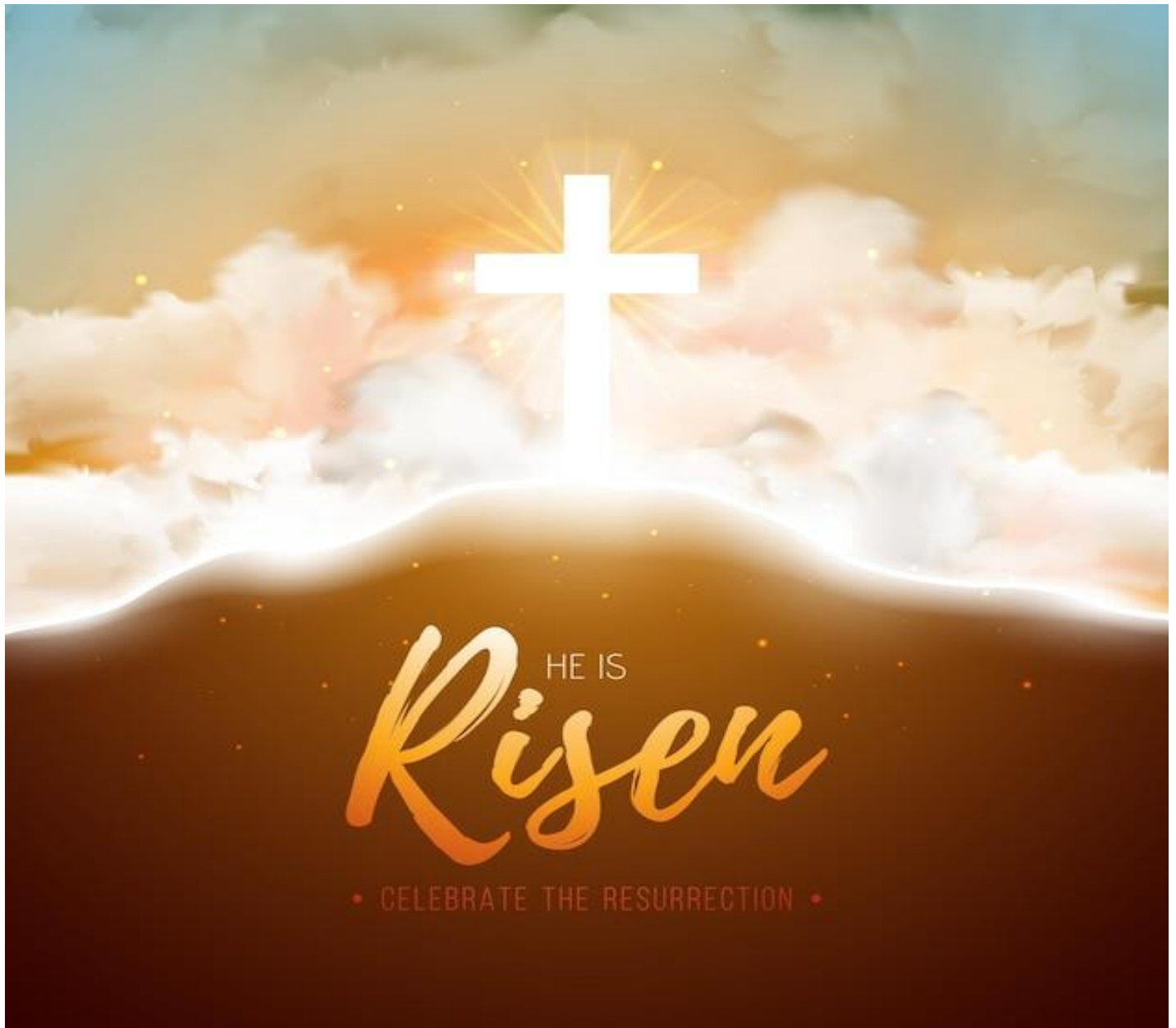


REFLECTIONS

First Christian Reformed Church
Orange City, Iowa

April 2026



Reflections

Please forgive any errors or omissions. We'd be grateful if you would call them to our attention. Thank you for submitting news articles-without your help, there would be no newsletter! Thank you to the volunteers who help each month.

Members in care facilities:

Prairie Ridge Care Center

Helen Anderson, Arlys Feenstra,
Gladys Hoekstra, Geri Kiel,
Arie & MaryLou Noteboom,
Leona Noteboom, Irene Pennings

Landsmeer Assisted Living

Henrietta Jeltema,
Joan Spronk, Everly Visser

Whispering Heights (Rock Valley)

Jake Van Den Hul

Transportation

If you need a ride to a church service or another activity in church, please contact Bob De Jong (712-230-2230).

Hospitality

If you are in need of assistance, or know of someone who is, please contact your care unit deacon.

Upcoming Events

April 3 – Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.

April 5 – Easter Breakfast – 8:30-9:15 a.m.

April 8 – Service at Pioneer Home CU 6 (De Jong/Kuiken)

April 12-19 Mission Emphasis

April 15 – Mission Emphasis Work Night, 6:30 p.m.

April 18 – Open House Bridal Shower for
Gracie Schoonhoven/Jacob Van Donge and
Ava Nykamp/Shane Habben, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

April 26 – Combined Worship at Immanuel, 5:00 p.m.

April 29 – Corn Hole Tournament



Media

April 5 – Phil Kuiken, Tyce Van Donge, Greg De Groot, Matt Van Schepen
April 12 – Ryan Van Schouwen, Drew Noteboom, Jon Hellinga
April 19 – Shannon Schuller, Grant De Groot, Ryan Raines, Ryan Noteboom
April 26 – Carson Noteboom, Nicholas Noteboom, LeRoy De Jager, Mike Byker
May 3 – Phil Kuiken, Lindsey De Groot, Greg De Groot, Matt Van Schepen

Sunday Evening Greeters

April 5 – SE-Darrell & Cindy Schuller, FHW-Bert & Kristi Reinders
April 12 – SE-Shane & Denise Schuller, FHW-Shannon & Bethany Schuller
April 19 – SE-Ken & Patty Timmermans, FHW-Carter & Lucy Van Hulzen
April 26 – *Combined Worship at Immanuel for GEMS Sunday*
May 3 – SE-John & Judy Van Kalsbeek, FHW-Dennis & Margene Eekhoff

Sunday Morning Refreshments

April 5 – *Easter Breakfast – no coffee*
April 12 – Ed & Ethel Kruid, Jeremy & Jennifer Mills
April 19 – Ryan & Jennifer Mulder, Nick & Maria Noteboom
April 26 – Ryan & Jennifer Noteboom, Brent & Anita Nykamp
May 3 – Noon Potluck – No Coffee
May 10 – Ross & Krista Oolman, Don & Ruth Post
May 17 – Ryan & Shanelle Raines, Bert & Kristi Reinders
May 24 – Caleb & Sarah Pluim, Arlan & Marcia Scholten
May 31 – Darrell & Cindy Schuller, Doug & Audrey Schuller

Ushers

April: SW-Tyler Van Schouwen
SE-Logan Dykstra
Center-Wade Haarsma
Ross Bolkema

May: SW-Harlan Ver Steeg
SE-Andrew Terpstra
Center-Brice Kroeze
Darrell Schuller

Bulletin Delivery

April 5 – Ed & Ethel Kruid
April 12 – Brian Kroeze
April 19 – Doug Hamming
April 26 – Gordon & Pat Bruxvoort
May 3 – Arlin & Karen Klein

Valet Parking

April – Trevor Mulder
May – Kaleb Hamming

NURSERY WORKERS

APRIL 5 AM-MARIA BYKER, NANCY KROEZE, KYLIE DE GROOT
PM-SARAH PLUIM, SOPHIA TERPSTRA

APRIL 12 AM-AUDREY SCHULLER, CHRISTINA ZUIDERVEEN,
CADEN VAN SCHEPEN
PM-CHRISTINE TERPSTRA, HALEY SCHULLER

APRIL 19 AM-KRISTI REINDERS, DENISE SCHULLER, ADELYNN BOLKEMA
PM-ALLISON TIMMERMANS, CONNOR SCHULLER

APRIL 26 AM-CONNIE LEFEVER, ANGELA DE GROOT, SAWYER MILLS
PM-COMBINED GEMS WORSHIP AT IMMANUEL

MAY 3 AM-MARCIA SCHOLTEN, JENNIFER NOTEBOOM, TRISTAN DE GROOT
PM-JODY DE JONG, AUDREY ZUIDERVEEN

MAY 10 AM-LEIANNA HELLINGA, AUTUMN KROEZE, GARRETT DE GROOT
PM-JANNA VAN DONGE, LINDSEY DE GROOT

MAY 17 AM-PATTY TIMMERMANS, JANICE HAMMING, MEGAN DE GROOT
PM-HEIDI DE GROOT, KARLI NOTEBOOM

MAY 24 AM-JENNIFER MILLS, LINDSEY VAN SCHEPEN, MAGDALENA HELMING
PM-MARIA NOTEBOOM, MADISON SCHULLER

MAY 31 AM-KAREN VAN SCHOUWEN, BECKY VISSER, JOSIE NYKAMP
PM-SHARI VISSER, AUTUMN CLARK

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

April 12 – *Jesus Is King*

Leader: Jenn Mills Helper: Madison Schuller

April 19 – *Jesus' Last Passover*

Leader: Lindsey Van Schepen Helper: Karli Noteboom

April 26 – *The Good Shepherd and the Wolf*

Leader: Shari Visser Helper: Sarah Pluim

May 3 – *The Good Shepherd & Lord's Supper*

Leader: Christina Zuiderveen Helper: Angela De Groot

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Thank you for the prayers, cards, food, and visits during my recent bout with pneumonia. I appreciated the visits from Pastor Stephen, and my care unit elder, Curt Ahrenholz.

One of the Sundays I was forced to be home, listening online, the song, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" was being played so beautifully. That "tie" is what I experienced through each kindness given. It's what binds "our hearts in Christian love".

Thank you!

--Murt Vogel

Mission Emphasis Week is nearly here! Our church will observe Mission Emphasis from April 12 to April 19th. Our theme verse is Genesis 12:1-3, and our theme hymn is "The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear", GPH #542.

On April 12, we will hear sermons from Rev. Terpstra and Mr. Mark Tiemersma. During our morning fellowship time, Mr. Tiemersma will give a presentation about entering the mission field, based on his own experiences.

On April 15th, we will have a church work night to make laundry detergent for the food pantry. Together with Northwestern College, the OC Food Pantry has developed a recipe and process for mixing a large amount of effective and inexpensive laundry detergent. You are invited to sign up in the fellowship hall to help mix, measure, bag, and label the product at 6:30pm. Feel free to bring a snack to share.

On April 19th, we will hear sermons from Rev. Helming and Rev. Terpstra.

During this week, we encourage the congregation to write to the missionaries we support and keep them in prayer. Also pray that God would raise up more missionaries to labor in His fields.

The current Missions Committee members are Rev. Jordan Helming, Elder Rod De Groot, Deacon Jeremy Mills, Deacon Ross Oolman, Leroy De Jager, Pat Ahrenholz, and Matt Faulkner. If you have any questions, or any interest in serving on the Missions Committee in the future, reach out to one of us.

Online Giving is up and running!



If you have any questions,
please contact a deacon.

March Council Report

- As part of our monthly training, Rev. Terpstra reviewed Robert's Rules of Order for conducting meetings.
- Rev. Terpstra gave a report on March 7 Classis Heartland meeting which was held at First CRC in Hospers. Classis approved licenses to exhort for William Aranas and Harold Willemstyn. Classis approved our church's two overtures to submit to Synod – the first to continue with annual in-person Synods and not adopt the proposal from the Council of Delegates to go to biennial Synods (every two years); and the second to set aside time during every Synod to invite, recognize, give thanks for, and celebrate those retiring from ministry in the previous calendar year. Classis appointed Rev. Brian Dunn, Rev. Keith Hoekstra, elder Dan Tracy, and deacon Phil Elgersma as delegates to Synod. Classis appointed Rev. Stephen Terpstra to serve on the Classical Interim Committee. Minutes of the classis meeting can be accessed through the Classis Heartland website.
- Committee reports were given. Mission Emphasis week is planned for April 12-19.
- The council approved a revised ministry structure for our church to bring the structure and language up to date and in line with our church's Vision, Mission, Strategy, and Principals statements. Notable changes include changing the name of Education to Discipleship Committee, Congregational Life to Fellowship Committee, and Building & Grounds to Facilities Committee; separating the Outreach and Mission Emphasis committee to form a Missions Committee focused on local evangelism and global missions, and a Service Committee focused on providing opportunities for members of the church to serve within and outside the church.
- The financial reports for February 2026 were reviewed.
- Nominations for elders and deacons were made.

In His Service,
Curt Ahrenholz, Clerk

Upcoming Offerings

April 3

PM-Benevolent Fund

April 5

AM-Sos & Kara Maletoungou
(April Mission of the Month)

PM-Family Crisis Center

April 12

AM-Dordt University

PM-Unity Christian High School

April 19

AM-Hope Haven Wheelchair Ministry

PM-General Fund

April 26

AM-GEMS Girls' Club

PM-Orange City GEMS

May 1

AM-Geneva & Areopagus Campus
Ministries

(May Missions of the Month)

PM-Building Fund

**The second offering each Sunday
morning is for Christian Education.**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ April 2026 Youth Group Update ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

THANK YOU from the youth group for your faithful support at our February fundraiser! We enjoyed a wonderful evening filled with excellent food prepared by The Triple Box, an update on youth group activities, and a fun round of Kahoot.

As we approach the end of our regular youth group meetings for the year, we are grateful for all that we have experienced together. It has truly been a wonderful year! Our time has included fellowship activities, service projects, fundraisers, lessons, guest speakers, and seasonal celebrations. Meeting twice a month on Wednesday evenings, we've found that sharing a meal together continues to be a meaningful way to build community and connection.

A quick look back at the year:

We kicked things off in September with a trip to Fields of Fun and our fall fundraiser. In October, students helped clean flower beds and planted nearly 30,000 tulip bulbs—an incredible effort! We also began a five-lesson series, Every Thought Captive by Kyle Idleman, based on Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." This series focused on renewing our minds in Christ through video teaching and discussion.

In November, weather prevented us from holding our annual Rake-N-Run, but we continued growing together through our lesson series. In December, Pastor Jordan shared about the history of the Bible and our church's transition to the ESV. We also celebrated Christmas at Unity with lots of fun—including an energetic leaders-versus-students dodgeball game.

January featured our always-popular cooking competition, which had a Tex-Mex theme this year, along with another lesson in our series. Pastor Stephen and Christine attended as speakers and encouraged students to live outward-focused, Christ-centered lives by serving others and reflecting Christ in their everyday relationships.

In March we held our final lesson for the year as well as our annual 50+ Game Night. In April we hope to take advantage of a service opportunity at the Gospel Mission in Sioux City, and finish our year with the senior and leader farewell.

We are very excited for convention July 13–17 at Dordt University, where this year's theme is "Abound in Hope" from Romans 15:13.

Funds raised through youth group events help cover supplies, convention registration, and travel expenses. We are deeply grateful for the prayers, encouragement, and financial support of our congregation. Thank you for your continued generosity. Because of you, these meaningful experiences—and the spiritual growth that comes with them—are possible for our students.

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