

FELLOWSHIP FINDINGS

SULLY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

APRIL 2023

Our Mission

WHAT GOD IS CALLING US TO DO

Cultivate space for people to experience the transforming love of Christ.

Our Vision

WHAT GOD IS CALLING US TO BE

A family of believers experiencing personal transformation, *Romans 12*
using their unique gifts, *Ephesians 4*
to glorify GOD *1 Corinthians 10:31*
and edify others. *1 Thessalonians 5:11*

- April 2** AM—Pastor Will Verhoef
PM— Gospel Singers
- April 7** PM—Good Friday Service—Pastor Will Verhoef
- April 9** **6:30 AM—Sunrise Service** (Bring Lawn Chairs)
9:30 AM—Easter Service—Pastor Will Verhoef
PM—No Worship Service
- April 16** AM—Pastor Justin Van Zee
PM—Pastor Justin Van Zee
- April 23** AM—Mr. Nate Schelhaas
PM—Small Group Discussion
- April 30** AM—Pastor Dan Vos
PM—Mr. Nate Van Wyk

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

Council would like to thank the congregation for their faithful participation in our recent congregational meeting. The following individuals were elected to serve on council:

- Administrative Elder (Chairman) - Dale Van Wyk
- Administrative Deacon (Chairman) - Dennis Schut
- Shepherding Elders: Tim Vander Schel and Nolan Vos
- Shepherding Deacon: John Kramer and Zach Dunsbergen

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The search committee has been in contact with four different pastors over the last couple of months. Two of these pastors have been met with in person, one zoom meeting was held with a third, and an in-person meeting is in the works with the fourth pastor.

We ask that you be in prayer for the search committee and the four pastors. Pray that both parties will seek God's will and have a clear sense of which direction God is calling them to go. We also ask for prayers of safe travel as committee members make trips when possible to meet prospective pastors.



As my recovery continues, I want to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, notes, texts, emails, visits and gifts of food. Each thoughtful act of kindness is deeply appreciated. Thanks to our Heavenly Father for the blessings of continued healing and Christian brothers and sisters who care for each other enough to provide support in times of trial.
Steve Van Sant

Our thanks to the congregation for your prayers, many cards, telephone calls and visits following the sudden death of our loved one; a daughter-in-law and sister-in-law. Thank God for many friends who walk with us during this difficult time.

Vernon and Lucille Jansen and family

I want to sincerely thank my church family for the prayers, cards, telephone calls, and visits in the death of my son-in-law Ron Graham. Also, special thanks to Steve Van Sant and Loren Fopma for their visits and calls. Your kindness has helped carry my family through a difficult time.

Janice Van Rees and family



April 23—Special Offering for Freedom House Ministry:

Our April 23 offering will be for **Freedom House Ministry**. Freedom House is a place of refuge for girls who have been exploited and to provide holistic restoration and freedom in Jesus Christ.

This is a place where girls who have been exploited can receive prayer, counseling, mentoring and a place to belong and be loved unconditionally.

Our passion is to give these girls opportunities to find their true identity in Christ and help them transition back into life on their own.

Freedom House has a **3-Fold Vision:**

- To see the Holy Spirit healing, freeing and restoring girls
- To provide a home
- To step out in faith, seeing God's many provisions and miracles

The heart of the Freedom House is summed up in Deuteronomy 9:1-3, where it says:

“Hear, O Israel. You are now about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities that have walls up to the sky. The people are strong and tall—Anakites. You know about them and have heard it said: “Who can stand up against the Anakites?” But be assured today that the Lord your God is the one who goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire...”

April Offering Schedule

April 2	World Renew—(Turkey Earthquake Relief)
April 7	Benevolence
April 9	Resonate Global Missions
April 16	Sully Christian School /with Envelope offering
April 23	Freedom House Ministry
April 30	Christian Education Encouragement Fund

The months that the SCS offering will be with an envelope offering are: February, April, August, October, December

BUDGET REPORT



March Report

Category	Amount	Year to Date Received	Year to Date Budgeted
General Fund (includes Ministry Share)	\$18,974.86	\$272,214.57	\$296,782.90
Missions	\$ 1,870.87	\$ 25,726.14	\$ 27,080.00
Building and Grounds	\$ 1,599.27	\$ 22,942.99	\$ 25,000.00
Total	\$22,445.00	\$320,883.70	\$348,862.90

Offerings Received

Date	Recipient	Amount
March 5	GEMS	\$2,069.00
March 12	Sully Christian School	\$1,322.00
March 19	CEEF	\$1,533.00
March 26	Cadets	\$2,137.00

Bethel Mission Ministry:

January -412 Youth, March –Care Team, May –Outreach Committee , July - Share Your Faith,
September - Couples for Christ, November - Truth Seekers.

We are assigned to the second Monday of each of the above months. If your group is unable to go in the assigned month, please notify Glenda in the church office (594- 3491) so other arrangements can be made.

SERVING ONE ANOTHER
 ...serve one another humbly in love. Galatians 5:13

Greeting Schedule	
Date	Greeters
April 2	(N) Alex & Jentri V Wyngarden
	(S) Kevin and June Veenstra
April 7	(N) Lawrence/Sandy Van Zee
	(S) Mike and Denise Arkema
April 9	(N) Mike & Marlene VanSoelen
	(S) Lauren & Julie Van Wyk
April 16	(N) Eric & Laura Fynaardt
	(S) Dennis and Staci Schut
April 23	(N) Dale and Julie Van Wyk
	(S) Zach & Brooke Dunsbergen
April 30	(N) Loren V. Wilt/Stan Fopma
	(S) Glenn and Navonne Shultz
May 7	(N) Frank & Karen VanSoelen
	(S) Jason and Jen Lowry
May 14	(N) Jaron and Tasha Vos
	(S) Scott and Vicki Nikkel
May 21	(N) Kevin & Brenda Van Kooten
	(S) Randy and Jodi De Vries
May 28	(N) Nolan & Karla Vos
	(S) Dwight & Glenda Vd Leest

NOTE: If you are unable to greet on your assigned Sunday, please trade with someone for a different week. If you would like to have your name removed from the greeter list, please contact Steve Van Sant.

Coffee Server Schedule	
Date	Servers
April 2	Wayne and Nora Ritter
	Bob and Marilyn Van Soelen
April 9	Gary & Lynnette Christensen
	Paul Scott and Steve Van Sant
April 16	Brent and Brenda Rolffs
	Roger and Carolyn Zylstra
April 23	Tim and Rindy Vander Schel
	Joel and Megan Vos
April 30	Rick and Carla Fopma
	Doug and Brenda Vos
May 7	Wes and Heather Zylstra
	Roger and Caroll Jansen
May 14	Brennan & Shelby Veenstra
	Alvin and Mary Fopma
May 21	Scotty and Brenda De Nooy
	Ethan & Zeke Vander Leest
May 28	Kyle and Kendra Van Kooten
	Curt and Candice Vos

Make juice on Saturday so that it has time to chill. Meet in the church basement before the service to set up. Instructions are in the kitchen. If unable to serve, please trade with someone.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

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Nursery Attendants

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April 2	Elly Van Zee
	Brenda Vos
	Lily Vander Leest
	Alayna Van Kooten
April 7	Jentri Van Wyngarden
	Aaron Van Wyngarden
April 9	Jud and Pam Vos
	Erica Vos
	Isabelle Vos
April 16	Michelle Van Kooten
	Bailey Vos
	Renaë Van Wyk
April 23	Julie Van Wyk
	Erica Van Maanen
	Emma Plowman
April 30	Jacie Kramer
	Conrad Kramer
	Owen Vos
May 7	Julie Van Wyk
	Dale Van Wyk
	Ada Van Wyngarden
May 14	Jen Lowry
	Linda Zylstra
	Hayden & Breckyn Lowry
May 21	Angela Veenstra
	Trevor De Berg
	Jackson Plowman

May 28	Linda Menninga
	Lily Vander Leest
	Renaë Van Wyk

QUILT CREW REPORT

As snow fell like feathers on March 9, 2023, 15 ladies gathered in the basement for a day of quilting. While we listened to the PC state game, many quilt tops were matched with backs, knots were tied and edges were finished. We all enjoyed lunch and great coffee time breaks. A big thank you to all who brought food and those who served. Thank you to the guys who set up tables, wash our dishes and take down our tables. Our janitors pitch in and sweep. 23 quilts were finished. Keith and Darlene Struik delivered 48 quilts to Bidwell Riverside ministries on Friday. Plans can be made, but if you all don't show up to help with this project, we would have no quilts!!!! Everyone enjoy the summer months and keep cutting squares and making tops. We will see all of you late September, 2023.



Celebrating...



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Norm Schuring
April 2	Pearl Vos Derrick Jansen
April 6	Millie Van Soelen (85) Judy Beyer Scott Jochems
April 7	Alicia Fynaardt
April 9	Austin Van Kooten
April 12	John Wey
April 13	Robert Pothoven Shawna Fopma Brett Van Sant
April 14	Brenda Nikkel Glenda Vander Leest Nora Ritter
April 16	Elijah Vos
April 17	Curt Fopma Staci Schut
April 19	Sharlee Fopma Daniel Fopma
April 20	Darlene Vos
April 21	Darrell Veenstra
April 22	Monte Goodyk Piper Van Zee
April 23	Darlene Struik Tessa Van Zee Julia Van Zee

April 24	Vernon Jansen Britton Lowry
April 28	Duane Arkema
April 30	Eldon Nikkel Megan Vos Trevor Nikkel



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 6	Brent and Brenda Rolffs
April 14	Josh and Tasha Thaden (5)
April 15	Rick and Carla Fopma
April 18	Curt and Brenda Fopma
April 25	Carroll and Marla Fopma

Celebrating...



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 2	Laura Fynaardt
May 5	Brent Rolffs
May 6	Keagan Fopma
	Alivia Van Wyngarden
May 7	Carroll Fopma
May 10	Merl Van Zante
	Adalie Fynaardt
May 11	Joan Pleima
May 12	Wanda Lanser
	Melanie Van Maanen
May 13	Deloris Van Rees
	Marcia Nikkel
	Ada Van Wyngarden
May 15	Vicki Nikkel
	Ben De Nooy
	Conrad Kramer
May 18	Eli Vander Leest
May 19	Grant De Nooy
May 20	Colt Freese
	Dawn Plowman
May 23	Alex Van Wyngarden
May 24	Hayden Lowry
May 26	Randy Altena
	Rick Jansen
May 27	Larry Pleima
May 30	Colton Vos
	Hollyn Van Zee

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 4	Tim and Lurinda Vander Schel
	Mike and Denise Arkema
May 10	Ed and Judy Van Kooten
	Jeff and Sue Pastoor
May 14	Ed and Joyce Dieleman
	Doug and Elly Van Zee
May 31	Jason and Jennifer Lowry

Isaiah 41:18

I will make rivers flow on
barren heights,
and springs within the
valleys.

I will turn the desert into
pools of water,
and the parched
ground into springs.

Coloring Page



new life news

volume 13

issue 01

march 2023

the quarterly newsletter of New Life, a prison community growing in the love of Jesus Christ

God's got this!

a letter of encouragement from Steve Palmer

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need." (Matthew 6:33, NLT)

Greetings, New Life brothers and sisters!

Oh, how I miss all of you. Not a day passes by without thoughts of you, and I—along with countless others—am in continuous prayer for each and every one of you. I experienced my greatest growth while at Newton Correctional Facility, and you all played important parts in that process, leaving me eternally grateful.

As many of you know, August 4, 2022, was the start of a new chapter in my life. To tell you that the day of my release came with no fear or anxiety would be a lie. I never realized just how "protected" I felt inside those fences until the moment I walked through them and into this big world. But from the very beginning, God made it known that I was not alone, nor would I ever be. I tell you this for one very important reason: Seeking acceptance, approval, and answers from the world yields very little. Mark Batterson once wrote, "We shouldn't seek answers as much as we should seek God ... If you seek answers you won't find them, but if you seek God, the answers will find you." I want you to know that at the end of the day, the only thing that truly matters is your relationship with Jesus Christ. Get right with God and, true to His Word, He will supply ALL your needs.

The enemy is hard at work in the world, sowing seeds of doubt, discouragement, and division. Jesus said, "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life" (John 10:10). Stop and look



Steve Palmer (center) with his parents, Dick and Connie Palmer.

around. Every day contains unexpected blessings, but how many of them do we miss because we are selfishly looking for our own answered prayers? And let me add this: God is answering me in ways that are far better than what I was searching for, only because His plans for us are far better than our own.

I want you all to know that no matter what the obstacles are in front of you—no matter how tall the mountains appear to be—NOTHING is too big for our God. He chose you, and He loves you in a way the world will never give you. Jesus said, "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Have no fear, brothers and sisters! God's got this!

I love you,
Steve Palmer

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Sunday, April 16, 4:00 p.m.

We will host a worship service at the Calvary CRC Youth House (408 Maple St., Pella, IA 50219). A fellowship meal will follow worship. Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with New Life!



Pastor Rick Admiraal

PHONE: 641-204-1954

EMAIL: PastorRick@newlife-prison.org

WEBSITE: www.newlife-prison.org

BLOG: newlifeprisonchurch.blogspot.com

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity

Donate to New Life this Easter!

I'd like to donate \$_____ to support New Life Prison Church.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

Contributions may be sent to: **New Life Prison Church, 408 Maple St., Pella, IA 50219**

You can also make an online gift: <http://www.newlife-prison.org/donate>

Prayers & praises

by Rose Admiraal

We give thanks and praise for:

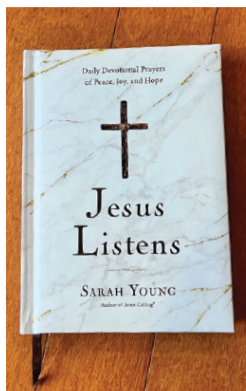
- Being able to minister INSIDE the prison since December 13!
- The church INSIDE that is strong and growing!
- Answered prayers inside the prison for family members' health concerns.

We ask for prayers for:

- Our volunteers who have lost loved ones in the past few months and are in need of comfort.
- More opportunities for New Life to go inside to worship and study with the men.
- Men who have gotten out of prison, that they will find decent jobs, housing, and church communities.

New Life Prison Church Outside Council

Dave Gritters (Governing Elder)
Keith Van Gent (Governing Elder)
Glenda Vander Leest (Governing Elder)
Linda Zuidema (Administrative Deacon)
Jim Williams (Administrative Deacon)
Tricia De Haan (Administrative Deacon)
Pastor Rick Admiraal (New Life)
April Nieuwsma (Treasurer)



Jesus Listens is the third devotional we've sent to returning citizens.

During our Zoom time, we engage in fellowship and discuss the entry for the day. We believe these devotionals and the Zoom meetings are two ways to encourage the men in their walk with God!

Encouragement to returning citizens

by Rose Admiraal

During the pandemic, New Life started meeting twice a month on Zoom with returning citizens located all over Iowa (and even outside the state!).

At the start of each year, we've been choosing a devotional and sending it to the men who have gotten out of prison.

Though we are back inside Newton Correctional Facility, we've decided to continue this program for returning citizens. This year, we sent close to 30 copies of *Jesus Listens* by Sarah Young (author of *Jesus Calling*). Each entry in this devotional is a prayer written out to Jesus.

It's so good to be back!

by Pastor Rick

On Tuesday, December 13, we returned to the prison after 33 long months. It was so good to be back!

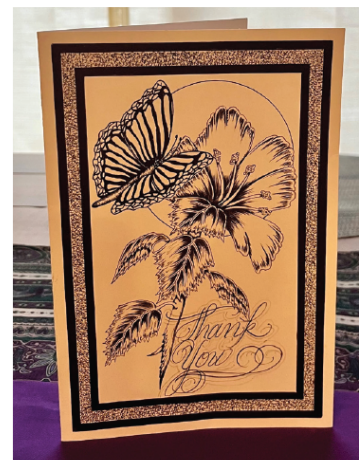
The prison chapel was bursting at the seams, full of men ready to enthusiastically greet us. We were glad to see them, and they were glad to see us.

The worship service was a celebration, with joyful songs, the Word of God, and prayers. I felt emotional when I recognized men in the congregation whom I baptized. There were many new faces too.

It was apparent that God was at work, and that He had raised up leaders in our absence. The Spirit had also inspired men to draw near to Jesus Christ. The church behind the walls is alive and well!

On the second Tuesday of New Life's return, we were recognized by the men. They gave us a handsome certificate and a handmade card with these words: "In appreciation of everything you do." It meant a lot to them that they were not forgotten during the pandemic.

We've now been back for three months. Each Tuesday evening is just as good as the last. It's truly the highlight of the week. We've celebrated communion monthly and are working our way through the Bible—we're already on Ruth! Currently, we are at the prison just once per week with only three volunteers. Pray that the prison officials will permit more volunteers and allow us to worship at the Newton Correctional Release Center too. May God expand His impact behind bars.



The New Life team received an artistic thank-you card from the men of the prison congregation.



**SULLY CHRISTIAN
REFORMED CHURCH**

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SEE US ON THE WEB

SULLYCRC.ORG

... he **humbled** himself
and became **obedient**
to the point of **death** —
even **death on a cross.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:8, NRSV



Jesus Understands

When you feel overwhelmed or are struggling about something and you just need to vent or get help, you are most likely to call someone who's "been there," right? That person will have the empathy and compassion you need for lifting your heart out of a pit of discouragement. Problem is, your friend might not be available—she may be too busy to take a call, which is even more frustrating. But Jesus is already on the line waiting for you. And He's been through battles and temptations that brought on the very feelings you struggle with today. He's "been there" and He "is there." So next time, who're you gonna call? Christ Jesus!

*Then Jesus was led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit,
To be tempted there by Satan. Matthew 4:1 TLB*

When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36 HCSB

*Going a little farther, He fell facedown and prayed,
"My Father! If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me.
Yet not as I will, but as you will." Matthew 26:39 HCSB*

100 days of Bible Promises—Shanna Noel