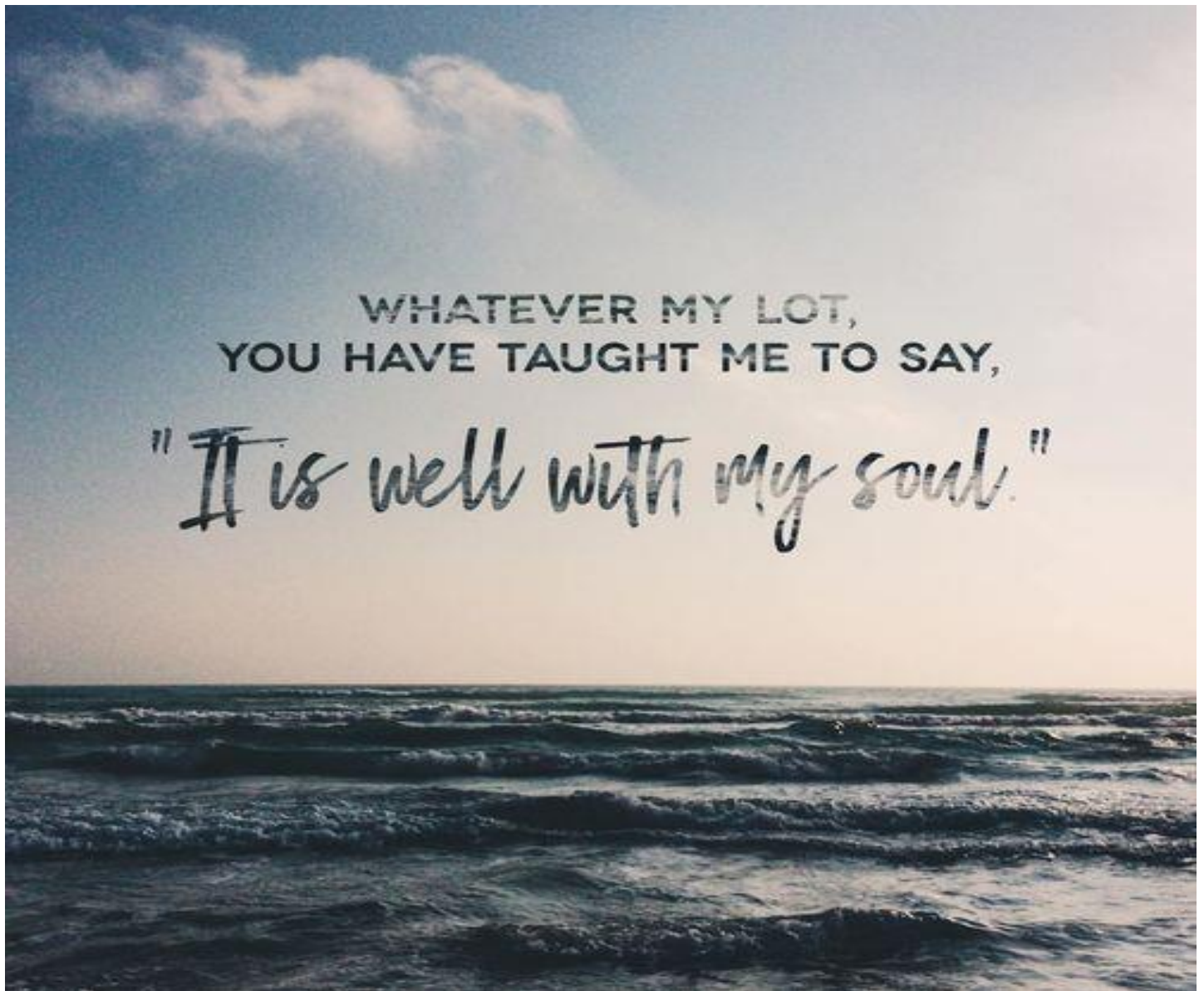


REFLECTIONS

First Christian Reformed Church
Orange City, Iowa

August 2023



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 unable to worship with us on a regular basis:

Prairie Ridge Care Center

Helen Anderson, Elizabeth Dykstra,
Lois De Beer, Arlys Feenstra,
Otto & Pris Huizenga,
Arie & MaryLou Noteboom,
Irene Pennings

Landsmeer Assisted Living

Henrietta Jeltema, Leona Noteboom

Royale Meadows

Joan Den Hartog

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 Darrell Schuller or Matt Van Schouwen.

Hospitality

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



Sunday Evening Greeters

August 6 – SE-Marv & Beth Vander Veen, FHW-Kevin & Janna Van Donge
August 13 – SE-Arnie & Marge Van Gelder, FHW-John & Judy Van Kalsbeek
August 20 – SE-Harlan & Linda Ver Steeg, FHW-Marlyn & Esther Visser
August 27 – SE-Murt Vogel & Janet Wade, FHW-Dan Young & Teresa Ter Haar
September 3 – SE-Pete & Laura Zomermaand, FHW-Ross & Amy Bolkema

Media

August 6 – Jon Hellinga, Austin Van Donge, Carson Noteboom
August 13 – Ryan Raines, Ryan Noteboom, Riley Mulder, Linda Ver Steeg
August 20 – LeRoy De Jager, Mike Byker, Grant De Groot, Phil Kuiken
August 27 – Greg De Groot, Matt Van Schepen, Nicholas Noteboom, Ryan Van Schouwen
September 3 – Gary Jeltema, Jon Hellinga, Austin Van Donge, Shannon Schuller

Bulletin Delivery

August 6 – Don & Ruth Post
August 13 – Gary & Anita Jeltema
August 20 – Ed & Ethel Kruid
August 27 – Brian Kroeze
September 3 – Doug Hamming

Ushers:

August: SW-Tyler Van Schouwen
SE-Shane Schuller
Center-Ryan Mulder, Brice Kroeze
September:
SW-Arlin Klein
SE-Bob De Jong
Center-Trevor Mulder, Loren Dykstra

Sunday Morning Refreshments

August 6 – Alan & Jody De Jong, Irwin & Judy De Jong
August 13 – Bob & Carla De Jong, Warren & Ruth Dekkers
August 20 – Loren & Melissa Dykstra, Dennis & Margene Eekhoff
August 27 – Wade & Aletha Haarsma, Doug & Janice Hamming
September 3 – Justin & Stephanie Hellinga, Pastor Jordan & Luralyn Helming
September 10 – Jon & Leianna Hellinga, Mark & Cindy Huizenga
September 17 – Gary & Anita Jeltema, Arlin & Karen Klein
September 24 – Brian & Nancy Kroeze, Ed & Ethel Kruid



TASC (Teens Actively Serving Christ) was held in different areas of the country and sponsored by Reformed Mission Services. Our TASC group was held in Chino, CA June 24-July 1 with First United Reformed Church of Chino as the host church. Melissa, Becca, and Julia Dykstra, Jill and Brooke Jacobsma, and Anita and Ava Nykamp attended this service project. Other church groups that attended were from Caledonia, MI, Ripon, CA, and Visalia, CA.

Our scripture theme was II Timothy 1:9-10 which states, "He has saved us and called us to a holy life-not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

When we arrived in Chino Saturday night, we were served a delicious meal at the church along with mixer games, singing, and prayer groups. We stayed in the Chino Church Life building. Our days began with delicious homemade breakfasts served by volunteers from the church. On Sunday, we attended morning and evening worship services with our TASC group with lunch served at church. We made so many NW Iowa connections with people from the church, as well as with our fellow TASC group.

We began every day with personal devotions and breakfast served by volunteers from the church. Our group spent Monday working at Isaiah's Rock, a food bank and outreach ministry to the poor and hungry in Chino. Part of our group worked to clean and organize the backyard of the home this organization is based out of. We brought some organization to all the food and supplies in an area that really needed it. The other part of our group worked at the warehouse Isaiah's Rock uses to house all their donations of new clothes, shoes, household goods, and hygiene products. At times, all the work seemed overwhelming but we made so much progress sorting through donations and organizing them. It was a blessing to see how the kids all buckled down and worked hard and saw all the progress made. After a long day, a family from Chino Church hosted us at their home where we were fed supper and some of us enjoyed their backyard pool and lawn games. After supper, Pastor Tim Scheuers from Chino First URC led our evening session giving a message on our theme verse. A highlight was always the singing with our group which was done acapella. We ended the day with our prayer groups where we had such meaningful discussions of our lessons and scripture. Our prayer groups were a blend of people from all groups attending so it was great to get to know different youth and sponsors. To see our youth flourish and mature in their faith is so encouraging!

Tuesday our group served at Inland Christian Home, a senior living community in Ontario. We power washed the condos and apartments, cleaned windows and screens, patio areas, and did some weeding around the complex. The residents were so grateful and kind. We ate lunch at the retirement dining room and also had an ice cream social with some of the residents there. It was a very hot work day but the kids didn't complain and we were blessed to be a blessing at this retirement community. We had another evening at the home of a Chino First URC family with supper, pool time, and lawn games. We ended with our evening session again led by Pastor Tim, then back to church for our prayer groups before bed.

Wednesday and Thursday our groups were split. One group worked again at Isaiah's Rock and helped them with food distribution to the needy. Some of that group also painted for a church in Ontario. Another group went to the Union Gospel Mission in downtown Los Angeles. The mission was an incredible experience and to see those experiencing homelessness up close and personal was incredibly moving. Our group at the mission received a tour and history of the mission and were taken to the roof to see the LA skyline. We then helped prep food in the kitchen while others from our group served in the lunch line. The mission's goal is to get people back into society as productive members. They help those suffering from alcohol, drug dependency, or

have mental health issues. Those that seek help at the mission must commit to the program that requires them to leave the lifestyle of addiction behind. The mission has strict protocols for who can stay and what needs to be done to finish the program there. It is extremely well run and we were encouraged by the work of bringing the light of Jesus to those less fortunate. There were some leftover meals after serving lunch so there was a small number of us who were escorted by armed security to serve the plates to the homeless outside the mission. This was incredibly powerful, as well as sad to see. When we were finished, we were whisked back inside for our safety. We are so thankful for all the blessings we have after seeing Skid Row in downtown LA. The group that went to Union Rescue Mission on Thursday drove around the area surrounding the mission prior to arrival. We were able to see blocks of “homes” along buildings, which were merely tarps or tents. We were told that depending on the time of year, a 50-block area surrounding the mission has between 6,000-10,000 homeless people living on the streets. Wednesday, the day ended with another delicious meal at church, our evening message, and our prayer groups. Thursday evening was pizza and volleyball at a Chino First URC family along with our evening message and singing. We finished with prayer groups at church.

Friday was our day away to Balboa Beach. It was a wonderful day at the Pacific Ocean. Those waves are powerful by the way! A beautiful day of relaxing with an ocean view, swimming, shopping at the beach front shops, as well as a very competitive beach volleyball tournament! Many of us chose to have lunch at Ruby’s, a 50’s diner themed restaurant at the end of the pier. We wrapped up our time together with a bonfire and hotdog roast. The acapella singing at the beach was amazing as the sun was setting. This was a fitting end to our week. It was an emotional goodbye to a very impactful week of serving Christ. After arriving back at the church, many of our group chose to do an “all nighter” with the kids spending a night of fun in the youth room with a lot of noise and games! Thanks to the sponsors who chose to stay up and chaperone this group while others of us went to bed! Saturday started very early as we all left Chino to make our way back home.

We are so thankful for all the prayers of the congregation while we were serving on TASC in California! We were also thankful for safe travels and no delays with our flights. We were so blessed to work and serve among those less fortunate. We were also encouraged with our fellow members in Christ we met on TASC. Feel free to ask any of us about our experiences. We would love to share our stories!





We're back! What a great week we had at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. After a delicious lunch prepared by youth group parents, for us and our families, twelve young people and five sponsors loaded up into Stanton Visser's van and Loren Dykstra's pick-up. We also took 22 cornhole boards along because we were in charge of that tournament. There were phone games, travel bingo, and some off-key singing in the van as we traveled. Definitely not ready for the talent show!

Our Sunday night was spent in a beautiful VRBO in Savoy, Illinois. After claiming rooms and moving in, we played "whack". Doug is not very good at this game...We prepared a hot breakfast Monday morning and were on the road by 8:00 and in Kentucky at 3:00 p.m. We received a warm (temperature) welcome. By 8:00 p.m., 850 youth were moved in and seated in the auditorium, where we were blessed by Rev. Ken Anema, one of two keynote speakers. Ask our youth "What are your hope, riches and power in Christ?"

Each night our youth groups met as a "Son-Set" group, summarized, discussed and evaluated what we'd heard and learned. Each morning, two sponsors led groups of 6-8 young people we'd never met, as a "Son-Rise" group. These were small, same-gender groups that met for discussion and prayer from 8:00-9:00 p.m.

There were ten workshop choices, and each attendee registered for five, plus five mini sessions, let by Rev. Anema and Rev. Furniss. Workshop choices were:

1. Always Ready – Rev. Greg Lubbers
2. Redeeming the Time – Rev. Aaron Verhoek
3. Recovering the Rainbow – Rev. Roberto Rossi
4. Fools in Love? – Rev. Angela Contreras
5. Making Big Decisions – Rev. Mike Schout
6. Looking for a True Church – Rev. Bradd Nymeyer
7. Truth with a Capital T – Rev. Harry Zekveld
8. Finding Your Place in the Body of Christ – Rev. Eric Vander Molen
9. Under Pressure – Rev. Doug Barnes
10. Loving the Lord's Day – Rev. Matt Nuiver
11. What's Your Identity? – Rev. Russell & Laura Herman

Our free time included walleyball, basketball, nine square, swimming, cornhole, chess, board games, choir rehearsal, talent show rehearsal or...taking a nap!

Wednesday after the morning session, all youth departed for either Kentucky Kingdom or the Ark Encounter. Many of our teens also sang in the mass choir. It was a time of spiritual renewal, reflection and broadening our faith by feeding on His Word.

How do we begin to thank you, congregation, for being our cheerleaders? Gift bags, snacks, lunch before leaving, financial donations, support for our fund-raisers, and your continual prayer support for this precious group of young people. As I write this, I am filled with hope for the future of the church. God moved mightily among us during the week in Kentucky, and He will continue His work in the lives of our teens.

How do we thank Doug and Audrey for five years of wisdom, lessons and connecting with our youth in so many unique ways? We pray God's blessings as they continue their work in our church in new and different ways. Brent and Anita Nykamp, we welcome you aboard, and look forward to you joining us.

All of us are already looking forward with anticipation to next summer's convention at George Fox University in Newborg, Oregon, July 15-19, 2024!

Valet Parking
August – Ryan Raines
September – Ken Timmermans



NURSERY WORKERS

AUGUST 6 AM-SHAWNDRA KUIKEN, ANGELA DE GROOT, AUTUMN CLARK
PM-JODY DE JONG, KYRA VAN SCHOUWEN, DAVID BOLKEMA
AUGUST 13 AM-JANICE HAMMING, PATTY TIMMERMANS, BRENNA BOLKEMA
PM-CONNIE LEFEVER, RUBY ZYLSTRA, JOSIE NYKAMP
AUGUST 20 AM-LINDSEY VAN SCHEPEN, SHARI VISSER, COLLIN DYKSTRA
PM-LEIANNA HELLINGA, SABRINA TIMMERMANS, LILIA VAN SCHEPEN
AUGUST 27 AM-JENNIFER NOTEBOOM, KRISTA OOLMAN, JOEL HAMMING
PM-MELISSA DYKSTRA, CARISSA REINDERS, KYLIE DE GROOT
SEPTEMBER 3 AM-JILL JACOBSMA, MARCIA SCHOLTEN, OLIVIA YOUNG
PM-AMY BOLKEMA, LAUREN NOTEBOOM, KALEB DE GROOT
SEPTEMBER 10 AM-CHRISTINA ZUIDERVEEN, HEIDI DE GROOT, PARKER MILLS
PM-BETHANY SCHULLER, AYVA VAN SCHOUWEN, MADISON SCHULLER
SEPTEMBER 17 AM-JENN MILLS, NANCY KROEZE, AUTUMN KROEZE
PM-AUDREY SCHULLER, HALEY SCHULLER, GARRETT DE GROOT
SEPTEMBER 24 AM-MARIA NOTEBOOM, KRISTI REINDERS, CONNOR SCHULLER
PM-SARAH PLUIM, JULIA DYKSTRA, JANELLE ZUIDERVEEN

Dear First CRC,

On behalf of my family, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for allowing our family the opportunity to rent your parsonage as we look for a home in Orange City. I cannot tell you what a tremendous blessing it is to have a place to land in a new place. Your generosity in this is overwhelming.

Our kids (Josh, Caleb, Acacia, and Elijah) are enjoying the pool table in the basement and were elated to have the opportunity to rescue a baby bunny from one of the window wells this week. 😊 They have made some good memories and have had some good experiences in the last couple weeks as they have explored Orange City from the parsonage. Thank you!

We are joining you all in prayer as you search for your next pastor to shepherd your congregation. We invite you all to pray with us as well for a home in Orange City. We know the Lord will provide on both counts. He is faithful and true. Thank you so much for your gracious generosity and in helping welcome our family to your community in Orange City!

Sincerely,

Cody, Rochelle, Josh, Caleb, Acacia and Elijah Statema
Philemon 1:4-7



*thank
you*

I would like to thank the people of this church who sent me cards, letters and their prayers. First with my broken leg, which is healing well, and second for my 94th birthday. You are truly a God loving church!

Love always, Lois De Beer

We were overwhelmed with the many beautiful cards and anniversary wishes for our 60th. We are so thankful to each of you for your kindness and especially to our Heavenly Father for blessing us with so many years together.

Warren & Ruth Dekkers

Thank you for the meals, cards and gifts for Hannah. The support from our church family is greatly appreciated!

Josh, Ema, Homer and Hannah McBrayer

Crossroads Prison Ministries would like to thank you for the answering the call to “remember those in prison” (Hebrews 13:3). Your support enables thousands of men and women to hear the life changing message of the gospel. To read more about the transformation you are making possible, visit cpministries.org

June Council Report

The end of June marked the close of the church year. Several office bearers finished their terms and we are grateful for the work they did. Thanks are also expressed to their families for their support given to their dads and husbands who spent time away from home to do the work entrusted to them by our Lord. Retiring office bearers are: Deacons Ross Bolkema, Loren Dykstra, Ryan Noteboom and Elders Gary Jeltema and Bruce Lefever.

Elder Mark Zylstra is staying on another year to fill a vacant term. Mark has done an outstanding job in guiding this council during our vacancy. We praise God for his leadership. Keep him especially in your prayers as he continues that role.

New council members were welcomed and brought up to speed as they sat in on our June meeting. Pray for wisdom and guidance for our new deacons, Jon Hellinga, Jeremy Mills, and Ross Oolman. Incoming elders are Curt Ahrenholz, Doug De Haan and Brian Kroeze.

Some highlights of the meeting included a discussion on how the new ESA (educational savings account) will work concerning fair share. A meeting will be held in July to explain how it will be administered here in our church. Look for the date.

Committees are being updated as some members are retiring. We thank those for their service and support. Some of you will be contacted by committee chairs to ask for your service. Please prayerfully consider accepting the call to be a part of the ongoing work of this congregation.

Keep the search team in your prayers as they diligently seek the direction of the Lord in calling our next pastor. This involves a lot of listening, studying, discussion and prayer on their part. It is no easy task and involves time. Thank them for their work.

Some fine tuning needs to be done on the security system. A camera has been installed at the carport entrance. On Sundays the doors will be locked shortly after the service begins. If you are late, use the carport entrance where there is a way to alert someone who can identify you and let you in.

Our congregation has made application and has been approved by Paradise Bound to send a group to Guatemala next summer. More details will be provided when they are available. Consider joining this mission to help the poor in another part of the world. Jesus, in Matthew 25:40 says, "Truly I tell you whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

As we look back on the past months, we thank and praise God for providing for us in so many ways. He has been faithful to our church and the greater universal church and we know he will continue to be. We encourage each member, from young to old, to be involved in any way you can. Pray for and support each other. Display kindness, love and respect to each member of God's family even if we don't always agree on everything.

In closing, "Soli Deo Gloria" To God alone be the glory!

In His Service,

Bruce Lefever, Clerk of Council

July Council Report

-Executive team for the new church year are Mark Zylstra – Vice President, Curt Ahrenholz – Clerk, Matt Van Schouwen – Treasurer, and Bert Reinders – General Adjunct.

-Pulpit supply update was given. Our church continues to be blessed with faithful preaching each Sunday and with the work of Pastor Jordan.

-Committee reports were given (worship, outreach/mission emphasis, education, fellowship, building and grounds) and committee vacancies have been filled.

-At each council meeting, a Church Order article is reviewed. Article 41 deals with the work of classis.

-Treasurer's report was given.

-Search committee gave progress report on their continuing process. May we continue to trust in God's timing and plan for our church.

-Deacons reported on the recent informational meeting held to explain our church's commitment to the Fair Share program to our local Christian schools after the Education Savings Accounts (ESA's) were passed in Iowa.

In His Service,

Curt Ahrenholz, Clerk

Outreach Update:

Two Monday nights a month for the months of June and July a group of men from Orange City churches have gotten together to split wood. The wood will be brought to the Rosebud Reservation later this fall. (See article in June/July *Reflections* for more information.)

Anyone is welcome to come and help! The next two nights will be August 14 and 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ron De Jong farm (3536 450th Street), please consider helping – it is a great time of service, outreach and community building.

