

Covenant  
Turns...



## 50 Years of Singing

The Covenant congregation has always loved to sing and make music to the Lord. And we're pretty good at it. For 50 years now, we have responded to the Psalmist's call to "sing for joy" (Psalm 95), to "sing with thanksgiving" (Psalm 147), to "sing a new song to the Lord" (Psalm 96). Will you help the worship planners look back over 50 years of singing and remember all the songs that have shaped us a body of worshipers and followers of Jesus?

Consider this: In our 50 years as a congregation, we have had four different hymnals in our pews, (now chairs)—the blue *Psalter Hymnal*, the grey *Psalter Hymnal*, the green *Sing! A New Creation* hymnal, and now the red *Lift Up Your Hearts* hymnal. (Sorry, Ron—I just answered your first question on page 2!) We've also sung many a new praise song as trends have changed and new styles have been introduced by new members with different gifts. (Remember any "Syd Songs" taught by Syd Hielema when we first started singing with a praise team?)

So, we've sung a lot of songs over these 50 years. This year alone, believe it or not, we have already sung at least 230 songs. Since we started keeping track in 2012, we have sung at least 961 different songs at least once. "Sing a new song," says the Psalmist. "Ok," says Covenant! But what are the songs that have shaped Covenant and comforted us and stretched our hearts and minds to God? Can we make a list of 50?

Please help us by filling out this survey.  
<https://forms.gle/GaSyQT6zVVL8wZeE7>

As we gather for worship over the next few months, we hope to sing some of your Covenant favorites and share your memories about them. Keep your eyes out for more information about Sunday evening hymn sings and worship nights.

(Also, keep your eyes out for some flashy "Save the Date" cards from the 50th Anniversary steering committee. We've got something planned for each month until April, starting next Sunday with our 50th Anniversary Kickoff Bonfire. And in good Covenant fashion, there will be singing there too.)

-Rebecca DeVries

SING  
SONGS  
OF PRAISE.

Courier

August 2023

COVENANT  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



As we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary, let's see what you know about Covenant's history! Here is another set of question for you to research this month!

1. How many different hymnal books has Covenant had and what color were the covers?
2. When and who was the first child baptized in Covenant?
3. When was Covenant remodeled with fellowship hall/classrooms added and what was the cost?
4. When did Covenant first discuss children being involved in communion/Lord's Supper?
5. When did "children's church" begin to be part of Covenant's Sunday worship.

Answers to this month's questions will be in the September *Courier*—but we encourage you to ask around and find out before next month!

And here are the answers to the questions that were printed in last month's *Courier*:

- Q:** Why did every Sunday's second service when Covenant was meeting at SCCS always end in a work project and what was the work project?
- A:** When Covenant worshipped at the Sioux Center Christian School gym, all of the

chairs had to be picked up after the second worship service. Men, women, and kids all pitched in and got it done rapidly as those working continued to fellowship.

- Q:** When did Covenant purchase the church building we now occupy and what was the purchase price?
- A:** Covenant purchased the church building of First CRC in November, 1979, taking possession in January, 1982 and dedicating the building in July, 1982. The purchase price was \$175,000 (\$125,000 for the building and \$50,000 for the organ). Our congregation authorized \$72,000 for remodeling costs. First CRC and Covenant exchanged parsonages.
- Q:** How many CRC churches were in Sioux Center at that time?
- A:** Covenant was first referred to as "Third CRC." First CRC was organized in 1890. Bethel CRC was organized in 1922. There were no other new CRC churches until Covenant CRC was incorporated in 1974. Faith CRC began in 1979, Bridge Of Hope CRC in 2003, and Amistad Cristiana in 2009.
- Q:** Why did the church building not have bell and how did Covenant get a bell?
- A:** First CRC retained and removed the bell since it was a gift to First by members who still attended there. A member of Covenant, Bob Vonhof "mentioned" to his uncle in California that our church building did not have a bell. A few weeks later a mysterious large crate arrived at the Vonhof house in Sioux Center. Bob's uncle had a salvage business and shipped a bell which he had. The only cost to Covenant was having a bell carriage made and installation.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Kindergarten Quilts

Covenant Kindergarten quilts will be given to eight special people named, Mia, George, Rue, Isla, Titus, Samantha, Hugo, and Rose. (If we missed anyone—call Rin NOW!) These young scholars will receive their quilts for kindergarten on August 20. HOWEVER, we want anyone who has ever gotten a kindergarten quilt from Covenant to please bring your quilt along on August 20. We will present the new quilts first and then ask the other quilt holders to bring theirs forward as well. Kindergarteners have been given quilts since the year 2000. Remember Ian Taylor, Jenna Rylaarsdam, and Carlye Tazelaar? Yes, they were kindergarteners way back then. Let's have a nice display of well loved quilts on August 20.

*-Rin Goedhart*

## Did You Know?

*(Continued from page 2)*

**Q:** How many ministers has Covenant had and how many can you name?

**A:** Covenant has been blessed with seven ministers:

Franklin Steen 1/1975  
Gilbert Kamps 7/1982  
Harry Weidenaar 8/1988  
Daniel De Groot 7/1993  
Herman Van Niejenhuis 7/2000  
Kory Plockmeyer 9/2013  
Joel Kok 12/2018

**Q:** How many minister interns has Covenant had?

**A:** Norman Steen, John Lee, and Karis Mpindi served Covenant as minister interns.

# 50th Anniversary Kick-Off Campfire



Join us for the first event in our 50th Anniversary celebration year!

**What:** Kickoff Campfire

**When:** Sunday, August 6, 6:00 PM

**Where:** Sandy Hollow Lodge

## A few more details:

- Entrance to Sandy Hollow is free for Covenant folk!
- Feel free to come early and swim!
- The Sandy Hollow Lodge will be available to us at 3:00.
- We'll gather for songs, stories, games, and food (not necessarily in that order!) at 6:00.
- Please RSVP—it will help us know how much food to have available!

<https://forms.gle/EaEMjgraiC8gT3z8A>

*Below: A throw-back to a previous Covenant camp-out at Sandy Hollow with a few kids who have grown a bit since this picture was taken!*



# August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Marge DeBoer Daniel & Erika Ver Steeg	8	Rin Goedhart Ron Oostra Carlene Van Schouwen	19	Steve Crull Savannah Lief
2	Ruth Clousing Pat Eggebeen Jason & Tammy Lief	9	Ron & Carol Oostra	20	Barb Mellema Shaun Stiemsma
3	Rob Haan Sos Maletoungou Faith Van Schouwen Laurey Zwart	11	Dani Wyenberg Robbin & Sara Eppinga	21	John & Linda Visser Daniel Ver Steeg
		12	Benjamin & Tricia Groenewold-Van Dyk	23	Chris Goedhart John Zwart
4	Verlyn & June De Wit Ryan & Angela Hannigan	13	Kathleen Van Tol	26	Connor Visscher Len & Lee Rhoda
		15	Deb Hibma Ryan & Amie Smit	28	Elise Stiemsma
5	Caden Zonnefeld	16	Blake Stiemsma John & Laurey Zwart	29	Shonna Plasier Dave Schelhaas
6	Ezra Landman Lee Mellema	17	Jake & Trena Van Wyk	30	Melissa Bailey
7	George Faber Juliet Jewett Jeff & Sara Ploegstra	18	Del & Lois Vander Zee	31	Joya Schreurs

## Thank You!

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Covenant CRC,  
Thank you for your church's recent gift to the ministry shares program. Your gift helps the Christian Reformed Church proclaim the gospel of Christ and strengthens more people to be disciples of Jesus.

We are grateful to your church for its passion to promote the gospel story and bring people to salvation in Jesus Christ. We praise God for your willingness to pool your resources with those of other congregations so that we can

advance the Kingdom of God in more places and in more ways than a single congregation could do on its own. I invite you to visit [crc-na.org/ministryshares](http://crc-na.org/ministryshares) to learn more about how your ministry share gifts are making a difference. Together, we are impacting the world for Christ.

Again, thank you for your continued support of ministry shares. I pray you will be blessed by all of your giving.

*Jeff Bolt*

CRC Director of Advancement

# August Scheduling



## Greeters

Ethan B, Jill F, Jason H,



## Ushers

Lisa C, Rin G, Len R,



## Coffee Servers

Jan B, Sarah H, Joan MC,  
Stan VB, Erika VS

## Substitutes

If you are unable to serve on your assigned date for coffee, usher, or greeter, contact:

Paul C, Rebecca DS, Verlyn DW,  
Lee R, Kris VP, Kurt V



*Thanks for serving!*

## Courier Copy—It's up to you!

The *Courier* is issued monthly at Covenant church. If you have copy that you wish to be included, send it to the church office. Each issue is distributed on the last Sunday of the month. **Copy deadline** is Monday, **August 21** for the September issue.



## Nursery

Nursery Monitor: Rachel L

### August 6

AM Kurt & Sharon V, Lee R

### August 13

AM Steve & Pat C, Dave & Emily K

### August 20

AM Nick & Jenni B, Doug & Marge DB

### August 27

AM Andy & Rachel L, Duane & Jan B

### September 3

AM Jeremy & Kristi H, Tricia K

## Formation Sunday Evenings

Join us for our 6:00 PM Sunday evening gatherings this month:

**August 6:** Bonfire at Sandy Hollow

**August 13:** Joint CRC service at Bethel\*  
Pastor Bob Pollema preaching

**August 20:** Vespers

**August 27:** Vespers with Communion

*\*The Sioux Center CRC churches will be gathering for a joint evening service once a month this summer.*

# Notes from the Deacons

The busy-ness of the year is always wonderfully interrupted by the arrival of summer. Work and school are paused in order to celebrate family, the outdoors, and warm (or hot) weather. Vacation plans are crafted to explore the beauties of national parks, forests, oceans, and lakes. Summer is a time to enjoy all of these things and more, a time to re-charge the battery before heading back to work and school and home life.

As we look forward to a new school year and the coming of fall, there are some big changes coming with the arrival of Iowa's Education Savings Accounts. The Deacons are (and will be) looking at finding opportunities and programs that we can begin supporting to further Christian education, missions and outreach in the world as our financial commitment to our local schools lessens over the next few years. We don't want you to feel like these decisions are happening behind closed doors either. We value your thoughts, inspirations, and prayers as we begin to look for exciting opportunities where we can help to support God's kingdom work in our nation and world at large.

To those who have faithfully given to Christian education for many, many years, thank you for your support! As time makes clearer

the permanence of Iowa's ESAs, we encourage you to continue your strong financial commitment to Christian education as you share your ideas with the deacons on how that money can best be used. And to those of you who are (and will) receive ESA funds in the coming years, please prayerfully consider how the blessings of these funds given for private Christian education can enable you to be a blessing to the church and family of God both here and around the world.

On behalf of the deacons,  
*-Deacon Dane Hilma*



*The 50th Anniversary Planning Committee got a little off-topic at their last meeting at the Goedharts' house and ended the meeting with Chris giving them a tutorial in tree maintenance.*

## Giving Graph

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/23-7/23/23) \$185,465	\$187,140	+\$1,676
Christian Education	(8/1/22-7/23/23) \$186,645	\$184,912	-\$1,734



## Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

A beautiful little girl named Noah Renee was born on July 3 to Casey and Lauren Rhoda of Sioux Falls, SD. Her birth weight was 6 lbs. 10 oz. and she was 20 inches long. Her grandfather Scott grew up in Covenant, and her father, Casey, attended Covenant while a student at Dordt. Big brother Graham was happy to welcome her to the family, as were great grandparents, Len and Lee.



*-Len & Lee Rhoda*

Susanna Rose (pictured to the right) was born on July 10 to Andrew and Naomi Friend. She weighed 8 lbs. 5 ounces, and was 21.5 inches long. Grandparents are Doug and Marge De Boer.

*-Doug & Marge DeBoer*

## Welcome, Willem!

Willem Todd Moss was born on July 14 at 7:38 AM. He weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces and was 20 inches long. Micah, Sarah, and Oliver are excited to welcome him to their family!



# Roofing Project: Complete!

The contractor for the project was Dave's Roofing from Elk Point, SD. The owner of the business is Dave Jacobs. The original estimate for the roofing project was \$173,525.00. The project came in under budget and only cost Covenant \$161,375.00. When the roof was uncovered it was discovered that the decking was solid and in excellent shape and so no additional plywood was needed so that was a savings of \$12,150.00. The first payment of \$80,000 was made on June 19 and the final payment on the contract is being paid this week for \$81,375.00.

The shingles that were used for the roof were Decra Shingles which is a stamped steel that is coated with asphalt and has an expected life of 50 years. I believe the color of the shingles chosen was called cobblestone which had tones of black, gray and tan. This was the closest match with the shingles on the other roof. Also, a water and ice barrier was placed on the roof.

Originally, the contractor hoped to begin on June 19. Due to delays with other projects they began the work on June 21. The project was expected to take about 2 weeks. It was estimated that 4-5 days would be needed to remove the existing slate shingles which contained asbestos. Another 4-5 days would be needed to install the shingles. Due to some rain delays and the July 4 holiday when the crew was off Saturday through Tuesday, the work was completed on Saturday July 8. The crew consisted of 9 men and women. They seemed very competent and experienced with asbestos and did quality work and worked long days (often 12 hours or more). You may have seen them on the roof in their

white suits. This was necessary to minimize contact and protect them from the asbestos. The crew started on the north roof and had the shingles removed in 2 days and then moved to the south side and removed that in 2 days. This was an arduous and slow process because the shingles needed to be sprayed, removed or peeled off, slid down the roof and then packed in garbage bags. The bags of waste were then loaded on trailers and taken to the landfill near Sheldon. Once, the removal was completed the new shingles were installed. Overall, I felt the project went very well and we have a very nice looking roof.

*-Daryl Hilma*

