

The AMERICANews

of the American Reformed Church
of Hull Iowa

Open your heart to grace.
Carry peace into each day.
Trust God in every turning.
Offer thanks for small mercies.
Be still enough to notice.
Exhale what you cannot control.
Rest in the One who holds you.



—  2026  —

MINDFULCHRISTIANITY

AMERICANews

the American Reformed Church
Hull, Iowa

Vol.36 No. 5
October 2026

THE
PASTOR'S
Pen



Some seasons leave us wondering how to take the next step. A diagnosis changes the shape of tomorrow; work becomes uncertain; or grief makes even typical routines feel strange. We may pray for clarity and find that, for now, we have only enough light to see what is directly in front of us.

This was the life Paul experienced as he confronted numerous challenges and obstacles on his journey. For a season of his life, Paul was in prison and did not know the number of days he had left or whether he was going to see any of his friends again. Yet this never derailed his work or prevented him from continuing to make a difference in others' lives.

Why? Because he always placed his hope in what was beyond this world. His hope was in Christ. In fact, this is what he said to the Christians in Corinth—

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." — 1 Corinthians 15:58

Paul's words speak to people who know what it is to live in a world defined by loss. His call to be "steadfast" does not come from a belief that life will be easy. It follows his declaration that Christ has been raised from the dead. **"Therefore"** is the hinge of the verse. Because Jesus lives, death does not have the final word. Because he lives, what we do in him is not wasted.

That is a picture of hope, not a demand to feel strong all the time. Standing firm may look different from one day to the next. Some days it means serving with energy and joy. Other days it means getting out of bed, asking for help, making a small prayer, or choosing not to give up. Being steadfast is not the same as being untouched by sorrow. It is continuing to lean on the risen Christ in the midst of it.

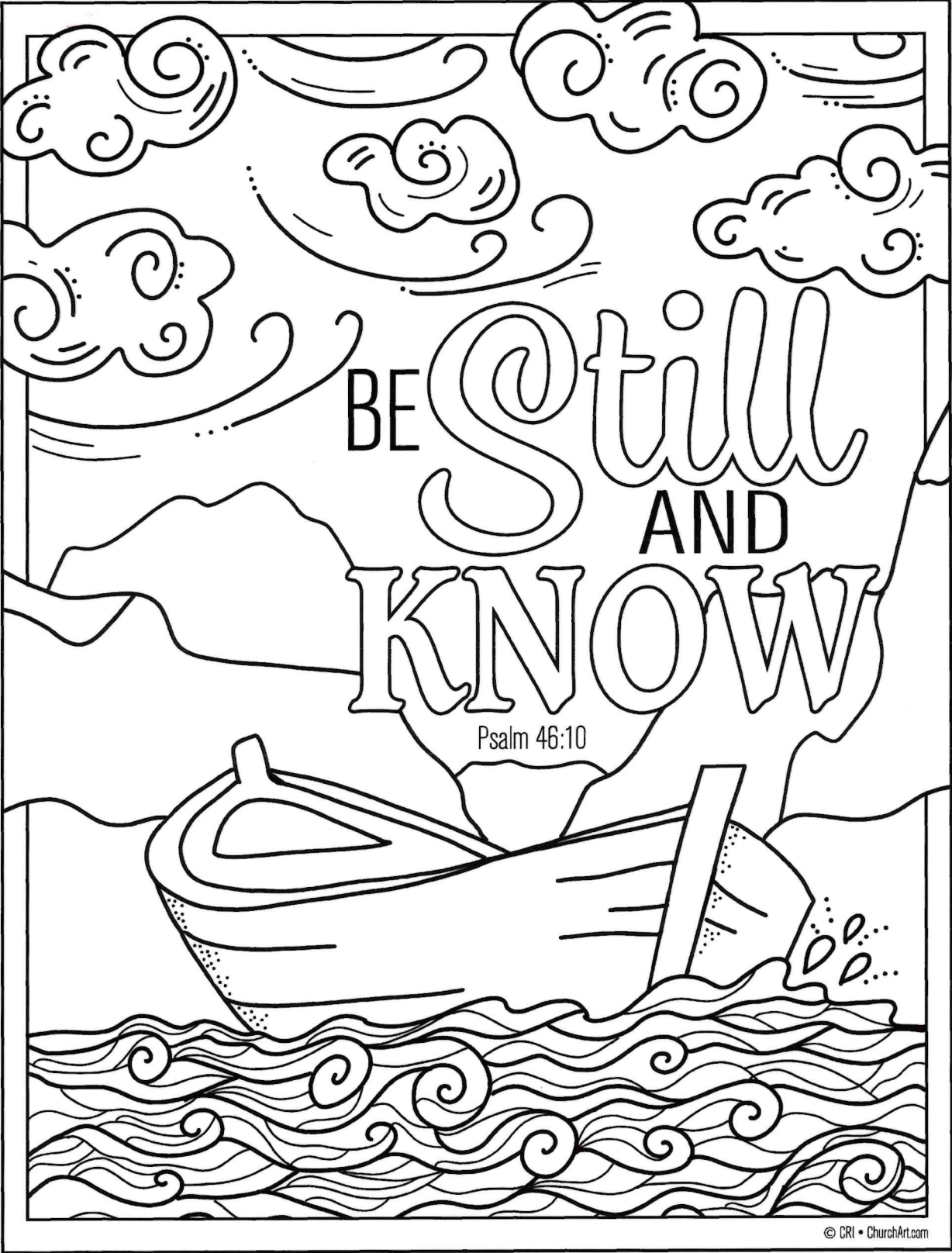
Perhaps you are carrying a question you cannot answer: Will things improve? How long will this last? What if the future I hoped for never comes? Scripture does not ask you to pretend those questions are small. The resurrection gives you something deeper than a prediction about how soon your circumstances will change. It gives you a living Savior who has passed through death and come out the other side.

This is why Paul also says that our work in the Lord is "not in vain." Because when your efforts seem invisible; or the care you give someone who cannot thank you; the kindness you offer while carrying pain of your own—none of it is meaningless to God. You may not see what grows from those acts of faithfulness. You may not see it for a long time. But their worth does not depend on your ability to measure the results.

If your season is difficult, do not hear "always abounding" as a command to do more than you can bear. Hear it as an invitation to bring what you have to the Lord today. A little strength, honestly offered, is enough to begin. Rest when you need rest. Let others stand beside you. Receive the care you might otherwise be quick to give.

You do not have to know every turn in the road to stay anchored in hope. Christ is risen. The future belongs to him, even when tomorrow feels unsure to you. So, take the next faithful step, however small. Pray the prayer you can pray. Do the good that is yours to do today. And when you feel unable to hold firmly to hope, remember that the risen Lord holds firmly to you.

~Pastor Mark



PROJECTION

October 4 Loree Walton
October 11 Jacob Gaul
October 18 Mel Reuvers
October 25 Loree Walton

VIDEO

October 4 Aisayah Moss
October 11 Reid Van Voorst
October 18 Carter Wallenburg
October 25 Aisayah Moss

USHERS

October 4 Craig Moss, Denny Kelderman
October 11 Denny Kelderman, Galen Breuer
October 18 Dwayne Hansmann, Galen Breuer
October 25 Harlo Vink, Jacob Van Der Wilt

NURSERY

October 4 Austin & Brittney Rollefson
October 11 Alex & Jacob Van Der Wilt
October 18 Brad & Donna Wallenburg
October 25 Judy Hoogeveen, Jessica Sipma, Asher Moss



The **QUARTER COLLECTION**
this year is for the
"Sioux County Community Health
Partners Backpack Program".
We're already off to a
great start!!



QUARTER SUNDAY for this month is **OCTOBER 11.**



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





The ARC annual Turkey Supper will be held on Tuesday, November 3.

Duties sheets will be in your mailbox by October 18.

Anyone high school age or older, please sign up to help.

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 5 – October 26.

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

Monday morning, October 26.



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



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER



by Josh Wissink

- ▶ Next Lord's Supper will be October 4.
- ▶ Christ in Culture Sermon on AI on October 4.
- ▶ Mission Sunday is October 25 with Dan Ebbens giving the message.
- ▶ Turkey Supper is November 3.

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!

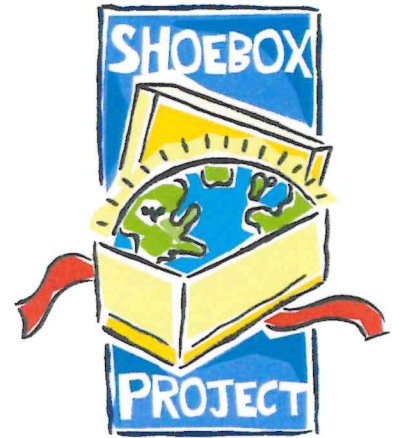


Help SHARE the
GOSPEL MESSAGE OF CHRIST
with CHILDREN
AROUND THE WORLD!

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 96 shoe boxes to 96 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 18.

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 22.

Last year we started something new at ARC and it was a huge success. We had an in-church Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child and packed 50 additional boxes. This year we are expanding and planning on packing 50 boxes for boys and girls 2-4 years old and 50 boxes for boys and girls 10-14 years old. We will again be packing right after church in the ARK room but this year we will have 2 parties, November 1 and November 15th. Stay tuned for more information about the packing parties.



When the boxes appear on October 18th in the Great Hall please stop to pick up your boxes and **continue** the tradition of packing a box or more with your family/grandkids as you have done in the past. We are hoping to reach 150 boxes. Let's share the Gospel message with even more kids this year.

Thank you again to all the wonderful ladies that are helping prepare for the Packing Parties!

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

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.



Deepening Our Roots in His Faithfulness is a women's event for all ages taking place on Saturday, October 24 from 9:30am-1:30pm at New Life Church in Sioux Center. (This is in place of the previous Mom's Event.) Our keynote speaker will be Emily Copeland and will be a morning of fellowship, worship, and women growing together in the Lord.

Register at nlrchurch.org

You are invited to...

**The Inspiration Hills
Annual Fundraiser
BANQUET**



November 5th
at Inspiration Hills Camp & Retreat Center
1242 280th St | Inwood, IA | 51240

5:15PM Social Hour
6:00PM Dinner
Testimony Panel and Time of Giving to Follow

You are invited to an evening of fellowship, celebration, and Kingdom impact. Together, we will enjoy a delicious meal, hear ministry updates, and take part in a special testimony panel where individuals will share how God has used Inspiration Hills to further His Kingdom. This powerful evening will conclude with a time of giving, as we look ahead to the continued work God is doing through this ministry.

To purchase tickets, scan the QR Code



\$50 per individual ticket
\$350 for a table (8)

Go online to inspirationhills.org
or call our office today! 712 986 5193

MISSION Sunday



Join us on **Sunday, October 25,**
for our Mission Sunday.

Pastor Dan Ebbens from
Living Stone Prison Church
will lead us in worship.

Living Stone is a ministry that serves the population of
Mike Durfee State Prison which is a 1,200 man unit in
Springfield, South Dakota.



The 4th grade through adults are welcome to hear
Pastor Dan Ebbens talk more about the prison ministry
during the **Sunday School time.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



The **Foster Grandparent** and **Senior Companion** Programs of Greater Siouxland is a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for volunteers aged 55 or over to serve in the local community.

The **Foster Grandparent** program places volunteers in local schools (private and public), daycares and Head Start programs to serve as mentors, tutors and compassionate role models for students in the classroom.

The **Senior Companion** program places volunteers with individuals who need assistance remaining independent. Senior Companions can offer weekly interaction and limited transportation to their clients based on the client's needs.

As a benefit, volunteers can qualify to receive a stipend (provided through an AmeriCorps grant), mileage, meal reimbursements, and paid time off.

Rick Yockey
Foster Grandparent Coordinator
Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs of Greater Siouxland
1510 14th Street
Rock Valley, IA 51247 - 476-2628

fostergrandparent@senior-programs.org
www.senior-programs.org



THE FIRE

HOPE REMAINS

In November of 2023, the Schrock family lost their family business to fire, but all was not lost, hope remains and God is faithful!



AREA MEN'S EVENT
THURSDAY, NOV 5th - 7pm

SPEAKER: JUSTIN SCHROCK

@

THE TRIPLE BOX

4758 Ironwood Ave
Orange City, IA 51041

SPONSORED BY



MENDISTRY

JESUS MEN STAND OUT

Contact MendistryMen@gmail.com for more info or visit Facebook.com/Mendistry

PASTOR

Pastor Mark Cercone 439-2057
Email – mark@hullarc.com

CONSISTORY

Eric Schafer ('28).....348-6089
Dennis Smit('28).....470-2167
Jeff Verhoef('28).....470-1691
Josh Wissink('28) Clerk..... 540-5071
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) Vice-President 441-4849

CONSISTORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Property Colin S, Jeff V
Pulpit Supply Kevin R
Sacraments..... Dennis S, Todd W
Christian Education Craig M, Todd V
Worship & Music Mike M, Eric S
Mission & Evangelism Galen B, Tim B

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
Mike Mesman, Harlan Moss, Eric Schafer,
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 Bethesda Midwest
February Sr. ARCYF
March The Bible League
April Sunday School Anniversary Fund
May Living Stone Prison Church
June Amistad Cristiana
July Hope Haven
August Jr High RCYF
September..... Grace Covenant Ministries
October Inspiration Hills
November Bruce & Tamar DJ
December Center of Hope

FELLOWSHIP SQUAD:

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