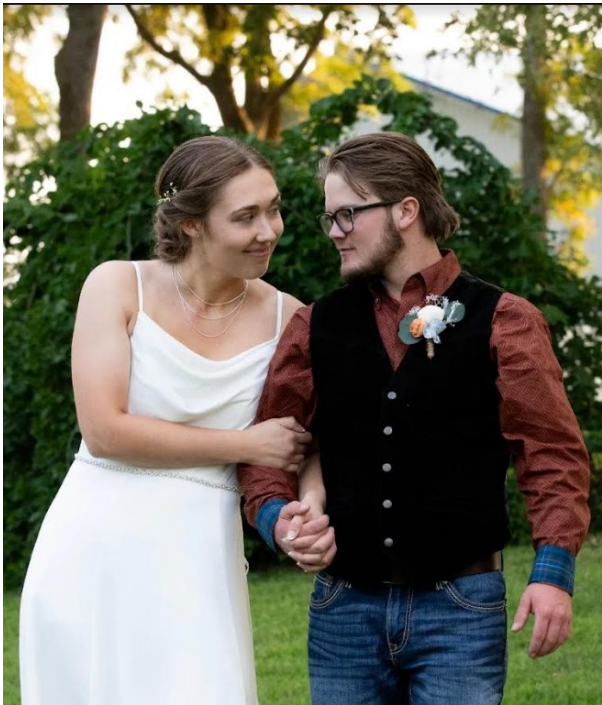


CALVARY COURIER

October 2023

Congratulations to Emily Sytsma and Gideon Boender



It was a beautiful Friday evening on August 18, 2023, when people gathered at Calvary Church in celebration of the wedding ceremony of Emily Sytsma and Gideon Boender. Pastor Brad Bierma officiated the wedding ceremony. The beautiful wedding colors were navy and rust-orange. Their wedding reception was held at the Nelson Pioneer Farm in Oskaloosa. The couple honeymooned together in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. Emily is the daughter of Dan and Deanne Sytsma who attend Calvary Church. Gideon

is the son of BJ and Cassia Boender from Oskaloosa.

Emily and Gideon met in high school and enjoyed being in the FFA and trapshooting together. Now Gideon works full time at the Sully Meat Locker. He enjoys taking care of his cattle with their border collie, Gypsy. He enjoys and is very skilled at automotive repair. Emily works part-time at the Quilted Windmill in Pella and is still finishing classes for office administrator at Indian Hills Community College. Emily looks forward to the time that she will be able to find a job as an Administrative Assistant. In her free time, she enjoys sewing and doing various house projects. She also enjoys cooking, baking, and hanging out with their little Ausie-doodle, Chip. Together the couple enjoys trapshooting, hiking, and traveling together.

Emily and Gideon, Calvary wishes you God's blessings as you begin your life together.

World Renew Disaster Response Service



It was my privilege and joy to participate in a Needs Assessment with World Renew in Central Florida, August 5 through 19. It was the real Florida, with swamps, crocodiles, Spanish Moss, orchards, pastureland, cow-calf herds and wide variety of trees. I was part of a team of eleven (five from the Pella Area, five from Michigan, and one from Washington State). Our central location was a motel in Arcadia, Florida. From there we set up walk-in centers at several locations in Hardee and DeSoto Counties, as follow up to the destruction Hurricane Ian caused to Central Florida the end of September 2022. Residents came to the walk-in centers to describe various housing deficiencies.

The most common issue was mold caused by a leaking roof, the result of tree damage and high winds peeling off the roofing material. Several others lost everything in the hurricane and are living in temporary housing, struggling to furnish the everyday basics. Immediate emergency assistance for food and clothing was provided to many by FEMA, and some who had property insurance received additional financial help. Still, there are significant unmet needs.

The Needs Assessment information collected was turned over to disaster recovery agencies in each of the counties. The agencies are assigning case managers to residents and dispensing available funds to meet the variety of needs.

Thanks to the Missions Committee for their support and encouragement to serve in this way. The Lord willing, I hope to be able to do that again.

-Ivan Mulder

Check out ReFrame Ministries

Family Fire - is an online community exploring Spirit-led family, marriage, parenting, in-laws, blended families, and intimacy. Find encouraging articles and devotions at familyfire.com. Subscribe for regular email updates and connect with our Family Fire community on Facebook.



Kids Corner: Orange Shirt Day and Micah 6:8 - Check out this week's kids' devotion at www.kidscorner.net. Throughout the Bible, God is clear that justice—or making things right again—is very important to him. In our world, many things are difficult and broken by sin. But God tells us that he is at work restoring justice, and he invites each of us to help him make things right wherever and whenever we can. One way we can make things right is by knowing the sad stories of the past and by doing better today. Check out all the great content at kidscorner.net like the KC's Liz and Friends Podcast "Blizzd The Peacemaker."

Groundwork: Faith in the Fire - Throughout our lives, we will experience instances where we feel pressured to compromise our faith. Join Groundwork as we study the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace in Daniel 3 for encouragement to stand firm, trust God, and remain faithful even in the most challenging of circumstances. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Young At Heart Enjoys The Creation Museum and The Ark Encounter

It was Tuesday morning, September 5, 2023, and excitement was in the air for thirty-four members of the Young At Heart group and their friends from other churches as we boarded a Windstar Motor Coach for The Creation Museum and The Ark Encounter. After having lunch at Culvers in Bloomington, Illinois we stopped at The Funk Prairie Home Museum in Shirley, Illinois. The Funk Prairie Home Museum is the home of the Funk family who invented the Funk Seed Corn. While there, we toured the 1864 Funk Family Home which had most of the original furniture in it. We also toured their Gem & Mineral Collection as well as the 1860's Machinery and Barn. It was so interesting to hear about how the Funk family humbly helped so many people with their private donations.

On Wednesday, we travelled to the Creation Museum. The history of the Bible comes to life in many ways at the museum. We were able to view the state-of-the-art exhibits about the Garden of Eden, The Flood, and Fearfully and Wonderfully Made. Along with being able to listen to many speaker presentations, we were able to see films in the 4-D Special Effects Theater as we watched, "Encounter the Wonder" and "In Six Days" presentations. Before leaving The Creation Museum we watched "The Created Cosmos" in the Stargazer Planetarium. Here we became aware of the beauty of the stars, planets, and galaxies and the powerful God who created it all. Be sure to ask Casey Van Weelden and Richard Terpstra about their zip line ride.



On Thursday, we spent most of our day at The Ark Encounter. This is a full-sized Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions of the Bible-510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high. Inside the ark we experienced what it might be like being in the ark during the flood, how the animals were kept in their cages, how they were fed and watered, and what they did with their waste. We also saw what the living quarters might have been like for Noah and his family. Along with the many things to learn about the ark we were also able to enjoy lunch at Emzara's Kitchen and view some of the unusual animals at The Ark Encounter Zoo.

On Friday, we started our way back home, but not before touring Fair Oaks Farm in Fair Oaks, Indiana. The Fair Oaks Farm is a family-owned farm, and the #1 agritourism destination in the Midwest. There we participated in the "Pig Adventure," where we learned about the care and farrowing of many hogs. On the "Dairy Adventure," we watched the different ways in which they milk approximately 3400 cows three times a day, some five times a day. Their milking process is certainly different from the process we were used to when we grew up. The Fair Oaks Farm is a perfect place for children and urban families to learn where their food is produced.

On Saturday, we travelled the rest of the way home. We stopped for a wonderful lunch at Cracker Barrel in Davenport and arrived back at Calvary at 4:30 PM.

Our trip was a beautiful time of learning, laughing, and fellowshiping with one another. If you would like to know more about the upcoming Young At Heart events and trips, you can contact Christy Van Zee to be added to the Young At Heart email list.





October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 George Duren*	3 	4 Arlene Bogaards Katie Hoksbergen Brad Jungling	5 Kim Bandstra	6 Marilyn Harms* Norma Van Weelden* Nate Klingenberg	7 Kate Roozeboom Emily Vos
8 Marie Van Maanen*	9 Bill De Groot* Rob Van Beek Logan Blom	10 Linda Zuidema	11 Marilyn Sterk	12 Gabriella Wood Dalton De Vries	13 Twyla Van Wyk Sam Disselkoen	14 Emily Boender
15 Millie Burghorn Lori Vande Zande	16 Bruce Ribbens	17 Robin Vos	18 	19 Noah Wood	20 Hannah Roozeboom	21
22 Sheila De Haan	23 	24	25	26 Bernice Van Gorp*	27 Mary Van Arendonk	28 Jim Lanser
29 Mike Roozeboom Louisa Sandbulte	30 Meyer Vande Voort	31				