

First Christian Reformed Church

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*Growing Closer to God
Through Service & Love*

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First CRC Fulton
March 15, 2026 - 9:00am
“Just As God Forgave You”

We Gather in Praise and Worship

Prelude: Pianists

Welcome:. Bruce B.

Announcements:.

Call To Worship:. Lynda V.

Leader: Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear

People: And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Leader: Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

People: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

ALL: Let us worship the Lord in grace and truth!

God’s Greeting: Pastor John

Mutual Greeting

Worship Through Song:

O My Soul Bless Thou Jehovah

Fill Thou My Life

Congregational Prayer: Brenda A.

Worship Through Song:

Come Thou Fount

Not Longer Slaves

We Prepare For & Hear God’s Word

Scripture: Ephesians 4:29-32 (Pew Bible Pg 1320)

Sermon: “Just As God Forgave You” – Pastor John

Holy Communion: Pastor John

WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING

Parting Song: Not I but Christ in Me

Blessing: Pastor John

Announcements

Today we welcome Pastor John Byker. We look forward to worshipping with you today. Thank you for sharing your love and talents with our congregation.

Worship planners: On the volunteer list at the end of the bulletin you will notice a space for "planner." That is the worship team member who will be putting the service order together. If you have a special request, please reach out to the planner for that week.

Thank you to Brenda Atherton for refurbishing and updating the busy bags for the kids!

Easter Lilies are now available to order until March 15th (**TODAY**) for \$10.00 apiece. Please give your order and payment to Lori by March 15, and include who is giving the lily and who it is in memory of.

Church Decorating for Palm Sunday will be on March 28th at 11 am. We would love it if you could help! Please let Beth know if you'd like to help! (maybe she'll bring snacks)

Communion and Potluck will be on April 19th. Think Spring! Wear your "springy" colors to church - pink, yellow, light blue, light green...

"Peace Beyond Measure" Ladies Retreat at Grace Camp at the Peter Retreat Center on Saturday, April 25 9:30 AM - 3:00

PM, Doors open at 9:00 AM, Cost: \$20, Lunch & Beverages Included. Join us for a day of renewal, encouragement, and Christ-centered connection. Featured Speaker: Michelle Diercks, Author/Christian Life Coach. This even is open to all women and organized by the Women of Grace. To register, call or text Beth C. at 563-219-2370.

Dutch Days will be on May 1st - 2nd. We would like to get the church involved. Please share any ideas you have with Beth.

Please send prayer requests to stacy_stephenson_1980@yahoo.com and all bulletin information to FirstCRCFulton@live.com and secretary.fultonfirstcrc@gmail.com by Thursday at 6p.

Birthdays this week

16 Noelle Lown

20 Nolan Bradley

Deacons' News

Offerings Received 3/8/26:

General Fund

Budget: \$2,166.00

GEMS: \$234.00

Received: \$1,707.00

Under: \$459.00

Offerings Today: General Fund & Faith Promise

3/22/2026 Offerings: General Fund & UCSB

Please place your offering in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.

Community Announcements

Unity Christian School K-12 Open house will be held March 26th from 1:30pm to 7:30pm. Take a tour around the new campus, meet the faculty and families, explore Christ-centered education, and discover the Unity difference. Unity Christian School, 1000 19th Ave NW, Clinton, IA, 563-241-7700 or email Secretary@unitychristian.com.

Self-Help Enterprises Pancake Breakfast April 11th, 7am – noon, at 2300 W. Lefevre Road, Sterling, IL 61081

40th Annual Walk for Them Both Fundraiser Saturday, April 25, 2026, Goal: \$40,000 for 40 Years. RAIN or SHINE! Meet @ The Pregnancy Center office at 240 N. Bluff Blvd., Ste 105 in Clinton. Coffee & refreshments will be served! Registration at 8:15am, Walk at 9:00am (or walk on your own time). Call Nancy Lincoln at 563-242-6628 or email nancy@pregnancycenterclinton.org

Men's breakfast, speaker and worship at the Church of the Open Door in Clinton, 8am, the first Saturday of every month.

CRC News

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - The New Testament Gospels all include the account of a woman who interrupts a dinner party and pours out a precious perfume to anoint Jesus (Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-8). The disciples are offended at the intrusion. Jesus calls it a fitting tribute to his love, and a preparation for the way he will lay down his life. This week be mindful of incidents that interrupt your plans, or of individuals who intrude on your time and space. See each one as a divinely orchestrated opportunity to reorient your attention to the Savior who poured out his life for you. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

	<u>March 15th</u>	<u>March 22nd</u>	<u>March 29th</u>
Pastor	John Byker	Randy Knoll	Ken Renkes
Sound	David D.	Paul T.	Joe V.
Nursery	Sara B.	Amy C.	Stacy S.
Snack	Rachel E.	Michelle V.	Sara B.
Server	Rachel E.	Michelle V.	Sara & Eric B
Planner	Lynda V.	Beth C.	Brenda

Weekly Calendar

Today

Sunday Worship

9:00 am

Sending Out the Twelve

“Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

At this point in Jesus’ ministry, it is time to spread his message faster and farther. Jesus commissions the twelve disciples to go to different towns while equipping them with power to heal and drive out demons, tools God will use to garner people’s attention and authenticate the gospel message that they will preach. Mark 6:7 tells us they were sent in pairs, not alone, but this still had to be intimidating. Up until now, they have accompanied Jesus in a group, learning from him and helping him, but Jesus is telling them to take what they have learned and go do it. This takes faith on their part.

Not only are they going without their teacher, but he tells them not to take anything, to just go as they are. Jesus says, “Take nothing for your journey: no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic.” That would be today’s equivalent to no snacks, credit card, clothes, or phone. Can you imagine? Again, Jesus is asking for faith and trust. This keeps his disciples from feeling self-sufficient or thinking that the power to do all they will do is coming from anyone but God. They need to travel light, pick up and move quickly, and involve each town’s population by offering them the opportunity to extend hospitality, perhaps making them eager

to hear more, or even choosing to spread the message themselves.

Lastly, the disciples were told to stay in only one home and, if not welcomed in a place, “as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” Staying in one home kept them from offending a host by moving to a more prestigious or comfortable place and from staying too long in a town. Shaking the dust from their feet was a cultural practice to show separation, normally done after passing through Gentile cities. But in this case, this action would reflect upon the Jewish towns that rejected the message and show that the disciples were not responsible for how the people responded. Jesus gave specific guidelines to carry out his plan. The twelve needed to obey, trust, and believe. We are called to follow their example.

Lord Jesus, give me faith and trust that you will provide in all that you ask me to do. Amen.