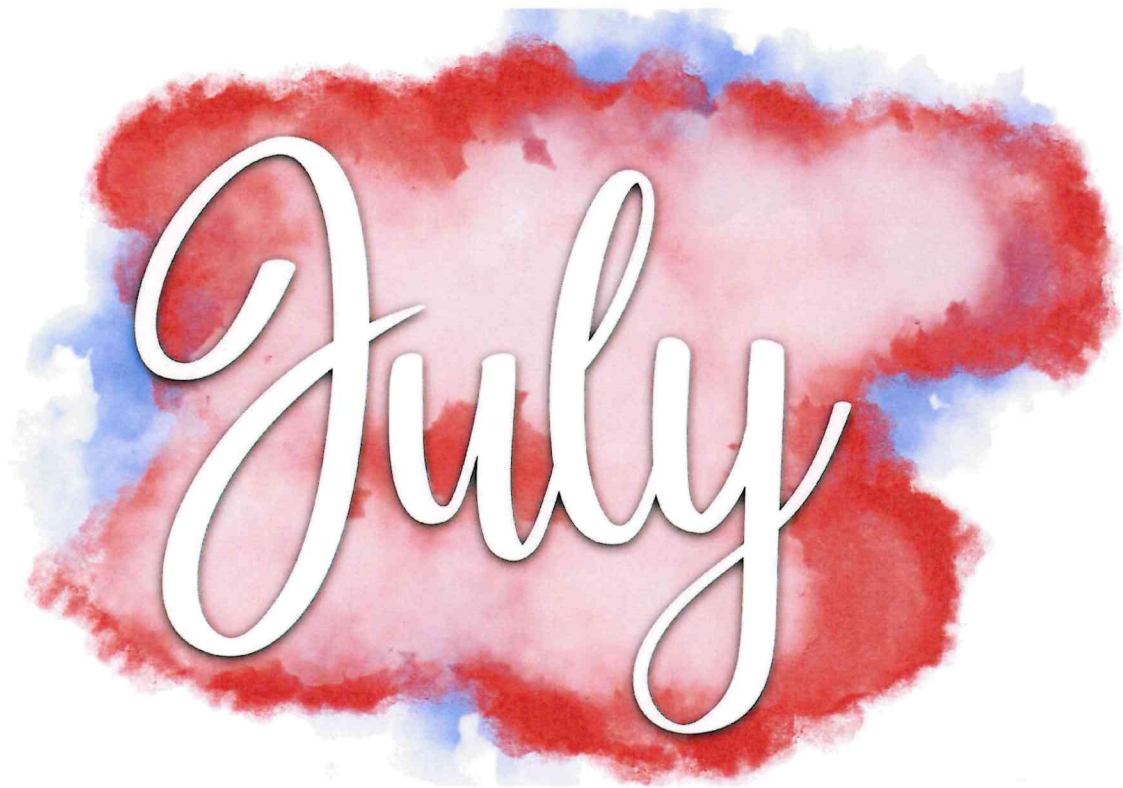


The AMERICANews

of the American Reformed Church
of Hull Iowa



2026

AMERICANews

the American Reformed Church
Hull, Iowa

Vol.36 No. 2
July 2026

THE
PASTOR'S
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This month, we celebrate here in America how two hundred and fifty years ago, a fledgling nation made a declaration it could barely afford to keep. The men who signed their names to this piece of parchment in Philadelphia in the summer of 1776 were not superheroes. They were farmers, lawyers, merchants, and ministers—imperfect people making an extraordinary wager: free people, bound together by common convictions, could govern themselves and flourish.

Now two and a half centuries later, we have the opportunity to pause on this anniversary to not simply celebrate with fireworks and wave flags, but to ask the deeper question: What has held us together all this time?

At times, there were certainly divisions and fractures to this grand experiment of freedom. Today, many of us see the fractures in our politics and struggle to find common ground, sometimes with people on the other side of the political aisle. Therefore, it has not all been a perfect picture of unity without strife.

Yet here we are, celebrating an anniversary that many nations do not get the opportunity to celebrate. This means something has happened in the last two hundred and fifty years to make this possible.

Now I am not writing this to blur the lines between politics and our Christian faith. I think the idea of Christian nationalism leads us away from where our primary focus should be, and how, as Paul would say, our citizenship is in heaven. This does not promote any such view of placing our allegiance to the state in parallel to our faith in Christ.

But the Psalms do have this wonderful verse which says—

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!” (Psalm 33:12)

Now, again, I believe this verse has been taken out of context at times, as though it invokes a national guarantee—as though our nation will be favored above others if we place God at the center of our national identity. But reading it this way causes us to miss the Psalmist’s heart entirely here.

Instead, the Psalmist describes for us how all communities, whether a household, a congregation, a neighborhood, or even a country, should hold someone bigger than themselves at the center. Blessed are those who choose to make their center God in everything they do.

This is why our heritage as Christians comes from people who first gathered together as a community with God in mind. They saw the Lord as their center and studied the Apostle’s doctrine, which tells us about the Lord. They broke bread with Christ in mine. They prayed together to God about their thanks and about their needs. They shared everything in common because of Jesus being their center.

In fact, the early church was called the *ekklesia*: the word describes a community of believers who saw themselves as part of the same body. This word does not simply describe a crowd. It does not describe a group of people who gathered randomly without purpose, either. This is such an important reminder of how we should therefore see the church, how we see the American Reformed Church.

As we celebrate with fireworks and noisemakers this Fourth of July, let us also take a moment to pray. May the Lord make us into a community that reflects the beauty of the true kingdom we are a part of. Not a community of individuals, but one that represents what it means to be an *ekklesia* and how we keep God at the center. And until that Kingdom comes in fullness, may we be faithful.

Puzzle!



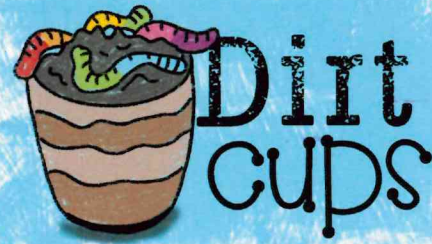
Use the Scripture verses below to locate the places in the puzzle. (If a verse mentions more than one place, only one appears in the puzzle, so choose carefully.) Circle each place as you find it.

Answers go: → ↓ ↘

Genesis 2:15	Isaiah 23:1	Luke 24:13
Genesis 11:9	Isaiah 23:2	John 2:1
Genesis 35:1	Isaiah 23:3	Acts 8:5
Exodus 13:18	Jonah 1:2	Acts 11:22
Ruth 1:1	Matthew 3:6	Acts 17:16
1 Kings 18:19	Matthew 4:18	Romans 1:15
1 Chronicles 11:4	Matthew 26:36	

S	I	D	O	N	G	N	I	L	E	S	O
J	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R
E	S	G	A	A	R	C	A	N	A	A	M
R	A	E	T	B	D	C	D	B	E	O	O
U	M	T	H	B	E	T	H	E	L	F	U
S	A	H	E	T	N	E	A	T	N	G	N
A	R	S	N	Y	O	M	N	H	I	A	T
L	I	E	S	R	F	M	T	L	N	L	C
E	A	M	D	E	E	A	I	E	E	I	A
M	F	A	R	S	D	U	O	H	V	L	R
G	H	N	O	A	E	S	C	E	E	E	M
I	J	E	M	B	N	A	H	M	H	E	E
T	O	W	E	R	O	F	B	A	B	E	L

Answers: Garden of Eden, Tower of Babel, Bethel, Red Sea, Bethlehem, Mount Carmel, Jerusalem, Tyre, Sidon, Nile, Nineveh, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Emmaus, Cana, Samaria, Antioch, Athens, Rome



A sweet reminder that God is always growing something new, no matter the season. As summer winds down and a new school year begins, remember He is at work in your life, helping you grow in faith, kindness and courage. With His help, you can grow in wisdom, build friendships and shine His love wherever you go.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving) box chocolate instant pudding mix
- 1 (8 oz.) tub whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) clear plastic cups
- Gummy worms or frogs (optional)



What you do:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes until thickened.
2. Gently fold in the whipped topping.
3. Add a layer of crushed cookies to the bottom of each cup.
4. Spoon pudding mixture on top, filling the cups about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
5. Sprinkle more crushed cookies on top to look like "dirt."
6. Add gummy worms or frogs for fun.
7. Chill until ready to serve, or enjoy right away.

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? — Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)



PROJECTION

July 5	Heather Mesman
July 12	Jacob Gaul
July 19	Hull Community Worship
July 26	Mel Reuvers

Schedules



VIDEO

July 5	Brian Sipma
July 12	Aisayah Moss
July 19	Hull Community Worship
July 26	Carter Wallenburg

USHER

July 5	Lyndon Moss, Mark Sipma
July 12	Russ Goold, Todd Visscher
July 19	Hull Community Worship
July 26	Russ Goold, Todd Visscher

WORSHIPING TOGETHER!

A Community Outdoor
Worship Service
will be held on
Sunday, July 19 at
10:00am at the Hesla Field!



Rain Location:

Western Christian High School

(There will not be a worship service at American Reformed that morning)

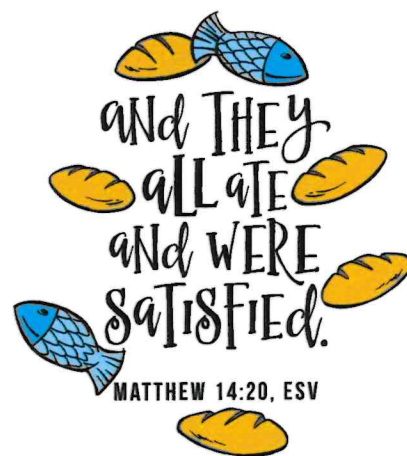
BE THE HANDS & FEET OF JESUS!

ARC will be serving at the downtown Banquet in Sioux Falls on Wednesday, July 22.

We are still in need of volunteers to serve. Prayerfully consider joining us! Helping those less fortunate is doing our part as servants of the Lord. There is a sign-up sheet on the information booth. Please sign up by July 15.

Group Checklist for Success

- o The Banquet is a feeding, encountering, and sharing ministry
- o 6 total volunteers to prepare the meal from 2 PM - 5 PM
- o 20 total volunteers to serve the meal at 5:15 PM - 8PM
- o greeting and sharing, serving, beverages, dishes
- o No open toed shoes
- o Please dress in appropriate work attire
- o Please have someone ready to share a 2-3-minute devotion
- o Typically, we serve between 200-290 guests from 6:00-7:30pm



Thank you for your commitment to The Banquet ministry!

BANQUET ADDRESS:
900 E 8th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103



MISSION TRIP UPDATE

If you have items you would like to donate and be taken to **Annville, Kentucky** the end of July, please place them on the table at the South end of the Great Hall by **Sunday, July 19.**

If you have donations and need to have them picked up, call Ken (441-0265) or Ida (441-4092)



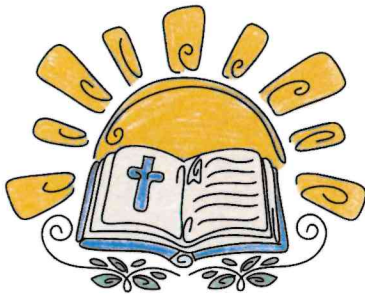
The mission trip to
Grace Covenant Ministries
is from July 26-August 1.

Keep all those attending in your prayers.

Remember & pray for our
students & sponsors attending
Rocky Mountain High - July 24-29



There is a sign up sheet at the
Connection Center to be a **prayer partner** for
a student or sponsor attending RMH!



Please consider signing up to pray
for and treat one of the attendees.
We want to make sure everyone has a prayer
partner. You can also contribute snacks or
treats for the whole group.



HEART & SOLES MINISTRY



Interested in supporting local children on their first day of school?
Heart & Soles is a Gap Ministry developed by Love INC that allows
churches to provide students with new, quality tennis shoes and socks.
Right now, there is a clothes line at the South end of the Great Hall where
you can pick up a shoe or sock cut-out (**pink**/girl or **blue**/boy or **green**/donation).

Please purchase the tennis shoes (no flip flops or slip-on shoes) or socks listed and bring them back
to church by **July 26**.

If you would like to make a monetary donation by grabbing a green cut-out, please donate cash or
make checks out to Love INC of Sioux County.

Thank you for supporting this Love INC ministry in your community



JUNE CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

by Josh Wissink



- ◆ July 22 is the Banquet for those interested in serving.
- ◆ The next Lord's Supper will be August 2.
- ◆ Looking into options for getting new chairs with armrests in the sanctuary.
- ◆ Christian Ed is combining some grades for Sunday School because of lack of teachers and students. Still looking for Sunday School Teachers!

BIBLE QUIZ



About 450 years before Jesus, Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem still lay in ruins after the Babylonian invasion. The news broke his heart. After days of prayer and mourning, he stepped forward to lead the effort to rebuild the city wall. Despite opposition, the people pressed on.

A well-known verse describes their progress: "So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to _____."

Choose the correct ending:

- A. be protected
- B. work
- C. serve
- D. live

Answer: B (Nehemiah 4:6, ESV)

Prayer Warrior

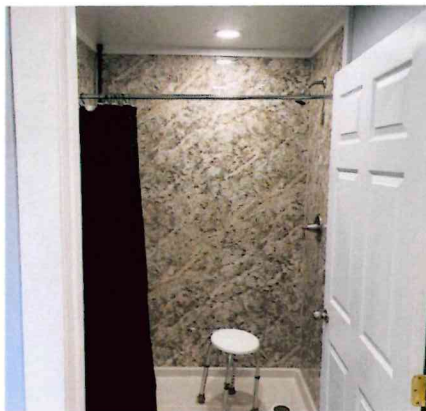
MAY
2026



Campus Updates!

Our staff has been hard at work this past month, making updates to our campus here in Annville! We have renovated our cabins to have showers and beautiful living spaces, as well as brand new mattresses thanks to a supporting church! We're so excited for teams to have a nice space to unwind after a day of serving.

We also added a beautiful fountain to our Reflection Center Pond, thanks to a kind donor! It is a great addition to our gathering space.



Prayer Warrior

MAY
2026

Please be in prayer as we begin our summer camp season! Please pray for our staff as they share the love of Christ with each child in attendance, and for hearts to be changed!



The poster features a central title 'GCM SUMMER CAMPS' in large, bold, green letters, flanked by two smiling sun icons. Below the title, there are six rows, each representing a different camp. Each row includes an icon on the left, a camp title in a red rounded rectangle, and a description of the camp's schedule, location, and fee on the right. The icons include an art palette, a baseball, a silhouette of a dancer, a soccer ball, and a chemistry flask. The bottom of the poster contains contact information and a registration instruction.

GCM SUMMER CAMPS

Dance Camp-June 8-11
Camp starts at 10AM and drop off will be at the Annville gym. Lunch will be served at noon, then pick up will be 3PM at the pool! Camp fee \$35. Ages 5-12.

Art Camp-June 15-19
Camp starts at 9AM and drop off will be at the Annville gym. Lunch will be served at noon, then pick up will be 3PM at the pool! Camp fee \$35. Ages 5-12.

VBS (Rainforest Falls)-July 6-10
Camp starts at 9AM and drop off will be at the Annville Community Church. Lunch will be served at noon, then pick up will be 3PM at the pool! Camp fee \$10. Ages 5-12.

Baseball Camp-July 13-16
Camps starts at 10AM and drop off will be at the Annville gym. Lunch will be served at noon, then pick up will be 3PM at the pool! Camp fee will be \$30. Ages 5-12.

Science Camp-July 20-24
Camps starts at 9AM and drop off will be at the Annville gym. Lunch will be served at noon, then pick up will be 3PM at the pool! Camp fee will be \$35. Ages 5-12.

Soccer Camp-July 27-30
Camp starts at 10AM and drop off will be at the Annville gym. Lunch will be served at noon, then pick up will be 3PM at the pool! Camp fee \$30. Ages 5-12.

Please feel free to contact us at 606-594-1342 or stop by!
4500 KY-30 W, Annville, KY 40402
Please fill out the registration form on the back or go to our website!

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

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Ruth Moss: Chairman: 441-4170
Jeanne Breuer, 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
Jeanne Breuer, Andrea Kelderman, Sara Vink,
Aleisha Wissink, Todd Visscher