

First Christian Reformed Church

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*Growing Closer to God
Through Service & Love*

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First CRC Fulton

March 22, 2026 - 9:00am

“Cutting Corners of the Cross”

We Gather in Praise and Worship

Prelude: Soul on fire

Welcome: Beth C.

Announcements: Beth C.

Call To Worship: Beth C.

L: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

P: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

L: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

P: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

L: The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

P: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

God's Greeting: Pastor Randy

Mutual Greeting

Worship Through Song:

Guide me O thou great Jehovah

Power of the cross

Congregational Prayer: Angie V.

Worship Through Song:

Be Thou my vision

Be Unto your Name

We Prepare For & Hear God's Word

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-17 (Pew Bible Pg 1356)

Sermon: "Cutting Corners of the Cross" – Pastor Randy

WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING

Parting Song: Now Unto the King Eternal

Blessing: Pastor Randy

Announcements

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

Easter Lilies are given in memory of:

Roger Simon and Jake & Florence Balk from Bonnie Simon.

Angela McGinty & Bob Jackson from the family.

Alberta & Elmer Vander Eide from Michelle & Joe Vander

Eide and Rollie & Lynda Vander Eide.

Sebert & Phyllis Dykstra from the family.

Harlan & Darrell Tiesman from the family.

Elmer Vander Eide from Wilma Vander Eide.

Carl Vander Eide from the family.

Merle & Carol Bielema, Brad Lown, & Bernard Groharing from the family.

Family from the Mathey/Ottens family.

Our Deepest Sympathies to Albert and Gloria Wiebenga and family for the recent loss of their daughter, Robin.

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.

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 event is open to all women and organized by the Women of Grace. To register, call or text Beth C. at 563-219-2370 by March 30th.

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

21 John Vander Eide

25 Evan Atherton

22 Arlene Dykstra

26 Jayson Johnson

Anniversaries

21 Jason & Ashley Vander Eide

28 Brad & Staci Behrens

25 Joe & Michelle Vander Eide

28 Dale & Edith Schaver

Deacons' News

Offerings Received 3/15/26:

General Fund

Budget: \$2,166.00

Faith Promise: \$105.00

Received: \$734.00

Under: \$1,432.00

Offerings Today: General Fund & UCSB

3/29/2026 Offerings: General Fund & The Pregnancy Center

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 - This is the final week of Lent. Next week is Holy Week, during which Christians will mark the end of Jesus' journey to the cross. Those final hours of Jesus' life were extremely lonely, as Jesus was abandoned by family,

friends, and even his heavenly Father. As Jesus’ disciples today, we share in this suffering—but we are never alone. Colossians 3 describes the diverse community of believers, exhorting us to “bear with each other” as we support one another in faith. This week read and reflect on Colossians 3:11-14, and make time to connect with and encourage members of your church community. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thrive

	March 22nd	March 29th	April 5th
Pastor	Randy Knoll	Ken Renkes	Lain Vandermyde
Sound	Paul T.	Joe V.	David D.
Nursery		Stacy S.	Ana T.
Snack	Michelle V.	Sara B.	Brenda A.
Server	Michelle V.	Sara & Eric B	Stacy S.
Planner	Beth C.	Brenda A.	Lynda V.

<u>Weekly Calendar</u>		
Today	Sunday Worship	9:00 am
Tuesday, March 24 th	GEMS & Cadets	6:30 pm
Thursday, March 26 th	Elders Meeting	6:00 pm
	Deacons Meeting	6:30 pm
	Council Meeting	6:45 pm

Lament and Blessing

“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”

Today’s passage begins with a stern warning. Some Pharisees tell Jesus to leave, or Herod will have him killed. And yet, Jesus remains steadfastly focused on his mission to cast out

demons and perform miracles, bringing God's restoration to a broken world. That "fox" Herod will not "outfox" Jesus. Nothing will deflect Jesus from his mission, because a prophet must perish in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem has always been the goal, and as Jesus "sets his face" towards Jerusalem, the reality of death is inevitable. Jesus's suffering, while painful for him, will have even sadder consequences for Jerusalem. The city's history, regrettably, is marked by the killing and stoning of messengers sent to it (2 Chronicles 24:20-21; Jeremiah 26:20-23).

Jesus addresses his emotional lament to this city, which is marred by a bloodied past. Using the first person, he laments that God repeatedly wished to protect Jerusalem by gathering the city under his wings, much like a protective hen. But the city was unwilling. Jesus puts forth the figure of a hen to show God's desire to care tenderly for Israel, if only they will come. The lament is felt. Jerusalem is in peril. Its house stands forsaken. Israel will not see the Lord in promised blessing until they acknowledge as a nation, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." The possibility of a future day for Israel not involving judgment is left open, if they will respond. The Lenten season reminds us that without the blessing of knowing "the one who comes in the name of the Lord," we will find ourselves in the same peril of judgment—like a house forsaken, like Jerusalem. The blessing of Jesus is ours. Choose the blessing over the lament!

Jesus, I thank you that in our lament we found the blessing of salvation through you, as you gather us and sustain us through your kingdom work. Amen.