

The AMERICANews

of the American Reformed Church
of Hull Iowa



2025

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the American Reformed Church
Hull, Iowa

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As I cozy up in my chair to write this newsletter, my thoughts are drawn to the mighty Category 5 hurricane making its way toward the beautiful coast of Jamaica. In just 24 hours, we'll have a clearer picture of its path and whether it will unleash its full force as anticipated.

It's fascinating how hurricanes showcase the incredible power of nature. The howling winds and crashing waves remind us of nature's awe-inspiring energy, making us appreciate both its beauty and fierce intensity.

But what truly captures my imagination is the eye of the storm—a serene pocket of calm amid the swirling chaos. This peaceful center provides a brief moment of tranquility in the face of destruction, something we can all relish.

Life often reflects this experience. Each of us faces our own storms—be it the pain of loss, the grip of fear, anxiety about the future, health challenges, or the turbulence of strained relationships. At times, it can feel as if the noise of life is overwhelming, leaving us to navigate through a stormy sea. Recently, I've been standing alongside friends who are grappling with heavy burdens, especially those mourning the loss of dear loved ones.

Yet in these challenging moments, there's always hope on the horizon. The prophet Isaiah beautifully reassures us of this promise:

"You keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock." (Isaiah 26:3-4)

This verse doesn't say we'll never face storms; it provides a comforting promise of calm amidst chaos. It reveals that genuine peace is possible, even when life swirls with uncertainty. The Hebrew phrase for "perfect peace," *shalom shalom*, speaks to a sense of completeness and wholeness. It's not about the absence of adversity but the presence of divine tranquility.

Just like the calm eye of a hurricane, God's peace doesn't sit outside of our struggles; it resides right in the middle of them. This peace doesn't take us away from our challenges; instead, it stands as a resilient rock—unshakeable and steadfast.

I'm reminded of the powerful story found in Matthew 8:23-27, where the disciples faced a violent storm on the Sea of Galilee. The scene was intense: the wind roared, waves battered their boat, and panic spread through the disciples like wildfire. Yet, in the midst of the chaos, Jesus was peacefully asleep. When they woke Him, crying out in desperation, "Lord, save us! We are going to die!" His response was calm authority: "Why are you so afraid, O you of little faith?" Then, with a simple command, He silenced the wind and waves, instantly bringing profound stillness.

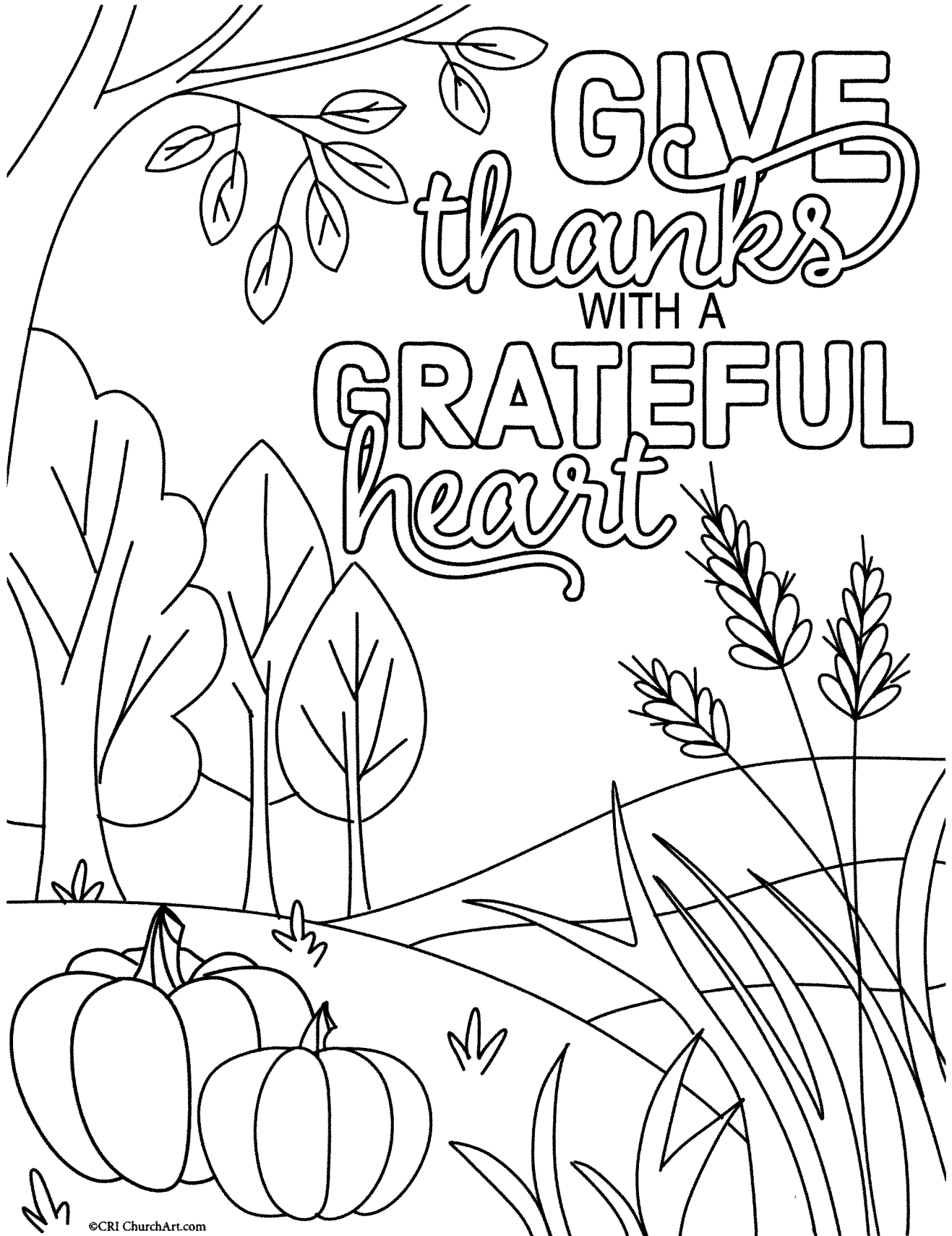
In that moment, the disciples experienced exactly what Isaiah had proclaimed long before—that trusting in God yields peace beyond our circumstances. This peace doesn't stem from the absence of trouble; it blooms in the heart of the storm, illuminated by Jesus' presence.

My prayer is that if you find yourself grappling with a personal storm, you won't let the surrounding noise define your life. God invites you to step into the eye of the storm—His very presence—where you can discover profound peace. I absolutely understand that this isn't easy. It doesn't erase all of life's uncertainties, but peace can emerge when we earnestly seek it. This promise is available to each of us from the Lord.

Think about the coastline of Jamaica, with its rugged rocks that have endured countless storms over the years. These steadfast stones remain unmoved by the raging waves and wild winds, a strong testament to resilience.

When our faith is firmly anchored in Christ, we resemble those resilient rocks. Storms may come and go, but we will remain steadfast, unshaken. So let's embrace this beautiful promise—stay in the eye of the storm, anchor yourself on the rock, and discover His peace and protection amidst life's challenges.

-Pastor Mark





Everyone is invited
to our
Thanksgiving Eve Service

to be held on
Wednesday, November 26 at 6:30 pm.

*A time to gather in gratitude,
worship, and reflection on
God's abundant blessings*



FROM THANKSGIVING DAY EVE UNTIL CHRISTMAS DAY WE HAVE THE
BLESSED OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE TO THOSE IN NEED!!
WE WILL BE FILLING THE BLUE BARRELS IN THE GREAT HALL WITH
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR THE
SIOUX CITY GOSPEL MISSION.
SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN WILL BE COLLECTING FOOD
DURING THE OFFERING.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COLLECTION SCHEDULE:

NOVEMBER 26	ALL GRADES (WEDNESDAY)
NOVEMBER 30	6 TH GRADE AND PRESCHOOL/TK
DECEMBER 7	5 TH GRADE AND KINDERGARTEN
DECEMBER 14	4 TH GRADE AND 1 ST GRADE (ALL OTHERS COLLECT QUARTERS)
DECEMBER 21	3 RD GRADE AND 2 ND GRADE
CHRISTMAS DAY	ALL GRADES (THURSDAY)





NOVEMBER

schedules

PROJECTION

NOVEMBER 2	Mel Reuvers
NOVEMBER 9	Loree Walton
NOVEMBER 16	Heather Mesman
NOVEMBER 23	Kaileen Roelofs
NOVEMBER 26	Jacob Gaul (Wednesday)
NOVEMBER 30	Mel Reuvers

VIDEO

NOVEMBER 2	Laura Woelber
NOVEMBER 9	Kaileen Roelofs
NOVEMBER 16	Carter Wallenburg
NOVEMBER 23	Aisayah Moss
NOVEMBER 26	Reid Van Voorst (Wednesday)
NOVEMBER 30	Brian Sipma

USHER

NOVEMBER 2	Brian Sipma, Craig Moss
NOVEMBER 9	Brian Sipma, Craig Moss
NOVEMBER 16	Dean Hoogeveen, Denny Kelderman
NOVEMBER 23	Dean Hoogeveen, Denny Kelderman
NOVEMBER 30	Dwayne Hansmann, Galen Breuer

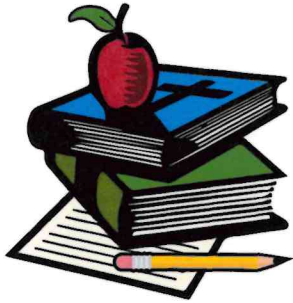
NURSERY

NOVEMBER 2	Casey Schafer, Justin Sipma, Royce Wissink
NOVEMBER 9	Marsha Moss, Jessica Sipma, Asher Moss
NOVEMBER 16	Heather Walton, Mali DK, Isabella Gaul
NOVEMBER 23	Brad & Donna Wallenburg
NOVEMBER 30	Chris Kelderman, Shalyn Soodsma, Easton Sipma



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Quarter Sunday is November 9. Please remember your quarters for Grace Covenant Ministries Camp!



Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no Wednesday night activities on November 26, and no Sunday school classes on November 30.



Drink Donations

The ARC youth groups are in need of drink donations for their Wednesday night classes.

If you are willing to help them out, your donations can be brought to the Youth Room.
Thanks in advance!

The Sonshine Choir

(3 & 4 yr old thru 3rd grade)

will be singing on Sunday, November 9
for our Ministry of Music!



Please bring your child/children to the basement when you arrive to Church that morning.



Each shoe box you pack helps a local church around the world tell a child about Jesus, God's Greatest Gift. Boxes & brochures are still available in the Great Hall. Please pick up as many boxes as you would like to fill with your family. Remember to give \$10 or more per box to cover shipping costs and "The Greatest Gift" booklet. The boxes need to be returned no later than after the worship service on Sunday, November 23.

THE PACKING PARTY

Last year the Mission & Evangelism Committee decided to add a new layer to this project. They allotted a small portion of the money from the Mission Auction for it. We will be having our first **Congregational Packing Party** on Sunday, November 16 during Sunday School. Since this is our first attempt with mass packing, we ask that just adults help this time. As we gain experience, we plan to include kids too.



The process will be simple. You will pick a box and walk along the tables and choose items to fill your box. The items will be grouped and labeled. Such as: "one for each box" "may choose two items" etc. The boxes will be labeled boy or girl so you will know what to choose.

We want to thank all the people who have already been helping prepare for this event.

- Women of the Faith Circle who packed pencil bags
- The elementary school kids that assembled the fishing kits and bead kits
- Kids' Club who donated many craft items to our project when they closed
- Many women who helped us in church preparing items this summer & fall
- Shalyn Soodsma who turned old T-shirts in to amazing jump ropes for all the boxes
- Linda Roozing for crocheting 100+ head bands and hair ties
- Helen Ketelsen for donating all the toy dinosaurs
- Rock Valley Dental for donating the tooth brushes.

If you would like to help with the donation to cover the cost of the shipping fee, there will be a container at the last table where the boxes will be collected after being filled. \$10 per box covers the cost of shipping and "The Greatest Gift" booklet.



We will be packing 25 boxes for girls age 5-9 and 25 boxes for boys age 5-9. It is a small number, but we were advised to start small. Plans are being made to increase the number of boxes for next year. Watch for announcements through out this next year of ways you can donate and help get ready for our next packing party in 2026!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE SCHEDULE



November 12 - Wednesday : Assign parts from 7-7:20, then have a short lesson. (1st-6th Grade)

If your child plans to be at the Christmas program on December 14, please have them there that night, or let Kelly Sipma know.

November 16 - Sunday: Practice Christmas program the whole time 11-11:40.

November 19 - Wednesday: Practice Christmas program the whole time 7-8. (1st-6th Grade)

November 23 - Sunday: Practice Christmas program the whole time 11-11:40.

November 26 & 30: No practice due to Thanksgiving break.

Wednesday, December 3: Practice Christmas Program the whole time 7-8. (1st-6th Grade)

December 7- Sunday: Practice Christmas Program the whole time 11-11:40.

(dress rehearsal for 3 year olds-Kindergarten)

December 10 - Wednesday: Dress rehearsal for 1st-6th graders only 7-8.

December 14 - Sunday: Christmas program 10:45!

Sunday school teachers and Wednesday night leaders,

please plan to be there to help supervise.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Sipma at 470-5894



OCTOBER Consistory Highlights



- ◆ The next Consistory meeting will be November 17, 2025.
- ◆ The next Lord's Supper will be December 7, 2025.
- ◆ The next Quarterly Prayer meeting will be held in December. Meetings of deacons and elders will begin at 6:45 before the prayer meeting, and the full consistory meeting will follow.



Senior Companion

The **Foster Grandparent** and **Senior Companion Programs** need more volunteers in the Hull area. If you are 55 years and older, we need you to help others in your community. Foster Grandparents help children who need assistance in schools, preschools or non-profit daycares. Senior Companions visit adults that need assistance and companionship. Please call the FGP/SCP office at 712-476-2628 for more information. Your experience, wisdom and talent are needed and will be valued.

Senior Companion volunteer:

Senior Citizens, You are needed! Our communities have individuals who need a friend to talk to, and our Senior Companion program utilizes volunteers aged 55 and up to serve others, and just spend time together! The program provides opportunities for seniors to help other seniors and homebound adults to maintain their dignity of independent living. Socialization promotes good mental health! Our volunteers complete tasks with their new friends such as: providing companionship through visiting, card games, etc., providing transportation if able to for things such as appointments, social events, etc., light household tasks, and offer brief relief services (respite) for primary caregivers. We offer a tax free stipend, mileage, and meal reimbursement to offset the costs of volunteering. Please contact the Senior Companion office at 712-476-2628 or view their website www.rvrseniorvolunteerprograms.org.

Senior Companion client:

Would you like someone to visit you each week to just visit or help with daily activities? Would you or someone you know benefit from these weekly visits?

Do you know a caregiver that needs some time away? Senior Companion volunteers have been trained to help others remain in their own homes through weekly visits to focus on improving quality of life. Senior Companion services are provided at NO COST to those served. For more information about receiving Senior Companion services, please contact the Senior Companion Program of Greater Siouxland office at 712-476-2628 or view their website www.rvrseniorvolunteerprograms.org.

Foster Grandparent:

Would you like to make a difference in the lives of children? If you are 55 or better, the Foster Grandparent Program would love to help you get started! Volunteer benefits may be available. Foster Grandparent volunteers impact their local communities while assisting students at local schools, Head Starts, and non-profit daycares. For more information, please call the Foster Grandparent office at 712-476-2628 or view their website www.rvrseniorvolunteerprograms.org.



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