

CALVARY COURIER

April 2021

Council News

Devotions for the Council centered on the topic of peace, highlighted in Philipians 4:4-7, John 14:27, and Psalm 23. Peace is a fruit of the Spirit. While Jesus doesn't say we won't have trouble, he does promise to be with us through it. How do we find peace? Remember God's peace is available to each of us. As we experience challenges, we may need to adjust our attitude, and be aware that our 'peace-takers' are often those closest in relationship to us.

Approval was given for the Fellowship and Education Committees to plan a fellowship event for Sunday, May 11 to recognize the service of teachers, as well as celebrate the Profession of The practice of Mutual Censure was explained, and will be conducted at the April Council Meeting.

The Growing Young initiative was discussed. Pastor Nate's video presentation highlighted past action plans as well as the renewed efforts to relaunch its emphasis. An ad-hoc team is being formed to provide direction going forward. Each of the church committees is being tasked to study the Growing Young directives and report to the Council how they plan to implement their strategies. Council and committee members are urged to read the book, GROWING YOUNG (6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church).

Pastor Brad led a discussion on Healthy Church questions based on the topic of Loving Relationships.

1. Are we building loving relationships in which there is room to disagree?
2. Are we intentionally creating opportunities for individuals to engage with one another in practical ways in our congregation?
3. Do we strengthen relationships with small groups and mutual accountability?
4. Do we use biblical principles in handling conflicts?

Pastor Shelden reported the Small Group Committee is suggesting that groups resume meeting. Also, that the Chapel at the Newton Prison has re-opened.

The Tornado evacuation procedure will be reviewed Sunday, March 28. A Fire Safety Drill is scheduled for Sunday, May 23 in conjunction with an outside fellowship event.

Permission was granted to set up Room 304 as a dedicated space for recording pastor's live-streaming messages. The recordings are currently done in Pastor Brad's office and requires a lot of set up and take down time as well as scheduling conflicts.

The request of Don and Karen Branderhorst to transfer their membership to Third Reformed was approved.

Possible ways to relax Covid restrictions were discussed. An adjustment was made to the guidelines to "recommend the use of masks along with continued social distancing practices," effective immediately. There will also be a coffee pot ready for people to help themselves.

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Words of Thanks

Thank you for the prayers, calls and cards of sympathy given to us at the time of Jim's moms passing.

-Jim & Bev Van Zee and family

I am very grateful for the many cards, letters and other gestures of kindness from my Calvary family since I have been shut in and no longer able to attend worship services. I enjoy watching the church services on-line, visits from Pastor Starkenburg and the caring concern shown by my elders and deacons. Please know that I miss you all very much and feel loved. Recently I, along with my children and medical professionals have made the decision to end my chemo treatments. I covet your prayers as I rest in the promises of my Savior that He will never leave me and I look forward to my heavenly home.

-Joann Nikkel

Thank you Calvary church family for the beautiful cards and sentiments you sent me for my 90th birthday. I enjoyed them all and appreciate your thoughtfulness. "God bless us everyone" Audrey Veldhouse

Thank you for the cards, flowers, memorials, condolences, and prayers provided to my Dad and our family following the loss of my mom. Calvary Church held a special place in Mom and Dad's heart and your outpouring of support only confirmed why that was true. Thank you.

Steve and Sheri Holwerda (on behalf of Rev. Holwerda and family)

Gerson & Crystal Cerritos

We are healthy here, and thankful for sweet baby Jane who keeps growing! She is starting to talk and also walking/running now. So grateful for her constant smiles and giggles.

Ministry currently is slow, but we are trying to step in where we can. We continue to help a woman named Josefina from one of our Mission Firefly villages with her doctor visits and her medicines, as she is a 34 year old woman struggling with rheumatoid arthritis. Prayers for her would be greatly appreciated as this past week she received a not so great report from the doctor and the needs for additional meds as well.

We are also currently in the process of beginning to plan out a transition home for teens who have grown up in the House of Refuge (where we used to live 3 years ago). We recently switched houses and this house has the space to begin this new ministry we have been praying for and continue to pray for. Asking for your prayers as well as we work towards getting this laid out on paper and also prepare where our current home for this. I will be sending you more on this in the month to come as we work towards concrete ideas and guidelines!



Pathways of Pella

Last year we saw tremendous growth in the number of clients we saw. We went from 2019 having 147 client visits to last year 233 and in January 2021 we had 50 visits! I know God is working in central Iowa and we are happy to be here supporting the community.

We have just finished this year's baby bottle campaign. I know the pandemic has made all of us be more creative with communication and how we raise awareness. Last year we had 12 churches participate in the fundraiser from January to March and we were able to get bottles to about 600 families and raise over \$15,000! We were impressed how God blessed our center through last year's campaign. Thank you for your participation.



April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Harley Van Weelden* David Verschuure*	2 Tricia De Haan Darlene Klein*	3 Jenna De Jong* Jeanna Vande Zande
4 	5 Lee Zondervan	6 Logan Kelderman	7 	8 Craig Roose Michael Van Gorp	9	10 Ryan Van Kooten Kim Van Zee
11 Mellan Miller	12 Ryer Vande Zande	13 Jemma Schutte Lark Thomas	14 Marj Sikma*	15 Clair Van Wyngarden	16 Kane Holdsworth	17 Dan Jungling Dorothy Van Kooten* Marilyn Veenstra*
18 Lavern De Vries d Vande Pol*	19 Eden Verhoef	20 Brenda Van Hal	21 Nicole Kelderman Rhett De Vries Remington De Vries	22 Grace Van Kooten*	23 Jill De Vries	24 Jonathan Dockter Stacy Schutte
25 Ryan Bandstra Paul Monsma	26 Donna Gosselink*	27 Liam Laverman	28 Amy Van Wyk Grant Roose	29 	30 Howard Vroom	