



Oskaloosa
1st CRC
Newsletter

March – April 2026

LOVE AND CARE

Take the time to love and care –
Throughout this new born day –
And do the many little things,
So many days delayed;
Little things that mean so much –
Like flowers upon a vine
That blossom, there, because you care
And give them loving time.

Take the time to hold the hands
Of husband, wife or child
And let them see – and feel your love –
In kisses, hugs and smiles;
Show them all the tender care
That made your flowers grow
And harvest love – that grows of love –
Whenever love is sowed.

And – with the friends and neighbor folks
You meet throughout this day –
Take the time to share their cares
And soothe them of dismays;
Let this be day of Christian love
That ends with love, in prayer,
And trust the Lord to bless your sleep –
In arms of loving care.

Michael Dubina

From Pastor Kamp's Desk

BIBLICAL RENEWAL



The past year has been one of much anticipation and change within the CRCNA. Four prominent changes in leadership are in the process of taking place as the directors of ReFrame, Thrive, and the President of Calvin Seminary are retiring; and the General Editor of the *Banner* has recently resigned. Beyond this, change has taken place as local congregations and pastors have led the denomination to look to the future seeking ways to develop disciples, leaders, and churches. There is a Spirit of change that is blowing through the denomination, its classis, and its churches that can have a dramatic impact on the faith, life, and ministry within.

This month I wanted to share the reflection of the CRCNA's General Secretary Zach King to the Council of Delegates (where I currently serve) as he shares how scripture can help us think through this change:

“As I've been visiting and working with CRCNA congregations over the last 25 years of my ministry, I've noted that our churches often have a “therapeutic” approach to congregational renewal. If we gather the right data (research), discover the real problem (diagnosis), and address it with the appropriate interventions (therapy), then our congregations will become vibrant and growing.

This approach (which we share with many other North American Christian groups), seems quite foreign to that of the biblical prophets and apostles. Their practice, as illustrated in the book(s) of Ezra-Nehemiah, was the following: a prophetic confrontation, a time of communal repentance and intercession, receiving the Lord's response, and a renewal of the Lord's covenant. This pattern of renewal recognized that the author, sustainer, and achiever of renewal was the Lord.

For this reason, the Prophet Zechariah reminded Zerubbabel and Joshua, the son of Jehozadak (the two exilic leaders rebuilding Jerusalem's temple): “*Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty*” (Zechariah 4:6). The Lord reminded these two leaders that neither the building of the temple, nor the renewing of the nation, could be accomplished by human wisdom or effort. Everything depends on the Lord, the author, sustainer, and achiever of renewal.

I take away four lessons from this biblical pattern of renewal:

- Our churches belong to Jesus, who died for them, and will renew them (Zechariah 4:6);
- The Spirit has the resources necessary for the renewal of our congregations (Haggai 2:6-8);
- We should not despise the Lord's small beginnings of renewal (Zechariah 4:10); and
- The Lord calls us to pray for the renewing of our congregations (2 Chronicles 8:13-16).”

I found Zach's reflection timely and appreciated how the first step of a new future was confession and repentance of how we got to where we currently are. This prophetic call has been part of my personal prayers these past months as I seek to understand my responsibilities.

My encouragement for us as a church as we look to join what the Spirit is already doing amongst us is to pray. Pray for our leaders. Pray for the church – local and at large. Pray that we might repent of what we need to. Pray that we might rest in the certainty of Christ. Pray that we might experience the biblical renewal brought about by the Lord. Pray that such renewal will lead to the growth of God's Kingdom and Glory. Pray that we might know our part to participate in this season. Finally, give thanks for what the Lord has already done.

Church Family News



Jean Van Mersbergen
Oskaloosa Care Center
605 Hwy 432
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
1-641-676-4625



Daniel & Trisha (Van Donselaar) Townsend
2/7/26



Ledger Alexander Lobberecht - 1/1/26
~ son of Adam & Sarah

In Loving Memory:

Ken Slagter
12/30/25



Membership Updates

Released: Pat & Eveline Franje to North Point Church
of Johnston, IA ~ 2/9/26



First CRC Council 2026

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|------|--------------------------|---|
| Pastor Jon Spronk | Pastor | | 641-295-5155 673-5693 | (Cell) (Study) |
| Pastor Erik Kamp | Pastor | | 641-417-9433 | |
| Ryan Brink | Elder | 2029 | 641-660-3124 | Communion, Care Groups & Records Clerk |
| Lucas De Groot | Elder | 2027 | 641-777-4970 | Worship Committee |
| Roger Fynaardt | Elder | 2029 | 641-660-6893 | Fellowship |
| Allen Groenenboom | Elder | 2028 | 641-660-6719 | Building & Grounds Comm. |
| Tim Jabaay | Elder | 2027 | 319-899-8343 | Council Clerk, Elder's VP, & Pulpit Supply |
| Steve Kaisand | Elder | 2028 | 641-891-2672 | Elder's Clerk & Council VP |
| Doug Richards | Elder | 2027 | 641-660-6455 | Education Comm. & Library |
| Jeff Van Donselaar | Elder | 2027 | 641-295-3286 | Youth Elder |
| Leon Van Kooten | Elder | 2029 | 641-660-1602 | Evangelism Comm., Bulletin, Communion, Care Groups |
| Kirk Veenstra | Elder | 2028 | 641-295-3056 | President, Pulpit Supply |
| Ethan Boender | Deacon | 2029 | 641-660-6731 | Building Fund Treasurer |
| Mike Boender | Deacon | 2027 | 641-660-3957 | Deacon Chairman & Disaster Relief Coordinator |
| Adam De Bruin | Deacon | 2027 | 641-295-2111 | Benevolence & Enduring Gifts |
| Lucas De Bruin | Deacon | 2029 | 641-295-2883 | Ass't General Fund Treasurer |
| Dan McKinney | Deacon | 2028 | 641-931-6491 | Deacon Secretary & Disability Concerns |
| Brad McMahan | Deacon | 2029 | 641-295-0479 | Vicar & C.E.F. Treasurer |
| Chris Pierson | Deacon | 2027 | 641-670-0081 | General Fund Treasurer |
| Sherwin Plate | Deacon | 2028 | 641-670-0584 | Special Offerings Treasurer & Tech. Committee |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| Sue De Bruin | Church Secretary | | 673-4272 673-7303 | (Office) (Home) |
| Katelyn Van Donselaar | Custodian | | 1-641-226-1495 | |

Updated 11/11/25

Nursery Schedule

March - April 2026

A.M.

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| March 1 (GEMS Sunday) | Jaynee G, Galen H Lake DR |
| March 8 | Amelia B, Clara B Allison V |
| March 15 | Cassia B, Cayden P Raegan DG |
| March 22 | Mary Beth J, Jared R Sophia P |
| March 29 (Cadet Sunday & Palm Sunday) | Ellize C, Harper McK Violet DG |
| April 5 (Easter) | Bethany DB (L), Natalie P Cora DG |
| April 12 | Karen DB, Adalli B Nick S |
| April 19 | Deb B, Johnathon J Kahlan K |
| April 26 | Kelly P, Olivia DG Carter H |





Sew Day Report



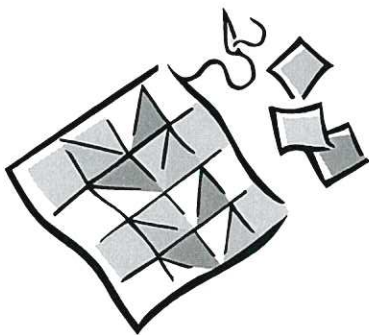
We would like to thank all those who helped with getting quilt tops laid out, tied quilts, or sewed them up at home on our January 20 Sew Day. We have 32 quilt tops ready to sew up.





We are donating the finished quilts to The Climb, which is a faith-based organization connected with Give It Up Mahaska that helps Mahaska County residents that are in need. They will be receiving 55 quilts in March.

If you are interested in helping sew tops together there are some on the information counter or let Delores (641-295-2983) or Ellize (641-295-6000) know, and we will gladly help you get them.

Thanks again for all the help, it is greatly appreciated.

Delores Ryken and Ellize Caligiuri



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
|  | <h1>April</h1> | | | | | |
| 5 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service NO Sunday School NO PM Service | 6 | 7 Coffee Break p.m. – picnic | 8 Games Day IGNITE Senior Night <i>Leona VA's Birthday</i> | 9 Women's Morning Bible Study Coffee Break Love INC Foundation Classes | 10 Council Agenda Items Due Good Friday  | 11 Men's Bible Study |
| 12 Sunday School Homestead | 13 Council, Elder & Deacon Meetings | 14 | 15 IGNITE Leader's Mtng. | 16 Coffee Break Love INC Foundation Classes | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Sunday School | 20 | 21 | 22 Games Day | 23 Women's Morning Bible Study Coffee Break – Brunch Love INC Foundation Classes | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Sunday School | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Love INC Foundation Classes | <i>Betty H's Birthday</i>  |  |