

## First Reformed Church

This Thanksgiving we will be collecting clothing items for the Center of Hope in Sioux Falls. Items to donate include: Men's and children's winter coats, snow pants and gloves. Please bring your items with you to church and the children will collect them during the service.

As we approach the holiday season, we would like to remind you to use [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) when ordering from Amazon. Choose First Reformed Church of Rock Valley Iowa and you are all set. Our youth group receives a percentage back on your purchases. Thanks!

**Resident B'day:** Adriana Dykstra 11/17/34

### Reflections for November 22, 2020

How many friends do you have on Facebook? This question is hard to answer, because if your only connection to someone is on Facebook it is hard to imagine that this could be called friendship, yet so many do. A person thinks that because they have 500 friends and you only have 20 on Facebook, they have more friends than you do. When those 498 of those 500 might have very little connection with that person other than Facebook. While the one with only 20 has a deep connection outside of Facebook with those people and they could truly be called friends. I think there are Facebook friends and true friends in real life; two very different things. A friend is a relationship of mutual affection between people. It is a strong form of interpersonal bond between two people.

On Facebook if someone wants to be your "friend" or you want to be someone's friend; a friend request is sent. You always have a choice. You can respond yes, or you can simply let it sit or delete it from your account. The ultimate friend request comes from Jesus. "Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you." (Revelation 3:20...The Message) Jesus desires to be your friend. In the time when Jesus lived the invitation to have supper at someone's house was an invitation for friendship. It was not the "let's grab lunch sometime" casual invitation. The invitation for friendship was a sacred moment. Jesus is telling us that is the way it is for you and me. Jesus is saying I want to be your friend. I desire to enter that personal relationship of friendship where we share our lives with one another. The old hymn says it so well, "Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer." (What a Friend We Have in Jesus)

There are times in my shame that the idea of Jesus as a friend seems too chummy...buddy buddy. How could God really want to be my friend? I can sink into Savior...Lord...Christ...Messiah...Son of God. All exalted names for Jesus, but friend feels intimate, close, and relational. Yet Jesus makes the point in scripture that he no longer calls us servants, he calls us friends. In fact, he wants to be our friend. Because after all is not a true friend, someone who knows everything about us and still loves us...accepts us. Jesus knows everything about us and still loves and accepts us. And wants to be our friend. We are going to think about that on Sunday as we finish "Life Basics with Jesus" by thinking together about, "I Am a Friend of Jesus." Some scripture to possibly read: [John 15:9-17](#); [Revelation 3:20](#); [Proverbs 18:24](#).

Grace upon Grace,  
Pastor Verlyn

### NURSING HOME & ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS:

Whispering Heights: **Verna Boer, Adriana Dykstra, Faye Gort, Marilyn Van Holland.**

The Legacy Living, Gillette, WY: **Mary Boer**

Pleasant Acres, Hull: **Cornie & Ann Jansen**

Bethany Home, Brandon, SD: **Bill & Alma Landegent.**

## **CHURCH SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES:**

**Brian and Elizabeth Bruxvoort** in Alaska

**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.*

## **Announcements**

Love INC is going to have a **Giving Tree** set up at M&H in Rock Valley and Pizza Ranch in Hull as a part of our Heart of Christmas Event. Please take a heart off the tree, purchase the listed items and return them unwrapped to the tree by Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. These gifts will be used to bless families in our community with a gift bag filled with fun things for the kids and a food basket that will help them prepare a wonderful holiday meal.

Inspiration Hills is looking for a Full-Time year-round Buildings & Grounds Manager to supervise, coordinate and participate in maintenance and janitorial activities for the facilities and grounds. The applicant should be able to perform general electrical, construction, and have knowledge of basic tools and equipment. More details, benefits, and qualifications can be found at [www.inspirationhills.org](http://www.inspirationhills.org)!

Inspiration Hills is looking for a Part-Time year-round Housekeeping Manager to delegate and perform the upkeep of the campus facilities. We are looking for a responsible and organized person who can work independently, and well with others. This would be a great position for someone with school aged children. More details can be found at [www.inspirationhills.org](http://www.inspirationhills.org)!

December 18th & 19th Inspiration Hills will hosting their Christmas Fundraiser with baked goods, fresh baked breads, prepared meals and frozen soups to go! Place your order by December 11<sup>th</sup>; order forms are available on the Opportunities Table or by calling 712-986-5193!

Bible League International has a volunteer opportunity for a Spanish/English translator to assist BLI with the translation of documents or other forms of communication between English and Spanish in order to engage more donors and partners in Bible League's ministry in Latin America. Contact [DVanSwol@bibleleague.org](mailto:DVanSwol@bibleleague.org)