

# The AMERICANews

of the American Reformed Church  
of Hull Iowa



2026

# AMERICANews

the American Reformed Church  
Hull, Iowa

Vol.35 No. 12  
May 2026

THE  
PASTOR'S  
*Pen*



Memorial Day, a holiday we will be celebrating as a nation here at the end of May, it invites us into a very unique and particular kind of quiet. It is the kind of quiet that falls over a cemetery, or settles in the chest when a flag is folded and handed to trembling hands. It is a day set apart to remember those who gave everything, not in some abstract way, but in flesh and blood and finality.

And before the afternoon barbecues and the unofficial start of summer, there is something sacred being asked of us: that we pause, and remember, and refuse to let the cost of freedom become invisible. This is because freedom is never free but is provided for by the love of those who were willing to serve this nation.

On this day, we honor men and women who embodied that same costly love — who stood in the gap for others, for strangers, for a nation they believed was worth protecting. We may not share their politics, their branch of service, or even their full story. But we share this: the recognition that their sacrifice was real, and that it mattered. Their names are written somewhere — on a wall, on a stone, in the memory of someone who still sets a place at the table out of habit, or hope, or grief too deep for words.

Jesus spoke similar words to his disciples on the night before his own death about this type of love for them—

**“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13)**

And the interesting thing about these words, Jesus knew exactly what it would cost him. He was not offering a sentiment. He was making a promise, and then keeping it. The love he describes is not the love of warm feelings or good intentions; it is the love that steps forward into the line of fire. It is love with its boots on. It is a love with intentional action toward other.

Therefore, this day is an opportunity for us to be reminded of the shape of love—how at its deepest point, love is not self-preserving but self-giving. And the way Jesus made this love visible was through the cross, which becomes the picture of a willingness to spend oneself for the sake of another.

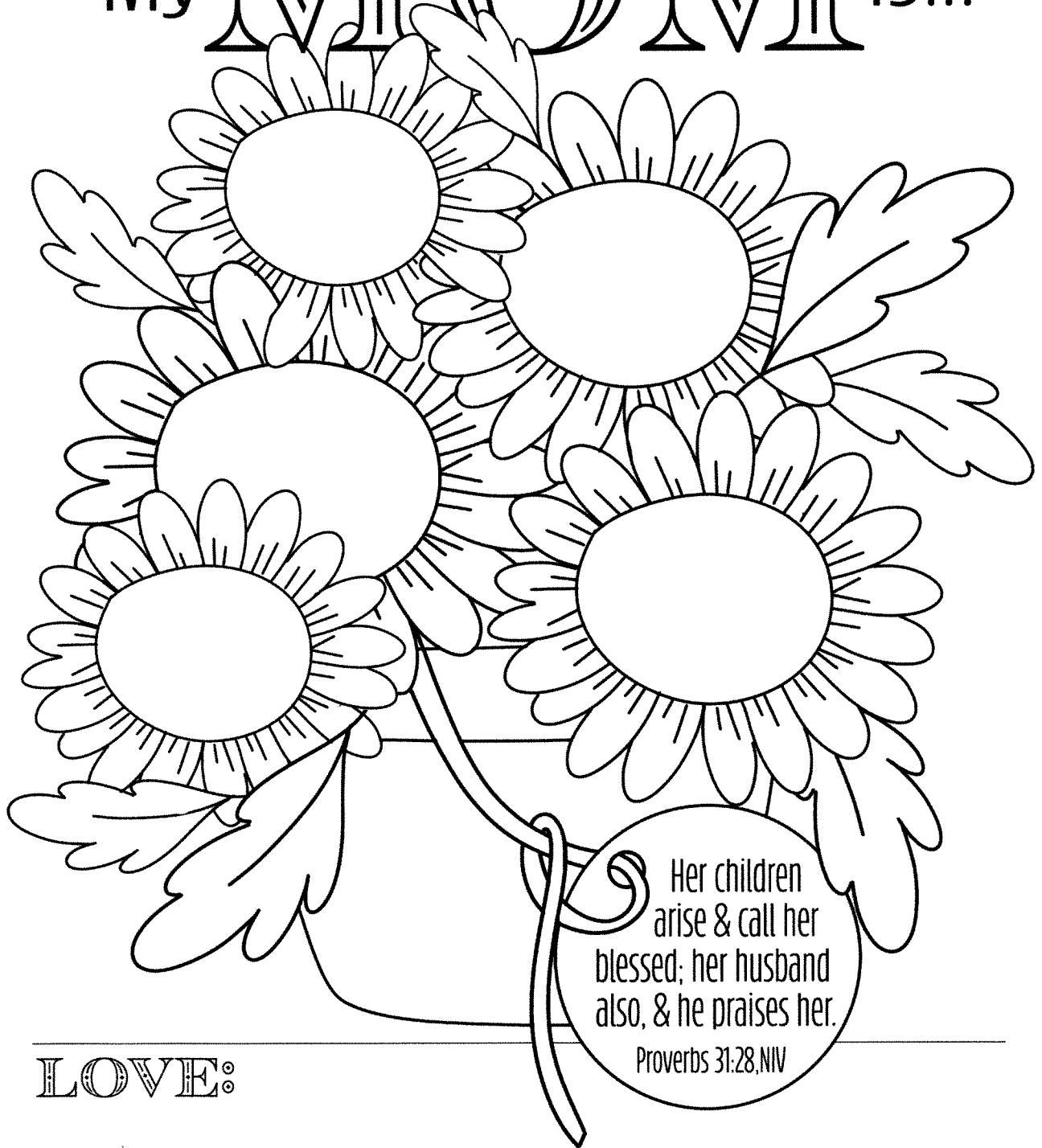
The Apostle Paul uses a similar picture in Romans 5, where he marvels that while we were still sinners—not yet friends, not yet deserving—Christ died for us. That is the staggering shape of divine love: it does not love that waits for worthiness. It goes first. It goes all the way. And Jesus himself, in the very passage where he gives us this verse, reminds his disciples that he no longer calls them servants but friends. The one who laid down his life did so for people he chose to love, not people who had earned it.

This means how today when you are reading this and contemplating the meaning of this love for you, it becomes an invitation. Not only to receive gratitude as a passive emotion, but to let it form us and shape our response to God.

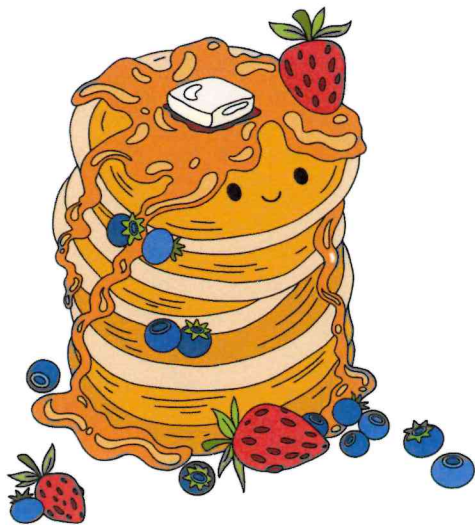
I believe it should cause us to ask: what does it look like, in my ordinary life, to love with that kind of abandon? We may not be called to a battlefield. But we are called — each of us — to lay something down. A preference. A comfort. A grudge. An hour. The shape of the cross presses itself into all of these moments where we have to opportunity to share Christ’s love with others.

As you move through this day (or even the days leading up to Memorial Day)—whether at a cookout, a ceremony, or simply a moment of stillness—let us take a breath and remember in quiet the love that has been offered to you. Not because you earned it, but because of how much Christ loved you. —*Pastor Mark*

My MOMM is...



LOVE:



# PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

Monday, May 25  
7:00-10:00am at  
American Reformed Church  
Sponsored by  
Aftershock/ARCYF

Freewill Donation  
All proceeds go to the  
Rocky Mountain High Fund  
& Power Connection

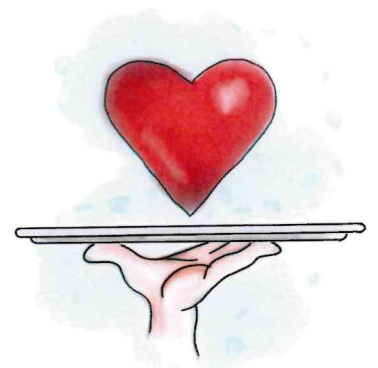


**MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST!**



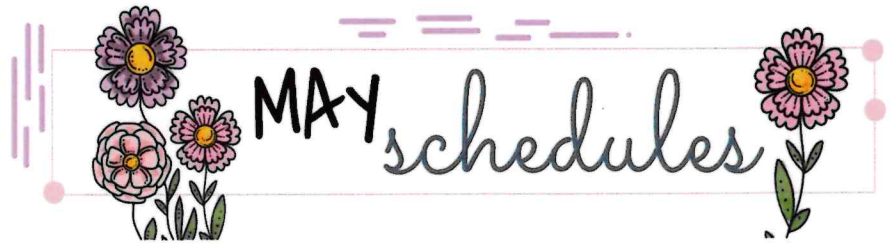
Wednesday, July 22  
we have the privilege  
of serving at  
**THE BANQUET**  
in Sioux Falls.

Save the date and join us as we be the  
hands & feet of Jesus to those in need!



**PROJECTION**

MAY 3 Heather Mesman  
MAY 10 Jacob Gaul  
MAY 17 Mel Reuvers  
MAY 24 Loree Walton  
MAY 31 Heather Mesman



**VIDEO**

MAY 3 Carter Wallenburg  
MAY 10 Reid Van Voorst  
MAY 17 Laura Woelber  
MAY 24 Brian Sipma  
MAY 31 Aisayah Moss

**USHERS**

MAY 3 Denny Kelderman, Dwayne Hansmann  
MAY 10 Galen Breuer, Harlo Vink  
MAY 17 Galen Breuer, Harlo Vink  
MAY 24 Jacob Van Der Wilt, Jesse Mesman  
MAY 31 Jacob Van Der Wilt, Jesse Mesman

**NURSERY**

MAY 3 Brad & Donna Wallenburg  
MAY 10 Judy Hoogeveen, Merritt Moss, McCoy Moss  
MAY 17 Casey Schafer, Jacob Gaul, Asher Moss  
MAY 24 Harlo & Sara Vink  
MAY 31 Annie Van Der Zwaag, Jack Van Der Zwaag, Milana Cercone



Nursery will not be staffed during the summer months, but it will be available for you & your children to use during worship



THE SENIORS OF ARC WILL BE  
RECOGNIZED DURING THE WORSHIP  
SERVICE ON SUNDAY, MAY 24!

MATTEO CERCONE  
JC DE KOSTER  
JACKSON KEIZER  
AALIJAH MOSS  
BRAYDEN ROZEBOOM  
GABE SOODSMA  
KADEN SOODSMA  
CARSTON TIEDEMAN  
RAEGAN VAN ZANTEN



*"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed."* Psalm 20:4

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There is still time to register for camp at Inspiration Hills!



ARC will pay for half of each summer camp  
registration (and more if it's needed)  
Make sure to fill the part out on the registration  
form that will ask for the church name and amount  
the church is covering.  
Free online registration at [inspirationhills.org](http://inspirationhills.org)

Any questions, please contact Todd Visscher: 712-441-5663.



GRACE COVENANT  
MINISTRIES  
MISSION TRIP

Work dates are July 27-July 31.

Save the date if you are able to join us this year! No special skills are needed, just a willing heart to serve others. There are jobs for everyone. If you have any questions, contact Ken or Ida Evertse.

This trip is a mission of the entire congregation. We will again bring donations from the congregation to the Trade Store. The items you have donated in the past have been a great blessing to the people served by GCM. This year we have made arrangements with JFA to transport some larger items that we have not been able to transport before.

**Possible items:** Chairs, bar stools, bed frames, end tables, dressers that are in good condition, etc. Please contact Ken Evertse (441-0265) to make arrangements for the large items.

Don't forget to check your closets and cupboards for items you are no longer in need.

(Clothing for all ages, books, toys, smaller house hold items, dishes, kitchen utensils, home decor.) Start gathering them at home now and after Memorial Day you will be able to bring them to Church.

Transportation costs and room & board will be paid for with money raised at the Church Mission Auction for any member of ARC. Again, thank you for your great support at the Mission Auction. Profits this year were given to help support 4 different missions.



Our LAST Quarter Sunday until fall will be May 10 and make sure to join us on May 17 as we present our donation to Grace Covenant Ministries Camp.

- May 3. .... Last Day of Sunday School
- May 10. .... Last Quarter Sunday
- May 17. .... Quarter Presentation
- May 24. .... Graduation Sunday
- May 25. .... Aftershock/Jr High ARCYF Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser



## APRIL CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

by Josh Wissink

- Worship and Music is looking into blended worship and a new Framework going forward.
  - Outdoor service at the park will be June 7.
  - The next Lord's Supper will be June 14.
  - We need teachers for next fall Sunday School.
- 

The Worship & Music Committee is planning an **Outdoor Service on June 7th at Westside Park.**  
Our worship service will begin at **10:00am.**

Prior to the service we will be serving **muffins, coffee and juice** beginning at **9:30.**



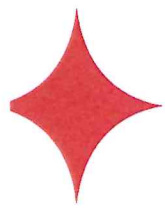
**Everyone is welcome!!**

In case of rain, we will meet in the worship center.

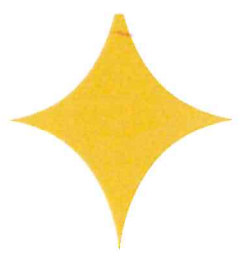
**Let's enjoy God's creation together by worshiping Him & fellowshipping together in the great outdoors!!**

Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs!!





Please join us for a



# LIFEWISE ACADEMY

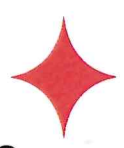


*Family Impact Night*

**Wednesday, May 20, 2026**

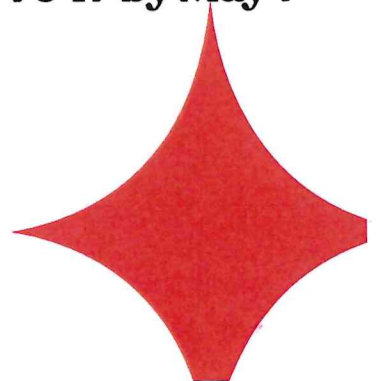
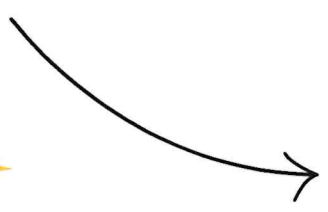
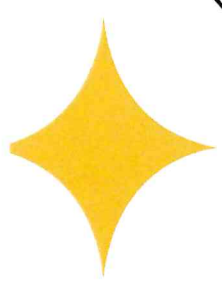
**American Reformed Church  
911 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Hull**

**5:30-6:30  
Meal and  
Silent Auction**



**6:30-7:30  
Program  
and Update**

**RSVP here or text Kelley Crawford at 712-548-7947 by May 7**



**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  
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