

First's Edition

March



April

2019

Garden Gift

by Cheryl Schaefer

We've sprung ahead, the temps are going up, the snow banks are going down, and suddenly spring is before us with all that it brings: track/baseball/soccer season, the wind-down of First Family Night and mid-week programs, the gear-up for summer trips and festivities, and so much more!

Yikes! Are we ready? Anybody else feel like you've crawled out of a hazy fog and are blinking your eyes, wondering what just happened? Winter does that to me every year.

We just took the bus out for our first prayer drive around Cedar Grove. Dave Otte let us know that it's not good for the bus to sit in the parking lot for long stretches without use, so we've written a bus prayer drive into our weekly routine. If you see the bus out circling town, you'll know what's going on. Pray with us!

Our grandtwins are doing great! Both are over four pounds now! More than double their birth weight! With every hurdle they overcome, the awe and gratitude increase. What blessing! What testimony to God's hand at work!

I've been reading through the passion week accounts in the gospels as I prepare the prayer journey for this year. The time Jesus spent in the Garden of Gethsemane always speaks to me. All four gospels talk about it, though John doesn't say much. Matthew's and Mark's accounts are almost identical, but Luke adds a few details the others leave out. His account really captures the intensity of Jesus' praying. We see Jesus spending long hours in prayer before other

significant events, like choosing the twelve apostles, but in Gethsemane he prays like he has never prayed before. Luke documents his sweat being like great drops of blood.

Jesus was in a “do or die” situation. Well, rather a “do and die” situation. The temptation to stop yielding to the Father was severe. The weight of the world – the future of all mankind – rested on his shoulders, on his not giving in to the temptation. And he didn’t. That’s the triumph we celebrate with him. He didn’t! And his triumph became our triumph! He didn’t give in! He persevered! He held fast to the Father, crying out to Him, pouring out his struggle, praying the same prayer again and again, filling the wait, not with fear, not with distraction, not with numbing or medicating, but with continued crying out to the Father, knowing it was just a matter of minutes, passing minutes that must have felt endless, and then the end would unfold.

It reminds me of these lines in Psalm 91:

“Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him.
I will protect him because he knows my name.”

That’s the key to fighting temptation. The temptation to doubt, the temptation to fear, the temptation to despair, the temptation to distrust God’s promises and to distrust His goodness. Knowing God’s Name, the powerful promise of it, is the key to living large. It’s the key to knowing joy. It’s the key to confidence in Christ. It’s the key to abundant life. Holding fast to Jesus, clinging to His Name, counting on it in our desperation.

God’s Name, I AM, promises just what it says: He is and He always is. Always present, always almighty, always aware of everything (EVERYTHING!), and always good. Jesus’ Name is Savior. When you cry out, “Jesus!”, you cry out, “Save me!” When you add “Christ” to that, you acknowledge Jesus as the promised Savior that I AM sent as His message and as the full display of His unconditional, unrestrained, uncompromising love.

Even in his final battle, Jesus taught us how to do life. Will I remember his lesson? Will I test it for myself when temptation confronts me?

Change is in the air. Winter to spring. Gloom to expectation. Fog to sunshine. Doubt to hope. Resignation to resurrection power! God is good. All the time. His promises and His Name are not just for yesterday, but for today and forever! He is trustworthy and able and abounding in steadfast love at all times and in all situations.

What blessing! What testimony to God’s hand at work! Let that drive our prayers – around Cedar Grove and unto the ends of the world!



April

- 02 Ken Soerens
Clare TenPas
- 03 Gabriel Bruhn
Hannah Daniels
Sandy LeClair
Natalie Prinsen
- 04 Jocelyn Stapelkamp
- 05 **Marie Heinen**
- 06 Kaslin Ebbers
- 07 Matt Clark
- 08 Owen Williams
- 10 Ryan Navis
Katie TenPas
- 11 Elijah Schaefer
Sally Veldhorst
- 14 Joan Dana
Angie Prinsen
- 15 **Ginny Rice 80**
- 16 Lillie Hartmann
- 17 Kurt Rubsam
- 18 Harrison Biederwolf
Jason Jacoby
- 19 Jody Ebbers
- 20 **Ralph Heinen 92**
Nicole Veldhorst

- 21 Erin Mentink
- 22 Billy Mentink
- 23 Jere Ebbers
Hannah Navis
- 24 **Mary Bender**
Larry TenPas
- 25 **Marion DeRuyter**
Cindy Navis
Kevin Stapelkamp
- 26 Gloria Teunissen
- 27 Jeremiah Risch
- 28 Weston Huenink
- 30 Nick Johnson

- 12 Jackson Risseeuw
- 13 Grady Langland
Carol Prinsen 81
Avery Spriggs
- 14 Jason Jones
Cameron Prinsen
- 15 Jason Krause
- 16 Betty Lorge
- 17 Mark O'Connell
- 19 **Gordon Moen 97**
- 20 Susan Prinsen
Calvin VanEss
- 21 Drew Emperley
Rachael Daniels
- 22 Tami Jacoby
Alyce Veldhorst 83
- 23 Austin Kettenhoven
Brody Kraus
Linda Walvoord
- 24 Jodi Emperley
- 26 Ron Hinze
Abigail Lavey
- 29 Leo Poplar
- 30 Jolie Bialzik



May

- 03 Larry Lukens
Larry Wieberdink
- 04 **Paul Nyhof 94**
- 05 **Karen Schreurs**
Nick Wieberdink
- 06 **Roger Jentink 82**
- 07 Kevin Kappers
Lydia Lavey
- 08 Pam TenHaken
- 09 Katrina Dulmes
Mason Langland

Happy Birthday!



GREETERS SCHEDULE

April

- 07 Dave & Helena Villarreal
- 14 Dan & Julie Wieberdink
- 21 Don & LuAnn Teunissen
- 28 Gene & Joan Dana

May

- 05 Don & Rosemary DeMaster
- 12 John & Judy DenBoer
- 19 Bob & Doris DeSmidt
- 26 Jeff & Deanne DeSmidt

June

- 02 Larry & Doris Wieberdink
- 09 Jack & Becky Dulmes family
- 16 Joe & Kaye Ebbers
- 23 Larry & Marie Heinen
- 30 Ron & Patti Hinze



Dear Church family

Thank you all for your prayers, cards and concern. Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I will be on oxygen for the rest of my life due to the condition of my heart. Thanks again.

In Christian Love,
Dawn Claussen



Thank you so much for the love that you show me through your prayers, gifts, and encouragement! I am very blessed with a great team that believes in the importance of InterVarsity's ministry, so thank you for being a part of it. I pray that this Valentine's Day you feel love from family, friends, and most of all: our savior Jesus Christ!

Alex Holle

First Reformed Church,

Evan and I want to extend our deepest thanks for your financial support over the past year. We are young and do not have very many financial connections, so being connected with your church is so encouraging! You help pay our electric, propane, and food bill every month. We honestly do not know where we would be without you. Every month you make us feel so loved and supported!

Thank you so much for believing in us and what we are doing here at Camp Daniel. We would love to come and meet you all, if you will have us. Your church and community are in our prayers!

God Bless,

Annissa & Evan Hartwig – CampDaniel.org

To stay up to date on what is going on in our life, visit our blog at:

OurOrdinaryAdventureBlog.wordpress.com

Thank you for the prayers, visits, cards and communion by Pastor Chris and Elders.

Eleanor & David DeMaster



Notes of **THANKS**

Thank you to all that sent cards and stopped by the Gardens to wish me a happy 90th birthday. It was great to hear from you and to see many of you too. I am thankful for my church family as they remember me each Easter and Christmas with the lovely plants.

Lorraine Huibreatse

Thank you for the cards, visits and prayers since my shoulder surgery.

Larry TenPas

Thank you for hosting another great blood drive at Cedar Grove Community! You had **15** people present to donate and we were able to collect **13** units of blood, potentially helping to extend or save the lives of up to **39** patients in local hospitals. You also had **1** first time donors!

Blood Center of Wisconsin

National Foster Care Month



May is National Foster Care Month

Sheboygan County Department of Health and Human Services salutes the group of committed foster parents who share their hearts and homes with children whose families are unable to care for them on a temporary basis. These foster families provide safe and nurturing homes, and help children reunite with their birth families, or in some cases, help children become a permanent part of their own or other families.

Foster families are needed for children of all ages. Training and support are provided for parents who join the program. If you have a desire to learn more about becoming a foster home, please contact Elizabeth Jensema at 920-459-3236. ***Change the lifetime of a Child!***

THANK YOU for helping us express our appreciation to our dedicated and hardworking foster parents!!!!

Sincerely,

Beth Jensema, Becki Weedman, Sue Schmidt and Becky Zak
Foster Care Staff



First Reformed Church

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Kaye Ebbers – Office Administrator email: kaye@firstreformedcg.com

Patti Hinze – Financial Administrator email: patti@firstreformedcg.com

Church Ministry Contacts

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Andrew Lavey Jeff DeSmidt

Contact: Andrew Lavey

920-668-8302

Congregational Life

Gene Dana Dale Theune

Contact: Gene Dana

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(Connect & Care with Compassion)

Contact: Joan Dana

920-918-7785

Discipleship

Pastor Chris Andrew Lavey

Contact: Pastor Chris

219-863-8037

Missions

Mark Huenink Nathan Hinze

Contact: Mark Huenink

920-627-6923

Property

Mark Hopeman Kevin

Hopeman

& Ben Lukens

Contact: Kevin Hopeman

920-668-8173

Worship

Joel Ebbers Jason Krause

Contact: Jason Krause

920-295-2224

Little Shephard's Inn Board

Missions We Support

- Harry & Pat Miersma
RCA & Wycliffe – Dallas
- Pastor Simon Muntolol
RCA Missions – Kenya
- Todd & Darlene Voskuil
JAARS/Wycliffe – North
Carolina
 - Words of Hope
Uganda Challenge
- God's Kidz in the Hood
Milwaukee
- The Faithful Workers of
Adullam – Milwaukee
- Kelsey (TeBeest) Corpas
Athletes in Action – Spain
 - Alex Holle
- InterVarsity @ Northern IL
- Beautiful Response -Haiti
 - Camp Daniel
 - Jen DeMaster
- Mid-East Missions
 - Pastor Esperanza
Dominican Republic
- Ongoing Mission Projects
Selected by Members

Sunday Morning Worship Services
on Access Channel 20
Tuesdays and Thursdays at
10:00am / 2:30pm / 5:00pm
7:30pm / 10:00pm