-Phil (son): One memory is Mom's devotion to Deaf and Hard of Hearing education when I was growing up, including learning sign language, teaching sign language, going to sign language conferences, and signing in churches and schools for students that were Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

-Sue (daughter-in-law): On the farm, when Mom wanted Dad to come in for lunch or supper, she would yell, "Yooohoo!" in a shrill, high-pitched voice.

-Joel (son): Mom was an early riser, and she used her time in the morning before she started her day to do her Bible study and pray.

-Becky (daughter-in-law): Mom was always devoted to praying for her family and for reminding us how important it is to honor God in all areas of our lives.

-Kendall (grandson): Grandma (and Grandpa) took my brothers and me with them on memorable trips to Lake Geneva Bible Camp in Alexandria, Minnesota, for a handful of summers. It was always a fun-filled week of activities – most notably, swimming at the beach and being catapulted off the legendary "blob". Although Grandma had a reputation for being a little rigid, that wasn't the case at Lake Geneva where she was quite generous by allowing us to run free and play.

-Kindra (granddaughter): I remember Grandma making homemade playdough for her grandkids that we would play with on their kitchen table in Rock Valley.

-Stephanie (granddaughter-in-law): She would always ask who wants coffee and if you'd pass on her offer, she'd be sure to ask again if you changed your mind. She was determined to convert me to be a coffee drinker.

-Austin (grandson): I remember coming to Grandma's house on Sundays and before eating, she would spoil our dinner with cookies. The menu always had roast beef, mashed potatoes/gravy and of course homemade bread. Grandma always made sure there was food in front of everyone and at times dishes were passed around the table a second time before everyone could serve themselves a first time.

-Drew (grandson): When we were little, Grandma would come to our house for a visit, and when we woke up in the morning, she would pull us up on her lap and sing the "good morning" song to us in her high soprano voice.

-Macie (granddaughter): I loved Grandma's Christmas scavenger hunts - I especially loved the goodies she'd put in our boxes!

-Trent (grandson): I remember grandma coming to our house to swim and she wore her shower cap and pantyhose the whole time.

-Cassidy (granddaughter): Grandma would send me a \$2 bill every year for my birthday, even when I was an adult.

-Blake (grandson): I remember when Grandma would come to Chicago in the winter and have snowball fights with us.

-Maddie (granddaughter): I remember Grandma's many varieties of rhubarb jam. Eating her jam on her homemade toast was the best breakfast when visiting. When I was a sophomore in high school, Grandma and I would memorize scripture together and recite it over the phone every other week.

-Levi (grandson): When we were visiting once, I took an interest in Grandma's knitting. She gifted me knitting needles and yarn and taught me to knit a little.

Remembering Alvina Van't Hul

Alvina Marcella Van't Hul, 96, of Rock Valley, Iowa, was taken to her heavenly home on Thursday, February 5, 2026, while living at Whispering Heights in Rock Valley.

A celebration of her life was held Wednesday, February 11, at 11:00 AM at the First Christian Reformed Church of Rock Valley with Rev. Matthew Haan officiating.

Alvina Marcella De Jager was born on January 1, 1930, to Henry and Rena (Siegersma) De Jager on the family farm near Ireton, Iowa. She was the second oldest of six children. Later the family moved to a farm near Alvord, Iowa. Alvina attended country school near their farm, receiving a certificate for perfect attendance on May 25, 1940, along with many awards for perfect spelling lessons. She graduated from 8th grade.

Alvina met her beloved and handsome husband, Bernard J. Van't Hul, while attending Young Peoples Society at church in February of 1946. Their first date was on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1946. On September 4, 1949, Bernie proposed to her and they were married by Rev. Herman Kuiper on December 6, 1950, at the First Christian Reformed Church in Rock Valley. Bernie surprised her by driving up to "their" house on Main Street in Rock Valley. She lived here for nearly 75 years before moving to Whispering Heights on December 30, 2023.

Bernie passed away on May 12, 1982. A widow at the age of 52, Alvina obtained her GED, proudly telling others she achieved all straight A's. She worked overnight in a group home for Hope Haven for over 20 years. She was strong and courageous after becoming a widow.

Alvina was an excellent seamstress. She sewed most of the clothes for her family along with sewing countless items for those less fortunate through Mission Guild at church. She crocheted every Thursday afternoon with a group of friends making many beautiful blankets, tablecloths, doilies, or whatever new pattern they could try. She made the best potato salad, chicken soup, three-layer sandwiches, Old Henry bars, lemon and cherry pie, along with many other delicious foods.

She truly cared about others, often expressing her love and concern. A widow at a younger age caused her to be frugal and practical. Instead of a birthday card, her friends would often receive a bag of sugar instead. She was proud of her family and prayed fervently for them. She loved her Lord and Savior and anxiously waited to meet Him!

Alvina is survived by her three sons and one daughter; Loy (Janice) Van't Hul of Rock Valley, Kay (Gerrit) Vis of Rock Valley, Brad (Pei-Lin) Van't Hul of Fairfield, California, and Chad (Sandra) Van't Hul of Rock Valley; 16 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; sister, Lois (Roger) Baatz of Rock Rapids, Iowa; brother, Loren (Sandy) De Jager of Hull, Iowa; and sisters-in-law, Helen De Jager of Rock Valley, Iowa, and Linda Van't Hul of Sheldon, Iowa.

Alvina was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Rena De Jager; parents-in-laws, John and Clara Van't Hul; her husband, Bernard Van't Hul; great-grandson, Kane Van Bommel; 3 brothers, Bernard (Martha) De Jager, Harvey De Jager, and Donald De Jager; and all of her husband's siblings and their spouses.



Special thanks to family members for sharing some of their memories with us.

Memories of Mom - Kay

Many of my recent memories are of mom's humor and one-liners – many of which I cannot repeat! She loved her visits from her brother Loren and his wife Sandy. Stating he had so many stories that she enjoyed and she would share and repeat them to me giving her something fun to talk about. But she always ended our conversation with "but he was such a naughty little kid"!

When her only sister Lois came for a visit they laughed and had a good visit – at least if mom was in a good mood. I guess you can just be yourself with your sister. Mom always remarked about what beautiful hair you have Lois!

She was brought much joy when Lynette Altena came for visits! Stating she was such a nice lady and “she would make such a good Elder”!

She looked forward to Thursday mornings when her 4-year-old great-granddaughter Danica Kay came to visit. When I would visit her by myself, she would ask if Danica was coming next time.

When Brad came to visit a few years ago and he was saying goodbye – Brad said something about if I don’t see you on earth I will see you in heaven Mom. Mom said to Brad “yeah you are getting kind of old aren’t you Brad”!

After moving to Whispering Heights, she liked to say, “Everyone wants to get old, but they should talk to me because it really isn’t much fun being this old”.

Mom had assurance that she was going to heaven when she passed away. But she was concerned that after nearly 44 years if Dad would still recognize her stating “I am not as cute as I used to be”. I assured her Dad would still know her!

Mom always thanked me for coming to visit her. She will be dearly missed but we rejoice that she is free from earthly pain and sorrow and lives eternally with her Lord and Savior!

Memories of Grandma

Kacie and Siblings - When we were little, we had special names for Grandma Van’t Hul. We called her “Grandma Dutchess” after her dog, or sometimes “Town Grandma” because she lived right in town. Staying overnight at her house always felt like a treat. In the morning, we could walk to school instead of getting on the bus early, and that made it extra special.

Many of my favorite memories of Grandma revolve around food – because she always made sure we were fed well. She made the best bologna sandwiches, and the secret was cutting them into triangles. She made O’Henry bars, and her house was always stocked with Bugles and Twinkies. If you stopped by Grandma’s house after church on Sunday, you were almost guaranteed a full homemade lunch. She always had enough for everyone. Grandma had a sweet tooth, and I think many of us inherited it from her.

Every Christmas, Grandma gave each of her granddaughters a Barbie doll. If there was enough snow, we would be pulled on the streets on a car hood, laughing the whole way. We went ice skating at the rink where the library now stands. In later years, Christmas traditions changed, but the joy didn’t – those holidays became Christmas Bingo, filled with laughter and togetherness.

Grandma’s love showed up in simple, steady ways: full plates, open doors and traditions that made us feel safe and special. Those are the memories we will carry with us always.

Wyatt, Parker, and Brody - Grandma was a huge part of our lives growing up. How could she not be when she lived just down the street? She was our babysitter and our third adult on Tuesday nights, so the three of us could eat free at Pizza Ranch. We always understood she was an older grandma and couldn’t attend a lot of our activities. Even though she wasn’t at our games, concerts, or plays.... She made a point to ask how things went. We knew we could count on a cold can of pop after mowing her yard (as well as a \$1 bill for payment), and Pringles cheese potato chips were always in the cupboard every Sunday when we stopped after church. She kept all our favorites on hand. Even though we didn’t see her as much these past few years, when we stopped, she still had a lot of questions about our lives. She wanted to know we were doing well. One question she would ask was whether we were attending church and, if so, whether it was a good church. We knew she never stopped praying for us and desired that we know her Lord and Savior. She remarked she had wanted to live long enough to see us graduate from high school. She made that and more, and we are so grateful.

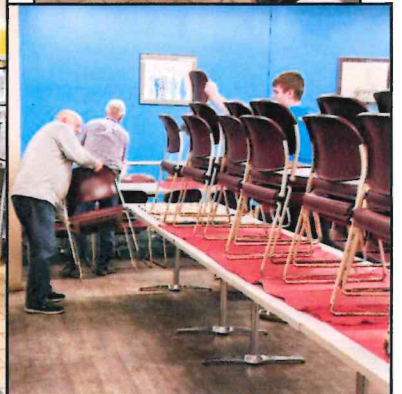
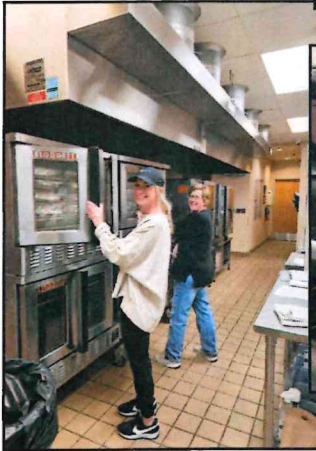
Jonathan Van’t Hul (California grandson) - One of my most distinct memories as a kid visiting Grandma was going to the grocery store. I remember that errand being something that I dreaded, because I knew a 15-minute trip could take over an hour. As I reflect back on why those trips took an hour, it was because Grandma had such a great community around her and seemed to know everyone. Everybody wanted to stop to talk to her, hear her life updates and tell her theirs. She took an interest in acquaintances and friends alike and seemed to remember every detail, no matter how small or how long it had been since she had last spoken to that person. She treated everyone with love, respect and importance. Something I am still trying to emulate to this day.

Serving at The Banquet

IGNITE Youth Group and members of our church served at the banquet on Jan. 28.

The downtown location served 256 and the west side served 99.

The Banquet serves 2 meals a day, breakfast and supper, 5 days a week.



Valentine's SUPPER

Hosted by IGNITE Youth Group





CEC TACO SUPPER!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

5:30PM - 7:00PM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A TACO NIGHT!

***Delicious Softshell Tacos**

Toppings Include:

Lettuce, Cheese, Onions,
Tomatoes, Taco Sauce, Salsa

***Supreme Nachos**

***Nachos and Cheese**

***Hot Dogs and Coney Dogs**

***Root Beer Floats**



“A Feast for Heart and Soul”

Around this time of year, we have the opportunity to come together and participate in feasts whether that be with family, friends, and/or our community. From celebrating communion with our church community to coming together as families to celebrate Easter, we have the privilege of coming together and sharing food and fellowship. I'm sure many of us are looking forward to those times once again where we come together as family and create memories and share moments.

We also have the opportunity to have a feast set out before us each and every time we open God's Word. His Word is packed with spiritual nutrients that allow us to continue to grow. Even those difficult “morsels” or chapters and verses have “meat on the bone” for us to chew. From individual devotions to corporate worship and each and every opportunity in between we can dig in with heart and soul.

This spiritual “meal” can look different for everyone. Whether it's focusing on a particular word or phrase found in Scripture, to meditating on a passage or even studying passages with the help of outside resources, each and every time gives us an opportunity to dine. No matter how we go about it, God gives us the opportunity to take, to taste and see to enjoy and to be nourished by his story found in his work and Word.

Welcome all, the feast is spread, the feast for heart and soul! Come in to have heart and soul renewed, work done blessed, and encouragement given. Come in to be satisfied not with worldly pleasures but with the voice of God. Come and dine with the master, allowing the three in one to feed you richly. This “feast” is beyond anything and everything that we can experience here on this earth. This “feast” will nourish your soul and whet your appetite. This feast is for us and will be enjoyed by us. This feast is but a taste of the even greater feast awaiting us in heaven where things will be unveiled and shown to the world. As we await the final feast may we take courage, strength and joy from these feasts that we get the opportunity to enjoy.

The Wheeled Worshiper

“Amid Life’s Storms”

The hurricanes that battered the East Coast in fall 2024 also battered my soul. I was over the rain and humidity. I was tired of lugging my two preschoolers through the downpours and driving through flash floods at night. Yet I had no reason to complain. Our house was still standing, with no damage.

The news around us was worrying and heartbreaking. “What if that was us?” I wondered. “Would I be strong enough?”

Then the kids asked to play outside. Even though I knew they’d get wet and muddy, I gave in. When a rainbow appeared, I’d never been more humbled as I remembered: I don’t need to be anxious. I don’t need to be strong enough. God watches over us all. He knows the hurt and sorrow. And he promises to be “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1, ESV).

Lord, forgive my unbelief. “Hear my cry, O God ... when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I” (Psalm 61:1-2, ESV). ~Kristen Greene

“Resting in Jesus”

An old hymn declares:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.

Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad.

I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad. (Horatius Bonar, 1846)

Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are “weary, worn, and sad” need to hear Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.”

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God’s love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God’s goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way. ~Heidi Hyland Mann

Bible Trivia

Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story: “The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of _____.”

- A. flowers
- B. sheep
- C. rocks
- D. bones

See next page for answer.



“Two-way benefits”

“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless,” observed Connecticut politician Pauline Keezer. “But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.” Indeed, it’s impossible to shine light in someone else’s life without lighting up your own.

We might think being generous toward another with our time or possessions leaves us with less. But as Jesus said, “Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:39, NIV). How common it is that when we minister to others in Christ’s name, we find we have also — or perhaps even more so — received ministry. This is the miracle of God’s love at work.

“Jesus, the Model of Salt and Light”

In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus tells his followers, “You are the salt of the earth. ... You are the light of the world.” Through his example, our Savior showed us what that means.

“The remarkable thing is that Jesus brought it all into reality in his own person,” writes Bible scholar N.T. Wright in *Matthew for Everyone*. “He was the salt of the earth. He was the light of the world: set up on a hilltop, crucified for all the world to see, becoming a beacon of hope and new life for everybody, drawing people to worship his [F]ather, embodying the way of self-giving love which is the deepest [fulfillment] of the law and the prophets.”

“On the Path to Victory”

After moving to a college town, Pastor Kendra Thompson learned about the athletic phenomenon known as March Madness. And after a nondenominational upbringing, as a young adult she learned about Lenten traditions.

Lent and the NCAA college basketball tournament, which usually coincide, both point to the divine, Thompson argues. “In Lent, with each day we are drawn closer to the crushing reality that we’ve crucified our God. And yet we are also faced with an impossible victory: that death did not win, that our God is raised in Jesus Christ,” she writes. “Likewise, watching college basketball invites us into a season of hoping in unlikely possibilities, marveling at upsets, and giving thanks to God for the connection we find as his people.”

Like fans swept up in high-stakes games, Jesus’ disciples abandon everything to follow him. Lent might be “holy madness,” Thompson muses. It’s “an opportunity to ‘feel’ our religion, not just in our heads but with our skin, our voices, even in the anxieties of our prayers.”

March, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Morning Worship Service (9:30 AM) Children in Worship (10 - 10:30 AM) Sunday School & Catechism/Choir (10:45 - 11:30 AM) Evening Worship Service (6 PM) Saved to Serve Bible Study (7:15 - 8:15 PM)	2 Meals on Wheels (11 AM)	3 Classis Meeting - Inspiration Hills Coffee Break (9:45 AM) Meals on Wheels (11 AM)	4 Meals on Wheels (11 AM) CEC Taco Supper (5:30 - 7 PM) GEMS (6:45 - 8:15 PM) IGNITE Youth Group (7 PM) HC Refresh (7 PM) L.I.G.H.T (7 PM)	5 Meals on Wheels (11 AM) L.I.F.T (1:30 PM)	6 Meals on Wheels (11 AM)	7
8 Daylight Savings Morning Worship Service (9:30 AM) Children in Worship (10 - 10:30 AM) Sunday School & Catechism/Choir (10:45 - 11:30 AM) Evening Worship Service - Chamber Singers (6 PM)	9	10 Coffee Break (9:45 AM) Service at River View Ridge (2 PM)	11 Cadets (7 - 8:30 PM) Prayer Day Service (7 - 8 PM) Together in Faith Bible Study (8:15 PM) Men's Society (8:15 PM)	12	13	14
15 Guatemala Team Mission Trip Morning Worship Service - Pulpit Supply (9:30 AM) Children in Worship (10 - 10:30 AM) Sunday School & Catechism/Choir (10:45 - 11:30 AM) Evening Worship Service - Pulpit Supply (6 PM) Saved to Serve Bible Study (7:15 - 8:15 PM)	16 Western & RVCS Spring Break - No School Guatemala Team Mission Trip	17 Western & RVCS Spring Break - No School Guatemala Team Mission Trip	18 Western & RVCS Spring Break - No School Guatemala Team Mission Trip	19 Western & RVCS Spring Break - No School Guatemala Team Mission Trip L.I.F.T (1:30 PM)	20 Western & RVCS Spring Break - No School Guatemala Team Mission Trip	21 Guatemala Team Mission Trip
22 Morning Worship Service (9:30 AM) Children in Worship (10 - 10:30 AM) Sunday School & Catechism/Choir (10:45 - 11:30 AM) Evening Worship Service (6 PM)	23	24 Coffee Break (9:45 AM)	25 GEMS (6:45 - 8:15 PM) Together in Faith Bible Study (7 PM) Men's Society (7 PM) Cadets (7 - 8:30 PM) HC Refresh (7 PM)	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Morning Worship Service (9:30 AM) Children in Worship (10 - 10:30 AM) Sunday School & Catechism/Choir (10:45 - 11:30 AM) Evening Worship Service (6 PM)	30 Council Meeting (6:30 PM)	31 Coffee Break (9:45 AM)				

April, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Cadet-O-Rama (6 PM) IGNITE Youth Group - Activity (7 PM) L.I.G.H.T (7 PM)	2 L.I.F.T (1:30 PM) Maundy Thursday Service/Communion (7 - 8 PM)	3 Good Friday Service (7 - 8 PM)	4
5 Easter Sunday Easter Sunrise Community Service (6:30 - 7:30 AM) Morning Worship Service (9:30 AM) No Children in Worship (10 - 10:30 AM) No Sunday School or Catechism (10:45 - 11:30 AM) Evening Worship Service (6 PM)	6	7	8 GEMS (6:45 - 8:15 PM) Cadets (7 - 8:30 PM)	9	10	11
12 Morning Worship Service - Pulpit Supply (9:30 AM) Children in Worship (10 - 10:30 AM) Sunday School & Catechism/Choir (10:45 - 11:30 AM) Evening Worship Service - Pulpit Supply (6 PM)	13	14	15 GEMS (6:45 - 8:15 PM) IGNITE Youth Group - Senior Night (7 PM)	16 Service at River View Ridge (2 PM)	17	18
19 Morning Worship Service (9:30 AM) Children in Worship - Final Session (10 - 10:30 AM) Final week of Sunday School/Catechism (10:45 - 11:30 AM) Evening Worship Service (6 PM)	20 Care Groups 4 & 5 - Provide Service at Sioux City Gospel Mission (7 PM)	21	22 Cadets - Walk Ditches/Points Auction (6 PM)	23	24	25
26 Christian Education Sunday Morning Worship Service (9:30 AM) Evening Worship Service - Pulpit Supply (6 PM)	27 Meals on Wheels (11 AM) Council Meeting (6:30 PM)	28 Meals on Wheels (11 AM) Care Groups 1 & 3 - Provide Service at Sioux Falls Gospel Mission (7 PM)	29 Meals on Wheels (11 AM) IGNITE Youth Group - Closing Event (7 PM)	30 Meals on Wheels (11 AM)		



Letter writing to our Missionaries

RIBBENS

MALETOUNGOU

KLOMPIEN

March 1	Rich R	Damon R	Alex R
March 8	Skyler S	Jason T	Vern VB
March 15	Jeff VB	Lindsey VB	Ver VB
March 22	Lyle VE	Matt VE	Albert VG
March 29 Palm Sunday	Fred VK	Nate VK	Colton VO

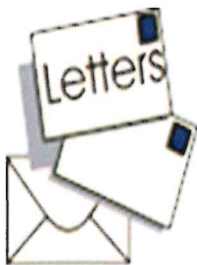
Resonate Global Mission

Attn: Rev. Michael & Megan Ribbens

1700 28th St SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

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



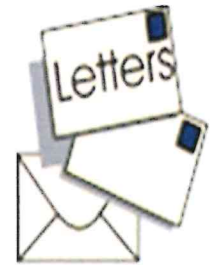
Resonate Global Mission

Attn: Rev. Sosthene & Kara Maletoungou

1700 28th St SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

EMAIL: smaletoungou@crcnapartners.org



Resonate Global Mission

Attn: Mark K family

1700 28th St SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

*Please mail to Mark

Children in Worship



March 1	Leader: Jill M	Helper: Tad M
March 8	Leader: Jill M	Helper: Tad M
March 15	Leader: Samantha P	Helper: Jaydn L
March 22	Leader: Samantha P	Helper: Jaydn L
March 29	Leader: Hadlie VB	Helper: Harper VB

GREETERS



March 1	Loy & Taryn Van't Hul Mark & Deb Van't Hul Mike & Christal Van't Hul	Tim & Kendra Van Tilburg Mike Van Zanten Jack & Kelsey Ver Burg	Harlan & Priscilla
March 8	Gerrit & Kay Vis Duane & Gayle Walhof Harm & Bonnie Wiersma	Ryan & Kelci Zevenbergen Blake & Genae Zomer Ryan & Jamie Zomer	Ron & Darletta
March 11 Prayer Day Service		Mike & Tammy Baartman Myron & Amy Bleyenbergh Austin & Allison Blied	
March 15	Dan & Shannon Bloemendaal Eric & Tracy Breuer Josh & Katie Byl	Mitchell & Kelsi Byl Randy & Pat Byl Bradyn & Braelee Davelaar	Eric & Tracy
March 22	Cody & Em Davelaar Rich & Bonnie Davelaar Vern & Carol De Boer	Kevin & Diana De Groot Zach & Jamie De Jager Erin De Kam	Rog & Hilaine
March 29 Palm Sunday	Steve & April De Kam Jaden & Katlien Den Boer Tyler & Alli Den Boer	Michael & Jamie Ellenberger Jesse & Amber Eppinga Kevin & Lori Eppinga	Larry & Yvonne

SOUND VIDEO PPT

Pianist
Organist

PRAISE TEAM

March 1	Evan VB	Alex K	Tammy B	AM: Krista VE PM: Jackie R	Rachelle VB, Julie VO, Andy VR, Benjamin H
March 8	Mike H	Ron L	Jaydn L	Ranae K	Jack VB
March 11 Prayer Day Service	Blake Z	Aiden VR	Brennan VK	Rachelle VB	Tricia M
March 15	James VB	Carter VB	Carla J	Carisa M	Michelle K, Tammy B, Evan VB, Randy VK
March 22	Rich R	Brian F	Benjamin H	Krista VE	Tricia M
March 29 Palm Sunday	Austin B	Rich R	Cowan VK	Jackie R	Evan VB

USHERS

NURSERY

March 1	East: Arnold K, Bob G West: Benjamin H, Keith L	AM PM	Candra S, Jaelyn K, Peyton R Sharla VR, Alison L
March 8	East: Steve DK, Rick D West: Joe M, Gene L	AM PM	Kelsey VB, Harper VB, Trevin VK Genae Z, Jenessa VR
March 11 Prayer Day Service	East: Cody D, Mike B West: Cole VDB, Titus H	PM	Allison B, Addison VH
March 15	East: Josh B, Mike VZ West: Dan B, Darin P	AM PM	Jamie Z, Kennedy VH, Ava VO Em D, Abby A
March 22	East: Joel B, Matt VE West: Charlie P, Alvin L	AM PM	Shannon B, Kaysha A, Darren VR Cherie G, Alison L
March 29 Palm Sunday	East: Arnold K, Bob G West: Benjamin H, Keith L	AM PM	April DK, Titus H, Skylar Z Kristin J, Noah DK

2026



2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Jonathon Kats	5 Tracy Hoogendoorn Lois Postma (86)	6 Gracie Bloerendaal Darmon Rus Penny Jo Ver Burg	7 Brad Postma
8 Megan Kooima	9	10 Addison Van't Hul	11 Kelci Zevenbergen	12 Brylie Johnson	13 Kolt Bleyenberg Charlie Poppema	14
15 Diana De Groot Jaden Den Boer Carl Elbers Taylor Kats	16	17 April De Kam Niki Pollema	18 Ethan Van't Hul	19	20 Carol Van't Hul	21 Kathien Den Boer Karen Jansen Mitchel Van't Hul
22 Kyler Pollema	23 Faith Kirkley	24	25 <i>the Jason Timmerman's</i>	26	27 Taylor Allena	28 Judy Van Otterloo <i>the Evan Allena's</i>
29 Tad Miller Jadyn Pettit Rachelle Vanden Bos	30	31 Abby Allena				