

FIRST
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
ALLENDALE

FIRST IN FOCUS

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5734 Country View, Allendale, MI 49401

▪ Phone 616-895-4969 ▪

E-mail: info@firstallendalecrc.org

www.firstallendalecrc.org



OCTOBER 2026



AUTUMN

IS GOD'S

WAY OF

SHOWING US HOW

Beautiful

CHANGE CAN BE

First Allendale CRC
Monthly Financial Report
August 31, 2026

Beginning Checking Balance	\$93,682.32
Ending Checking Balance	\$87,880.59

Revenue	August	Year-To-Date	Budget	Remaining
General Fund Collections	\$24,990.25	\$45,432.82	\$340,000.00	\$294,567.18
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Interest Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$24,990.25	\$45,432.82	\$340,000.00	\$294,567.18

Expenses				
Facilities	\$4,809.71	\$16,647.73	\$93,300.00	\$76,652.27
Worship and Music	-\$23.07	\$2,650.18	\$11,000.00	\$8,349.82
Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Activities	\$2,301.80	\$4,540.66	\$34,000.00	\$29,459.34
Staff	\$16,548.45	\$33,153.98	\$220,232.00	\$187,078.02

Total Expenses	\$23,636.89	\$56,992.55	\$360,532.00	\$303,539.45
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General Fund Income/Loss	\$1,353.36	-\$9,309.72	-\$20,532.00	-\$11,222.28
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Reserved Fund Balances

Bernie Evink Bequest	\$8,692.44
Bud Rosema Bequest	\$6,815.00
Nancy Rotman Bequest	\$1,019.36
Building Maintenance	\$35,340.46
Christian Education Tuition Assistance	\$21,184.62
Mission Trip	\$285.00
Cadets	\$1,339.05
Gems	\$1,523.03
Causes	\$5,525.00
Ministry Shares	\$4,500.02
Total Reserved Funds	\$86,223.98

General Funds Available	\$1,656.61
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Barnabas Accounts

Ministries Fund	\$91,436.40
General Reserve	\$97,572.12
Building Maintenance	\$40,873.38
Total Barnabas Funds	\$229,881.90



Council Minutes

SEPTEMBER
2026

Present: Pastor Ken, Kris Keegstra, Dale Knoper, Bob Knoper, Lee Scholma, Rodg Brower, Mike Wohlford, Kurt Schurman, Ed Goen, Steve Kuzee, Dale DeVries
Absent:

Opening Devotions: Ed Goen

- A. Minutes read and approved: Council, Elder, Deacon, Education, Worship, Tech, Safety. MSA
- B. Church Picnic/Car Show committee met: Food permit obtained.
- C. Pastor Ken's report on his sabbatical.
- D. Motion made to support 'The Well' at GVSU on December 6, 2026, with snacks. Volunteers needed.

Closing Prayer: Kris Keegstra

Next meeting: October 6, 2026, 6:30 pm.

J.O.Y. GROUP POTLUCK

Thursday, October 22, 6:00 p.m.

Abby Brinks, Bern & Nellie's granddaughter, will be sharing stories and insights from her 11-month Mission Trip with World Race to 6 different countries. You won't want to miss her uplifting perspective on faith, courage, and living with purpose!

SIGN UP FOR THE POTLUCK AT THE WELCOME CENTER

World Race is "A life-changing mission trip where you will grow with God, serve with others, and make a difference!"

THAILAND > MALAYSIA > THE PHILIPPINES > ETHIOPIA > KENYA > UGANDA



The J.O.Y. group enjoyed a beautiful afternoon taking a leisurely ride down the Grand River. The beauty of God's creation and nature was everywhere we looked! There were Egrets, Blue Herons, Eagles, Osprey, and MANY, MANY Turtles!

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His Glory!" Isaiah 6:3





Cost of Discipleship

SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Day 1: Genesis 19:24-26

Day 2: Job 1:21-22

Day 3: Daniel 1:8-9

Day 4: Daniel 3:16-18

Day 5: Matthew 6:24

Day 6: Matthew 8:19-20

Day 7: Matthew 10:24-25

Day 8: Matthew 10:37-39

Day 9: Matthew 16:24-25

Day 10: Luke 9:61-62

Day 11: Luke 14:25-26

Day 12: Luke 14:27-28

Day 13: John 15:18-19

Day 14: Romans 6:1-2

Day 15: Romans 6:3-4

Day 16: Romans 6:5-6

Day 17: Romans 6:12-13

Day 18: Romans 6:22-23

Day 19: Romans 8:13-14

Day 20: Romans 12:1-2

Day 21: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Day 22: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Day 23: Galatians 4:8-9

Day 24: Galatians 5:24-25

Day 25: 2 Timothy 2:3-4

Day 26: Titus 2:11-13

Day 27: Hebrews 11:24-26

Day 28: James 4:4

Day 29: 1 Peter 1:14-16

Day 30: 1 Peter 4:12-13

Day 31: 1 John 4:20-21

This unique scripture writing plan includes 31 days of scripture, so you can use it during any month. We recommend reading for context first, then writing each day's verses in a notebook or our faith journal. Feel free to make this study your own by reading each passage aloud, highlighting or color-coding important words, or jotting down questions for further research.

80+ Birthday Club

Dorothy Broene, 84 years on Oct. 3

Bea Potgeter, 85 years on Oct. 6

celebrating
50 YEARS



Russ & Cheri Geurink, 55 years on Oct. 10

Jerry & Sharon Berghorst, 50 years on Oct. 15

Rog & Bev Ezinga, 62 years on Oct. 29



PASTOR Appreciation

We serve a
BIG GOD



Praising God for His protection over Judy Knoper when someone ran a stop sign at Pierce and 56th and hit Judy's bus! Thankfully Judy only suffered bumps and bruises and there were no kids on the bus at the time.

Thank
YOU
volunteers!

Thank you to all who were involved in the planning of the Community Church Picnic and Car Show and all who helped that evening. It was a great time for all who went.



FAITH
in **GOD**

**CHANGES
EVERYTHING**



Bread Painting



When you eat this fun snack,
be thankful for Jesus,
who is our Bread of Life.

What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional



What you do:

1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder:

Ask an adult for help
when using a toaster
or toaster oven.

**"I am the
bread of life."**
John 6:35, NIV



Counting Our Blessings

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to "count our blessings." God blesses each of us daily in so many ways. Solve the following math problems. Then write the words on the numbered lines below to complete Ephesians 1:3, NIV.

$$\begin{array}{l} 14 - 7 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Father} \\ 10 + 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ heavenly} \\ 10 + 5 = \underline{\quad} \text{ blessed} \\ 2 - 1 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Praise} \\ 7 + 7 = \underline{\quad} \text{ has} \\ 11 + 11 = \underline{\quad} \text{ every} \\ 12 + 12 = \underline{\quad} \text{ blessing} \\ 10 + 10 = \underline{\quad} \text{ realms} \\ 13 + 13 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Christ} \\ 8 + 8 = \underline{\quad} \text{ us} \\ 8 + 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ in} \\ 5 + 5 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Lord} \\ 10 + 11 = \underline{\quad} \text{ with} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 10 + 15 = \underline{\quad} \text{ in} \\ 6 - 3 = \underline{\quad} \text{ to} \\ 12 - 6 = \underline{\quad} \text{ and} \\ 6 + 6 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Christ} \\ 18 - 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ our} \\ 22 - 11 = \underline{\quad} \text{ Jesus} \\ 1 + 1 = \underline{\quad} \text{ be} \\ 7 + 6 = \underline{\quad} \text{ who} \\ 2 + 2 = \underline{\quad} \text{ the} \\ 10 - 5 = \underline{\quad} \text{ God} \\ 4 + 4 = \underline{\quad} \text{ of} \\ 9 + 9 = \underline{\quad} \text{ the} \\ 10 + 13 = \underline{\quad} \text{ spiritual} \end{array}$$

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV



Hello and Happy September!

I hope this email finds you enjoying some cooler temps and adjusting well to however your life rhythms may change in the fall season.

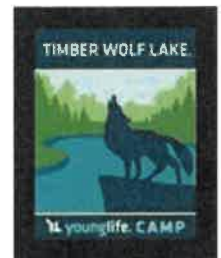
Here's a quick recap of summer in the Wyldlife/Young Life world:

Our YL area sent 12 students and leaders to a Young Life camp in Virginia, June 14-20. I was not personally on the trip but I heard great reviews from the leaders and students that I talked to afterward, listening to stories about funny skit characters and the engaging camp speaker.

Shortly after this trip, our YL area sent 14 students and leaders, all from Allendale, on a discipleship trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Again, I wasn't personally on the trip, but I am very grateful for our committed Allendale leaders who created this experience for their students who are looking for the 'next level' in their walk with Jesus.

In late June, my family and I left for northwest Wyoming to guide two weeks of backpacking trips. The first group was college students from GVSU, a handful of whom are leaders in our local schools. It was really great to be there with them. We took an in-depth look at Romans 8 together as we soaked in God's creation and swatted at mosquitos (that wasn't anyone's highlight, I don't think). The second group was high school students from Cadillac Young Life. Karina took the group of girls and I took the group of boys. We had a great time talking about what a life following Jesus looks like.

After returning from Wyoming, we had 5 days at home to recuperate before leaving for Timber Wolf Lake, Young Life's camp in Lake City, MI. I served as the Outdoor Work Crew boss for three weeks and had a group of six high schoolers that I worked closely with. This was one of my favorite times spent at camp because the kids on my crew were amazing and I was in a role that I feel like I was designed for.



During one of the weeks, our YL area sent our third and final camp trip - our Wyldlife group. It was a group of 24 students and leaders and it was really cool to be at camp with them. I found myself really thankful for the leaders we have who are walking alongside middle school kids at Allendale and Jenison. As we begin our school season programs, I have a significant prayer request... We are beginning the year with far fewer leaders than we'd like. First, please say a prayer of thanks for the amazing leaders we do have, they really are incredible! Second, please ask God to provide more people who love students and love Jesus. We are beginning a leader training this weekend (primarily for GVSU students) that will stretch for the next 5 weeks, but we really need people to show up. If anyone you know comes to mind who may be interested, please send their info my way, I am happy to follow any possible leads.

Personally, our family is starting a new era with Sierra now being in Junior High. She is involved this fall with the cross country team, which I am also coaching. So far, she is enjoying changing classes and meeting some new people. Merced is in fifth grade and just started playing the cello in orchestra. She is playing soccer again this fall, which I am also coaching (Man, I sound like an over-involved parent. Hopefully they don't get sick of me). For Karina and I, the biggest news continues to be our house renovation. It is coming along well (much thanks to the many friends and family who have helped!) but we still have a ways to go.

As always, thank you for your love and support. I'm very grateful to have a community that cares about kids in Allendale and Jenison having the opportunity to learn about Jesus. THANK YOU!

In Christ,
Ryan, for Karina, Sierra and Merced too



The Outdoor crew at Timber Wolf Lake. We used leaf blowers, weed whackers, pulled weeds, edged landscape beds and otherwise just helped make camp beautiful.



On their way to Virginia our high school group had some extra time so they stopped at New River Gorge National Park.



"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

Offerings for OCTOBER 2026:

Oct 4	Family Life Center
Oct 11	Christian Education
Oct 18	Love INC (Reverse offering slips for Love INC food pantry handed out)
Oct 25	Missions

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.

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-12th grades.

Love In The Name of Christ:

A local organization where staff and volunteers are there to provide real assistance as witnesses of Christ by being a connecting link between churches and people with unmet physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Missionary Support:

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

Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day!



OCTOBER 2026



- Oct 4** – World Communion Sunday
AM ♦ Sermon Title: “17. Shining in Christ”
 ♦ Text: Ephesians 5:1-21 (8-14)
PM ♦ Sermon Title: “Jesus Changed Everything” Pastor
 Aaron Vrisman – Zeeland Classis Pulpit Exchange
 ♦ Text: Selections from Hebrews



- Oct 11** – AM Guest Pastor
AM ♦ Sermon Title: “”
 ♦ Text:
PM ♦ Sermon Title: “18. Wise in Christ”
 ♦ Text: Ephesians 5:1-21 (15-21)

- Oct 18** –
AM ♦ Sermon Title: “19. Loved in Christ”
 ♦ Text: Ephesians 5:21-32
PM ♦ Sermon Title: “20. Responsible in Christ”
 ♦ Text: Ephesians 6:1-9

- Oct 25** –
AM ♦ Sermon Title: “21. Deployed in Christ”
 ♦ Text: Ephesians 6:10-18 (10-13)
PM ♦ Sermon Title: “22. Armored & Armed in Christ”
 ♦ Text: Ephesians 6:10-18 (14-17)



Life. The Other Choice!



RIGHT TO LIFE
OF HOLLAND AREA

Volume 37 September 2026

607 Heritage Court, Holland, MI 49423 ~ 616.396.1037 ~ rtlholland@eg1.net
www.rtlhofholland.org ~ <https://www.facebook.com/RighttoLifeofHolland>

What does it mean to be Pro-Life?

1 John 3:17-18 says, "If any one of you has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in you? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." James 2:14-17 says, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if people claim to have faith but have no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

As Christians, we are called to demonstrate our faith and love to others by ensuring their physical, emotional, and safety needs are met. If we are truly pro-life, we should be concerned about the quality of life people are living, and through relationships with people in our community, we can work toward providing tangible help to those who are in need.

For me, being pro-life means being pro-adoption, pro-foster care, and pro-social programs. Life is more than just birth, as many of you well know. Our job as a parent didn't end once we helped bring children into the world — that's really when the job began. Our kids have many needs that must be met every day and as they become older and more independent, their needs seem to become more complicated. Ensuring their needs are met is one of the most challenging responsibilities we have. And, thankfully, we have help in meeting their needs - a spouse who co-parents with us, help from parents and in-laws, a loving and caring community, and a supportive church congregation!

Current estimates state that close to 1 in 4 kids in the United States of America live in poverty (National Center for Children in Poverty, 2014) and this number goes up to close to 1 in 2 kids if you use a slightly different

measurement tool. This should be a startling statistic for us both as Americans and as Christians. In one of the wealthiest nations in the world, how is that so many kids are poor? For me, being pro-life means that I am concerned about the living conditions of children in this country (and around the world, for that matter). And while there is no quick-and-easy solution to fix poverty, being pro-life means we should be having conversations about how to get kids and families out of poverty.

If we are truly pro-life, we should be concerned about the quality of life people are living, and through relationships with people in our community, we can work toward providing tangible help to those who are in need. Here are some ways you can do this:

- Become a foster parent or provide respite care. This typically requires completing a training program and becoming certified, but providing care for kids in foster care can be a powerful way to demonstrate Christ's love to children and families in need.
- Provide assistance and not condemnation or judgment to pregnant or parenting singles.
- Volunteer for agencies who help at-risk kids and families, such as your local domestic violence shelter or an after school program or pregnancy resource centers like Positive Options and Family Life Center.

**Encourage your church to develop
an outreach focus or programs that
come alongside individuals and families
in need both within and outside
your congregation.**

Focus on Life Annual Benefit Dinner
October 20, 2026 at
The Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville, MI
Doors Open at 6:30pm
Program Starts at 7:00pm

Tickets:

\$60 - Individual
\$432 - Table of 8
\$486 - Table of 9
\$540 - Table of 10
(w/10% discount)

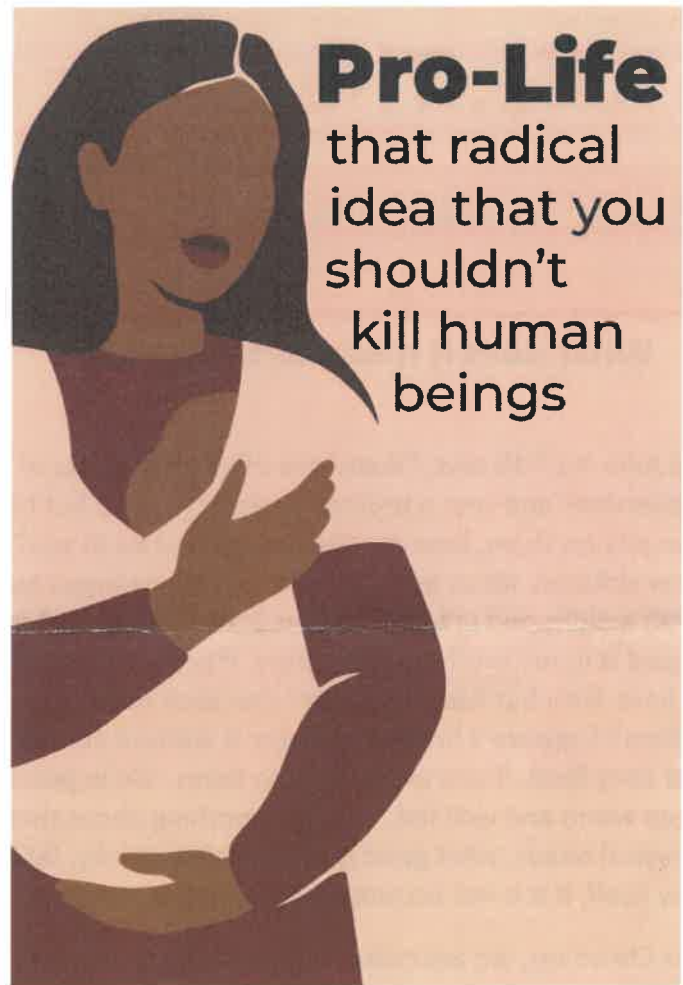


Guest Speaker Lydia Taylor Davis: Lydia is a Christian, Pro-life activist, social media influencer, and national spokesperson for Students for Life National. She is best known for her viral pro-life content on TikTok.

Invite your teens, youth group, Sunday School class, small group Bible study to hear this dynamic speaker, who is passionately working to make her generation the most prolife yet!

To reserve your seat or table - make check payable to: Right to Life of Holland Area (memo line dinner) and mail to: 607 Heritage Court, Holland, MI 49423. Once we receive your payment, your tickets will be sent to you in the mail.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!!



To visit our website directly: Use your cellphone camera, center on the QR code below (should see a yellow square) and press OPEN on your camera screen.





Join National Life Chain 2026
Sunday, October 4th 2:00PM - 3:00PM
Sponsored by Right to Life of Holland Area

What is Life Chain?

It is a ***peaceful, QUIET, and prayerful public witness*** of pro-life individuals standing and praying for our nation to end abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death!

You'll be a light in a darkened world as you help put an end to abortion through prayer!

Who Should Attend?

Everyone is Welcome!! Our goal is to have a representative from each church in our area lining the sidewalks of River Avenue in Holland.

~We encourage area Youth Groups and their Leaders to come as a group. Come as a Family!!

Come, Let Us Pray:

- ◆ For our personal repentance and for spiritual awakening in our community and nation; for our **public officials**
- ◆ For unborn children's protection and for legalized abortion to end in America; for God to convict and draw abortionists to Him; for all to witness our Life Chain

Location of Life Chain:

River Avenue (both sides of the road) between 10th and 12th Street by Centennial Park

You may make copies and place in mailboxes, newsletters, bulletin boards, etc.

The following bulletin announcements can be given to your church secretary:

- **Bulletin announcement for September 27** - Join Right to Life of Holland Area at the National Life Chain on Sunday, October 4 from 2-3 pm on River Avenue between 10th and 12th Streets. Life Chain is a pro-life, peaceful, prayerful, public witness on behalf of the unborn at risk of elective abortion. Signs to hold during the prayer vigil will be provided. This is a PRAYER VIGIL so we do ask for those who attend to be fairly silent or to speak quietly. **PLEASE NO SIGNS that say HONK to support!**
- **October 4:** Participate in the National Life Chain from 2-3 pm today on River Avenue between 10th and 12th Streets in Holland, sponsored by Right to Life of Holland Area. Appropriate signs will be provided.

SCHEDULES FOR OCTOBER 2026

CW:

Oct 4 – Mallory Kuzee, Jan Kuzee, Judah Kruithoff
Oct 11 – Kay Schout, Diane Wohlford, Clara Kruithoff
Oct 18 – Melissa Bosma, Elaine Christrup, Dar Oom
Oct 25 – Kristie Morren, Jenny Engelhard, Lachlan Bosma

NURSERY:

Oct 4 – Jennie Keegstra, Kathy Knoper
Oct 11 – Gwyn Ellens, Kyleah Brower
Oct 18 – Judy DeVries, Alison Vroegop, Annabelle Kruithoff
Oct 25 – Ardy Berens, Jan Mohr



LIBRARY:

Oct 4 – Julie DeVries
Oct 11 – Jean Christensen
Oct 18 – Nellie Scholma
Oct 25 – Lois Van Wienen



VALET PARKING/GREETERS:

Oct 4 – Bern & Nellie Scholma
Oct 11 – Kirt & Sherri Schrotenboer
Oct 18 – Jerry & Sharon Berghorst
Oct 25 – Dale & Judy DeVries



OPEN/CLOSE

Oct 4 – Bob Knoper
Oct 11 – Jon Vander Wal
Oct 18 – Bern Scholma
Oct 25 – Bern Scholma



AUDIO/VISUAL

Oct 4 – Kevin Dyke, Keegan Morren
Oct 11 – Brent Schrotenboer, Jon Vander Wal
Oct 18 – Peter Keegstra, Trevor Keegstra
Oct 25 – Bob Knoper, Judy Knoper



SAFETY

Oct 4 – AM: Reka, Ryan, Kurt, Darrell
Oct 11 – AM: Ken, Carrie, Judy
Oct 18 – AM: Herm, Brent, Makayla, Dar Oom
Oct 25 – AM: Ed & Dar Diemer, Laura, Jan



Jennifer DeWinter	1	
Dorothy Broene	3	Karl & Jan Kuzee
Scott Berens	5	
Bea Potgeter	6	
	8	Dave & Bev Schroedter
Jayce Ellens	10	Russ & Cheri Geurink
Ed Goen	11	
Andie Kuzee	11	
Mary Beuker	15	Jerry & Sharon Berghorst
	16	Ben & Sarah Witte
	17	Bob & Judy Knoper
Bill Kryger	18	
Mike Sytsma	18	
Ryan Mesbergen	21	
Amber Brown	22	
Samuel Brower	23	
	24	Dale & Judy DeVries
	29	Rog & Bev Ezinga
	29	Tom & Lori Geysbeek
Shelley Bosch	31	

LISTEN! THE WIND IS RISING, & THE
AIR IS WILD WITH LEAVES; WE HAVE
HAD OUR SUMMER EVENINGS, NOW
FOR OCTOBER EVES!

♥ Humbert Wolf



OCTOBER 2026 Meetings

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 † Zealand Classis † Wyldlife † Softball 6:15	2	3
4 † World Communion † Jr JAM/JAM † SNL Bible Study † PM Pulpit Exchange	5 † Young Life	6 † TML Bible Study † Council	7 † GEMS † Cadets	8 † Wyldlife † Softball TBD † Worship Committee	9	10
11 † AM Guest Pastor	12 † Young Life	13 † TML Bible Study	14 † GEMS † Cadets	15 † Wyldlife † Softball TBD	16	17
18 † SNL Bible Study	19 † Young Life	20 † TML Bible Study † Right to Life Banquet † Tech Comm.	21 † GEMS † Cadets	22 † JOY Group † Potluck/ Abby Brinks † Wyldlife	23	24
25	26 † Young Life Banquet	27 † TML Bible Study † Interim Comm. † ACS Foundation Dinner	28	29 † Red Cross Blood Drive	30	31