

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa

Bulletin Supplement for 2/15/26

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.

February Offering Schedule:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>A.M.</u> | <u>P.M.</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2/1 | Focus on the Family | Mobility Worldwide |
| 2/8 | Forward with Faith | Denominational Services |
| 2/15 | World Renew | Therefore Go Ministries |
| 2/22 | Love, INC (In the Name of Christ) | Missionary Support |

WINTER WORSHIP FOR 2026:

- Care Group Set-Up & Clean-Up Schedule:**

Feb. 15 – Groups 4 & 5

Feb. 22 – Groups 6 & 7

March 1 – Groups 8 & 9

SUB SANDWICHES:

- The Cadets are currently selling SUB Sandwiches as their annual fund-raiser. Each boy has been given a list of names from our church to call. The deadline for ordering is Monday, March 2. Sandwiches consist of Baked Ham, Ulrich's Summer Sausage, American & Swiss Cheese on a Croissant Roll. (If you do not like Summer Sausage, we can make them with double Ham; just let your caller know.) They are \$3.50 each or 12 for \$42.00 and may be picked up on Wed., April 1, between 5:00 & 7:30 p.m. If you get a call from an unfamiliar number, please answer or at least listen to the message and call back. Thank you!!

VBS:

- The Good News Chapel Vacation Bible School theme this year is "Illumination Station" – Jesus is the Light of the world! Dates are June 1-5. To volunteer, call or text Linda Kelley at 641-660-3918 or email vbs@gncosky.org.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:

- Feb. 16 = Leah C
- Feb. 18 = Courtney DB
- Feb. 19 = Wayne & Vicki DJ
- Feb. 20 = Dorothy G, Sarah L, Mary Ann VK
- Prayer Opportunity:** This year we would like to use our birthdays and anniversaries as an opportunity to pray for each other. Praise God for the gift of these people and pray for their continued growth in loving God and loving others.

DIRECTORY UPDATE:

- Please update your directories with the following phone number: Jean Van Mersbergen – 641-676-4625

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OSKALOOSA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AUCTION:

- Support Christian education by participating in the Oskaloosa Christian School "Bids for Kids" Auction!
 - ~ Auction Website: <https://bidsforkids2026.afrogs.org/#/index>
 - ~ Online Auction: Feb. 12-17
 - ~ Live In-Person Auction: Thursday, Feb. 19, at Bradbury Hall (Nelson Pioneer Farm).
 - * Dinner at 6:00 p.m., live auction at 7:00 p.m.
 - ~ The meal will include smoked pork loin, mashed potatoes supreme, green beans, drinks and your choice of triple chocolate cake or almond crumble cake. Pre-Purchase meal tickets at <https://bidsforkids2026.afrogs.org/#/tickets/event> for \$12, or at the door for \$16.

All proceeds support students, classrooms, and programs at Oskaloosa Christian School.

FROM LAKE VIEW CAMP:

- Spring Break Work Trip:** Lake View Camp invites all high school students, college students, and adults to join us on a Spring Break Work Trip to Cary, Mississippi on March 14-20, 2026. Make a difference during

your spring break and help share God's life-changing-love by serving the people of Mississippi. Find more information and registration at lakeviewconference.com. There are also a few registration forms on the Information Center table.

- **Summer Camps:** Lake View Camp is excited to announce that summer camp registration is OPEN! Send your child on a great summer adventure where they will swim, fish, canoe, hike, and play crazy games – all while growing deeper in their faith. Lake View Camp offers day camps, overnight camps, service camps, and grand camps. More information and online registration available at www.lakeviewconference.com. Registration forms are also available in the Information Center rack. There are also opportunities for service in the form of counselors and other camp staff.

FROM WORLD RENEW:

- World Renew extends our gratitude for your support and commitment to Christ's call to mercy and justice. Your congregation's gifts in 2025 are contributing to a larger impact, one that reached 720,633 participants in 1,449 communities across 30 countries worldwide in 2024-25. Your generosity is providing families with access to essentials like medical care, education, food, and crisis support, while also strengthening long-term efforts for communities to thrive. Thank you for helping families experience God's love and find a hopeful future. Explore more stories at www.worldrenew.net.

FROM CRC NEWS:

- **From ReFrame Ministries:**
 - ~ *Groundwork – When Forgiveness is Complicated:* How do I forgive myself? What if someone died before I could offer them forgiveness? Can I even forgive someone who is not sorry? Join Groundwork as we study 2 Corinthians 5:17-19, Micah 7:18-19, Luke 17:3-4, 1 Peter 2:21-23, Psalm 62:5-8, and Philippians 4:6-7 to see how Scripture helps us address the hard questions that arise when life situations make forgiveness complicated. Listen now at www.GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.
 - ~ *Kids Corner Devotions: Shalom – The Peace of God:* Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Shalom: The Peace of God," at www.kidscorner.net. Discover how you can feel calm and brave even when life feels stormy, just like when Jesus brought peace in the middle of crashing waves. Learn how God's special kind of peace fits everything together like a perfect puzzle and fills your heart with joy and purpose! Prepare for Easter with all the great content at www.kidscorner.net, like Kids Corner's Lent Devotional.
 - ~ *Focus on the Cross:* Lent is a season to focus on the hope of Jesus Christ. Receive a free Today devotional email series to help you refresh, refocus, and renew your faith during Lent. Or download the ebook! Subscribe at www.todaydevotional.com/lent.
- **Cairn Christian School Seeks Executive Director:** Cairn Christian School, a Christian elementary school system operating campuses in southern Ontario (Smithville and Stoney Creek) is seeking an inspiring Executive Director to begin August 1, 2026. Application deadline is February 28, 2026. To learn more about this position, please reference: <https://bit.ly/cairmed>.
- **Calvin University 150th Anniversary:** Upcoming events include the 150th Winter Celebration Week on campus, with festivities throughout the week (February 12-21, 2026); Calvin on the Road events – bringing the celebration to areas in the Southwest, West Coast, East Coast, and Northwest; an Anniversary Worship Celebration on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at the Calvin University Covenant Fine Arts Center (or via livestream) for community worship; and the 150th Anniversary Hymn Text Contest – Congratulations to Larry Visser ('89), for writing the 150th Anniversary commemorative hymn, "O God Beyond All Knowing". Check out www.calvin.edu/150 to learn more about upcoming events.
- **Thrive Faith Formation Tip:** This week we begin the season of Lent with the observance of Ash Wednesday. As we enter this season of spiritual reflection, preparation, and renewal, take time to consider how the pursuit of justice in your daily life can reflect the justice-centered journey of Christ – which led ultimately to the cross. Write down five ways in which you intend to approach the Lenten season this year in alignment with Christ's call to justice, mercy, and love. Brought to you by Thrive: www.crcna.org/Thrive.

What does love mean? A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4- to 8-year-olds, "What does love mean?" The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think:

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4

First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa, IA
Notes of Council Meeting held Monday, February 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

All members were present.

- President Kirk Veenstra called the meeting to order.
- Pastor Jon opened with reading from Psalm 103:8-12 and prayer.
- January 12, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes were *approved*.
- Old Business:
 - A. Audits – in process
 - B. Committee Lists – turn into Sue soon
- Correspondence:
 - A. A Thank-You was received from The Bible League.
 - B. A letter was received from Barnabas Foundation offering to come to our church. We will put a notice in the supplement to gauge interest.
 - C. Geneva Campus Ministry in Iowa City will be celebrating 55 years of ministry with a banquet on 3/6/26 featuring Carl Truman.
- Items Added to the Agenda:
 - ~ *Approved* names for GEMS Counselors and Building & Grounds Committee members.
- Deacon Reports (January):
 - A. Deacon Chris Pierson presented the report for the General Fund:
 - 1. Budget envelopes \$ 15,276.41 (deposited in February)
 - 2. Balance \$ 27,210.83
 - B. Deacon Adam De Bruin presented the report for Benevolent and Enduring Gifts:
 - 1. Benevolent Fund \$ 9,063.47
 - 2. Enduring Gifts \$ 6,737.64
 - C. Deacon Ethan Boender presented the report for the Building Fund: No updated figure shared
 - D. Deacon Sherwin Plate presented the report for Special Offerings: \$ 24,048.88
 - E. Deacon Brad McMahan reports for Christian Education Fund:
 - 1. Balance on hand \$ 3,087.69
 - 2. Tuition owed to schools \$ 00.00 – all '25-'26 tuition owed has been paid
 - F. All financial reports were given and *approved* by adopted motion.
 - G. The Deacon's Meeting Minutes of 1/12/26 were received for information.
- March Deacon Report (given for information only):
 - A. Deacon Sherwin Plate reports for the March offering schedule:

| | <u>AM</u> | <u>PM</u> |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3/1 | GEMS – Local | Benevolence |
| 3/8 | Lakeview Bible Camp | Christian Education Fund |
| 3/15 | Joshua Christian Academy | Many Hands for Haiti |
| 3/22 | Calvin Seminary | Reverse Offering |
| 3/29 | Cadets – Local | Missionary Support |
- Committee Reports:
 - A. Building & Grounds – Chairman Allen Groenenboom
 - 1. MultiPurpose Youth Center:
 - a. Oskaloosa has finished the rezoning process.
 - b. Should consider if Forest Cemetery would be willing to sell the 28' wide property next to ours.
 - 2. A Handicap Accessible Door is being considered to replace the original doors to the parking lot.
 - B. Fellowship Committee – Chairman Roger Fynaardt
 - ~ They are looking into coffee makers.
 - C. Worship – Chairman Lucas De Groot
 - 1. *Approved* names for potential committee members.
 - 2. Receipts are to be turned in to establish a baseline for next years budget.
- Joys and Concerns were shared.
- Next Meeting: Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- Motion to adjourn prevails & Elder Lucas De Groot closed in prayer.