

# CALVARY COURIER

June 2026

## Council Highlights May 2026

**Devotions** — Council president Eric Vande Zande opened the meeting with devotions from *The Good News We Almost Forgot* by Kevin DeYoung, reflecting on Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 3 and its teaching on our fallen condition and our need to be born again.

**Prayer** — The Council offered prayers for Martena De Groot at The Cottages; Peggy De Nooy as she recovers from back surgery; Gene Roose as he continues to face breathing challenges; Verland Engle as he seeks treatment at Mayo Clinic; the family of Brenda Nugteren's cousin who recently passed away; and students graduating this month.

**Sharing and Appreciation** — The Council expressed enthusiasm about the upcoming restart of *The Calvary Courier*. Appreciation was shared for Reagan Rus's report on her mission trip to Abaco, Bahamas. It was noted that 70 visitors from the University of Iowa attended King's Day in Pella, providing an opportunity for Calvary's hospitality to shine. Gratitude was expressed for volunteers assisting with the Tulip Time shuttle. Members also commented on recent worship services, noting meaningful messages, well-chosen songs, and the special music at the May 17 evening service.

**Pastor Roger** — Pastor Roger recently preached at New Life Church and attended the 75th anniversary celebration of Calvin CRC in Rock Valley, IA, where he previously served. He continues to enjoy visiting senior members of the congregation and is attending all Search Team meetings.

**Pastor Nate** — Pastor Nate facilitated a young-adults gathering at West Side Social and reported that a young-parents group of five couples is meeting regularly. Three students are considering making profession of faith. Mission trips are planned to Fort Collins, CO in June and Chicago in July.

**Pastor Sheldon** — Pastor Sheldon noted a slight decrease in preaching and funeral commitments in recent months. He looks forward to an upcoming preaching engagement at New Life Church and continues making visits to shut-ins and others in the congregation.

**Mutual Censure** — The Council reflected on ways to strengthen its work and acknowledged areas of encouragement. Appreciation was expressed for new Elders and Deacons embracing their roles and for the work of the Search Team. Pastor Roger encouraged district leaders to notify him if a member would benefit from a visit. Members were reminded of the weekly 9:45 a.m. Sunday prayer time.

**One-Year Goals** — The Mission and Vision Team presented three goals for the coming year, focused on Worship, Discipleship, and the formation of Life Groups. The Council reviewed and discussed the document outlining these goals.

**Church Profile** — The Council approved the church profile document that will be used by the Search Team to introduce Calvary to prospective pastors.

**July 26 Worship** — The Council approved a plan to worship with the congregation at Connect Church on July 26, providing flexibility in case sanctuary renovation work is not completed by that date.

**Closing** — Elder Dan Van Kooten closed the meeting with prayer.

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## Welcome to Belkys Gil & Dámaso Ureña

Belkys Mabel Gil was born in San Pedro de Macorís and raised in Santo Domingo, the capital city of the Dominican Republic. She grew up in a Christ-centered family where her parents faithfully served as missionary pastors for approximately 17 years in rural communities throughout the country. Their ministry, dedication, and example deeply influenced Belkys' faith, values, and passion for serving others through education and ministry.

Belkys currently serves as an educator at Pella Christian Schools, where she enjoys supporting and encouraging students and families through teaching. While living in the Dominican Republic, she earned her bachelor's degree in education with a major in English and later completed a master's degree in educational management. She is currently pursuing a second master's degree online through Central University of Paraguay, continuing her passion for lifelong learning and personal growth.

Dámaso Javier Ureña was born on December 19, 1989, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. From a young age, he became actively involved in church life and developed a strong commitment to serving the body of Christ. Around the age of 13, he began serving in the worship ministry as a percussionist, cultivating a lifelong passion for worship and ministry that continues to this day.

Professionally, while living in the Dominican Republic, he specialized in Information Technology, gaining experience in areas such as smart automation systems for homes and businesses, artificial intelligence, and data networking. He also holds certifications in IP surveillance camera installation and video surveillance systems. Over the years, he worked in various technology-related roles before relocating to the United States.

At this season of life, Dámaso is unable to work in the United States due to his current visa status. However, as a couple, Belkys and Dámaso desire to honor God by faithfully respecting and following the legal processes and regulations established by the country.

Belkys and Dámaso have been happily married for 10 years. Although they do not yet have children, they joyfully trust in God's perfect timing and look forward with hope and gratitude to the family God may one day bless them with. Throughout their marriage, they have remained actively involved in church ministry, serving as youth leaders and participating in worship ministry.

As a couple, they deeply value faith, integrity, service, and family. They are passionate about honoring God in every season of life, encouraging others, and building meaningful relationships within their church and community. They also enjoy traveling, reading, music, outdoor activities, spending time with loved ones, and serving together in ministry. Their desire is to continue growing in faith, extending hospitality to others, and creating joyful memories while serving wherever God leads them.

Calvary Church extends a warm welcome to you, Belkys and Dámaso.



## Congratulations to Ron and Linda Wichhart Blessed with 60 Years of Marriage

Ron and Linda Wichhart were married on June 15, 1966. Ron saw Linda at ball games. Linda saw Ron at church when he was dating other girls. Linda secretly wished for a date with him, and it happened. Their first date was spent riding around the Pella square on Sunday night after church. This was the thing that many young couples did in the Pella area. Linda didn't know his name at first or what he was like, but her mom talked to other ladies, and they said he was "okay of a guy" because his dad was in the church council. After the first date they made arrangements for their second date. It wasn't long before Ron had to leave for service in the Iowa Air National Guard. While Ron was in the service for about four months, they wrote letters back and forth to each other and later dated two to three times a week.

Ron and Linda were married in the Peoria Christian Reformed Church. It was a day of very heavy rain, the Skunk River bottom was flooded, the bridge was closed, and the guests from Pella had to drive through Oskaloosa and New Sharon to get to the wedding celebration. What a day! Linda bought her beautiful dress from Alsop's in Oskaloosa. The bridesmaids were dressed in Linda's favorite color, blue, which also determined the colors of the flowers. The groom and his groomsmen each wore their Sunday-best suits and a necktie. The wedding reception was held in the basement of the church. Dancing was not allowed. The guests enjoyed ham sandwiches, a decorated wedding cake, and ice cream. After the reception the couple left in Ron's nifty-looking 1959 white Ford Galaxie 500, a two-door hard-top car.



Ron and Linda lived in the country and had a very large garden. They did a lot of canning and freezing of the fruits and vegetables they grew. This helped provide for their growing family. What they couldn't grow in their garden they purchased at Van's Supermarket in Pella. In later years, Ron and Linda also grew a lot of fruits and vegetables, which they sold at the Farmer's Market in Des Moines.

Some of the best times in life Ron and Linda have shared together are the times they worked together while serving with World Renew. They so much enjoyed helping people, visiting with people, and seeing people respond to their kind words as they worked on cleanup and construction following weather disasters that ruin their homes.

Ron and Linda's advice to young couples getting married now is to be true to your vows and pray for the Lord's help in both the rough times and the good times.

Calvary Church congratulates you, Ron and Linda. May God continue to bless you.

## Find Our Services Online

Here are the QR codes to watch or listen to our services online, through YouTube and Spotify.





YOUTUBE  
CHANNEL



PODCAST  
ON SPOTIFY

# June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 Dan Van Kooten	3 Nathan Dockter	4 Tracy Dickel	5 Seth Van Gelder	6
7 Anna Victoria Sagredo-Martinez	8 Mark Roozeboom Gerrit Steenhoek* Jennie Veenstra*	9 Noah Carley	10	11	12	13 Evy Verschuure* Jose Melo
14 Sarah Blom	15 16 	17 Holli Kelderman	18 Carol Verhey Kevin Vos Max Sagredo-Martinez	19	20	
21 Jesse Roose	22 Josh Blom	23 Joshua Van Hal	24 Micah Hoksbergen	25 Itamar Melo Rodriguez	26	27 Joan Bandstra*
28 Verland Engle* Carter Pommer Quinn Pommer	29 Rosetta Roose Henry Rus	30 Russ Van Wyk	