



Pastor Wayne Sneller  
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OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER  
FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, SULLY, IA

# Reformed Informer

## "What People Didn't See"

On August 10, a fierce straight line wind, which we later learned was called a derecho, bore down on much of central and eastern Iowa. Widespread damage was inflicted to crops (especially corn) in our area and to trees.

After looking at the devastation of some trees in Grinnell, I was reminded of a tree that had fallen by our home where we once had lived.

It told a story. Let me share it with you.

One year a large section of a tree fell not far from where our house stood. We had lived there for over fifteen years and the tree had become something like an old friend. Within minutes of crashing down several of my family and a few neighbors came to look at the gaping hole left by the fallen tree. As I stood there, the thought struck me, this happened only minutes ago but its been in the process of happening a long time ago. No tree just suddenly breaks apart. Once we were able to see beneath the thick bark where it had cracked off, it was obvious that a decay and rot of a killer disease had been at work for years!

Soon a group of neighbors came with their trucks, chainsaws, rakes and brooms and had everything cleaned up in no time.

I compared this with some of the lives I've seen seemingly suddenly broken and fallen in life.

Unlike trees, people don't grow up all alone or exist in a world of stoic independence. We mingle and merge into one another's lives. All the while there is appropriate respect for each other and for one another's privacy. So we back off, trusting one another in a surface veneer where the things of life that really matter seem too personal to share.

But here lies the problem. A core disease in a life goes unnoticed and untreated. No one knows that the pulp behind the healthy looking bark is neither wholesome or healthy. And so the erosion of hurt continues its slow silent, secret process. And one day there comes that sudden collapse—a suicide, a divorce, an addiction revealed, a lie, a false friendship, misplaced priorities—you name the hurt, but it is a terrible break that allows everyone to see what no one expected. But because fallen people are not like fallen trees, many around the fallen one are always injured and the cleanup is never efficient. There is no clean up crew that can remove all the evidence and sweep away all the debris, so the scar of the damage lingers.

This month we celebrate World Wide Communion in the midst of a pandemic called COVID-19. The world is thirsty for hope and good news.

This week I spoke with an individual who summed their experience of life thus far, "I'm tired of hard."

As Christians, we have the answer to that statement and the future we face.

We are called to Remember! "This do in remembrance of me," Jesus said to his disciples as he broke bread with them. He calls us to remember we are not alone! He calls us to remember He is Risen.

His was a journey of brokenness and healing where Jesus came to clean up lies, heal the hurt, give hope to the brokenhearted and to give life to those who were destined to die! He does that for us today!

Jesus later asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Jesus' question cut to the heart of Peter's problem and ours as well because it reveals an inner soul that needs to be healed!

How do you respond to that same question today? The answer will set you free! Yes Lord, you know that I love you!

Blessings!

Pastor Wayne



JUST A REMINDER:

# October is Pastor & Ministry Leader Appreciation Month

Thank you for all that you do!



**Pastor Wayne & Tammy Sneller, Senior Pastor**  
Pastor Wayne has been in the pulpit at FRC for the past 11 years!



**Pictured left:**  
Jeff, Alison and Jay Knouse  
Jeff is our Youth & Education Director for the past 3+ years.



**Pictured right:**  
Kevin & Julie Van Manen  
Julie is our Children's Ministry Director and STARS After School Director for the past 3 years.



*Let each of them know how much we appreciate them!*

**THERE ARE BUCKETS SET OUT IN THE GATHERING PLACE FOR CARDS, HAND WRITTEN NOTES, GIFT CARDS, ETC.**







Youth & Ed Director—  
 Jeff Knouse  
 Office Hours: Tuesday—  
 Friday & Sunday's  
 Email: jkfrcsul-  
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 phone: 641-544-2935 ext.  
 3  
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 www.facebook.com/  
 sullyfrcyouth/

# YOUTH Activities

Happy October,  
 Friends!

We have had a great start to our year of youth activities here at First Reformed, and while some of our programs have had to go to a virtual model temporarily, the Lord has still shown that He is faithful and good to us!

Currently, our high school Wednesday Night class as well as our Faithwalkers youth group are meeting virtually through Zoom until they return to in-person learning on October 5<sup>th</sup>. While this is definitely new territory for us, we are thankful that we have a resource to still “gather” together during those times. We anticipate our first Sunday for high school activities will be Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>.

In Impact we are studying the book of 1 Samuel this semester, and through our study are learning about character principles that the Lord desires for us. In Faithwalkers we will be looking at stories/scriptures revolving around the concept of “light”. Our motto for the year is, “Be the Light,” so we want to learn exactly what that means.

Looking ahead we have our annual Operation Christmas Child service project coming up on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup>! If you would like to donate money or items for that project, please bring those to the church office. For more information go to [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org).

Fall is upon us, and it is my favorite time of year. What a beautiful reminder that even though things change, the Lord never does. Have a great month!



## IMPACT YOUTH GROUP—6th—8th grade

We will meet EVERY Sunday evening at 5:00 pm in the Well (downstairs in the basement)



## FAITHWALKERS—9th-12th grade

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

### October dates:

October 4

October 11

October 18

October 25

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

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

### 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!



**Wednesday evenings** We begin serving TO GO MEALS at 5:30 during the school year. Egg casserole, sausage links, fruit & cinnamon roll

## SHOEBOX GIFT SUGGESTIONS



### “WOW” ITEM

- soccer ball with pump
- doll
- stuffed animal
- shoes

### TOYS

- toy cars
- jump ropes
- yo-yos
- toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

### ACCESSORIES

- socks
- sunglasses
- jewelry and watches
- flashlights (with extra batteries)

### SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- notebooks and paper
- coloring and picture books
- solar calculators

### NON-LIQUID HYGIENE ITEMS

- toothbrushes
- bar soap
- washcloths
- combs



**Do Not Include:** candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans

For additional gift suggestions and more, visit [samaritanspurse.org/bcc](http://samaritanspurse.org/bcc)







**Children's Ministry Director—**  
**Julie Van Manen**  
**Office Hours: Wednesdays**  
 Email: julievmfrcsully@gmail.com  
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 Cell phone: 641-521-7951



**WE THANK GOD FOR FALL!**

Pumpkins, apples, and crisp air all mean that fall has arrived! We are so blessed to live in a part of God's world where we can enjoy God's creation as the seasons change! One of my favorite childhood memories of fall is visiting my Aunt Edna and her family in Nebraska, who by the way we were able to see last month as she celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! A special treat that we only had at Aunt Edna's was her mix of candy corn and peanuts. Enjoy some candy corn this fall as you read the candy corn acrostic!

Let your light shine so people everywhere may see your good actions and praise God in heaven because of it.  
 Matthew 5:16

This fall, I am super excited to say that we have had an awesome month of Sunday School! You could feel the excitement in the air the first day back. Thank you to all of the teachers and helpers who so graciously share their gifts each week with the children! The third graders will receive their Bibles during the church service on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

3 yr. olds – Kdg. are able to participate in Children in Worship during the morning worship service. The first week they talked about "The Light" and are learning the Ten Commandments.

As we continue to experience a few changes to our life routines, we as Christians need to let our lights shine!



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

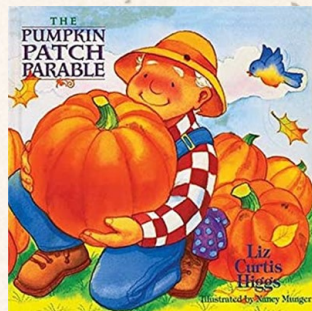


**Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin:**

- God picks you from the patch and brings you in. (John 15:16)
- Then He washes all the dirt off of you. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- He opens you up and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, fear, hate, and greed. (Romans 6:6)
- He carves you a new smiling face. (Psalm 71:23)
- And He puts his light inside of you to shine for all the world to see. (Matthew 5:16)



I am the light that shines through the night sky; if you walk with Me, you will thrive in the light that gives life and will not know darkness.  
 John 8:12



**A great book to read this Fall!**





## Corey & Shelby Van Der Wilt

**Birthdays:** Corey 8/11

Shelby 5/18

**Anniversary:** June 8, 2019

Corey and Shelby Van Der Wilt live in a cute house in Sully with their little dog Nya. Going on walks in Sully with Nya or just being outside are a couple of things they enjoy especially with the beautiful fall weather.

Shelby is the daughter of David and Lisa Foster and was raised in a house directly across from the school in Sully. Her younger brother is Cale. After graduating from Lynnville-Sully, she went on to get a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Missouri and is currently working for Unity Point Health in Grinnell as a Patient Access Associate.

Maury and Stacie Van Der Wilt are Corey's parents and he grew up about 3 miles south of Sully on a farm with his sister Kristen (Colton) Bradley. After graduating from Lynnville-Sully, he achieved his degree from DMACC. Corey is a farmer and also part owner/operator of Van Der Wilt Auto Repair.

The couple met through friends at Lynnville-Sully school and were married on a perfect day in June at First Reformed. They appreciated the Faithwalkers youth group while they were growing up and

when they have children, they hope to have them take part in those activities at church too. They enjoy all of the special events the church puts on for every age and they want to see the church continue to grow!

Thank you Van Der Wilt's for letting us "Get To Know You Better!"



Felipe and Janelle de Waard-Silva

### PRAY

- For energy, patience, perseverance, and wisdom while serving abroad with young children, far from family.
- For the opening of the church plant in January 2020.
- For Felipe and Janelle as they take on new roles in ministry with the church plant.
- For provision and guidance for a new climbing and education center, part of the five-year vision.



### About the ministry

The click of an unlocked door marks the beginning of another busy day at Fără Limite Climbing Gym in Vulcan, Romania. Chalk instantly covers hands, and clouds of chalk dust fill the air. Music blasts as kids scale the walls for the next seven hours. Cheers of encouragement and warm embraces provide a glimpse into the family they've built here, a stark contrast to many of the kids' lives outside the gym walls.

In partnership with the New Horizons Foundation, Felipe and Janelle work with Roma youth in the Jiu Valley to build trust, perseverance, character, and courage through rock climbing. In a town where poverty forces many parents to move away for work, this ministry provides youth an environment where they can experience safety and respect, develop life skills, pursue education, and come to know the love of Christ. Felipe and Janelle are also planting a church in the community of Dallas.

To learn more or support this ministry, visit:

[www.rca.org/silva](http://www.rca.org/silva)  
[janellesilva@gmail.com](mailto:janellesilva@gmail.com)  
[ferissil@gmail.com](mailto:ferissil@gmail.com)



MSN19207



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](http://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](http://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!



# October



- October 1**  
Tim Dunsbergen ~ Dennis Van Maanen
- October 2**  
Majesta Vos ~ Cody Kesling
- October 4**  
Cale Van Wyk ~ Matthew Vasileiadis
- October 5**  
Corey Kramer
- October 7**  
Trisha Vander Molen
- October 8**  
Sandy Beyer (95)
- October 10**  
Karissa Chapman ~ Joyce De Goey(83)  
Dana Dunsbergen ~ Tim Jansen
- October 11**  
Hinley Jansen ~ Cathryn Dunsbergen
- October 12**  
Tatum Huyser ~ Mikayla Bonnema
- October 13**  
Kaylee Maasdam ~ Katelyn Nikkel
- October 14**  
Cooper Scandridge
- October 15**  
Mark Scholten
- October 16**  
Luke Kramer
- October 17**  
Ron McKeag

- October 18**  
Miranda Vos
- October 20**  
Kevin Van Wyk
- October 21**  
Alex Huyser ~ Morgan Vander Molen
- October 22**  
Justin Deal
- October 23**  
Bryan De Jong ~ Taylor Vos  
Adler De Hoedt
- October 24**  
Caulen Deal ~ Abel Harsselaar  
Bentley Hay
- October 25**  
Shirley Baarda(83) ~ Gerald Droppert  
Minnie Huyser ~ Linda Jansen
- October 27**  
Eric De Jong ~ Brinley Doane
- October 28**  
Dennis Dunsbergen
- October 29**  
Delia De Jong (89)  
Mathias Torres
- October 30**  
Dawn Terpstra
- October 31**  
Cindy Hackert

- October 1**  
Tyler & Kaila Harsselaar—4
- October 2**  
Russ & Lois Rozendaal— 50
- October 5**  
Jamie & Julie Keen— 24  
Zach & Delaney Brimeyer—1
- October 7**  
Shawn & ChyAnne Huyser—20
- October 8**  
Drew & Leah Van Rees—4
- October 15**  
Tim & Brenda Jansen—26
- October 16**  
Ken & Lorie Van Soelen—39
- October 24**  
Darrel & Barb Jansen—59  
Bryan & Myra Rozendaal—45  
Tim & Marsha Vanden Hoek—33




## A SPOOKTACULAR SHOW

# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Deadline: October 22

Turn in a photo of you, your child, your grandchild or your pet in a Halloween costume by posting below, texting 641-891-9957 or e-mailing nnikkel@wesleylife.org.

We normally have 500 trick or treaters, so our goal is 500 pictures to create a virtual costume parade for our residents!



## KNOTTING LADIES

WE ARE STARTING UP FALL QUILTING IN THE LEGACY CENTER NO CUTTING OF BLOCKS UNTIL JANUARY

WE ARE JUST ASSEMBLING & KNOTTING FROM

**1 - 4:30 PM ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 & 20 NOVEMBER 3 & 17**

**First Reformed Church**  
807 3rd St. PO Box 208  
Sully, Iowa 50251  
641-594-2935  
frcsully@netins.net  
[www.sullyfrc.org](http://www.sullyfrc.org)

Our morning service is livestreamed through our website

# October 2020 Prayer Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Ken & Lorie Van Soelen	2 Ervin & Carolyn Van Waardhuizen	3 Aaron, Amber Lane & Lucy Van Wyk
4 Braden & Christine Van Wyk	5 Cale & Kendra Van Wyk	6 Cody Van Wyk	7 Edith Van Wyk	8 Esther Van Wyk	9 Gilbert & Marlene Van Wyk	10 Jeff & Deb Van Wyk
11 Joel, Heidi & Jesse Van Wyk	12 Kevin & Julie Van Wyk	13 Marlin & Laureen Van Wyk	14 Rachel Van Wyk	15 Ross Van Wyk	16 Ruby Van Wyk	17 Rusty, Sharla & Shaleah Van Wyk
18 Jonella Van Wyk	19 Cory, Amanda & Mia Van Zante	20 Jason, Michelle & Megan Van Zante	21 Tyler & Bri Van Zante	22 Jim & Marlis Van Zante	23 Pavlos, Meggan, Theo, Matthew & Risa Vasileiadis	24 Henry Veldhuizen
25 Dick Jr. & Joyce Ver Ploeg	26 Doyle & Karna Ver Ploeg	27 Teryl & Carol Ver Ploeg	28 Brandon, Andrea, Rory & Harlow Vos	29 Cole, Shelly, Bentlee, Paisley, Rowyn & Memphis Vos	30 Jordan, Miranda & Nora Vos	31 Logan, Taylor Kreighton & Oaklynn Vos





# October 2020 Activity Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	3
4 9:30 am Pastor Wayne Sneller—Communion 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 5 pm IMPACT 6:30 pm Faithwalkers	5	6 1—4:30 pm Knotting Ladies	7 5:45 am Promise Keepers 5:30 pm To Go Meals 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th	8 6 pm Rehearsal Lanser/Dunsbergen	9 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	10 4 pm Wedding-Lanser/Dunsbergen
11 9:30am Laity Sunday 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 5 pm IMPACT 6:30 pm Faithwalkers	12	13	14 5:45 am Promise Keepers 5:30 To Go Meals 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th	15	16 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	17
18 9:30 am Robby Robinson, from The Way 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 5 pm IMPACT 6:30 pm Faithwalkers	19	20 7:00 pm Deacons Mtg 1—4:30 pm Knotting Ladies	21 5:45 am Promise Keepers 5:30 To Go Meals 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th 6:30 pm Elders Mtg. 7:30 pm Consistory	22	23 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	24
25 Bible Blessings 9:30am Pastor Wayne Sneller 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 5 pm IMPACT 6:30 pm Faithwalkers	26	27	28 5:45 am Promise Keepers 5:30 To Go Meals 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th	29	30	31

## PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR

97% of pastors have been betrayed, falsely accused or hurt by their trusted friends. 70% of pastors battle depression. 7,000 churches close each year. 1,500 pastors quit each month. 10% will retire a pastor. 80% of pastors feel discouraged. 94% of pastor's families feel the pressure of the ministry. 78% of pastors have no close friends. 90% of pastors report working 55-75 hours per week. Pray for your pastor.