

INNERGLOW

**First Reformed Church
Boyden, IA**

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July 2026



Greetings from your favorite church secretary! This month I decided to write about America's 250th Birthday! Did you know that an organization named America250 was tasked by Congress to put together a time capsule to be sealed and buried for 250 years?! Read more about it below! Teresa

"America's Time Capsule" has been officially sealed and will be buried at Independence National Historical Park on July 4, 2026, to be reopened in 2276. Inside the capsule are contributions from all three branches of the U.S. federal government, all 50 states, Washington, DC and five U.S. territories, America250 tentpole programs, as well as select national partners and institutions whose contributions reflect the people, places, ideas, and innovations shaping the United States at 250 years.

From the State of Iowa the contributions are a letter from Governor Kim Reynolds to the nation and to Iowa's descendants; a 1914 Belgian Relief Coin – President Herbert Hoover led an unprecedented international food relief effort that saved millions of people in Europe from starvation post World War I. The 1914 coin was used to feed a Belgian child for a month; and the International Space Station Medallion – Astronaut Peggy Whitson's medal commemorates her leadership as the first woman to command the International Space Station, which she did twice.



Some other interesting items that will be included are letters, coins, maps, flags, photos, etc. (You can see a complete list of items at <https://america250.org/time-capsule/contents/>.) The Library of Congress added a synthetic DNA capsule containing digital copies of numerous historic documents such as Thomas Jefferson's rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, and audio recordings of "The Star Spangled Banner" and samples of tribal language. The MLB included a 2026 opening day lineup card; from the PGA is 2026 tour schedule and 2026 PLAYERS Championship scorecard; and the International Olympic Committee included a Gold Medal!

Unfortunately, very little of the items listed are commemorative of our Lord Jesus Christ. Puerto Rico included a rosary; Utah had a prayer medal. There are numerous letters listed – perhaps some of them include acknowledgement of Who actually "built" our nation.

Here's a prayer I found for America's 250th – "O God of wisdom and mercy, on this milestone of 250 years, we give thanks for the blessings of freedom, the courage of those who came before us, and the beauty of this land we call home. Grant us hearts that seek justice, minds that pursue truth, and hands ready to serve one another. Heal divisions, strengthen our unity, and guide our leaders with humility and compassion. May our communities be places of welcome, our homes be filled with kindness, and our future be shaped by hope. Bless America, not only with prosperity, but with the grace to care for the least among us, and the courage to walk the path of peace. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen"

Praise & Thanks for...

- *the Sacrament of Profession of Faith for Cheyenne Neuman – Congratulations Cheyenne on joining our church family!!**
- *to the Boyden Bash committees for all the family activities planned and to those who helped plan and prepare the Community Worship service**
- *the freedoms and privileges that we have as citizens of this great country**
 - *summertime!**
 - *the children and counselors who attend camp at Inspiration Hills**
 - *answers to personal prayers**
 - *a loving Savior that meets every need we have**
 - *Elders and Deacons who give of their time**
 - *opportunities to worship**
 - *each member of Boyden First**
 - *willing volunteers who answer the call when they are needed!**
 - *friends and brothers- & sisters-in-Christ who pray for you and offer shoulders and hugs when needed!**
 - *summertime treats – cold juicy watermelon, ice cream, a cool drink!**

Give!
THANKS!
to the Lord
FOR HE IS GOOD

Pray for...

- *Hope Haven Distribution Trip to Costa Rica in August – they will distribute wheelchairs and share the love of Christ!**
 - *the volunteers needed for VBS at St. John's**
 - *our religious freedom we often take for granted**
 - *God to use us as instruments of His peace**
 - *freedom from addiction**
- *all those on vacation – that they have a wonderful time and come home safely**
 - *each family member by name, particularly those with health issues**
 - *those recently married – may God bless their union with His grace**
 - *God's protection from storms and severe weather and for needed rain**
- *the consistory of Boyden FRC in the decisions they make for our church and the work needed to follow God's path for this church**
- *our country and it's leaders – that they follow the will of God and are not ashamed to call on His name**
- *our church – that God's presence saturates every room and every heart that walks through its doors; and that each member follow's God's will and path to save our church and church family**

Together
We Pray

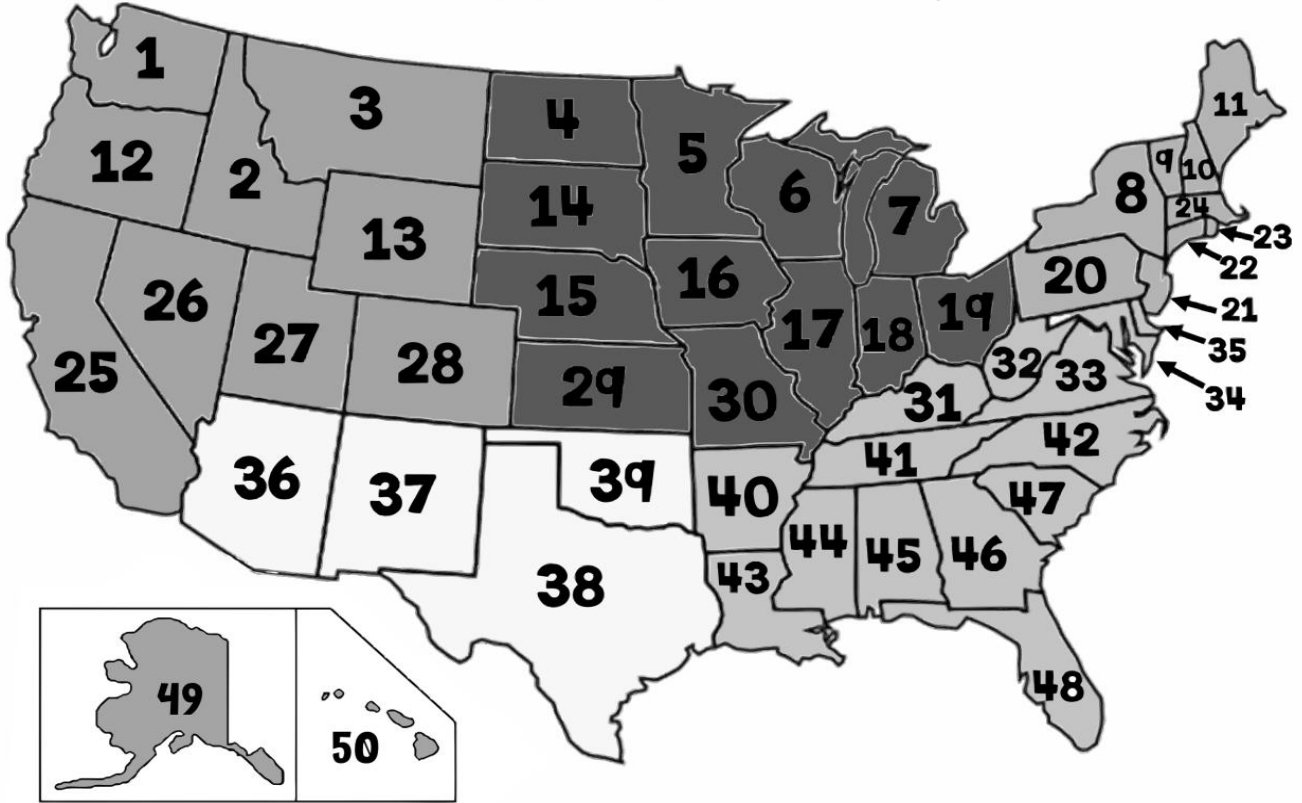
SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH:

Name _____

Date _____

United States of America

Label each state with its correct name!



- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 14. _____ | 27. _____ | 41. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 15. _____ | 28. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 16. _____ | 29. _____ | 43. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 17. _____ | 30. _____ | 44. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 18. _____ | 31. _____ | 45. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 19. _____ | 32. _____ | 46. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 20. _____ | 33. _____ | 47. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 21. _____ | 34. _____ | 48. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 22. _____ | 35. _____ | 49. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 23. _____ | 36. _____ | 50. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 24. _____ | 37. _____ | |
| 12. _____ | 25. _____ | 38. _____ | |
| 13. _____ | 26. _____ | 40. _____ | |

HYMN OF THE MONTH: “GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY”

“Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.” John 13:7

William Cowper suffered another blow when his friend, John Newton, left Olney to become London’s most celebrated pastor. Turning again to writing, William this time devoted his energy to secular poetry rather than spiritual hymns, earning him a prominent place in English literature. The publication of “The Task” made him famous throughout Britain. “Pity for Poor Africans,” which appeared in 1788, contributed to John Newton and William Wilberforce’s efforts to abolish slavery in the British Empire. William’s translation of Homer, published in 1791, was widely lauded.

His depression was never far away, and it intensified as he aged. Shortly before his death he wrote *The Castaway*, in which he described himself as a sailor swept overboard into the Atlantic to perish. In this melancholia, William died on April 25, 1800.

There is a report, however, that on his deathbed his face suddenly lit up as he exclaimed, “I am not shut out of heaven after all!” And one of Cowper’s lesser-known poems would make a fitting epitaph:

*Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while he sings;
It is the Lord, Who rises with healing in His wings . . .*

*In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue
The theme of God’s salvation, and find it ever new.*

*Set free from sorrow, we cheerfully can say,
Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.*

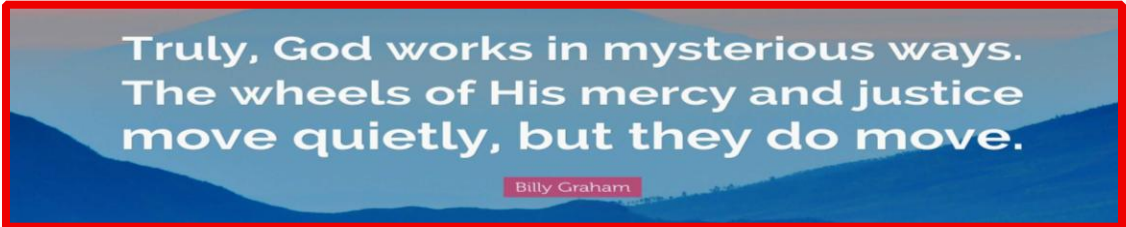
*It can bring with it nothing but He will bear us through;
Who gives the lilies clothing will clothe His people, too;*

*Beneath the spreading heavens, no creature but is fed;
And He Who feeds the ravens will give His children bread.*

*Though vine nor fig tree neither their wonted fruit should bear,
Though all the field should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there;*

*Yet God the same abiding, His praise shall tune my voice,
For while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.*

Or as William put it elsewhere: “God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.”



Truly, God works in mysterious ways.
The wheels of His mercy and justice
move quietly, but they do move.

Billy Graham

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,
for those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28*

1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way His
2. Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of
3. Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take! The
4. Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, but
5. His pur - pos - es will ri - pen fast, un -
6. Blind un - be - lief is sure to err and

won - ders to per - form; He plants His foot - steps
nev - er - fail - ing skill, He treas - ures up His
clouds ye so much dread are big with mer - cy
trust Him for His grace; be - hind a frown - ing
fold - ing eve - ry hour, the bud may have a
scan His work in vain; God is His own in -

in the sea and rides up - on the storm!
bright de - signs and works His sov - 'reign will.
and shall break in bless - ings on Your head!
prov - i - dence He hides a smil - ing face.
bit - ter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r!
ter - pret - er, and He will make it plain.

Chorus after v. 2, 4, 6

God of mer - cy! God of grace! Give us eyes to

In Years Gone By ...

50 YEARS AGO – July 1976

America was celebrating its Bicentennial! Happy 200th!

A Dutch service was held with the Rev. John Hellinga giving the message.

Congratulations were extended to Mrs Benjamin Grooters for her 92nd birthday and to Mr & Mrs Wesley Zuiderhof on the birth of their daughter Heather Ann.

25 YEARS AGO – July 2001

A 50th Anniversary Open House was held for John & Jean Doorenbos.

A farewell was held for Scott Winters, youth director.

Jennifer Starkenburg was welcomed into the church family through Profession of Faith.

Sympathy wishes were extended to the family and friends of Jen Struyk.

An outing was held for the church ladies to West Bend to tour the Grotto of the Redemption.

10 YEARS AGO – July 2016

Encouragement was shared with the kids and chaperones who attended Power Connection – Chaperones were Zach Fedders and Ashley Warntjes – attendees were Kali Maassen, Riley Neuman, Kyra Fykstra, Damion Reuvers, Caleb Sutton and Kaelin Hinderks.

An Open House was held for Vern & Toni Ten Haken's 70th wedding anniversary!

Sympathy wishes were extended to friends and family of Paula Salmon.

New babies were celebrated! Cole Thomas Van Tilburg, JoHanne Rae Starkenburg & Kyra Marie Beek!

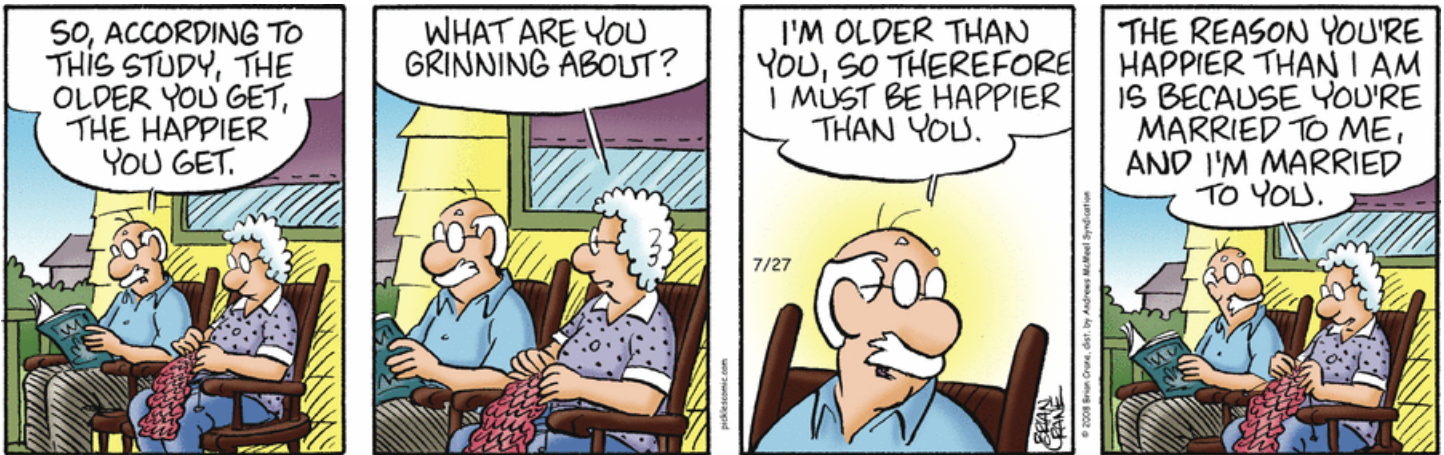
5 YEARS AGO – July 2021

Sympathy wishes were extended to the family and friends of Todd Warntjes.

An Awana Fun Night was held in the parking lot to gather together since we had to abruptly end the previous season due to Covid. Roasted hotdogs and smores were enjoyed! There was a special visit from Seung & Amy Kim who shared about their ministry and life in Bangladesh!

The consistory was continuing to search for volunteers to help gather information and documents that will be needed if/when a church decides to leave the RCA in "grace-filled separation."

HAPPINESS IS ...



Wasn't it Smart of God to ...

- ... give us a sense of smell so we'll know when it's time for a bath - or a friend's bath.
- ... make our bodies using enough phosphorus to cover 2,200 match heads but not ignite while we're filing our nails.
- ... make us able to wink so we can communicate important information without words.
- ... create the human body using enough carbon to make nine hundred pencils - yet not leave dark gray marks on our bedsheets.
- ... make the human body with enough fat to make seven bars of soap - yet not turn into mounds of suds when we're caught in the rain.
- ... design the adult human body to hold enough water to fill a ten-gallon tank and give us bladders to hold any excess (at least temporarily).

WHY ARE THERE NO KNOCK KNOCK
JOKES ON THE 4TH OF JULY?



What did one
American flag say
to the other flag?
Nothing. It just waved.



Better late than never! A few years ago, 97 year-old Edmond Fryar became a pastor in North Carolina. When someone asked him why he waited so long to be ordained, he answered, "I wanted to be sure God was talking to me." Christians don't need to wait for God to tell them that they're needed to serve. Not only is this the day the Lord has made, it's the day Christians have kingdom work to do.

July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">11 Chronicles 7:14</p>			1	2	3	4 <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Happy Independence Day!</p>  </div>
5 <p>Elder Josh Mouw</p> <p>Mission Offering</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Heath & Wendy De Jong (27)</p>	6	7 <p>Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Cole Van Tilburg</p>	8 	9	10 	11
12 <p>Barb Hoekstra</p>	13	14 <p>Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm</p> <p>Elders'/Deacons/ Mtg Consistory Mtg</p>	15 <p>Jase Huls Jeff Neuman Shayla Schmith Annie Starkenburg</p>	16	17	18 
10 <p>Building & Repair Offering</p>	20 <p>Innerglow news due!</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Paul & Leila Moret (47)</p>	21 <p>Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Kevin Rosenboom Colin & Ashley Bolkema</p>	22 	23 <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Family Fun Night SDSU Ice Cream Truck!! 6-8 pm</p>	24 	25 <p style="font-size: small;">Teresa Harms</p>
26 <p>Rev. Dr. John Hartog III</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Grayson Bolkema</p>	27 	28 <p style="font-size: small;">Chris & Sarah Diekevers (14)</p>	29 <p style="font-size: small;">Rod Bolkema</p>	30	31	



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
AMERICA