

First CRC Fulton  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
Proclaiming the Good News

**We Gather in Praise and Worship**

**Prelude:** Resurrecting

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call To Worship:** From Revelation 15:3-4

Leader: Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty!

**All: Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.**

Leader: Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name?

**All: For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you!**

**God's Greeting**

**Mutual Greeting**

**Worship Through Song:**

Does Anybody Here Need Jesus

Revelation Song

Gratitude

**Congregational Prayer**

**Worship Through Giving:** Send Me

Offertory: General Fund & UCSB

Next week: General Fund & Ministry Shares

**Responsive Reading:** From The Canons of Dort, Article 15:  
Responses to God's Grace

Leader: God does not owe this grace to anyone. For what could God owe to those who have nothing to give that can be paid back? Indeed, what could God owe to those who have nothing of their own to give but sin and falsehood?

**All: Therefore those who receive this grace owe and give eternal thanks to God alone;**

Leader: Those who do not receive it either do not care at all about these spiritual things and are satisfied with themselves in their condition, or else in self-assurance foolishly boast about having something which they lack.

**All: Furthermore, following the example of the apostles, we are to think and to speak in the most favorable way about those who outwardly profess their faith and better their lives, for the inner chambers of the heart are unknown to us. But for others who have not yet been called, we are to pray to the God who calls things that do not exist as though they did. In no way, however, are we to pride ourselves as better than they, as though we had distinguished ourselves from them.**

**Worship Through Song:**

Send the Light

Share Jesus with Others

**We Prepare For & Hear God's Word**

**Scripture:** Luke 9:1-11

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup>and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. <sup>3</sup>He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. <sup>4</sup>Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>5</sup>If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

<sup>6</sup>So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

<sup>7</sup>Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead, <sup>8</sup>others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago had come back to life. <sup>9</sup>But Herod said, “I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?” And he tried to see him.

<sup>10</sup>When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, <sup>11</sup>but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

**Sermon:** Proclaiming the Good News - Pastor Michael  
**Prayer**

**WE DEPART WITH GOD’S BLESSING**

**Parting Song:** He is Lord

**Blessing:** Pastor Michael

### Announcements

To allow for timely updating of the bulletin and website, please place information in the “Secretary” mailbox at the back of the church or email [Secretary@FultonFirstCRC.com](mailto:Secretary@FultonFirstCRC.com) by Thursday at 6:00pm. Thank you!

**Save the Date:** the next community evangelism event will be held May 7<sup>th</sup> and we have exciting ideas! If you would like to be on our planning team, please let Marissa or Stacy know.

**Semi-Annual Blood Drive** will be held May 24, 2023 from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm at 1st CRC. To schedule an appointment please call or text Amy Dykstra at 563-357-8555. Thank you for saving lives!

### **April Birthdays**

3 Marissa Wilkinson	17 Eric Burns
7 Ray Wiebenga	20 Jeff Zajicek
13 Ryan Dykstra	29 Michelle Vander Eide
15 Jessica Sohre	30 Henry Bielema, Jr.

### **April Anniversaries**

11 Tom & Virginia Scidmore	28 Joe & Stacy Stephenson
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**Remember in prayer** our members in care facilities and those that are homebound: Dorothy B, Jeanette B, Carroll E, John S, Betty S, Mark S, Albert W

### Deacons News

Please place your offerings in the plates as they are being passed.

4/16/23

Budget: \$2,042.00  
Received: \$1,594.00  
Short: \$445.00

Faith Promise: \$122.00

Offerings Today: General Fund - UCSB

Next Sunday: General Fund - Ministry Shares

\*Correction: The amount received for the Benevolence fund on 4/9/23 was \$180.00.

### Youth Group

#### Unity Christian School News

**Tuesday, April 25** - Girls Soccer vs Galesburg Christian School (@ Drives Field)

#### Community News

**The Gather**, prayer and praise will be at Journey Church next Sunday, April 30th,

**Felix Adler Center** Pizza Ranch fundraiser May 1<sup>st</sup>, 5-8p.

**Felix Adler Day Family Festival** June 17<sup>th</sup>

**“Let There be Life,”** the 37th Walk for Life at the Pregnancy Center, will be Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to Pray, Donate, or become a sponsored walker. Registration begins at 8:15am and the walk begins at 9am from The Pregnancy Center.

**Rescued For A Reason**, An unbelievable true story of kidnapping, theft, and the power to overcome, at First

Reformed Church on Sunday, April 30th at 9:00 am. For more information call 815-589-2203.

**Voice of Praise** invites you to experience “Tribute!” A cantata like you have never heard before, celebrating the powerful music of Geron Davis, at Emmanuel Church, 202 E Morris St in Morrison. Last chance, today, at 7:00 pm.

**Calvinist Cadets** have moved. Their new address is: 4695 44<sup>th</sup> St SE, Ste B-130, Kentwood, MI 49512.

**Biblical Study Tour to Italy** (May 22 - June 2, 2023): Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational tour. Dr. Weima 616-328-3110 [weimje@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:weimje@calvinseminary.edu)

### **CRC News**

**CRCNA Position Openings** - The CRCNA has the following full-time position openings: Communications Specialist, ReFrame Ministries & Director of Advancement, ReFrame Ministries. These positions are hybrid positions, working several days per week out of Grand Rapids, MI, or Burlington, ON, offices. Visit [www.crcna.org/jobs](http://www.crcna.org/jobs) for details or to apply.

	<b>Today</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
Recorder & Sound	Joe V	David D
Nursery Attendant	Alida H	Sara B
Snack Provider	Gayle D	Sara B
Server	Roger D	Eric B

## Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday Worship	9:00 am
	Deacons Meeting	10:30 am
Tuesday, April 25 <sup>th</sup>	GEMS & Cadets	6:30 pm
Thursday, April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Elders Meeting	6:00 pm
	Council Meeting	6:45 pm

Pastor Michael Hooker-Email: [mhooke01@gmail.com](mailto:mhooke01@gmail.com)

Church Email: [FirstCRCFulton@live.com](mailto:FirstCRCFulton@live.com)

Office: 815-589-3790

Website: [www.FultonFirstCRC.com](http://www.FultonFirstCRC.com)

Facebook: Fulton 1st Christian Reformed Church

## Give The Gift of Life

Dear Friends,

I would like to introduce you to Ty Echebarria. Some of you may already know Ty. He is an incredible 28-year-old young man from our community who is in need of a living kidney donor.



I have only met Ty within the last couple months, and I have been blown away by him. He has one of the biggest hearts I think I've ever seen with a huge passion for Jesus. Ty and his brother were both born with a disease called *progressive tubulo-interstitial nephropathy* and *cholestatic liver disease*, leaving both boys with the need for liver and kidney transplants at very young ages. Ty's mother and father (Dawn and Glenn Stuart) have both already witnessed the blessings of what God can do by being living donors themselves for their children. Ty received a kidney from his father when he was just 10, which has lasted him 18 years! Unfortunately, this kidney is now starting to fail. Ty's most recent GFR level puts him in stage 4 kidney failure. There are only 5 stages of kidney failure, and stage 5 would mean needing to start dialysis and another whole very difficult road to go down. The process of becoming a donor can take time, (from starting testing to surgery can take up to a year) so the sooner one can get started with the process, the better.

There have been so many advances with kidney donation programs that now we don't even need to be a blood type match to donate! UW Madison has an absolutely wonderful living donor paired program available where you can now donate to someone within the program (for Ty), and Ty would be able to receive a kidney from someone else within that same program who would be a match for him. [Please see the back of this flyer for more information on the University of Madison Kidney Donor Program.](#)

If you are interested in becoming a donor or just have questions, please call/text/email Ty or his mom, and they would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have. Thank you for taking the time to read Ty's story. I ask that you pray about it, and consider being a donor for Ty and giving him the gift of life.

Ty Echebarria: [j.echebarria1994@gmail.com](mailto:j.echebarria1994@gmail.com) / Phone: (815) 441-5359  
Dawn Stuart: [stuarddawn0@gmail.com](mailto:stuarddawn0@gmail.com) / Phone: 815-590-0032

**Matthew 25:40** - "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

**Ephesians 2:10**, NIV - For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



## **Introduction to living kidney donation**

As a kidney donor, you can greatly improve someone's life. To the recipient, you will always be their hero. More than 80 percent of the people on the national organ transplant wait list need a kidney, and wait times are increasing. Living with kidney disease is very difficult. Dialysis treatments are tiring and do not end the disease. Living kidney donation is the best way to save more lives. Did you know:

- You only need one kidney to live a healthy, long life.
- Most donor surgery is done laparoscopically, meaning through tiny incisions.
- The recuperation period is usually fairly quick, generally two weeks.
- The cost of your evaluation and surgery will be covered by the recipient's insurance. The hospital can give you extensive information on this.
- You will have a separate team of healthcare professionals to evaluate you as a living donor. Their job is to help you understand the risks and benefits and look out for YOUR best interests.

## **Why is a kidney from a living donor better?**

A kidney transplant can happen as soon as a donor is found, approved and ready to donate. Getting a kidney from a living donor is better for the recipient because:

- The recipient will get transplanted sooner, ending or avoiding dialysis
- Living kidney transplant surgeries can be scheduled, making recovery easier
- The kidney may be a better match to the recipient, and will come from a person who has been tested to ensure they are very healthy
- A kidney from a living donor will last much longer than one from a deceased donor, lessening their need for another kidney in the future

## **Who can be a living kidney donor?**

You do not need to be related to recipient. You do not need to have matching blood types. If you are older than age 18 and in good physical and emotional health you can apply to be a living donor. Not everyone who considers donation can or will donate. Our Independent Living Donor Advocate represents you, the donor to make sure your decision remains private. They are responsible for representing your wishes, discussing any issues and being your advocate.

## **Options for living kidney donation:**

- \* Direct Donation
- \* Paired Kidney Exchange
- \* Advanced Donation-Voucher Programs
- \* Non-direct donation
- \* Compatible Share

For more information on the University of Madison Kidney Transplant Programs and to see if you can possibly be a donor please visit:

<https://www.uwhealth.org/treatments/kidney-transplant?fbclid=IwAR3mSn9oVNwDOEs1hgZkqMlycKwj7DA7yIYfCIrzGFuSfGI-9yvZEFVzsig>