

# First's Edition

September/October 2020



PSALM 116:16

## George's Heart Transplant

by Pat Just

"George doesn't remember my name nor who I am. How can he possibly understand what I am saying?" I questioned my aunt's request to talk to George about the Lord.

Alzheimer's disease weakened George's mind. He never attended church nor had any desire to hear about the Lord. Though I thought the request futile, I visited him at the nursing home.

When I greeted George in the dining room, he didn't respond. I wheeled him into his room away from distractions. Recognizing my powerlessness, I sat on the heater and looked at the blackness of the night that reflected my shadow in the window. "Lord God," I whispered, "there is absolutely no way for George to hear, let alone understand and accept the message unless you open his heart and mind by Your Holy Spirit."

I turned to George, cupped his chin in my hands, and said, "George, I want you to look straight into my eyes and listen very carefully to what I have to say." To my surprise, his eyes changed from a blank stare to a focus on my eyes as if he were hearing. I explained how I had the most important message he would ever hear. "God loves you, George," I said, and I explained the plan of salvation as simple as I could. I finished by

asking him if he would like to invite Jesus into his heart. To my amazement, he nodded yes.

I reached out to hold his hands and prayed the sinner's prayer with him. When I finished, I looked up and saw tears running down his face. He reached over, put his hands on each side of my head, and pulled me toward him. He kissed me on each cheek.

Even though George was unable to speak, I saw a heart transplant right before my eyes. As soon as I wheeled George out of the room, his mind reverted to its diminished state. I never again saw him in his right mind.

As I reflected on his wife and the sad circumstances that surrounded George's illness, I knew God answered Arlene's prayers for George. Arlene knew that if George were in the nursing home at the age of 60, she would have to choose: either lose her house and all her belongings or divorce her husband to keep her house. The hopeless choice from the nursing home administrators disoriented her already depressed state of mind, and she took her life.

What if I had looked only at the circumstances of George's state of mind? What if I would have obeyed my natural instincts and seen only the hopelessness of my inability to reach George? Think of it ... someone's eternal destination may have depended on my ability to trust God to do the supernatural.

I have hidden  
your word  
in my heart  
that I might not  
sin against you.

P s a l m 1 1 9 : 1 1



 **OCTOBER**  
Birthdays

October

- 01 Dave Claerbaut
- 02 Kallen Biederwolf  
Dan Bruhn  
Brett Mentink
- 03 Deanne DeSmidt
- 05 Nora Prinsen
- 07 Joe Ebbers  
Tom Meyer
- 09 Todd Johnson
- 11 Mary Prinsen
- 12 Mable Jacoby
- 13 Michael Navis
- 14 Logan Depies  
Dan Wieberdink
- 15 Joel Mentink
- 16 Sue Nett
- 17 Justin DeSmidt  
Karen Klos
- 18 **Lois VanEss 84**
- 19 Austin Hopeman
- 20 Brad Klos  
**Beverley TenHaken 87**
- 21 Judi O'Connell  
Andy Prinsen



- 21 Grace Ruh  
Preston Ruh  
Helena Villarreal
- 23 **Joan Bruggink**  
**Del Just 84**
- 25 Nathanael Bruhn
- 26 Todd Bruggink
- 27 John TenPas
- 28 Diane Navis
- 30 Deacon Hopeman
- 31 Carla Berend  
Peter Merritt

 **NOVEMBER**  
Birthdays

November

- 01 Brian Klos
- 02 Brian Huenink  
Rick Otte
- 03 Becky Dulmes
- 04 Brooke Teunissen
- 06 Mark Hopeman  
Tom Risch  
Deb Stapelkamp
- 07 **Lucile LeMahieu 95**
- 08 Jon DeMaster  
Maxwell Klos
- 10 Stephen Lavey



- 10 Noah Teunissen
- 11 Brooke Otte
- 12 Randy Walvoord
- 13 Natalie Bruggink  
Lena Hinze
- 14 Jonathan Risch
- 15 Hanne Bruhn  
**Mary Ebbers 83**  
Abby Kraus  
**Lillian Veldboom 99**
- 16 Dean Huibregtse  
Anna Johnson  
Liberty Spriggs
- 19 **Dave DeMaster 80**
- 20 Carrie Kraus
- 21 Ryker Berend  
Kevin DeMaster  
Dan Hopeman  
Rich Kettenhoven  
Theodore Krause
- 24 Lucas DeMaster  
Rich Stapelkamp
- 26 Dana Popoutsis
- 27 Mary Claerbaut  
Tony Teunissen
- 29 Teresa Hartmann  
**Carolyn Kappers 86**

**GREETERS X SCHEDULE**

October

- 04 Steve & Linda Meinen
- 11 Mark & Judi O'Connell
- 18 Eric & Joan Chvosta Sanders
- 25 Jeremy & Tracy Spriggs family

November

- 01 Rich & Deb Stapelkamp
- 08 John & Sherry TenPas
- 15 Dale & Betsy Theune
- 22 Eric & Sally Veldhorst
- 29 Dave & Karen Watry

December

- 06 Gene & Joan Dana
- 13 Jack & Becky Dulmes family
- 20 Joe & Kaye Ebbers
- 27 Larry & Marie Heinen



Dear Family at 1<sup>st</sup> Reformed,

We give thanks to you & to God for your generous gift to Beautiful Response, Haiti.

We rejoice that the virus did not hit Haiti as hard as expected. Most cases stayed in large cities, & so far Nely, the village we focus on has had no cases.

Students have gone back to school this week & will complete the last third of the year from last spring before beginning a new year.

Food prices & scarcity have been a huge problem & we have tried to help with that the past few months. In the next year we hope to send students to Tech schools to learn more about agriculture, irrigation & Solar energy. So many areas of need, & such wonderful people to work with!

Thank you for partnering with us! Blessed to be a blessing,  
Pastor Al & Holly

Dear Family at First Cedar Grove,  
we are so excited to have you partner with Beautiful Response in God's work in Haiti.

Thank you so much for your gift. It has been an incredibly challenging year for our friends, with political unrest, Covid-19, rising food costs & most recently 2 tropical storms. The needs are great, but our God is amazing!

Because of your gift young people are educated, orphans are fed, and the love of God is shared.  
Blessings,  
Pastor Al & Holly

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the notes of encouragement from the young people that I received over the last several months during lockdown.

Also, thank you for all the birthday wishes received.

All were very much appreciated.

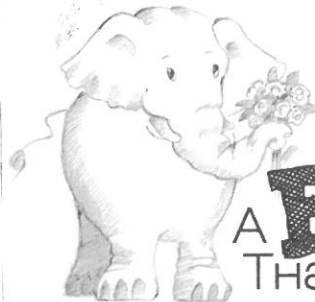
Thanks again.

Dawn Claussen



THANKS FOR GIVING

Proverbs 3:27  
Do not withhold good from them to whom it is due, when it is within your power to help them.  
Thank you for choosing to help!



A **BIG**  
Thank You

We are excited to get back into the classroom with the kids to help them learn and grow in Christ. Now more than ever, we need to emphasize to our kids to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Learning, growing, serving, loving, and sharing the love of God will be our goal. Here is a recap of the plan which is below.



Plan for Fall 2020-Spring 2021 activities:

**Sunday School - Start date Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> - May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:10 - 10:40**

\*We will be using *Rightnow Media* this year. This will include a short video and allow discussion after for our kids to learn and grow while focusing on scriptures.

\*Items to bring - Bible, **Mask**, friends, and offering if you choose to donate to local food

pantry needs and D.R. Mission

**Teachers:** 3-5K Lisa & Ashley, 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Tami & Traci, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Teresa & Tanya, Middle school Becky, Paul & Kevin

No Class on Dec. 6 (Congregation meeting), Dec. 27, 2020, April 4 (Easter), May 9 (Mother's Day)

**Family Night Wed. Evenings - Start date Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> - April 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00 pm**

\*Elementary students - Memory verse reciting, FW Friends curriculum which will include a bible story, imagination station/games, and service projects.

Middle school students - *Rightnow Media* will be used again but the emphasis will be on applying the lesson to life and discipleship.

**Teachers:** 3k-5k Sarah, Traci and Betsy, 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Jodi, Tami & Teresa, **Skit/singing** Natalie and Tanya, **Middle school** Amanda, Natalie, Kevin & Dan **Adults Class** will be in the choir room from 6-7pm. Parents welcome.

No Class on Nov. 25, Dec. 23 & 30, March 31

\*If the above changes or we end up going virtual due to Covid, we will be provide transitional information via First Reformed Facebook page to continue your child/children's journey with Christ at home.

**Dinner Table Wednesday** will be the first Wednesday of each month from 5:15-6:00 pm. A few things will be a little different this year because of Covid 19. Please review the guidelines found on the info counter.



**Senior Saints** who would like to participate in "Dinner & a Movie" will find we've changed the schedule a little bit more. Movie time will begin at 2:30 followed by dinner at 4:30. Please watch for a list of coming movies.





# **First Reformed Church**

*Cedar Grove, WI*

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## **Church Ministry Contacts**

### **Elders                      Deacons**

#### **Administration**

Roger TeStroete    Kevin Hopeman

*Contact: Roger TeStroete*

*920-564-3801*

#### **Congregational Life**

Dale Theune    Nate Hinze

*Contact: Dale Theune*

*920-627-5814*

(Connect & Care with Compassion)

*Contact: Joan Dana*

*920-918-7785*

#### **Discipleship**

Ron Hinze

*Contact: Ron Hinze*

*980-980-0665*

#### **Missions**

Lloyd TerMaat    Dan Teunissen

*Contact: Lloyd TerMaat*

*920-980-5798*

#### **Property**

Mark Hopeman    Kevin Hopeman

*Contact: Kevin Hopeman*

*920-668-8173*

#### **Worship**

Mark Huenink

*Contact: Mark Huenink*

*920-627-6923*

#### **Little Shephard's Inn Board**

Roger TeStroete    Jason Jacoby

## **Missions We Support**

➤ Pastor Simon Muntolol  
RCA Missions – Kenya

➤ Bob Abel

RCA – Remember Nhu

➤ Todd & Darlene Voskuil  
JAARS/Wycliffe – North  
Carolina

➤ Words of Hope  
Uganda Challenge

➤ God's Kidz in the Neighborhood  
Milwaukee

➤ The Faithful Workers of  
Adullam – Milwaukee

➤ Kelsey (TeBeest) Corpas  
World Team – Spain

➤ Alex Holle

InterVarsity @ Carroll University

➤ Beautiful Response – Haiti

➤ RAJ Ministries

➤ Camp Daniel

➤ Jen DeMaster  
Mid-East Missions

➤ Pastor Esperanza  
Dominican Republic

➤ Ongoing Mission Projects

## **Sunday Morning Worship Services**

Live stream worship on Facebook

& on Website at time of service

also on Access Channel 20

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

9:00 & 11:00am

1:00-3:00-5:00-7:00 & 9:00pm

*Kaye Ebbers* – Office Administrator

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*Patti Hinze* – Financial Administrator

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