



Reformed *Informer*

FEBRUARY 2022
FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, SULLY, IA

"THE LOVE OF OUR FATHER"

It seems love is the theme on every corner this time of year. Valentine's greeting cards, chocolates, and hearts everywhere. But why is it that love does not seem to be shared so openly during the rest of the year? Everywhere we turn, the world seems to be full of disappointments and let downs. Maybe you have been through a difficult relationship or an estrangement from a child. Maybe a good friend who was your confidant let you down in your time of need. Perhaps you have recently experienced a job layoff. Or any number of other tough life experiences where you have felt "less than".

A place where you were once wanted and needed you are now cast aside.

Ephesians 1:4-6 reminds us that God's love is so much more than the love we experience here on earth: "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will" (emphasis mine).

God's love gives us a safe place where we are chosen, predestined to be a part of his family before the world was even created. And this love is given to us freely and abundantly. It is truly his pleasure to love us unconditionally. All we have to do is receive it.

"For God so loved the world that he gave us his one and only son," John 3:16a (emphasis mine). That's quite a sacrifice. As Christians, we know this verse well. We've heard it since we were in preschool. But when we really stop and think about it, the gravity and brevity of this reality should have us running full speed ahead to Jesus to accept the most true and pure love that our human hearts have ever experienced.

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for the sacrifice of your son, Jesus. I pray that we run wholeheartedly toward you to accept your love and your friendship. May we seek you in love and pass that love on to those around us. In your name, Amen

Guest writer: Karissa Chapman



**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/

Happy February, Friends!

In the midst of these cold winter months the youth of our church are seeking to warm their spirits through two mediums: prayer and Scripture. Our Impact students are currently going through a series on prayer; they're considering what prayer is, why we pray, how we pray, how we listen to God, etc. It's been fun to have intentional conversations about something we all experience.

In Faithwalkers my goal for this semester is to show our students that the Bible is not only relevant to the day and age we live in, but that it has the power to change us as well. We're reading seemingly obscure and irrelevant passages through the lens of the Holy Spirit, and He's showing us that every word in the Bible has the power to evoke change.

These are two things that are vital to the life of every Christian, so I hope and pray that our youth can inspire you to seek the Lord in prayer and Scripture as well!



**FAITHWALKERS meet at 6:30 pm
in the Well**

**All 9th - 12th Grade invited
Upcoming Events:**

February Dates:

February 6

February 13—Super Bowl Party—TBD

February 20

February 27

**Our Faithwalker Service will be Sunday, March
27 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Faithwalkers Youth Group (9th—12th) meets
every Sunday evening from 6—7 pm in the Well**

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

Prayer Breakfast
Free Jesus, and donuts.

**Every Friday morning at 7:30 am all 6th—
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!

**Who: ALL 6th—8th graders
Impact Youth will be meeting
EVERY SUNDAY at 5:00 pm in
the WELL throughout the year!**



February Dates:

February 6

February 13—Super Bowl Party—TBD

February 20

February 27

**IMPACT Youth Group (6th-8th) meets Sunday
evenings from 5—6pm in the Well**

Leaders: Jeff & Alison Knouse, Caden & Brenna Dunsbergen and Cody & Kelly Kesling

**Middle School Retreat is HAPPENING on
April 8-10, 2022!** Tracy Cleveringa from
Orange City, IA, and the Northwestern College
Worship Band will be leading you in the main
sessions.



**Power Connection and Work Camp 2022 is THIS
SUMMER!** With speakers Brenna Lantz, Heather
Flies, band Orchard Hill Collective and illusionist
David Wood, we are counting down the days for this
conference!





Children's Ministry

Director—

Julie Van Manen

Office Hours:

Wednesdays

Email: julievmfrcsully@gmail.com

Office phone: 641-594-2935 ext 5

Cell phone: 641-521-7951

God's Love

Who doesn't love a warm chocolate chip cookie on a cold winter day? Did you know a chocolate chip cookie can tell us a lot about love? First when we make chocolate chip cookies; the most important ingredient is chocolate chips – just like love is to being a Christian. The song, *They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love* reminds us of that. Now, let's look at love compared to a large chocolate chip cookie. We can say we "love" cookies, other foods, movies, books, and other things. We love our families and friends. However, those loves are all small cookies in life compared to God's Love for us – now that is the big cookie!


I have included a LOVE Bible Reading Plan for this month. The Love Bible Reading Plan will help children learn the following:

- All love comes from God.
- **God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.**
- The greatest commandment of all is to **love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds.**
- The second greatest commandment is to **love our neighbors as ourselves.**
- People will know that we are Jesus' disciples **because of our love for one another.**
- **Godly love involves action** – helping each other out!
- And much more!




Happy Valentine's Day to all this month!

The greatest gift of love that we can give others is to tell/show the love of Jesus.






LOVE

Bible Reading Plan



♥ Day 1: John 3:16; Romans 5:6-8	♥ Day 16: 1 Peter 1:17-23
♥ Day 2: 1 John 4:7-21	♥ Day 17: 1 Peter 4:7-11
♥ Day 3: John 13:34-35	♥ Day 18: Proverbs 10:12; Proverbs 17:9
♥ Day 4: 1 John 3:13-24	♥ Day 19: Colossians 3:12-17
♥ Day 5: John 15:9-17	♥ Day 20: 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
♥ Day 6: Mark 12:28-31	♥ Day 21: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14
♥ Day 7: Romans 13:8-10	♥ Day 22: Lamentations 3:21-25
♥ Day 8: Matthew 5:43-48	♥ Day 23: 1 John 3:1-3
♥ Day 9: Romans 8:31-39	♥ Day 24: Psalm 136:1-6, 25-26
♥ Day 10: 1 Corinthians 13	♥ Day 25: Zephaniah 3:17
♥ Day 11: Galatians 5:22-26	♥ Day 26: Isaiah 43:1-7
♥ Day 12: Romans 12:9-21	♥ Day 27: Psalm 143:7-12
♥ Day 13: Ephesians 2:1-10	♥ Day 28: Psalm 86:11-17
♥ Day 14: Ephesians 3:14-21	♥ Day 29: Proverbs 17:17
♥ Day 15: Ephesians 4:1-6	

©2012 Kids Bible Teacher (Graphics by Eda Clips.com)

STARS children have been learning stories from the New Testament this winter. For badge work they have done a couple of activities talking about snow. Last week, Kara Warrick from the Jasper County I.S.U. Extension office shared a lesson that involved making snow measuring sticks and the children were excited to make some snow! Feb. 2 will be our next family meal when the children will have the opportunity to share their Bible memory and songs with their families.



Children in Worship welcomes children who are three years old – kindergarten.

We are still in need of one leader for this area. This position requires no prep and involves approximately nine Sunday's a year.





Update from Chad and Dara Vanden Bosch December 2021

Dear Friends, As we have just celebrated Thanksgiving last week, we reflected on all that has happened over the past month-- we have much to be thankful for! At the top of this list is that, after nearly a 5-year wait, on September 24 we finally received Zinha's adoption certificate which means that she is now officially a Vanden Bosch! This has been such an incredibly long and difficult fight and even two months later it is almost hard to believe that it is over. We praise the Lord for completing on earth what we know was completed long ago in heaven. The completion of Zinha's (now officially

Luzia Joy Vanden Bosch) adoption set off a flurry of activity as we had to get/change birth registries and civil documents and all that fun stuff. Each one of those meant sitting for hours at government offices and fighting systems and personnel that are not used to dealing with adoptions. Praise the Lord in the end our perseverance paid off and we now only need to get her passport, which we hope to do in the next couple of weeks.

During this time we also were able to get Julieta's birth registry and civil document complete which means that in October we finally had all the documents we needed to travel as a family of 5 outside of our province. We hadn't had a family vacation in nearly 5 years so we took advantage of our newly found freedom and were able to have a week at a beautiful beach about a 7-hour drive from our house. It was an amazing week of fun in the sun and sand and making amazing new memories as a family.

Many of you may now be wondering when we may be able to travel to the US for a much-needed furlough. That is still a very good question. Earlier this month we officially submitted the paperwork to begin the adoption of Julieta. We find ourselves still traumatized by the terrible experience we had with Zinha's adoption, but we have hope that Julieta's will go more quickly. Her adoption is being done at the district-level court (instead of the larger provincial-level court) with a different judge and prosecutor, so we pray that we will find favor and it will move along much more quickly. Our lawyer seems confident that we will even be able to petition the judge to give a court order to be able to travel with Julieta to the US before the adoption is complete. We hope that possibly in early 2022 we can make the long-awaited journey to the US as a family. Please pray with us as there are still many unknowns and hurdles that will need to be passed before that can happen.

Even with all of the excitement and extra activity in our family life, the ministries have also continued to move ahead. Despite continued restrictions due to the pandemic, small-scale audio Bible distributions have continued in many areas around the country. At one recent audio Bible distribution in the northern province of Nampula, RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals. Our colleague reported that "So many people who received the audio Bibles were weeping with joy after hearing God's Word in their language for the very first time". The recording team has also been busy continuing to record the Old Testament in the Makua language from northern Mozambique.

New Harvest Farm has seen some highs and lows over the past months. In October we had a great time spreading God's love through the distribution of high-quality seed to over 160 subsistence farming families in our area. There was great joy and excitement in the local community to receive such a blessing. In November we hit a low as we had to deal with theft from the small shop we have set up to help local farmers have access to quality inputs. Through the highs and the lows, we know that God is in control and we trust that he will use this farm to draw many people to Him.

The Compassionate Care team continues to make their palliative care visits. It's been a real blessing to be able to distribute things that came in the container. We have been able to generously give blankets, hats, and feminine hygiene packs to our patients, their families, and the community. There have been some really difficult cases we've been involved in this year. I'd like to ask you to pray for our friend and patient Fernando who we've been working with for 1 1/2+ years to heal a wound on his leg. It's coming but it is discouraging that it's taking as long as it is. I think I can honestly say that our entire compassionate care team is looking forward to our scheduled two weeks off over Christmas. But, before that we'll have the privilege of giving out Christmas parcels to our 15 palliative care patients-- that is always a highlight of the year.

As we all push towards the end of the year we want to thank you all for your prayers, love, and support. We're getting closer to being able to plan a trip back to the US. Please will you also pray that travel restrictions do not limit us when the time comes and we are ready to go to the U.S. As of now there are very few COVID cases in Mozambique and we feel very safe and COVID has limited effect on our lives.

We hope you all had a special holiday celebrating Thanksgiving with your friends and family. God Bless you, Chad, Dara, Nede, Luzia and Julieta

Prayer Requests: □ Praise the Lord with us for the completion of Zinha's adoption! □ Praise the Lord for the safe arrival of the container earlier this year and the blessing that the contents of that container are for our ministries and those in our local community. □ Pray for a quick and straightforward adoption process for Julieta. □ Continue to pray for the Compassionate Care team as they face many challenging situations. □ Pray for rain. The seasonal rains are nearly a month late now and it has many people already worried about the crops for this year.

To learn more or support this ministry, visit: www.rca.org/vandenbosch; cvandenbosch@rca.org; dvandenbosch@rca.org



Alex & Kenzie Huyser

Birthdays: Alex: October 21

Kenzie: November 12

Hailey: June 5

Lucas: November 14

Anniversary: August 29, 2015

Alex and Kenzie Huyser's fairy tale story is quite unique. They met on an airplane while traveling to Arizona. Alex was in his senior year at Central College going on a spring break trip for the golf team. Kenzie was in her senior year of high school going to Arizona to visit my grandparents and prepare for her upcoming golf season. They talked together on the plane to Phoenix and then had the same flight home where they sat by each other! (Thank goodness for pick your own seating on Southwest!) They were married on August 29, 2015 at Prairie Ridge Church in Ankeny on the most perfect day!

Their family has now grown by two; Hailey who is 4 and Lucas who is 2. Alex and Kenzie love to play golf together although it can become too competitive sometimes! They live across the highway from the Sully Locker on the west side of Sully. As a family of four, they enjoy spending lots of time outdoors as well as swimming and boating. A dream would be to some-

day own a lake house where they can spend their time with friends and family relaxing and being on the water.

But their separate stories started long before the plane ride. Alex grew up in Sully being the third child born to Doyle and Linda Huyser. Erica Kluver of Ankeny and Amy Harthoorn of Sully are his two older sisters. Alex went to Lynnvile-Sully High School, graduating in 2007. He finished his education at Central College graduating with a degree in Business and Marketing. He is working in Sales at Kruseman Implement in Sully.

Kenzie grew up with an older brother Tyler Rottinghaus in Urbandale Iowa. Mark Rottinghaus and K.C. Rottinghaus are Kenzie's parents. She graduated from Urbandale High School in 2011 and went on to Grand View University, graduating in 2015 with her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Currently, she is finishing up her final semester at Creighton University for her Doctorate Degree in Nursing and will graduate in May. Kenzie is a Registered Nurse for Pella Regional Health Center in Med/Surg and ICU; after May 2022, she will then pursue a position as a Nurse Practitioner.

Being new to the community is hard, however Kenzie felt as though the members of First Reformed were welcoming and made her transfer to the Sully community much easier! They both love the friendly atmosphere and the congregation. The youth of the church are valued and they hope to see this tradition continue for years as their children grow up!

Thank you Huyser family for letting us Get To Know You Better!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, February 11, 6:00 pm—818 Forward With Faith would like to invite you to their annual Dessert Dash. This event will be held at Pella Christian High School with proceeds going towards the construction of a women's home at 306 Columbus. Doors open at 6:00 pm with punch and appetizers served. Dinner will begin at 6:30 followed by our speaker and the dessert dash. We're excited to have Dave Mayo as our speaker this year. Dave is the CEO of Faith and Family Care. Hear his story of trials and tragedy and above all, God's faithfulness. **Please RSVP** to this event on our website at www.forwardwithfaith.org under "**Upcoming Events**" or email us at contact@forwardwithfaith.org with names and how many will attend. We look forward to seeing you there! Thanks for your support!

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**



LEGACY KITCHEN CLEANERS:

If anyone is interested in helping with cleaning the kitchen on a monthly basis please let Shirley Dunsbergen know. She can be reached at 641-990-7838 or mnsduns@netins.net.



February 1

Nicole Dunsbergen ~ Dylan Roozeboom
Pavlos Vasileiadis

February 2

Donavon De Penning

February 3

Judy Zegers

February 4

Lincoln Torres

February 5

Scott Rolffs ~ Kacey Kesling
Nick Beyer ~ Lucy Van Wyk
Brody Schnell

February 6

Jim Van Zante

February 7

Charles Brand (87)
Lorna Christensen

February 8

Ervin Arkema
Marlis Van Zante ~ Megan Van Zante

February 9

Mary Ann Van Maaren
Gilbert Van Wyk (89)

February 10

Katelyn Beyer
Rowyn Vos

February 12

Kaiser Kesling

February 14

Iva Baarda (89) ~ Caroline Rozendaal
Jean Van Der Kamp ~ Joel Van Wyk

February 17

Arie Scholten

February 24

Dustin Dunsbergen ~ Parker Nees

February 25

Gabe Rozendaal ~ Steve Vos
Brooklyn Chapman

February 27

Jordan Vos

February 28

Patty Sneller

February 1

Darrell & Susan Maasdam—25 years

February 2

Ken & Verna Hackert—61 years

February 5

Cody & Kelly Kesling—18 years

February 10

John & Jennifer Kramer—26 years
Ervin & Carolyn Van Waardhuizen—61 years

February 13

Marvin & Iva Baarda—69 years

February 15

Gilbert & Marlene Van Wyk—65 years

February 18

Verlan & Helen Brand—56 years

February 23

Alvin & Shirley Rozendaal—60 years

February 26

Melvin & Shirley Dunsbergen—57 years

February 27

Beryl & Velda Dunsbergen—52 years



SHROVE PANCAKE NIGHT, 5 - 7 PM IN THE GATHERING PLACE FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, SULLY

IHOP Pancakes with all the toppings: strawberries,
blueberries, maple syrup, sorghum, whipping cream

Sausage links
Milk, juice and coffee
Freewill offering



The Heart of the Matter

Day 1: Deuteronomy 4:7-9	Day 15: Jeremiah 29:11-13
Day 2: Deuteronomy 6:4-6	Day 16: Joel 2:12-13
Day 3: Deuteronomy 10:12-13	Day 17: Matthew 6:19-21
Day 4: Psalm 2:3-5	Day 18: Matthew 15:17-20
Day 5: Psalm 26:2-7	Day 19: Matthew 22:37-40
Day 6: Psalm 73:26-28	Day 20: Luke 6:45
Day 7: Psalm 84:2-4	Day 21: Romans 8:27-28
Day 8: Psalm 86:11-13	Day 22: Ephesians 3:14-19
Day 9: Psalm 119:9-11	Day 23: Colossians 3:14-17
Day 10: Psalm 139:23-24	Day 24: 1 Timothy 1:5
Day 11: Proverbs 3:3-6	Day 25: Hebrews 4:12-13
Day 12: Proverbs 4:23-24	Day 26: Hebrews 10:22-25
Day 13: Proverbs 16:23-24	Day 27: James 4:8-10
Day 14: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14	Day 28: 1 Peter 3:14-16

Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to meditate and reflect on God's Word.
Write down what you have gleaned from each day's scripture.

The Ruffled Mango

2022 PRAYER CALENDAR



pray
and never
give up

luke 18:1

pray
and never
give up



2022 ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1-4 pm Sewing Days	2 5:30 STARS Family Night meal 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th	3	4 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	5
6 9:30 am Jeff Knouse 10:45 am Sunday School 2 pm Rental Gathering Place kitchen 5 pm Impact Youth 6:30 pm Faithwalkers	7	8	9 5:30 Family Night meals 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th	10	11 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	12
13 9:30 am Pastor Tom VandeBerg 10:45 am Sunday School Youth Group Super Bowl Party—TBD	14	15 1-4 pm Sewing Days	16 5:30 Family Night meals 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th 6:30 pm Elders Mtg. 6:45 pm Deacon Mtg 7:30 pm Consistory	17	18 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	19
20 9:30 am Pastor Tom VandeBerg 10:45 am Sunday School 5 pm Impact Youth 6:30 pm Faithwalkers	21	22	23 5:30 Family Night meals 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th	24	25 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	26
27 9:30 am Pastor Tom VandeBerg 10:45 am Sunday School 5 pm Impact Youth 6:30 pm Faithwalkers	28	March 1 1-4 pm Sewing Days	March 2	March 3	March 4 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	March 5

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