

The AMERICANews

of the American Reformed Church
of Hull Iowa



2026

AMERICANews

the American Reformed Church
Hull, Iowa

Vol.35 No. 9
February 2026



Behold the Greater Love

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." — 1 John 3:1

This month is Valentine's Day, a holiday that often prompts us to think about love. And because of this, we will sometimes celebrate romance, affection, and commitment with cards, chocolates, flowers, and carefully chosen words. Sometimes we might even sit down to watch a Romcom on television.

Now there is nothing necessarily wrong with any of this because love is a gift from God. Human love can be beautiful and meaningful. But Valentine's Day can also reveal how limited our grasp of love often is. So much of what we celebrate is conditional, fragile, and passing. It depends on feelings, circumstances, or reciprocity.

But Scripture, however, calls us to stop and behold a form of love that is far greater. In fact, John begins this verse with an invitation to experience God's love: "See what kind of love the Father has given to us." The word "see" could also be translated as "behold—pause, look closely, take this in. John is not rushing past God's love as a theological concept; he wants us to stand in awe of it. This is an affection that demands reflection, wonder, and gratitude.

What kind of love is this?

John answers by pointing to its result: "that we should be called children of God." We should not be admirers. Not servants alone. Not distant followers. Children. God's love doesn't merely express affection—it confers identity. Through Christ, God adopts us into His family. This love reshapes who we are and how we belong.

That's where God's love differs so sharply from many of the loves we celebrate on Valentine's Day. Human love often says, "I love you because..." Because you make me happy. Because you meet my needs. Because you're attractive, kind, loyal, or familiar.

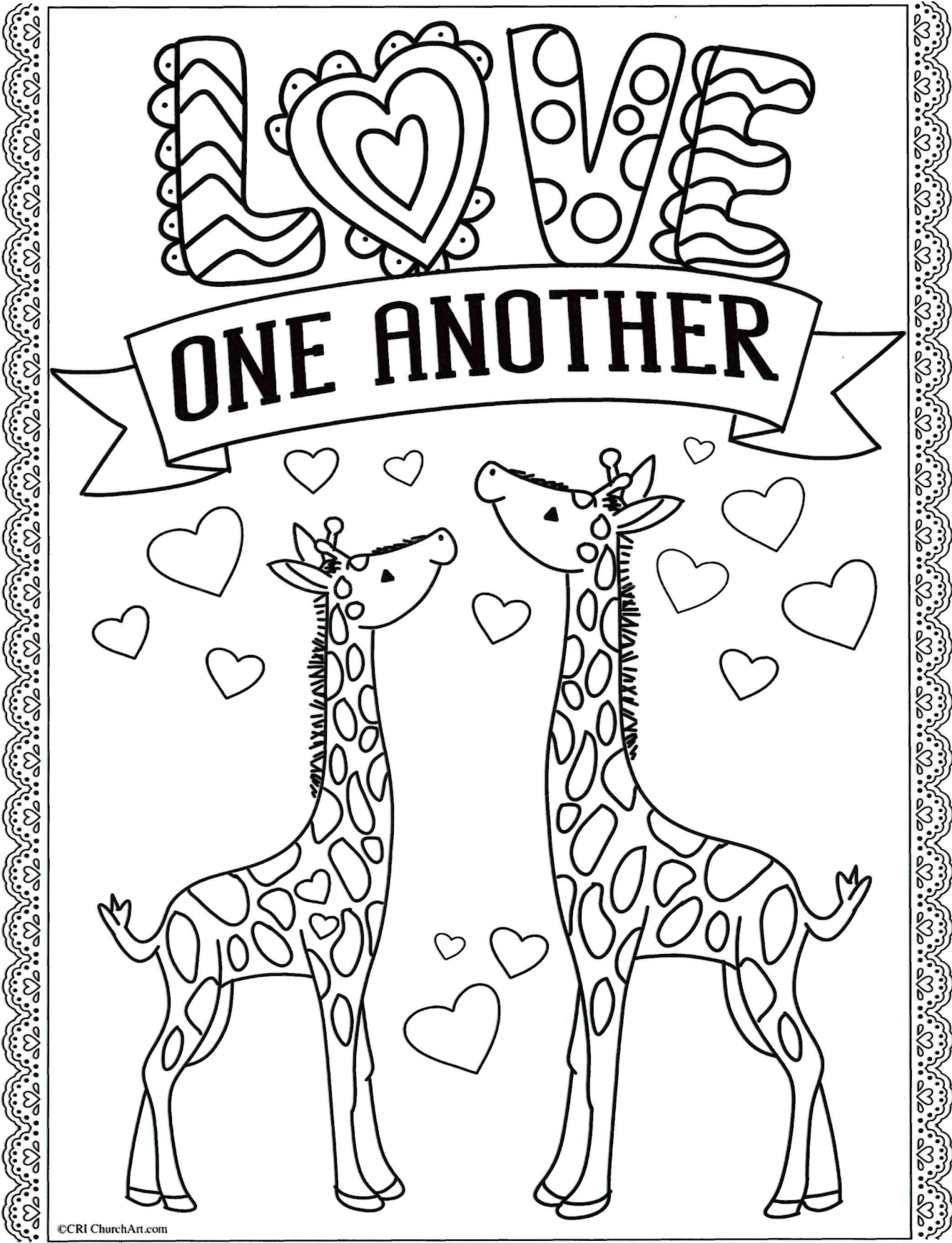
But God's love says, "I love you, therefore..." Therefore you are my child. Therefore you belong. Therefore you are secure, forgiven, and known. His love does not arise from our worthiness; it creates our worth.

And John goes even further by adding a small but powerful phrase: "and so we are." He wants us to know this is not symbolic language or wishful thinking. If you are in Christ, you truly are a child of God right now. God's love is not something you're hoping to grow into—it is something already given. On days when you feel unloved, overlooked, or inadequate, this truth remains unchanged.

A Valentine's Day type of love can fade. Feelings shift. Relationships can disappoint. Even the best human love will sometimes fall short. God's love, however, is steady and unchanging. It is not determined by gifts exchanged or words spoken once a year. It is displayed most clearly at the cross, where God loved us at our worst and paid the highest price to make us His own.

This verse invites us to reset our hearts. Enjoy the celebrations of love around you—but don't let them distract you from the greater love they point toward. God's love is larger than romance, richer than affection, and deeper than emotion. It is a covenant love that pursues, redeems, and adopts.

So this Valentine's Day—or any day—pause and behold. Let yourself be amazed that the Creator of the universe calls you His child. Let that love anchor your identity, quiet your insecurity, and change how you love others. Because when we fully understand the love of the Father, it doesn't just change how we feel—it changes how we live. ~ Pastor Mark



PROJECTION

February 1	Jacob Gaul
February 8	Heather Mesman
February 15	Kaileen Roelofs
February 22	Mel Reuvers



VIDEO

February 1	Carter Wallenburg
February 8	Aisayah Moss
February 15	Reid Van Voorst
February 22	Brian Sipma

USHER

February 1	Mark Sipma, Mike Gaul
February 8	Mark Sipma, Mike Gaul
February 15	Mike Mesman, Russ Goold
February 22	Mike Mesman, Russ Goold

NURSERY

February 1	Bonnie Van't Land, Justin Sipma, Peyton Van Roekel
February 8	Julie Noble, Grady Noble, Sadie Cannegieter
February 15	Joyce Sipma, Jessica Sipma, Asher Moss
February 22	Brenda Anderson, Jack Van Der Zwaag, Ana Arteaga

**God is
LOVE.**
1 JOHN 4:16



LET'S PLAY BINGO!

Join us at **ARC Friday, February 27**, for a **Family BINGO Night** from **7:00-8:30**.

Enjoy popcorn and your own favorite drinks that you bring along as we play for fabulous "Decluttered Prizes."
Everyone is welcome.



What's a "Decluttered Prize"?

We encourage each person to bring a "Decluttered gift" to share for prizes and please remember prizes that the kiddos will enjoy, too!!

(A "decluttered gift" is something from your home that you no longer use-please no shopping.)



Contact: Andrea 605-310-0516, Aleisha 712-539-3181,
Sara 712-470-0457 or Jeanne 712-460-2336 with questions.



~~~~~

Recently, we have been having some connection issues with our internet at the church building.

This has caused streaming issues on Sunday mornings and other problems with the WIFI.

At some point during February, a new "Guest" network will be created with new login information. We wanted to let people know about the change that will take place if you use the WIFI regularly.

Once the new "Guest" network is created, the login information and password will be shared in the bulletin and via email.





# 2026 SUMMER CAMP at INSPIRATION HILLS

Registration Opens on **February 1!**

Register before **April 15** to receive the  
**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!**

This year's Summer Camp theme will be **Not of This World** taken from **John 17:16** which says "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." This verse comes from Jesus' High Priestly Prayer when He is praying for His disciples, and subsequently us. In this verse, we find a key truth that Jesus reveals, that as believers we are **NOT OF THIS WORLD**. We do not belong to this world, but rather to the Kingdom of God.

Everyone has struggled or is struggling with where they belong. It is our hope that through time spent at Inspiration Hills in God's creation, surrounded by new and old friends and hearing the Gospel, individuals would leave changed, knowing that they **BELONG** in Christ's Kingdom

Camp options will include: **High School Camp | Wilderness | Lodge | Saddle Up | Day Camp | Discovery | Take Me Fishing | Girls Only | Guys Only | Journey | Grand Camp | Family Camp | CHIPS**

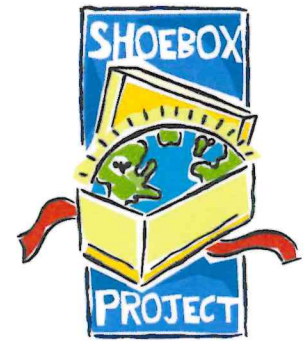
**Register online at [inspirationhills.org](https://inspirationhills.org)**



**Jesus' High  
Priestly Prayer**



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2026 PLANNING AHEAD



Our first packing party for Operation Christmas Child was a huge success. Thank you again to all that helped in preparing for that day. We packed 50 boxes for 5-9 year olds in less than 45 minutes. We have started on the plans for OCC Packing Party 2026! This year we are gearing up to pack 50 boxes for 2-4 year olds and 50 boxes for 10-14 year olds.

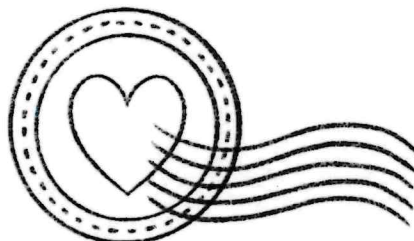
As you start your spring cleaning, please be on the look out for things you might have in a cupboard and maybe forgot about. Here is a list of things that we will be using this year:

- **Ribbon** (Ex satin, polyester, fabric, etc) any size between 1/4" up to 1". Any bright color or patterns are great! Any length can be used.
- **Organza Gift Bags** The kind used for wedding favors or other gifts. Any size, color or amount.
- **Jewelry** Can be used if not broken or something you don't wear anymore and don't know what to do with it. For girls aged 1-14 - rings, bracelets, necklaces.
- **Old T-Shirts** Any size. Logos are ok, but they can not have side seams on the body of the shirt. These are needed as we will be making jump ropes again.
- **Used Prescription Bottles** Keep saving these. Last year we used them for bead and fishing kits. We will be making those again and adding mending kits for the 10-14 year old group.

Early in March, a table will be set up where you can drop off your donations. Also, there will be examples of what we are looking for if you have any questions.

Last year several ladies helped for 2-3 hour sessions in the church, mornings and afternoons. It was a great help and a lot of fun getting some of the organization work done preparing for the packing party. We filled pencil bags, made sticker kits, assembled hygiene items, etc. If you'd like to help, please sign the volunteer sheet on the upcoming table. Ida Evertse will call you when work is available for volunteers.

Thanks again for helping make this a church wide mission that all ages can contribute to!





**Mid-Sioux**  
**OPPORTUNITY, INC.**  
 A Community Action Agency

If you have a child between the ages of 3 & 4 years old you may qualify for the FREE Head Start of Child Development Program through Mid-Sioux Opportunity. For more information on this free preschool program, contact 800-859-2025.

Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Early Head Start is currently taking applications for their FREE family support and resource program. Early Head Start serves expectant families and children up to the age of three. For more information on this free home based program, call 800-859-2025.

## JANUARY CONSISTORY - 2026

*by Carolyn Goold*



- The next Lord's Supper will be February 1, 2026.
- The next Consistory meeting will be February 16, 2026, with meetings of deacons and elders at 7:00 p.m. and the full consistory meeting to follow.
- The Nursery Room will not be staffed during the summer, but will be available for parents to use.
- The annual auction on February 4, 2026 will support several missions, including: Hull Food Pantry; Whispers of Love, Hope & Joy; and the mission trip to Grace Covenant Ministries.
- 



## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- No Sunday School/Congregational Meeting.....Feb 1
- Fundraising Auction/No Midweek programs .....Feb 4
- Quarter Sunday .....Feb 8



# **ARC Mission: Youth Mentorship Program**

We are thrilled to announce the launch of an intergenerational ministry: a dedicated Youth Mentorship Program. This initiative moves beyond traditional programming to focus on the relational discipleship modeled by Jesus, strengthening both our youth and our entire church community. This program is specifically for our Jr. High and High School students, who will have the opportunity to select a mentor. Our Youth Mentorship Program will run for eight weeks between February and March of next year. Mentors and

mentees will be asked to meet 4 to 6 times during this period in a public location. All selected mentors will be asked to attend a quick training session, with more detailed information coming out in January. If parents prefer their student not participate, please contact the Christian Education Committee.



## **Youth Benefits**

1. **Spiritual Growth:** Mentors model committed adult faith.
2. **Strong Belonging:** Consistent support provides a stable presence, meeting the need to feel known, valued, and anchored to the church community.
3. **Life Skills and Wisdom:** Mentors share practical guidance on key areas in life.



## **Church Benefits**

1. **Intergenerational Unity:** Mentorship bridges age gaps, fostering mutual respect, understanding, and a stronger, more unified church fellowship.
2. **Leadership and Continuity:** Programs intentionally develop the next generation of church leaders.
3. **Transformational Discipleship & Outreach:** It shifts the focus to deep, relational discipleship, making the church more vibrant and better motivated to extend Christ's love to the wider community.



# LOVE & LEARN CLASSES



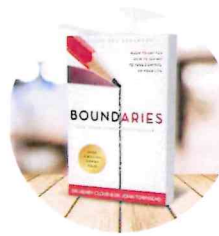
## **Faith & Finance**

*Learn financial skills such as budgeting, saving, and paying off debt. A mentor will help you apply what you learn in class to your personal finances.*



## **Grief Share**

*Receive encouragement and support after the death of a loved one through your journey of grief. Learn more at [www.griefshare.com](http://www.griefshare.com)*



## **Boundaries**

*Cultivate habits of setting and maintaining boundaries at home, work, and even social media.*



## **Redemptive Compassion**

*A Biblical exploration of how God has called the Church to love and serve our neighbors.*

### **Classes begin January 27**

Tuesday evenings 6:45-8:00pm  
Trinity Reformed Church in Rock Valley

For more information call: 712-476-5990 or  
email: [ministries@loveincsiouxcounty.org](mailto:ministries@loveincsiouxcounty.org)

## ***New Board Member***



### ***Todd McDonald***

"I grew up in Roland, Iowa and moved to Orange City to start teaching. Currently, I am at Sioux Center Christian School as the TK-8 School Counselor. My wife, Kris, is currently the translator/interpreter at Sioux Center Public School. We have 2 daughters: Lauren and Emily. Emily is married to Jaime and they have 3 children. I enjoy family, movies, theatre, sports, friends, concerts, and new adventures. Meeting Pat Heemstra on our bike trip last summer allowed me to know more about Love INC. Her passion inspired me to join the Love INC board when I was asked. The staff, volunteers, and mission all resonate with my own interests and passions of serving others in the name of Christ."

## ***SAVE THE DATE***

### **March 28, 2026**

is the date for the  
**Love INC Sioux County  
Spring Share Event** located  
at Parkview Event Center in  
Rock Valley. Watch for more  
details on our Facebook  
page or our website!



### PASTOR

Pastor Mark Cercone .....439-2057  
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 ..... 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  
Jeanne Breuer, Andrea Kelderman, Sara Vink,  
Aleisha Wissink, Todd Visscher