

The AMERICANews

of the American Reformed Church
of Hull Iowa



March

2026

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the American Reformed Church
Hull, Iowa

Vol.35 No. 10
March 2026

THE
PASTOR'S
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This year, during Lent, we are looking at things we need to learn to let go of and surrender to God. And one of the things that is true about these things is how they are not necessarily bad things either.

Take, for example, the story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22. God's command to Abraham was probably staggering and difficult when He said: **"Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love...and offer him there as a burnt offering." (Genesis 22:2)**

Everything God says here deepens the cost: your son, your only son, the son that you love. Isaac was not just the embodiment of God's promise; he was Abraham's child, whom he had waited with anticipation for because he had been childless for many years.

Through Isaac, God had pledged to build a great nation, and Abraham's descendants would be numbered like the stars. That would have been such an amazing promise to celebrate and look forward to if you were Abraham.

And now God asks for him back. God asks Abraham to do the unthinkable, which was to hike three days with your son up this mountain and sacrifice him there by placing a dagger into his chest. I am not sure if I could have done such a thing and acted with such obedience.

But what this story reminds us of is that we need to learn to let go of some of the things we might be tightly holding on to in life. How many Isaacs do we have in our lives right now?

For some of us, it is our child's future. For others, a career dream, financial security, reputation, or even control over how life unfolds. Many of these things are not sinful either. Isaac was not sinful; he was a blessing. Yet even blessings can become ultimate and stand between God and us.

That is what God was trying to teach us in the story, as much as He was showing that the sacrifice that would be made would be His Son.

See, we don't need to hold on to anything too tightly because everything we have that is good is ultimately the Lord's. Our family, our possessions, our security all belong to God. And today God might not be asking you to place something on an altar, but He very well might be asking you to reduce your grip.

This is because the greater blessing comes from something we can't attain by our own strength. Which of course God demonstrates here in this story, because in this same region, maybe even on this same hill, God would not spare His own Son. Where Abraham was stopped, the Father was not. The ram in the thicket, which God provides as a replacement for Abraham having to sacrifice his own son, whispers of a greater Substitute to come.

This year, may we realize this truth in everything we have. All the good things we have are just a shadow of the greater thing God has planned for us.

And if we must walk through a season where we must surrender something or loosen our grip, may we realize it might be because God wants to give us something greater. It might very well be the relationship He desires to have with each one of us, and for us to truly worship Him as Lord. *-Pastor Mark*



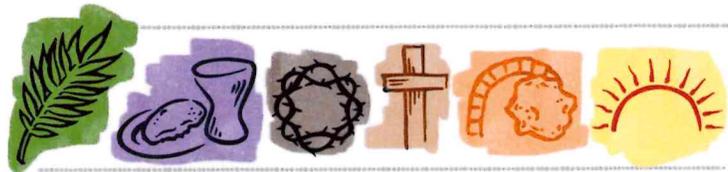
EASTER SUNDAY!
40
HOLY SATURDAY
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GOOD FRIDAY
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HOLY THURSDAY
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2ND SUNDAY
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1ST SUNDAY
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ASH WEDNESDAY
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40 days OF LENT

A large, simple black cross graphic is positioned in the center of the page, overlapping the text and the calendar path.

PROJECTION

March 1	Loree Walton
March 8	Heather Mesman
March 15	Jacob Gaul
March 22	Mel Reuvers
March 29	Loree Walton



MARCH SCHEDULES

VIDEO

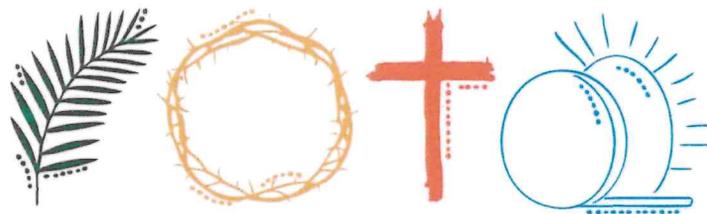
March 1	Laura Woelber
March 8	Aisayah Moss
March 15	Kaileen Roelofs
March 22	Carter Wallenburg
March 29	Aisayah Moss

USHER

March 1	Todd Visscher, Tony Van Der Zwaag
March 8	Todd Visscher, Tony Van Der Zwaag
March 15	Wendell Sandbulte, Aaron Moss
March 22	Wendell Sandbulte, Aaron Moss
March 29	Brian Sipma, Chris Kelderman

NURSERY

March 1	Angie Den Besten, Mali DK, Royce Wissink
March 8	Laura Van Der Zwaag, Shalyn Soodsma, Easton Sipma
March 15	Alice Nyhof, Aisayah Moss, Isabella Gaul
March 22	Alex & Jacob Van Der Wilt
March 29	Austin & Brittney Rollefson



A lot can happen in
seven days.

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 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!



The Sonshine Choir

(3 & 4 yr old - 3rd Grade) will meet in the basement before the service on **March 29** to walk in to the sanctuary together waving their palm branches and providing a ministry of music!



EVERYONE IS INVITED TO OUR MEAL AND SERVICE on April 2!!!

A meal of tavern, chips and ice cream will be served beginning at **6:30pm**. No need to bring anything but your family! Paper service and food are provided.



Our **Maundy Thursday Service** beginning at approximately **7:30pm**.

We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Come for a time of fellowship and worship!



Join us on **Easter Sunday, April 5**, at **7:00am** for a special combined **Sunrise Service** with our friends from First Reformed. Let us celebrate the Resurrection together at **First Reformed Church**. Stay after the service for fellowship and a light brunch.





EASTER SUNDAY

Join us **Sunday, April 5,**
at **9:30am**
as we celebrate Christ's victory over
sin and death!!

"He is not here; for he is risen, as he said."
Matthew 28:6

May we carry the Promise of Easter in our
hearts & lives all year long



The early registration deadline for
INSPIRATION HILLS CAMP

sign up is April 15th

Inspiration Hills offers many wonderful SUMMER CAMP
opportunities.

God meets kids at summer camp in powerful ways!!
We at American Reformed Church want all our children
to have this extraordinary spiritual experience.

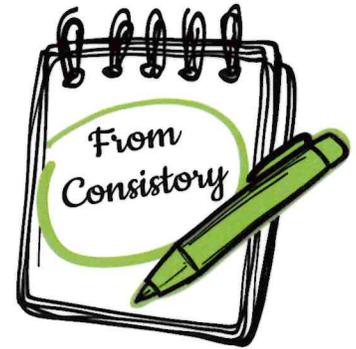
For that reason, ARC will pay for half of each summer camp registration
(and more if it's needed).

Register online at
<http://www.inspirationhills.org>. There is a part of the registration form that will ask for the
church name and amount the church is covering. Make sure to fill that out.

Any questions please contact Todd Visscher

FEBRUARY CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

by Josh Wissink



- Next Consistory Meeting will be Monday, March 16, 2026 at 7pm.
- We are grateful for outgoing Elders Rob Van't Land and Carolyn Goold and Deacons Kyle Roelofs and Rick Tiedeman for their service the last 3 years. New Incoming members of consistory are Dennis Smit and Josh Wissink as Elders and Jeff VerHoef and Eric Schafer as Deacons.
- New Vice President of Consistory is Kevin Roozing, Craig Moss stays on as Chair of Deacons, and new Clerk is Josh Wissink
- Secret Church Event about Elijah will be on April 17 from 6pm to midnight at ARC. Please Join us for a night of fellowship as we study God's Word together.



QUARTER COLLECTION

The **Quarter Sunday** will be on **March 8**.
Please keep saving your quarters!



YOUTH MENTORSHIP UPDATE



We wanted to give an update on the Youth Mentorship, which began this past month with a small group of students here at American Reformed Church.

It is only the beginning of what we hope will lead to strong intergenerational discipleship taking place in our church.

The goal is for the youth to meet with their mentors four times over the next few months to learn what it looks like to live out their faith as adults. But it is also an opportunity for the mentors to support and encourage youth.

Some people have asked the question, "Isn't this the purpose of youth sponsors and youth leaders in the church?"

Yes, they do that as well, and we definitely encourage it.

Yet here, students can choose someone they look up to within the church and learn from. Someone they admire. Maybe it is because this person wants to do something they would like to do when they grow up? Maybe it is because this person's voice already carries weight in their life?

This isn't meant to be a substitute for the work being done in your ministry. It gives students the opportunity to seek out others who can help them grow in their faith.

What I ask of you is to pray for the mentors, pray for the students, and pray that God will use this opportunity to help these youth grow into the people God desires them to become.

Also, pray that this is only the beginning of some intentional discipleship happening within the American Reformed Church this year.

-Pastor Mark



PASTOR

Pastor Mark Cercone439-2057
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
Jeanne Breuer, Mike Mesman, Harlan Moss,
Audrey Raman, 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
Jeanne Breuer, Andrea Kelderman, Sara Vink,
Aleisha Wissink, Todd Visscher