

MRC Family News

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

Darlene Wichers

3339 450th St
Orange City, IA 51041

**Darlene will celebrate her 87th birthday on Oct. 15*

Marge Van Ommeren

211 Kentucky Ave. SW
Orange City, IA 51041

**Marge will celebrate her 82nd birthday on Oct. 16*



Hospitalizations...

We pray for our church family who have been hospitalized or have health concerns: Chris Budden, Gloria Wierda, Isaac Schmidt, Joyce Groen, Jim Feenstra, Denny Van Ommeren, Ruth Heidebrink, Pam De Haan, Val Dykstra, & Lorna Bylsma

Congratulations...

- ◆ Congratulations to **Joe & Bekah Vander Stelt** as they joined in marriage on September 1.

Thank You Notes

- ◆ Thank you all so much for your prayers & support during the recovery of my broken arm! God truly does listen to our prayers, and I felt it through more than one aspect of the journey—especially how quickly the recovery has gone and the amount of strength and movement that I have already gained back. A huge thank you for the meals, as well—both home made & gift cards. It was all greatly appreciated and helped so much! - **Carrie Vander Schaaf**
- ◆ We would like to thank our MRC church family for all their prayers, encouragement, thoughts, gifts, and visits during our pregnancy complications and the birth of our beautiful girl, Jacoba. The Lord has been faithful and has walked with us every step of the way and we thank Him for all the blessings we receive every day. - **Lane, Sarah, Jaylynn, and Jacoba Mars**
- ◆ Thank you to all of you who sent cards and met us at the welcome home reception in Sioux Falls for the Midwest Honor Flight. It was very much appreciated! - **Rod Van Der Weide**
- ◆ Dear First Reformed—At the end of this month, I will conclude my time ministering to youth as an employee at Parachutes. Thank you so much for helping make my time here possible! - **Jake & Steph Hubers**

We apologize if we inadvertently missed anyone

"CHURCH is not something you go to...
it's a FAMILY you belong to."



MRC

Come and Worship at the Refuge!

Refuge

Worship has begun in the Refuge venue, and it has been a great worship experience for 70-90 attenders in the past month. Here is what the worshippers had to say about their experience in the Refuge.

Worship in the Refuge is.....

- a relaxed atmosphere.
- a smaller worshipping group that is easier to connect.
- family style, it is good! We will be back.
- more child friendly. We love the innocence of children worshipping and dancing in the aisles to the music.
- one that makes me feel free to sing.
- one that feels alive, feels natural, feels personal.
- A GOOD WORSHIP EXPERIENCE.

Come worship with us and experience what others are saying!

VOLUNTEERING AT MRC

Prayer Room—October

Date	
Oct 7	Lori Van Gorp
Oct 14	Don Van Horssen
Oct 21	Colette Hofmeyer
Oct 28	Marissa Maassen

NURSERY

If anyone would like to be added to the Nursery Volunteer list, please contact Lisa Smit for more information. Thanks.

	Volunteers
Oct 7	Sean & Katie Schuller, Haley Holverson
Oct 14	Rob & Heather Hofmeyer and family
Oct 21	Molly Van Engen, Cindy Van Der Weide, Cali Mulder
Oct 28	Joel & Susan Leusink, Rachel Leusink

Newsletter items due Oct. 20

October Welcome Schedule

Morning Service -

Main door - Judy Vlietstra

Gym door - Lee & Emily Maassen

October Memory Verse





Piano / Organ Schedule



October 7

9:30 Janene Van Gorp / Donna Muilenburg

October 14

9:30 Marge VO / Jenn Leusink

October 21

9:30 Janene Van Gorp / Barb Van Horn

October 28

9:30 Judy Vlietstra / Julie Vis



Leading in Worship:
Sunday Morning
October 14

**ADULT
CHOIR**

Practice

Wed, October 10 - 7:45 Rm 9

Wed, October 17 - 7:45 Sanctuary

Leading in Worship

Sunday, October 21



**WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

October 7



*Master's
Ringers*

Leading in Worship:
Sunday Morning
October 28



COMMUNITY EVENT

The Maurice Fire Department is hosting an open house on Monday, October 8 from 5-7 pm at the Maurice Fire Station. All are invited!

October Evening Worship

Oct 14 - Sean Schuller

Oct 28 - Rev. Carl Klompfen

***Join us on these dates for a
great evening of worship and
fellowship***





WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17 - 2 PM - MRC

55+ Program

Please join us as we enjoy two of MRC's favorites - Janene Van Gorp on piano and vocalists John & Denise Vander Stelt.

**FOOD & FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW.
INVITE A FRIEND FOR OUR FINAL
PROGRAM OF THE YEAR!**



MRC Staff Phone Extension Numbers

Emily Borger	101
Wick Hubers	102
Bonnie Wolf	103
Pastor Ross	104
Mike Kamerman	106
Jon Eveland	111



If you wish to reach a specific staff member directly, call 657-4665 and dial the extension of the person you wish to talk to!

October 3 -

Pulled pork on a bun, chips, baked beans, apple crisp

October 10 -

Tater tot casserole, roll, snicker salad, peaches, bread pudding or ice cream

October 17 -

Pork loin, cheesy potatoes, green bean casserole, roll, bar

October 24 -

Spaghetti bake, cashew lettuce salad, garlic toast, fruit, cookie

October 31 – Pal Party

Taverns, coney, hotdogs, baked beans, chips, peaches, brownie



*Wednesday Night
Meals*

Join us on Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30 in the Family Life Center for a great time of food and fellowship! Hope to see you there!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

October 31 Pioneer Club will be holding its annual Pal/Harvest Party!

First through 5th grade students are asked to take a pumpkin along to carve with their pal. If the child cannot carry the pumpkin alone, the pumpkin is too big! Also, please write your child's name on the bottom of their pumpkin! Thank you!



HARVEST PARTY

Fall is here and Pioneer Club is up & running! We need a few more Pals for our kids!

A pal needs to love on and pray for a student throughout the year! There will be 2 parties that you are requested to be at. Build a relationship for a lifetime!
If interested, please talk to Vicki Schrock or Bonnie Wolf. Thanks!



Would you be willing to have a trunk & hand out treats to our kids (about 100) at the Harvest Party? Decorate your trunk & come out for a night of fun! Sign up at the info table or contact Bonnie today!

**Reminder that this is a Harvest Party and we prefer your trunk not to be scary or Halloween related.*

Children and Worship

Children and Worship will begin during our church service starting as soon as we get volunteers to sign up! We are looking for leaders and helpers for this ministry. Please sign up at the information table or contact Bonnie Wolf if you are willing to bless our 3 & 4 year olds!

A special thank you to Jan Hansen for creating the bulletin boards in the children's ministry hallways!

They are beautiful and her work is very much appreciated! Thanks Jan!

*Would you like to create a bulletin board?
Contact Bonnie Wolf!*

THANK YOU

UPDATE: Sunday School will be getting out at 11:45 each week. Some days the service is longer than others, so if church is done before 10:35, parents might find their child in Room 9 following Sunday school. Always check the classroom first, but if they are not there, room 9 is where to find them (this is for the parents of 3 year olds through kindergarten). 1st through 5th will be let out at 11:45 as well. It would be appreciated if parents and siblings that are picking up their little one please not come to get their child until 11:45. Movement in the hallways and looking through windows is very distracting for little ones and it is important to finish the lesson!

Thank you so much for your help!

New outlook for Sunday School offering

This year the Children's Ministry team is partnering with the Mission Committee to try something new for Sunday School offering. We are hoping to spark some excitement in the kids and have them give towards a specific mission each quarter – Fall, Christmas, Spring, and Summer (VBS). Each project will be summarized in Maurice Moments, talked about in Sunday School and children's messages, and there will be visual aids around church to show how many items the Sunday School kids have "purchased".

The first quarter we will be raising money for Whispers of Love, Hope, and Joy to purchase Teddy Bears to give to kids who come into the Family Crisis Center. When families seek help from Family Crisis, they are often trying to escape a traumatic situation and only come with the clothes on their back. It's a really scary time for everyone, especially the children. Sometimes just the simple gesture of giving a Teddy Bear to snuggle with helps. Each bear costs \$12.40 and is included in a Care Bundle that each family receives that includes shampoo, lotion, undergarments, etc., as well as the book *Keeping the Faith: Guidance for Christian Women Facing Abuse*. Please talk with your children about this cause and prayerfully consider supporting the children going through these circumstances.



JR. GAP MINISTRIES



“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.”

- 2 Timothy 1:9



SCHEDULE:

- Oct. 3 - Sub Sandwich Assembly Night (6:20-8:00 pm)
- Oct. 10 - Purity (REFUGE WORSHIP NIGHT 7:25-7:55 pm)
- Oct. 17 - Panel Night
- Oct. 24 - Harvest Party @ Bob & Dee Ann Cleveringa's
4591 Ibex Ave, Orange City
- Oct. 31 - Service Night (PAL Night)

Lunch: Lunch is 2 dozen cookies/bars & 2 two liters of pop/juice

- ♦ Oct. 3 - Parker VZ, Seth VS, Kortney H, Jocelyn M
- ♦ Oct. 10 - Seth M, Emilee S, Kaden S, Brett VG
- ♦ Oct. 17 - Addy L, Summer B, Kye K, Jared O
- ♦ Oct. 24 - Provided
- ♦ Oct. 31 - Jackson F, Avery VD, Breanna J, Jon H

ANNOUNCEMENTS—

Sub Sandwich Assembly Night - October 3, 6:20-8:00 pm - We will be assembling nearly 4,200 subs—another successful year! Notice we will be finishing up for the night at 8 pm. Parents are welcome to come and help, or if you have boxes/grocery bags to donate, that would be a big help as well. **We will need some students to join us after school to get things set up and ready to go for the night. If your Jr. GAPper would be willing to come early, please contact Jon Eveland.** All orders will be ready to go out for delivery at the end of the evening.



Sidewalk Prophets Concert - Friday, October 5 at 8 pm—Christ Chapel, Northwestern College
Sidewalk Prophets will be coming to Northwestern College with their *Something Different Tour!*
If you would like tickets, contact Jon Eveland before October 3. The tickets will be \$5 per ticket. This is open to any Jr. GAPper, Sr. Higher, leader, parent, or grandparent that would like to join with us!



Wednesday Night Refuge Worship - Our next Refuge Worship will be on Wednesday, October 10 from 7:25-7:55 pm in The Refuge. Come and join with your brothers and sisters in Christ as we worship our great God together! **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Praise Team practice for the Oct. 10th Refuge Worship will be on Sunday, Oct. 7 from 10:45-11:45 am, and on Oct. 10 at 5:15 pm.

Omaha Zoo Overnighter - October 12-13 - We will again be doing our overnighter at the Omaha Zoo this fall - staying in the Desert Dome in tents (*tents will be provided*)! **Please contact Jon Eveland if your Jr. GAPper would like to join - cost is \$30 per student, plus the cost of 1 meal.** We will leave MRC at 4:15 pm on Friday, October 12, and we will arrive back to MRC at 3 pm on Saturday, October 13. We will have free admission on Saturday morning to roam around the zoo before it opens to the public.



Harvest Party - Wednesday, October 24 - 6:30-8:00 pm - Our annual Harvest Party for Jr. GAP & Sr. High students is coming up! We will again be going out to Bob & Dee Ann Cleveringa's for a night of great food, a bonfire, fun activities, hay rides, and time together! We will bus students from MRC to the Cleveringa's, leaving at 6:20 pm and returning to MRC at 8:15 pm. If you would like to pick up your Jr. GAPper or Sr. Higher after the party at the Cleveringa's, please make sure to let Jon Eveland know. Looking forward to a FUN night! Jr. GAP & Sr. High will be there together for the evening.

Jr. GAP October Birthdays:

Avery Van Donkelaar—October 3
Jacob Hargens—October 30



SR. HIGH MINISTRIES



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- 2 Timothy 1:9



SCHEDULE:

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4591 Ibex Ave, Orange City
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Lunch: Lunch is 2 dozen cookies/bars & 2 two liters of pop/juice

- ♦ Oct. 3 - Becca D, Dylan F, Cali M, Ashley D
- ♦ Oct. 10 - Landon H, Tayce K, Zach O, Justin DW
- ♦ Oct. 17 - Brooklyn L, Jakob L, Chloe P, Morgan F
- ♦ Oct. 24 - Provided
- ♦ Oct. 31 - Rachel L, Jon M, Eric P, Amber H

ANNOUNCEMENTS—



INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIP 2019

Sr. High Summer "International" Mission Trip – July 13-20 – Eaglecrest Alaska Missions

We are excited to announce that we will be partnering with Eaglecrest Alaska Missions (Sutton, Alaska) for our summer mission trip (July 13-20). Though it is not international per se, it is a great distance away, and not part of the lower 48 states – and there is great need in the Sutton community for us to come, serve those in need and experience the love of Christ in a

much different culture than our own! More information will be coming at a later date, but mark this on your calendars for next summer. We hope to take as many Sr. High students as we can! Below is the mission of Eaglecrest Alaska Missions:

Eaglecrest Alaska Missions is a unique mix of intense experiences designed to equip and empower individuals to become Christ-centered leaders in their world! Each participant will have the opportunity to:

- **ENCOUNTER** the presence of Christ through daily reflection and quiet time
- **ENHANCE** their emerging leadership skills, discovering ways to maximize their impact
- **SERVE** others who need to experience the love of Christ
- **BUILD** endurance and perseverance through challenging projects
- **DEVELOP** a sense of community through living and working as a team
- **DISCOVER** the value of encouraging one another through various group building exercises
- **IDENTIFY** and implement spiritual gifts through journaling and campfire devotions
- **EXPERIENCE** God in the breathtaking wilderness of His most awesome handiwork.



Sidewalk Prophets Concert - Friday, October 5 at 8 pm—Christ Chapel, Northwestern College - Sidewalk Prophets will be coming to Northwestern College with their *Something Different Tour!* **If you would like tickets, contact Jon Eveland before October 3. The tickets will be \$5 per ticket.** This is open to any Jr. GAPper, Sr. Higher, leader, parent, or grandparent that would like to join with us!

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Live Travelling Nativity - December 8-9 - Keep these dates on your radar, as Sr. High will once again be sharing the story of the birth of Jesus! This event is very special for many in NW Iowa, and many look forward to attending. More information will be coming regarding this weekend.



Sr. High October Birthdays:

Caitlyn Bushby—October 5 Amber Hathaway—October 10



Moments in Missions

The **special offering** for the month of October is:

Genesis House (formerly The Bridge)

(please mark your check or envelope with "Special" & place in the plate with your offering)



A newly-established nonprofit is providing hope for women and children affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Genesis House in Orange City started serving its clients in January. The program is not equipped to accept residents on an emergency basis. A woman who is interested in living at Genesis House must first fill out the Genesis House application and as long as they follow the rules, policies, and program, they may stay up to 24 months. "We are filling services provided by The Bridge, but we are a new entity," said Becky Erdmann, director of Genesis House. "We don't fit into transitional housing, because if they are only able to stay for three to six months, they're staying in survival mode. They're already thinking of where to go next. "We want them to focus on, 'What am I going to do today, tomorrow?'"

Genesis House is capable of holding a maximum of 12 people. Applicants must be at least 18 years old. Female children 17 years old and younger, and male children 11 and younger are allowed. "These women are coming out of survival mode. Some of them have been in abusive relationships for years, even decades," Erdmann said. "Once they are in a safe environment, they can begin to look at things in themselves that can be a priority now and start breaking these cycles." One cycle Erdmann noted that needs to be broken is addiction. "They need to prove that they can live in a community setting. We have a dormitory-style living setting," Erdmann said. "They have their own rooms but areas like the kitchen are shared areas.

The organization is faith-based, so Bible study is part of the program. Other facets include life skills classes and helping women develop or reacquaint with their independence. Life skills classes range in topics from learning about car and rental insurance to maintaining healthy relationships. While the program reaches every resident, Erdmann notes that each resident progresses at their own pace. "Our plans in self-sufficiency are individually based," she said. "You have to be dedicated to our program. We need women to be at that point where they're ready to make a change."

FOR MORE INFO: You may contact Genesis House at 712-707-2130 or by e-mail at genesishouseiowa@gmail.com

Pray for the staff at the Genesis house as they work with the women & children residents. Pray for these families in their safe environments, and that the love of God can help start cycles of health and love in their families.

Do you have a compassionate heart for missions, both locally and abroad?
Do you have a mission service idea you'd like to share? Talk to any of the current Mission team members or consider joining the team. New team members welcome!

Pastor Ross
Chairman- Eric Cleveringa
Deacon- Joel Leusink
Elder- Jerry Vermeer
LaDonna DeVries
Laura Vander Stelt
Jen Cleveringa

"Mission Monday" Emails



The Mission team would like to start condensing emails related to our missionaries into 1 email per week (or less) sent on Mondays titled "Mission Monday". We hope that this helps make the updates, prayer requests and newsletters from our missionaries easier to reference and read. As an extension of our MRC family, **please remember our missionaries in your prayers.** *If you would like your email address added to the email prayer chain please talk to Emily Borger.



International Partners: Pavlos & Meggan Vasileiadis

**Grab yourself a coffee. It's story time!
Meg has special reflections to share**



The **second week of June** is full of important anniversaries in my life, and this year added weightiness to a few of them. As a church plant, we were awaiting the arrival of a team of young people from the States to serve alongside us in Kypseli for six weeks. As our staff circulated the picture of them at their orientation, I was feeling nostalgic, because that **same week exactly a decade ago**, I was a part of a similar team preparing to come and serve in Greece for the summer. Their presence in Kypseli was extra special to me as I had the chance to reflect and share how God forever connected my life to this country, even when I had other plans for my future.

As you well know, my time in Greece didn't stop after just one summer. In fact I came back just a few months later in January 2009 to serve in the heart of Athens for a full year. By the end of that season, God had brought Pavlos and I together on a journey to building a family. We set up a home and a vision for our future as a couple: to grow in the knowledge of God's Word while helping others do the same.

As we began praying for children, we experienced a painful year of dashed hopes, but eventually we welcomed Theodore, our gift from God (his name meaning in Greek), to our family in August, 2014. Just over two years later, Matthew arrived, our second gift from God (name meaning in Hebrew). And this summer we are pregnant yet again with the miracle of new life!

On June 11 we had our mid pregnancy ultrasound. After closely examining the baby's heart and assuring us all was well, he says, "It's a girl!" This came as a shock because we'd already been told twice we were having a third son!

I found it significant that he had first carefully examined her beating heart, because **that day exactly five years ago**, I was on a different doctor's examining table being told our baby had no heartbeat. Now we were hearing this unexpected (yet joyful!) news. It was powerful to me that we had reached the **wisdom literature (i.e. Job) in our Read Scripture** plan and Bible study discussions as a church. It offered meaningful perspective as we processed God's justice and faithfulness in giving and taking away good gifts in our lives.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- A. *We pray for more seeds of impact to take root and grow into genuine curiosity about how Christ has changed our individual lives, therefore becoming the source of our loving, family-like community living and serving in the heart of Kypseli.*
- B. *The relief efforts following the tragic wildfires (96 dead) just a few miles from the Greek Bible College. May God's light pierce through the darkness*



A New Position for Tom Johnson—Effective Oct 1, 2018

We were recently informed that the RCA has appointed Tom to a new assignment in Haiti as Missiologist and Spiritual Development Manager. He will be working with Many Hands for Haiti (MH4H).

Many Hands for Haiti (MH4H) works to bring the Good News to the people of Haiti through programs in education, leadership development, agronomy, safe homes, medical assistance, and economic development. Tom will work directly with MH4H to help strengthen their mission and spiritual development. Haitian pastors, MH4H staff, and community leaders will receive training, mentoring, and engage in spiritual development. Tom will also help strengthen MH4H's ability to effectively share the Gospel and work cross-culturally in a Godly way, bringing peace and restoration. Tom will reside in the States working out of the US-based office in Pella, Iowa and make frequent trips into the field in Haiti for training, mentoring and discipleship.

Please keep Tom & his wife Aichatou, as she continues to go through rehab, & their four daughters, Marie, Laurey, Ellie, & Thekla in your prayers during this transition, & new opportunity in missions for Tom.

October 2018

Maurice Reformed Mission Prayer Guide

Sunday	Monday 1	Tuesday 2	Wednesday 3	Thursday 4	Friday 5	Saturday 6
	Pray for wisdom and patience for the staff at Genesis as they work with the women and children making a new start after losing their home or experiencing violence or abuse.	Pray for the MRC mission team as they meet to make decisions and support mission at MRC. Pray for wisdom and direction in selecting another international mission partner.	Pray with Meggan & Pavlos on a healthy baby to arrive this month. Pray for "seeds of impact" to take root in Christ in their Kypseli church. Pray for God to be seen in past fire damage.	Pray for Tom Johnson as he starts his work with MH4H in Haiti. Pray for safety in traveling from Pella to Haiti, for their girls at school and Achiatou for ongoing healing.	Thank God with Brian Renes for the completion of the Javanese Bible in Suriname last month. Pray for translators he works with to remain diligent among struggles.	Pray for wisdom for Joshua Vis as he ministers to Palestinian Christians who struggle to meet their daily needs due to the conflict in Jerusalem. Pray for peace in this region.
7 Pray for Pastor Ross as he leads worship and ministers through the week. Pray for God's spirit to speak, and lead him in his ministry at MRC.	8 Pray for the S Family in SE Asia, especially Corban for healing and answers to his illness. Pray for times to share about "Daddy" in their work, language learning, and with their new friends.	9 Pray for our church leadership as they meet as a consistory and make decisions related to next year's budget and new consistory members, and plan for the year.	10 Pray for Bonnie and Jon as they work with they youth of MRC. Pray for their walk in Christ and leadership among these groups of youth and adult volunteers.	11 Pray for S & AK as they begin working in 2 new language groups in Bible storying projects. Pray for the K & K language groups to be responsive to God's word through the stories they hear.	12 Pray for wisdom and God's spirit to lead Steve and Tara Dekkers as they disciple those going into mission in their personal character development, strength & growth areas.	13 Pray with Deb & Mark Wilson in Cambodia for new graduates leading ministry that they may remain strong in leading churches in new areas, and develop and train new believers.
14 Pray for Amistad Cristiana Hispanic members who struggle with immigration issues. Pray also for continued growth in leadership and new members.	15 Pray for Brad Schelling and the ministry of First Priority as he works behind the scenes to help leaders and students in their clubs share the gospel with their classmates .	16 Pray for the ministry of CANA and tonight's Life Tree Café'. Pray for God to continue to open doors with conversations through the CANA ministry in Fort Dodge.	17 Pray for our youth and MRC staff and volunteers as they meet on Wednesdays to grow closer to God, and learn more about Him.	18 Pray for Dan Smith and the Paradise Bound Ministry team of Guatemalans to continue to strengthen new church starts.	19 Pray for Jon & Erin Haverdink ministering at UNI with Navigators. Praise God for new believers already this year, and pray for their faith to continue to grow.	20 Pray with Vasya and Maranda Heytsi in the Ukraine leading the church ministry and outreach to nearby village of Tyachivka. Pray also for unity in their family.
21 Pray for ongoing discipleship in Life Groups at MRC. Pray for families to come, grow, and serve God together.	22 Pray for opportunities to share Christ. Pray for individuals and families to return to God here in the United States.	23 Pray for the ministry of Words of Hope as they bring the news of God's love around the world through radio.	24 Pray for Pastor Wick as he ministers among MRC members in the hospital, home, and community.	25 Pray for those who are currently serving in the military to feel God's protection and to be God's light as they serve.	26 Pray for Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith and worship and pray in secret.	27 Pray for each of the food pantries and hunger programs as they meet the needs of the poor and hungry.
28 Thank God for the ministry of MRC and pray for open eyes to see and join Him in mission.	29 Pray for World Renew ministering in North Carolina to recent flood victims. Pray for families affected by the hurricane.	30 Pray for wisdom and Christ's love in ATLAS staff, as they meet with people who struggle with issues related to finances or relationships.	31 Pray for the PAL party, for each pal pair that they will be able to share about Jesus and encourage each other in their walk.	<h1>PRAYER</h1> <p><i>changes things</i></p>		

"HEAR MY PRAYER O LORD." PSALM 102:1

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:30-9:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness	2 9 AM Staff 1-5 PM Stitches of Love	3 5:30 Meal 6:20 Jr. GAP 6:20 Pioneer Club 7:50 Sr. High	4 8:15-9:00 AM Fellowship Through Fitness	5	6
7 9:30 AM Worship Pastor Ross 10:45 SS  WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY	8 8:30-9:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Good	9 9 AM Staff 6:30 PM Consistory Meeting	10 2 PM Golden Hour 5:30 Meal 6:20 Jr. GAP 6:20 Pioneer Club 7:45 Adult Choir	11 8:15-9:00 AM Fellowship Through Fitness	12 4:15 PM Jr. GAP → Omaha Zoo Overnighter	13 <i>Return to MRC at 3 pm</i>
14 9:30 AM Worship Pastor Ross -Precious Jewels 10:45 SS 5:30 PM worship led by Sean Schuller	15 8:30-9:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness 6:30 PM Bell Choir	16 9 AM Staff 1-5 PM Stitches of Love	17 2 PM 55+ 5:30 Meal 6:20 Jr. GAP 6:20 Pioneer Club 7:45 Adult Choir	18 8:15-9:00 AM Fellowship Through Fitness	19 6 PM Recycled Teenagers at Baxterz Bar & Grill (Primghar)	20
21 Adult Choir 9:30 AM Worship Mark Hoekstra 10:45 SS	22 8:30-9:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness 1-4 PM Yarn Connection 6:30 PM Bell Choir	23 9 AM Staff	24 5:30 Meal 6:20 Pioneer Club 6:30-8:00 Jr. GAP & Sr. High Harvest Party	25 8:15-9:00 AM Fellowship Through Fitness	26	27
28 Master's Ringers 9:30 AM Worship Pastor Ross 10:45 SS 5:30 PM worship led by Rev. Carl Klompfen	29 8:30-9:30 AM Fellowship Through Fitness	30 9 AM Staff	31 5:30 Meal 6:20 Jr. GAP 6:20 Pioneer Club Harvest Party -Trunk or Treat 7:50 Sr. High			

PASTOR'S CORNER

Psalm 125:2 *"As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore."*

"Today is the second best day to plant a tree"

Newness. Do you feel the newness in the air? It is safe to say that I have passed the 90 day mark. Yet every day I am learning something new about MRC, its people, history, and what makes MRC, MRC. Perhaps you have felt this newness as well. We are trying new things this year like launching Life Groups, College Ministry, and worshipping in two spaces at the same time. For me, it is exciting to be a part of a community that makes space for fresh ideas and is willing to try different things. However, with every change, I know that it can feel like a loss. Yet, we unite under one purpose to help others come to Christ, grow in Christ, and belong to his family.

For Stacy and me, we too are learning what life is like here. This is my first call out of seminary and we are reentering a community that is both new and familiar. However, we know and trust that God has called us to this place and that despite leaving a community and place behind, God has a new community for us here. As Psalm 125 says, we are surrounded both now and forevermore.

In the newness, I recall something Steve Dekkers said on September 22. He said, *"Today is the second best day to plant a tree."* This is seemingly an odd phrase, but it makes sense. The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago and today then is the second best day to plant a tree. What does that mean for the newness of this year and MRC? It means that we are benefitting from the trees that grew through our history. Therefore, we must be faithful to our roots, to what makes MRC unique, we cannot abandon who God has called us to be. However, with those traditions and roots, we also must look forward to what new trees we can plant for the coming generations, to live into our mission. Therefore, we are both thankful for the leadership of the past in planting good trees and we look forward, anticipating the growth of new trees that God will bless in the future. In every new transition and new opportunity, God will be there to walk with us.

- Pastor Ross

