

## First Reformed Church

***We need coffee servers!!*** We are down to a rotation of 4! If you enjoy the coffee & cookie fellowship, please contact Sheri at 476-2376 and be added to the rotation!

An invitation to personal growth through self-awareness and faith in God. Faithwalking is a personal growth series centered in Christ and his promise to make all things new. Module one (a ten-week study) is focused on your identity in Christ and what is going on inside of you and what is going on around you. Faithwalking is built on the principle that individual transformation takes place before corporate transformation. If you are interested in this growth opportunity contact the church office or Pastor Verlyn.

### Reflections for October 11, 2020

I have had a lot of time to reflect in the past 10 days. When I was flat on my back for four days and out of commission for ten days there was ample opportunity to watch Chicago PD reruns, football, but also to think, reflect about what was important in my life. It was during that reflection that I began to think about basics, especially basics in my life with Jesus. My prayers during this time were simple and basic: "Jesus, help me." And "Jesus have mercy on me." A group of statements began to formulate in my heart and mind about the basics of life with Jesus. Those statements are going to be the next series of sermons at First Reformed.

I am loved by Jesus.

I am a follower of Jesus.

I belong to Jesus.

I will rest in Jesus.

I have found life in Jesus.

I can face anything with Jesus.

I am a friend of Jesus.

My hope is that each of these will speak directly into your heart and soul and mind as well.

John in writing the Gospel that bears his name refers to himself only as "the disciple whom Jesus loves." This does not mean that he thought he was the only one Jesus loved, but rather the most basic defining characteristic for his life is that he was loved by Jesus. I do know in my own life when it seems everyone and everything is against me the truth that grounds me and gives me stability is simple: I am Verlyn loved by Jesus. This truth is unchanging, unconditional, accepting, transforming, foundational. It is a phrase that I ran through my mind and consistently during my Covid 19 Days. The truth of Jesus' love for me was and is enough. WE are going to think about that this coming Sunday as we look at the life of the Apostle John and how the love of Jesus transformed him from arrogance, violence, and intolerance to the Apostle of love. Some passages to possibly read: [John 13:21-25](#); [Ephesians 3:14-19](#); [I John 4:7-19](#).

Grace upon Grace,  
Pastor Verlyn

**Resident B'day:** Cornie Jansen 10/14/28; Bill Landegent 10/27/28

### **NURSING HOME & ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS:**

Whispering Heights: ***Verna Boer, Adriana Dykstra, Faye Gort, 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***; Faith Lutheran Home, Osage, IA: ***Henry Feekes***.

***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.***

## **CHURCH SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES:**

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

## **I Am Loved by Jesus**

### **John 13:21-25**

- Basics of Life with Jesus
- Introducing John
- The Transformation of John
  - Consuming Ambition
  - Explosive Temper
  - Intolerance
- The Apostle of Love

## **Good News Truth**

# 1: Love of Jesus transforms

#2: Listen for the Heartbeat of Jesus

# 3: Your basic identity is that you are loved by Jesus...

## **Announcements**

Please mark the date and plan to attend the Rock Valley GEMS Girls' Clubs Annual Fundraiser Night on Wednesday, October 14 from 5-8 pm! There is something for everyone: Vendor Fair and Bake Sale at The Lighthouse, Community Impact Tip Night at Pizza Ranch, and a GEMS Dinner Special at Cedar Rock Grill. Dine-in or carry out are both welcome. Thank you for blessing the Rock Valley GEMS Girls' Club through your support of this event!

Inspiration Hills Annual Fall Auction will be held Live & Online Friday, October 23rd at our Main Lodge. To view our auction items, sponsors and register for online bidding, please visit our website at [www.inspirationhills.org](http://www.inspirationhills.org). Doors open at 6:30pm, and the auction begins at 7:00pm. Refreshments only will be served. We invite you to join us for a fun evening in support of the ministry that God is doing at Inspiration Hills!