



Oskaloosa
1st CRC
Newsletter

September – October 2023

Back to school blessing

Dear Heavenly Father,

For all the children returning to school, send your Holy Spirit as their guide and protector.

Keep them free from danger and unnecessary harm.
Put our sons and daughters in the right place, at the right time, to receive your grace.
Let them learn and grow strong. May the presence of your Spirit fill their hearts.
Help us to mature as parents and caregivers.

Bless every family, oh Lord.

We entrust our children to you, dear God.
Since from the beginning, they are yours to keep.

In the name of the greatest Son of all, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

From Pastor Spronk's Desk



FAMILIAR WORSHIP IN AN UNFAMILIAR PLACE

While on vacation a few weeks ago, our family spent a Sunday morning worshiping at a new church for us, Rimbey CRC in Rimbey, Alberta, Canada. We visited that church on the invitation of a Cadet co-counselor of mine who farms in the area. As a family we faced the typical feelings of being in a different yet related church. We experienced the unfamiliarity of a new sanctuary, an unknown order of worship, strangers in the pews around us, songs we were unacquainted with and a preacher even I had not heard of before. Moreover, when we searched for bathrooms, we found out they did not have any!! ("We have washrooms," we were helpfully reminded by our Canadian acquaintances).

But what was familiar: the God we gathered to worship together on that Lord's Day. The main preaching text of the day was also familiar and of great comfort to weary travelers such as ourselves: Hebrews 13:8 *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* Our Savior is the eternally trustworthy one, consistent and worthy of praise in each generation. He forever reigns in heaven. The Lord of our fathers is also to be the Lord of our children and grandchildren.

It's a beautiful thing to be confronted with that familiar message in an unfamiliar place. What an assurance, that no matter where in this wide world we may travel to, there are brothers and sisters singing, praying and proclaiming to the Triune God. If you ever have the privilege to worship in a congregation overseas in a foreign land (especially if the service is in a language you can't comprehend) or even in a local non-English speaking church, you will be powerfully reminded that we serve a God of all nations and tribes and languages (though thankfully we share a language with our neighbors to the north, eh!)

Pastor Jon

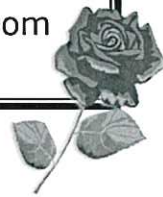
Church Family News



Marion & Dorothy Vos
410 6th Avenue West
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

In Loving Memory:

Paul Groenenboom
6/30/23



Josh & Abbie (Vander Molen) Van Donselaar
7/1/23
Gideon & Emily (Sytsma) Boender
8/18/23



Kase Henry Grafke – 7/13/23
~ son of Saif & Jaynee

Membership Updates

Professions of Faith

7/23/23 & 7/30/23

Amelia Boender	John Boender
Rachel Boender	Kahrey Chamberlin
Bethany De Bruin	Ezra Groenenboom
Madison Hol	Anniston Meyer
Bethany Van Donselaar	Leah Van Donselaar
Zech Van Donselaar	



First CRC Council 2023

Pastor Jon Spronk	Pastor		641-295-5155 673-5693	(Cell) (Study)
Pastor Erik Kamp	Pastor		641-417-9433	
Doug Boender	Elder	2024	641-660-3282	Council Clerk, Elder's VP, & Pulpit Supply
Keith Brink	Elder	2026	641-660-4031	Youth Elder
Joel De Bruin	Elder	2025	641-295-6364	Evangelism Committee
Kurtis De Bruin	Elder	2024	641-660-6681	Building & Grounds & Tech. Committee
Rich De Bruin	Elder	2025	641-660-9820	Education Comm. & Library
Rich De Groot	Elder	2024	641-295-6240	Fellowship
Brent De Ronde	Elder	2026	641-660-9472	Communion, Care Groups & Bulletin Comm.
Doug Groenenboom	Elder	2024	641-638-4758	Worship Committee
Steve Plate	Elder	2025	641-660-8133	Elder's Clerk & Council VP
Luke Roozeboom	Elder	2026	641-660-4150	Communion, Care Groups & Records Clerk
Paul Van Donselaar	Elder	2025	641-660-4507	President, Pulpit Supply
Kyle De Ronde	Deacon	2025	641-660-2907	Deacon Secretary & Disability Concerns
Alex Fynaardt	Deacon	2024	641-780-9826	Ass't General Fund Treasurer
Brad McMahan	Deacon	2024	641-295-0479	Deacon Chairman & Disaster Relief Coordinator
Trent Meyer	Deacon	2026	319-231-6054	Special Offerings Treasurer
Brennan Plate	Deacon	2026	641-660-6949	Building Fund Treasurer
Marty Roberts	Deacon	2024	641-660-0676	General Fund Treasurer
Josh Van Donselaar	Deacon	2025	641-295-1942	Associate Pastor, Benevolence, Enduring Gifts, Mission Fund and Love, INC
Mitchel Veenstra	Deacon	2026	641-660-3653	Vicar & C.E.F. Treasurer

Sue De Bruin	Church Secretary	673-4272 673-7303	(Office) (Home)
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Updated 10/27/22

Nursery Schedule

September - October 2023

A.M.

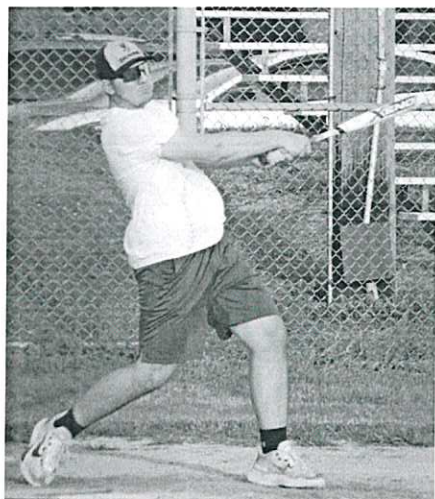
September 3	Ki B, Madi H Nick S
September 10 (Communion)	Erica DB, Luke B Arianna J, Hannah B
September 17	Stacy B, Aubrey K Mack J
September 24	Kyah C, Dean DR Cora DG
October 1	Georgina DR, Baylen B Kohen DB
October 8	Kelly P, Adalli B Lake DR
October 15	Cassia B, AnnaBelle C Violet DG
October 22	Ellize C, Kynnah C Reagan DG
October 29	Mary Beth J, Natalie P Molly C



CHURCH LEAGUE SOFTBALL



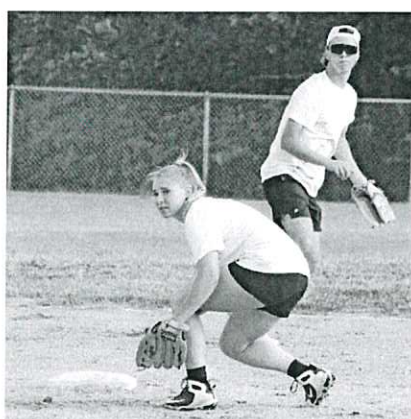
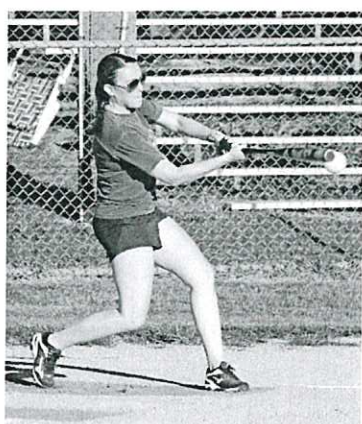
The 2023 Church League Softball season began on June 6 and finished with tournament games being held toward the end of August. This year our church had two teams represented.



Each team was



ready to play the season with determination, perseverance, willingness to work together and hopefully win a few games. Having fun was the main goal! Team #2 was awarded the Good Sportsmanship Award at the end of the season. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the



teams this year! Your support is appreciated!!



Sunday School Schedule 2023-2024

2023

September 10 SS begins/Lesson 1

September 17

September 24

October 1

October 8

October 15

October 22

October 29

November 5

November 12

November 19

November 26

December 3 K-8 Chr program prctc

December 10 K-8 Chr program prctc

December 17 Christmas program

December 24 Christmas break

December 31 Christmas break

March 24

March 31 Easter No SS class

April 7

April 14

April 21

April 28

May 5 last class & SS Recognition

Mission Emphasis Sunday TBD

Cadet Sunday: April 7, 2024

2024

January 7 classes resume

January 14 K-8 to Homestead

January 21

January 28

February 4

February 11

February 18

February 25

March 3 GEMS Sunday/NO SS class

March 10

March 17

Sunday School Teachers 2023 – 2024

	<u>Teachers:</u>	<u>Substitutes:</u>
3's	Trent & Christy Meyer	Tyler & Kourtnei Shelquist
4's	Carol De Ronde – Richards	Jerry & Jill De Bruin
K	Rich & Belinda De Groot	Larry & Sue De Groot
1 st	Lucas & Merribeth De Groot	Ben & Courtney De Bruin
2 nd	Sherwin & Kristin Plate	Tiffany Roozeboom
3 rd	Dan & Lori McKinney	Ryan & Amanda Brink
4 th	Mark Boender	Tony & Joan Kunz
5 th	Madison Hol	Mike & Mary Beth Jackson
6 th	Brent & Georgina De Ronde	Mitchel & Lyndsay Veenstra
7 th	Gene De Bruin	Pat Franje
8 th	Brad & Jill McMahan	Kurtis De Bruin
9 th	Steve & Sandra Plate	Doug Boender
10 th	Joel & Hayley De Bruin	Joel Groenenboom
11 th	Doug Groenenboom	Joel Groenenboom
12 th	Steve & Jenessa Kaisand	Kirk Veenstra

Adult Pastor Jon

SS Programs – Cheryl Groenenboom

Incentive Cupboard – Lisa De Bruin

K-4 Music – Gloria De Bruin, Cheryl Groenenboom

5-8 Music – Ruth De Bruin, Keri Spronk

Friendship Bible Study



Friendship meets at 6:30 p.m. on alternate Monday evenings. Our first meeting was on July 10. This year we are studying a series on God's Creation. Visitors are welcome. If you have any questions, contact Dale De Bruin at 641-660-6945.

Tuesday Evening Coffee Break & Story Hour



GLOBAL COFFEE BREAK

DISCOVERING TOGETHER

Any women of the church & community are invited to attend Tuesday Evening Coffee Break. We will begin September 12, 5:45 pm with an outdoor meal at Church. The evening will include a picnic dinner, socializing for the women and playtime for their children. Each week following will include an evening meal at 5:45 followed by Bible study at 6:15 for women and Bible stories, games & crafts for their children. This non-denominational Bible study is for ANYONE. Call Deb, 641-660-8290 or Dena, 641-660-5671.

Cadets
ROOTED and GROUND
2023-2024

Cadets is for boys in 4th – 8th grades. They meet weekly on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. from September 20 – April 3. We start with a Bible study and then move on to project work which ranges from soap carving to small engine repair. If you know of any boys in that age group that would like to attend, please contact Gene De Bruin at 660-3297.

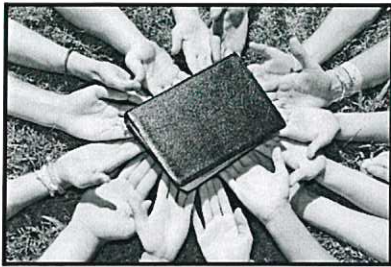
GEMS Girls' Clubs

GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior) is a 4th-8th grade girls club that meets every Wednesday evening during the school year from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

GEMS is a time of making friendships, singing songs of praise,
Bible study, badge work, field trips, and crafts.

Our year will begin on Wednesday, September 6.

If you know of any girls in the 4th-8th grades that need to be contacted or if have any questions, please contact Crystal Roberts at 660-2214 or mandcroberts@gmail.com or Linda Van Donselaar at 295-4848 or lkvandonselaar@gmail.com



IGNITE

IGNITE is for anyone in 9th – 12th grade. We generally meet each Wednesday evening from 7:00 -8:30 in the church basement.

Our Kick-Off for this year will be on Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Our leaders this year are BJ & Cassia Boender, Dan & Karen Fynaardt, Brad & Jill McMahan & Jeff & Vicki Van Donselaar; along with our Youth Elder Doug Boender and his wife Ginger.

Please bring a friend and join us for Bible Study,
Fun Activities, and Service Work.

Thursday Morning Coffee Break



GLOBAL COFFEE BREAK
DISCOVERING TOGETHER

Thursday Morning Coffee Break will start their 2023-2024 season on September 7 with a coffee time/fellowship at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. We will be finishing our study of the first part of the Gospel of John (lesson 10, John 7:53-8:59) from *The Discover Your Bible Series*.

We meet each Thursday morning at 9:30 for a snack and fellowship before an hour of Bible study at 10:00. We meet from September through April. We would like to encourage ladies of all ages to come and bring a friend as we fellowship together and learn more about God's Word. We are a non-denominational group and enjoy learning from each other.

Our leaders for this year are Gloria De Bruin (660-6856), Faye Drost 660-8978), and Delores Ryken (295-2983). We look forward to seeing you. Call one of the leaders if you have any questions.



Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study:

We usually meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month for Bible Study from 8:30-9:30 a.m., followed by a short prayer and share time. We meet in the church basement (by the lower kitchen). We plan to begin on Thursday, Sept. 14, for prayer and share and an introduction to the book with regular Bible Study beginning on September 28, 2023. If you have questions or would like more information please contact Cheryl G.

God's Covenant Faithfulness



The oldest and youngest male members of 1st CRC
had their picture taken on July 16.

Marvin De Bruin

94 years, 11 months and 2 days

Kase Grafke

(infant son of Saif & Jaynee)

3 days

Praise God for His faithfulness throughout all generations!



Tuesday Evening Coffee Break & Story Hour

Fall 2023

Coffee Break is an international, non-denominational Bible Study for women. Story Hour is for children 3 years through 3rd grade. Any women of the church & community are invited to attend. We will begin September 12, 5:45 pm at the church. The evening will include a picnic dinner, socializing for the women and playtime for their children. Each week following will include an evening meal at 5:45 followed by Bible study at 6:15 for women and Bible stories, games & crafts for their children. Please consider visiting and inviting someone to attend with you. **If questions, call Deb, 641-660-8290 or Dena, 641-660-5671.**



Early November we do at least 60 shoe box gifts for Samaritan's Purse. Let us know if you have items to donate to the boxes, or if you would like to pay us to do extra boxes for you.

Vadioled Sofia is our World Vision sponsored child from Columbia. She is six years old now.



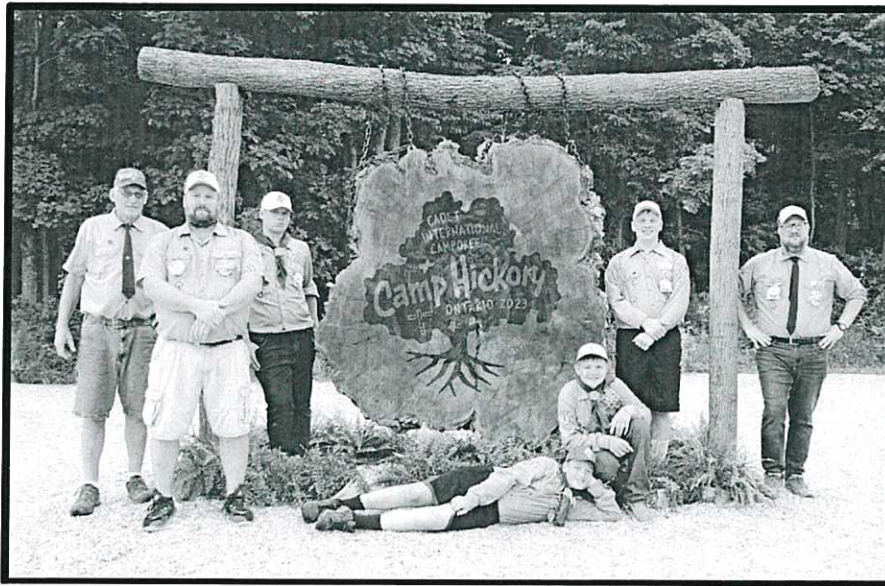
Funds raised at the annual Ice Cream Social help to pay for our sponsor child AND for the postage for the shoe box gifts.

Thank you to all the AWESOME cooks, hostesses, Story Hour leaders, and crafters that help us year after year! GOD BLESS YOU!

Dena VanEngelenhoven ~ Deb Bruxvoort
Ruth DeBruin ~ Linda DeRonde ~ Tracy DeGroot



Cadets



From July 19-26, Pastor Jon and his sons, Ben, Finn & Nick; along with Jared R, Gene DB & Matt G attended the Cadet International Camporee – Camp Hickory. This year, the Camporee was held near Dunnville, Ontario, Canada which is about 50 miles west of Niagara Falls. Once we were dropped off, we walked down a long path in the middle of a cornfield to get to the grass area and trees at the end of the farm which is where the Camporee was held. There were about 1,000 attendees this year.

The grass area is where we had Assembly twice every day and played some of the games. They had paths through the trees and that is where the tents were built. We were given 2-24'x40' sheets of plastic, 20-12' poles and a bale of twine to build our tent. The tent needed to be water tight, both top and bottom, and sturdy enough to live in for seven days. There were 9-10 adults and boys in each tent.

We did a Service Project, then went swimming in Lake Erie. We did Target Sports which included riflery, archery and slingshots. For Camp Craft, we built a three-legged stool with a leather seat. Another day we hiked a trail and then went canoeing. For our Excursion this year, we went to Niagara Falls and then went to a water park. One night after assembly, we were treated to a fireworks show that was incredible!

Morning and evening meals had to be cooked over the fire. The Cadre members took turns cooking and the food was very good. For lunch, we put together sandwiches.

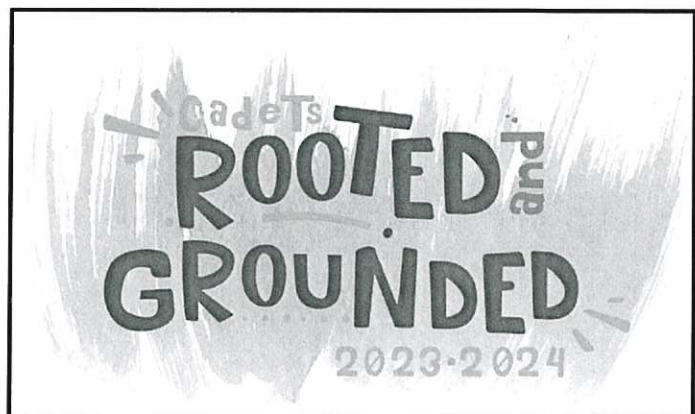
Camporee is a fantastic experience and in 2026 the International Camporee will be held just southwest of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Camp will be at about 4,000 feet of elevation and from camp you will be able to see the Canadian Rockies. I would like to see many Cadets from our church go and enjoy this opportunity.

Cadets is for boys in 4th – 8th Grade and meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m.

This year's Cadet season will be starting on September 20 with a Kick-Off Campout to be held September 22-23.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Gene De Bruin at 641-660-3297.

We're looking forward to another great year.



GEMS Girls' Clubs

GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior) is a 4th-8th grade girls club that meets every Wednesday evening during the school year from 7:00pm-8:30pm. GEMS is a time of making friendships, singing songs of praise, studying the Bible, doing badge work, and creating crafts.

Each year a theme is created and a verse based on that theme is found. For the 2023-2024 year, our theme is: "Rise Up...Life Lessons from Queen Esther" based on Isaiah 40:31 – *"but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

The GEMS counselors for this year are: 4th Grade: Heather Collins & Deann De Groot, 5th grade: Mary Beth Jackson & Lori McKinney, 6th Grade: Kristi Jabaay & Sarah Lobberecht, 7th Grade: Lisa De Bruin & Jenessa Kaisand, and 8th grade: Robbyn De Bruin & Merribeth De Groot.

Our year will begin on Wednesday, September 6th and we ask for prayers for our GEMS girls and counselors. Also, please feel free to invite 4th-8th grade girls that you know to join our GEMS Club. If you know of anyone that needs to be contacted or if have any questions, please contact Crystal Roberts at 660-2214 or mandcroberts@gmail.com



GEMS partnered with LOVE Inc. & made care packages for our local emergency personnel.



We also cleaned and dressed Barbies for Bible for Missions.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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September

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3 Prayer Service (am)	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5	6 GEMS	7 Coffee Break – am	8	9
10 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Homestead	11 Friendship Class	12 Coffee Break – pm – picnic	13 Games Day GEMS	14 Love INC Meetings	15	16 Classis Central Plains Meetings in St. Louis
17 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School	18	19 Coffee Break – pm	20 Cadets GEMS IGNITE Kick-Off	21 Coffee Break – am	22	23 Cadet Campout
24 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School	25 Council, Elder & Deacon Meetings	26 Coffee Break - pm	27 Games Day Cadets GEMS IGNITE	28 Morning Bible Study Coffee Break – am	29	30
				Love INC Meetings		
				Love INC Meetings		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School	2	3 Coffee Break – pm	4 Cadets GEMS IGNITE	5 Coffee Break – am	6	7
8 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Homestead	9 <i>Gary Van Engelenhoven's Birthday</i>	10 Coffee Break – pm	11 Games Day Cadets GEMS IGNITE <i>Martha Bruxvoort's Birthday</i>	12 Morning Bible Study Coffee Break – am	13	14
15 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School	16	17 Coffee Break – pm	18 Cadets GEMS IGNITE	19 Coffee Break – am	20	21
22 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School	23 	24 Coffee Break – pm Congregational Meeting <i>Ruth Branderhorst's Birthday</i>	25 Games Day Cadets GEMS IGNITE <i>Cal Branderhorst's Birthday</i>	26 Morning Bible Study Coffee Break – am	27	28
29 Prayer Service (am) Sunday School Joint Reformation Day Service at Bethel	30 Council, Elder & Deacon Meetings	31 Coffee Break – pm				



October