

-- QUARANTINE CREW PICTURE CHALLENGE --



Quarantine Hair Don't Care!!!

MRC FAMILY NEWS

Our members who are celebrating an "Over 80" birthday this month:

Dorothy Van Der Weide

309 Elm St. PO Box 49
Maurice, IA 51036

**Dorothy will celebrate her
81st birthday on May 1*

Stan Van Ommeren

318 Pine St. PO Box 73
Maurice, IA 51036

**Stan will celebrate his 84th
birthday on May 23*



Wanda Hofmeyer

607 Georgia Ave SW
Orange City, IA 51041

**Wanda will celebrate her 84th
birthday on May 13*

Russel Van Peurseem

1007 4th St NW
Orange City, IA 51041

**Russel will celebrate his 95th
birthday on May 23*

Hospitalizations & On Going Health Concerns...

- ◆ Val Dykstra, Brent De Kok, Pam Korver, Bill Leusink, Isaac Schmidt, Nov Van Regenmorter, Bonnie Wolf, Linda Vander Laan, Ron Klein (*sorry if we missed anyone*)

Congratulations...

- ◆ Congratulations to **Brock, Carissa, Brooke, Elijah, and Madison** on the birth of their new daughter and sister, Emmalyn, born on April 14! God's blessings to you all!

Congregation Thank You Notes

- ◆ **Elvera Van Horsen** - *Thank you for making my birthday special during Covid-19. I appreciated all the cards and telephone calls. God bless you all.*
- ◆ **Wanda Kuiken** - *A special thank you for all the cards and gifts I received on my 87th birthday. I miss all of you but have stayed well. My prayer is that you all stay well. I feel so blessed to have such a special church family. God bless you all.*
- ◆ **Wilma Vander Stelt** - *Thank you to everyone who sent birthday wishes, as well as those who have sent or called during this time of virus. I enjoyed each and every one! Thanks and may God bless.*
- ◆ **Nov & Rog Van Regenmorter** - *I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, phone calls, delicious food, the beautiful prayer shawl, and most of all your prayers following my recent accident. Also thank you to Pastor Wick and Missy for their visits before the corona virus. All of your acts of kindness were very much appreciated. We are so thankful to our heavenly Father for my quick recover and as Dr. Muilenburg told me at my last visit, "You are a walking miracle." Thanks be to God for answered prayers!*

We apologize if we inadvertently missed anyone



Easter Lilies Given in Memory



Although we weren't able to be physically together for Easter, thank you to everyone who purchased an Easter lily to help decorate our sanctuary!
What a beautiful way to remember your loved ones!

Name:

Bill & Judy Vlietstra
Rog & Charlene Oolman
Jon & Amy Schmidt
Lee & Sharon Plendl and family
Gloria & Louis Wierda
Jason, Kristi, Jacob, Ethan, and Kaden Hargens
Wanda Kuiken and family
Marlys Lenters
Edith Kuiken and family
Gary & Dawn De Weerd and family
Michael & Laura Vander Stelt and family
Bill & Elaine Leusink and family
Dan & Lana Bruxvoort
Preston & Heidi Van Peursesem

In loving memory of:

Henry & Wilma Engeltjes; Bill & Grace Vlietstra
Helen Oolman; Lee Palsma
Our grandparents
Ed & Lois Plendl; Howard & Edith Van Roekel
Bill & Laura Korver; Lewis & Lucille Wierda
Kaleb Hargens
Bud, Brian, Bruce, and Tim; Elwin Herbst
Alison Lenters
Dave Kuiken
Gilbert De Weerd & De Weerd sisters
Our grandparents
B. Jay Leusink
Our grandparents
Deb Van Peursesem

*When
my heart
is overwhelmed
lead me to
THE ROCK
that is higher
than I.*
Psalm 61:2

SUMMER CAMPS

So, not much has changed since last month, but we are closer to summer. It's not too late to register for camps at Inspiration Hills. Just go to their website and check if the camp you want still has room. With the future still uncertain, they will be willing to give a full refund if you cancel two weeks prior to the start of the camp you are signed up for. MRC can help with the cost of camp, by paying 1/2 of the camp cost, up to \$180.00. Join in praying that the camps at Inspiration Hills and other places can happen this summer. Kids will be loved and be reminded that God loves them and cares for them.

**SUMMER
CAMP 2020**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

2020 VBS

We sadly have decided to cancel Vacation Bible School for the year 2020.

This was not easy decision but due to the quarantine and unknown future of things at this time, it is the safest choice. We apologize and look forward to VBS 2021!

The VBS team is planning a "family day" so that we, as a church family, can come together after this long quarantine and enjoy time together. The date we hope to do this is August 23, so mark your calendars and continue to watch for more details! We are excited to see everyone again!



Thank you to the following people who have served as G2G (Generation 2 Generation) grandparents in our Sunday school classrooms this year! We appreciate all your prayers and support for our little people throughout the entire year! You are all a true blessing!

Darrel & Mick Van Regenmorter
Wilma Vander Stelt
Jan Budden
Kari Van Klompenburg
Arlin & Lorna Bylsma
Rod & Betty Van Der Weide
Edith Kuiken
Denny & Karen Vander Sluis

Char Oolman
Evelyn De Vries
Len & Jan Hansen
Deb Hubers
Nancy Mouw
Don & Sue De Kok
Berdena Grady
Val Dykstra

Thank you

A special thanks to all the teachers that are so dedicated to teaching our little ones in Sunday school each week! If you see them, please tell them thanks!

Jess Wielenga
Carissa Jensen
Sara Mars
Laura Vander Stelt
Steph Schmidt
Jessi Holtrop
Lee Maassen
Sara Jansma
Colette Hofmeyer
Nancy De Jager

Jen Cleveringa
Marlys Lenters
Sara Wielenga
Susan Leusink
Sandy Holtrop
Jill Muilenburg
Carrie Vander Schaaf
Sharon Vermeer
Cassie Reuter
Casie Van Der Weide

Cherie Van Donkelaar
Cara Venema
Jo Kuiken
Elaine Leusink
Katie Moyer
Jen Leusink
Tracy Cleveringa
Tonya Venema
Cindy Van Der Weide
Amanda Dykstra



We had a fantastic first year at Awana! Due to quarantine, we did not get to finish out our year, but look forward to starting again in the fall! The kids have done an AMAZING job at memorizing scripture and we encourage them to continue to recite those verses throughout the summer months with their family! Thy word have I hid in my heart!

**A huge thank you to everyone that helped make this year such a success!
Your dedication is so appreciated!**

Kelly Van Gelder
Amanda Dykstra
Kimi Leusink
Lisa Smit
Stacy Jasper
Jen Leusink
Elaine Leusink
Cindy Van Der Weide
Julie Leusink
Eric Vander Schaaf
Lisa Nyhof
Brittini Oolman
Donna Muilenburg
Ashley Maassen
Sara Wielenga
Cheryl Van Wyk
Carrie Vander Schaaf
Maddie Dekkers
Memo Luna
Miranda Mulder
Heather Hofmeyer
Miranda Maassen
Sara Jansma
Donna Schaap

Denise Vander Stelt
Rachel Leusink
Sara Gebhard
Karen Vander Sluis
Jen Leusink
Brenda Baartman
Kari Van Klompenburg
Rachel Van Gorp
Cherie Van Donkelaar
LaDonna DeVries
Kristi Hargens
Sue Pleuger
AJ Schrock
Julie Vis
Cara Venema
Casie Van Der Weide
Payton Scott
Jennifer Shumaker
Dave Van Klompenburg
Holly Dekkers
Ross Hoekstra
Nancy Mouw
Kent Mouw
Amy Schmidt

Carter Bock
Dan DeVries
Mark Jansma
Isaac Holtrop
Justin Schrock
Priscilla Jansma
Judy Vlietstra
Jill Haverdink
Jo Kuiken
Samantha Van Der Weide
AJ Schrock
Dan Bruxvoort
Jeremy Vermeer
Harv De Jager
Dan Leusink
Adam Maassen
Al Muilenburg
Marcia Cleveringa
Jan Budden
Jo Dekker
Jill Muilenburg
Jamie Kamerman
Barb Van Horn
Apologies if I omitted anyone!

As you can see, this is a HUGE group of fantastic volunteers! They say it takes a village, and MRC has one amazing village! Please consider being a part of this tribe of volunteers in the fall when we begin Awana again! You will be blessed beyond measure!

JR GAP MINSITRIES



“...thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven...”

- Matthew 6



DISCLAIMER:

The Jr. GAP schedule has been suspended at this time due to our current situation.

Jr. GAP May Birthdays

Elsie Van Beek - May 1
Jessica Moerman - May 2
Carter Van Gelder - May 9
Jaylee Kamerman - May 24

ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Youth Group Time - Wednesday, April 29 & May 6 - For youth group on April 29 & May 6, we have an awesome opportunity to hear from a guest speaker and former Power Connection speaker, Cory Nikkel. He is exciting and engaging, and planning to speak on faith starting in the home. MRC Youth Ministries is

collaborating with New Life Reformed (Sioux Center), Trinity Reformed (Orange City) and Hope Reformed (Spencer) through the Synod of the Heartland to bring this opportunity. We hope to have Zoom youth group times following our time with Cory as well. We hope that you and your family will join us.

Middle School Retreat Reimbursements - The reimbursements for the Middle School Retreat have been determined and will be sent to families in the mail. For those who made payments, the reimbursement amount is \$95 per student. If you have questions, please contact Jon Eveland.



Summer Mission Trip – Denver, CO – June 12-19 – Our summer dates for our mission trip have been set, June 12-19. We will have the opportunity to serve in Denver, CO working alongside Mile High Ministries (an RCA partner), Open Door Ministries and Extreme Community Makeover. Some of our service opportunities will include serving the homeless, being challenged in the area of evangelism, some physical labor and learning more about ourselves and the Lord. Parents, if you missed the Parents Meeting in February and would like info, please contact Jon Eveland. **We are continuing to monitor and stay in communication with the ministries in Denver and will respect and abide by the opinions of health experts. At this time, the trip is still on.**

MRC Youth Ministries Website - Due to social distancing and not being able to gather, a website has been created to provide insight, encouragement, resources, RightNow Media study suggestions, and video media to be utilized at home for students and families to engage in spiritual growth opportunities. You are encouraged to check it out. If you have any ideas or thoughts on other ways to engage with students and families during this time, feel free to contact Jon Eveland. The link for the website has been sent via email and is on the Jr. GAP Facebook page as well. It is being updated weekly. Here is the link as well: <https://jeveland2.wixsite.com/mrcyouthministries>



SR HIGH MINISTRIES



“...thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven...”

- Matthew 6



Sr. High May Birthdays

Landon Hofmeyer - May 3
Carson Jager - May 12
Miranda Mulder - May 16
Alex Van Donkelaar - May 19
Zach Oolman - May 20

Haley Holverson - May 21
Jon Hathaway - May 24
Eric Plendl - May 25
Katie Plendl - May 27
Maddie Dekkers - May 27
Cole Venema - May 28

ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Youth Group Time - Wednesday, April 29 & May 6 - For youth group on April 29 & May 6, we have an awesome opportunity to hear from a guest speaker and former Power Connection speaker, Cory Nikkel. He is exciting and engaging, and planning to speak on faith starting in the home. MRC Youth Ministries is collaborating with New Life Reformed (Sioux Center), Trinity Reformed (Orange City) and Hope Reformed (Spencer) through the Synod of the Heartland to bring this opportunity. We hope to have Zoom youth group times following our time with Cory as well. We hope that you and your family will join us.

Rocky Mountain High - July 24-29 - So far there are 40 Sr. Highers registered for RMH! Registration will continue to be open on the www.synodyouth.org website until May 1. *Rocky Mountain High is an event held every 3 years. It is geared towards high school students and their leaders. This event is held at the YMCA Camp of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO. It is nestled in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, surrounded by nature and the sheer beauty of God. Our goal is to provide a large group encounter with the transformational truth and love of Jesus for students and leaders. The cost for Rocky has been determined and will be \$190/participant plus the cost of the REC Plus Activity. Once REC Plus Activities are assigned by the Synod, I will let each family know of the cost of each student attending Rocky based on which activity they are assigned.*



MRC Youth Ministries Website - Due to social distancing and not being able to gather, a website has been created to provide insight, encouragement, resources, RightNow Media study suggestions, and video media to be utilized at home for students and families to engage in spiritual growth opportunities. You are encouraged to check it out. If you have any ideas or thoughts on other ways to engage with students and families during this time, feel free to contact Jon Eveland. The link for the website has been sent via email and is on the Sr. High Facebook page as well. It is being updated weekly. Here is the link as well: <https://jveland2.wixsite.com/mrcyouthministries>

MOMENTS IN MISSIONS

There will be no **special offering** for the month of May.
Please direct your giving to the church mission fund.

NWC College Students Share About Their Spring Break Service Trips

Waco, Texas Spring Service Trip - Amber Hathaway - Back in March, I had the opportunity to go to Waco, Texas on a mission trip through Northwestern. At the time, I didn't realize it would be one of my last experiences with Northwestern in my freshman year of college, but it was definitely the most impactful experience of this short year. Mission Waco provides Christian-based holistic and relationship-based programs that empower the poor and marginalized. Along with that, their mission is to mobilize middle-class Americans to become more compassionately involved among the poor and see ways to overcome the issues of social injustice. What blew my mind was the wide variety of programs they offer to their community; a youth and children's program, job training, a homeless shelter, drug rehabilitation, legal services, health services, and poverty simulations just to name a few. It was amazing to see how Mission Waco embraced their community and to see how the community embraced mission Waco. In Waco, the poverty rate is more than one-fourth of the population at 28%, this is twice the national poverty rate of 12%. An example of the community embracing Mission Waco was when my team from NWC led a street camp for kids at a low-income apartment complex. In order to get kids to come, we had to knock on doors and ask for parent's signatures. From the outside, this complex was intimidating, but once we mentioned Mission Waco, the residents were quick to let their children come and even vocalized their appreciation for Mission Waco. While our group from NWC could only make a short impact on Waco, Mission Waco has been doing great things for the last 25 years. It is an awesome organization that has positively impacted Waco and impacted our team from Northwestern to try to incorporate similar things in our own communities.

Waco, Texas Spring Service Trip - Breanna Oolman - At the beginning of March, I had the opportunity to go on a Spring Service Trip with a group of students and staff from Northwestern College to Waco, Texas, where we partnered with the organization Mission Waco. While we were there, we had an incredible time working with and serving the marginalized population of Waco. Each morning we did a few manual labor projects and learned about different community resources in the area. On Sunday morning, we went to a church called Church Under the Bridge and were able to talk and worship with the homeless population and learn about how this church began. In the afternoons, we were able to participate in different poverty simulations and work with the children and youth programs that Mission Waco facilitates. A couple of the afternoons my group had the opportunity to host a Street Camp in a nearby low-income apartment complex which was my favorite part of the week. After gathering all of the children, we were able to spend a couple hours sharing a Bible story with them, singing songs, making crafts, playing games, and most of all, building relationships. It was an incredible honor to provide this environment to children who came from difficult home and family situations and who don't receive this kind of love and attention on a daily basis. Finally, we were able to wrap up our days with group devotions and some team bonding time. One of the nights we were also able to lead a chapel service at a local homeless shelter and had the opportunity to hear the stories of a few of the people that came to this service. I am very thankful for the opportunity I had to go on this service trip to Waco, Texas and the relationships I built, the experiences I had, and the ways I grew my faith. Thank you for your support in helping to make this trip possible!

Amsterdam Spring Service Trip - Lexy Krogman - Over spring break in early March, I had the opportunity to be part of a team from Northwestern College that travelled to Amsterdam as a part of our Spring Service Partnerships. While in Amsterdam, our team partnered with the Christian Youth Hostels ministry. The ministry has two locations in the city of Amsterdam, and their mission is to provide a welcoming hospitable place for travelers/backpackers to stay overnight for a cheap price. Our service in partnering with the hostels was to help with deep cleaning in the building (which included scrubbing lots of tiles), support and encourage the full-time and volunteer staff, and minister to the guests through conversation and hospitality. Due to the COVID-19 breakout, our team had to return home four days early, cutting our trip in half. Although we were only in Amsterdam for four days, the time we were able to spend at the hostels and in the city was incredible. A few of my highlights include getting to know the staff from all over the world, a 3-hour conversation I had with a guest from Brazil, and exploring the beautiful city of Amsterdam. Thank you to everyone from MRC who contributed to my experience through fundraising and prayers, and also for your continued support in general throughout the years. I am so grateful to be a part of such a wonderful church family! If you are willing, please continue to keep the hostels in your prayers as they have temporarily closed due to the virus. They are an amazing, God-centered ministry and the prayers would be greatly appreciated! Thank you, MRC!



THANKS MRC for the opportunity to serve in Costa Rica!



From the fall of 2019, to March of 2020, you as members of MRC were part of our team, preparing for the mission trip partnering with **Moviendo Esperanzas** from March 2-10 to deliver over 115 wheelchairs.



There was Caco, Quincho, Luis, and Fabio, Silvia and Adelita, Ana, Paula, Anabel, and Luciana. From MRC and Hope Haven, our part was a team, aging from a 19 year old college student to La Donna's father—13 altogether.



It was such a rich experience in multiple ways. So many times one could say, "God is so good." Looking across the gymnasium floor you would see Vern and Fabio kneeled over a wheelchair making adjustments and changing parts. Physical Therapist Sara was helping to position someone in a chair, checking to see where the contact points were



on her body. LaDonna-- with a translator--was teaching someone how to use the chair, how long to rest outside of the chair to avoid pressure sores and other important things to know. Lori and Troy or Brock masterfully organized the extra parts



ordering them in such a way that made it easy finding replacement parts for the chairs that needed adjustments or parts. Then



there was Ray the inventor, working with Luis re-creating a chair so that it fit the unique individual needing that wheelchair. Wick, exuding so much care and concern for the person receiving the chair he was working on. Ross and Brooke, also with translators, learned the stories of each person



receiving a wheelchair and then joining with a local pastor offering prayer and giving each person a chance to hear the gospel presented clearly. Debbie and Lisa were able to end the process with a smile to give each chair recipient a fleece blanket and a hygiene kit before Lisa took their picture in their new wheelchair. Everyone served in their sweet spot where they could excel in spite of the language barrier.

From Troy & Lisa De Smit: This was the first time we went on a mission trip together. We are so grateful that we were able to go to Costa Rica and serve together. Both of us were impacted by the father who held his very disabled son while they waited for their turn to receive a chair and while the chair was being adjusted. We didn't see the son react to his father at all, yet the father continued to hold him, kiss him, and love him. It was so special to see a father love his son even if the son didn't respond to that love. It reminded us of God's love for us. God continues to love us in our imperfections and even though we don't mirror that same love back to Him. We were also struck at how patient the recipients and their families were. For many, it took several hours before they went home with a wheelchair. Yet we didn't hear anyone complain about how long they had to wait. They were all just so appreciative, many leaving with tears of appreciation.



From Pastor Ross: Here is my friend Kendall. He received his first wheelchair on the trip. He was shot by police as he was mistaken for someone else. He and his friend received the Lord on this day. It was a cool experience to meet him because he is my age and we both could share stories of our life. We related when we both said we have tried to find satisfaction outside of Christ.

From Dan De Vries: On the last day, a couple of us were helping a young man—let's call him Carlos-- get fitted in the right chair. His mother had carried him in and when we went up to him to measure him, he was lying on a mattress that was provided for him. He was not able to walk, and in fact, because of his physical disability was mostly unable to do anything to care for himself. Mom, not that much larger than her son, lovingly picked him up and moved him from the mattress to the wheelchair and back and forth as often as we needed to in order for him to be positioned just right. Dan and Fabio worked to cut a piece of foam to fit and then glue inside the cushion pocket so that his position on the chair would be most comfortable and his body would have the best contact with the chair. The final adjustment was to completely remove the headrest and reattach it about halfway between its usual place and one of the armrests. Because Carlos had never had any form of physical therapy, not only was his spine curved unnaturally, he was unable to lay straight in the chair. When his mother placed Carlos in the chair for the last time that day, she smiled amidst tears and said that this was his very first chair. It was quite a moment.



In Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." This mother loved her son unconditionally. She had so much love for Carlos and Carlos had very little ability to communicate physically to his mother. This is like God's love for us. While we are still stuck in our sin, God loved us and Christ died for us. There is nothing we can do to earn God's love nor to love him in return to pay back the love we have been shown by Jesus.



From Sara Wielenga: I am grateful that I was able to assist with wheelchair distribution in Costa Rica. Many times during the week individuals were carried off the city bus, carried out of a family member's car, or arrived in a Red Cross van to receive their first wheelchair. Many of them waiting 7+ years for a chair and only being able to move when someone helped them. To see people laying on air mattresses and then providing them with the gift of freedom in mobility was life altering for them and myself. I appreciate everyone at MRC coming together to make this distribution trip possible. Thanks to everyone!

From Wick & Debbie: We were both humbled to have the opportunity to offer something as tangible as a wheelchair that had such an impact on every aspect of the recipient and their family's life! There is not one memory that stands out other than the genuine gratefulness that so many expressed. We thank God, Maurice Church and others that made it possible for us to participate on the trip.



May 2020

MRC Mission Prayer Calendar

Prayer notes from our partners in mission locally, regionally, and internationally

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pray with S & A K on home service in the US, that the Word can take hold among the Mru people in Bangladesh.	Pray for safety and health for the Heytsi's in the Ukraine in their ministry especially with the homeless.
3 Pray for the Words of Hope ministry to be able to bring the gospel in areas that are closed.	4 Pray that online coaching for new missionaries can remain strong for Steve and Tara Dekkers .	5 Pray for our staff team at MRC as they maintain creative ministry at MRC in their unique roles.	6 Pray for John & Lynne Hubers for the Ethiopian seminary to stay open after the Covid 19 crisis.	7 Pray for ongoing ministry and health for the S family while they are out of the country.	8 Pray with Brad Schelling and First Priority for students' witness to stay strong during break.	Pray for World Renew meeting needs for those in disaster areas sharing God's love and hope.
10 Praise God for His Son and the eternal life he has given us. Pray for many to come to believe this GOOD NEWS on this day.	11 Pray for wisdom & peace for Meggan & Pavlos in working remotely from the school and finding new family routines.	12 Pray for wisdom & direction for our MRC consistory leaders as they direct ministry with the staff.	13 Pray with Bob Abel for freedom and safety for children at risk in the sex trade through the ministry of Remember Nhu.	14 Pray for the needs of the Hispanic community to be met through Amistad and community resources.	15 Pray for the ministry of the Genesis House and Family Crisis Center as they meet needs of women and children in crisis.	1 Pray for ongoing ministry for MH4H in Haiti while doors are closed, and Tom Johnson is unable to travel or contact them.
17 Pray for Life Groups at MRC to continue to encourage and support each other and grow spiritually.	18 Pray for wisdom for Mark and Deb Wilson ministering to Cambodian students while in the States.	19 Pray for Deb Rensink meeting spiritual needs of women in crisis situations and unable to leave during this time.	20 Pray for Bonnie and Jon as they lead our youth through media and other creative communication.	21 Pray for Brian Renes to be able to continue with Bible translation remotely, and workers will be able to continue.	22 Pray for each of the food pantries and hunger programs meeting needs of the hungry in our community.	2 Pray for the MRC care team leaders ministering among the stress of changes with Covid-19.
24 Pray for Pastor Ross, Pastor Missy, and Pastor Wick as they lead, disciple, and care for members at MRC.	25 Pray for comfort for families of veterans who have died. Pray for God's peace to sustain them during this time.	26 Pray for safety of our mission partners serving in unstable areas. Pray for courage and love as they share of God's hope the future.	27 Pray for Jon & Erin H as they support and counsel their student disciples to trust in Jesus as their ONE true hope.	28 Pray for the ATLAS staff as they meet with clients dealing with additional stress from the recent health crisis.	29 Pray for staff of Open Doors Orphanage and Paradise Bound to remain strong in faith & courage in continuing in the mission.	3 Pray for Hope Haven & Village NW staff as they meet the needs of people with disabilities during so many changes in their lives.
31 Pray for our country and leaders as they lead and guide through this time.	<i>"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God". Philippians 4:4</i>					