

***Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!***  
***Pastor Brad Diekema***  
***September 3, 2023***

**\* Please stand in body or in spirit.**

Prelude

Welcome

**\* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #521**

***“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”***

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount— I’m fixed upon it—  
mount of God’s unchanging love.
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy help I’ve come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.
3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I’m constrained to be!  
Let that grace now like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee:  
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

Words: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt., P.D.; Music: J. Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813, P.D.; CCLI # 678905

Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us worship the eternal God,  
the source of love and life, who creates us.

**People: Let us worship Jesus Christ,  
the risen one, who lives among us.**

Leader: Let us worship the Spirit, the holy fire, who renews us.

**People: To the one true God be praise in all times and places,  
through the grace of Jesus Christ.**

\* Song of Praise: LUYH #553 "How Great Thou Art"

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

*Refrain*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

*Refrain*

3. But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin;

*Refrain*

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

*Refrain*

*Words and Music: Stuart K. Hine, 1949, © 1949, 1953, The Stuart Hine Trust, USA  
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\* God's Greeting/We Greet Each Other

Announcements

Call to Confession

Our Lord Jesus said:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments  
hang all the law and the prophets.”

As God has instructed us in these great commandments,  
and because we have not lived in full obedience,  
let us now confess our sins to God,  
trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

—based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

Hear the Good News! Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins  
is proclaimed to you. In Christ we have redemption  
through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,  
according to the riches of his grace.

—from Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7, NRSV

Responding in Gratitude - Offering: General Fund

Offertory: Bible Project video:

The Purpose of the Old Testament Law of Moses in the Bible

\* Hymn of Preparation: LUYH #762 “Ancient Words”

1. Holy words long preserved  
for our walk in this world,  
they resound with God's own heart,  
O let the ancient words impart.  
Words of life, words of hope,  
give us strength, help us cope.  
In this world where'er we roam  
ancient words will guide us home.

*Refrain*

Ancient words, ever true,  
changing me and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts,  
O let the ancient words impart.

2. Holy words of our faith  
handed down to this age  
came to us through sacrifice.  
O heed the faithful words of Christ.  
Holy words long preserved  
for our walk in this world,  
they resound with God's own heart.  
O let the ancient words impart.

*Refrain*

Ancient words, ever true,  
changing me and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts,  
O let the ancient words impart.

*Words: Lynn DeShazo © 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, (ASCAP), admin.  
EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905*

Scripture Reading: Exodus 32:1-35

Prayer of Illumination

Message: "Prone to Wander"

Time of Prayer

\* Song of Application: LUYH #626 "Cast Down, O God, the Idols"

1. Cast down, O God, the idols  
that hold us in their power,  
the empty gods we worship  
when darkness has its hour.  
We bow to other masters  
and by their promise live.  
Redeem our wayward passions;  
our rebel wills forgive.

2. In vain we search for meaning  
where transient joys abound,  
and seek the soul's contentment  
where peace cannot be found.  
We wander, lost and homeless,  
in endless, aimless quest,  
our hearts forever restless,  
until in you they rest.
  
3. O God, we have our being  
in you and you alone.  
Recall us from our wanderings;  
reclaim us as your own.  
Restore in us the image  
revealed in Christ, your Word,  
till heart and will pay homage  
to him, our God and Lord.

*Words: Herman G. Stuempfle (1923-2007) © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Chrétien Urhanm, 1834; arr. Edward F. Rimbault, 1967, P.D.; CCLI #678905*

\* We Profess our Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 94-96  
as Responsive Reading

Pastor Brad: Q 94 What does the Lord require  
in the first commandment?

**People: A. That I, not wanting to endanger  
my own salvation, avoid and shun all idolatry,  
sorcery, superstitious rites, and prayer to saints  
or to other creatures. That I rightly know  
the only true God, trust him alone,  
and look to God for every good thing  
humbly and patiently, and love, fear,  
and honor God with all my heart.  
In short, that I give up anything rather than  
go against God's will in any way.**

Pastor Brad: Q 95 What is idolatry?

**People: A. Idolatry is having or inventing something  
in which one trusts in place of or alongside of  
the only true God, who has revealed himself  
in the Word.**

Pastor Brad: Q 96 What is God's will for us in the second commandment?

**People: A. That we in no way make any image of God nor worship him in any other way than has been commanded in God's Word.**

\* God's Blessing

\* Parting Praise: LUYH #948 "The Lord Bless You"

The Lord bless you, the Lord keep you;  
may his love ever, always surround you,  
protect you, and guide you in all that you do:  
our prayer for you. Amen.

Words: E. Fred Morris © E. Fred Morris; arr. Tim TenClay, © E. Fred Morris  
CCLI #678905

Postlude

**Welcome** to the Lord's house. May your soul be restored; may your cup overflow; may you experience God's goodness and mercy (Psalm 23). After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Tech Team	Today: 9/3	Next Week: 9/10
Sound:	Henry H.	Tim H.
Projection:	Maddie D.	France B.
Video:	Dick G.	Isaac D.
Offering:	General Fund	General Fund

# First CRC

## Bulletin Announcements

### September 3, 2023

#### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

**IF YOU HAVE FILLED OUT AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR THE NEW DIRECTORY**, please get that to Beth ASAP so she can get to printing the new directory. If you have NOT filled out a sheet and would like to, there will be sheets available by the bulletins at the front door. Please fill that out and place it into Beth's mailbox or give it to her in person. Thank you!

**Worship Service Volunteers!** The current worship service volunteer schedule runs through the end of October. However, near the end of September a new schedule will be made for the months of Nov., 2023-April, 2024. We are always on the lookout to include new volunteers for singing, scripture readers, sound, projection, and video! If interested, please contact Beth by Sunday, Sept. 24. If you would like to be removed from the list this would be the time to reach out to her as well. Thank you!

**The Men's Bible Study** will be resuming Tuesday, September 12. Join us at Shari's in Burlington at 7 am. We will be starting to visit about the book of Romans. If anyone has any questions please reach out to Greg B.

**For all your prayers, beautiful cards, words of encouragement and kindness, and phone calls, thank you so much! It was greatly appreciated. I'm so thankful that my heart valve is fixed and I am on the road to full recovery. So thankful to God's presence with me through it all! – Judy Velasquez**

#### ***Needed: ADULT Nursery volunteers***

Thank you, kiddos, for signing up in droves (small droves, but still in droves, nonetheless). Now we need some ADULTS to sign up to volunteer to pair with the kids on Sunday mornings. So if you are up for some totally free snuggles, please sign up on the sheet by the coffee urns after church today.

**Hymnbooks:** We currently have about 100 blue Psalter Hymnals and 100 red Power and Praise songbooks **FREE** for the taking in the Fellowship Hall.

**Education Ministry Need:**

The Sunday School year is fast approaching and plans are being made. First CRC has a legacy of children's education ministry and we want to keep it going. Teaching the truths of scripture to our youth is one of the most important ways that we respond to God's call. We have many opportunities to serve. We have Sunday School classes for all ages on Sunday morning. We also have our Children in Worship ministry every Sunday for kids 3-3rd grade. We have been blessed with faithful teachers for many years, but we can always use new people to help carry the load. There is no training needed, we have the materials and the kids. All that is required is a desire to share the Bible with our kids. Please reach out to Pastor John, Tim Van Hofwegen, Eliot Blom, or Beth with any questions or to indicate your willingness to get plugged in.

First CRC offers the option to give *your offerings online, donations*. For information on this and other ways to give please check the "Give" page on the church's website: [https://firstcrcmv.com/?page\\_id=1509](https://firstcrcmv.com/?page_id=1509)

**Worship Service YouTube Links:**

August 27: <https://youtu.be/Vt8rRBG0rJc>

Dear Friends,

The acrostic T.U.L.I.P. is often used to describe the five main points of Calvinism - Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, Perseverance of the Saints. The 'history' of this acrostic arose out of the political and theological turmoil taking place in the Netherlands in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In fact, one of our confessions – The Canons of Dordt – was specifically written as a result of this turmoil.

Yet, for those who encounter it for the first time the Canons can be a little confusing and perplexing. Thus, in recent decades, many Reformed theologians have been using F.A.I.T.H. as a summary acrostic instead. In a nod to both the historical and the more recent acrostics – I'll use both as we make our way through each of these five main points of Reformed theology.



The following is a tentative schedule of our study. May God bless us as we make our way through these treasured doctrines together. In His Grace, - Pastor John

1. August 27 – TULIP Faith: Human Nature and our Fallen Humanity
2. September 10 – TULIP Faith: Adopted by God
3. September 17 – TULIP Faith: Intentional Atonement
4. September 24 – TULIP Faith: Transformed by the Holy Spirit
5. October 1 – TULIP Faith: Held by God

**Calendar:**

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts today:** Eliot & Sue B., Greg & Beth B.

**Greeters/Coffee Hosts next week, 9/10:** Derek & Heidi B., Darrel & Sunee L.

**Children in Worship:**

Today: Angela S., Isaac D.

Next Week: Sheri L, Rhyson O.

**Worship Team:**

Today: Henry & am VZ, Sylvia VZ, Emmalyn S., France B.

Next Week, 9/10: Mandi D., Kiera L.

**Upcoming Dates to Note:**

**Sunday, Sept 10, 2-4pm:** Time of remembrance for Adelaida Vega (Heather Village Commons)

**Sunday, Sept. 24, 2:00pm:** Skagit County Crop Hunger Walk

**ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:**

Love INC Financial Mentoring Classes:

If you (or you and your spouse) would like to dig a little deeper into what the Bible says about smart household money management; AND if you would like to confidentially discuss your situation with a financial mentor who can help you put together a budget and plan for getting out of debt, then call the Love INC office as soon as possible (360 419-7061). Classes begin Wednesday, September 20– March 2024, and will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. NOW is the time to get organized and begin to turn things around.

**CRC COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Kids Corner: Following God's Lead** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). Imagine if a neighbor was building a new house, and you decided by yourself the work that needed to be done. Yikes! This week's devotion is all about following what God wants us to do. Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://kidscorner.net) like the KC eBook "Helping Kids Find Their Role in God's Story."

**Groundwork: Stand Firm In The Reality Of Christ's Resurrection.** - As Paul responds to false teachings in Corinth, he is adamant that it is necessary to believe in the truth of Christ's bodily resurrection. Join Groundwork as we study 1 Corinthians 15 to discover why this truth is crucial to the gospel message. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**World Renew Plans Response to Hurricane Idalia** - The Florida panhandle was hit by Category 3 Hurricane Idalia this week with 6 to 12 inches of rain, 120 mph winds, a 12-foot storm surge, and widespread power outages. World Renew Disaster Response Services is making plans for long-term response through our existing area partners to help homeowners in need recover as soon as possible. Please give to help low income, elderly, and under-insured Idalia survivors at [worldrenew.net](http://worldrenew.net), call 800-552-7972, or send your check, made out to World Renew DRS with Hurricanes 2023 in the memo line, to: World Renew, 8970 Byron Commerce Dr SW, Byron Center, MI 49315.



# How can we **PRAY** for you?

People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Email the office at [secretary@firstcrcmv.com](mailto:secretary@firstcrcmv.com) or call the church office at (336-2405) by 9:00 am Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

## **CONTINUING REQUESTS:**

Margaret VanderPol's back surgery went well and she was able to return home the same day. Please pray that the surgery was successful and she may be able to experience a complete recovery and freedom from pain.

Please pray for the **Vega and Kuipers** families as they mourn the loss of Michelle's mother **Adelaida**. Please pray for God's comfort and peace.

Please keep **Juli Oostra** in your prayers that her platelet levels will continue to rise.

Please continue to pray for **Grace Feddema** and **Trudy Van Dyke**.

Please continue to pray for **Marilyn Cooke** and her family members.

**Greg Boon's mother, Yvonne Boon**, has had a great week. She has been able to eat and her nausea is nearly gone! She hopes to be released to the Pete Gross cancer patient apartments before this weekend so she can continue her healing process. PTL!

Continue to pray for **Maxine Greidanus** while she continues fighting cancer.

**SHUT INS:** **Nell Annema** and **Marion Ekkelkamp** at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley; **Shirley Boonstra** at Country Meadow Village in Sedro-Woolley, **Marcella DeVries** at Bethany Lutheran in Everett, **Marjean DeGroot** at Mountain Glen in Mount Vernon; **Mary Koopmans** at Where the Heart is in Burlington; **Hans & Aileen Meischke** at Kenmore Living in Kenmore, WA, **Adrianna Swanson**, and **Clarence Vander Griend** at Home Place in Burlington; **Trudy Van Dyke**

at *Where the Heart Is*. **Hank & Anjean VanderVeen** at *The Bridge in Mount Vernon*; **Grace Feddema** and **Sally Reehoorn** at *Creekside in Burlington*; **Bev Van Slageren** with family in *Grandview, WA*.

**OTHER REQUESTS: (CRC Communications)**

Monday August 28 - *Calvin Theological Seminary: New academic year*  
As we gear up for the new school year, both online and residential, many staff and faculty and students engage in travel, moving, and orientation in their program and course preparations. Pray for everyone in these transitions as we begin the new school together.

Tuesday August 29 - *World Renew: Refugee sponsorship and resettlement*

In Canada, World Renew has worked with churches for decades to help welcome newcomers to the country. These sponsorships assist families and individuals who have been forced to flee their home countries, usually due to conflict. Pray for sponsoring communities, for our refugee team, and for newcomers healing from trauma and getting used to a major change in their lives.

Wednesday August 30 - *Resonate: Central Asia*

A Resonate missionary serving in Central Asia asks, "Let a spiritual breakthrough take place among people with whom we are sharing the gospel, that they may be freed to receive Jesus, the eternal Savior, as the Lord of life."

Thursday August 31 - *ReFrame: Brazil*

Vanessa, who follows our Portuguese ministry program in Brazil, wrote, "I had not been attending church for a long time, but after watching your program, I followed your advice and finally found a church!" Pray that Vanessa will find opportunities for discipleship and be able to use her gifts as a part of her newfound church community.

Friday September 1 - *ThereforeGo Ministries: SERVE 2023*

Praise God for SERVE 2023! This summer over 900 participants stepped outside of their comfort zones to serve in communities across the United States and Canada. We have heard many stories of the Lord's faithfulness and how he has worked in the lives of these students. As we reflect on a great summer, our excitement is already growing for SERVE 2024!

Saturday September 2 - *World Renew: India*

Violence erupted recently in the state of Manipur, displacing about 47,900 people from their homes. World Renew is working to provide essential food, shelter, and hygiene supplies, as well as educational and recreational supplies for children. Pray for peace, asking God to provide the means for recovery and rebuilding.

Sunday September 3 - *Educational Care: Uganda*

We give praise that a group of South Sudanese teachers in a northern Uganda refugee settlement will graduate from Educational Care training this month. Pray that leaders will have wisdom to prioritize and plan well as requests for Educational Care come in from many areas.