

REFLECTIONS

First Christian Reformed Church
Orange City, Iowa

January 2026

THOSE WHO
HOPE IN THE
Lord
→
WILL RENEW
THEIR
STRENGTH
ISAIAH 40:31

The text is centered and surrounded by decorative green olive branches. One branch is at the top left, one at the bottom left, one at the bottom right, and one at the bottom center. A horizontal arrow points from the word 'Lord' to the word 'WILL'.

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.

Hospitality

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

Upcoming Events

January 7 – Pizza, Pop and Puzzles

January 25 – Combined Cadet Sunday Worship at
First CRC



Media

January 1 – Ryan Van Schouwen, Tyce Van Donge, Ryan Raines, Jon Hellinga
January 4 – Shannon Schuller, Drew Noteboom, LeRoy De Jager, Mike Byker
January 11 – Carson Noteboom, Grant De Groot, Greg De Groot, Matt Van Schepen
January 18 – Phil Kuiken, Nicholas Noteboom, Gary Jeltema, Jon Hellinga
January 25 – Ryan Van Schouwen, Lindsey De Groot, Ryan Raines, Ryan Noteboom
February 1 – Shannon Schuller, Tyce Van Donge, Greg De Groot, Matt Van Schepen

Sunday Evening Greeters

January 4 – SE-Pete & Laura Zomermaand, FHW-Nate & Christina Zuiderveen
January 11 – SE-Ken & Dawn Beukelman, FHW-Ross & Amy Bolkema
January 18 – SE-Gordon & Pat Bruxvoort, FHW-Grant & Heidi De Groot
January 25 – Cadets
February 1 – SE-Alan & Jody De Jong, FHW-Warren & Ruth Dekkers

Sunday Morning Refreshments

January 4 – Ken and Patty Timmermans, Carter & Lucy Van Hulzen
January 11 – Harlan & Linda Ver Steeg, Shari & Becky Visser
January 18 – Tunis & Kathy Vollink, Nate & Christina Zuiderveen
January 25 – Pete & Laura Zomermaand, Mark & Gina Zylstra
February 1 – Curt & Pat Ahrenholz, Ross & Amy Bolkema
February 8 – Gordon & Pat Bruxvoort, Grant & Heidi De Groot
February 15 – Greg & Angela De Groot, Rod & Sondra De Groot
February 22 – Phil & Shawndra Kuiken, Bruce & Connie Lefever

Ushers

January: SW-Wyatt Nykamp

SE-Shane Schuller

Center-Tyler Kroeze, Mark Zylstra

February: SW-Gavin Mills

SE-Arlin Klein

Center-Matt Van Schepen, Bert Reinders

Bulletin Delivery

January 4 – Gordon & Pat Bruxvoort
January 11 – Arlin & Karen Klein
January 18 – Rod & Sondra De Groot
January 25 – Don & Ruth Post
February 1 – Gary & Anita Jeltema

Valet Parking

January – Ken Timmermans
February – Ryan Mulder

NURSERY WORKERS

JANUARY 1 AM-KRISTI REINDERS, JENN MILLS, AUDREY ZUIDERVEEN
JANUARY 4 AM-BETHANY SCHULLER, MARIA NOTEBOOM, JANELLE ZUIDERVEEN
PM-SARAH PLUIM, JOEL HAMMING
JANUARY 11 AM-CHRISTINE TERPSTRA, KRISTA OOLMAN, MEGAN DE GROOT
PM-LINDSEY VAN SCHEPEN, KARLI NOTEBOOM
JANUARY 18 AM-DENISE SCHULLER, AUDREY SCHULLER, MAGDALENA HELMING
PM-CHRISTINA ZUIDERVEEN, DAVID BOLKEMA
JANUARY 25 AM-HEIDI DE GROOT, MELISSA DYKSTRA, TRISTAN DE GROOT
PM-JENNIFER MULDER, MADISON SCHULLER
FEBRUARY 1 AM-NANCY KROEZE, JANNA VAN DONGE, JOSIE NYKAMP
PM-AMY BOLKEMA, AUTUMN CLARK
FEBRUARY 8 AM-KAREN VAN SCHOUWEN, CONNIE LEFEVER, JOSIAH HELMING
PM-ALLISON TIMMERMANS, LAUREN NOTEBOOM
FEBRUARY 15 AM-ANGELA DE GROOT, JODY DE JONG, KALEB DE GROOT
PM-JENNIFER NOTEBOOM, CALVIN REINDERS
FEBRUARY 22 AM-LEIANNA HELLINGA, BECKY VISSER, DEACON OOLMAN
PM-PATTY TIMMERMANS, CLAIRE HELLINGA

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP

January 4 – *The Boy Jesus in the Temple*
Leader: Shari Visser Helper: Becky Visser
January 11 – *Jesus is Baptized*
Leader: Lindsey Van Schepen Helper: Stephanie Hellinga
January 18 – *Jesus in the Wilderness*
Leader: Christina Zuiderveen Helper: Bethany Schuller
January 25 – *The Mustard Seed*
Leader: Shari Visser Helper: Angela De Groot
February 1 – *The Great Pearl*
Leader: Jenn Mills Helper: Autumn Kroeze

THANK YOU

Thank you for sharing in our joy as we prepare to welcome our little one! We appreciate everyone who helped make our baby shower so memorable, those who helped host, those who attended, and those who gave words of encouragement or gifts. We're beyond grateful for the love and support of our congregation. We know this child will be blessed.
--Brice and Lanae Kroeze

Thank you to our 3-year-old through 4th grade Sunday School students and their teachers for a wonderful Christmas program!
Your smiles, songs, and hard work helped share the joy of Jesus' birth and truly blessed our church family. We are so grateful for the time, dedication, and love our teachers pour into these children, and for the enthusiasm and heart our students brought to the program. What a beautiful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas!

--First CRC

I would like to thank my church family for thinking of me this Christmas season, for the prayers, cards & phone calls. Thanks too, to the youth group for the bag of goodies, to the council for the poinsettias and the carolers that came to sing. Thanks also to Pastor Stephen and Pastor Jordan for all they do. God is so good! May you all be blessed with a Merry Christmas!

--Beth Vander Veen

Thank you so much for the pumpkin pie and also for the beautiful poinsettia. They are appreciated so much!

--Bob & Jane Dorhout

Thank you for the goodie plate, the Christmas flower, and the wonderful group of singers who came to my door. May God bless you all for the wonderful works that you do.

--Janet Wade

Thank you so much for the pumpkin pie, the beautiful poinsettia from the council and the bag of goodies from the youth group. They were all enjoyed very much.

--Delores Smit

December Council Report

- Rev. Terpstra reviewed the sections of the Church Order concerning the duties of the Council in their work in the church.
- The council approved two overtures to Classis Heartland to overture 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.
- The council discussed security measures for the church building and approved having the doors locked for security reasons except for church services and events. This will be effective January 1, 2026. Our church already has a keyless entry system installed at four of the outside doors leading into the fellowship hall. Members who would like a key fob can request one from the church office.
- Thank you to Sarah Pluim and the Sunday school teachers who led the Sunday school Christmas program and to those who participated in leading the advent reading. Also thanks to our musicians who participate in worship.
- Committee reports were given. The Ad Hoc Website Committee is planning a refresh of our church's current website along with branding of written materials and social media platforms.
- The financial reports for November 2025 were reviewed. As we were recently reminded, give generously as the Lord has blessed you.
- Our Thanksgiving Day food drive went well. Thank you to all those who contributed to the local food pantry.
- With abundant snowfalls come snow piles in the parking lot. Thanks to Trey Kroeze and Bert Reinders for removing the piles!
- As another year comes to a close and a new begins, give thanks for God's faithfulness to us, His church!

In His Service,
Curt Ahrenholz, Clerk

Upcoming Offerings

January 4

AM-Katelyn's Fund

January Mission of the Month

PM-Building Fund

January 11

AM-Bible League, Benevolent Fund

PM-Orange City Christian School

January 18

AM-Jan & Darlene Van Ee

PM-Orange City Sack Pack

January 25

AM-Cadets International

PM-Orange City Cadets

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



In Memory

Mrs. Joan Den Hartog, age 98, of Orange City, passed away on Monday, December 29, 2025, at the Crown Pointe Estates Care Center in Sioux Center.

A visitation with the family present was held on Friday, January 2, at the First Christian Reformed Church in Orange City. The funeral service was on Friday, January 2, at the church with the Rev. Jordan Helming and the Rev. Wayne Sneller officiating.

Joan Arlene was born on January 31, 1927, in Sanborn, the fourth child out of fourteen children, born to William and Carrie (Ver Steeg) Boone. She was raised in Sioux Center, where she graduated from the Sioux Center High School. She loved to read, sing, and write poems and had a heart for caring for people, which led her to work as a nurse's aide at the Sibley hospital and the Hull hospital after graduation. Since she had no transportation back and forth, she would board at the hospital. She would lovingly talk about being able to care for her mother there, when she had her last child.

On August 20, 1948, she was united in marriage to Paul Eugene Den Hartog. They made their home in Orange City, where they raised their three sons, Duane, Jerry, and Bruce. Along with caring for all the needs of the family, she helped her mother-in-law, Lena Den Hartog, cater weddings. Later, she helped with their family lawn and garden business in the summer and sold Christmas trees in the winter. After Paul's passing on April 26, 2017, she moved to Crown Pointe Estates in Sioux Center.

Joan lovingly cared for her family and worked hard to make life enjoyable for them. Year after year she hosted a Christmas party for the Friendship Bible group that her boys were part of. She baked dozens of decorated Christmas cookies and was known for her hand dipped chocolate covered cherries. They loved traveling as a family, and she always looked forward to their fishing trips and spending a weekend at a hotel when they would go to the Minnesota Twins baseball games. For many years she also raised gladiolas and blessed many people with the bouquets she lovingly put together.

For sixty years Joan was an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Orange City. She was extremely proud of this commitment. Her church family, the people of the First Christian Reformed Church of Orange City, where Joan was a member, were very dear to her heart.

Left to cherish her memory are her sisters, Lillian Hogan, of Artesia, California; Audrey Gesink, of Orange City; Karen (Irwin) De Boer, of Sioux Center; Judy (Ivan) Friese, of New Ulm, Minnesota; and Ruth (Gib) Meyer, of Sioux Center; a brother, Dr. Raymond (Hazel) Boone, of Jacksonville, Texas; a sister-in-law, Donna Boone, of Sioux Center; and many nephews and nieces.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her three sons, Duane Den Hartog, Jerry Den Hartog, and Bruce Den Hartog; her siblings, William D. Boone, Annabel (Jim) Cochran, June (Ted) Van Den Berg, Carol (Raymond) Sneller, Vern (Ruth) Boone, Marvin Boone, and Kenneth Boone; two brothers-in-law, Norman Hogan and Elmer Gesink; along with Paul's parents, Cornelius and Magdeline Den Hartog; and his sisters, Cynthia Brantsen and Joyce Kooi.