

Sunday, September 29, 2024

God has gathered us here out of all different circumstances. Whether you carry joy or heaviness in your heart, I encourage you to lay it at the feet of Jesus. Give your whole self to God in worship. Welcome!

Parable of the Pufflings

As summer ends on a remote island off Iceland, parent puffins – black and white seabirds with rainbow beaks – stop bringing fish to their chicks. These “pufflings,” whose first few weeks were lived on burrows in cliffs, now must launch into a wind current to glide out over the sea and find their own food. Some babies, however, mistake a lit-up house or gas station for moonlight on the water and, as locals say, “fall out of the sky.” Because pufflings can’t yet take off from land and fly, if left alone they starve.

So for generations, during “puffling season” people on this island have stayed up late to rescue baby birds. On his *Animal* podcast, the reporter Sam Anderson tells how, with an islander’s help, he picks up a puffling one night, placing it in a box for morning release over the ocean. As the frightened, confused bird squeals and scratches to get free, Anderson supposes it thinks this is the worst night of its life. In fact, it is the best: it’s being saved.

We humans often get confused, pulled in wrong directions. We’re misled and land in trouble from which we cannot save ourselves. Scared and confused, we believe we’re irredeemably trapped in the worse of circumstances. We can’t perceive that, even now, we are being protected and rescued, that God is working to give back to us the fullness of life we cannot attain for ourselves.

Hang on, beloved one. Though you can’t sense it at this moment, you are held in God’s care, soon to be lifted on the wind of the Holy Spirit, who will carry you into better days.
--Heidi Hyland Mann

Today at First

This morning, we welcome our missionary to Papua New Guinea, Rev. Eric & Penny Schering, as Rev. Eric will lead us in worship. Care Group #4 hosts the coffee fellowship. **After the morning worship service**, please join us in the fellowship hall where the Scherings will give a presentation on their work.

This evening, Rev. Dr. John Hartog III will lead us in worship.

Next week, Pastor Brian Dunn will lead our services. We will have the privilege of witnessing the sacrament of Holy Baptism, as it is administered to **Brooks Garrett De Jong**, infant son of **Devin & Elissa**. C. G. #5 hosts the coffee fellowship.

Nursery Today Brian & Kristin H., Junior M.

Oct. 6 Dallas & Jamie G., Alivia M.

Valet Parking Today Jake Granstra

Oct. 6 Kyle Heynen

Sound Today Heynen/Jacob/Josh

Oct. 6 Cory/Jackson/Ben

Security Today Jon Nieuwendorp

Oct. 6 Arlo Heynen

Praise Team Today Missy, Julie, Arlo, Dave, Lacey **10-6** Avery, Maci, Ethan, Boden

Cookies Oct. 6 Karen C., Lori D.J., Amy D. **10-13** Kassy D., Darline E., Marcella F.

October Ushers: Kyle Heynen, Anthony Klyn, Shane Habben, Jacob Granstra

Offerings only for: Gen. Fund, Christian Ed., Above Quota Missions & Classical Min. Shares. Put in offering box, Treasurer’s box, or mail to church (901 9th Street).

First CRC Announcements:

- **Please** keep the juice & cookies in the fellowship hall and out of the sanctuary. Parents, please remind your children
- **Last chance to purchase a 2025 Yearbook** - A regular copy is \$13.20 plus shipping, a spiral copy is \$14.30 plus shipping. Please call Julie at 324-2374 or email firstcrc@hotmail.com and place your order. Order deadline: Tues., Oct. 1.
- **No SCRIP Orders this week!**

Activities This Week

Sun.	10:45 AM	Sunday School Classes meet. No Catechism Classes today.
	11:00 AM	Choir Practice ?
	5:00 PM	Evening Worship Service – Rev. Dr. John Hartog leads worship
Wed.	6:30 PM	Cadets going to the Pumpkin Patch
	7:00 PM	GEMS meet at Immanuel CRC
Thur.	2:00 PM	Women’s Bible Study – we meet 1 st & 3 rd Thur. of the month.

First CRC Announcements Continued...

- **Catechism Classes for 5th – 12th grade will not meet.** You are encouraged to stay and listen to the presentation in the fellowship hall after church.
- **The Love INC Food Pantry** needs volunteers to help one Thur. night/month, 7:30-8:30. If you would be willing to help, call Helen Van Dyke (712) 348-5322.
- **Ladies on Cookie List** – Please bring 3 doz. cookies. If you will be gone, trade weeks. Check pink schedule and add one week. ?’s, call Julie at 324-2374.
- **Fall Bible Study** – **“The Great DeChurching: Who’s Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back”** by Jim David & Michael Graham. We will begin on Mon., Oct. 7. Please sign up on the welcome desk and indicate when you prefer to meet Mon. mornings or Mon. evenings. Also, indicate if you would like us to order a book for you.

Community Announcements:

- **“Evening of Praise”** - Sat., Oct. 5, 7 p.m. at the BJ Haan Aud. at Dordt. The Ensemble Royale and The Klaasens will be performing. A freewill offering will be received for the Bible League International Ambassadors. Please invite friends and family to join you. Everyone is welcome!
- **JFA Annual Mtg** – Tues., Oct. 22, 5 p.m. at Rk Villy Evnt Cntr. A business meeting, and a meal will be served. RSVP for the meal, call (712) 476-2804 or emailing joeldw@jfa-nwiowa.org by Oct. 15. JFA will not hold their fall auction so that businesses/individuals can get back on their feet. JFA will host a panel of area ministries who will share their ministry. Please join us as we celebrate JFA ministry! An offering will be received for JFA ministry.
- **Coats for Kids** – bring good, used coats to Love INC until Nov. 14. Coats given away Oct. 10 & Nov. 14 at Living Water Church. Sponsored by Minis. Assoc.
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Community Announcements Continued...

- **Men & Young Men - “How Deep is Your Bench?”** - Thur., Nov. 7, 7 p.m. at MOC-FV High School. MOC-FV Bball Coach, Chris Yaw, will be sharing his story of heartache/hope. Mendistry is an area Men’s ministry seeking to bring small groups of men together for Bible study, Prayer, and Relationships. It has been serving men in our area for the past 3 yrs. The event will be a time of music, a testimony about Mendistry, and a speaker, Chris Yaw. Chris is presently the Principal at the MOC-FV Middle School, as well as the Head Girls Bball Coach at MOC-FV. He is also the past Women’s Bball Coach at Northwestern. Chris will be sharing about his daughter, Claire’s journey with leukemia, her strong faith, and how that experience is affecting his faith walk. You may have seen the “Claire Strong” t-shirts being worn in this area. More info. Coming in Oct. We believe the men/young men of your church will be positively affected by this event. Questions, contact Don (712) 441-1360 dsjalton@midlands.net.
- **2025 Service Opportunities:** Harvest Hands Min., Juarez, MX Jan. 17-25; JVM Perkins Fndn., Jackson, MS Feb. 1-7; Voice of Calvary Min., Jackson, MS Feb. 8-14; Grace Covenant Min., Annville, KY Mar. 1-7; Grace Reigns, Colorado City, AZ Apr. 4-12. Interested? Contact Justice For All (712) 476-2804.
- **Paul’s Missionary Journeys in Greece** – Mar. 28-Apr. 8 Travel bus (7 ds), cruise ship (3 ds) to sites connected with Paul’s 2nd & 3rd missionary journeys, as well as other major sites. Dr. Jeff Weima, Prof at Calvin Theo. Sem. hosts tour. For info. Call Dr. Weima, (616) 328-3110 or email weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

Christ is Enough

Though never ordained, H.A. Ironside (1876-1951) was a prolific Bible teacher/preacher. Inspired by Dwight L. Moody, he began delivering sermons at age 16. While still a teenager, he worked his way up to captain in the Salvation Army. But he soon had a breakdown from preaching more than 500 messages/yr – and from feeling burdened by sin.

After Ironside recovered, his ministry blossomed. He pastored Moody Church in Chicago for 18 yrs while continuing his evangelistic travels. Most importantly, he learned to rely on Christ alone, not on his own merit.

“Christ *and* ... is a perverted gospel, which is not the gospel,” wrote Ironside. “Christ without the *and* is the sinner’s hope and the saint’s confidence.” He concluded, “For salvation itself, Jesus is not only necessary, but he is enough.”

Opening Service

Call to Worship
Opening Prayer
*Opening Hymn:
*God’s Greeting/Mutual Greeting
*Song of Praise:

“Shout to the Lord”
“He Knows My Name”

Service of Reconciliation

God’s Will for Life
Silent Prayer of Confession
Assurance of Pardon
Children’s Message

Service of the Word

Song of Preparation:
Prayer of Illumination
Scripture Reading:
Sermon Title:
Prayer for Application
*Song of Praise:

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

1 Corinthians 13:1-13
“Fruit of the Spirit – Love”

“To God Be the Glory”

Service of Dedication

Congregational Prayer
Offering
*Song of Dedication:
*Benediction
*Doxology:

“Oh, How I Love Jesus”

“They’ll Know We Are Christians” vs. 1

**Please stand, if able.*

We Gather to Worship

Call to Worship: Psalm 63:1-2
Silent Prayer
*Opening Hymn: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
*God’s Greeting: Ephesians 4:29-30
Responsive Affirmation of Faith: Psalm 63:3-8
*Song of Praise: “Blessed Assurance: Jesus Is Mine”
Pastoral Prayer

We Hear God’s Word

Hymn of Preparation: “Ten Thousand Reasons”
Scripture Passage: Habakkuk 3:16-19
Sermon Title: “Yet, I Will Triumph in the Lord”
Prayer of Application

We Respond in Faith

*Song of Dedication: “It Is Well”
*Benediction/Blessing: Romans 15:13
*Doxology: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Please stand, if able.*