

The AMERICANews

of the American Reformed Church
of Hull Iowa



2025

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the American Reformed Church
Hull, Iowa

Vol.35 No. 5
October 2025



Over the past few weeks, our community and our nation have faced profound moments of grief and mourning that have left many reeling from their impact. We have witnessed the heartbreaking loss of loved ones in a tragic house fire and a devastating car accident. We have taken a solemn pause to commemorate the anniversary of 9/11, reflecting on the collective trauma woven into the fabric of our society. Most recently, we have been shaken by the horrific assassination of a father and husband who was speaking on a college campus, an act of violence that stole away not just a life, but the hopes and dreams of his family.

Grief, with all its complexity and weight, is one of life's heaviest burdens. When we endure a tragic loss, the emotional load can feel utterly insurmountable. Amidst the sorrow that envelops us, we often find ourselves asking: where do we turn when we feel broken beyond repair?

Not long ago, I experienced a small yet poignant reminder of brokenness in my own home when I accidentally dropped a glass cup onto the kitchen floor. Upon impact, it shattered into countless pieces, each fragment representing an aspect of what was once whole. Some shards were sharp and jagged; others were tiny, overlooked remnants; while some pieces were mere splinters, scattered across the kitchen. Each shard carried a story of its own, much like the pieces of our lives that scatter in the wake of tragedy.

This visceral experience of brokenness parallels what many in our community have felt over the past few weeks as they grapple with their immense losses. The families and friends of those gone too soon are left to pick up the pieces, often feeling overwhelmed as they attempt to navigate their new reality without their loved ones.

Yet here lies an undeniable truth that we can cling to during these challenging times of mourning: God reaches directly into our lives when we feel most shattered. He doesn't merely sweep the remnants away; instead, He gathers each one in His hands, knowing exactly where each fragment belongs. In His divine craftsmanship, He begins the process of refashioning these broken pieces into something beautiful and whole once more. God stands as the Master Craftsman, taking the shattered glass of crushed hearts and transforming it into something remarkable.

This profound truth resonates deeply with the comforting words of Psalm 34:18: **"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."**

In our moments of grief and despair, God is not distant, observing our struggles from afar without concern. He draws near, closer than we might even feel, and begins the delicate work of restoring shattered lives through His unwavering presence and love.

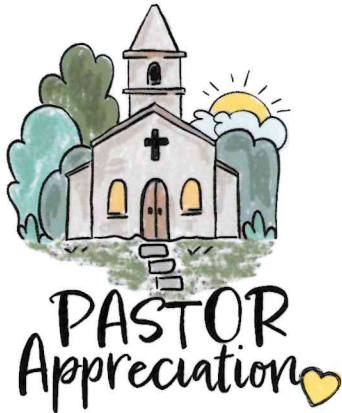
It's important to recognize that this restoration does not happen overnight. Healing is a process; sometimes the pain lingers long after the tragedy, embedded in our hearts. However, we can take comfort in the assurance that God walks with us, fortifying us for the journey ahead. As our Lord proclaimed, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." (Matthew 5:4) This promise infuses our grief with hope.

A friend of mine who lives in Washington State operates a stained-glass business that specializes in crafting beautiful windows for churches. One of the aspects he cherishes most about his work is the art of taking individual pieces of glass—each boasting unique shapes, sizes, and colors—and assembling them into a cohesive masterpiece that reveals an incredible picture when completed.

This is a poignant reflection of our community at this moment. Yes, we are broken and mourning the loss of those we hold dear. We are grieving alongside those who are heartbroken. Yet, within this shared sorrow, God is with us, walking beside us, and yearning to redeem even our most profound levels of suffering.

My prayer is that as we move forward into the weeks ahead, His presence and peace will be unmistakable in our lives. May we, too, have open hearts, ready to support those who mourn, guiding others toward the enduring hope we can find in Christ, who makes all things new. Together, let us lean into the healing journey, knowing that from our brokenness, God can create something utterly beautiful.

Pastor Mark



OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH!

October is a special time that congregations set aside each year as a time to honor those who pour their hearts into leading, teaching & loving their congregations.

The congregation is encouraged to show your appreciation for Pastor Mark & Beth by word, with a card, or other gestures of appreciation you so choose as well as keeping them in your prayers.

Let them know they're seen, valued and deeply appreciated.

Join us in collecting
WINTER CLOTHING



during the month of October
for the **CENTER OF HOPE**

Bring your gently used or new sweatshirts, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, snow pants, winter boots, winter coats, coveralls and flannel shirts to the barrels at the south end of the great hall.

Help keep somebody warm this winter!



PROJECTION

October 5	Loree Walton
October 12	Heather Mesman
October 19	Kaileen Roelofs
October 26	Jacob Gaul

VIDEO

October 5	Laura Woelber
October 12	Aisayah Moss
October 19	Reid Van Voorst
October 26	Brian Sipma

USHERS

October 5	Tim Brunsting, Wendell Sandbulte
October 12	Tim Brunsting, Wendell Sandbulte
October 19	Aaron Moss, Chris Kelderman
October 26	Aaron Moss, Chris Kelderman

NURSERY

October 5	Julie Marra, Vanessa Wissink
October 12	Hayley Moss, McCoy Moss
October 19	Alice Nyhof, Aalijah Moss, Ana Arteaga
October 26	Alex & Jacob Van Der Wilt

OCTOBER



The **QUARTER COLLECTION**
this year is for the
"GRACE COVENANT MINISTRIES CAMP".
We're already off to a great start!!



QUARTER SUNDAY for this month is OCTOBER 12.





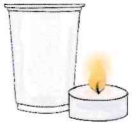
SHINE FOR Jesus



This easy and colorful craft helps kids remember that Jesus is their light—no matter where they go!

What you need:

- Clear plastic cup
- Battery tea lights
- Tissue paper squares (pre-cut)
- Glue stick
- Markers (optional)
- Stickers (optional)



What you do:

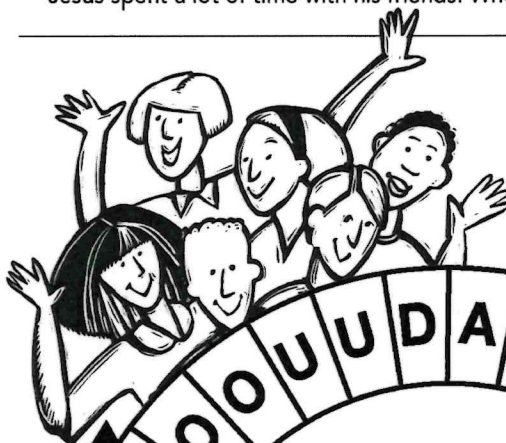
1. Use the glue stick to press colorful tissue paper squares around the outside of the cup.
2. Add a simple phrase like "Jesus is my Light" or use fun stickers to decorate.
3. Turn on the tea light and place it inside the cup.
4. Turn off the lights and let your lantern glow!



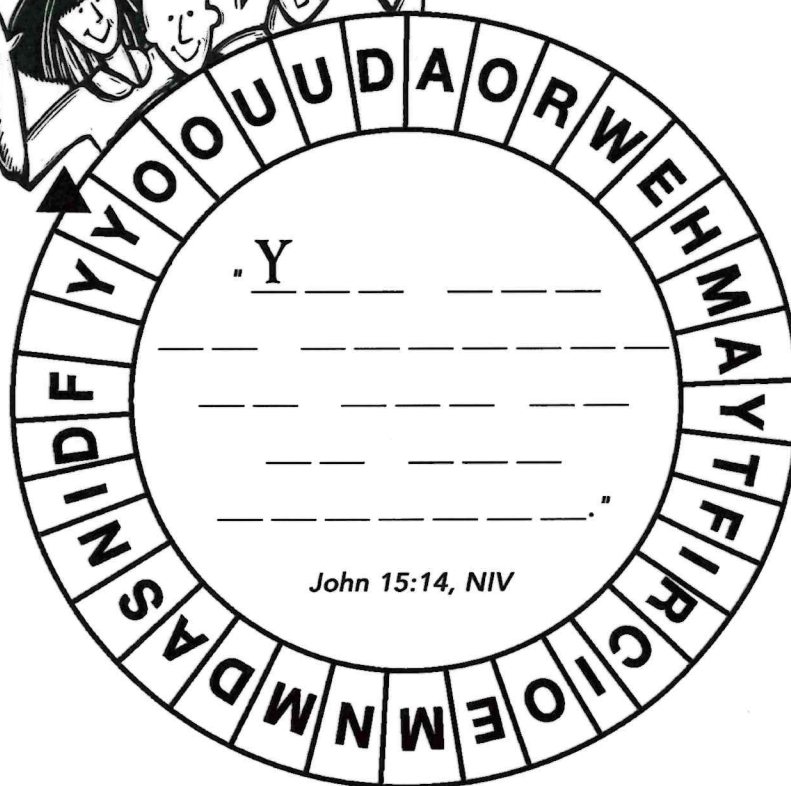
PUZZLE

WHO WERE JESUS' FRIENDS?

Jesus spent a lot of time with his friends. Whom did Jesus consider his friends?



Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below.



Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV



The ARC annual Turkey Supper will be held on **Tuesday, November 4.**

Duties sheets will be in your mailbox by **October 19.**

If you did not sign up to bring pies or desserts, we ask for a \$25 donation to help cover the cost of the meal. Please turn in your donation to Donna or Cheryl.

This is an all church fundraiser and we need everyone's help to serve our community.
We will be serving a catered meal held at the Boyden-Hull High School from
5:00pm to 7:00pm.

Ticket sales will begin October 6 – October 27.

Prices are: Adults \$17.00; 5-10 yrs \$9.00; Ages 4 and under - free

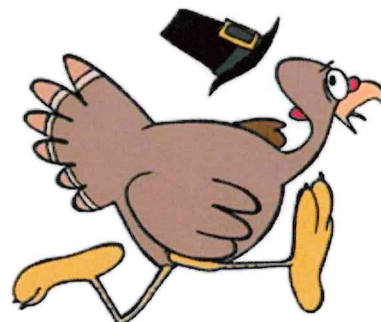
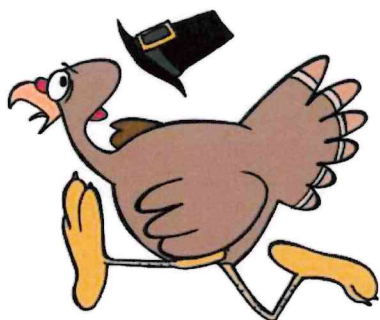
Please contact Donna at the church-712-441-1289/439-2058 or
Cheryl Vierhout -439-2932 for tickets.

If you sold tickets in the past, you will receive tickets again to sell this year.

If you would like to sell tickets and do not receive any in your church mailbox, contact Donna.

All money and unsold tickets must be turned in by
Wednesday morning, October 30.

If you have any questions or concerns,
please contact Deb Moss at 712-470-4051.





Help SHARE the
GOSPEL MESSAGE OF CHRIST
with CHILDREN
AROUND THE WORLD!

Each shoebox you pack helps a local church around the world tell a child about Jesus, God's Greatest Gift. This is a wonderful mission that we have participated in for many years. Last year as a church we were able to send 58 shoe boxes to 58 children who heard the message of Christ.

All of those kids were given the opportunity to continue learning in a 12 week program, enabling them to grow in faith and learn to share God's love with family & friends.



Boxes & Brochures will be available in the Great Hall on **October 19**.

Remember to **give \$10.00 or more** per box to cover shipping costs and "The Greatest Gift" booklet.

Please return your boxes no later than after the worship service on **Sunday, November 23**.

This year the Mission & Evangelism Committee has decided to expand this project to include a time when we, as a church, get together and in addition, pack boxes at ARC. So stay tuned for more information about that. But when the boxes appear on October 19th in the Great Hall, please stop and pick up your boxes. **Continue** the tradition of packing boxes with your kids/grand kids as you have done in the past. Let's share the gospel message to even more kids this year!

BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE!

An easy way to prepare shoebox gifts!



samaritanspurse.org/buildonline

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations." -Matthew 28:19



Wednesday, October 9 at 9:00am
we will be making **freezer meals** together
in the church kitchen.

We would love to have you join us!!

Sign up at the Connection Center by **October 1st**.
Recipes will be shared at a later date.

JOIN A LIFE GROUP!!



We are excited to tell you about new
opportunities this fall for new groups,
existing groups and new people!

Check out the form that is in your church mailbox, fill it out and
return to the Connections Center by **October 5**.

Extra forms are available on the Connection Center.

If you have questions contact Pastor Mark or someone
in the Fellowship Squad.



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER



- It was decided to have the children pick up the quarter donations before the deacons collect the rest of the offering.
- A calendar will be hung on the wall of the fireside room to list all scheduled events for the church and school district. It is hoped that it will make it easier for different activities to be scheduled.



TRUNK OR TREAT & CANNED GOODS DRIVE



ARC is participating in a **Trunk or Treat and Canned Goods Drive** with First Reformed on **October 31 from 5:30-7:00pm** in treating the kids of Hull.

It will be held in their parking lot OR possibly the Community Building depending on weather.

Prizes will be given for the best designs and for the people who use the most obscure Bible passages.

We ask everyone to depict a Bible story. Snacks & hot chocolate will be provided.

There will be a pickup truck set up to collect canned goods for the Hull Food Pantry.

Sign up to be one of the decorated trunks to pass out treats to the kids or to bring bars/cookies.

Sign up sheets are on the Connection Center. If you would be willing to help serve hot chocolate & snacks or have any questions, please contact Ken or Ida Evertse.

We encourage you to stop by to see all the decorated trunks and bring your canned good donations.

Here are some ideas if you're interested in signing up to decorated a trunk, but can't think of a Bible story to depict:

Genesis 3:24 -- Cherubim with flaming swords guard the garden of Eden.

Genesis 6 -- Noah's Ark

Exodus 3 -- the Burning Bush

Exodus 3:8 -- "A land flowing with milk and honey"

Exodus 7:8-13 -- Moses' staff turns into a snake

Exodus 10 -- The plague of Locusts

Exodus 13:21-22 -- The pillar of cloud and pillar of fire to lead Israel

Exodus 17:1-6 -- Moses strikes the rock and water flows out of it

Numbers 22 -- Balaam and the talking donkey

Joshua 3 -- The Israelites cross the Jordan River

Judges 6:36-40 -- The sign of the fleece to Gideon

1 Samuel 16:14-23 -- David plays the Lyre for Saul.

2 Kings 5 -- Naaman is cured of leprosy

Psalms 119:110 -- "Your word is lamp unto my feet"

Ezekiel 34/ John 10 -- "I am the good shepherd"

Haggai 1/Ezra 3 -- Building the new Temple

Matthew 3:1-6 -- John the Baptist

Matthew 2 -- The Magi Follow the Star to Jesus

Matthew 13:44-46 -- The parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

Luke 9:10-17 -- Jesus feeds the 5,000

Luke 19 -- Zacchaeus climbs the tree

John 8:12 -- "Jesus said, I am the Light of the World"

John 11:38-44 -- Jesus raises Lazarus

John 20:1-18 -- The empty tomb

Acts 2 -- Pentecost. Tongues of fire appear over the disciples

Acts 9 -- Saul's conversion

Acts 27 + 28 -- Paul's Shipwreck

Ephesians 6:10-20 -- The Armor of God

Hebrews 12:1-3 -- "Run the race marked out for you"

Revelation 1:9-19 -- John's Vision of Christ

Revelation 22 -- Eden Restored





Prayer Warrior
Annville Institute/Grace Covenant Ministries
PO Box 340, Annville, KY 40402
Phone 606-364-5151
Email: contact@gcmannvilleinstitute.com
September 2025

"You Meant It for Evil, God Meant It for Good"
"Beauty from Ashes"

The above two sayings (from Genesis 50:20 and Isaiah 61:3) have been resonating among our staff and board of directors since the fire that destroyed Lincoln Hall on the evening of July 30. As we begin the cleanup of the rubble, it is challenging to envision beauty. However, we are reminded of God's sovereignty. We are grateful that no one was injured and that the adjacent buildings were spared from the blaze.

A significant amount of ashes ended up in our nearby swimming pool, which created operational issues with the filtration system. As a result, we decided to close the pool for the year to carry out extensive repairs. Several end-of-the-year parties had to be canceled because of this situation. However, an idea emerged to host a "Back to School Bash." We rented some inflatables, and students and their families had a fantastic time at the event. It turned into a wonderful celebration that arose from the "ashes". We are now considering making this an annual event.

Our vision statement is "Impacting a broken and hurting world with the Christ of redeeming love." This reminds us that God can bring beauty from our brokenness, which is especially evident in our Project Restart program. This initiative allows us to work with selected inmates from the local detention center. Under our supervision, these inmates assist in unloading trucks at our thrift store and help with campus cleanup. Through our interactions with them, the inmates learn to trust us, and we have the opportunity to share the Gospel message—illustrating that our Lord is willing to forgive and will never fail us. It's a story of hope, a story of beauty emerging from our brokenness.

We do ask for your prayers, as we continue to navigate through the aftermath of the fire, for protection as we go through the cleanup process, and as we seek God's guidance on how to replace the building. Thank you for your partnership with us.



Back to School Bash

PASTOR

Pastor Mark Cercone439-2057
Email – mark@hullarc.com

CONSISTORY

Galen Breuer('27)..... 460-3331
Tim Brunsting('27). 441-5442
Todd Visscher('27). 441-5663
Todd Woelber('27)..... 441-6628
Mike Mesman ('26)..... 470-5455
Craig Moss ('26) Chair of Deacons 441-0948
Colin Sandbulte ('26)..... 441-7457
Kevin Roozing ('26) 441-4849
Carolyn Goold(25') Clerk..... 470-4753
Rob Van't Land (25')Vice President 441-6365
Kyle Roelofs (25') 470-9174
Rick Tiedeman (25')..... 541-5881

CONSISTORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Property Colin S, Rick T
Pulpit Supply Rob VL
Sacraments..... Carolyn G, Todd V, Todd W
Christian Education Craig M, Todd V
Worship & Music Mike M, Kyle R
Mission & Evangelism Galen B, Tim B, Carolyn G

SECRETARY: Donna Wallenburg: 441-1289
CUSTODIAN: Loree Walton: 470-2947
CHURCH TREASURER: Denny Kelderman.. 470-3652
MEAL MINISTRY:Jeanne Breuer, Ruth Moss
NURSERY SUPERVISOR: Amy Moss

COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

Ruth Moss: Chairman: 441-4170
Jeanne Breuer, Mike Mesman, Harlan Moss,
Audrey Raman, Kyle Roelofs, Loree Walton,
Alex Van Der Wilt, Sara Vink

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Todd Visscher: Chairman: 441-5663
Heather Mesman, Aaron Moss, Amy Moss, Craig
Moss, Hayley Moss, Kevin Roozing, Joyce Sipma,
Aleisha Wissink

MISSION & EVANGELISM:

Galen Breuer: Chairman: 460-3331
Tim Brunsting, Ida Evertse, Ken Evertse, Carolyn
Goold, Julie Marra, Tony Van Der Zwaag

SPECIAL BENEVOLENT FUND OFFERING

January Love, INC
February Sr. ARCYF
March Gideons
April Sunday School Anniversary Fund
May Living Stone Prison Church
June Amistad Cristiana
July Village Northwest
August Jr High RCYF
September..... Grace Covenant Ministries
October Inspiration Hills
November Bruce & Tamar DeJong
December Center of Hope

FELLOWSHIP SQUAD:

Pastor Mark
Jeanne Breuer, Andrea Kelderman, Sara Vink,
Aleisha Wissink, Todd Visscher