



Break Up Your

Fallow Ground

Hosea 10:12

**FIRST REFORMED CHURCH  
901 Pleasant St. Boyden, IA  
Pastor Heath De Jong  
April 21, 2024**

*First Reformed Church in Boyden will follow God in  
being a thriving community church.*

*We welcome back to the pulpit Elder Jeff Neuman!*

Prelude **Leila Moret**

Welcome

**\*Praise Song "Nobody"** (video)

\*Greet one another

**\*Responsive Reading #657 "Faithfulness"**

**\*Praise Song "There Was Jesus"** (video)

Prayer of illumination

Sermon – **"Break up that fallow ground"**

Scripture – **Hosea 10:12** (pg 1407)

**Hymn #297 "I Love to Tell the Story"**

(the general and building & repair offerings will be received)

Offertory prayer

**Crops & Industry Responsive readings** (pg 5-6 & screen)

Joys & Concerns / Closing prayer

\*Benediction

**\*Closing Hymn #303 "People Need the Lord"**

Postlude

(\*those who are able please stand)

## **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

**Thank you** to all those who came out to the Kooiker place and helped clear out the trees. It is so greatly appreciated! As of this writing, Bev is home! She is receiving home health and is on IV nutrition. Please continue to pray for her and Mike and their family – pray that Bev gets stronger every day and that she and all her loved ones feel the power and love from our Father in heaven!! God is so good!!

**Thank you to Jeff Neuman** for leading us in worship this morning and to **Marissa Mouw & Kevin Maassen** for leading the Crops & Industry readings and prayers this morning.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to Boyden First Reformed Church!** We are happy you could join us this morning! Nursery services are available during worship in the church basement. After worship please join us in the basement or the south entrance for a time of coffee and fellowship. Sunday School for elementary children is at the UP Church with sing-along beginning at 10:50 am and classes from 11 to 11:30 am. Junior High and High School meet here at FRC from 11 to 11:30.

**Sunday School announcement!** The last day of Sunday school for this season is May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**More housecleaning** - There are a number of items that have been in storage and not used in several years. If you are interested in any of these, please see one of the deacons. No price has been put on them, however, donations to the Building & Repair fund would be greatly appreciated - 4 Teacher's Desks, 3 Wood arm chairs, 16 Wood/ metal chairs medium size, 2 Wood/ metal chairs with storage below seat, 14 Wood/metal chairs small size. 3 coat racks, 1 large tv cart with doors, 1 bean bag chair canvas, 2 very large chalkboards on wheels and/or stands and 1 rolling metal cabinet with lock.

**Inspiration Hills Volunteer Day** is Sat, April 27<sup>th</sup>. You're free to come and go between the hours of 8am and 4pm. We'll provide lunch at noon. To sign up, call us at 712-986-5193 or email [ihills@inspirationhills.org](mailto:ihills@inspirationhills.org) and let us know your name, size of group (if appropriate), and any equipment/ skills you can bring to the table.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Love INC Sioux County** invites the community to our *Spring Share Event* on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Parkview Event Center in Rock Valley. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and food will be served starting at 5:30 pm. Tickets to this event can be purchased for \$50 a piece or get a team together and reserve a table of 8 for \$360. You can purchase tickets by calling the Love INC office at (712)476-5990 or go online to [www.loveincsiouxcounty.org](http://www.loveincsiouxcounty.org). You'll need to be your tickets by Monday!!

**MOZART REQUIEM** The Sioux County Oratorio Chorus, joined by Northwestern College's A Cappella Choir, will be presenting Mozart's *Requiem* under the direction of Dr. Thomas Holm, and featuring orchestra and professional soloists. The concert will be presented on Sat, Apr 27 at 7:30pm in Christ Chapel at Northwestern College. Tickets for adults are \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door and \$5 for students.

**New Roots Ministry Announcement** - Do you ever feel reluctant in personally sharing your Good News? At a 5-hour Saturday workshop in Sioux Falls on April 27 OR May 18, let's dig into the Word, learn to express our personal God-stories, and then interact with those who may be struggling without Him. Gain an "I-can-do-that" feeling, causing you to feel more natural in speaking spiritually with those you know. For information, other dates available, or to sign-up for Everyday-Ambassadors Practicum, visit [www.sfnewroots.com/our-ministries](http://www.sfnewroots.com/our-ministries).

**RCA Women in Ministry – A Regional Celebration** – You are warmly invited to this special event to be held on Wed May 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 to 7:30 pm at the First Reformed Church in Slayton, MN (2548 Ironwood Ave, Slayton). Join us for this worship celebration and meal that will be a wonderful time to connect with God and each other. **RSVP requested by April 29** so the church's hospitality team can plan accordingly. First Reformed Church's spaces are fully accessible. Questions? Contact [Rev. Aaron Punt](#), pastor of First Reformed Church (Slayton) and Classis of Minnesota president, or [Rev. Liz Testa](#), director for women's transformation and leadership, RCA. All are welcome!

**Bible verse for the month of April** – "As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him....It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect." 2 Samuel 22:31,33

# Prayers for Crops and Industry

Leader, **Congregation**

## **Crops**

11 Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good, Genesis 1:11-12

**17 "The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. 18 I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs.**

19 I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set junipers in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, 20 so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it. Isaiah 41:17-20

**37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.** I Corinthians 15:37-38

## ***Prayer for Crops:***

Lord, you make a pink flower from a gray seed, an ear from a kernel, a carrot from a seed the size of a pinhead, an oak tree from an acorn. You have programmed your soil to provide food for your plants, wooden trees to make apples, feathered hens to lay eggs, grass-eating cows to give milk. And you, grand Creator, you have us take care of your grand creation.

**In mercy, Lord, send rain to water our crops and gardens. Let your sun shine on our fields so that seeds will produce abundantly, so that vines and stalks and trees will hang heavy with fruit and grain. And Lord, let your grace be rich to our cattle as it is to us; let it keep our hogs free of disease, our hens laying eggs, and our cows giving milk. May our animals be fertile; may our lambs and calves and pigs frolic in your green pastures so that even in their play we may see your grace.**

Help us to live on your good earth even as Adam and Eve in Eden—preserving and caring for the life and soil you bless, ever thankful that for our good, you gave your laws of nature and your law of love. Help us for our good and your glory to see those laws as you see them and as the psalmist saw them—as good and perfect, pleasant to think about.

**And Lord, teach us to share the abundance you have given us, never gloating in our excess, but always giving our first bushels to feed the hungry in your name. Enlighten our hearts, Lord, so that our thank yous ever rise in a crescendo to your throne. See and hear us through the blood of your Son, Jesus. Amen.**

## **Industry**

9 What do workers gain from their toil? 10 I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. 12 I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. 13 That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. 14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him. Ecclesiastes 3:9-14

**23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.** Colossians 3:23-24

### ***Prayer for Industry:***

Lord, you saw the wheel in your mind before we saw it roll on your good earth. You put iron in the bowels of your earth and imagined the great girders that would hold up bridges over land and sea. You heard the motor in your mind before we revved it up on our roads. You saw the computer chip before we harnessed it in our offices and the laser before we discovered how to use it for blasting mines or for performing delicate surgery.

**Now bless our hands as we manipulate the machines we have made. Teach us how to use them wisely so that we will not be used by them. Bless our grinding and polishing, our honing and our hammering. Let our demands for precise and careful work be as rigorous as yours so that we may rest as safely in our cars and planes as in your arms.**

Help us in all this, Lord, with joy and thanks, to see your upholding hand, great Creator of metal and mountain, master artist of the sunset and rainbow. May we not sit on foam rubber without feeling your grace or read by a light bulb without feeling a current of thankfulness for your marvelous creation running through our veins.

**Hear our prayer for your Son's sake. Amen.**

Mike Vanden Bosch is a professor of English at Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa. [Reformed Worship 14 © December 1989](#) Worship Ministries of the Christian Reformed Church. Used by permission.



**TODAY – APRIL 21, 2024**

9:30 AM – WORSHIP  
10:35 AM – FELLOWSHIP  
11 – 11:30 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL  
1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup> AT UP / 6<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> AT FRC

**THANKS TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!**

**GREETERS/USHERS:** Colin Bolkema & Heath Warntjes

**AUDIO:** Kevin Rosenboom

**VIDEO:** Ben Harms

**POWERPOINT:** Teresa Harms

**KITCHEN:** Lori Bolkema

**COOKIES:** Lori Bolkema & LuEtta Heemskerk

**NURSERY:** Andreah Maassen

**OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK**

Mon Apr 22 – **Happy Earth Day!**

Tue Apr 23 – Men’s Group 5:30 am at Parsonage  
Women’s Group 7 pm at Parsonage  
Innerglow news due!

Wed Apr 24 – By-laws committee meeting 6:30 pm

**NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 28, 2024**

Worship – 9:30 am  
Fellowship – 10:35 am  
Sunday School – 11 am

Kitchen: Lisa Nelson  
Cookies – Carla Starkenburg & Andreah Maassen  
Nursery – Sarah Breems-Diekevers

**The Boyden American Legion and Auxiliary** will meet Mon, Apr 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Legion building. All members are encouraged to attend to finalize plans for Memorial Day.

**Plan to attend Bible League's Spring Salad Luncheon** with your friends on Monday, May 6 at Ireton Christian Reformed Church (301 Maple Street, Ireton IA). Please bring one salad for every four ladies in your group. The Luncheon begins at 11:30 AM; featured speaker is Lindsay Millard of Joie Floral Design in Orange City. She is a Master Gardener and will share ideas for growing your garden/plants. A freewill donation will be received for Bible League International; every \$5 raised puts a Bible in the hands of someone thirsty for God's Word!

**To begin a prayer chain** – You can either call Max Moret at 348-2929 or Teresa Harms/church office at 725-2366.

### **2024 Consistory Executive Committee**

Vice President – Kathy Ver Meer

Clerk – Rod Bolkema

Assistant Clerk – Kevin Rosenboom

Chair of Deacons – Chris Diekevers

Treasurer – Paul Moret

Assistant Treasurer – Nic Rosenboom

Building & Grounds – Ken Hoogendoorn & David Mouw

Music & Worship – Kathy Ver Meer

Community Impact – Ken Hoogendoorn

Joy – Roger Nelson

Discipleship –

### **2024 Elders**

Rod Bolkema ('26)

Brent Fedders ('24)

Roger Nelson ('26)

Kevin Rosenboom ('25)

Kathy Ver Meer ('24)

### **2024 Deacons**

Chris Diekevers ('24)

Ken Hoogendoorn ('24)

Paul Moret ('25)

David Mouw ('26)

Nic Rosenboom ('25)

**Pastor Heath's Cell: 712-330-8562**

**Pastor Heath's Email: [hdejong@frcboyden.com](mailto:hdejong@frcboyden.com)**

**Office Phone: 712-725-2366**

**Office Email: [tharms@frcboyden.com](mailto:tharms@frcboyden.com)**

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**Facebook – [Boyden First Reformed Church](https://www.facebook.com/BoydenFirstReformedChurch)**

**YouTube Channel - [@frcboyden](https://www.youtube.com/@frcboyden)**