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Bible Passage of the Month

Galatians 5:13-14

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

An Independence Day Prayer

by Margaret Cagle

Lord, on July fourth we'll celebrate
Independence Day in our nation.
You gave us the truth to set us free.
You sent Jesus to die for our salvation.

We thank you for the precious freedom
That we have in our nation today.
We know this country's not perfect,
But we honor our nation, the USA.

We thank you for the Founding Fathers,
Who for freedom took a brave stand.
Many placed their very lives in peril
To start a free country in a new land.

I thank you for the brave soldiers,
Who gave their lives to keep us free.
They gave their ultimate sacrifice
For freedom for Americans like me.

As we shoot fireworks and celebrate
With patriotic concerts and parades,
We thank you for all your blessings
And your great love that never fades.

As we gather with our loved ones
For picnics and barbecues and fun,
We want to thank you for everything,
Especially for sending your only Son!

Summer Campers

The following are attending summer camp this month.

Mikayla Bakker, Camp Geneva Shores, July 3-7
Sybren Bakker, Camp Geneva Shores, July 3-7
Ryder Kleis, Camp Geneva Pines, July 24-28
Kali Chatman, Camp Geneva Shores, July 31-August 4
Cayden Chrysler, Camp Geneva Shores, July 31-August 4
Jordan Chrysler, Camp Geneva Shores, July 31-August 4
Alison DeWeerd, Camp Geneva Shores, July 31-August 4
Jovany Flores-Ipina, Camp Geneva Shores, July 31-August 4
Oakley Oppenneer, Camp Geneva Shores, July 31-August 4
Ocara Oppenneer, Camp Geneva Shores, July 31-August 4
Aleighya Stendel, Camp Geneva Shores, July 31-August 4
Jackson Yenior, Camp Geneva Shores, July 31-August 4

If your child is attending a summer camp and would like to be include them in our list, please contact the office at 616-837-8949 or heather@coopersvillereformed.com.

Prayer Time

The church Worship Center (sanctuary) will be open for prayer Mondays from 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

S.A.L.T. Events

1. Join us for an open house for Pastor Arnold & Sylvia Van Beek on Wednesday, July 12, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Activity Center. 2. On Saturday, July 15, join us for The Browns concert and a baked chicken dinner at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds (leave at 4:30 p.m.). 3. On Thursday, July 20, at 7:30 p.m., we will see the play *Cinderella* at the Jenison Center for the Arts. Give payment to Deb Mauk by July 16. 4. Save the dates: Saturday, October 28, at 2:00 p.m., for the Shipshewana Amish Gospel Jubilee with Greater Vision, Mark Trammell Qt, Joseph Habedank, and Inspirations at the Blue Gate Performing Arts Center (64 tickets available, \$48/person), and Friday, December 8, Christmas concert and dinner at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds.

Fall Kick Off

Save the date of Sunday, September 10, for our annual Fall Kick Off. This year we will be hosting a Pulled Pork Smoke-Off. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Heather Smoes (heather@coopersvillereformed.com).

Men's Retreat

Sign up now to guarantee a fun, Spirit-filled time with other men. The retreat will be at Lake Ann Camp from September 29-October 1. Cost is \$155 which includes your food and lodging. Register online at www.coopersvillereformed.com under events by August 1.

Women's Retreat

Join us for the women's retreat at Grace Adventures from October 13-15. Cost is \$165 and includes food and lodging. The speaker is author and teacher, Amy Siefert. Register online at www.coopersvillereformed.com under events.

VBS In Pictures

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The highly anticipated second book in the Cape Cod Creamery Series has arrived! **The Secret to Happiness** by Suzanne Woods Fisher follows the first book, **The Sweet Life**. This story will draw you in and you'll be surprised at the events that take place. There are several things going on in the lives of our creamery friends and each one has lessons to learn and share with us in their journey. You'll be introduced to several new characters including the delightful little "cowboy" Leo who is quite wise at 6 years of age. Of course, there is plenty of ice cream to go around, so grab yourself a bowl and enjoy as you devour this story!

Robert Whitlow offers an intriguing legal thriller with his new book titled **Double Indemnity**. While Pastor Connor is counseling Matt and Elena Thompson, who are struggling with their marriage, Matt dies while on a business hunting trip. As Elena continues to seek support from Connor, she also seeks legal assistance from lawyer Liz Acosta. As police look into Matt's death -- was it an accident, suicide or murder -- While dealing with the pushy and demanding widow, Connor and Liz find themselves drawn to each other while searching for the truth -- and possibly finding themselves in harm's way. Whitlow does an incredible job of creating a legal thriller while aptly including romance, spiritual growth and the immense power of prayer. He creates deeply real and relatable characters, including extremely likable characters like prayer warriors Lyle and Sarah and their son Josh, and some that raise your hackles. He also includes several great themes, like God knows the end from the beginning; God is with us even in the difficult times and God will meet with us personally. This book includes discussion questions and is a suitable book club read.

Famous for a Living by Melissa Ferguson took me to a place and challenged me like I certainly didn't expect to be challenged. Written by the same author who brought us the book titled **Meet Me in the Margins**, I expected a lighthearted funny feel-good story. It is some of that but it's also a sobering, challenging look at just how connected, dare I say addicted, we are to our little "computers" we all carry around in our pockets and purses. This book includes questions for self-reflection, helps and discussion questions and would also be a great book club read.

Coming soon: New releases by Patricia Bradley, Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse.

Birthday Celebrations

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- 1 Abby Mast
 - 6 Jeremy Annen, Annabelle Bassette
 - 7 Tom Bergy, Kris Van Huis
 - 8 Eric Sietsema, Kalvin Veeneman, Olivia Wilson
 - 10 Pam Keegstra, Irma Rotman, Chuck Tanis
 - 11 Dan Brown, Betty TerBeek
 - 12 Cheryl Annen, Dan Boom, Ben Heinz, Karen Lemmen, Sam Vander Ark
 - 13 Avery Annen, Julie Palma, LeRoy Throop
 - 14 Madelyn Nobert
 - 15 Jacob Kooistra
 - 16 Jake Annen
 - 19 Ashley Hill
 - 20 Emily Ribnicky, Jim Russell
 - 21 Chad Tropea
 - 22 Abigail North
 - 23 Samuel Baron, William Bukrey, John Hines, Jon Van Ryswyk
 - 24 Ruth Bos, Jordan Chrysler, Connor Maki, Mary Veeneman
 - 26 Kevin Keegstra
 - 27 Kathryn Bruno, Bryce Hanenburg, Cheryl Harsay, Ben Leach
 - 28 Alijah Wilson
 - 29 Adalynn Keller
 - 30 Thomas Ribnicky
 - 31 Sid Bakker

Nursery & Little Tykes

The current Nursery & Little Tykes schedule is posted by the women's bathroom in the lower level of church. This is updated regularly to accommodate changes due to illness and vacations.

Greeters

		Back of Sanctuary	Lobby
July 2	10:00 a.m.		Jan Jordan
July 9	9:00 a.m.	Jeff Alberda	Janet Kuperus & Sharon Ozinga
July 16	9:00 a.m.	John & Alvina VanDoorn	Charlie & Bonnie Vander Kolk
July 23	9:00 a.m.	Nichole Heinz	Gary & Karen Rollenhagen
July 30	9:00 a.m.	Rick & Marcia Draft	Scott & Tami Schoolcraft

Coffee Fellowship

July 2	Lynda Johnson, Sheri Busman, Deb Mauk, Marcia Draft, Kalene Sietsema
July 9	Beth Mast, Beth Baron, Jan Jordan, Mary Bialas
July 16	Tracy Kooistra, Lisa Wiltenburg, Jody Baker, Evonne Erhorn
July 23	LeaAnn Tibbe, Kalene Sietsema, Karen Lemmen, Julie Palma
July 30	Lynda Johnson, Kalene Sietsema, Christie Hill, Rochelle Bakker

Calendar of Events

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July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 am Combined Worship	3 8 am-7 pm Prayer Time in Sanctuary	4 Office Closed	5	6	7	8
9 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship	10 8 am-7 pm Prayer Time in Sanctuary	11 6:00-7:00 am Rooted in Prayer	12 2-4 p.m. Open House for Pastor Arnold & Sylvia	13	14	15 4:30 p.m. S.A.L.T. Event
16 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship	17 8 am-7 pm Prayer Time in Sanctuary Office Closed	18 6:00-7:00 am Rooted in Prayer	19	20 7:30 p.m. S.A.L.T. Event	21	22
One Way Summer Trip						
23/30 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship	24/31 8 am-7 pm Prayer Time in Sanctuary	25 6:00-7:00 am Rooted in Prayer	26	27	28	29

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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