



Pastor Wayne Sneller
Email: wsneller@netins.net

Reformed *Informer*

NOVEMBER 2020—FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, SULLY, IOWA

Dear Friends,

"Be Joyful!"

Be Joyful!

I know, I know there is a pandemic out there and we have just endured a season of political commercials that have left our minds numb! We long for truth and justice and we have been trained that not every phone number that rings on your cell phone can be trusted.

Even Jesus counseled His disciples before they went out on their missionary journeys that they should be "shrewd and snakes". (Matthew 10:16) Good, sound advice, since there are a lot of hungry wolves out there.

I've learned, especially over the course of this past year, that by listening to people, that cynicism can quickly set in! This condition blocks our ability to see the good things God has placed before us and leaves us with only bitterness and distrust.

God offers us a better way. "And now dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable and right and pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." Philippians 4:8

As we round the corner to Thanksgiving my plea today is that we not go overboard, focusing only on the worst of this past year! How the news today needs the refreshing viewpoint of the people of God who are thankful for what Christ promises. The world doesn't need any more cynics—those folks who only see an empty glass!

How much better to be a joyful participant in life—you'll likely attract some folk's who will wonder what's going on with you and your attitude will ultimately point to the reason for your joyfulness—a faithful Savior who walks this life journey with us!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Wayne



Youth & Ed Director—
Jeff Knouse
 Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday
 & Sunday's
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 phone: 641-594-2935 ext. 3
 Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/sullyfrcyouth/

YOUTH Activities

Can you believe it's November? We've made it to the 11th month in what has to be the longest year ever. But, regardless of the year, I am always excited when November rolls around for one reason: Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is one of the biggest service projects we do as youth groups each year. What we do is we pack shoeboxes full of gifts, hygiene supplies, school supplies, etc. to be sent to kids in third world countries who have never gotten a gift for Christmas before!

I love this project for many reasons, and it has been so fun to watch our students take ownership over it in the past few years. They are so excited to go buy supplies, pack the shoeboxes, and write prayers and encouraging messages to the kids. What makes O.C.C. even more special is that the Gospel is shared with the kids who receive these shoeboxes. So not only do they get a great gift for Christmas, they get the greatest gift of all: the message of Jesus Christ.

Here's how you can support the youth project this year: you can donate items to be put in the shoeboxes (lists can be found in the bulletin or in the church office), you can donate financially to help us purchase supplies, or you can pray for the kids who will receive these wonderful gifts. As the holiday season quickly approaches, may we not take for granted the blessings that the Lord has given us, and may we remember those who are less fortunate and love and care for them as well.



FAITHWALKERS—9th-12th grade
 We will meet EVERY Sunday evening at 6:30 pm in the Well (meet in the Gathering Place)

November dates:

- November 1
- November 8
- November 15—Operation Christmas Child
- November 22
- November 29

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



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

November dates:

- November 1
- November 8
- November 15— Operation Christmas Child
- November 22
- November 29

Leaders: Jeff & Alison Knouse, Caden & Brenna Dunsbergen & 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: There is a basket set out in the Gathering Place for items purchased that our youth will be packing in shoeboxes in November. There is a list of items you may purchase in your mailbox!



Wednesday evenings We begin serving at 5:30 during the school year. **TO GO Meals for the month of November** will be: Creamed chicken on biscuit, green beans & cupcake.



LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER—Our Faithwalker Soup Dinner options are being discussed at this time. Please watch for more information on this in the upcoming weeks!



Children's Ministry Director

Julie Van Manen

Office Hours:

Wednesdays

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ext 5

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Sunday School

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 pm—
Sunday school Christmas Program for
our Beginner (3 yr—K) and Primary
(1st—4th grade) Departments.



Gods Little Wonders Sunday school group placed cut out lambs to put in Pastor Wayne & Tammy's yard as a "Thank Ewe" for leading and loving your flock during Pastor Appreciation Month!



Pictured: Zachary Dykema, Alivia Nikkel, Owen Rozendaal, Paisely Vos & Peyton Schechinger.
Not pictured—Chayse Huyser

Doesn't the photo above put a smile on your face? At the end of October, six First Reformed children received the precious gift of a Bible. These six were more than a little excited! Psalm 78 reminds us to "tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power and the wonders he has done." Bible Blessings Sunday is a significant moment in the life of our church, a blessing to each child and to the lifeblood of our congregation. How good it is to mark this rite of passage each year. May the excitement of these young children ignite our own and remind us of the timeless treasure we have in God's Holy Word.

5 WAYS TO

GROW GRATEFUL KIDS

Gratitude is our response of thankfulness for God's goodness, love, provision, and grace.

As Christ-followers, we don't just practice gratitude because it's good for our health (although it is!), or only when things go smoothly. Our gratitude flows from an awareness that, regardless of our circumstance, God loves us and is with us. Here are five tips for cultivating grateful living with your family.

1 EXPRESS YOURSELF

Express your gratefulness to God and to others (including your kids!) out loud and often. They're taking their cues from you, and the best way to cultivate a grateful spirit in your kids is to cultivate it in yourself too.

2 PROVIDE PROMPTS

At mealtime, at bedtime prayers, and at other times, invite everyone to name a person/place/thing/experience for which they are grateful, or to name something they can hear/see/taste/touch/smell for which they are grateful.

3 TAKE NOTE OF GOD'S GIFTS

Keep track of God's good gifts using a format that works for your family. Some ideas: keep a family gratitude journal; jot your thoughts on sticky notes and post them on a Gratitude Wall; express your thankfulness on paper strips placed in a Gratitude Jar; write or draw things for which you are grateful on a paper tablecloth. Save your lists and drawings and revisit them at Thanksgiving, on New Year's Day, or anytime you'd like a reminder of God's provision.

4 REMEMBER GOD'S GOODNESS

During challenging circumstances, remind your kids that God is with them. Wonder about the ways in which God may be at work behind the scenes. Express gratitude for the fact that even though we may not fully understand God's plan, we can trust that God works for good in all situations and that our destiny is safe in his hands.

5 LIVE GRATEFULLY

Your practices should overflow into your community. Be generous with your time, talents, and resources. Show appreciation to others in tangible ways. Be a servant. And always try to treat others in ways for which they can be grateful and give thanks to God!



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DO YOU ENJOY CARING FOR SMALL CHILDREN?

WE WANT TO ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR SUB LIST

Inspirations Childcare and Preschool Center is looking for individuals to add to our sub list to fill in as needed. If you are interested in helping out, we would love to add your name to our list of individuals to call when needed! Please contact

Director, Abby Kriegel.

641-594-3355 or

Inspirations.sully@gmail.com



Jaden & Hailey Rolffs
Birthdays: Jaden—3/31/00
Hailey—3/13/00
Anniversary: April 25, 2020

2020 has certainly been an unusual year! If you were planning a wedding, you would have to get creative on how you would tie the knot! Some couples have had a small ceremony with a celebration later, or postpone their wedding or have a small ceremony and no reception. Every wedding is unique and whatever you choose, you are still married at the end of the day.

This was the dilemma our featured couple this month was faced with. Jaden Rolffs and Hailey Scandridge met at a Lynnville-Sully vs. Pella Christian football game in middle school. Years after that meeting they decided to get married during the Covid-19 pandemic. They were wed in April on the south steps of First Reformed in a small intimate ceremony with only their family present. When they went to leave that day, someone had left the key on so their car wouldn't turn over and needed to be jump started! Although it was a simple fix, what a way to start their married life!

Hailey was born the third child of Bob and Diana Scandridge, with two older brothers, Payton (who lives in Rochester, MN) and Cooper (who lives at home). After completing her education from Lynnville-Sully High School, Hailey graduated from DMACC and is currently a Court Reporter in Missouri's 31st Circuit Court. Brad and Erin Rolffs are Jaden's parents and he has one brother Josh (Bell) who lives in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Jaden is a student and plays baseball at Missouri State University in Missouri. As a couple, they love spending time outside or working out together. Hailey also spends a lot of time on her steno machine while Jaden can be found on the baseball field. They make their home in Springfield, Missouri.

Hailey has many memories and spent a lot of time at First Reformed when she was younger because her mom, Diana, was an employee here. Great youth groups that reach into the community and First Reformed's giving spirit also rank high on her list. One of the memories she includes is time spent around the candy dish in the Deb's office when she was little! Hailey will always consider the church family as her own!

Thank you Rolffs' family for letting us "Get to Know You" better!

Sunday School Project 2020

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 will begin Sunday, November 1 and conclude Sunday, December 13.

New Harvest Farm, launched in 2018 by RCA missionaries Chad and Dara Vanden Bosch, seeks to bring change by helping small-scale farmers increase their yields and produce better food for their families. The 25-acre experiential learning center offers hands-on agricultural training specific to the region and weaves the gospel into each training session. "It is our hope that not only will the farmers learn some techniques to increase their yields and profits, but that we would also be able to build relationships that will till the soil of their hearts to receive the gospel [so that] there will be a new harvest of souls," says Chad.

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. We would love to push over the next 2 months to finish up these infrastructure projects so that we are ready for the next agricultural campaign to start in November. We are looking to raise \$4000 to cover these costs over the next three months. More can be found at the website listed below:

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

thankful blessed

10th Annual Thanksgiving Dessert Fest

Join us after the Thanksgiving Eve Service
in the Gathering Place for dessert!

This will be a great way to enjoy some
food and fellowship with friends and the church
family!

Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 8, 11:00 a.m.

- We will be drawing for 2021 Elders & Deacons

Important Dates and INFORMATION

Sunday, December 6, 9:30 am:
Dedication of our Phase 2 Project

Sunday, December 13, 6:00 pm:
God's Little Wonders & Faith Seekers
(3 yr.—5th grade) Sunday School
Christmas Program

Sunday, December 20, 6:00 pm:
Candlelight Service

Friday, December 25, 10:00 am:
Christmas Day Service



November 25, 7:00 p.m.

We want to invite the congregation to our Thanksgiving Service this year as it will be held on Thanksgiving eve at 7:00 p.m. **Nursery is provided.**



Each congregational member that attends the service is encouraged to **bring an item of food (canned dry good, etc.) that will be collected during the service.** We will be placing our food on tables in front of the sanctuary. Please drop off before being seated or give to the usher.

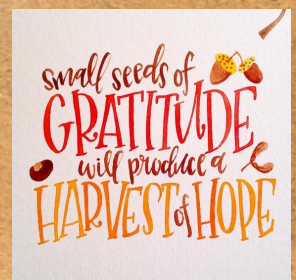
Food collected will go to the Eastern Jasper Christian Food Pantry and families of our local communities. This was a great success the last couple of years and enjoyed by everyone in the congregation. The result was that many families of our communities were blessed by the generosity of your food donations.

Come hear the Word of God preached with a special Thanksgiving song. You will also have an opportunity to give to the Lord and thank Him for all his Blessings!

See you at church!

Our Thanksgiving offering this year will go towards our Mission Fund (mission share support, missionaries, and other organizations that we've not yet included in this year's offerings). All undesignated offering will go towards the support of these missions. You may also designate your offering to other missions and church needs of your choice. **Give as the Lord has blessed you!**

Pastor Wayne





- November 2**
Carna De Jong ~ Jamie Keen
Harold Rozendaal (85)
- November 3**
Lucy Schechinger
- November 4**
Terry Van Maanen
- November 5**
Verna Hackert ~ Colton Harthoorn
- November 6**
Paul Sneller
- November 7**
Chayse Huyser ~ Alan Newell
Gerry Van Dyke ~ Tim Hardeman
- November 9**
Pastor Wayne Sneller
- November 10**
Jamie Hackert
- November 11**
Henrietta Terpstra (84)
- November 12**
Doyle Huyser ~ Kenzie Huyser
- November 14**
Lucas Huyser
- November 15**
Amber Lanser ~ Zachary Maasdam
Jeff Vander Molen
- November 16**
Lisa Dunsbergen ~ **Ruby Van Wyk (96)**

- November 17**
Mike Jansen ~ Joyce MacKenzie
- November 18**
Nick De Penning ~ Ryan Van Kooten
- November 19**
Eloise Vos ~ Carleen Maasdam
Charlotte Kunce (82)
- November 20**
Kate Harthoorn ~ Mason Nikkel
- November 21**
Travis Chapman ~ Ellen Rozendaal
- November 22**
Alison Schnell ~ Laureen Van Wyk
Ervin Van Waardhuizen (81)
- November 23**
Acea Hackert ~ Callista Hackert
- November 24**
Kurt Harthoorn ~ Shelley Vander Molen
- November 26**
Ross Van Wyk
- November 27**
Deana Torres
- November 29**
Jonella Van Wyk (91)
Howard Huyser (90)
Warren Terpstra ~ HarLee Nunnikhoven
- November 30**
Reese Dunsbergen ~ Marcia Rozendaal

- November 1**
Shaun & Kristy Baarda (23)
- November 2**
Nathan & Stephanie Young (24)
- November 3**
Brad & Stephanie Rozendaal (13)
- November 7**
Loren & Tammy Vos (40)
- November 9**
Nick & Kate Beyer (1)
- November 12**
Carroll & Norma Harthoorn (61)
- November 14**
Dennis & Melanie Renaud (45)
- November 15**
Logan & Taylor Vos (6)
- November 17**
Dale & Minnie Huyser (48)
- November 18**
David & Monica Nikkel (14)
- November 19**
Jacob & Kate Van Manen (4)
- November 24**
Dick & Linda Schnell (59)
Felix & Tia Torres (36)
- November 28**
Eric & Faye Brand (22)
Maury & Stacie Van Der Wilt (28)
- November 29**
Conrad & Mary Ann Van Maaren (46)

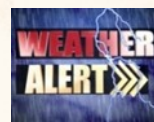
30 Scriptures of Thankfulness

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Psalm 107:1 | 16. Colossians 4:2 |
| 2. 1 Chron. 29:13 | 17. Psalm 28:7 |
| 3. Daniel 2:23 | 18. Revelation 7:12 |
| 4. Psalm 95:2-3 | 19. Jeremiah 33:11 |
| 5. Phil. 4:6 | 20. Ephesians 5:20 |
| 6. Philemon 1:4 | 21. Colossians 3:15 |
| 7. Psalm 100:4 | 22. Jonah 2:9 |
| 8. Isaiah 12:4 | 23. Rev. 4:9-11 |
| 9. 1 Thess. 5:18 | 24. Luke 22:19 |
| 10. Psalm 106:1 | 25. Psalm 75:1 |
| 11. Colossians 3:16 | 26. Daniel 6:10 |
| 12. Hebrews 12:28 | 27. Psalm 136:1-3 |
| 13. Psalm 118-1-8 | 28. 2 Cor. 1:11 |
| 14. Psalm 69:30 | 29. Psalm 30:12 |
| 15. Psalm 105:1 | 30. Rev. 11:17 |



POINSETTIAS - Poinsettia plants are again being used to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season. If you would like to give a poinsettia in

memory of a loved one or would just like to share a plant for the holidays, please fill out an order form located in the church office & online at www.sullyfrc.org. The cost is \$8. The **deadline for ordering is NOVEMBER 22** and Karna Ver Ploeg will pick the poinsettias up. Any time after Christmas you may pick up the poinsettia to enjoy at home or share with a friend. Any **questions call Karna Ver Ploeg at 641-891-9560** or contact the church office!



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.

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!

No prayer Calendar this month— due to this reverse offering explanation!



I know Pastor Wayne has mentioned it before but on behalf of the Deacons we want to Thank the congregation for your continual support and giving. In the past the Church was given a generous gift from the estate of one of our members with the intention to use for mission work at our discretion.

The Deacons decided to set aside \$12,500 to be used in a reverse offering.

I have heard that this makes some people uncomfortable trying to figure out who or what they should give this to. I look at this as an opportunity to discuss with your family and see if they know of someone or a worthy cause.

We know that this year has affected everyone in some way. This also could be used as an opportunity to help someone that does not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

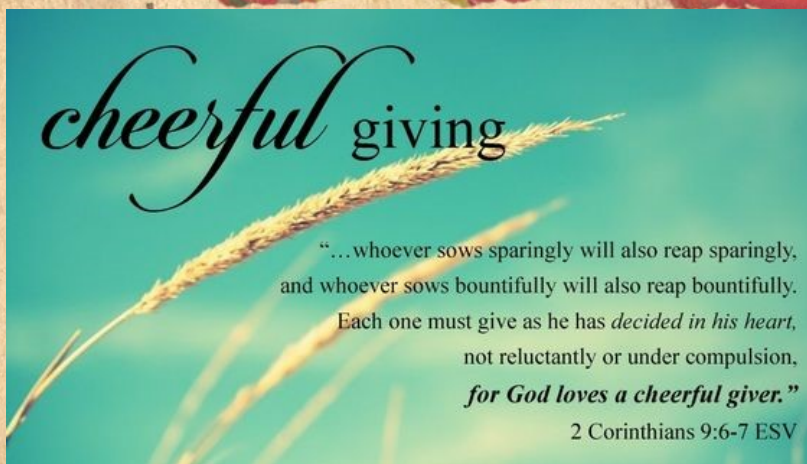
There will be 1 envelope per family with 3 ways to receive this reverse offering.

1. The Deacons will be at every door handing out one envelope to each family on Sunday November 15.
2. Another way is to pick your envelope up at the church office.
3. If either one of these ways does not work, contact an Elder or Deacon to deliver your envelope to you.

An envelope not picked up or distributed after 2 weeks will be put back into the Mission fund.

With all the blessings this church has been given we feel the congregational members will be able to reach to people that we as Deacons may not know are in need. Thank you!

The Deacon Board at First Reformed Church



Our Reverse offering will take place on Sunday, November 15, 2020!

What is it? The deacons have set aside \$12,500 whereby our members will receive \$50 per family or single member to use in any way you want towards a worthy cause.

How did this come about? In 2017, we also had a successful reverse offering. The blessings were enormous and the Lord blessed the giver and the receiver of these gifts.

We always wanted to do this reverse offering again. This offering was enabled by a gift from an estate from one of our members to be used for missions without any restrictions.

How will it be distributed? On Sunday morning, November 15 the deacons will be at every door after the morning worship, handing an envelope to each family. Another way to receive your envelope is to stop by the church office. If either one of these ways doesn't work you may contact an elder or deacon and they will deliver one to you. Any envelope not picked up after 2 weeks will be put back in the Mission fund.

Consider sharing your story via email or letter on where you blessed others! If you could return your Blessing story by December 13 to the church office, that would be great. You may do so anonymously if you want!

God has blessed us richly and in the world of COVID-19 we can be his ambassadors of hope in so many ways!

Blessings!
Pastor Wayne

P.S. Our next 3 sermons, will highlight the principles of giving to God and how He uses a faithful witness to his blessings! Stay tuned!

November 2020 Activity Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>1 9:30am Pastor Wayne Sneller 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 5 pm IMPACT 6:30 pm Faithwalkers</p>	<p>2 6:30 pm LS Volleyball Banquet</p>	<p>3 1—4:30 pm Knotting Ladies</p>	<p>4 5:30 pm TO GO Meal 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast</p>	<p>7 12 pm Reunion Gathering Place</p>
<p>8 9:30am Pastor Wayne Sneller 10:45 am Sunday School 11 am Congregational Meeting 5 pm IMPACT 6:30pm Faithwalkers</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 5:30 pm TO GO Meal 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 No School</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 9:30am Pastor Wayne Sneller 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 5 pm IMPACT 6:30 pm Faithwalkers</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 1—4:30 pm Knotting Ladies 7 pm Deacons Mtg</p>	<p>18 5:30 TO GO Meal 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th 6:30 pm Elders Mtg. 7:30 pm Consistory Mtg.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9:30 am Pastor Wayne Sneller 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 5 pm IMPACT 6:30 pm Faithwalkers</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 7 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service 8 pm Dessert Fest</p>	 <p>26 12 pm Reunion—Gathering Place 12 pm Reunion—The Well</p>	<p>27 No school</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9:30am Pastor Wayne Sneller 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 12 pm Reunion—The Well 12 pm Reunion—The Gathering Place 5 pm IMPACT 6:30 pm Faithwalkers</p>	<p>30</p>					

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