

# INNERGLOW

First Reformed Church

Boydton, IA

LaVonne Sietstra & Teresa Harms, Editors



March 2025



# From your Church Secretary!

## What is the Church?

In Awana, I lead the large group for the Sparks. I have 2 classes. The first class consists of all Kindergarteners. They always have a ton of questions! Really, good questions!! Their questions reminded me of an article I saved that answered questions that many people have about being a Child of God. This month I'm sharing the section entitled "What is the Church?". Enjoy!!

**The church is the body of Christ - all the people who accept Christ's gift of salvation and follow Christ's teachings. It is much more than a building. In the Bible, "church" never refers to a building. It always refers to people - the people who follow Jesus Christ.**

**Being part of the body of Christ means we are called to be continually shaped to be more and more like Christ. This happens by letting the Word of God, the Bible, guide our faith and our lives, by worshiping God and celebrating the sacraments that Jesus gave us, and by living in community with each other.**

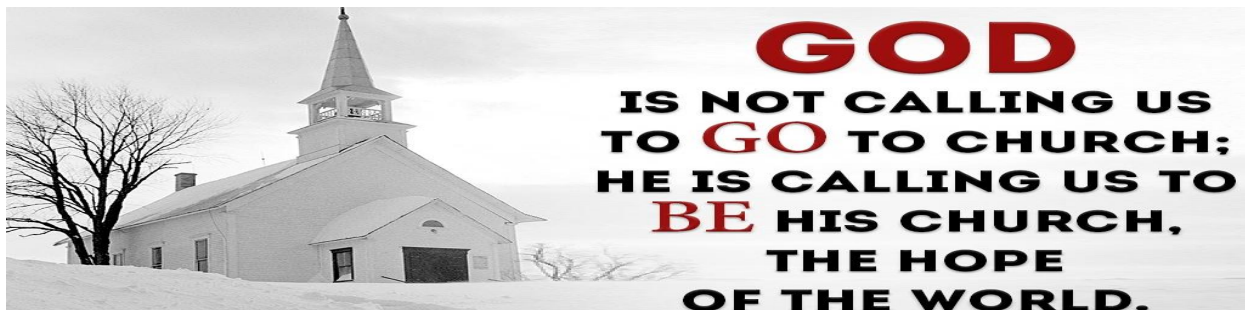
**Becoming a member of the church means that you belong to Jesus Christ and that you belong to the people of God. The church is also called "the bride of Christ," emphasizing that the church is joined in a deep and intimate relationship with Jesus, and is bound to Him by a covenant similar to the covenant of marriage.**

**The presence of Christ is the key to the life of the church. It is in and through the church that Christ encounters, calls, transforms, equips and sends His people into the world. God uses the church to introduce salvation to those who don't know Him, and to nurture the faith of believers. The church is God's instrument for expressing His compassion and concern for the world. The church is indispensable for Christian believers.**

**In the church, Christians are inseparably bound to each other. The picture of an individual Christian alone with God is alien to the New Testament. Christians are taught to call God "our Father" - not just "my Father." The importance of community in the Bible can't be overemphasized. The church as one body implies that Christians not only belong to Jesus Christ, but also to one another. Fellowship with Christ and with each other makes believers a single family united in love.**

**In the church, each individual is needed and important. 1 Corinthians 12 describes the church as a body, with each part (or person) playing an important role. Each person's gifts enrich the church and enable it to carry on its work in the world.**

**And within the church we're all held accountable to each other. We take care of each other, support each other in developing better relationships with Christ, and gently ensure - through love and patience and understanding - that we remain true to our beliefs, even when we may be severely tempted by the sins present in the world.**



# Praise & Thanks for...

**\*those who are celebrating anniversaries and birthdays of many years**

**\*the promise of Spring!**

**\*answered prayers**

**\*prayer warriors**

**\*assurance that nothing can separate us from God**

**\*all those who helped serve, attended and/or supported the "Junto" fundraiser for Pastor Heath and Wendy's trip to South America**

**\*volunteers in Children ministries – Children in Worship, Sunday School, Awana, nursery, etc.**

**\*working furnaces and warm homes!**

**\*family and friends who love and support you**

**\*good eats and those who prepare the food we enjoy**

**\*those who keep the roads safe for travel**

**\*libraries and book stores**

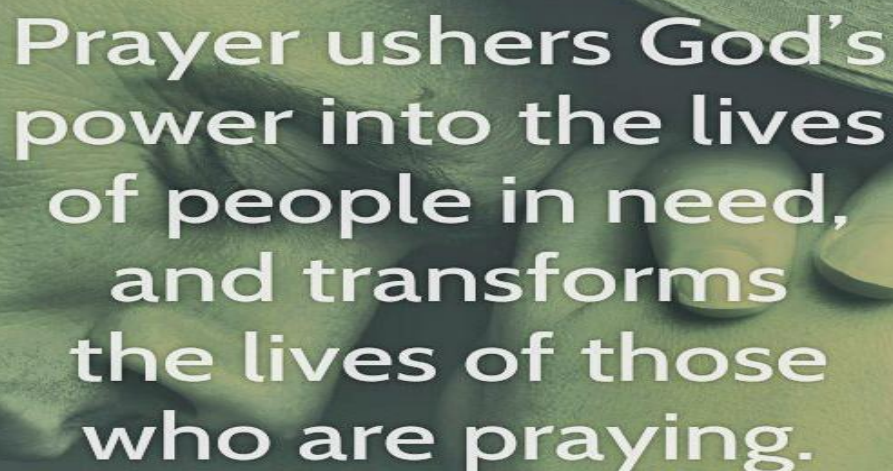
**\*our church family and the ability to freely worship**





# Pray for...

- \*families who have lost loved ones – Rod & Lori Bolkema in the loss of their brother-in-law Harold Fick; the Warntjes family for the loss of Wendell Warntjes; family & friends of Sharon Vander Schaaf**
- \*those who have on-going health concerns and those waiting for test results**
- \*those who are struggling with addiction, emotional hurt, mental illness and/or any other pain or difficulties**
- \*our families, our marriages, that God would strengthen them, guide them, and be honored by them**
- \*those who cannot join us physically in worship – that they would feel comforted and close to our church family**
- \*those serving our communities in law enforcement, emergency services, fire department and those who serve our country in the armed forces**
- \*Pastor Heath & Wendy and the Synod of the Heartland group as they go on the RCA trip to South America**
- \*the Boyden Awana program – that we can meet every week in March!**
- \*friends and family – that they feel the blessings of Jesus' love**
- \*the consistory and our congregational family**
- \*God's guidance and direction in our daily lives**



Prayer ushers God's  
power into the lives  
of people in need,  
and transforms  
the lives of those  
who are praying.

## SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH:

How did you do with last month's Valentines' themed "Family Feud?" I got a total of 599, which may sound impressive but the total number of possible points was about 870 so I missed quite a few! Here are the answers to last month's quiz -

1. Besides church, name a place you might walk down the aisle - cinema 27; shop/supermarket 24; airplane 22; theatre 15; bus 12.
2. Members of what occupation traditionally receive the most valentines - teachers 64; secretaries 16; housewives/moms 5; waitresses 3; nurses 3.
3. Name something you associate with Eve from the Bible - Adam 28; forbidden fruit 26; snake 20; sin/nakedness 17; garden 9.
4. Name a saying on a Valentine conversation heart - Be Mine 34; I Love You 33; Kiss Me 16; Hug me 4; Love me 4; Sweet talk 2.
5. Name a man who was tempted in the Bible - Jesus 30; Joseph 20; David 18; Samson 15; Paul 9; Job 8.
6. Besides "darling" name a popular term of endearment - Honey 53; Sweetheart 25; Sweetie 13; Dear 5; Love 4; Baby 2.
7. Name a famous couple from the Bible - Adam & Eve 32; Abraham & Sarah 20; Joseph & Mary 15; Isaac & Rebekah 12; Jacob & Rachel 10; Boaz & Ruth 5; Samson & Delilah 4; David & Bathsheba 2.
8. According to 1 Cor 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind" love does not what - Envy 30; boast 25; keep a record of wrongs 18; dishonor others 10; act rudely 7; delight in evil 5; easily anger 3; act selfishly 2.
9. What's another word for love - amour/amore 49; adore 12; affection 6; lust 4; passion 4, like 4; agape 2; romance 2.



# HYMN OF THE MONTH: "THE ROCK THAT IS HIGHER THAN I"

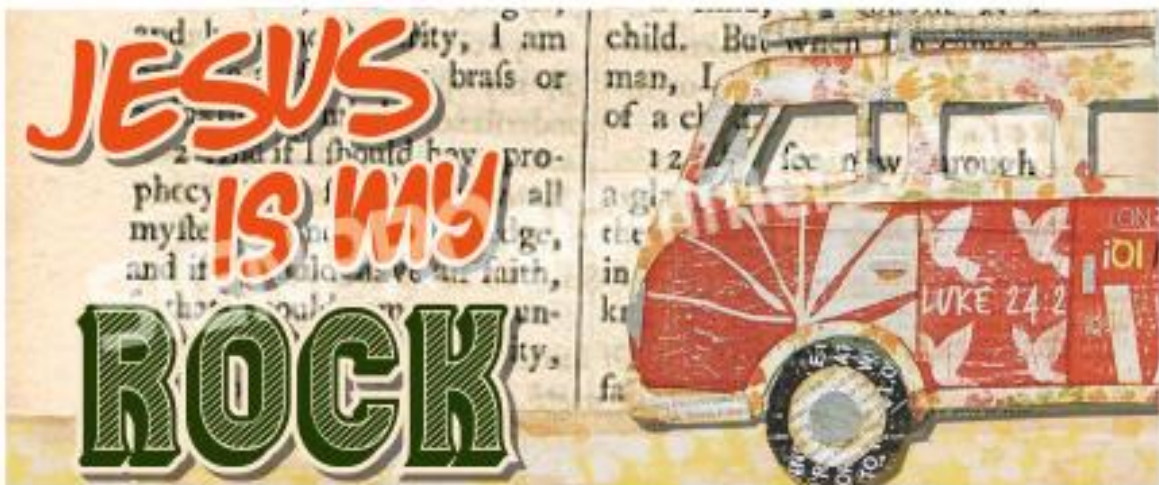
"...For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."  
1 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV)

"From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed," wrote King David in Psalm 61, "lead me to the rock that is higher than I." What a prayer to memorize and hold in reserve in our hearts. It's appropriate for all of life's situations, even financial disaster.

It was in such a crisis that Erastus Johnson wrote a hymn based on that verse: "The Rock That Is Higher Than I," with its resounding chorus: *On then to the Rock let me fly, / To the Rock that is higher than I.*

Erastus was born in a logging camp on the banks of the Penobscot River north of Bangor, Maine, in the spring of 1826. He wanted to enter the ministry, but his poor health and eyesight prevented his attending seminary. At age seventeen, he became a schoolteacher. In his mid-twenties, he followed his brothers to California in search of gold. After living in San Francisco several years, he returned East and settled down in Pittsburgh, farming and working in oil. In 1861, he attended a YMCA convention in nearby Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and it was there he wrote this hymn. His autobiography says:

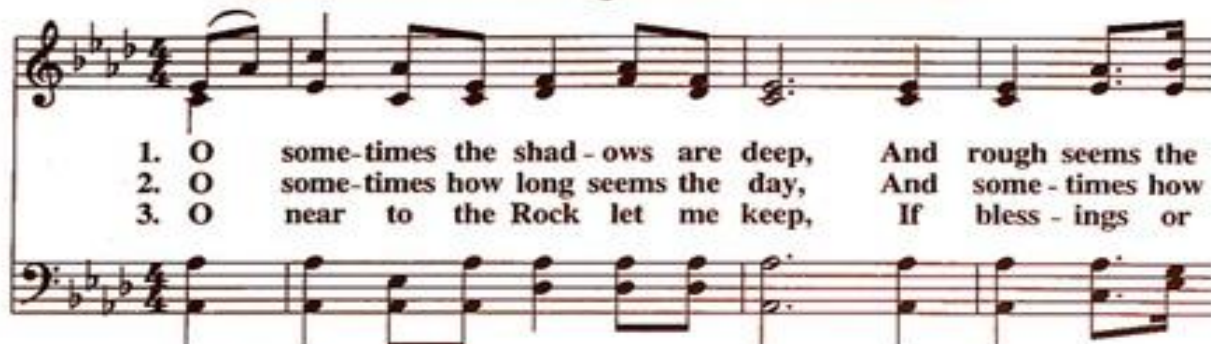
*There was a convention of the YMCA at Carlisle, PA, which I attended as a delegate, and John Wanamaker was president of the convention. About the second day there came a telegram from Philadelphia that the banking house of Jay Cook & Co had failed, in which Mr. Wanamaker had \$70,000 which to him at that time in life was a great amount to lose. Soon followed reports of other firms throughout the country, indicating a general panic. As a matter of course, it threw a pall of gloom over the convention, for nearly all its members were men of business. As an expression of the common feeling I wrote "The Rock That Is Higher Than I." Mr. Wm. Fisher of Philadelphia, the composer of many tunes for gospel hymns, was at the convention, and in conjunction with Brother William, led the singing. I gave the words to him and he set them to music, sang them, and they with the music immediately become popular in the convention, especially with Mr. Wanamaker, who several times called for it. And soon it found its way into many publications.*



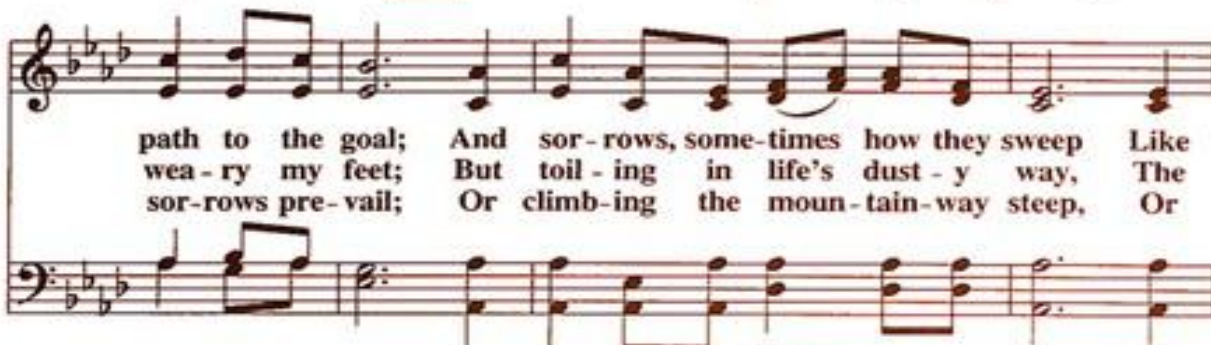


# The Rock That Is Higher than I 268

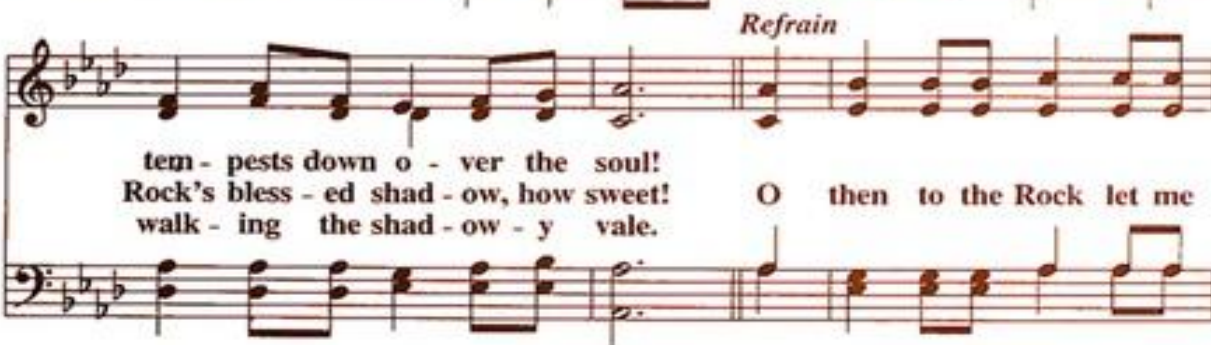
Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I — Psalm 61:2 KJV



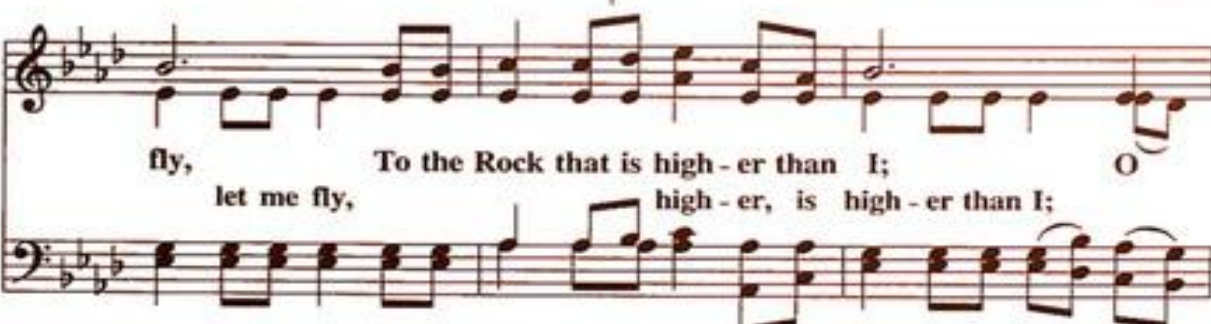
1. O some-times the shad - ows are deep, And rough seems the  
2. O some-times how long seems the day, And some - times how  
3. O near to the Rock let me keep, If bless - ings or



path to the goal; And sor - rows, some-times how they sweep Like  
wea - ry my feet; But toil - ing in life's dust - y way, The  
sor - rows pre - vail; Or climb - ing the moun - tain - way steep, Or



*Refrain*  
tem - pests down o - ver the soul!  
Rock's bless - ed shad - ow, how sweet! O then to the Rock let me  
walk - ing the shad - ow - y vale.



fly, To the Rock that is high - er than I; O  
let me fly, high - er, is high - er than I;



then to the Rock let me fly, To the Rock that is high - er than I!  
let me fly,

WORDS: Erastus Johnson  
MUSIC: William G. Fischer

ROCK OF REFUGE

# In Years Gone By ...

## 50 YEARS AGO – March 1975

I was unable to locate the bulletins from 1975. I will continue to look for them for future Innerglows.

## 25 YEARS AGO – March 2000

Attendees at the Jr RCYF Retreat at Inspiration Hills were Beth Blankers, Dawn De Groot, Andy De Wild and Jonathan Starkenburg with chaperones Youth Pastor Scott Winter and Emily Wickenhagen.

Sympathy wishes were extended to the friends and family of Winifred Bosman.

Several groups were featured during morning worship's special music including the Children's Choir, Jackie Jiskoot, Junior Choir and a saxophone trio of Leila Moret, Mark Moret and Amanda Van Meeteren with accompanist Laura Van Meeteren.

## 10 YEARS AGO – March 2015

An Omelet Supper Benefit for Doug & Mel Reuvers was held at the Demco Center.

Sam & Joan Wiertzema celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with their family and friends following worship.

Sympathy wishes were extended to the friends & family of Jean Mieras.

An Easter Brunch was held featuring guest speaker Jenna Van Marel who shared about her trip to Kenya where she helped distribute eye glasses.

## 5 YEARS AGO – March 2020

Rev. Bobby Van Otterloo and the Praise Team from New Life Church of Sioux Center led a service and shared their talents.

Covid-19 was acknowledged in the U.S. The world as we knew it was changed. All worship services and gatherings were cancelled. A weekly "bulletin" was still sent out via emails to our congregational family. On-line services were available to everyone through New Life Church in Sioux Center. However, Easter WAS NOT CANCELED! How we celebrated was just a little different that year. God is still in control and Jesus is still alive!!!



# FUN WITH PICTURES!

Do you recognize the prom couple last month?  
It was Nic & Kaitlyn Rosenboom!

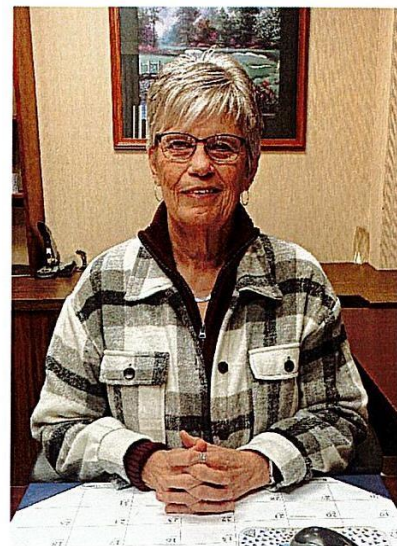
And here's a special invite to everyone to  
help Mary Van Es celebrate her  
retirement!! Congrats Mary – you  
earned it!!!

## Boyden Insurance — Agency

Located at:  
Citizens State Bank Bldg.  
817 Main Street  
Boyden, IA 51234

### OPEN HOUSE CONGRATULATING MARY VAN ES ON HER RETIREMENT!

The staff of Boyden Insurance Agency and Citizens State Bank invite you to join them in **congratulating MARY VAN ES on her retirement!** For **35 years** Mary has provided dedicated service to Brunsting Insurance Agency and then, Boyden Insurance Agency and their many customers. Please join in congratulating Mary on her retirement at an open house on **Friday, March 28 from 10am to 2pm** at Boyden Insurance Agency, located within Citizens State Bank in Boyden.



# SOUTH AMERICAN PASTOR'S CONFERENCE



## TRIP INFORMATION

Pastor Heath and Wendy will be traveling with a group of about twenty people from the Synod of the Heartland to South America (Chile, Argentina, and Brazil). The main goal of this trip is to introduce pastors from different cultures to each other for mutual edification, friendship and encouragement. The hope is that this will lead to forming “sister churches” with these pastors and their congregations. The culmination of the trip will be “Conexiones/Connections 2025,” a ministry conference designed for pastors and their spouses to bless and strengthen them in their kingdom work.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Safe travel for our team: We leave Sunday, March 23 and return Wednesday, April 2nd.
- Safe travel for the pastors and their spouses coming to the “Conexiones/Connections 2025” Conference from Thursday night, March 27 through Saturday noon, March 29.
- That the Anglo pastors and the Hispanic pastors would build friendships within the global body of Christ that would eventually have significant impact on our congregations through “sister-churches.”
- That God’s Spirit would speak to and then through the pastors who will be presenting. Half will be Anglo (including Pastor Heath!) and half will be Latino. Wendy will be spending time with pastor wives pouring into/being poured into by each other.
- That God would lead us to the new churches and pastors He wants to bring into the Reformed Church of America.
- That we would be a huge encouragement to the pastors and churches we meet with; and also that we would receive the Spirit’s encouragement from them!

## Fund Balances January 2025

<b>Awana</b>	<b>\$2,364.79</b>
<b>Benevolent Fund</b>	<b>\$19,778.75</b>
<b>Building &amp; Repair Fund</b>	<b>\$9,789.66</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$34,107.96</b>
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	<b>\$8,623.32</b>
<b>Mission Fund</b>	<b>\$947.19</b>
<b>Women's Ministry</b>	<b>\$2,837.19</b>
<b>Youth Funds</b>	<b>\$2,382.10</b>



### What I want my church to be

I want to belong to a church that is a lamp for pilgrims, leading them to goodness, truth, and beauty. It will be all these things to other people – if I am.

It will be friendly – if I am.

Its pews will be filled – if I help to fill them.

It will do a great work – if I work.

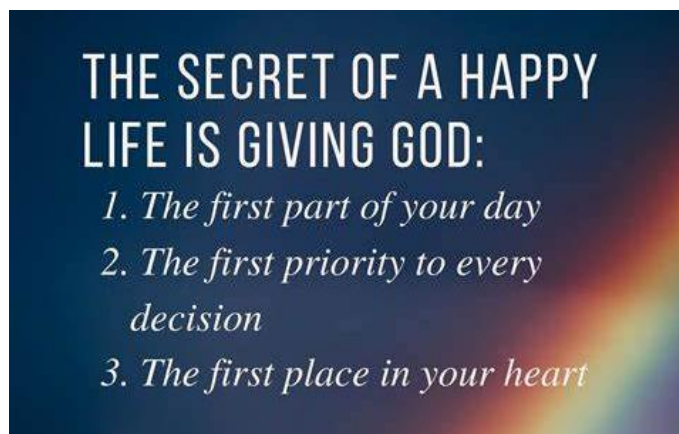
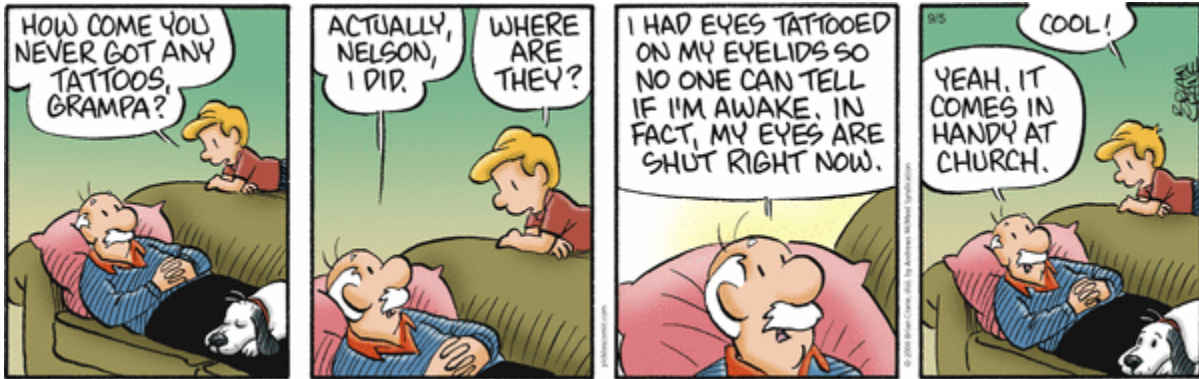
It will make generous gifts to many causes – if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship – if I invite them.

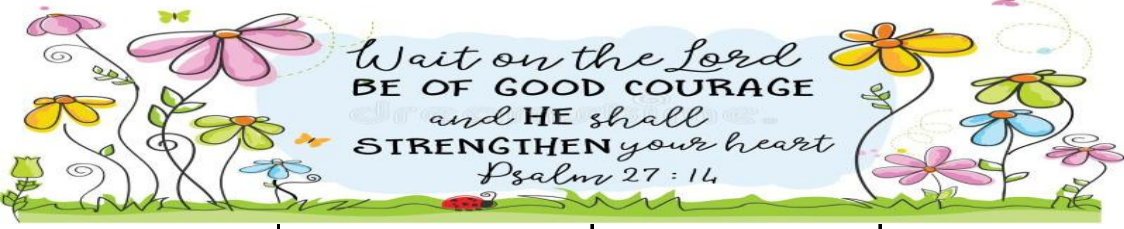
Today I dedicate myself to being all these things I want my church to be.

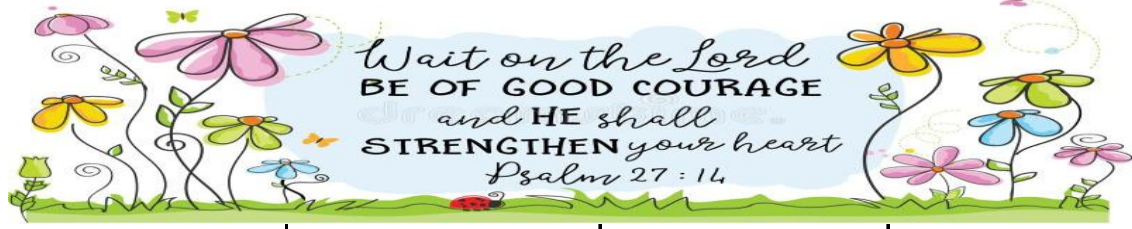


# HAPPINESS IS ...



# March

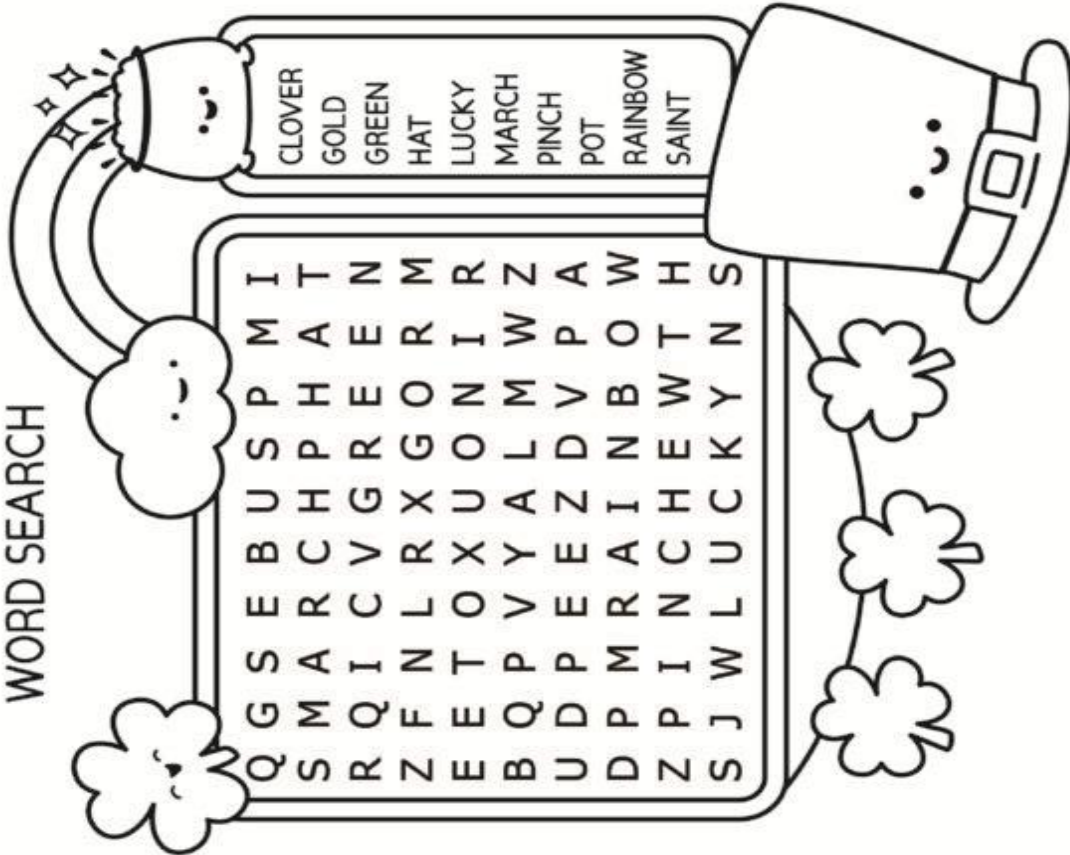
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					 <p>God Sends Spring</p>	1
 <p>Wait on the Lord BE OF GOOD COURAGE and HE shall STRENGTHEN your heart Psalm 27:14</p>						2
2						3
Mission Offering						4
						5
						6
						7
						8
						9
						10
						11
						12
						13
						14
						15
						16
						17
						18
						19
						20
						21
						22
						23
						24
						25
						26
						27
						28
						29
						30
						31
						32





# ST. PATRICK'S DAY

## WORD SEARCH



- CLOVER
- GOLD
- GREEN
- HAT
- LUCKY
- MARCH
- PINCH
- POT
- RAINBOW
- SAINT

www.CuteColoringPagesForKids.com

Church House Collection ©

### Daylight Savings Time Maze

Ecclesiastes 3:1: To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

