

## In-person Worship Resumes in November (continued from front page)

Pastor Dave originally thought he would finish Romans by the end of October, but with various changes in the schedule, we will spend a couple more weeks in that great book.

- **November 1**— In Romans 14, Paul talks about “disputable matters,” less-than-clear issues about which Christians disagree. We will look at his good advice.
- **November 8** —We will conclude the series on Romans by considering Paul’s words about hospitality in Romans 15. Although this was our original date to bring back Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, we will move that to the following week.
- **November 15**—It is time to bring in our Operation Christmas shoes boxes (and this is a firm deadline because they need to go the drop-off place in Brookings the following day). The sermon will be based on Matthew 10:8, “Freely you have received, freely give.” We also plan to say thanks to a number of people that we originally scheduled to do so in October—our accompanists, VernaMae Van Maanen for her work in the library, and Bruce Lucas for his work as our youth leader. Ministry of music will be brought by Stephanie and Jenna Korver (the wife and daughter respectively of Ruth Landegent’s brother Kyle).
- **November 22**—On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we will explore the many references to gratitude in the letter to the Colossians. A praise team will lead our singing.
- **WEDNESDAY, THANKSGIVING EVE**, November 25—Our Thanksgiving Eve service begins at 7:30 p.m. with a look at Psalm 126. Because of COVID, we will NOT have our usual pie fellowship after the service. Check next week’s bulletin for the recipient of the Thanksgiving offering .
- **November 29**—It is the first Sunday of Advent, so we will be lighting the first Advent candle and also begin a series on the main parts of the Christmas story beginning with John 1’s account of Jesus being the Word made flesh. Pastor Dave will bring a ParaPraise song as ministry of music.

## REMINDER about Hy-Vee Receipts

If you turn in Hy-Vee (Brookings only) receipts to the basket along the north wall in the fellowship hall, you can be part of a MESA fund-raiser. When we have \$150,000 worth of receipts, Hy-Vee will donate \$1,000 toward a MESA project yet to be determined. As of October 27, we have collected **\$109,824.08**. Thank you for helping!

First Reformed Church, Volga, SD

November 2020

# Glad Tidings

*“I bring you glad tidings of great joy...”*

## In-person Worship Resumes in November

Because of the recent outbreak of the COVID virus in our church, we were only able to meet in-person once in the month of October. In November, we will be resuming in-person worship services, but with a few differences—similar to what we did when we first started up again this past May.

- The changes (at least through November 15) are that we will not have nursery (although parents can still use the room). Nor will we have an organized fellowship time or Sunday School classes. We will, however, have greeters and ushers—under the assumption that we can find willing volunteers.
- We will still make the fellowship hall available for seating for those who prefer to be more socially distant, and there will be a zone in the front five (5) pews on the organ side where people will be required to wear masks. As for mask-wearing in general, this is **strongly** encouraged, but not required. Also, you should know that church surfaces are disinfected every week.
- And of course, if you are not yet ready to come back to church, you are invited to watch the service online. We hope to have it on our website or YouTube or Facebook by mid-afternoon on Sunday. If you are on Valley Fibercom cable, you can also watch the previous week’s service at 9:30 a.m. on Channel 280.





The following members needed medical care recently and appreciate your prayers:

- Lenny and Dar Ludwig, Al Kooima, SherryAnne Langland, Rich Vande Weerd —hospitalized with COVID
- Over 20 others also had COVID, but were not hospitalized
- Carol Van Hoepen—lung infection
- Larry Dyer—pacemaker
- Bernita Kooima—pneumonia
- Bernita Kooima—chemotherapy
- Dawn Lucas—chemotherapy
- Jodi Koerner—chemotherapy

### Congratulations



- \*Jeff and Sarah Sapp and extended family on the birth of Lydia Grace, who was born on October 23
- \* Ron and Karen Knutson on the birth of their granddaughter, Adalyn Jane, on October 8 to Isaac and Mandy Wilde

**Sympathy To:** Friends and family of Elaine Tucker who passed away on October 7. At age 98, Elaine had been our oldest member.



### Youth Group Meetings in November

The youth groups will meet on the following Wednesdays in November at 7 p.m. each time.  
November 4—High School Youth Group  
November 11—Middle School Youth Group

### Upcoming Task Force Meetings

November 18 —Consistory  
November 28—Worship Task Force decorates for Advent/Christmas  
January 13 (tentative) - Worship Task Force

### Looking Back Ten Years..... 2010!!

- Jeff and Sarah Sapp rejoice in the birth of their first child, Landon Lee on October 30
- Pastoral search survey forms have been distributed
- Children’s Bell Choir played “We Gather Together” to begin the Thanksgiving Eve service

### Highlights of Last Month

Because of the COVID virus, we were only able to have one in-person worship service. The second Sunday of the month was called off because Pastor Dave came down with COVID that morning. Then the last two Sundays featured on-line services.

### Classis Meets November 13-14

Elder Kelly Vander Wal and Pastor Dave will be representing First Reformed at the annual Dakota Classis meeting November 13-14 at Inspiration Hills. There will surely be further discussion concerning the choices facing the classis about remaining in the Reformed Church in America.

### Christmas Program to Change This Year

Normally, we have a Sunday School Christmas program on the Sunday night before Christmas. This year, however, the COVID virus has created a lot of uncertainty about which teachers and students will be healthy enough for it, and which weeks we will have Sunday School. The consistory has decided to have a lower key Christmas program, which might even be during the Sunday morning service, December 20. Preliminary plans are for the church to have a Christmas carol sing-along, with a few extra songs sung by the children (including bells). This will not require as much in terms of practices. Stay tuned for more details later.



### 22 Units of Blood Given at Blood Drive

Our Red Cross Blood Drive at the end of September collected 22 units of blood from 22 donors, five of whom were first-time donors. The Red Cross estimates that these donations could potentially save 66 lives. Way to go, everyone!!

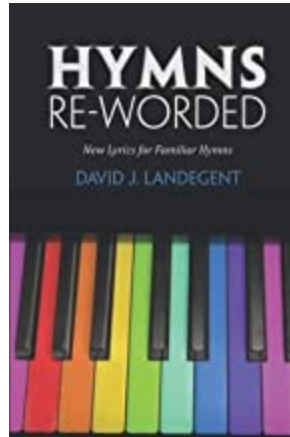
## Pastor Dave Publishes Book of Hymns

Pastor Dave has compiled the hymn lyrics he's written over the years (always to a familiar hymn tune) and published them in a book entitled, Hymns Re-Worded.

There are about 200 hymns in the collection, all of which follow biblical texts of themes, sometimes concerning subjects that are not often sung about, such as covenant, predestination and sexuality.

There is also a section of new Christmas songs that put Christian lyrics to familiar Santa Claus songs.

Pastor Dave worked on getting these together while recovering from his stem cell transplant this past summer. You can find the book on Amazon for \$11.98.



## Worship Services on Valley Fibercom

Although our worship services can be viewed on our website, YouTube or Facebook, another way you can watch it is on cable—at least for customers of Valley Fibercom. If you tune in to the local channel (280) on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., you can watch the previous week's service.

We were able to make use of this free service after elder Kelly Vander Wal noticed that Valley Fibercom did this in its home territory in Herreid, SD.

After making some inquiries, we discovered that we could do the same in our area.

### Count Your Blessings, Name Them One by One!

On a sheet of paper, begin a list of blessings your heavenly Father has, in love, lavished upon you.

Think of tangible blessings and of intangible ones, as well. Put the list inside your Bible and add to it daily.

Let your list of blessings become an ongoing psalm of thanks and praise to your loving Lord.

## Operation Christmas Child Shoes Boxes due on November 15 (a week later than said before)

On the last Sunday that we met in October (way back on October 4), our young people assembled Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes that would be distributed the following week. But—because of COVID, we ended up not having in-person church for the rest of October. Most of the boxes are still waiting for you to pick up in the fellowship hall when we finally gather at church again on November 1.

- As part of our on-line worship services in later October, we have shown two Operation Christmas Child videos, both of them with moving stories about how the lives of young girls was impacted by receiving a box. Hopefully, that motivated you all the more to pack a box.
- Originally, our target date for returning the boxes was November 8, but that only gives most people a week to get them ready, so we are moving our collection date to Sunday, November 15. They **MUST** be back that day because they will be delivered to the drop-off location in Brookings on November 16.
- **Another way that you can help the needy** in this season is by donating clothes to the Center of Hope Warm Clothing Drive (also known as Jackets for Jesus). Collection boxes are located in the fellowship hall and coat area in the south hallway. You may bring any kind of used or new winter coats, snow boots, gloves, mittens, coveralls or snow pants for kids. Please make sure the items are clean and mended. The items will be brought to the Center of Hope after Thanksgiving.

## Bill-Ringing on November 23

Our church's turn for ringing the Salvation Army bell is coming up on November 23 from 4-8 p.m. at Walmart and Lewis Drug (no Hy-Vee this year).

If you would like to help, please sign up in the fellowship hall today.



## Photo Directory Published

In the fall of 2019, members of the church had their photos taken at church by Baylea Lucas with Dawn Lucas as her assistant. We are now happy to report that directory is now available - after a COVID-19 delay—and can be found in the mail-boxes of church members. Directories will also be given to new members of the church as well.

A BIG thank you to Baylea, Dawn and the entire Congregational Care Task Force for seeing this project through.