

## **First Christian Reformed Church**

801 15th Ave  
Fulton, IL 61252  
815-589-3790



*Growing Closer to God  
Through Service & Love*

Church Email: [FirstCRCFulton@live.com](mailto:FirstCRCFulton@live.com)  
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Facebook: Fulton 1st Christian Reformed Church

**First CRC Fulton**  
March 29, 2026 - 9:00am  
“It is What it is!”

**We Gather in Praise and Worship**

**Prelude:** Tegan B.

**Welcome:** Bodey S.

**Announcements:** Stacy S.

**Call To Worship:** Bodey S.

Leader: We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

**People: We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips.**

Leader: We will travel through betrayal and death, cradling  
hope deep in our hearts.

**People: Jesus leads us through this week and we will follow.**

**All: Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God.**

**God’s Greeting:** Ken

**Mutual Greeting**

**Worship Through Song:**

Praise

King of Kings

Days of Elijah

**Congregational Prayer:** Stacy S.

**Worship Through Song:**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

All Hail King Jesus

Praise Him, Praise Him

**We Prepare For & Hear God’s Word**

**Scripture:** Luke 19:14, Pew Bible Pg 1185

**Sermon:** “It Is What It Is!” – Pastor Ken

## **WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING**

**Parting Song:** Oh Praise the Name

**Blessing:** Ken

**Postlude:** Bodey S.

### **Announcements**

**Today we welcome** Ken Renkes. We look forward to worshipping with you today. Thank you for sharing your love and talent 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 the family.

Carl Vander Eide from Wilma Vander Eide.

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.

**Maundy Thursday Service** - First Reformed Church has invited us to Maundy Thursday Service on April 2nd at 6pm.

**Attention Ladies:** Please join us on Saturday April 11 from 11am-1pm in the church basement for a Baby Shower! Let's welcome baby Warren and bestow a flood of blessings on him and new Mommy, Rachel! You can find Rachel's baby registry at Target.com. See the table at the back of church for additional information. Please RSVP to Sara Burns at 563-219-5164 by

Thursday April 9. We hope you can come enjoy a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and festivities with us!

**Communion and Potluck** will be on April 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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**

3/30 Lori Bielema

3/ 31 Wesley Lown

4/3 Marissa Wilkinson

**Deacons' News**

Offerings Received 3/22/26:

UCSB: \$354.00

General Fund

Budget: \$2,166.00

Received: \$792.00

Under: \$1,374.00

Offerings Today: General Fund & The Pregnancy Center

4/5/2026 Offerings: General Fund & Building Fund

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

## Community Announcements

**Self-Help Enterprises Pancake Breakfast** April 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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** - Today is Palm Sunday, which marks the beginning of Holy Week, a time when we remember the final days of Jesus' life and we reflect on the events that led to his crucifixion. Download God's Big Easter Story: A Holy Week Journey for Families ([DwellCurriculum.org/Home](http://DwellCurriculum.org/Home)) for a meaningful way to walk with Jesus in the last moments of his life and to experience the miracle of his resurrection. This simple devotional guide helps people of all ages grow in faith as they reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross—and beyond. Brought to you by Thrive: [crcna.org/Thrive](http://crcna.org/Thrive)

	<u>March 29<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>April 5<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>April 12<sup>th</sup></u>
Pastor	Ken Renkes	Lain Vandermyde	John Byker
Sound	Joe V.	David D.	Paul T.
Nursery	Stacy S.	Ana T.	Lynell B.
Snack	Brenda A.	Sara B.	Lynda V.
Server	Stacy S.	Sara & Eric B.	Marissa W.
Planner	Brenda A.	Lynda V.	Beth C.

## Weekly Calendar

Today

Sunday Worship

9:00 am

### **The Triumphal Entry**

*“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”*

Today is Palm Sunday—the moment Jesus makes his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. Yet, instead of being received as King, Luke emphasizes that Jesus is rejected. Not everyone rejoices at His “Solomon-like” entrance; rather, Jesus is perceived as a threat to both the religious leaders and Rome. Perhaps there are moments in our own lives when we refuse to honor Jesus as King.

In this passage, Jesus instructs his disciples to go into a village, find an unriden colt tied there, and bring it to him. In that culture, dignitaries—and even rabbis—had the right to use property for personal purposes, so this was not an unusual request. The image of Jesus riding on a colt brings to mind Zechariah 9:9 and evokes the royalty of Solomon. Yet Jesus chooses a humble animal, demonstrating that this Messiah embodies service and humility.

In verse thirty-seven, Luke shifts the focus from Jesus to the people—the “multitude of disciples.” The crowd rejoices and praises God, while the Pharisees are irritated by this public display. On this Palm Sunday, the question remains: Who are we in this story? In a polarized world that often vilifies, defames, and maligns those who are different, can we stand

with the multitude and proclaim, “*Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*”?

For Luke, this is a Heaven-and-Earth-shaking event, and Jesus gets the last word: “*If these should keep silent, the stones would cry out.*” Our world desperately needs the light and resurrecting power of Jesus Christ. As we celebrate his triumphal arrival in our lives, let us be among those who shout and rejoice in the King who came—and will come again. May we never allow the stones to cry out in our place.

*Lord, let me receive you, not reject you. May I not only call you King but be found faithful as your servant. Amen.*

***Members Only:*** *There is now a “Members Only” section on the website where you can view church newsletters, pulpit supply and volunteer list, and more. The password is on the bulletin board at the back of the church to protect member safety.*