

# REFLECTIONS

First Christian Reformed Church  
Orange City, Iowa

May 2023



with God  
all things  
are  
possible

Matthew 19:26

## 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, Kathleen Van Wyk

### **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.

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## *Hospitality*

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

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## *Upcoming Events*

May 18-20 – Jim De Boer's tractor collection will be displayed in the fellowship hall.

*His  
Mercy  
endures  
forever*  
PSALM 136:1

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## Sunday Evening Greeters

May 7

SE-Doug & Kathy De Haan, FHW-Alan & Jody De Jong

May 14

SE-Irwin & Judy De Jong, FHW-Bob & Carla De Jong

May 21

SE-Warren & Ruth Dekkers, FHW-Henry & Joyce Dykstra

May 28

SE-Dennis & Margene Eekhoff, FHW-Wade & Aletha Haarsma

June 4

SE-Justin & Stephanie Hellinga, FHW-Pastor Jordan & Luralyn Helming

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## Media

May 7 – Jon Hellinga, Austin Van Donge, Phil Kuiken

May 14 – Ryan Raines, Ryan Noteboom, Grant De Groot, Ryan Van Schouwen

May 21 – LeRoy De Jager, Mike Byker, Riley Mulder, Shannon Schuller

May 28 – Greg De Groot, Matt Van Schepen, Nicholas Noteboom, Carson Notebom

June 4 – Gary Jeltema, Jon Hellinga, Austin Van Donge, Linda Ver Steeg

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## Coffee Servers

May 7 – Doug & Audrey Schuller  
Shannon & Bethany Schuller

May 14 – *Families of 2023 Graduates*

May 21 – Darrell & Cindy Schuller  
Carol Noteboom & Mar Vande Kamp

May 28 – John & Judy Van Kalsbeek  
Matt & Lindsey Van Schepen

June 4 – Matt & Karen Van Schouwen  
Harlan & Linda Ver Steeg

June 11 – Shari & Becky Visser  
Dan Young & Teresa Ter Haar

June 18 – Pete & Laura Zomermaand  
Nate & Christina Zuiderveen

June 25 – Mark & Gina Zylstra  
Curt & Pat Ahrenholz

## High School Servers

May 7 – Carissa Reinders & Ryan Van Schouwen

### Ushers:

May: SW-Justin Hellinga, SE-Harold Hoekstra  
Center-Harlan Ver Steeg, Kevin Van Donge

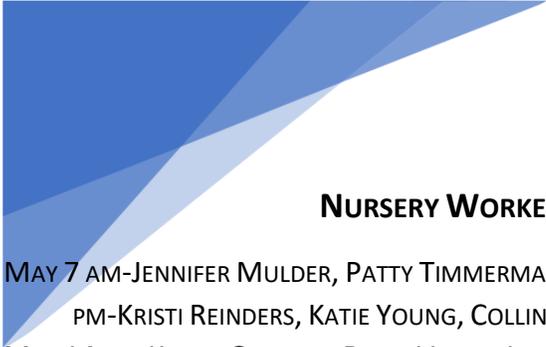
June: SW-Caleb Plum, SE-Wade Haarsma  
Center-Orv Bruxvoort, Dennis Eekhoff

## Bulletin Delivery

May 7 – Gordon & Pat Bruxvoort  
May 14 – Arlin & Karen Klein  
May 21 – Arlin & Karen Klein  
May 28 – Rod & Sondra De Groot  
June 4 – Don & Ruth Post

## Valet Parking

May – Jon Hellinga  
June – Trevor Mulder



## NURSERY WORKERS

MAY 7 AM-JENNIFER MULDER, PATTY TIMMERMANS, JOSIAH HELMING  
PM-KRISTI REINDERS, KATIE YOUNG, COLLIN DYKSTRA  
MAY 14 AM-KRISTA OOLMAN, BECKY VISSER, JULIA DYKSTRA  
PM-SHARI VISSER, LOGAN DYKSTRA, LILIA VAN SCHEPEN  
MAY 21 AM-JODY DE JONG, KAREN VAN SCHOUWEN, RUBY ZYLSTRA  
PM-DENISE SCHULLER, HALEY SCHULLER, BRENNIA BOLKEMA  
MAY 28 AM-JANNA VAN DONGE, BETHANY SCHULLER, JOSIE NYKAMP  
PM-JANICE HAMMING, KYRA VAN SCHOUWEN, DREW NOTEBOOM  
JUNE 4 AM-JENNIFER NOTEBOOM, LINDSEY VAN SCHEPEN, DAVID BOLKEMA  
PM-ANITA JELTEMA, REAGAN NOTEBOOM, JOEL HAMMING  
JUNE 11 AM-SHAWNDRA KUIKEN, CONNIE LEFEVER, MOLLY ZYLSTRA  
PM-ANGELA DE GROOT, CARISSA REINDERS, HENRY ZYLSTRA  
JUNE 18 AM-MELISSA DYKSTRA, MARCIA SCHOLTEN, LAUREN NOTEBOOM  
PM-CHRISTINA ZUIDERVEEN, AVA NYKAMP, AUTUMN CLARK  
JUNE 25 AM-LEIANNA HELLINGA, AMY BOLKEMA, SABRINA TIMMERMANS  
PM-JILL JACOBSMA, AYVA VAN SCHOUWEN, OLIVIA YOUNG

## Reminder from the Worship Team:

It takes a lot of people to make a church run and for a worship service to go smoothly. Please check the schedules and do your part to greet, serve coffee, serve in the nursery, usher etc. If you are unable to be here, please find someone to take your place. Each of you are needed and appreciated!

If you are interested in riding the 1<sup>st</sup> CRC/1<sup>st</sup> Reformed Church float during Tulip Festival, please sign up in the fellowship hall. Dutch Costumes are required.

## THANK YOU!!

Thank you for the cards, visits and calls I received for my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I enjoyed hearing from and seeing so many of you. I am thankful for the years God has given me and I am thankful for the family, church family and friends who helped celebrate.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

--Otto Huizenga

As the education year comes to a close, if you served as a Sunday School or Catechism teacher, if you led music, if you were a Youth Group Leader, a GEMS or Cadet Counselor or served in a leadership role in GEMS or Cadets, or if you are on the Education Committee – THANK YOU! Thank you for the time you invested in our youth. Thank you for caring, for preparing lessons, for loving our kids. You are appreciated!

## Council Report

Having just celebrated the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we must all be more aware of our need for Him in our lives because of our failings. He came for us – let us show Him our gratitude. Attendance in church is a vital part of a Christian's life. We can worship individually to be sure, but the opportunity to worship and praise together with fellow believers is a wondrous way to acknowledge our God.

A vacant church can cause weariness among its members over a period of time. We, as a council, want to encourage you to have faith that God will provide what we need to maintain our hearts for Him. Grateful thanks is given for those who have filled our pulpit over the last few months. Not everyone preaches in the same manner but they all bring the Word and that is what we come to hear.

It is our duty as council members to do more than just raise the funds and make sure we have a minister each Sunday. We are responsible for the spiritual and physical needs of our people. We take this calling seriously but cannot do it alone. We need the support of every member. You are encouraged to find new ways to be a part of this wonderful community both with your physical help and through prayer. Thanks be to God for the ways He works among us.

Special thanks is due to our search committee. They have been faithful in their work. We do know God has a plan and we can have joy and peace knowing everything is in His hands.

In His Service,  
Bruce Lefever, Clerk of Council

## Offerings

### May Offering Schedule

May 7 AM

*Geneva & Areopagus  
Campus Ministries*

May 7 PM

*Amistad Cristiana*

May 14 AM

*Crossroads Prison Ministries*

May 14 PM

*OCCS General Fund*

May 21 AM

*Hope Haven*

May 21 PM

*Areopagus Campus Ministry*

May 28 AM

*Center for Financial Education*

May 28 PM

*Bethesda Christian Counseling*

June 4 AM

*Pioneer Home*

June 4 PM

*World Renew*

**\*The second offering every  
Sunday morning is for Christian  
Education.**

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*



The youth group's official year has sadly come to a close. We said good-bye to Doug and Audrey Schuller who generously gave of their time in leading us for five years. Doug provided us with thought-provoking, issue based lessons, that consistently urged us to stand up for our faith. Some of the topics we covered were: Hollywood, In Him, Am I Saved? and spiritual warfare. Audrey kept our group functioning with her organizational skills. There were evening your kids might have

gotten home a bit late. Just so you know, there were always meaningful conversations and discussions occurring in our youth room.

We also enjoyed several outside speakers. Several weeks ago, John Moeller, head of the Criminal Justice Department at Dordt, spoke about his career as a special agent in the FBI, his three years as an undercover cop, and how all of it led him to Christ. (That was one of the late nights, parents.) During Holy Week we attended a live performance of "The Passion and the Cross" at the Orpheum in Sioux Falls. It was a stark reminder of Christ's suffering and death, followed by the joy of the resurrection. A heartfelt thank you to a very special couple in this church who so generously provided tickets for all of us.

We gave our three graduating seniors, Jake Van Donge, Ava Nykamp and Molly Zylstra a send-off party at the Zuiderveen's indoor pool. They graciously invited us to use their facility for swimming and eating. Thank you, Nate and Christina!

On April 26, we invited the post-high members of our church to join us for a meal and our last meeting of the season. 10-15 guests joined us for the meal and a challenging lesson on running the race set before us with purpose.

You joined us at our Mystery Meal, which has received rave reviews. There were many creative, innovative ways to eat a meal! A couple of the recipes used that evening are listed here:

**Chicken Breasts:**

8-10 breasts – cover with 2 cans cream of chicken soup and 8 ounces of sour cream, combined. Top with a crushed roll or two of Ritz crackers mixed with melted butter.

**Salad Dressing:**

1 cup mayo, 3 t. cider vinegar, 4 drops Worcestershire Sauce,  $\frac{3}{4}$  c. sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  t. garlic powder

Another fun evening was games with you 55+ folks. It was great to mix and mingle with each other.

We are looking forward to traveling to Kentucky in July for convention. We request prayers for safety and a week of spiritual growth for both leaders and attendees alike. We also ask for prayers as we seek a new couple to lead us. If you are asked, we pray you consider joining us, because we are fun!

Dear Church Family,

With Haftamu and Zewdu's permission, I share this good news. We are SOO GRATEFUL TO THE LORD for answering our prayers for the first step to be able to get their 4-year-old daughter Delina here from Ethiopia. They received news this week that Delina's visa appointment has been scheduled for May 9. This means that someone (probably Haftamu's sister) will accompany her on a flight to the capital of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, for the appointment. She is always required to have a medical examination and receive various vaccinations. This process could take a few weeks during which time they can stay at Zewdu's sister who lives in Addis Ababa. We are not sure of the timing of everything after that. We ask for your continued prayers for no complications in this process, no residual effects from the war, and especially for Delina's health, emotionally and physically, as she goes through this process of leaving aunts and uncles and grandpas and grandmas and the culture that she knows and yet, looking forward to being with her family.

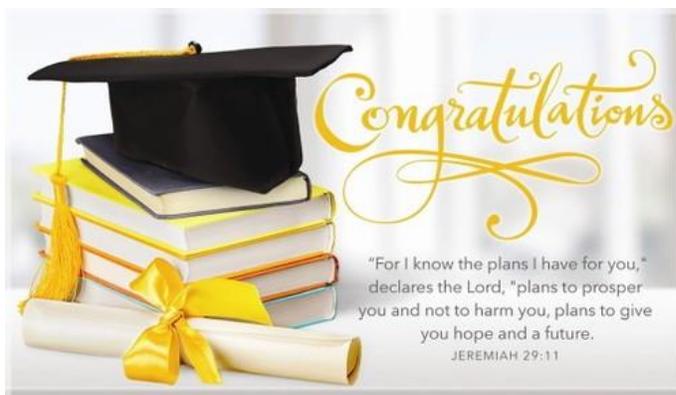
Hafatamu and Zewdu and family plan to be attending our church and so we ask you to join us in embracing them on their walk with the Lord, learning more about Christian parenting, our community, and our Christian School community, while adapting to our culture.

Again, thank you for your continued prayers for this beautiful family. They are a delight to visit with 😊.

Love in Christ,

Irwin and Judy De Jong

PS: Haftamu's work hours are now day hours so they can be together as family in the evenings.



## 2023 Graduates

May God surround you with His grace. May He bless you with hope as you move into the future with eager and open hearts. May He help you to put the knowledge, skills, and insight gained through your education for the good of His kingdom. Blessings to each of you!!

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## 2023 Graduates

**Allison Timmermans** – Allison is graduating from Dordt University with an early childhood education degree. Alli will be teaching Kindergarten at Orange City Christian School in the fall.

**Eli Raines** – I am graduating from Dordt with a general agriculture degree. I have really loved my time at Dordt, but I am also looking forward to where God leads me next. I have several opportunities and am praying for God's leading.

**Corrina Timmermans** – Corrina is graduating from Dordt University with a degree in health and human performance. She will be marrying Austin Alexander in July and they will be living in Sheldon. Corrina will continue her education at WITT for physical therapy assistant.

**Ava Nykamp** – I am a senior at Unity Christian High School and I will be graduating at the end of May. My summer plans include working as a CAN at the Orange City hospital and nursing home, as well as working at the Dordt bookstore. I also plan to go on a few trips and spend time with family and friends. My plans for the fall are to attend Dordt University and major in nursing.

**Jake Van Donge** – I will be graduating from Unity Christian High School. I plan to work this summer and go on a few vacations. For the fall, I'm planning on attending Dordt University to major in criminal justice and play football.

**Molly Zylstra** – I will be graduating from Unity Christian High School on May 26. My plans for the summer include softball, working, going on vacation, and hanging out with friends and family. I will be attending Dordt University in the fall and majoring in Exercise Science (Pre-Chiropractic). I will also be participating in Track and Field at Dordt.

**Logan Dykstra** – I am graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Orange City Christian. This summer I plan to help my dad on the farm, drive four-wheeler, and spend time at the lake. This fall I plan on attending Unity Christian High School.

**Drew Noteboom** – I will be graduating from Orange City Christian. I will be going to Unity in the fall. This summer I plan to go to the cabin, work and have fun.

**Lauren Noteboom** – I will be graduating from OCCS. In the fall I plan to attend Unity where I plan to participate in cheer and orchestra. This summer I'm looking forward to working and going to the lake.

**Haley Schuller** – I am graduating from OCCS this May. This summer my family and I are going on vacation to the Gulf Shores. I am also going to Dordt Discovery Days. I stay busy with cleaning jobs, occasional babysitting, and making fun memories with my friends and family. Activities I enjoy are volleyball, basketball, being outside and also playing violin, piano and the ukulele. I look forward to attending Unity Christian!

**Tyce Van Donge** – I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grader graduating from Orange City Christian School. This summer I plan to work and clean at Unity, and mow a few lawns for people. I will be attending Unity Christian next fall.

**Ayva Van Schouwen** – Next year I plan to attend Unity Christian High School. This summer I will be playing softball and golf. I will also be working at Fareway, practicing organ, and riding my moped around town with friends. I am looking forward to youth group at church and everything Unity has to offer.

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