

FIRST REFORMED ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 15, 2020

Mark you calendar! Youth Spud Nite Fundraiser will be on Wednesday, March 18 from 5-7PM! Join us for spuds and all the toppings!!

Reflections for March 15, 2020

One of my five top favorite praise songs is “Broken Vessels/Amazing Grace).”

All these pieces
Broken and scattered
In mercy gathered
Mended and whole
Empty-handed
But not forsaken
I've been set free
I've been set free

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me, oh
I once was lost
But now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

You take our failure
You take our weakness
You set Your treasure
In jars of clay
So take this heart, Lord
I'll be Your vessel
The world to see
Your life in me.

This song speaks into my life because I have experienced the brokenness of life: physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and relationally. One example: in my former congregation there was a breakdown in relationship with a couple. A brokenness that led to a complete cutoff in communication. I think I made attempts, but none successful to lean into healing. I was challenged at a Churches Learning Change retreat, while at First Rock Valley, to contact someone where there has been a breakdown in relationship. I thought of this couple. As I opened my computer to contact them, I noticed an email from one of them. They wanted to get together over coffee. This was a God moment. A journey began with Jesus doing what Jesus does, mending broken lives.

Jesus never said the word “grace.” He was, however, the complete picture of grace. If you want to know what grace is look at Jesus. The way he loved the woman caught in adultery: grace. The way he treated Zacchaeus: grace. The woman at the well: grace. Mary Magdalene: grace. The way he restored Peter after his failure: grace. Mending broken lives is Jesus’ work.

We are going to consider this on Sunday as we look at Peter’s story of grace. The movement from self-reliance to brokenness to restoration is the story of our lives. Grace is greater than our brokenness. Jesus is greater than our brokenness. We will let Jesus do what Jesus does in our lives? Some passages to reflect on: [Matt. 26:31-35](#); [Matt. 26:69-75](#); [John 21:7-19](#); [Matt. 12:15-21](#).

Grace upon Grace,
Pastor Verlyn

March Missionaries: Tom Johnson, 613 Broadway, Pella, IA 50218.

NURSING HOME & ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS:

Whispering Heights: **Verna Boer, Tillie Helgersen, Adriana Dykstra, Faye Gort, Joyce Van Berkum.** Fellowship Village in Inwood: **Jean Hubers, Marilyn Van Holland;** The Legacy Living, Gillette WY: **Mary Boer;** Hillcrest Care Center, Hawarden: **Marian Verburg.** Pleasant Acres, Hull: **Cornie & Ann Jansen;** Bethany Home, Brandon, SD: **Bill & Alma Landegent.**

CHURCH SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES:

Brian and Elizabeth Bruxvoort in AK; **Amy and Seung Kim** in Bangladesh; **Tom and Aichatou Johnson** in Pella, IA; **Brian and Donna Renes** in Sioux Center; **John & Lynn Hubers** in Ethiopia.

If you or a family member have a prayer concern and would like to have either the elders or the whole church to pray with you or for you, please contact your calling elder or a member of the consistory.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rock Valley American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion are sponsoring “*Going To The Dogs*” Chili Fundraiser on March 19, 2020 at the Pioneer Methodist Church. Free will offering accepted with proceeds going to support the *Rock Valley Police Department K-9 Unit.* Members will be serving from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please consider coming out to support your American Legion and meet “Gus” the RVPD K-9 and newest member of our community.

Trinity Christian Reformed Church in Rock Valley is excited to welcome the Trinity Christian College Choir to our evening worship service on March 22, beginning at 6:00PM. You are invited to join us for a time of worship in word and song.

Love INC of Sioux County is proud to present “*Love and Laugh*” on Saturday, March 28th at Trinity Christian Reformed Church. The doors for this dinner theater style event will open at 5pm to be followed by a catered meal at 5:30pm and an improvisational comedy show by *Slap Happy Comedy* at 7. The *Slap Happy Comedy* team, a Christian two-man duo, brings a clean, high energy, hilarious, interactive comedy experience that will involve the entire audience and guarantees fun for the entire family. Tickets to this event can be purchased for \$30 a piece or you may reserve a complete table of 8 by calling the Love INC office at 712-476-5990.

Hope Haven, Inc. will host their Annual Benefit auction on Friday evening, April 3 at Te Slaa Trucking (corner of hwy. 75 & 18). Help support the local and global ministries of Hope Haven through this exciting evening of fun and fellowship. The doors will open at 4:30 pm; food booth and but-it-now table opens at 5pm; the live auction begins at 5:30 pm. The whole family is invited to this community event.

Cornerstone Prison Church Council, Board and Congregation would like to invite you to the 14th Annual Benefit Banquet on Monday, April 6 at Trinity Christian Reformed Church, Rock Valley, 6:30 pm; doors will open at 6:00 p.m. *Save your spot by Sunday, March 29* by calling Trinity CRC at 712-476-5292 or go to our website www.cornerstonepcsd.org. Join us for an evening of praise to God for his work through Cornerstone Prison Church inside the walls of the South Dakota State Penitentiary! A free will offering will be taken as an opportunity to financially support Cornerstone’s ministry. We look forward to seeing you! If you are unable to attend, you can send your donations to:
Cornerstone Prison Church
c/o Dave Vande Kamp, PO Box 88708, Sioux Falls, SD 57109
Or donate online at www.cornerstonepcsd.org