

First Reformed Church
October 4, 2020

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.

Budget Report:	2020 Budget	\$319,893.00
	Monthly Budget	26,657.75
	Sept. Offering	10,525.52
	Year to Date	181,548.78
	YTD Standing	(58,370.97)

Reflections for October 4, 2020

Listening to the person he had the whole set of rules for what it meant to be believer. He was so certain that if you really wanted to please God you must act in certain ways that he had defined. For instance you needed to be part of a certain political party and have the “right” views on gun control, capital punishment, welfare, opposing the legalization of marijuana, the racism question, home schooling, rock concerts which beverages you can drink , and whether it is appropriate to go to the casino or not.

The person had the rule that you must give 10 % of your income to the local church and perhaps give other sums to Christian organizations. He believed that you must set aside 30 minutes every day to read the Bible and pray if you were a true believer. Regularly he had to tell someone about his faith and invite them to his church which you attended every time the doors were open. If you follow these rules you can be confident that your Christian life is what God wants. If you happen to disagree with the “true believer” and publicly voice your disagreement, your spirituality is called into question and it is doubtful that you are saved. You will be ostracized and look down upon because you do not dance to the tune of Mr. True Believer.

I always get caught wondering about Mr. True Believer if he loves Jesus. If he at any point in his life fell in love with Jesus. I don't think it is judgmental on my part it just feels like something really important is missing; that his righteous rules are more important than to be in love with Jesus. Paul faced the same issue in Philippi. Visiting teachers from the home church in Jerusalem had come and told the believers in Philippi to shape and follow all the Old Testament laws and observe all the Jewish holidays. If you Gentiles want to fully please God, you must become like us. Paul literally went to war with these true believers calling them “dogs” “evil doers” and mutilators of the flesh. He declared it is about Jesus not these rules. It is about a personal relationship with him, not following true believer rules.

Bottom line is to not let others pressure you into their spiritual lifestyle and miss out on the life Jesus wants to give you. The goal is to know Christ and be led by him; not to follow a legalistic code, but a living Christ. You see the legalistic code is rubbish and you won't be in love with Christ. We are going to think about that on Sunday as we look together at [Philippians 3:1-10](#).

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.**

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 (Holland, MI currently).

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.

Announcements

Join ARROWS Friday, October 9, 8:30-9am in the fellowship hall at Trinity CRC to pray for Rock Valley Christian School; if you can't join us there, please pray wherever you're at that morning. This week we're focusing on the 3rd grade class and their teachers, Kelsi Byl and Sherry Mantel, as well as our principal Mr. Vis and our janitors. Your prayers are powerful and mean a lot to the school community!

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. 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!