



FIRST  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
ALLENDALE

# FIRST IN FOCUS

*Published by First CRC of Allendale*  
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## JANUARY 2023

### Take a Stand in the New Year

Stand strong

At the beginning of this New Year.

Stand open

To accept all that you do not understand.

Stand surrendered

To what God knows is waiting.

Stand ready

To take a journey already known to God.

For whether the New Year offers something

New or old,

Known or hidden,

Exciting or fearful,

Joyful or sad;

God waits to take your hand

So you can stand

Strong.



# NOVEMBER 2022

Present: Pastor Ken, Dale DeVries, Kevin Bosch, Herm Kloosterman, Ron Nykamp, Karl Kuzee, Steve Kuzee, Jon Vander Wal, Gary Oom, Dave Schroedter, Brian Kraker

Absent: Bob Brower, Ed Diemer, Jeremy Brower, Scott Berens

1. Opening Prayer and Devotions: Dale DeVries read from Eph. 4:11-16 and "A Healthy Church" from John MacArthur's "Strength for Today,"
2. Approval of Council Minutes of October 4, 2022, MMS Approved  
Old Business:
  - a. College Care Boxes – Will collect donations thru Nov. 20 and distribute around Thanksgiving. We are adding 4 people who have been coming to the college/career group.
3. Pastor Ken's Monthly Report – RFI
4. Joel's Monthly Report – RFI
5. Reports – for approval MMS Approved
  - a. Elder Report (Minutes of October 4)
  - b. Deacon Report (Minutes of October 4) September financial report included. Love INC food drive complete, doing reverse offering for Hope Unexpected for World Hunger week. Thanksgiving envelopes included in deacons' packets. Financial report layout changes being discussed. GEMS to sponsor a Christmas tree again in the Christmas Tree Walk at Life Stream Church.
  - c. Interim Committee (Minutes of October 25)
  - d. Education Committee (Minutes of October 9)
  - e. Worship Committee (Minutes of October 11) – Proposal made to not have an evening service on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. MMS Approved.
  - f. Tech Committee (Minutes of September 20)
  - g. Building and Grounds (Minutes of October 11) – Discussed need to replace parsonage roof. Proposal being drafted.
  - h. Congregational Care (NA)
  - i. Young Worshipers (NA)
6. Reports needing action:
  - a. Letter from Bryan Haley regarding event for church leaders. RFI
  - b. Letter from Peggy Driesenga regarding Harbor House – referred to Deacons
  - c. Letter from Red Cross regarding potential blood drives at church – referred to B&G
7. Correspondence:
  - a. Minutes from Classis Zeeland – RFI
  - b. Minutes from Classis Zeeland Diaconal Conference – RFI
  - c. CRC Council of Delegates (COD) highlights – RFI
  - d. Letter from Brian Cusack regarding encouragement to vote and take a stand against Proposal 3 – RFI
8. Round Table – Comments, Prayer Requests, Other Matters

# MINISTRY SHARE

## FIRST ALLENDALE CRC 2023/24 MINISTRY SHARE PLEDGE

<u>DENOMINATION MINISTRY SHARES:</u>	<u>TOTAL PLEDGE</u>	<u>QUARTERLY PLEDGE</u>
Reframe (Back to God)	4,913.00	1,128.00
Calvin University	-0-	-0-
Calvin Theological Seminary	3,518.00	800.00
Congregational Services Ministries	5,855.00	1,464.00
Resonate Global Mission	14,093.00	3,523.00
Synodical Admin Services	2,839.00	710.00
Special Assistance Fund	<u>499.00</u>	<u>125.00</u>
TOTAL PLEDGE	<u>\$ 31,718.00</u>	<u>\$ 7,929.00</u>

### CLASSIS MINISTRY SHARES:

Healthy Church	185.00	46.00
Diaconal Ministry	732.00	183.00
Healthy Pastors	796.00	199.00
Administrative	860.00	215.00
Personnel Team (GVCM, Church Plants)	11,008.00	2,752.00
Evangelism Fund	<u>889.00</u>	<u>222.00</u>
TOTAL CLASSIS PLEDGE	<u>\$ 14,469.00</u>	<u>\$ 3,617.00</u>

## MY LOVE, SANDY SALL



It's hard to believe it's been a year since we lost Sandy. I've been doing a lot of reflecting on her whole life as well as her end-of-life and thought I'd share a few things.

God blessed me with a kind, thoughtful, prayerful, gentle, and easy-going wife whose personality traits were evident even through the few years of her dementia. In the beginning of her decline, it was difficult to connect the dots and know if the occasional things we were noticing were things to be concerned about or just normal aging deficits. Eventually Cindy took Sandy in for testing. I remember the day the 3 of us went to the follow up appointment to hear the doctors report. We sat in the car before going in and Cindy asked Sandy how she was feeling about it. Sandy replied that she hoped she didn't have dementia. Cindy assured her that if she did, everything would be ok, we would love her through it, she wouldn't face anything alone, and we'd make decisions together.

Through the 3 years of dementia, we encouraged Sandy in daily living as she had interest. She went on walks with us, folded laundry, and helping with household things. After some time, she lost interest in reading, playing the piano, and keeping the house. When problems would arise, we solved them with her safety in mind. Rather than focus on the things she wasn't doing well anymore we tried to affirm all the things she was doing right which helped build her up and helped all of us keep a positive mindset.

Cindy and I were Sandy's only caregivers for a couple of years. We relied on God to show us when to take next steps. Through my sister and brother-in-law, God eventually nudged us to pursue Hospice. Initially I was hesitant to have extra people in and out of our home, but I quickly adjusted. We had a wonderful hospice team of caring nurses, social workers, and aides. They not only cared for Sandy, but they cared for me too. As they got to know Sandy, they adored her. They often shared how difficult some of their other dementia patients were and they always told Sandy she was "as sweet as pie." Like I said, her personality traits shined through despite the disease.

God definitely stretched me as a caregiver, and I handled more than I ever thought I could. I'm so thankful Cindy managed everything. Kortney, Megan, and Kyle stopped over to visit often, helped with household things, and even stayed with Sandy when needed. Bruce repaired things, replaced things, and helped solve problems that came up.

Eventually we needed even more day-to-day help. Again, we trusted God to bring us just the right person and He did way more than we could have asked or imagined. He brought us an amazing aide named Kim. On the day she came to meet us, not knowing our last name, she mentioned she grew up in

Allendale and her maiden name was Sall. She turned out to be my cousin's daughter. She was a gift from God, and I don't know what we would have done without her.

Overall, Sandy's energy declined, she lost interest in things, and she was increasingly less verbal, but she amazed us in many, many ways. She always knew who we were, she understood her surroundings, she gave us an appropriate yes, no, or one-word answers to our questions, she followed directions, and she could still write. I went on a week-long respite trip a few months before Sandy passed away and Cindy stayed with her. She asked Sandy to write "I love you" notes to a number of family members with a future gift in mind for them. A week later Sandy fell and fractured her right arm and hip. She wasn't able to write after that.

After Sandy's fall in October, she never really got out of the hospital bed in the living room. Cindy continued to manage all of Sandy's care from the hospice nurse visits, social work visits, aide visits, med schedules, and made sure everyone communicated with each other so that Sandy got the best care. She came 3 times a day to turn Sandy to prevent bed sores, made sure we were eating, and was on call for me whenever I needed her for Sandy's personal care.

After Sandy's fractures healed, we tried some Physical Therapy, but her body and the dementia showed us she was declining. The details of her last days are cherished memories for us. Sandy passed away peacefully on January 17 into the arms of Jesus, the One she trusted in life and in death. We serve a God of life, abundance, and shalom. I look at my framed "I love you" note from Sandy and I miss her every day, but I grieve with hope knowing I will see her again. The Lord gives and takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

Thank you to my church family for your prayers, meals, thoughtful notes, and for encouraging me to return to church. Harlyn Sall

## THOSE FROM OUR CONGREGATION THAT WENT HOME TO HEAVEN DURING 2022

*Memories*  
are a way of holding  
onto the ones we love

Millie Hinken  
Carol Knoper  
Ethel Mulder  
Barb Nyenbrink  
Dorothy Potgeter  
Daane Potgeter  
Helen Schout  
Sandy Sall  
Nancy Yonker  
Joan Wind

*When someone you love  
becomes a*  
**MEMORY,**  
*the memory  
becomes a*  
*Treasure*

**The Scholma Family Mini Cooper 2022 Fall Color Tour: “Along the Water with a Twist”** began with Coffee and Cinnamon Rolls at our house.

We had 13 people in Halloween costume in 4 Mini Coopers. Our first stop was Fredrick Meijer Gardens for a photo shoot. Son, Jeff, shared fun facts about Allendale and Grand Rapids.



Second Stop: Fallasburg Park Covered Bridge. Jeff told us when the bridge was built, when it was repaired, etc. We drove across the bridge on our way to Lowell.



Our third stop was at Culvers in Lowell for lunch. Most had shed their costumes by this time.

Fourth Stop: Ionia Recreation Day Use Park. One car detoured back to pick up a coat that had been left behind.

The Fifth Stop was the Ada Covered Bridge. We walked across the bridge and learned when it had been rebuilt. “Along the Water with a Twist” was one ride along the river and crossing both bridges.



At each stop, we were assigned a different Mini to ride in. We finished up by driving back to our house for coffee.

Did You Know? The Grand River is the longest river in Michigan! It is 252 miles long beginning in Hillsdale County, North to Lansing, West to Lake Michigan in Grand Haven...just one of many fun facts!

**By: Jean Scholma**



# DID YOU KNOW....

**THAT** Jeremy and Kyleah Brower are expecting a baby. The baby is due April 22, 2023. They are very excited while Samuel



seems to not understand quite yet. This will be Bob & Glenda Brower's 16th great grandchild. It is such a blessing to have so many young children being brought up in the church.

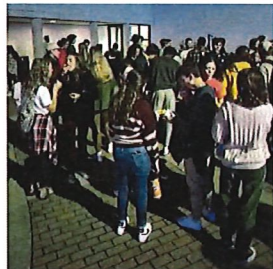
**THAT** Luka, Grandson of Gary & Marlene Dyke, has finally returned home after many, many months of being in the hospital and a few surgeries. He is gaining strength. His parents are so happy to have him home. We as the church are so glad to see our prayers answered and continue to surround their family.

**THAT** Pastor Ken was able to attend a GVSU Campus Ministry event where 19 students, some of whom were first time



believers in their family, came to Christ. A few weeks later they were baptized or made profession of faith.

Pastor Ken said it was so packed that he was standing in the aisle way. What a huge



celebration that must have been. We as the church celebrate as well and seek to surround those young people with our prayers and support. Our church also supplied cookies, bars and goodies for those that attend The Well at Campus Ministry on Sunday evenings. **Thank you** to all who donated everything. It was very much appreciated by the students!

**THAT** The JAM group had their Christmas party where they had fun playing



minute to win games, white elephant, reindeer antler removal, and various other games. They enjoyed food and time together. It was a time of great chaos and fun where they were challenged to get out of their comfort zones and have fun. We can't wait to see what next year looks like.

**THAT** The GEMS had their Christmas Caroling event this past week.



With sickness going around some were not

able to attend but they had enough to break into 4 groups. They blessed 26 Church members with their voices of Christmas Joy. You can see by their faces that it was lots of fun. It's a great way to spread Christmas cheer.

**THAT** Gift bags were given to members of our Church who are not able to get out and about as they would like.



Thanks to those who put the bags together and delivered them.

**THAT** College bags filled with all kinds of goodies for students were made up and delivered.



They were very much appreciated by the students.

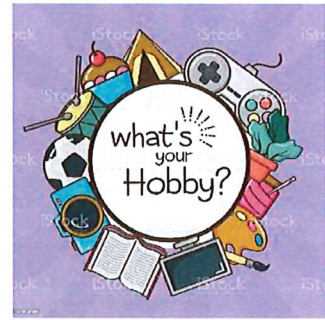
Thanks to all who contributed to the contents, and who worked on them in any way.



# Looking Ahead...

## J.O.Y. Group

Our next meeting will be a potluck at NOON on Thursday, February 16. Bring your hobbies, crafts, genealogies, creative memories, your volunteer projects, etc., to share! We will have tables set up for displays. You may bring your displays in the morning to set up if you like. We are interested to see the different things people love to do.



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### **Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS**

It is a progressive nervous system disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, causing loss of muscle control. ALS is often called Lou Gehrig's disease, after the baseball player who was diagnosed with it. Doctors don't know why ALS occurs. ALS begins with muscle weakness and slurred speech. Eventually ALS affects control of the muscles needed to move, speak, eat and breath. There is no cure for this fatal disease.



Our son Kevin was given this diagnosis last May after dealing with the symptoms for several months. We have seen the slow progression of this disease but have been so blessed by the many prayers and concerns shown by our church family, his church family and so many in our community. He has been well taken care of by the medical teams working with him as well as the VA medical. Please continue to pray for Kevin, his wife Elizabeth, and kids, Jaden, Joshua and Emily. If you would like to send a card of encouragement, you can do so to 10479 Mapleview, Allendale, MI 49401 Terry, Sue and Eric Kraker





# First Recipe Corner

## 'NO NAMES' ROLLS

Submitted by Jean Scholma



- Mix and knead in large bowl:
  - 1 lb. Cottage Cheese
  - 1 lb. Oleo (butter)
  - 4 cups FlourRefrigerate 3 hours or more, divide into 6 parts, roll out as for pie shell
- Cover with mixture of: (1/2 cup per part)
  - 2 cups brown sugar
  - 1 cup chopped nuts
  - 2 TBSP cinnamonCut into 12 wedges. Roll up starting at large end. Put on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes or until brown.

### Cover with icing:

4 TBSP sugar, 4 TBSP water

Cook for 1 minute. Beat in ½ Cup Oleo (butter), 1 egg, 1 tsp. vanilla, 1 lb. powdered sugar



**If have a favorite recipe(s) that you would like to share,  
please turn it in to First in Focus for the rest of us to enjoy!!**



### A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright,  
even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you  
when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you  
for the year ahead.

~Anonymous



**Happy New Year!**

**NOW WHAT?**

Many have asked us what are going to do now? And it may seem it's hopeless or it feels defeating, but know that we are going to still fight for LIFE, from conception until natural death!

We have helped pass 51 prolife laws since January 1973 when Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton were signed in as a federal law. In one quick blow, the Supreme Court of the United States withdrew the right to life from its unborn citizens throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy, and from those "not capable of meaningful life". The RIGHT TO LIFE is inherent because of our found documents that state "our unalienable rights"

Right to Life of Holland is one of 79 affiliates for Right to Life of MI. We are Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims and a variety of others. We come from a wide spread of educational and cultural backgrounds; We carry different sized wallets; and we cover almost every shade of political opinion. Until there are protections for ALL human beings from conception/fertilization until natural death, we will continue to educate, inform and encourage our fellow citizens to the reverence of the lives of others, born and unborn! Because we are an affiliate of Right to Life of MI (RLM), they are the unifying body for the local affiliates and therefore **we SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE!** We do this in many forms: Education, Legislation, Public Relations, and Political Action on topics like: Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia, Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Human Cloning. We accomplish this through radio ads, billboards, active presence on Facebook, Twitter and our website, community events (fairs, cultural), newsletters, church updates, emails, walk/runs, oratory contest, dinners, trainings with informative teachers/speakers. We also support the 1-800-57WOMAN phone number, that calls get forwarded to CareNet which operates a 24/7 hotline connecting mothers facing unplanned pregnancies or woman struggling with abortion to prolife pregnancy resource centers in their area for counseling and support.

***In the last 50 years we have help pass these LIFE saving laws but have we change hearts? We need to build a Cultural of LIFE, change the hearts of people and know that Love can change everything!***

**Help Centers in Ottawa & Allegan County**

**Allegan** - Positive Options: 1.269.686.7111

**Allendale** - Positive Options: 616.865.1893

Love Inc: 616.895.5683

Family Life Center of West MI: 616.895.8336

**Grand Haven** - Positive Options: 616.842.7510

Mosaic Counseling: 616.842.9160

**Holland** - Positive Options: 6146.396.5840

Bethany Christian Services: 616.3969.0623

Catholic Charities West MI: 616.796.9595

**Jenison** - Adoption Assoc.: 616.6377.0677

**1-800-57WOMAN**

**Looking Ahead...**

- ◆ NO Church Rep meeting in January, we will have a meeting on February 9th at 7:30pm!
- ◆ Sanctity of Life Walk and Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 21st, with walk starting at 11:00am at the corner of 10th and Central and we will be walking around Centennial Park until 11:30am, followed by a Service of Remembrance and Encouragement in the Sanctuary of Central Avenue CRC 259 Central Avenue, Holland, 49423 (11:30am-Noon).
- ◆ Oratory Contest, Thursday, March 9, 2023 7:00pm and registration is due by February 23, 2023. Contest will be held in the Ministry Center of Central Ave. CRC—259 Central Avenue, Holland, 49423



**SUPPORT LIFE!** TAKE MY HAND, NOT MY LIFE!

**Local March for Life**  
**Saturday, January 21, 2023**  
**Beginning at 11:00am**

**March begins at 11:00am at Centennial Park on the corner of 10th and Central.  
We will be walking around the park for about 20 - 30 minutes.**

Followed by  
**A Devotional & Prayer Service for Unborn Children**  
Devotions led by TBD

11:30am at Central Avenue CRC Sanctuary  
259 Central Avenue, Holland, MI 49423

***The events are FREE - Join us with Family and Friends!***  
***FREE WILL offering will be taken at the Memorial Service.***

*January 23, 2023 marks the 50th Anniversary of the date of the infamous Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton decisions which legalized the violence of abortion throughout our country during the entire nine months of a woman's pregnancy. Since that date over 60 million+ pre-born lives have been destroyed. The Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in July, 2022.*

***Sponsored by Right to Life of Holland Area,***

607 Heritage Court, Holland, MI 49423

616-396-1037

rtlholland@egl.net

www.rtlloholland.org

**Any CANCELLATION due to weather tune into WHTC AM, JOY FM or WPNW AM**

# LIFE | SUPPORT TEAM

Dear Mr and Mrs Gulker,

We will remember November 8, 2022, with deep disappointment, tears, and profound sadness.

When all of the votes were finally counted in the midterm elections here in Michigan, our fellow citizens had approved **Proposal 3**. On November 8, Michigan voters decided that it was a great idea to make “*reproductive rights*” a permanent part of our state constitution.

In doing so, they took a blowtorch to a document that has protected the lives of innocent children in the womb for more than 176 years! Until now, abortion has never been legal in Michigan.

Despite the fact that we mounted an unprecedented grassroots effort, consisting of literally thousands of volunteers and donors, we faced incredible odds that were ultimately insurmountable.

We were outspent by nearly three to one. Billionaires from New York and California funded a disinformation campaign to deceive voters. The media tipped the scales with blatant one-sided advocacy designed to pass Proposal 3.

All of this was a shameful disservice to our democratic process and to Michigan voters who were seeking the truth. As a result, here's what may become a reality in Michigan:

- Abortion on demand, throughout all nine months of pregnancy, for any reason whatsoever without restriction, may be ahead.
- Over the last five decades, we have enacted 41 prolife laws. All of them could disappear.
- The unthinkable procedure of partial-birth abortion may once again be legal in Michigan.
- A baby born alive as a result of a botched abortion will no longer be protected...even though he or she will be outside the womb!
- All abortion clinic regulations will be wiped out. Abortionists will be completely untethered.
- No one will be checking—there will be no oversight whatsoever—to see if an adult woman, or a minor, has given voluntary consent to an abortion. What a heyday for the child abusers, the pimps, and the traffickers!
- Non physicians will be free to perform abortions without any training or credentials. This constitutional amendment specifically states that no one will be held liable for any type of injury or even death.
- No more 24-hour waiting period before an abortion can be performed.
- No mandatory information about fetal development, or ultrasound viewing.
- This new constitutional amendment will dramatically affect the ability of Michigan parents to raise their children as they see fit. The long-term ramifications could include:
  1. No parental consent required for abortion, throughout all nine months of pregnancy.
  2. No parental consent required for gender counsel, or even gender reassignment!
  3. No parental consent required for sterilization.

A warning: please keep a close eye on your children and your grandchildren, lest they fall prey to constitutionally protected predators!

- Pregnancy care centers—representing the heart and soul of the prolife movement—may become a thing of the past in Michigan. These centers have been a lifesaving oasis in an abortion minded culture. But now, unless they are willing to counsel and/or refer for abortion, they may be run out of business.
- To add insult to injury, Michigan taxpayers, you and me, could be forced to pay for abortions performed in Michigan.

Let me be clear: beginning in the new year, the Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and pro-abortion majorities in both our state House and state Senate will use the full weight of our state government to enforce these new constitutional provisions.

The days ahead will be a test of our courage, our resolve, our faith, and determination to continue our quest to overcome this abortion mentality which has invaded the hearts and minds of our fellow citizens. We must not falter in our resolve and determination.

We must have the courage to lead with grace, discernment, and love. In each of our communities, we must continue to instill a respect and love for the value of each human being.

As this monthly newsletter goes to print, we are brainstorming regarding our short term and long-range strategy. Please stay the course with us! Do not give up! Our work is even more important today, than it was prior to November 8!

They may have taken a blowtorch to our constitution—but we are determined to rise from the ashes! Our mission is still the same: save as many children as we possibly can! Rescue as many women as we can from the bloody grip of this grisly industry.

Please join me as we pray and fast for direction from the Lord of life. I assure you of this... we are not backing down, we are doubling down. Please join us as we stagger to our feet and ready ourselves for whatever the future holds.

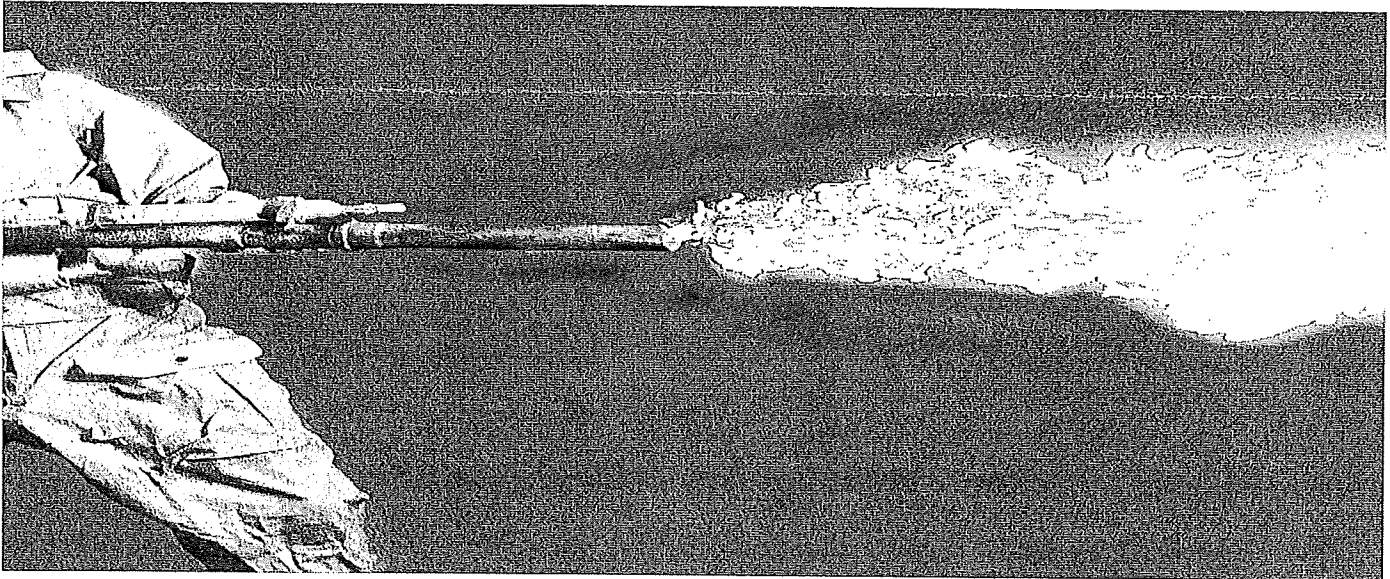
Let Psalm 20:7 give light to our path...

*"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."*

With deepest appreciation,

*Barbara Listing*

Barbara Listing, President  
Right to Life of Michigan



P.S. Proponents of abortion on demand have taken a blowtorch...not only to our constitution...but to every vestige of human decency, values, and morality! Please visit [RTL.org](http://RTL.org) today and often for details of how we intend to advance our cause in these difficult days. Thank you and God bless you for your love and concern for His unborn.

Dear Churches,

Our Fall banquet is behind us and from the comments, it was an affirming event. Thank you to all who participated and supported us in prayer. Our hope is that this will be a springboard for greater prayer support for the ministry this coming year and if you would like to show the videos that were shown at the banquet, please let me know.

Now I'm about to write something with some apprehension. Christmas, followed by winter, is right around the corner. I deeply apologize for writing that. For the jail Christmas/winter brings two things to mind.

Christmas at the Jail: Each year, we distribute goodie bags to the individuals here to remind them they are not forgotten and there are people who care about them in the Christian community of Ottawa County. One of our churches, Ottawa Reformed Church, spearheads this event by gathering these goodies and, in a packing party, fills around 300 bags for distribution to the residents. If you would be interested in helping, by gathering some candies, chips, donating toward the purchase of stamps for Christmas cards, etc., let me know and I'll gladly give you more information.

Winter clothing: Often someone will get arrested in the summer and then get released during the winter. Michiganders know what that means as winter is just a bit colder than summer. Each winter we find we are in need of warm clothes to give to guys who only have shorts and a t-shirt. Unisex items with flexibility are the best. Thus, if you have sweatpants, 2x, 3x, 4x size jackets and/or sweatshirts, etc., we have individuals who could use them. (It's easier to fit a small person into something large and not visa versa.) Again, please reach out to me with any questions.

Thank you again for your prayers and putting feet to those prayers.

**Chaplain Cal Alderink**  
*Lead Chaplain, Ottawa County*

**Forgotten Man Ministries**  
*is now serving as*



616-323-7923 (cell)  
12130 Fillmore,  
West Olive, MI 49460

# GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD!

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, we are deeply grateful for the financial investment you have made in Campus Ministry this year. We want you to know how The Lord is using your investment to fulfill the mission to engage college students with the life changing love of God, disciple leaders who make disciples, and be a bridge to Jesus Christ and his Church.



## DISCIPLESHIP

- » 450 students involved in Life Groups every week in Allendale and House Groups in Grand Rapids
- » 100 student leaders committed to making disciples
- » 28 student interns serving as 'team captains' for all of our leadership teams
- » 2 CM Residents being trained for CM Staff
- » 4 recent alumni being trained as church planters in Grand Rapids



## ENGAGEMENT

- » 400 students gather to worship Jesus at The Well in Allendale each week and another 50 in Grand Rapids
- » 170 students committed to Go. Engage. Serve. for Spring Break 2022
- » 50 students participated in our Fall Retreat. They went knowing almost no one. They came home in community
- » 1,000 students have been connected to this community of Christ-followers through events like the Cook-Out, Harvest Party, Costume Bowling, Super Bowl Party, and many others



# A BRIDGE TO CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

Two encounters on the same night reminded us of how unique the opportunity for the Gospel is here at GVSU.

## Encounter 1: Sam

Noelle (Associate Director of Life Groups) met Sam at Campus Life Night, an event where 4,000-5,000 new students experience all that GVSU has to offer. It is a HUGE event. Sam was wandering through the rows, and while she is a Christian, she was skeptical of finding faithful Christians in such a secular place. Noelle saw her looking somewhat overwhelmed and went up to her. She invited Sam to come and see for herself what God was doing at Grand Valley by attending our kickoff worship gathering that night. She came, and her eyes were as big as baseballs when she walked into the room and saw hundreds of students gathered to worship Jesus in the middle of our public university. Later that night Noelle heard her exclaim: ***"I have never seen so many Christians my own age in my whole life!"***



## Encounter 2: David

David walked up to Darrell (Director of Spiritual Formation) after our kickoff service where Darrell had shared the Gospel and invited students to begin the school year by committing their lives to Jesus. David was clearly moved by the invitation as he exclaimed: ***"I'm really new to Christianity. I didn't really go to church growing up. But when you were speaking tonight it was like God was talking right to me! Does that happen?"*** Darrell invited him to respond to Jesus and got him connected to a Life Group where he could be discipled and grow up in Christ.



On the same night, the Spirit drew these two people from very different places to be a part of the amazing story God is writing at GVSU! Isn't this awesome?! These are just two of the hundreds of stories of God's amazing grace transforming the lives of students!

This can only happen because of your faithful commitment to support the mission of CM@GVSU. Your commitment to this community is what sustains our ability to serve our campuses year after year. Thank you for your generous support this year.

As we come to the end of 2022, please join us in praying for the Lord to provide what is needed to finish the year well and set a good foundation for 2023.

Peace,  
Scott Stark (on behalf of the CM Staff)



**GIVE TO  
CAMPUS  
MINISTRY:**

ONLINE AT  
[CAMPUSMINISTRYGV.COM/GIVE](https://CAMPUSMINISTRYGV.COM/GIVE)  
OR BY CHECK TO  
"CAMPUS MINISTRY @ GVSU"  
AND MAIL IT TO OUR OFFICE:

CAMPUS MINISTRY @ GVSU  
1 CAMPUS DRIVE | COOK DEWITT  
CENTER | ALLENDALE, MI 49401





My Father's House Bravo.

5587 113<sup>th</sup> Ave Fennville MI 49408



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MFHB PARTNERSHIP 2022.

Hello partnership team!!

We continued advance!

Thank you for YOUR help to make that happen and to continue our legacy here in Fennville, Bravo, Pullman! Here at My Father's House Bravo we are excited to have an opportunity to continue into the processes evangelism and discipleship. We celebrate the God's incredible Providence for this church. MFHB operates with a miraculous legacy here, dating back that goes back many years. To Bravo CRC thank you for all your support. Your prayers and actions of many who have stepped out in obedience to God's calling which has given us the ministry that we serve in today. Continuing it is our calling as a church to step out for the future generations.

### **Program Ministry Updates**

- We continue to pray for new followers of Jesus.
- We are continuing discipleship, New Life / News.
- We continued visited the different families every week.
- We celebrate Thanksgiving Day partnership Bravo Community Church. Neighbors participated.
- This Autumn We will continue at activity.
- Innovation Project. Sandra / Gabriela / Yuleida



**Wonderful times....**  
In the photo above you can see the Monthly Meal celebration every Last Sunday of the month



**Wonderful times....**  
In the photo above you can see the team Innovation Project with Tim Sheridan, Church Planting Leader, Resonate Global Mission.



**Wonderful times....**  
In this photo you can see the 4-news student of My Father's House Bravo in Calvary Theological Seminary



Wonderful times....  
serving the community  
Conversational English classes for busy people.



Wonderful times....  
Pastor Ricardo serving families in the community

### Ministry Partnerships.

- I was participating at meeting with CRCNA newly, Tim Sheridan. Church Planting Leader. Resonate Global Mission.
- Jacob Busscher will continue volunteer support. He is member at Oakland CRC.
- First Allendale CRC has decided to partner with MFHB in prayer and finances in the church planting ministry in Bravo. Praise the lord!!

### Prayer Points

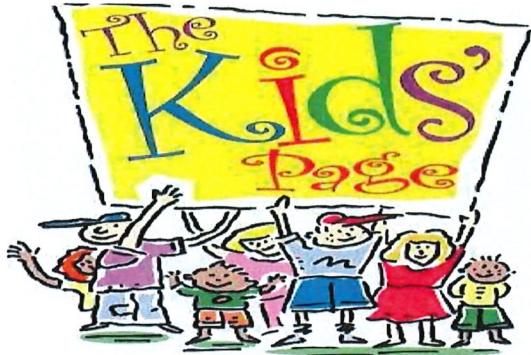
**Spiritual provision.** We've had a good season of growing up together. Pray for continued coverage in areas of family counseling. Lasting relationships is what it's all about.

**Financial provision.** God has provided in amazing ways. We all need to be mindful not to be complacent or embarrassed and continue to lean on God in all areas, including finances.

**Staff volunteer.** We want to see assisted those areas of the Church in which we need support at this time.

**Health protection.** Members going through different diseases.

"MORE THAN A CHURCH, WE ARE A FAMILY. TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER"



1<sup>ST</sup> CRC  
KIDS  
ARE LOVED!



## TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

### What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
  - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
  - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
  - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
  - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
  - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
  - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story – and the snack – with a friend!



## Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

*Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.*

FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH

God made wild animals and livestock.

God said, "Let there be light."

God gathered the waters under the sky into one place.

God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky."

God created plants and trees.

God separated the light from the darkness.

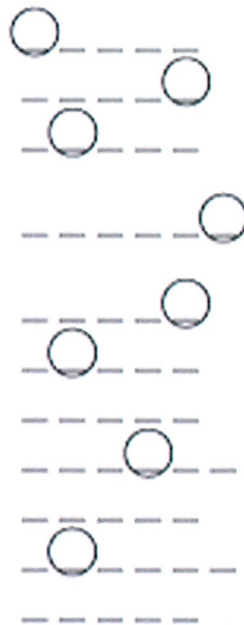
God made the water teem with living creatures.

God made the sun and moon.

God made birds fly above the earth.

God made stars.

God created mankind in his own image.



God \_aw all tha\_ he \_ad ma\_e, an\_ \_t was ve\_y g\_od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answers: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fifth, fourth, fifth, fourth, sixth, God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

# 80+ Birthday Club

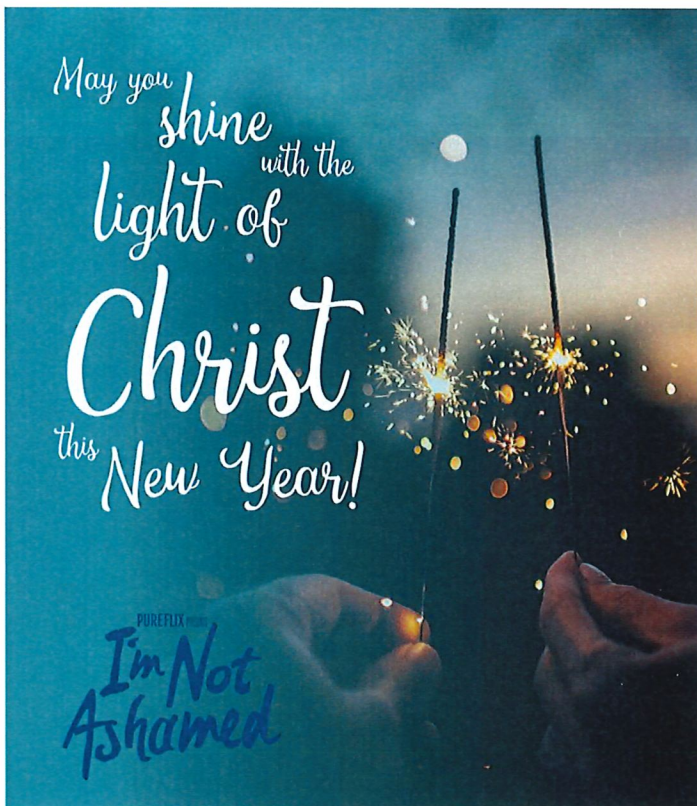
Glenda Brower, 83 years young on Jan. 7  
 Gerry Mulder, 88 years young on Jan. 12  
 Don Vereeke, 87 years young on Jan. 19  
 Jim Koetje, 90 years young on Jan. 25  
 Ken Morrow, 94 years young on Jan. 29

celebrating  
 50 YEARS

PLUS



Rich & Mary Beuker, 55 years on Jan. 5  
 John & Lois VanWienen, 58 years on Jan. 23  
 Bob & Glenda Brower, 63 years on Jan. 28



# You're in Our Prayers



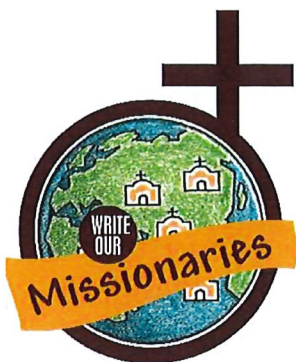
Harley Broene  
 Glenda Brower  
 Tom & Linda DeBoer  
 Bernie Evink  
 Pat Gemmen  
 Tom Geysbeek  
 Ed Goen  
 Shirley Goen  
 Larry Knoper  
 Jim & Carol Koetje  
 Ken Morrow  
 Rog & Gerry Mulder  
 Arlan Potgeter  
 Bea Potgeter  
 Harlyn Sall  
 Fred VanderLugt

Remember to pray for those who are dealing with health issues or confined to their homes in this new year. A card of encouragement would be appreciated.

Each new year brings us new opportunities to know Him more, to walk in faith, and grow by His grace.

May your year be blessed in the Lord.

"...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered



# Writing List for Our Missionaries



## JANUARY & FEBRUARY

### DAVID & BLANCA GIFFORD

Cerro el Vigilante 149  
Col. Romero de Terreros, Del.  
Coyoacan  
C.P. 04310, Mexico D.F., Mexico  
E-mail: [giff@giffmex.org](mailto:giff@giffmex.org)

### MISS BRENDA VANDER SCHUUR

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### SCOTT & JULIE STARK

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Holland, MI 49423  
E-mail: [sstarkcm@gmail.com](mailto:sstarkcm@gmail.com)

### PAUL & SUELAN YU

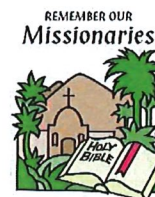
1295 Cambridge SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
E-mail: [pauyu@crcna.org](mailto:pauyu@crcna.org)

Herm & Pam Kloosterman  
Jay & Nancy Knoper  
Brian & Vicki Kraker

Bob & Judy Knoper  
Ken & Norene Knoper  
Dave & Nancee Kraker

Dale & Kathy Knoper  
Larry Knoper  
Terry & Sue Kraker

Don & Donna Knoper  
Jim & Carol Koetje  
Ken & Kristi Kruihoff



The last thing Satan  
wants is for us to be  
so grounded in our  
identity in Christ that  
even when things in  
our life fall apart, we  
don't... *bell's barbara*

Because we KNOW  
whose we are and we  
KNOW who wins.





“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **GOD loves a cheerful giver.**”  
2 C o r i n t h i a n s 9 : 7

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”*

II Cor. 9:6-8

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**Offerings for January 2023:**

- January 1 Family Life Center
- January 8 Missions
- January 15 Right to Life (Start of Positive Options Baby Bottle Drive)
- January 22 Christian Education
- January 29 Cadets Organization (End of Positive Options Baby Bottle Drive)

**Family Life Center of West Michigan:**

A local ministry that assists young girls with unexpected pregnancies providing love, housing, pregnancy support, food, and baby items.

**Missionary Support:**

Direct financial support for our missionaries both in Home Missions and World Missions.

**Right to Life:**

Direct financial support for our missionaries both in Home Missions and World Missions.

**Christian Education Tuition Assistance:**

This offering goes to offset tuition costs for families of First CRC of Allendale choosing Christian Education for their children. Assistance is available for K-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

**Calvinist Cadet Corps:**

This offering provides direct financial support for the Calvinist Cadet Corps ministry of the Christian Reformed Church.

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**Stewardship is  WORK**

# Worship SCHEDULE

## JANUARY 2023

**January 1** – Pastor Gerry Heyboer/update from Brenda VanderSchoor

- AM     ◇ Sermon Title: “Jacob’s Dream and the New Year”  
          ◇ Text: Genesis 28:10-17  
PM     ◇ Sermon Title: No Evening Service  
          ◇ Text:

Sing  
to the Lord;  
for He has done  
Glorious things  
let this be known to  
All the World.  
Isaiah 12:5

**January 8** – Epiphany Sunday

New Series: Messy & Majestic: A Study of First Corinthians

- AM     ◇ Sermon Title: “1. Called”  
  
          ◇ Text: 1 Corinthians 1  
PM     ◇ Sermon Title:  
          ◇ Text:

**January 15** – Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

- AM     ◇ Sermon Title: “2. Power”  
          ◇ Text: 1 Corinthians 2  
PM     ◇ Sermon Title:  
          ◇ Text:

Worship the  
LORD in the  
beauty of  
holiness.

**January 22** –

- AM     ◇ Sermon Title: “3. Divided”  
          ◇ Text: 1 Corinthians 3  
PM     ◇ Sermon Title:  
          ◇ Text:

**January 29** – Cadet Sunday

- AM     ◇ Sermon Title: “4. Admonished”  
          ◇ Text: 1 Corinthians 4  
PM     ◇ Sermon Title:  
          ◇ Text:

Worship  
with us!





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## OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY 2023

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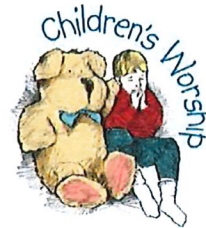
### **TLC:**

January 1 – Kathy Knoper, Dar Oom, Madison Schrotenboer  
January 8 – Kay Schout, Jan Kuzee, Grady Kuzee  
January 15 – Kay Schout, Vicki Kraker, Brent Schrotenboer  
January 22 – Kay Schout, Brittany Vander Wal, Amber Brown  
January 29 – Marlene Dyke, Ellie Scholma, Peter Keegstra



### **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:**

January 1 – No CW  
January 8 – Conni Vollink  
January 15 – Makayla Schurman, Lucas Schrotenboer  
January 22 – Danni Kraker, Brooke Kraker  
January 29 – Amber Brown, Trevor Keegstra



### **NURSERY:** Reminder that nursery is for the AM only

January 1 – Mary Broene, Nancy Pluene, Annebelle Kruithoff  
January 8 – Jan Mohr, Brittany Vander Wall, Annebelle Kruithoff  
January 15 – Ardy Berens, Judy Devries, Malena Witte  
January 22 – Marlene Dyke, Vicki Kraker, Maidson Schrotenboer  
January 29 – Jean Christensen, Connie Vollink, Clara Kruithoff



### **LIBRARY:**

January 1 – Julie DeVries  
January 8 – Nellie Scholma  
January 15 – Lois Van Wienen  
January 22 – Jean Christensen  
January 29 – Elaine Chrstrup



### **VALET PARKING/GREETERS:**

January 1 – Rich & Mary Beuker  
January 8 – Terry, Sue, & Eric Kraker  
January 15 – John & Lois Van Wienen  
January 22 – Kirt & Sherri Schrotenboer  
January 29 – Herb & Ellen Bosselaar



### **OPEN/CLOSE**

January 1 – Bob Knoper  
January 8 – Jon Vander Wal  
January 15 – Bern Scholma  
January 22 – Judy Knoper  
January 29 – Lee Scholma





Nicole Kraker	3	
Conni Vollink	4	
	5	Rich & Mary Beuker
Glenda Brower	7	
Tina Brown	7	
Eileen Moelker	7	
Linda DeBoer	8	
Gerry Mulder	12	
Lachlan Bosma	14	
Carrie Vandersloot	16	
Cal Bauzin	18	
Don Vereeke	19	Gerald & Joan Geurink
Peggy Vredevoogd	19	
Tom DeBoer	20	
Gary Dyke	20	
Dave Vollink	22	
	23	John & Lois VanWienen
Sharon Berghorst	24	
Norene Knoper	24	
Rodg Brower	25	
Jim Koetje	25	
	27	Scott & Kris Berens
	28	Bob & Glenda Brower
Ken Morrow	29	
Darlene Oom	31	

It's a new year - crisp, sparkling and chuck full of anticipation about what lies ahead. Makes sense, then, that carnations are Jaunary's birth flower. Tradidtionally associated with fascination and intrigue, they are a fitting toast to January birthdays and the promise of the new year ahead.



# 2023 Meetings

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 †No Evening Service <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3 †Council	4 †GEMS †Cadets	5	6 †Epiphany	7
8 †Epiphany Sunday	9 †Young Life †Monday Night Bible Study	10	11 †GEMS †Cadets	12 †Wylidlife	13	14
15 †Sancity of Human Life Sunday †JR JAM/JAM	16 †Young Life †Monday Night Bible Study	17	18 †GEMS †Cadets	19 †Wylidlife †Cadet Counselor Banquet	20	21 †Bowling League
22 †SNL Bible Study	23 †Young Life †Monday Night Bible Study	24	25	26 †Wylidlife	27 †GEMS Overnigher †Cadet's Campout	28
29 †Cadet Sunday †JR JAM/JAM	30 †Young Life †Monday Night Bible Study	31				