

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 4/27/25

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

A TIME FOR PRAYER:

- You are invited to a time of prayer before our worship service every Sunday morning from 9:00-9:10 a.m. in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to join us.

FROM THE DEACONS:

- Monthly Offerings:** We would like the congregation to know that you may give at any time during the month to any of the causes we have scheduled. You DO NOT need to send separate checks each week, but one check with the offerings and other causes noted that you want the money to go towards would be fine.

May Offering Schedule:

Date	A.M.	P.M.
5/4	Luke Society	Therefore Go Ministries
5/11	Pella Pro-Life	GEMS International
5/18	Love, INC	Missionary Support
5/25	Samaritan's Purse	Calvin Seminary

SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR-END SCHEDULE:

- Today – April 27: Sunday School
- Next Sunday – May 4:
~ Sunday School recognition during the worship service, last regular class meetings and Picnic.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC:

- The Education and Fellowship Committees would like to invite the congregation to the Sunday School Picnic on May 4 following Sunday School. This year we will be serving Walking Tacos and baked goods. Please bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets and if the weather permits, we invite you to enjoy a time of lunch and fellowship in the south parking lot & lawn area.

BARS/COOKIES NEEDED:

- The Education and Fellowship Committees are requesting donations of bars/cookies for the upcoming Sunday School Picnic on May 4. There is a sign-up sheet on the Information Center Table. Please have your bars/cookies in the church kitchen by May 4. Thank you in advance.

CADET SUB SUPPLIES:

- Summer Sausage:** We have a few pounds of Summer Sausage left. We are selling them for our cost of \$9 /lb. It has been divided into 1 lb. packages.
- Payment:** They are in the upstairs freezer. Please just put the money in the Cadet mailbox. If you pay by check, please write in the memo line what you purchased. If you pay with cash, please let us know who it's from and what you purchased. Thank you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

- Staff Meetings** at Good News Chapel:
 - *Bible Teachers – Monday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m.
 - *Craft Teachers & Helpers – Monday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m.
 - *Transportation & Rec Team – Tuesday, May 27, at 5:30 p.m.
 - *VBS Decorating – All are welcome to help! Wednesday, May 28, at 4:00 p.m.
 - *Worship Rally – Thursday, May 29, at 5:00 p.m.
 - *VBS Set-Up Team – Friday, May 30, at 5:30 p.m.

Set up classrooms and sanctuary, Teachers may decorate their rooms.

Note: All meetings will take place in the basement, use the basement door to enter. Any questions? Contact Linda Kelley at vbs@gncosky.org or call/text 641-660-3918.
- Display Board:**
 - *Activities: Hey Kids! Help yourself to the coloring pages and word search on the VBS table.
 - *Enrollment: Parents can fill out enrollment forms on the table.
 - *Prayer Calendar: Interested in praying for VBS? There's a prayer calendar available with daily ideas of what to pray for the month before VBS!
- Thanks** to all who have volunteered to be a part of this important ministry!

CADET 5-DAY CAMPOREE:

- Cadet boys and counselors, just a reminder that your registration for the 5-Day is due back to Gene by this Thursday, May 1.

FROM THE BUILDING COMMITTEE:

- The Council approved a motion from the Building Committee to build a deck on the north side of the parsonage. There would be access to the deck through the existing door. To the north of the proposed deck a 16x20 foot concrete patio will be added including a built-in fire pit. Concrete work by G & S will be \$3,200; Deck material from R P Lumber will be an estimated cost of \$6,000. Members of the Building Committee will build the deck. The total cost for the project will be \$9,200. Please consider a gift to the Building Fund for the completion of this update to the parsonage.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Apr. 27 = Faye D, Grady S (Tyler)
- Apr. 30 = Timothy DG (Roger), Jenessa K
- May 1 = Sue DG, Doug R
- May 2 = Aren H (Tony)
- May 3 = Leah VD (Jeremy)

INFORMATION CENTER REPORTS:

- New Life News (is also in the Newsletter)

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FROM PELLA CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS:

- Are you visiting Tulip Time this year? Be sure to stop by the Pella Christian High School concession stand located at East First and Franklin (in front of Breadeaux Pizza). We'll be serving Dutch spiced beef, Pella bologna, cotton candy, snow cones, cookies, chips and an assortment of drinks, and back by popular demand, the "Dutch Stack" sandwich (Dutch spiced beef, Pella bologna, and Gouda cheese). All proceeds support PC academics and our athletic, theater and music programs. We promise to satisfy your appetite and thirst while you support PCHS!

FROM OSKALOOSA COMMUNITY EVANGELISM COMMITTEE:

- **The National Day of Prayer** will be observed on Thursday, May 1. The local Fellowship of Evangelical Ministers and the Oskaloosa Community Evangelism Committee will be meeting at the Oskaloosa City Square at noon that day for a time of prayer. In case of rain, it will be moved to the Penn Central Mall Center Court. Please join us.
- **Advance Notice:** This is early, but the dates have been set for this year's annual Bible Reading Marathon. It will be held at Penn Central Mall Center Court, Wednesday, June 25 through Saturday, June 28, during mall hours. We would love to have you join us in reading through God's Word.

FROM BARNABAS FOUNDATION:

- Smart, Streamlined Giving through a Donor-Advised Fund. During this free, approximately 20-minute event, Barnabas Foundation's Cindi Riemersma will explain the benefits of using the Stewards Fund and share tax-wise strategies to help you streamline your generosity and make an enduring impact for the causes that matter most to you. Join us on Wednesday, May 14, at 11 a.m. (Central) / 12 p.m. (Eastern). Please register using the following link that is available on the email that was forwarded 4/17. There is no cost, but advance registration is required.

FROM CALVARY CRC:

- You are invited to join the Calvary Young At Heart Group on a trip to view the Fall colors to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and Mackinac Island on Sept. 22-30, 2025. A deposit is due May 15, 2025. For an itinerary and further information, please contact Christy Van Zee at 641-780-0727.

FROM CRC NEWS:

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**
 - ~ *Groundwork: Christian Civility – Defending Our Faith without Being Defensive:* How do we disagree without being disagreeable, or handle conflicts when people slander or talk against us? Join Groundwork as we study 1 Peter 3:8-17 and Titus 3:1-11 to seek biblical wisdom for responding to and navigating a divisive culture in faithful and Christlike ways. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.
 - ~ *Kids Corner: Needed – Grand Friendships:* Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Needed: Grand Friendships," at www.kidscorner.net. Spending time with mentors helps us grow in faith, share love, and remember that God is always with us. We can learn to see God's goodness and share it with others, whatever their age. Check out all the great content at www.kidscorner.net, like KC's Earth Day Collection.

- **CRC Communications – 40 Days of Prayer for Synod 2025:** 40 Days of Prayer are written prayers representing the diversity of CRC members that will guide us for the 40 days leading up to Synod. Sign up to receive an email with the prayer for the day, or a PDF with each week’s prayers. The 40 Days of Prayer will begin next Sunday, May 4, and will conclude as Synod 2025 delegates gather on June 12. www.crcna.org/synod/prayer.
- **The Banner’s Counting On You!** Please support the award-winning journalistic ministry of the CRC by giving today. \$500,000 is needed every year to keep *The Banner* going. The more funds raised in this annual drive, the less is drawn from ministry shares, releasing money to other agencies of the CRCNA. Please donate now online at: www.TheBanner.org/Give.
- **From Calvin University:** Paul’s Missionary Journeys in Greece – October 13-24, 2025. Travel by motor coach (6 days) and cruise ship (4 days) to sites connected with Paul’s second and third missionary journeys, as well as visit other major sites of biblical, archaeological, and cultural interest. Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading Pauline scholar, hosts this inspirational tour. For more information, contact Dr. Weima at 616-328-3110 or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.
- **Finding Hope in Hospitality:** A Faith-Based Conversation on Welcoming the Stranger. On May 15, from 7:30–9:00 PM EST, we invite you to a cross-border virtual gathering. In a time when refugee resettlement and immigration spark complex emotions and conversations across North America, Thrive, the Centre for Public Dialogue, Exodus World Service, and World Renew’s Canadian Refugee Sponsorship and Resettlement Team invite you to a different kind of gathering—one rooted in hope, hospitality, and faith. Learn more and register today at www.network.crcna.org/topic/justice-inclusion/biblical-justice/refugees/finding-hope-hospitality-faith-based-conversation.
- **From Resonate Global Mission:** The deadline is almost here, but there’s still time to double your gift to Resonate Global Mission by visiting www.resonateglobalmission.org/Double. Any amount you give to this special campaign by April 30 will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous donor! Don’t wait—give today while your gift will go twice as far.
- **CRC Leadership Training:** Thriving Essentials is a valuable training course for Elders, Deacons, church staff, and any volunteer ministry leader. Right now, the CRCNA is offering this training for entire church leadership teams. We’re gauging interest from different regions to determine where we can set up events and send facilitators in the coming months and years. Learn more and register your church now at www.crcna.org/Essentials.
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip:** Today is a day when the church acknowledges the sad reality of abuse in our world and in our communities. Abuse happens when one person treats another with cruelty and violence, hurting them physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually. Jesus came to put an end to such suffering and to the cruelty that causes it. Consider how the church can follow in Jesus’ footsteps. How can the church support people who are abused? How can the church help to put an end to abuse? If you’re looking for a helpful starting point, check out www.crcna.org/SafeChurch. Brought to you by Thrive: www.crcna.org/Thrive.

Grandma Can’t Read!

On a recent visit, my mother was handed a furiously scribbled page of crooked lines by granddaughter Aubrey.

“Here, Grandma, look what I wrote,” Aubrey said proudly.

Grandma peered at the unintelligible lines. “Very nice, Aubrey. What does it say?”

Aubrey shrugged, took the paper, and went to find her mother.

“Mommy,” she whispered anxiously, “Grandma can’t read!”

—Robert Hostetler, Somerville, Ohio.
Christian Reader, “Kids of the Kingdom”