Oskaloosa 1st CRC Newsletter

November – December 2026

"Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Ephesians 5:19b-20

****

"Away In A Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes,
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

CCLI Song # 38583
James Ramsey Murray | John Thomas McFarland | Martin Luther
© Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use.
All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 1516322

From Pastor Spronk's Desk

UPDATES FROM FALL CLASSIS

Classis Central Plains met on Sept. 18-19, 2026 at Prairie City CRC.
Here are some of the highlights:

- Rev. Ryan Landt, pastor at Cornerstone Pella (formerly 2nd CRC), was seeking to have his ordination transferred from the Reformed Church in America (RCA) to the CRC. He was interviewed by Classis and approved to receive ordination status in the CRC.

- Classis approved Mr. Jared Luttjeboer to be Licensed to Exhort in Classis. Jared previously was licensed to exhort in Classis Illiana but has recently moved to Peoria CRC. He continues to work remotely as Director of Marketing for Mid-America Reformed Seminary and he hosts his own podcast called "The Church History Project."

- Classis had a discussion on an overture from Peace Cedar Rapids that would have changed the Church Visitor protocols for Classis. After discussion, the overture was tabled and Classis is encouraging current officebearers to sign up to be Classis Church Visitors.

- Classis approved of two new church plants:
    - House of Prayer is predominately a congregation of West African immigrants living in the Cedar Rapids metro and is led by Pastors Bill Saye and Amos Mbemba. They have been worshiping in the Peace Cedar Rapids church for the past couple of years and have begun learning about Reformed theology and practice from the Peace Church. Growing from this partnership, House of Prayer has expressed their desire to join the CRC and it is with great joy that we welcomed them in as a new church plant of our Classis. I am serving on the partnership team that is giving oversight to House of Prayer and hope someday to invite Pastor Bill or Pastor Amos to First Osky to give an update on their ministry in Cedar Rapids.

    - Church Beyond Borders (CBB) was also approved by Classis. This is a ministry that has been emerging under the oversight of Rev. SJ Kim for the past couple of years, primarily as an "online" church based out of the Des Moines metro. Over the last few months, in-person worship has been happening and CBB has been meeting at Crossroads Fellowship Church. However, since the meeting of Classis, Pastor SJ was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and tragically died on Oct. 19. At this time, I don't know what the future of CBB will be, though likely it will close. Please lift up the Kim family and Church Beyond Borders in prayer in the face of this great loss.

In summary, the news of Classis churches offers us a glimpse of the joys and sorrows of our sister congregations. We have churches that are seeking new pastors and new ministries and we have churches that have faced painful situations. There are things to celebrate and things to lament. As a Classis, we continue to strive to serve as Christ's ambassadors as we serve this part of the Kingdom of God.

In Christ, Pastor Jon

Church Family News

Jim Brummel
Fairhaven East, Room #309
607 East 3rd Street
Pella, IA 50219

Jeanine Vandegeest
404 South 2nd Street
Apt. 3
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Josh & Abbie Van Donselaar
2759 Urbana Avenue
Cedar, IA 52543

Jean Van Mersbergen
Oskaloosa Care Center, Room #211
605 Hwy. 432
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Ryder John Boender – 9/30/26
son of John & Ella

In Loving Memory:

Jill De Ronde ~ 9/18/26

Larry Van Mersbergen ~ 10/16/26

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

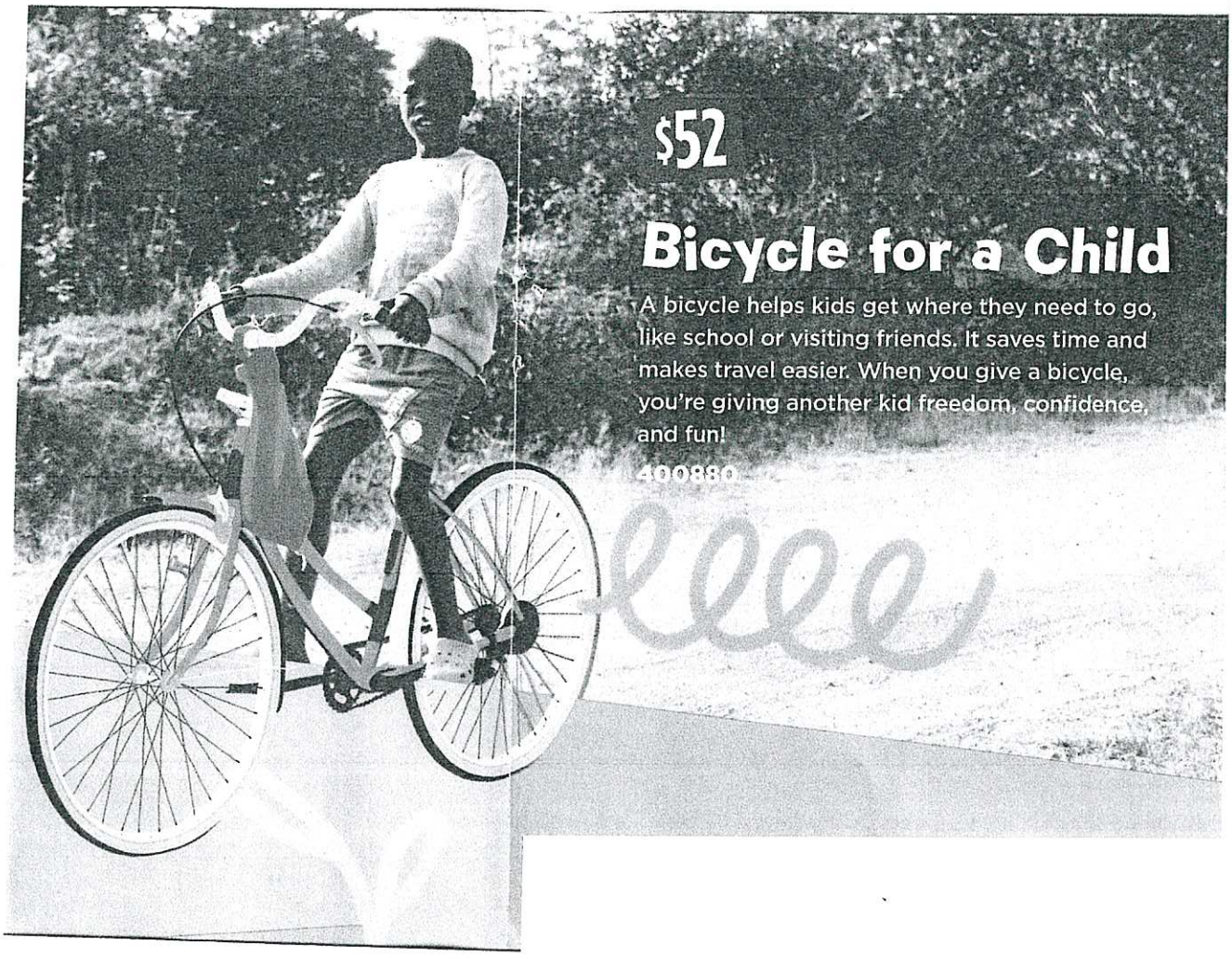
Nursery Schedule

November - December 2026

A.M.

Nov. 1	Tiffany R, Taylor H Mack J
Nov. 8	Stacy B, Kristina G Caleb R
Nov. 15 (Communion)	Kate DB, Aubrey K Peyton V, Maggie McM
Nov. 22	Joan K, Dawson R Jayde DG
Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving)	Karen F, Natalie B Jude DR
Nov. 29	Ki B, Dean DR Nora DG
Dec.6	Cassia B, Tegan P Kinley DB
Dec.13	Mary Beth J, Elijah B Avery K
Dec.20	Erica DB, Allison B Daxton R
Dec.25 (Christmas)	Bethany DB (K), Anton B Hannah B
Dec. 27	Deb B, AnnaBelle C Malaki B

GiFTS FOR KiDS, FROM KiDS!



Bike Frame - $10
Handle Bars - $10
Wheels:
Rims - $5 each
Tires - $5 each
Pedals & Seat - $4 each

This year, the Sunday school offerings of our youth and young people will be sent to World Renew. They will be specifically used to buy bicycles. Each bike costs $52, so to make the goal of sending enough for a bike more attainable we have broken the bike components into individual amounts.

If you wish to join in the giving, PLACE YOUR GIFTS IN THE CHURCH found in the Fellowship Hall and watch as the bikes are "built."

TASTE & SEE: RECIPES WITH A STORY

In keeping with our Tasty Thanksgiving photos, you have an opportunity to share a Tasty recipe that has a story behind it! This could be a recipe of something you make for your family on a special occasion and explain how the tradition started. A recipe that brings back a memory, or a tried and true recipe that has been passed down from generation to generation, sharing your family tree story.

How to submit a recipe & story?

There are recipe formats to fill out on the information table. If you prefer you may type it (8.5 x11 size paper), or feel free to email it into the church office. Deadline to submit a "Recipe with a Story" is November 15. We will be sharing with the congregation at the end of November. Just another way for us to "Connect" as a church family...through the foods we are so greatly blessed with by our good and gracious God!

3 options to submit your recipe/story:

#1 Type an e-mail follow example below and send to firstcrcosky@gmail.com
Can add photo as an attachment or in the body of the email

Taste & See Stories Summarize

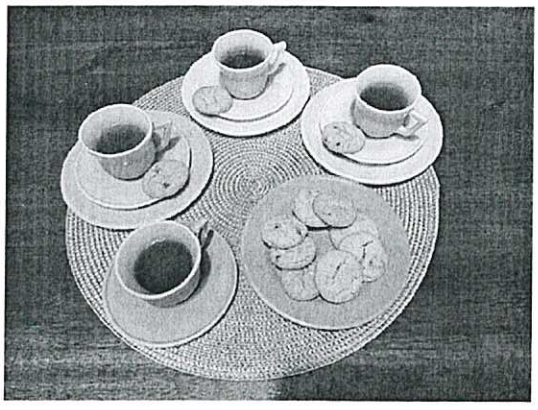
CF Cyndi Fynaardt < cyndifynaardt@gmail.com > Today at 11:15 AM
To: First Christian Reformed Church of Oskaloosa, IA

Recipe Title: Mini Chocolate Chip Cookies
From the Kitchen of: Cyndi Fynaardt

Ingredients:
1/2 cup white sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup Crisco Shortening
2 teas. baking soda
2 teas. cream tartar
1 teas. salt
1 egg
1 teas. vanilla
1/2 cup mini chocolate chips
2 cups flour

Directions:
Cream the sugars & Crisco, add soda, tartar & salt. Add egg & vanilla, Mix.
Fold in the mini chips, add the flour one cup at a time. Mix, then roll into desires size balls. Roll in white sugar.
Normal size cookies makes 3 dozen or mini size makes 6-7 dozen. Bake 350 degree oven for 6-7 minutes.

Taste and See Story:
In the early 70's, one week out of every summer was spent at Grandma B's (aka Hendreen Branderhorst) house.
Oh the memories we made, one of which was making mini cookies to play restaurant and tea time with our cousins! What made it special was the tea set that we carefully hauled out of the china hutch and had permission to play with! Cookies were mixed, rolled, and baked in miniature size to match the mini tea set. I was hoping to inherit the tea set but sadly the set is not together. Grandma B wanted to keep everything even so she divided up the tea set with each daughter inheriting a matching plate, saucer and cup. I had such fond memories of the tea set and making mini cookies with Grandma "B" that I scoured many flea markets and antique stores to find the exact set. Whenever I get the urge to make these cookies, I can't help but smile and reminisce over the tea set which I now proudly display.
Research shows the tea set as a 1940's vintage Hazel Atlas "Little Hostess" pastel childs tea set, white milk-glass in colors of pink, yellow, blue and green. Etsy values it around $60, but for me the memories make it priceless.

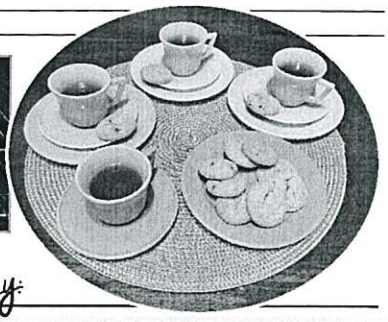


#2 Type in Word Doc or design on Canva or other design programs. Print and drop off in Sue's office or email in as a pdf file

8.5 x 11 size

Recipe: **Mini Chocolate Chip Cookies**
from the kitchen of: *Cyndi Fynaardt*

INGREDIENTS:	DIRECTIONS:
1/2 cup white sugar	Cream sugars & Crisco, add soda, tartar & salt.
1 cup brown sugar	Add egg & vanilla, mix. Fold in the mini chips,
1 cup Crisco shortening	add flour, one cup at a time .Mix well.
2 teas. baking soda	Roll into desired size of balls.
2 teas. cream tartar	Normal size cookies makes 3 dozen,
1 teas. salt	mini's makes 6-7 dozen.
1 egg	Roll in white sugar
1 teas. vanilla	Bake 350 degree oven for 6-7 minutes.
1/2 cup mini chocolate chips	
2 cups flour	



Taste & See Story:

In the early 70's, one week out of every summer was spent at Grandma B's (aka Hendreen Branderhorst). house. Oh the memories we made, one of which was making mini cookies to play restaurant and tea time with our cousins! What made it special was the tea set that we carefully hauled out of the china hutch and had permission to play with! Cookies were mixed, rolled, and baked in miniature size to match the mini tea set. I was hoping to inherit the tea set but sadly the set is not together. Grandma B wanted to keep everything even so she divided up the tea set with each of her daughters inheriting a matching plate, saucer and cup. I had such fond memories of the tea set and making mini cookies with Grandma "B" that I scoured many flea markets and antique stores to find the exact set. Whenever I get the urge to make these cookies, I can't help but smile and reminisce over the tea set which I now proudly display.

Research shows the tea set as a 1940's vintage Hazel Atlas "Little Hostess" pastel childs tea set, white milk-glass in colors of pink, yellow, blue and green. Etsy values it around $60, but for me the memories make it priceless.

#3 Hand write your recipe and tell your story in your original handwritten document!

Recipe: _____

from the kitchen of: _____

INGREDIENTS:

DIRECTIONS:

Taste & See Story: _____

continue on back if needed or add a photo

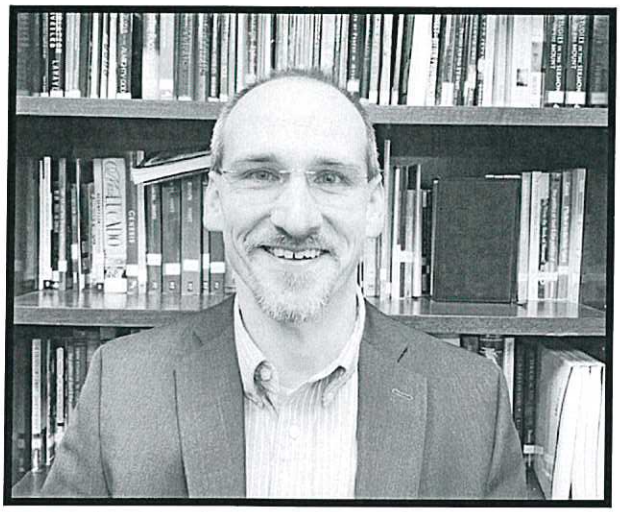
SEPTEMBER 2026

director@isu-areopagus.org

AREOPAGUS

a Christian Reformed campus ministry for Iowa State University

THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US AND WE ARE FILLED WITH JOY



REV. DR. DANIEL GREGORY

WELCOME PASTOR DAN!

The Areopagus Board is excited to share that Daniel (Dan) Gregory has accepted the call to serve as the new Campus Minister of *Areopagus* at Iowa State University!

Dan brings a wealth of heart and experience--both in ministry, having served two churches, and in the university, having obtained a PhD in Homiletics from Baylor University.

Dan looks forward to connecting with students and, as he put in his *Ministry Philosophy* to "help students discover God through his Word and think critically about [living] as an authentic witness for Christ."

We're most blessed to have Dan lead Areopagus into a new chapter. Please help us welcome the Gregory family and keep Dan, his family, and the ministry in your prayers during this transition.

Dan begins full-time on September 29.

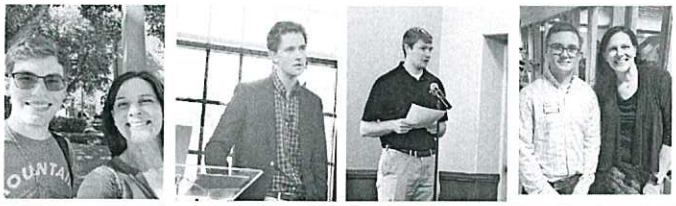
MEET PASTOR DAN & FAMILY

Dan grew up in Chicagoland where he met his dear wife, Jodi. After attending Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, he pastored Fox Valley CRC in Crystal Lake, IL for 8 years. Following this, he studied at Baylor University in the PhD Preaching program.

In 2024, God brought the Gregorys to Iowa, where Dan served as the Pastor of English Ministry at the Chinese Church (CRC) of Iowa City. Dan's wife Jodi is a Licensed Professional Counselor, and she currently works as a therapist for an online counseling service.

Dan and Jodi have two lovely children, Danny (12) and Evy (10).
We're glad you've joined us, Gregory family!

Spring 2026
Jackson & Lora, Dr. Paul Griffioen, pres. Matt, treas. Caleb



Areopagus

Lora Copley
director@isu-areopagus.org

PUBLIC READING OF SCRIPTURE

Since February, Areopagus has engaged a simple but powerful way of experiencing Scripture together. On Sunday evenings, on couches at church, we've read long portions of the text out loud, usually hearing 7-9 chapters in one sitting. Then we notice what God is doing in the text. We've read Acts- Philippians together.

I've been impressed how gathering around a meal and encountering God's word as a group has grown us. Plus we've been blessed to have board member Herb and Laurie Scheuer and advisor Dave Schweingruber join in!

WHAT WE'LL REMEMBER

- Weekly "**Public Reading of Scripture**" times
- Serving together at **Food at First**
- Joining Young Adults for **Super Bowl** fun
- **Summer Social** on July 12 – **kayaking** and **picnic** meal, talking and laughing until late at night, and the mosquitos took over
- Hosting **March lecture event** "A Distinctively Christian Approach to Engineering" with Dordt prof, Dr. Paul Griffioen. A good discussion and a fun meal at Hickory Park
- **Multiply 222** discipleship course! .
- The surprise **"farewell party**" that students, alum and Trinity Church threw for Lora and Joel: a special collage and a wall of thanks.
- ISU student prayer leader of weekly prayer times, **J.J Wilson,** going home to Jesus
- The **search process for a new director** and God leading us to **Dan Gregory**!

THANK YOU FROM LORA & JOEL

It's hard to believe how fast four years went by! Joel and I thank our ggood God for giving us these years to serve, learn and grow with the students and supporters of Areopagus Campus Ministry.

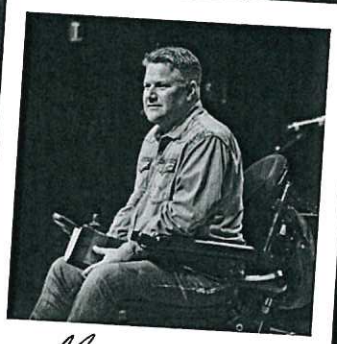
We bring with us precious memories – of one-on-one Bible reading times, of long conversations about life in Christ, of study in the Memorial Union, of International friends over tea and English, of weekly prayer for ISU, of moving boxes into dorms, of laughing til your side hurt at game nights. Truly, our cup overflows.

In this transition to an editorship at The Banner, *I'm indebted to each of you for supporting Jesus' gospel work at Iowa State. Campus ministry is key in the renewal of the church. A special thank you to* Matt Haken, Andrew Friend, and the Board, *who have faithfully taken extra duties in one of the most demanding seasons of recent memory the ministry.*

May Jesus be honored in all we do! Yours in Him, Lora

Rise WITH ROB AND FRIENDS

A NIGHT OF HOPE THROUGH STORYTELLING AND WORSHIP



Message from Rob Roozeboom

Micah Tyler

Jordan Feliz

Patrick Mayberry

A night of hope through storytelling and worship with some of your favorite artists.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 | 7PM

CENTRAL COLLEGE DOUWSTRA AUDITORIUM

817 PEACE ST, PELLA, IA

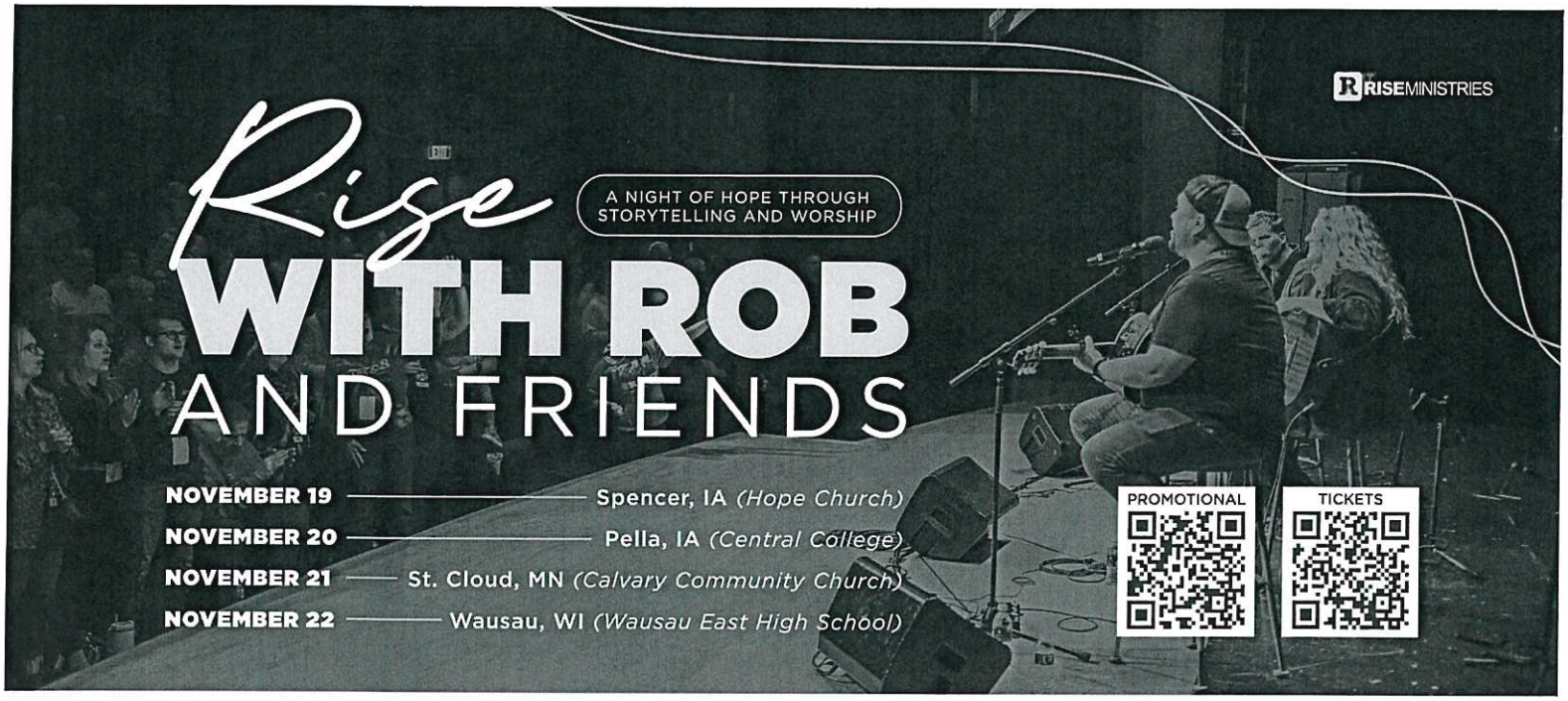
GET TICKETS

MANY HANDS

FAITH FAMILY BOENDER CUSTOM FARMING OSKALOOSA, IOWA FRIENDS FARMING

RISEMINISTRIES.COM

RISEMINISTRIES



TOUR INFO

Get ready for an unforgettable night of live music, meaningful stories, and the hope we have in Jesus. Rob Roozeboom will be joined by singer-songwriters Micah Tyler, Jordan Feliz, and Patrick Mayberry as they share their music, the stories and inspiration behind the songs, and the faith that connects it all. Come for the music. Hear the stories. Leave encouraged. Don't wait—grab your tickets today. Visit riseministries.com/rise-event for tickets and more info.

MICAH TYLER

MICAH TYLER writes, performs, and lives out "battle-tested" music that gives glory to his God. He is the recipient of multiple GMA Dove Award & K-LOVE Award nominations and has written four BMI Top 25 Christian Songs. His journey has taken him from small-town youth pastor to delivery truck driver, to touring alongside big-name artists such as MercyMe, Jeremy Camp, Matthew West, and Phil Wickham. *micahtyler.com*

JORDAN FELIZ

JORDAN FELIZ is known for hits like "Witness," "Glorify," "Jesus Is Coming Back" and his Platinum-certified, 12-week chart-topping smash, "The River." Feliz has notched numerous Top 10 singles and four No. 1s. The California native has also been nominated for five Dove Awards, taking home the win for 2016's "New Artist of the Year." Along with his heartwarming children's book, Beloved, Feliz has shared stages with well-known artists TobyMac, for KING & COUNTRY, and more. *jordanfeliz.com*

PATRICK MAYBERRY

PATRICK MAYBERRY is a worship leader and songwriter. Originally from Tennessee, he was inspired to start leading worship at his local college ministry after attending a Passion Conference. His first album, Wild Faith, in 2023 features his hit song "Lead On Good Shepherd," which was nominated for a 2025 K-LOVE Fan Award and was #1 on Billboard Airplay Chart. Mayberry has toured with well-known artists such as Phil Wickham, Crowder, Cory Asbury, and more. *patrickmayberrymusic.com*

MESSAGE FROM
ROB ROOZEBOOM

ROB ROOZEBOOM is founder and president of RISE Ministries and RiseFest, a large Christian music festival held annually in northwest Iowa. He's the visionary behind Rise with Rob and Friends, author of *Broken Still Chosen*, and producer of annual Christmas and Good Friday TV broadcasts reaching thousands. Rob is a sought-after speaker, sharing the stage with Phil Wickham, Josiah Queen, TobyMac, and more. *riseministries.com*

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School Chili Cook-Off Daylight Savings Time Ends *Nancy K's Birthday*	2	3 Mahaska Co Elections held in Fellowship Hall Coffee Break p.m. – do boxes *Lee DG's Birthday*	4 Games Day IGNITE Supper GEMS Cadets	5 Women's Morning Bible Study Coffee Break a.m. Love INC Foundation Classes *Dennis A's Birthday*	6	7 Men's Bible Study
8 Sunday School Homestead Service	9 Organizational, Council, Elder & Deacon Meetings	10 Coffee Break p.m.	11 GEMS Cadets IGNITE	12 Coffee Break a.m. Love INC Foundation Classes	13	14
15 Sunday School	16	17 Coffee Break p.m.	18 Games Day GEMS Cadets IGNITE	19 Women's Morning Bible Study Coffee Break a.m. Love INC Foundation Classes	20	21
22 Sunday School *Wayne DB's Birthday*	23	24	25	26 *Thanksgiving*	27	28
29 NO Sunday School	30					

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Coffee Break p.m.	2 Games Day Cadets IGNITE	3 Coffee Break a.m.	4	5 Men's Bible Study
6 Sunday School Program Practice	7	8 Coffee Break p.m. – Potluck	9 Cadets – Party GEMS – Party IGNITE – Candlelight Practice	10 Women's Morning Bible Study Coffee Break a.m. – Brunch	11	12
13 Sunday School Program Practice Homestead Service Candlelight Service	14 Council, Elder & Deacon Meetings	15	16 Games Day	17 *Joyce S's Birthday*	18 *Pat DB's Birthday*	19
20 Sunday School Singing Time Only, No classes Caroling	21 *Henry VA's Birthday*	22	23	24 *Christmas* Sunday School Program	25	26
27 NO Sunday School	28	29	30	31 *Wilbur K's Birthday*		