



Oskaloosa  
1<sup>st</sup> CRC  
Newsletter

May – June 2024

## God's Been Good to Me

I'm mindful of the blessings  
That come my way each day.  
My heart is overflowing  
Each time I kneel to pray.  
I'm thankful for the seasons;  
Each one's a masterpiece.  
I'm allowed to work the land,  
But God still holds the lease.  
I'm grateful for the friendships  
That brighten sorrow's way,  
Because my cup of happiness  
Sustains me every day.  
I love the children and the flowers  
That decorate my life  
And the quiet, gentle hours  
Free from worry and strife.  
I'm grateful for eyes that see  
The beauty of it all  
Because God's been good to me  
And blessed me through it all.  
I'm thankful for the little things  
That fill my life with love.  
The best things in life are free;  
They come from God above!

Clay Harrison



## *From Pastor Spronk's Desk*

### **SYNOD 2024 PREVIEW**



The Synod of the Christian Reformed Church will be meeting this coming June in Grand Rapids. To recap a bit over the past two Synods, Synod 2022 overwhelmingly approved the Human Sexuality Report which affirmed what we have always believed about biblical sexuality and affirmed that the Heidelberg Catechism condemns sexual immorality (adultery, pornography, sexual abuse, homosexual acts) as being unchaste. Synod 2023 overwhelmingly confirmed the previous Synod but ran out of time in deciding how to handle Office-bearers (pastors, elders, deacons) who seek to disagree with the confessional position of the CRC.

Looking at the Agenda for Synod 2024 (link is at [www.crcna.org/synod](http://www.crcna.org/synod)), there are two main questions that are in front of our denomination at this time:

1. Are Office-bearers allowed to have beliefs that deviate from the confessions (Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism and Canons of Dort)? If so, what is that apparatus for disagreement (what we call in the Church Order: Gravamen exceptions)?
2. Do we discipline congregations and councils that are publicly and defiantly not holding to our confessions? What does that discipline look like?

Brothers and sisters, this will be a very hard Synod. The decisions of the past two Synods have led to this crucial time of decision. There is a realization on all sides that the CRC cannot continue as it once was, something will have to give. And it will be heart-breaking. I say this as someone who is a part of a church, council, and Classis that is conservative on these issues but who has many friends and former churches that will be on the other side. It is becoming quickly apparent that there are two very different and unreconcilable views on sexuality and ultimately views on scripture that show there is no “better together” way forward.

Please be in prayer for Synod. Be in prayer for our Classis delegates (Rev. Mark Jicinsky, Des Moines; Rev. Michael Bentley, St. Louis; Elder Dan Freswick, St. Louis; Deacon Bob Vander Veen, Cedar Rapids). Ask our God for His wisdom to be upon the Synod as it weighs these matters. Stay updated about Synod through the Abide Project website and the Messy Reformation podcast.

Finally, trust that no matter what happens, our God is good and gracious and the Church of Christ will endure. *“This church has existed from the beginning of the world and will last until the end, as appears from the fact that Christ is eternal King who cannot be without subjects (Belgic Confession Art. 27).”*

Pastor Jon



# Church Family News



Carson & Rachel (Boender) Abrams  
~ 4/12/24

*Our  
Family  
is a  
Circle  
of strength and love,  
with every birth  
and every union,  
the circle will  
Grow,  
every joy shared  
adds more  
Love,  
every crisis faced together,  
makes the circle  
Stronger.*

## First CRC Council 2024

|                    |        |      |                          |  |
|--------------------|--------|------|--------------------------|--|
| Pastor Jon Spronk  | Pastor |      | 641-295-5155<br>673-5693 | (Cell)<br>(Study)                                |
| Pastor Erik Kamp   | Pastor |      | 641-417-9433             |  |
| Keith Brink        | Elder  | 2026 | 641-660-4031             | Youth Elder                                      |
| Joel De Bruin      | Elder  | 2025 | 641-295-6364             | Evangelism Committee                             |
| Rich De Bruin      | Elder  | 2025 | 641-660-9820             | Building & Grounds &<br>Tech. Committee          |
| Lucas De Groot     | Elder  | 2027 | 641-777-4970             | Worship Committee                                |
| Brent De Ronde     | Elder  | 2026 | 641-660-9472             | Communion, Care Groups &<br>Bulletin Comm.       |
| Tim Jabaay         | Elder  | 2027 | 319-899-8343             | Council Clerk, Elder's VP,<br>& Pulpit Supply    |
| Steve Plate        | Elder  | 2025 | 641-660-8133             | Elder's Clerk & Council VP                       |
| Doug Richards      | Elder  | 2027 | 641-660-6455             | Education Comm. & Library                        |
| Luke Roozeboom     | Elder  | 2026 | 641-660-4150             | Communion, Care Groups &<br>Records Clerk        |
| Jeff Van Donselaar | Elder  | 2027 | 641-295-3286             | Fellowship                                       |
| Paul Van Donselaar | Elder  | 2025 | 641-660-4507             | President, Pulpit Supply                         |
| Mike Boender       | Deacon | 2027 | 641-660-3957             | Deacon Chairman &<br>Disaster Relief Coordinator |
| Adam De Bruin      | Deacon | 2027 | 641-295-2111             | Benevolence & Enduring Gifts                     |
| Kyle De Ronde      | Deacon | 2025 | 641-660-2907             | Deacon Secretary &<br>Disability Concerns        |
| Trent Meyer        | Deacon | 2026 | 319-231-6054             | Special Offerings Treasurer                      |
| Chris Pierson      | Deacon | 2027 | 641-670-0081             | Ass't General Fund Treasurer                     |
| Brennan Plate      | Deacon | 2026 | 641-660-6949             | Building Fund Treasurer                          |
| Josh Van Donselaar | Deacon | 2025 | 641-295-1942             | General Fund Treasurer                           |
| Mitchel Veenstra   | Deacon | 2026 | 641-660-3653             | Vicar & C.E.F. Treasurer                         |

\*\*\*\*\*

|              |                  |                                      |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sue De Bruin | Church Secretary | 673-4272 (Office)<br>673-7303 (Home) |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|



# Nursery Schedule

## May - June 2024

### A.M.

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| May 5                 | Bethany DB (L), Amelia B<br>Jace S         |
| May 12<br>(Communion) | Erica DB, Olivia DG<br>Pippa DR, Raegan DG |
| May 19                | Ruth B, Galen H<br>Clara B                 |
| May 26                | Deb B, Anniston M<br>Natalie B             |
| June 2                | Tiffany R, Kahrey C<br>Kahlan K            |
| June 9                | Karen F, John B<br>Avery K                 |
| June 16               | Joan K, Leah L<br>Leah S                   |
| June 23               | Bethany DB (K), Ezra G<br>Harper McK       |
| June 30               | Joyce S, Ben S<br>Sophia P                 |



# Fruit of the Spirit

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth. Eph. 5:9

S U L E E C G G E S U S T  
 S O O E G O O F N T O U E  
 E C N A R E P M E T N S O  
 N G G S A F A I T H E H O  
 K S S G S C P O E L O N O  
 E U U O C E E E K O O O G  
 E T F O O P N R S S S V U  
 M P F D S E E E N O P N E  
 I E E N E T Y P L E N G S  
 O N R E O O E R I T S N G  
 E A I S J A G C G G N N S  
 M R N S C N T H E Y F E K  
 E T G E P E G E O N C T G

FAITH

LONGSUFFERING

GENTLENESS

LOVE

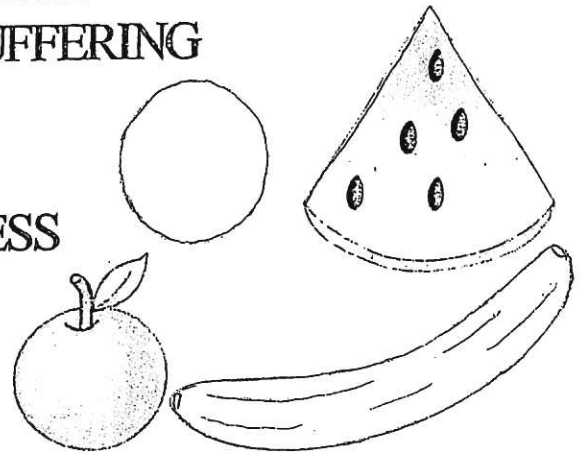
GOODNESS

MEEKNESS

JOY

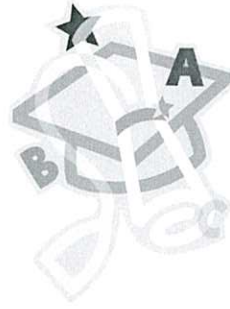
PEACE

TEMPERANCE





# 2024



## 8th Grade Graduates

***Adalli Boender***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 17 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of BJ & Cassia Boender.

***Anton Boender***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 17 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. He is the son of Mark & Stacy Boender.

***Lindsay De Bruin***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 17 and plans to attend North Mahaska High School. She is the daughter of Doug & Robbyn De Bruin.

***Olivia De Groot***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 17 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of Lucas & Merribeth De Groot.

***Addison De Jong***

Will graduate from Pella Christian Grade School on May 23 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. She is the daughter of Laura De Jong.

***Dean De Ronde***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 17 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. He is the son of Brent & Georgina De Ronde.

***Galen Hughes***

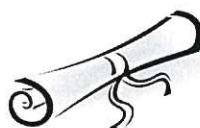
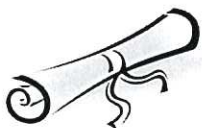
Will continue to be homeschooled. He is the son of Tony & Rachael Hughes.

***Dylan Roozeboom***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 17 and plans to attend Pella Christian High School. He is the son of Lucas & Tiffany Roozeboom.

***Luke Van Donselaar***

Will graduate from Oskaloosa Christian Grade School on May 17 and plans to attend Oskaloosa Senior High School. He is the son of Jeremy & Kristen Van Donselaar.



# 2024



## *High School Graduates*

*Amelia Boender  
Kahrey Chamberlin*

*Johnathan Boender  
Zech Van Donselaar*



Amelia Boender will graduate from Pella Christian High School on May 18, 2024.

She is planning on attending Dordt for their 2-year Business Entrepreneurship Program.

Amelia was involved in Cross Country, Basketball, Track, FFA and Yearbook while she was in high school.

She enjoys running, outdoor activities and gardening in her free time.

Amelia is the daughter of Mark & Stacy Boender.



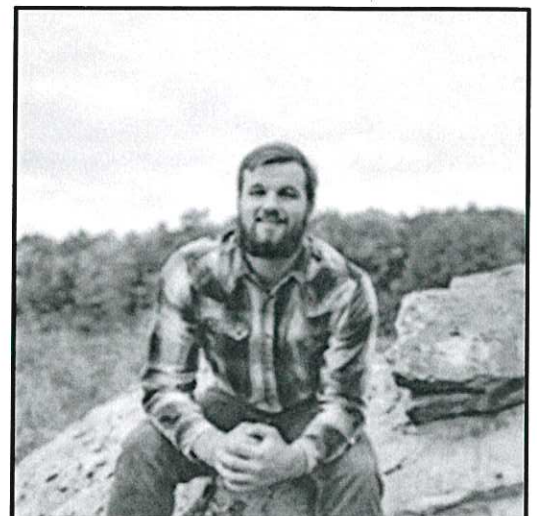
Johnathan Boender will graduate from Pella Christian High School on May 18, 2024.

He plans to attend Indian Hills for their Deisel Tech Program, continue with his semi polishing business and help with the farming operation.

While in high school, Johnathan was involved with FFA (serving as Vice-President), Shotgun Shooting Sports & Football.

In his free time, he enjoys polishing semi's, shooting sports, fishing and hunting.

Johnathan is the son of BJ & Cassia Boender.





Kahrey Chamberlin graduated from CHAP Homeschool in May 2023.

She is currently enrolled at Indian Hills Community College working towards her Associate of Arts and Sciences degree. She hopes to then transfer to a 4-year college and major in Social Work.

Kahrey is currently employed at Wyndell Campbell State Farm in Oskaloosa and The New Sharon Dance and Tumbling Studio.

In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with friends and shopping.

Kahrey is the daughter of Joel & Hayley De Bruin.

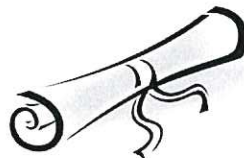
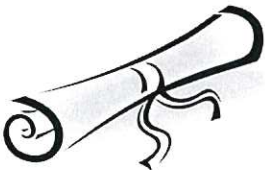


Zechariah Van Donselaar will graduate from Oskaloosa High School on May 19, 2024.

He plans to continue working part-time at Ozinga Feed Service and farm following graduation.

In his free time, Zech enjoys fishing, TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) and hanging out with friends.

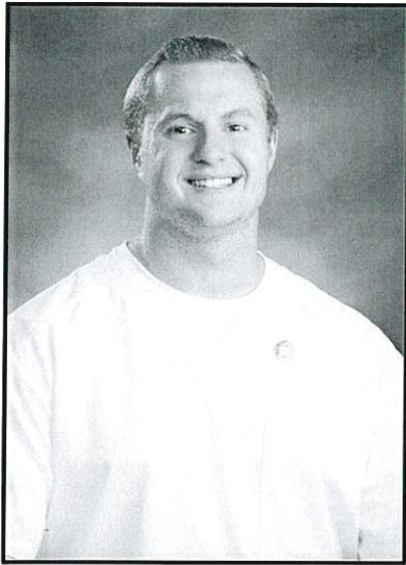
Zech is the son of Jeff & Vicki Van Donselaar.





# 2024 College Graduates

Adam Lobberecht



Adam Lobberecht will be graduating from Indian Hills Community College with his Associates of Nursing on May 16, 2024.

He will be working as an RN at Mahaska Health Partnership.

In his free time, Adam enjoys gardening, planting flowers and spending quality time with his wife, daughter and the rest of his family.

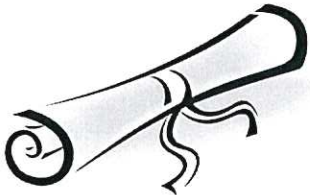
Adam is married to Sarah, and they have a daughter, Brinley.

## *You May Count That Day*

If you sit down at set of sun  
And count the acts that you have done,  
And, counting, find  
One self-denying deed, one word  
That eased the heart of him who heard -  
One glance most kind,  
That fell like sunshine where it went -  
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,  
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay -  
If, through it all  
You've nothing done that you can trace  
That brought the sunshine to one face -  
No act most small  
That helped some soul and nothing cost -  
Then count that day as worse than lost.

by George Eliot





# CADETS/GEMS CAR RACE RESULTS

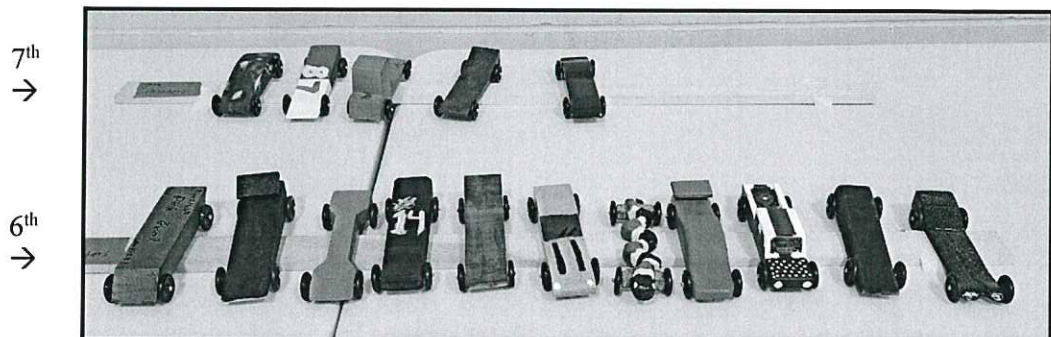
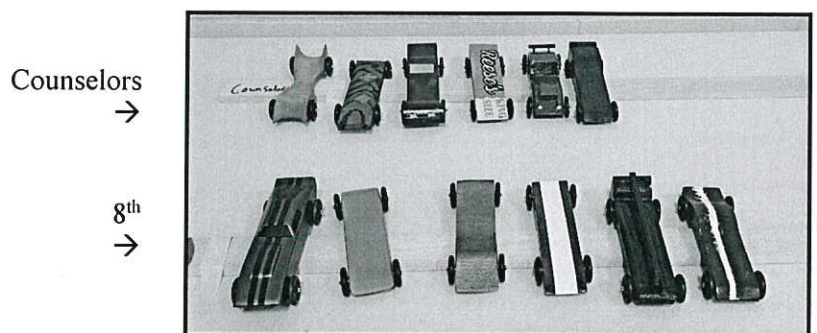
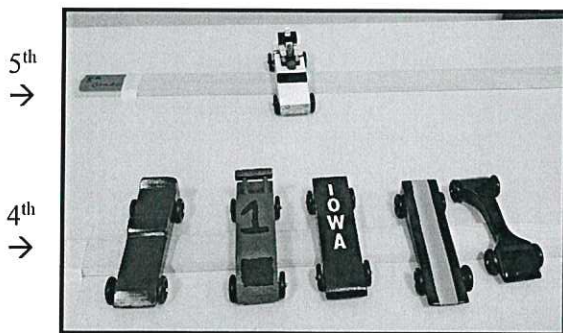
We had a wonderful time at the races on April 3.

Thanks to all who came out to support us, to those who participated and for the good sportsmanship shown by all.



## Cadets

|                                     |                             |                            |        |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3) | Daxton, Lake, Owen          | 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show | Owen   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1)     | Willem                      | 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show | Willem |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3) | Nick, Zach, Brayden         | 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show | Deacon |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3) | Cayden, Johnathon J, Hayden | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show | Hayden |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3) | Dylan, Dean, Galen          | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Show | Colton |
| Fathers/Counselors Speed (1,2,3)    | Sherwin, Laremy, Mike       | Fathers/Counselors Show    | Jeremy |
| Overall Speed (1,2)                 | Cayden, Nick                | Turtle Race                | John S |







**GEMS**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)**

**Cora, Lizzy, Kinley**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Show**

**Emory**

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)**

**Madi, Nora, Allison**

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Show**

**Kahlan**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1,2,3)**

**Aubrey, Rachel, Leah**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Show**

**Arianne**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Speed (1)**

**Olivia**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Show**

**Olivia**

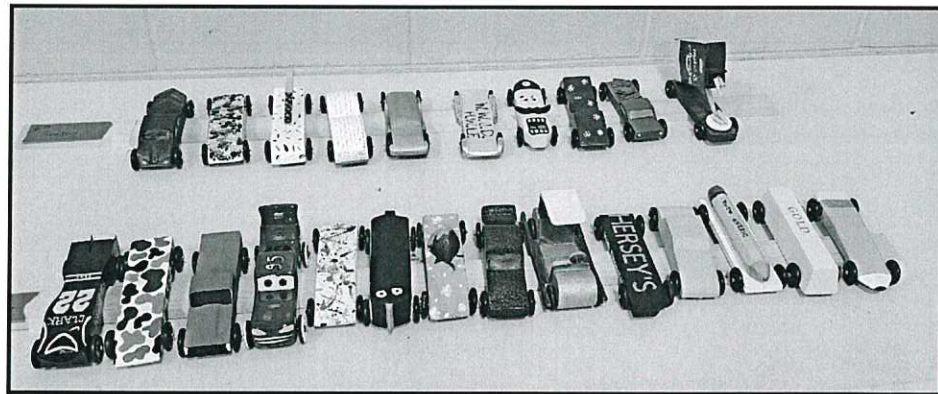
**Overall Speed (1,2)**

**Madi, Cora**

**Turtle Race**

**Molly**

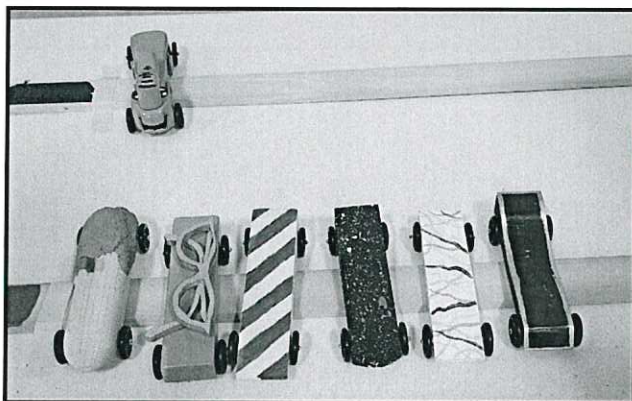
5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>



4<sup>th</sup>



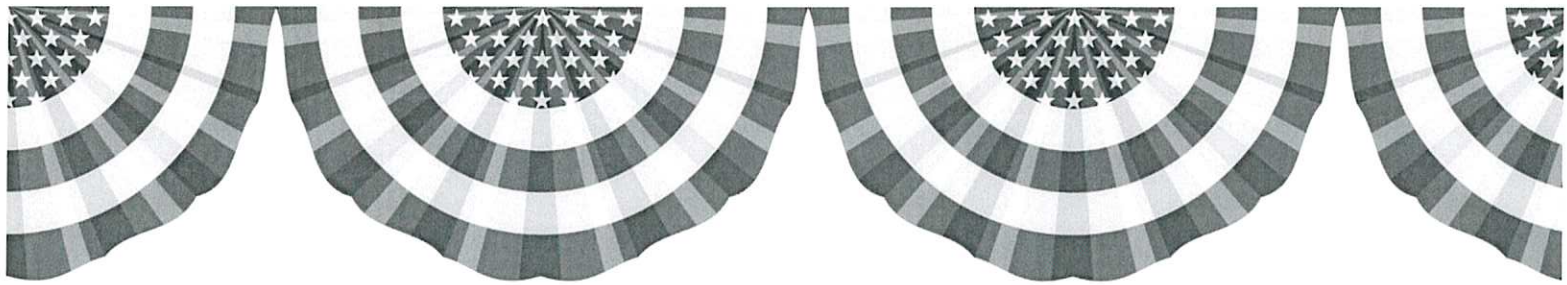
8<sup>th</sup>



7<sup>th</sup>







JOIN US for a  
*Memorial Day*  
*Pancake Breakfast*

**May 27, 7 – 10 am**

**Sponsored by:**

**IGNITE Youth Group at  
First Christian Reformed Church  
815 North 11<sup>th</sup> St., Oskaloosa, IA**



**Includes:**

Pancakes

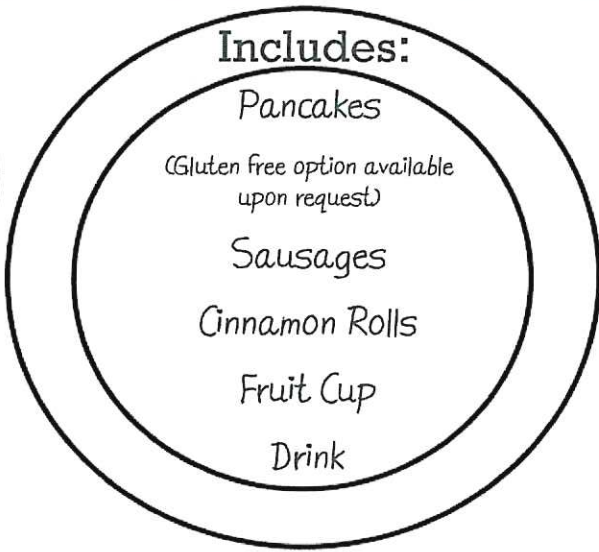
(Gluten free option available  
upon request)

Sausages

Cinnamon Rolls

Fruit Cup

Drink



**FREEWILL OFFERING**

PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS THE 2024 WORK PROJECT TO PIKEVILLE, KENTUCKY

# Ice Cream Social

**Tuesday, June 11**  
**5 to 7:30 p.m.**



**Sloppy Joes**  
**Hot Dogs**  
**Homemade Ice Cream**  
**Cupcakes**  
**Pie**



**First Christian Reformed Church**  
**815 North 11th St.**  
**Oskaloosa**

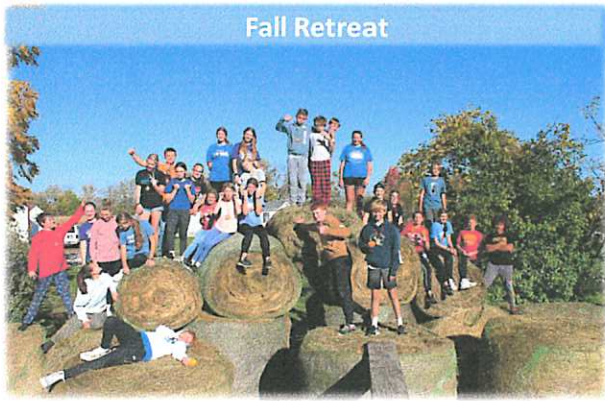


**GLOBAL COFFEE BREAK**  
DISCOVERING TOGETHER

**~ Free Will Offering ~**

**Sponsored by Evening Coffee Break**





Dear *Friends at First CRC,*

Loved ♥ Humbled ♥ Blessed!

This is how we are feeling at Lake View! Your support of God's ministry at Lake View is a warm hug to campers and to staff! God is now and will continue to touch the lives of His children, young and old, with your gift, and we are honored to do His work with your support.

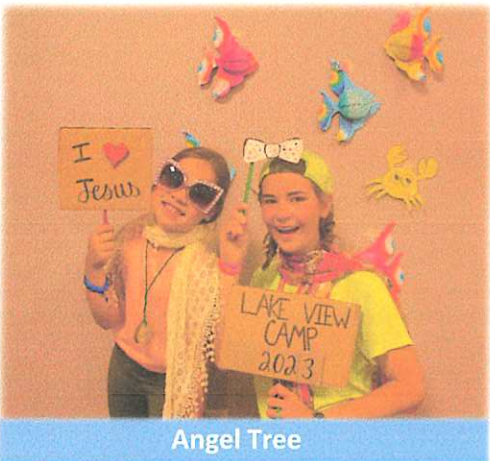
**We are preparing for and excited about 2024!**

Our theme for 2024 is "I Am." How God defines Himself such as, "I Am the Alpha & Omega," "I Am the Good Shepard," "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," "I Am the Vine", and "I Am with You." There are so many "I Am" truths from the Bible! We are excited for what God is going to teach and do through this theme as we dive into scripture, learning about the Great I AM.

Summer brochures are being mailed out and online registrations are coming in! Pray for future campers and that God will raise up staff, leaders, and counselors for the summer! If you know someone who would be a great camp counselor, send them our way! We also ♥ volunteers!

Development News ~ We expect to get a large septic system put into place this year that will allow us to continue forward with building buildings, which means we can bring more of God's children, young and old, to camp! Getting approval for this system has been a long process and one that has required waiting, patience, and prayer. We have been very limited in what we can do without this system. Praise God it has been approved and is in final design phase!

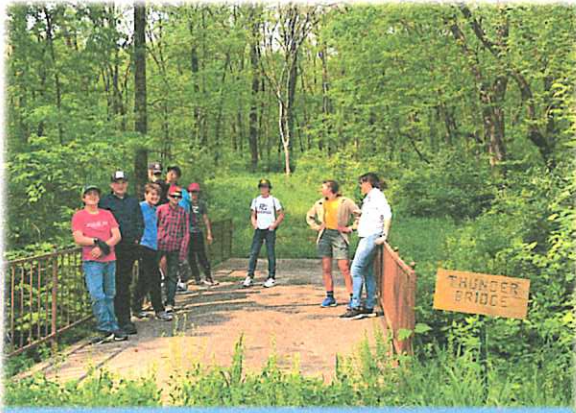
Thank you for your continued support of Lake View Camp and it's ministry and vision. Your heart to touch others with the Love of Christ, your vision for a place where God can reach His children, and your generosity to make it happen is both heart and life changing.







High School Winter Retreat 2024



Volunteers from Pella Christian MS



Pool/Rec Shed



New Cabin

**Celebrate and enjoy the smiling faces.**

**YOU help God create these smiles and experiences.**

**YOU bring the light and love of Christ to others.**

**YOU help build God's kingdom!**



Volunteers from Pella Christian HS

**We ♥ YOU!**

*Thank You for the Blessings!  
Thank you for your prayers!  
Thank you for your years of Partnership  
and support!  
Thank you for the many  
ways you touch lives  
with Jesus Love!  
Camp Hugs to you!*

In His service,

*Diana B.*

Diana Brummel  
Executive Director



Volunteers from Central College

Lake View is a non-profit organization, and all gifts are tax deductible. Enclosed is your receipt for tax purposes.







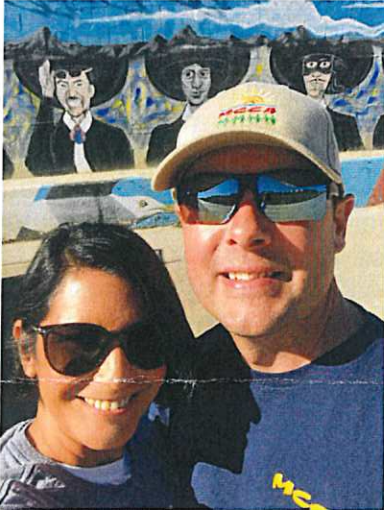
# MCCA Newsletter

MEXICAN CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S AID

SPRING  
2024

*And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name  
welcomes Me." Matthew 18:5*

*Serving the needy children of Baja since 1964*



## TERESA'S FIRST TRIP WITH THE MCCA

Each month, my husband (Luke Feenstra) and father-in-law (Larry Feenstra) deliver food in bulk and other supplies to Christian organizations/orphanages as well as needy families in the northern Baja California region. This is through the MCCA (Mexican Children's Christian Aid), which is a charitable organization.

Yesterday (01/06/24), I had the privilege of tagging along with them which seemed appropriate since it was Three Kings Day (a day celebrated of when the three wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus). This was such an amazing experience and opened my eyes to so many things.

Our truck (along with another one) visited 7 different orphanages in the Guadalupe Valley and delivered food in bulk (rice, flour, beans, eggs, etc...). My heart skipped a beat and melted each time I heard the laughter and sweet voices of the children. I wanted to hug each one tightly and tell them how much they are loved! Seeing their precious faces reminded me of the love and care that Jesus has for His children, who are the most vulnerable of all. It says in Mark 10:14-15 *"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

In Matthew 25, Jesus also teaches us about reaching out to people who are hurting and facing injustice in the world. We are reminded of our call to love and serve our neighbors in need. *"For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me."* –Matthew 25:35-36

One of the main things I witnessed during this trip was love. What is love? God is love. He loves with an Agape love which is defined as "unconcerned with self and concerned with the greatest good of another person." This love is a verb and is most often crowned as the highest form of Christian love. It was such an honor to be part of this team for a day and to be used by God as one of his tools.

We are to be salt and light in this dark world and words can't express how thankful I am for this organization. This was such a humbling and beautiful experience and I definitely plan on joining again!

I wish I would have taken more pictures to share but I was too busy "living in the moment." If you wish to donate or learn more about the MCCA charitable organization, you may visit :

<https://www.mccaredlands.org>

Teresa Feenstra



These photos are from trips a few years back

**Tax deductible donations can be made by visiting our website at <http://mccaredlands.org/>**

Founded in 1964 in Redlands, CA., the Mexican Christian Children's Aid is a, 501(c)(3), Charitable Organization. It began when a group of Christian business people were moved to address the sharp contrast between the affluence in the U.S., and the abject poverty found just across our southern border in Mexico. We purchase and provide monthly bulk food deliveries and other assistance to local Christian organizations in the northern Baja region. We deliver the food donations primarily to organizations that sponsor Children's Homes and or operate periodic Feeding Programs to needy families. Along with the food, Spanish translation Bibles, Gospel Tracts, clothing and other items are generally a part of our deliveries. Our monthly runs consist of all volunteer drivers and riders who donate their vehicles full of fuel and literally everything needed to complete the mission each time we go. The MCCA does not own or rent a building, nor are there any paid staff.

**The result is that 97% of all monetary donations goes directly to purchase food products.**



# CARYNNA'S FIRST TRIP WITH THE MCCA



Hello, my name is Carynna Shinski and in January this year I joined the MCCA Team on one of their monthly trips down to Mexico. My husband Charles has been going for a year now and has been telling me of all the wonderful things that he has seen this team do. I thought it was about time I saw for myself.

I don't even have the words to describe the thoughts and feelings that were going on inside of me, even while just driving over the border. It is a different world than the one we as Americans take for granted on a daily basis. I had never left the States before so nothing could have prepared me for what I saw. My feeling of security was wiped away the moment we went through the border.

The first thing I noticed was the poverty of the country. It was on every street corner. There is just trash everywhere because they don't have the trash collection services that we often take for granted. The people of Mexico have to find a place for their trash, which is sometimes right outside their front doors, or they take care of it themselves by burning it in the backyard. There are hills of trash, mounds of it in the distance. Stray dogs run the streets, looking for scraps of food or even trash to eat.

The thing that struck me the most, however, was the people. They are full of God's love. They have hope in their faces and joy beaming from their smiles. The kids come running out when they hear the trucks roll up. They are excited for what they see and anxious to help carry the big heavy sacks of beans, rice, flour and so on. They are the reason for the ministry. They are what stole my heart.

I now see what has changed my husband forever and I want to tell the world all about it. All my life I have been visiting San Diego with my family, and I never knew that this place even existed just minutes away. We as Americans hold many blessings and take them for granted daily because we don't know how others live or choose not to worry about it. My life will forever be changed because of this one trip. I love this place called Mexico and I am so looking forward to February when I can go visit again and do what I can to help.

Many Blessings be upon you,

Carynna Shinski



These photos are from trips a few years back

## \* In Memory of Alex Verhoeven \*

To MCCA, August 10, 2023 was a very significant day. 1. My birthday. Very grateful to God to allow me to start another year. 2. Awful tragic day. Alex verhoeven died accidentally. Alex was born on my son David's birthday, April 12th. This gift is dedicated to Alex. Have a great year. God Bless. Ryan Tolsma

### Mission Statement

MCCA is a ministry obedient to God's call to care for children in need by supplying those in Baja California with food, Spanish translation Bibles and the opportunity to know the love of Jesus Christ.

### MCCA Executive Board Contacts

|               |                |  |
|---------------|----------------|--|
| Paul Vela     | President      | <a href="mailto:psvela76@gmail.com">psvela76@gmail.com</a>                     |
| Steve Diaz    | Vice President | <a href="mailto:stevediazwhosoever@gmail.com">stevediazwhosoever@gmail.com</a> |
| Tom Rasmussen | Treasurer      | <a href="mailto:rasmussen.thos@gmail.com">rasmussen.thos@gmail.com</a>         |
| Rich DeWitt   | Secretary      | <a href="mailto:rldewitt@yahoo.com">rldewitt@yahoo.com</a>                     |

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MCCA1964>  
 Web Site: <http://mccaredlands.org/>  
 Mailing Address: PO Box 9931, Redlands, CA 92375



FEBRUARY 2024

# FROM THE GROUND UP



NEWS AND STORIES FROM PET FLORIDA PENNEY FARMS

## GOING WHERE THE MIRACLES ARE

Story submitted by  
Partners for Care

Here at Pet Florida, we make mobility carts for the walking-disabled – but we don’t distribute them. For that, we work with distribution partners who ship them to the countries they serve -- where they are delivered to the recipients they select. One of those distributors most active with us is a wonderful organization called Partners For Care, founded by Connie Cherron (shown on the left). In her comments with this picture taken in Kenya, Connie says, “Pastor Hirbo taught us to go to the field, as that is where the miracles are. So true – when we go to the field we do see those miracles. Our staff is on the ground every day, distributing mobility carts to those most in need. People who used to crawl on the ground, begging to survive, are now mobile, and many have created small businesses, now supporting

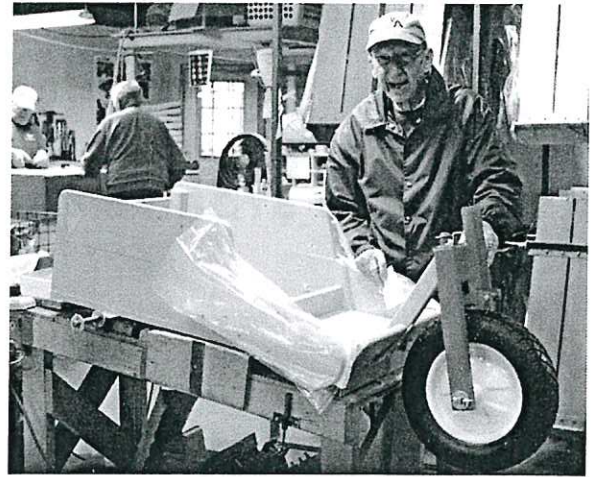


themselves and their families.”

Over our many years in providing the gift of mobility to people like this, we often sense or even hear the word “miracle” from them. How would you feel at that moment -- after years of hopeless isolation and limitations – a mobility cart has suddenly raised you from the ground up to be mobile and independent. Can you think of a better word than miracle? That’s the business we’re in here at PET FLORIDA – with God’s help, making miracles happen for hundreds every year!

## WHO MAKES THESE CARTS?

We are often asked what work backgrounds qualify a volunteer to work in our shop. Do you need to have a certain type of manufacturing experience? Well, we're pretty fussy about that. Currently we have volunteers with backgrounds in cardiology, farming, missions, accounting, marketing, nursing, obstetrics, Army, pastoring, NGO management, Navy, tool & die making, carpentry, teaching, Air Force, financial consulting, Marines, inventing and more. In other words, to be hired at our shop, you have to be able to walk in the door. Come add your work category to our list! (You don't have to be a resident at PRC to work with us.)



### **HELP US TO MAKE MORE**

- Give by check to address below
- Give by credit card online at [bit.ly/petflorida](http://bit.ly/petflorida) or scan here:



**THE PET STORY (Personal Energy Transportation):** Designed to provide mobility for walking-disabled persons, a PET cart is a rugged-terrain trike that is powered by the rider's arms. Production labor is provided entirely by volunteers, thus we are able to build the carts for the cost of the parts alone. They are given to recipients at no charge.



**PET FLORIDA**  
**P.O. Box 919**  
**Penney Farms FL 32079**

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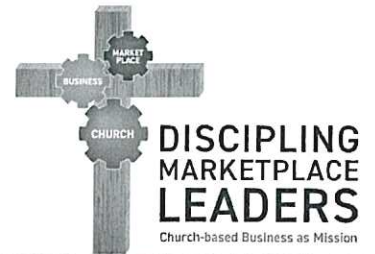
**or current resident**



APRIL 2024

# Satisfied Wages

For Nicaragua



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- For Karla's business and family. May they continue to bless Jinotega with jobs and wisdom.
- Praises for the building of friendships and community.
- Preparations for the 2024 planting cycle
- For the purchase of a property, Avodah Farm

## Ongoing Events

Church based business as mission course online with Cristian Leaders institute. We have students from all over Latin America participating.

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' - Matthew 22: 36-39



## How to love your neighbor

Dear Friends and Family,

While we have been spending a lot of time working with farmers in our region, we also made friends with Karla, pictured above, between Jari and I. We first met Karla during our financial stewardship course for the Jinotega Chamber of Commerce in June of 2022. She was very eager to take the course, open in sharing her troubles with finances and was on time for every session!

After she finished the course we visited her business. When I (Jesse) saw the size and scope of her business I was impressed with her commitment to self improvement even more! Her business, 'Closet de Cesia', is not small and requires a lot of staff and attention from her. Dedicating over nine hours of her time to us is a blessing! We know this because we continue to spend time together on Friday night house church gatherings.

Karla first started her business as a university student studying law in the capital city of Managua. She needed to work and earn income to provide for her son and continue her studies. She started bringing products to the school office and students to sell cosmetic supplies. She would sell them all and save her money to buy more. She moved back to Jinotega in 2012 after school and continued running her business. She rented a small space on a busy street the size of a walk-in closet. She bought a glass case to display her products and a rack to sell clothes. Ready to go! One of her first mistakes was giving people credit to buy products. She was happy to have sold all of her inventory, but realized she didn't have any cash to buy more inventory until people paid her back! She was able to get a small loan to





Karla offers cosmetics, clothes , shoes and toys at her store.

buy more inventory and paid it off as her customers began paying off the credits. She saved her income and flipped her inventory three more times on small loans. She moved into her current location in early 2020. She named her store after her daughter, Cesia. 'Closet de Cesia' employs eight ladies to help with inventory, sales and management.

### Growth in character

Karla knows about overcoming challenges. Her mother left to work in another country when she was young. Her older sister helped raise her. She was still able to finish university and has a degree in law. She credits her faith in God in helping her to overcome hard seasons in her life. She says she has always believed in God, and knows He provides for her. She would try to do the best she could to treat people right and manage her business responsibly.

She has opportunities to continue growing the store and offering different kinds of goods. Jinoteга is lacking in diversity of products and merchandise that other cities have. She knows

her customers travel to those cities to find what they are looking for. "I need a second floor Jesse!" she exclaimed to me! Real estate in the city center is very expensive, so she continues renting until the time comes for her to find a bigger retail location.

After completing the financial stewardship course, she has a deeper relationship with God now. She says her personal finances were in disorder. Once she understood that God wants her to honor Him in all areas of her life, she has peace and joy. She has been able to integrate her faith into her work.

### Loving her neighbors

She demonstrates her faith by offering her employees trainings and opportunities to grow in different roles in the store. Every Monday she leads a Bible devotion before opening the doors for business. She invites a pastor to come once a month to give a teaching. She has also invited us to teach the employees about biblical stewardship. Karla wants her employees to have peace in their lives. She says that Jesus Christ is the only one who can bring them peace, and wants to give them opportunities to meet God, especially at work!

"I have good girls working here. They want to help their families and study. I want to give them that opportunity." she said.

We thank God for meeting Karla and become friends! She is an awesome woman in business, a mentor and inspiration for people in this town. We are blessed to see how her faith grows deeper and interconnected with God. She inspires everyone to love their neighbor as themselves, just as the Lord Jesus commanded!

He is Risen!

*Jesse and Jari*

### CHURCH BASED BUSINESS AS MISSION

MAIL: **Jesse & Jari Rodriguez** 804020

EMAIL: [jrodriguez@crnapartners.org](mailto:jrodriguez@crnapartners.org)

Resonate Global Missions

PHONE: USA 616 432-9172

1700 28th ST

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Donate online at: [Resonate Global Missions.org](https://ResonateGlobalMissions.org)—Jesse and Jari



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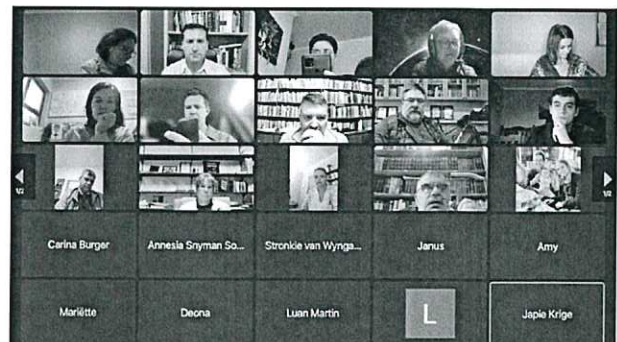
Meal at our church with some of the CT&E participants

## FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD INTO NEW OPPORTUNITIES

I sat down at the table, watching as students walked past and wondering if anyone was going to attend our first Coffee, Tea, and English (CT&E) meeting. As we considered ways to engage international students on campus, I thought back to my time serving at Iowa State University and the way this informal, conversational English program not only helped international students practice their language skills but also provided opportunity for building relationships. So when the new term began, we set about offering CT&E to the students at Stellenbosch University.

As the time for our first meeting approached, I began to think that it would be a failure, but then one person showed up, followed by another, and then a young couple. While still small, over the last few weeks, God has brought students from Ghana, Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda to our meetings. Of particular note is a young couple from Iran, who have been key in promoting CT&E. They are hungry for conversation and community, and as our relationship grows, I look forward to how God may open up avenues for faith conversation and sharing the gospel.

On the theme of "new opportunities" I also had the privilege of addressing non-traditional undergraduate theology students as a part of their formational program. These are students living across the Western Cape who intend to serve the church in a variety of ministry contexts. In a short message entitled, "Our Spiritual Food and Drink," I shared about the role Scripture plays in the life pastors, in the family, and the local church. Later, in a WhatsApp message, Marnus Havenga, the professor for the course and a good





friend of mine, shared these words with me:

*"Thanks again for your reflections this evening. There is so much appreciation for what you shared and how you presented it. It was absolutely wonderful."*

One other opportunity God has opened up for us is that of participating in an afterschool art program with primary school students in Devon Valley. Each Friday, we go to the school, sharing art projects and helping them develop new skills. For myself, I am enjoying playing football (soccer) with a number of the young boys before going in to work on their art projects. And just this past Sunday, one of the aftercare supervisors, a young Xhosa man named Xolisa, visited our church. Please pray with us that God would use this program to deepen relationships with the children, develop a greater sense of their dignity and worth, and lead some, like Xolisa, to visit our church.

## DEALING WITH DIFFICULTY AND DISASTER: WIND STORMS AND FIRES

Several weeks ago, we suffered through a violent wind storm and five wildfires in our area. More than 300 structures in the township were destroyed, displacing more than 1500 people, and 300 year old historic farm houses were burned down by the fires. We grieve with those who have lost everything and for the destruction to both natural and historical treasures. We are, however, thankful for God's mercy, for as the fires advanced up the hills opposite our home, the strong winds actually stopped them from reaching us.

In the aftermath, our church has been working to assist a local pastor in Kayamandi whose home was destroyed, providing bedding, clothes, and kitchen items for him, as well as for members in his congregation affected by these two natural disasters.



(Top) Blaauwklippen Wine Estate, a place we like to take our girls to play and ride bike (Bottom) The aftermath of fire followed by the storm in Kayamandi



## FAMILY VISIT:

### SHARING MINISTRY & LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA









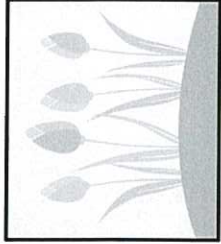
We recently had the opportunity to host my (Tyler) parents here in Stellenbosch. It was a wonderful time of connecting with family and sharing our home, the church, and South Africa with them. We enjoyed time at Cape Point, Simons Town (to see the penguins!), and out hiking, as well as celebrating Easter together. It was a fun and meaningful time for them and we were so glad they could visit!







### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please continue to pray for breakthrough in our visa case
- For helping the children at Devon Valley Primary School and developing relationships with students and staff
- For my upcoming Kuyper Lecture, "Wisdom and Wonder: Abraham Kuyper's Contributions to A Christian Approach to Science and Art"
- For opportunities for spiritual conversations with this Iranian couple attending CT&E



# May

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday | Wednesday       | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|---------|-----------------|--|---|---|
| 5<br>Prayer Service (am)<br>Sunday School<br>Recognition &<br>Potluck   | 6<br>Council, Elder &<br>Deacon Meetings<br><br><i>Dorothy Vos'</i><br><i>Birthday</i>    | 7       | 8               | 9<br>Love, INC Meetings  | 10<br><br><i>Elizabeth Boender's</i><br><i>Birthday</i>   | 11<br> |
| 12<br>Prayer Service (am)<br>  | 13<br>VBS Craft Teacher<br>& Helper Mtng.   | 14      | 15<br>Games Day | 16<br>Classis Meetings   | 17<br>OSCI<br>Graduation<br> | 18<br> |
| 19<br>Prayer Service (am)<br> | 20  | 21      | 22              | 23<br>PCGS<br>Graduation<br> | 24  | 25  |
| 26<br>Prayer Service (am)   | 27<br>Pancake Breakfast<br><br><i>Linda</i><br><i>Van Veldhuizen's</i><br><i>Birthday</i> | 28      | 29<br>Games Day | 30<br>Love, INC Meetings   | 31  |      |

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday                        | Thursday                         | Friday  | Saturday  |   |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 2  | 3<br>Vacation Bible School @ GNC<br>Blood Drive<br><br>Council, Elder & Deacon Mtngs. | 4<br>Vacation Bible School @ GNC  | 5<br>Vacation Bible School @ GNC | 6<br>Vacation Bible School @ GNC | 7<br>Vacation Bible School @ GNC<br>(Parents are invited to the AM Opening Exercises) | 8<br>1  |   |
| 9<br>Prayer Service (am)<br>TEC Meeting – aft.<br>Homestead  | 10   | 11<br>Ice Cream Social  | 12<br>Games Day                  | 13<br>Love, INC Meetings         | 14  | 15  |   |
| 16<br>Prayer Service (am)<br> | 17   | 18  | 19                               | 20<br>Love, INC Meetings         | 21  | 22  |   |
| 23<br>Prayer Service (am)<br>TEC Meeting – aft.  | 24   | 25  | 26<br>Games Day                  | 27<br>Anna Vande Wall's Birthday | 28  | 29<br>Ken De Groot's Birthday   |   |
| 30<br>Prayer Service (am)<br>TEC Meeting – aft.  |   |  | <h1>June</h1>                    |                                  |   |  |  |