

INNERGLOW

First Reformed Church Boyden, IA

LaVonne Sietstra & Teresa Harms, Editors



JESUS' LEADERSHIP WAS
EMPOWERED NOT BY A SENSE
OF DUTY OR OBLIGATION, OR
BY A DESIRE TO BUILD AN
IMAGE, BUT BY COMPASSION.

September 2026



Greetings from your favorite church secretary! In September the church is called to nominate individuals for open positions on the Consistory. So, the article I chose to share this month is about servant leadership – the kind of leadership modeled by Jesus. And not just for consistory members – for every member of FRC. Enjoy!

“A Call to Servanthood in the Ordinary” by Ron DeVries

Recently, I had a conversation with a 92-year old man. Let’s call him Bill (not his real name.) Bill was astonished at his life. He didn’t expect to break into the nonagenarian years, as his relatives had never made it past their 80’s. Ten years ago, he had moved to a small retirement community after decades in the workforce. He made golf his full-time job, and his golf buddies became his community. Life was simple and the Arizona sun was warm. But Bill didn’t enjoy the fruits of his labor for long. Bill’s nineties have taken his strength from him, and with that, his ability to stay put on the golf course. Now, without his new vocation and the community it came with, Bill is forced to truly reflect on the years he’s accumulated. The difference is now, he’s doing it alone.

Another thing I forgot to mention: Bill is on hospice care. That’s the primary source of our connection, since I’m his chaplain. His days are numbered. And Bill is angry – angry that he can hardly walk anymore, angry that his independence is a thing of the past. Bill has at least one human soul to hold his hand as things continue to worsen for him. But his story is far from a shining example of what it should be to grow old and die.

It’s sobering to think that each end of the age spectrum is terribly vulnerable. Infants need care, constant care. Try as they might, they are completely unable to care for themselves. On the flip side, many elders find old age to be an extraordinarily humbling experience. Everyday activities like walking around, feeding oneself, and even hygiene become impossible to do alone. As countless elderly men and women navigate end of life care, they tend to find themselves overwhelmed by what they *can’t* do.

I’m a big fan of Bill. He can be a grumpy guy at times, but I’m not mad at him for it. Frankly, and maybe a bit selfishly, I just wish he had a church family to do my job for me. To hold his hand. To take his wife out for coffee and let her cry. To point them to promises of “all things new” on the other side.

It makes me wonder if one of the unsung treasures of the Church was the idea that *life is best lived together*. All of life. Not just when we’re happy, wealthy, and energized. Not just bouncing babies in their playpens, or old men on their golf courses. All of life. Especially those treacherous years when we find ourselves deeply in need of a gentle hand, a kind word, and a blessing.

In Hebrews 10, there is a moment the writer instills a “Call” to all members of the body to “persevere in faith.” A heart of “service” is encouraged in verses 23-25 where it says, *“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider **how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**”* (Thanks for the awesome sermon, Jeff!)

Bill is one of those we want to spur on, to encourage and care for. Maybe not unlike those we may not get along with or even those who cause us pain. Young and old alike, may we walk with all in grace and model servant leadership. Much like our Savior did not long ago.

How are you walking in grace with members of our congregation? **How might learning to listen well** model hospitality and honor to those of all ages in our churches? **How can you** walk faithfully with your fellow leaders in our church?

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Servant leadership is not about “I” - nor is it about “we” - it is about “them.”

Praise & Thanks for...

***the birth of Hudson Kahler De Jong, son of Hunter & Amanda, grandson of Pastor Heath & Wendy**

***teachers, volunteers & helpers for Awana, Children-in-Worship, Sunday School, LifeWise, Bible Study and all of God's ministries**

***those celebrating milestone anniversaries & birthdays**

***opportunities for education for everyone!**

***our heritage of faith**

***the time this summer for rest and relaxation with our families**

***God's gifts and blessings we receive each day**

***our jobs and the privilege to work in a free country**

***God's grace**

***the religious freedoms we have to worship as a congregation free from fear**

***each member of Boyden First Reformed Church**

***the elders and deacons and the work they do for the church**

***Prayer Warriors**

***the teachers, staff and helpers of our area schools**



Pray for...

- *those who are nominated to serve on the Consistory**
- *the Boyden Awana program, Children-in Worship & Sunday School**
- *those with on-going health concerns – Tom Salmon, uncle of Teresa Harms recovering from a stroke; Don Ver Meer, Kathy's brother who has cancer; Mary Schafer, Adam's mom & Karri's sister who also have cancer**
- *the RCA colleges as they begin a new year – Central, Hope & Northwestern**
- *the alcoholic, the drug addict and their families that pray for change and recovery in the lives of their loved ones**
- *those living in care facilities and those who take care of them**
- *wisdom as we raise our children and the children in our communities to become followers of Christ – "... teach the next generation ..."**
- *the life of our church**
- *peace around the world**
- *each of us to keep our eyes on Jesus in all we say and do**
- *the Consistory and leadership of our church to seek God's guidance in all the decisions that are made**
- *the Dad's Belgian Waffle feed this month sponsored by the Legion & Auxiliary**

We Believe in the
power of *Prayer*

SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH:

Here is a lovely picture from August 2004 of a group of ladies who posed for a pic before attending an event together. (Thanks for sharing LaVonne!)



Pictured left to right kneeling – LaVonne Sietstra, LuEtta Heemskerk & Sheryl Warntjes

Left to right standing 1st row – Clarella Van Marel, Leona Ver Meer, Frieda Smit, Margaret Moret, Toni Ten Haken, Jean Doorenbos, Trudy Blankers

Left to right standing 2nd row – Caroline Rensink, Max Moret, Janice Sneller, Mina Uittenbogaard, Milly Vander Maaten, Jo Vermeer, Priscilla Salmon



“Why Are Fire Trucks Red?”

Fire trucks have four wheels and eight fire fighters; four plus eight equals twelve. There are twelve inches in a foot. A foot is a ruler. Queen Elizabeth was a ruler, and the *Queen Elizabeth* is one of the largest ships on the seven seas. Seas have fish. Fish have fins. The Finns fought the Russians. The Russians are red. Fire trucks are always rushin’. Therefore, fire trucks are usually red!

If you think *this* is wild, you ought to hear some people trying to explain why they do not serve at their church!

HYMN OF THE MONTH:

“SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD”

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33

The beloved Scripture song “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God” has become a staple of contemporary Christian worship across the globe, cherished for its simplicity, scriptural faithfulness, and meditative melody. Written in 1971 by Karen Lafferty, the hymn draws its lyrics almost directly from Matthew 6:33. Though straightforward in its musical arrangement, the hymn emerged from a personal spiritual experience that encapsulates a season of surrender, divine provision, and redirection in Lafferty’s life.

Karen Lafferty was a young musician trying to find her way in the music industry when she composed “Seek Ye First.” A classically trained guitarist and singer-songwriter, she had moved to Southern California with aspirations of establishing a professional music career. However, as she became more involved in the Christian community, particularly with the newly forming Calvary Chapel movement in Costa Mesa, her ambitions began to shift. It was in this spiritually fertile environment, amidst the Jesus Movement of the 1970s, that her life and faith were deeply shaped. At the time, she was attending Bible studies and worship services at Calvary Chapel, pastored by Chuck Smith, and was part of the growing number of young believers whose musical talents were being redirected toward worship.

The inspiration for “Seek Ye First” came during a moment of uncertainty in Karen’s life. She had just returned from a ministry trip in New Mexico where she had been performing music for a Christian organization. However, after coming back to California, she found herself in financial difficulty and unsure of her next steps. Feeling burdened and anxious, she turned to the Word of God for comfort and direction. During her quiet time with the Lord, she read Matthew 6, and verse 33 stood out to her like never before. The simplicity and power of Jesus’ instruction to “seek first the kingdom of God” resonated deeply in her heart, and as she meditated on the verse, a melody began to form almost instinctively.

As Karen began to sing the newly composed song in her church community, it quickly caught on. In the years that followed, it became one of the most widely sung worship songs in the modern church, included in countless hymnals, worship compilations, and children’s songbooks. Despite its humble beginnings, the song was soon sung in churches around the world, translated into multiple languages, and adopted by various Christian denominations. Karen Lafferty’s obedience to God’s prompting that day led to a legacy far beyond what she could have imagined, all beginning with a single verse and a surrendered heart.

Beyond the fame of “Seek Ye First,” Karen Lafferty continued her ministry through music and missions. She eventually became involved with Youth With a Mission (YMAM), where she served for decades, training young missionaries and using music as a bridge for evangelism and discipleship. Her journey reflects the very verse she set to music - by seeking first God’s kingdom, all other things, including a fruitful ministry and enduring impact, were indeed added unto her. God can use a simple act of faith to touch countless lives across generations.

But First
SEEK HIM

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

783

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em A⁷ D F#m

righteous - ness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth . . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

In Years Gone By ...

50 YEARS AGO – September 1976

Sympathy wishes were extended to Mr & Mrs Lyle Moret in the death of an infant; to Mr & Mrs Keith Koerselman in the death of an infant; family & friends of Richard Oostenink; and to the family & friends of Wesley Zuiderhof.

Gregory Jon De Groot, infant son of Mr & Mrs John De Groot was baptized.

25 YEARS AGO – September 2001

A special welcome was extended to the “Class of ‘51” as they celebrated their 50th reunion and worshiped together. Four white roses were displayed in memory of classmates who had been lost.

The East & West Sioux Classes participated in a Walkathon at Centennial Park in Boyden. All were encouraged to attend.

Following the tragedy of 9/11, a special performance of the cantata “America” was held at the BJ Haan Auditorium in Sioux Center.

The membership of Melody Reuvers was transferred to FRC.

10 YEARS AGO – September 2016

Sympathy wishes were extended to Marlin & Tami Uittenbogaard for the loss of Tami’s mother Julia Dykstra; also to Pastor Matt & Teresa for the loss of Teresa’s mother Shirley Oltmann.

Pastor Dave led an adult Sunday School entitled “Go Fish” by Andy Stanley.

5 YEARS AGO – September 2021

Sympathy wishes were extended to the family & friends of Merle Van Roekel

Congratulations were given to Nic & Kaitlyn Rosenboom on the birth of their daughter Faith Marie Rosenboom!



**Boyden American Legion &
Auxiliary invites you to a**

Dad's Belgian Waffle Feed
Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Serving from 5-7 pm

Freewill offering.

Carryouts available



**Partners for Patriots
will have a display table
selling T-shirts, caps,
sweatshirts & cups.**



HAPPINESS IS ...



Wasn't it Smart of God to ...

- ... make human bone as strong as granite and able to support up to nine tons - a feature especially valuable after Thanksgiving dinner.
- ... make the human blood cell able to make a complete circuit of the body in about sixty seconds - guaranteeing that at least part of us is getting exercise.
- ... make the muscles of our eyes able to move approximately one hundred thousand times a day without breaking a sweat.
- ... cover our entire body with skin that flakes and sheds at a rate of up to 105 pounds during seventy years of living - and thankfully not all at once.
- ... give us nails to bite when we're nervous that aren't made of metal and don't taste like Brussel Sprouts!



Congratulations to first-time Grandparents Pastor Heath & Wendy! Welcome to the world Hudson Kahler De Jong, son of Hunter & Amanda!



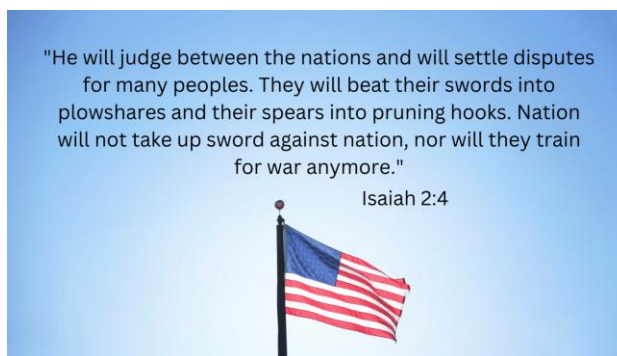
Patriot Day – a day of remembrance

On December 18, 2001, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day." It's a day to remember the more than 3,000 innocent lives lost on that September morning in 2001.

The resolution requests that each year the President issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities. Those activities include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence, and flying the American flag at half-staff.

In his 2003 proclamation President Bush said, "On that day, and in its aftermath, we saw the greatness of America in the bravery of victims; in the heroism of first responders who laid down their lives to save others; in the compassion of people who stepped forward to help those they had never met; and in the generosity of millions of Americans who enriched our country with acts of service and kindness."

Keep them all in your prayers this Patriot Day.



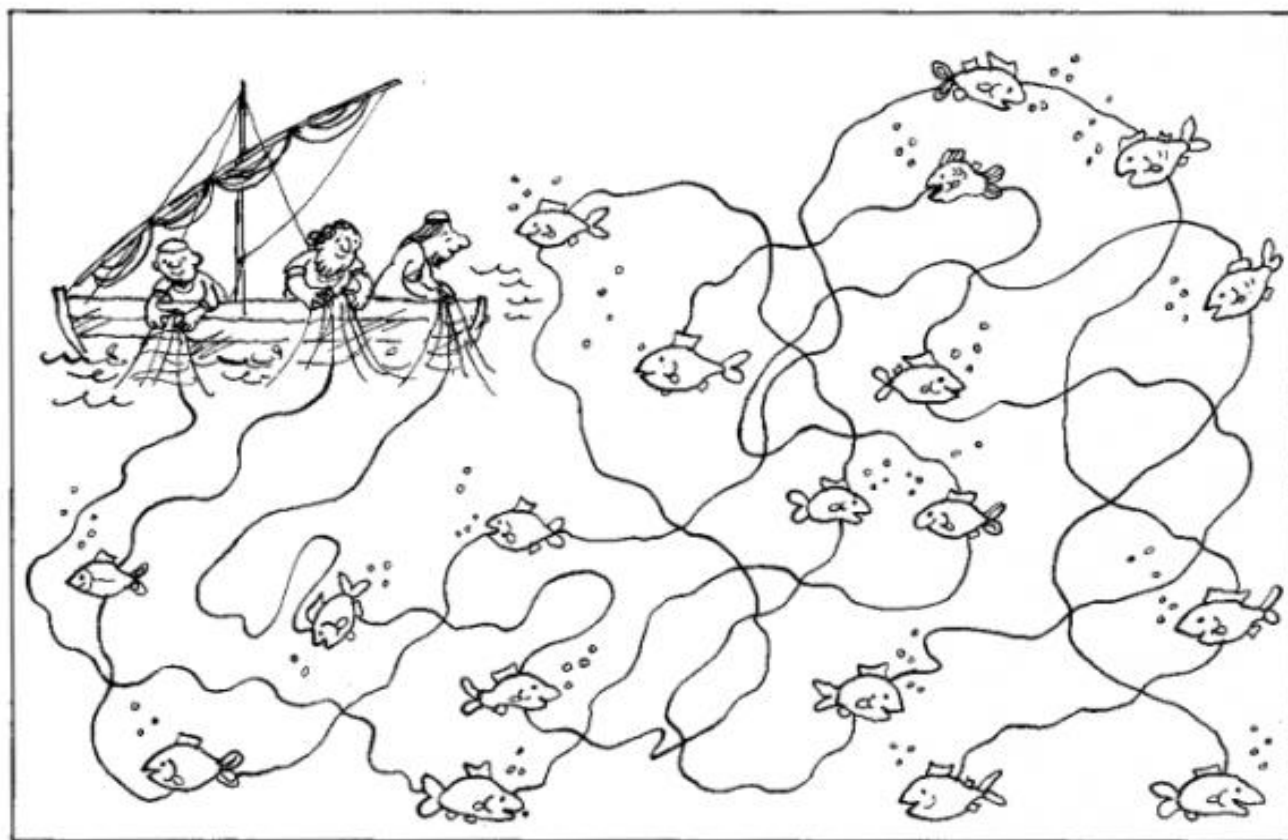
SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Men's Group 5:30 am	2 Awana Registration Youth Group 6-7 pm	3 Kirstin Huls	4 Ken & Shirley Baartman (67)	5 Spencer Diekevers
6 Missions Offering Jamie & Vicki Koele (30)	7 Happy Labor Day! Church office closed Josh Hoekstra	8 Men's Group 5:30 am Elders' Mtg 6:30 p Deacons' Mtg 7 p Consistory 8 p Kevin & Kayla Rosenboom (36)	9 Awana Youth Group 6:30-8 pm	10 	11 Happy Patriots Day!  Alan & Sheryl Warntjes (45)	12 Rod & Lori Bolkema (40)
13 Grandparents' Day! 	14	15 Men's Group 5:30 am	16 Awana Youth Group 6:30-8 pm Gary De Raad	17 	18	19
20 Building & Repair Offering	21 Innerglow news due!	22 Men's Group 5:30 am 1st Day of Fall!  Faith Rosenboom	23 Awana Youth Group 6:30-8 pm	24	25 	26 Collin Mouw
27 Pastor Doug Van Aartsen Grant Vanden Bosch	28 Chris Diekevers	29 	30 Awana Youth Group 6:30-8 pm			

Jesus' Disciples



Jesus had twelve disciples. One appears twice in the picture. Find him.



Which fisherman caught the most fish? Follow the lines to the nets.