

Reformed *Inform*er



DECEMBER 2020 FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, SULLY, IOWA

"Letting Go of What Was!"

Pastor Wayne Sneller
Email: wsneller@netins.net

Dear Friends,

Recently, I sat with my wife at our kitchen table and began opening the mail for the day. Around Christmas time, it is kind of a special ritual we have when it comes time for opening the Christmas greetings that are from friends and family that we often only hear from once a year.

We toss the bills and junk mail to one side and put those special cards and letters to another side. We take a cup of coffee and linger through the pictures and notes that are inside of those envelopes.

Today, a phrase from one of those friends struck me as I read it. She wrote of the year of 2020 and COVID-19 knowing all of us have experienced its ups and downs in some way. To describe her encounter with 2020 she wrote, she had to practice "letting go of the way it was!" This was in reference to family trips and vacations that never happened! There was a difference in how she lived.

I thought about that phrase as I opened another Christmas card proclaiming the birth of Christ. Why did we need a Savior?

It was all because of sin. We sometimes think sin may be secret but its never private. It will either come out now, here on earth or at Judgment Day, but it's going to be known.

Another reason sin is never private is because everything you do, good or bad, affects other people— even if they don't know what's going on!

It doesn't even have to be some big sin you commit. It could be the sin of omission. If you have a regular quiet time with God and then go and spend a few days without spending time in God's presence, there's probably going to be a difference in how you react to people and circumstances. That's because when you're not plugged in, you don't have the spiritual power to fight sin.

And so we have the proclamation that the world has been given a Savior who is Christ Jesus our Lord!

That's the difference in being a sinner and a sinner saved by Grace! Christ makes all the difference—we let go of the way it was—the way we were—and we live for God!

Romans 14:7 says, *"None of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone."*

The good news about Christmas is we don't have to go it alone in this world!
Confess your sins before Jesus and move past the past that holds you back!
Experience the greatest gift at Christmas!
Have a Blessed Christmas season!

Pastor Wayne





Youth & Ed Director—

Jeff Knouse

**Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday
& Sunday's**

Email: jkcrcsully@gmail.com

phone: 641-594-2935 ext. 3

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/sullyfrcyouth/



IMPACT YOUTH GROUP—6th—8th grade. We will meet **EVERY** Sunday evening at 5:00 pm in the Well (downstairs in the basement)

Who: ALL 6th—8th graders
Impact Youth will be meeting EVERY SUNDAY at 5 pm in the WELL throughout the year!

December Dates:

December 6

December 13

December 20

December 27—No meeting

Leaders: Jeff & Alison Knouse, & Caden & Brenna Duns-
bergen & Cody & Kelly Kesling

Well everyone, we have made it to the end of the seemingly longest year ever. While this year has turned our world upside down, I think an important thing to do is to reflect on how God blessed each one of us this year. God is still good even in the midst of a pandemic! And with 3 weeks of youth group remaining this semester, we want to remember God's goodness in sending His Son to save us.

December will feature our annual Soup Dinner fundraiser which will be a drive-through style. We hope you will join us on Saturday December 5th for some great food and to support our youth groups here at FRC!

I hope you all have a great Christmas, and pray that you remember and celebrate our savior, Jesus. Emmanuel.

FAITHWALKERS—9th-12th grade

We will meet **EVERY** Sunday evening at 6:30 pm in the Well (downstairs in the basement)



FAITHWALKERS

All 9th - 12th Grade invited
Upcoming Events:

December 6

December 13

December 20

December 27—No meeting

Leaders: Jeff & Alison Knouse, Shawn & ChyAnne Huyser and Cody & Kelly Kesling

Prayer Breakfast

Free Jesus, and donuts.

Every Friday morning at 7:30 am all 9th—12th grade are invited to come for donuts, chocolate milk, orange juice and prayer.

Invite your friends! It's a great way to end the school week!



Operation Christmas Child 2020

This year we delivered 61 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse between our Faithseekers (1st—5th Sunday School) and our Impact & Faithwalker Youth Groups! Way to go!!



December 5, 11—1 pm

Our **Faithwalker Soup Dinner** will be **TO GO ONLY!**

Order & Pick up will be by the Gathering Place Kitchen door



Children's Ministry

Director—

Julie Van Manen

Office Hours: Wednesdays

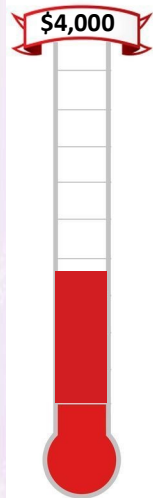
Email: julievmmfrsully@gmail.com

Office phone: 641-594-2935 ext 5

Cell phone: 641-521-7951

So far we have raised: \$788

The entire **Sunday School department** has a goal to raise \$4,000 for a special Christmas offering for Chad & Dara Vanden Bosch, RCA Missionaries in Mozambique, Africa. **The offering for this project began Sunday, November 1 and will conclude Sunday, December 13.** One of the immediate challenges that we are facing at the farm is in the area of operating expenses. The major infrastructure projects we are working on are transforming the farm, but are also needing lots of man hours to



complete. Find out more at: [https://](https://www.faithward.org/hardships-cant-stop-gods-work-on-this-farm-in-mozambique/)

www.faithward.org/hardships-cant-stop-gods-work-on-this-farm-in-mozambique/

Sunday School Christmas Program



2020 has been a crazy year! We are going to cancel our Christmas Program this year! We will continue to have Sunday school December 6, 13 & 20. We will then take a two week break and we will **resume classes on January 10, 2021.**

Peace Scripture Writing	
Week 1	Week 3
Day 1: Philippians 4: 4-7	Day 15: Psalm 85: 7-9
Day 2: Philippians 4: 8-9	Day 16: Psalm 85: 10-13
Day 3: Psalm 4: 1-3	Day 17: Hebrews 12: 14
Day 4: Psalm 4: 4-5	Day 18: Romans 12: 16-18
Day 5: Psalm 4: 6-8	Day 19: Romans 12: 19-21
Day 6: Psalm 34: 11-14	Day 20: Romans 14: 17-19
Day 7: Psalm 34: 15-18	Day 21: Romans 15: 13
Week 2	Week 4
Day 8: Ephesians 2: 14	Day 22: Luke 2: 1-4
Day 9: Ephesians 6: 22-24	Day 23: Luke 2: 5-6
Day 10: John 14: 27	Day 24: Luke 2: 7-8
Day 11: John 16: 31-33	Day 25: Luke 2: 9-14
Day 12: Isaiah 9: 6	Day 26: Colossians 3:15
Day 13: Isaiah 26: 3-4	Day 27: Matthew 11: 28-30
Day 14: Isaiah 54: 10	Day 28: Galatians 5: 22-26
Week 5	
Day 29: 1 Peter 3: 9-11	
Day 30: 2 Peter 3: 14-16	
Day 31: 2 Peter 3: 17-18	

Christmas 2020 - We Rejoice in the Birth of Christ!

As we enter the Advent Season - we enter an exciting time for children. In our many preparations for Christmas let us remember to share the real Christmas story with our children as we give them the gift of time.

One of the ways you can do this is by sharing a daily advent devotion. Each family with a 3 year old - 5th grader received Advent materials to assist you in your preparation for Christmas. May you enjoy this Christmas time and may you create memories that last a lifetime as you focus on the birth of the Christ child this month.

Christmas and Advent are going to be a little different this year.

1.) **Admit** to yourself Christmas is likely going to be different this year.

2.) **Acknowledge** that different doesn't have to mean bad.

3.) **Shift** your focus from 'What you can't do' and instead focus on 'What you **CAN** do!'

Keep Christ in Christmas Family Devotions!

December is such a busy month. It's easy to let incoming Christmas cards pile up unopened! As cards arrive, place them in the center of your dinner table. Each time your family gathers for a meal, read the cards aloud (each person taking a turn), and finish by praying for these particular friends and family. Continue to **sing Christmas songs** as a family.

Lifetree Kids Christmas videos Oh What a Glorious Night

Take a drive to **enjoy Christmas lights** - after all, Jesus is the Light of the world!

Even though some of our Christmas traditions may be a little different this year; let us not forget that the one thing that remains the same is the reason for Christmas - the birth of Jesus!

Leading up to Christmas, my prayer is that we will all recognize the nearness of the Savior. I pray that the joy we feel at Christmas will remain, and grow, and spread beyond us - beyond a season or a moment in time.

Merry Christmas! Julie



Dennis & Donna Liekweg and family

Birthdays: Dennis— 8/13/1970
 Donna— 6/14/1973
 Dylan— 4/8/2005
 Deven— 9/3/2006

Anniversary: August 20, 1994

The first time the Liekweg family attended First Reformed, they enjoyed a “warm welcome” and the feeling of community. They love the youth programs Dylan and Deven are involved in and in Jeff Knouse’s words the groups are “Awesome!!” Dennis fondly recalls the Prayer for Crops and Industry service, when he talked about his job as a Transport Driver with AE Dairy with Pastor Wayne as a high-

light as well.

Cresco Iowa is where Dennis Liekweg calls home and he has a brother Darin and sister Amber Yanes. His parents are Dennis (Sandy) Liekweg and Carol Liekweg. Donna is also from the same area and her parents, Jim and Mary Ann Kuhn, raised Donna and her brothers, Duane and Al, and sisters Diane Krentz and Denise Fitzpatrick. Donna and Darin (Dennis’ brother) were good friends when Dennis started looking a little bit closer at this cute gal who kept hanging around! Donna got her degree at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids and loves her job as a Vet Tech in Pella.

The young couple was married at the Assumption Catholic Church in Cresco, Iowa and as they walked out of the church, a kitten came up to Donna. (wonder why she is a Vet Tech in Pella?? Animals love her!) They now live in Sully and have two sons, Dylan and Deven.

At this stage of life, the Liekweg’s enjoy following the boys activities they are involved in and what their interests are. As a family, they can have fun watching T.V. together and discuss those shows afterward.

Thank you Liekweg family for letting us “Get To Know You Better!”



MISSIONARIES FRC

HELPS SUPPORT

Tom Johnson- RCA Missionary to Many Hands for Haiti, Pella, IA

Bernardeth Kelly & Adrian Bobb—Nicaragua—RCA Missionaries

Chad & Dara Vanden Bosch—Mozambique, Africa—RCA Missionaries

Pavlos & Meggan Vasileiadis—Lesbos, Greece—Commission to Every Nation

Center of Hope—Brett Rockvam, RCA—Sioux Falls, SD

Jeremy & Susan Beebout—Niamey, Niger—RCA Missionaries

Kathryn De Penning—Greece—G.E.M. (Greater Europe Mission)

Brian & Elizabeth Bruxvoort—Soldotna, Alaska—RCA Missionaries

Phil & Olivia Iekel—Nicaragua—RCA Missionaries

Felipe & Janelle deWaard-Silva—Romania

Daniel & Sarah Zagami—Clarkston, GA—Commission to Every Nation

Email: tjohnson@rca.org

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Email: meg@pavmeg.com

Email: mission@rca.org

Email: jesubeeb@juno.com

email: www.gemission.org/missionaries/depenning

Email: www.rca.org/bruxvoort

Email: www.rca.org/iekel

Email: www.rca.org/silva

Email: cten.org/missionary/danielzagami



DECEMBER

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 1

Oaklynn Vos

December 2

Austin Kramer ~ Scott Van Kooten
Emily Larson

December 3

Laura Fikse ~ Randy Huyser

December 4

Shawna Maasdam ~ Julie Van Manen
Lindsay Nees

December 5

Jodi Hansen ~ Max Van Rees

December 6

Dylann Huyser ~ Chuck Johnson
Brady Van Wyk ~ Meldon Vos
Kreighton Vos ~ Kennedy Van Manen

December 7

Rhonna Fiihr ~ Nathan Young

December 8

Corky Boat ~ Lucas Rozendaal
Shelby Shinkle

December 9

Dick Schnell (80) ~ Brittney Hansen

December 12

Jeff Van Wyk ~ Angela Corell
Jason Huyser

December 13

Rita Vos

December 14

Coltin Collins ~ Kaylee Van Maanen

December 16

Marissa Vos

December 17

Glenn Fiihr ~ Brooke Jansen
Allen Scholten ~ Bentlee Vos

December 18

Brody Dunsbergen ~ Rose De Penning

December 19

Deloris McKeag (83)

December 20

Aiden Chapman ~ Shirley Dunsbergen
Dana Rozendaal ~ Dorothy Van Maanen (81)
Derrick Zimmerman

December 24

John Kramer

December 25

Craig Maasdam ~ Marlene Rozendaal

December 26

Joel Harthoorn ~ Hollie Nunnikhoven

December 29

Carol Lukehart ~ Susan Maasdam
Zoey Nunnikhoven ~ Tessa Van Maanen
Mandeesa Vos

December 30

Alivia Nikkel ~ Nora Vos

December 31

Tyler Harsselaar

December 3

Tim & Nicole Dunsbergen (27)
Clarence & Lynn Wyma (55)

December 9

Jeff & Deb Van Wyk (32)

December 14

Bryan & Abby Freese (1)

December 16

Jeff & Alison Knouse (3)

December 17

Chris & Kelly De Jong (4)

December 21

Drew & Shelby Shinkle (6)

December 22

Keith & Glenda Renaud (49)

December 27

Meldon & Eloise Vos (29)

December 30

Dennis & Linda Van Maanen (55)
Lucas & Leah Rozendaal (3)

December 31

Garrett & Jade DeHoedt (2)

Looking Ahead...



Sunday, December 13, 9:30 am - Installation/ Ordination of Elders & Deacons. **11:00 am** orientation for newly elected Elders and Deacons
Tuesday, January 5, 9:00 am - Sewing Days begin in the Gathering Place. Other dates are: January 19, February 2 & 16 and March 2.



If you have not yet picked up your reverse offering, please stop by the church office, call us at 594-2935 ext. 1 or email at frcsully@netins.net and we can get that to you!

MEAL TRAIN SIGN UP: Meal ministry is an important outreach for those who have recently had a baby, been hospitalized, have lost a loved one, etc. We are working at putting together a team to help out in this area of ministry. **Jamie Dunsbergen & Shelby Shinkle are heading this up and need your help!** If you could help out with preparing a meal when called upon, please let Jamie or Shelby know or contact the church office at frcsully@gmail.com



SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE:

The tree with the Angel tree tags will be located in the Gathering Place. The tags will have a child's age & gender. The ages are 1 – 14. Gifts are **NOT** to be wrapped, put in a plastic bag and attach the tag to the bag. **Due date is Sunday, December 13** and will be delivered to Newton on this date. Last year we delivered over 40 gifts! Any **questions please contact Karna Ver Ploeg at 641-891-9560.**



Sign up for text alerts.

In case of inclement winter weather the decision to cancel services will be made by **7:30 a.m. for the morning service and 3 p.m. for the evening service.** Church meetings will be cancelled if the Lynnville-Sully School cancels classes or is dismissed early for bad weather. Cancellations will be announced on KGRN, KCCI, WHO TV and www.sullyfrc.org, through our FRC email list and now **TEXT ALERTS!**

SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS on our website at sullyfrc.org on the home page under the service times (join FRC Text)! You will then be notified by a text when services are cancelled! You can also sign up for volunteer opportunities as well!

Share a Note this Christmas

Since the middle of March 2020, many of our elderly, those that are in nursing homes, those in assisted living homes and those living alone at home have not been able to get out as they used to! Let's remember those of our congregation who are not able to worship with us as before! Below are their addresses and some suggestions for you and your family to do. Many more names could be added to the list below! Worship has looked different these past few months! Please reach out to anyone you know that could use some Christmas cheer! We challenge you to get the whole family involved and:

1. Send cards and homemade pictures
2. Intentionally "adopt" an elderly person who doesn't have family or visitors
3. Send fresh flowers to brighten up their living space
4. Use your imagination and come up with some other great ideas!

***Edith Van Wyk**
2021 4th Ave. Rm. D-31
Grinnell, IA 50112

***Margaret Vande Krol**
2602 Fifield Rd. Unit #312
Pella, IA 50219

***LeRoy & Ruth Van Maanen**
10967 Hwy. T-38 S.
Lynnvillle, IA 50153

***Dennis & Linda Van Maanen**
8149 Hwy. 224 N.
Kellogg, IA 50135

***Sandy Beyer**
616 Broad St. Rm. P104
Grinnell, IA 50112

***Dorothy Van Der Kamp**
110 N. 5th Ave. W. Rm. #21
Newton, IA 50208

***Shirley Baarda**
202 N. 9th Ave.
Sully, IA 50251

***Becca Imhoff**
Patient Care Unit East Tower 6A
#6-812
Saint Mary's Hospital
1216 Second St. SW
Rochester, MN 55905

***Delia De Jong**
705 3rd St.
Sully, IA 50251

***Gilbert & Marlene Van Wyk**
122 N. 5th Ave. W. Apt. #214A
Newton, IA 50208

***Corky Boat**
301 7th Ave. Apt. 202
Sully, IA 50251

***Marilyn Van Maanen**
8353 S. 68th Ave. E
Newton, IA 50208

***Howard Huyser**
921 Big Rock Park Rd.
Pella, IA 50219

***Eldred Van Gorp**
122 N. 5th Ave. W. Apt. #107
Newton, IA 50208

***Marvin & Iva Baarda**
11242 Hwy F-62 E
Sully, IA 50251

***Danis Hedrick**
2602 Fifield Rd. Unit #302
Pella, IA 50219

***Marilyn Rozendaal**
8525 Urbandale Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50322

***Dick & Joyce Ver Ploeg**
209 9th Ave.
Sully, IA 50251

***Henry Zuidema**
7902 S. 76th Ave. E.
Sully, IA 50251

***Audrey Brand**
608 8th Ave. Apt. C-1
Sully, IA 50251

***Denamae Maasdam**
803 4th St.
Sully, IA 50251

***Henrietta Terpstra**
803 3rd St.
Sully, IA 50251

***Jonella Van Wyk**
403 3rd St. PO Box 212
Sully, IA 50251

***Eileen Gruver**
6648 E. 124th St. S.
Lynnvillle, IA 50153

***Marjorie Kramer**
6374 E. 132nd St. S.
Lynnvillle, IA 50153

***Carleen Maasdam**
13039 S. 60th Ave. E.
Lynnvillle, IA 50153

***Charles Brand**
915 E. 6th St.
Pella, IA 50219

***Karen Hackert**
104 N. 8th Ave.
Sully, IA 50251

***Dorothy Van Maanen**
15410 S. 64th Ave. E.
Lynnvillle, IA 50153

***Joyce MacKenzie**
PO Box 244
Sully, IA 50251

***Glenn Vanderpol**
203 5th St.
Sully, IA 50251

***Tena Vanden Hoek**
6702 E. 124th
Lynnvillle, IA 50153

***Joan Gose**
304 10th Ave. Box 416
Sully, IA 50251

***Clarence De Jong**
10070 S. 104th Ave. E.
Sully, IA 50251

***Barbara Van Sant**
306 2nd St. Box 203
Sully, IA 50251

***Duane & Donna Brand**
202 3rd. Ave. PO Box 446
Sully, IA 50251

***Carl & Joyce De Goey**
1206 S. 16th Ave. W.
Newton, IA 50208

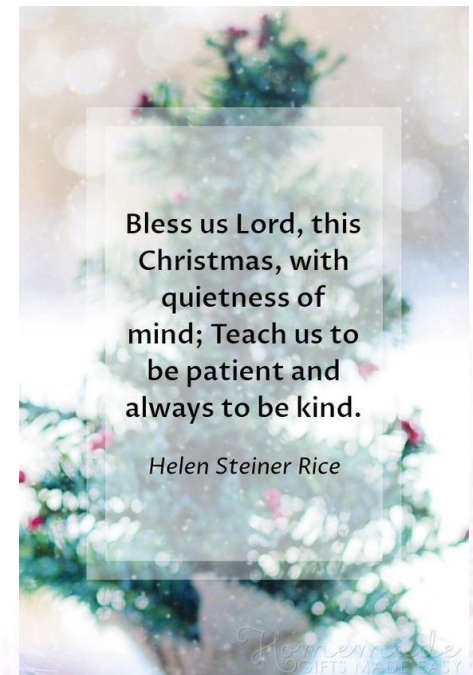
***Howard De Penning**
11602 Hwy. F-62 E.
Sully, IA 50251

***Ron & Deloris McKeag**
1006 2nd St.
Sully, IA 50251

***Lois Vander Leest**
303 4th Ave.
Sully, IA 50251

***Dave & Karla Winegar**
2140 Idaho Dr.
Pella, IA 50251

***Gilbert Van Maaanen**
1650 SE Holiday Crest Circle Rm. #321
Waukee, IA 50263



December 2020 Prayer Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Loren & Tammy Vos	2 Marissa Vos	3 Meldon, Eloise, Mariah, Meleisha, Majesta & Mandeesa Vos	4 Steve & Rita Vos	5 Chris, Kara, Raelee Warrick Alyssa & Bray- den Bassett
6 Mason, Cayla & Olivia Wichhart	7 Dave & Karla Winegar	8 Clarence & Lynn Wyma	9 Mark, Justine, Ethan & Ashlee Wyma	10 Nathan, Stephanie, Skyler & Slater Young	11 Darrell & Linda Zegers	12 Murray & Judy Zegers
13 Derrick, Annette, Georgia & Sadie Zimmerman	14 Henry Zuidema	15 Rod Zuidema	16 Mike & Kathy Zylstra	17 Ervin & Linda Arkema	18 Craig & Sheryl Baarda	19 Marvin & Iva Baarda
20 Shirley Baarda	21 Nick & Kate Beyer	22 Sandy Beyer	23 Susan Beyer	24 Corky Boat	25 Kyle & Mikayla Bonnema	26 Audrey Brand
27 Charles Brand	28 Duane & Donna Brand	29 Eric, Faye, Carter & Abigail Brand	30 Verlan & Helen Brand	31 Zach & Delaney Brimeyer		

First Reformed Church
 807 3rd St. PO Box 208
 Sully, Iowa 50251
 641-594-2935
frcsully@netins.net
www.sullyfrc.org
Next Deadline: December 25



December 2020 Activity Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Deacon's Mtg.	2 5:30 pm Family Night Meal 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th 6:30 pm Elders Mtg. 7:30 pm Consistory Mtg.	3	4 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	5 11—1 pm TO GO ONLY Faithwalker Soup Dinner
6 9:30am Pastor Wayne Sneller- 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 11 am Exec. Mtg. 5 pm IMPACT 6:30 pm Faithwalk- ers	7	8	9 5:30 Family Night Meal 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th	10	11 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	12
13 9:30 am Pastor Wayne Sneller Installation of Elders/Deacons 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 11 am New Deacon/ Elder Orientation 12 pm Reunion 5 pm Impact 6:30 pm Faithwalk- ers	14	15 7:00 pm Deacon's Mtg.	16 5:30 Family Night Meal 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th	17	18 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	19
20 Building Fund Offer- ing 9:30 am Pastor Wayne Sneller 1045 am Sunday School 5 pm Impact 6:30 pm Faithwalk- ers	21	22	23	24 3—10 pm Reunion in the Well	25 10 am Christmas Service 	26 4—10 Reunion
27 9:30 am Jeff Knouse No Sunday School	28	29	30	31	January 1	January 2