

JUNE 2026

PEW ECHO

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
527 Giddings Ave., Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
920-467-3251
1stReformed.org

Brad Veenendaal - Pastor
pastorbrad@1streformed.org

Sue Dempster - Office
office@1streformed.org



THE 2026 GRADUATES...

(do you know who they are?)



CONGRATULATIONS 2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!



SKYE ULLERICH

Parents: Kelly Ullerich and Chris Ullerich
Graduating from: Sheboygan Falls HS
Future Plans: Cattle Rancher and Medical Coding
(Western Nebraska Community College)



ETHAN TEUNISSEN

Parents: Curtis & Sheila Teunissen
Graduating from: Sheboygan Falls HS
Future Plans: Employment at D&H
Sales & Services



MCCLAREN TEUNISSEN

Parents: Curtis & Sheila Teunissen
Graduating from: Sheboygan Falls HS
Future Plans: Concordia University—
Education & Youth Ministries



LUCAS CLEVELAND

Parents: Ben & Joy Cleveland
Graduating from: Sheboygan Falls HS
Future Plans: Lakeshore College—
Mechanical Engineering & Design

2026 COLLEGE GRADUATES

SHANNON STOFFREGEN graduated from Chamberlain University with a Masters in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner, member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Shannon Stoffregen MSN, APRN, FNP

LILA HOUWERS graduated from UW-La Crosse in December 2025 with a History degree with an emphasis in public policy and a minor in Art History.

Dear Friends,

Kyle Alexander (right, with white headband) used to play basketball for the Miami Heat. Now he plays in Turkey.

More importantly, Kyle is a passionate follower of Christ. Kyle recently partnered with our church to organize an evangelistic event. Please pray for this outreach as well as the smaller, one-on-one Gospel conversations that Kyle has with Turks throughout the week.



You can check out Kyle's bold video on our church's Instagram page here <https://tinyurl.com/yhznneh>.

As you watch, however, note this interesting cultural difference between Turkey and America: in the same span of time that Kyle's video reached 90,000 views, Özge's baptism video reached 2 million views! Baptisms are scandalous in Turkey and are more attention-getting than professional basketball players!



Love,

Brian and Dana

Avant

[10000 N Oak Trafficway](http://10000%20N%20Oak%20Trafficway)

[Kansas City, MO 64155](http://Kansas%20City%2C%20MO%2064155)

www.avantministries.org



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Lori Gumm
- 3 Dave Stoffregen
- 7 Joan Mueller
- 10 Dawn Otte
- 11 Kathleen Felton
- 12 Henry Fritsch
- 13 Sophia Houwers
- 16 Phyllis LeMahieu
- 24 Pastor Brad Veenendaal
- 26 Tonja Veenendaal
- 28 Sue Wisse

JUST LIKE DAD

At the beginning of his ministry career, Jerry Steen supplemented his income by mixing animal feed. When his two young boys greeted him at home, they laughed at his dusty appearance before he headed to the shower.

"I didn't think too much of this until I was washing my car and saw my older son doing something very strange," Steen recalls. "He was picking up the gravel and stones in our drive and rubbing them into his pants." Curious, the father asked what the boy was doing. "I want to be dusty like you, Dad!" his son replied.

For Steen, that was an eye-opener. "I realized that if a child would look up to his father for being dusty and want to copy his father," he says, "a child could look up to his father and follow him for anything." What traits and qualities are you modeling and passing on — to your own kids and to anyone else who looks up to you?



In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he teaches, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile" (Matthew 5:41, NRSV). Back then, Jews were subject to Roman rule and often compulsory service. Commoners could be forced to fetch water, carry baggage and perform other menial tasks. So Jesus suggests that rather than complying with gritted teeth and muttered curses, people offer to carry the pack a second mile as well.

These days, the second (or extra) mile denotes going beyond what's expected or required, whether in effort or kindness. In *Going the Second Mile*, Mel Blackaby describes the concept as "the difference between living as a good person and enjoying life as a child of God." He explains, "When you 'do your best' for someone, you go the first mile. When God does his best through you, you experience the second mile. This can happen only when you let Christ in you take over and empower you to accomplish what is impossible by your natural abilities. While others see you on the first mile, they see Christ on the second."



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Steve & Stacy Wagner (26)
- 12 Mike & Mary Rammer (50)
- 14 Peter & Mary Loewen (29)
- 18 Aaron & Connie Lund (21)
- 19 Dave & Nancy Mulder (50)
- 21 Duane & Lori Gumm (26)
- 24 Paul & Ann Graumann (37)
- 26 John & Pat Boge (56)
- 30 Dick & Gail Huibregtse (53)



Triangle & Circle

Dating back to ancient Christianity, a circle symbolizes eternity, and a triangle, with its three equal sides and three equal angles, symbolizes the Holy Trinity.



Placed together, they represent the eternal Three-in-One and One-in-Three: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION

Few things are better than the first day of a long-awaited vacation. The excitement of reaching our destination, the anticipation of fun-filled adventures, the freedom to relax and lay down our burdens for a while — we'll pay good money for that.

But it's a fleeting pleasure. Before our bags are even unpacked, the clock has already begun counting down to when we'll have to return to the pressures of everyday life.

It won't always be so. One day, we'll lay down our burdens for good. When we reach our ultimate destination, God our Father will welcome us. Our loved ones, long gone, will gather to celebrate. And every day of this breathtaking adventure will be like the first because time will no longer rule over us.

The best vacations are just a shadow of what God has in store for his children!

YOU'RE GOING PLACES!



Commencement marks the beginning of a new stage of life, with graduates heading off to discover opportunities and face challenges. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* — a Dr. Seuss book that's now a popular graduation gift — whimsically explores life's ups and downs, twists and turns.

Young adults will face excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness. They'll feel a sense of purpose as well as confusion and even fear. "There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on," writes Dr. Seuss.

In the storybook, the life-traveler's sheer determination propels him beyond difficulties. But God's children don't need to journey alone. Our heavenly Father walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NRSV): "**Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**"

THOUGHTS FOR FATHER'S DAY

A careful man I ought to be; a little fellow follows me;
I do not dare to go astray, for fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes; whate'er he sees me do, he tries —
Like me, he says, he's going to be, the little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine, believes in every word of mine:
The base in me he must not see, the little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go, through summer's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be, for a little fellow follows me.

~Author Unknown



USHERS FOR JUNE

Paul Houwers

Karen Rooker



**USHER
SCHEDULE**



GREETERS FOR JUNE

June 7
Lyle & Luella Justinger

June 14
Mike & Mary Rammer

June 21
Ron & Carol Meinnert

June 28
Ning Zhang & Tong Wang



Assisted Living & At Home Members

Tom Achsel
119 Meadow Ridge Dr
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Dorothy Arthur
Pine Haven
531 Giddings Ave., Rm 623
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Lowell Bruggink
631 Mark Ave
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Betty DeRuyter
Waterview of Sheboygan Sr. Apts
910 N. 10th St., Apt. 309
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Sue Dulmes
503 N. 12 St.
Oostburg, WI 53070

Betty Erickson
Prairie Crossing
1280 Pine Haven Lane, Apt. 201
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Dennis Hanke
825 Chicago St.
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Joyce Lemkuil
805 Ontario Ave.
Oostburg, WI 53070

Mark LeMahieu
Sunny Ridge
3014 Erie Ave., Rm. 223
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Wayne LeMahieu
220 Pine Haven Dr., Rm D102
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Arlene Maxey
Prairie Crossing
1280 Pine Haven Ln., Apt. 111
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53081

Cheryl Meerdink
Dimensions Living
2611 Indiana Ave.
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Jeanette Meinnert
723 Woodview Ave.
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

Mary Ann Otte
Prairie Crossing
1280 Pine Haven Lane, Apt. 104
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

William Pietenpol
Pine Haven
1280 Pine Haven Ln., Apt. 103
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

La Verne Soerens
W2756 Hwy 28
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085





The Midwest Network Newsletter

A Word from the President

CODY MORET

Summer is coming! With it, many activities get planned, and we often find ourselves trying to pack as much as possible into these few short months. Trips to the lake, time at the cabin, family vacations, and sports tournaments are just a few of the things that can fill our calendars and divide our time. These days, many of those activities fall on weekends, which can mean time away from church and worship. I am not saying any—or all—of these things are bad. What I am saying is that it is easy to let good things distract us from the main thing.

So, what is the main thing? In John 14:6–8, Jesus says: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you know my Father also. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” Then Philip says, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” The main thing is knowing Jesus and knowing the Father. Jesus makes it simple: it is through him that we come to the Father, our Creator.

So, what does that look like during a busy summer full of activities? It looks like making quiet time with him. When I preach or stand up front at Faith Church, I sometimes ask, “Where did you see God today? This week? This month?” Asking ourselves that question helps us slow down and look for him. It invites us to spend time with him, reflecting on where we have seen him at work and what he may be doing in and around us. That is one way we can keep the main thing the main thing during a hectic season. I encourage you to enjoy your summer. Enjoy your family time. Enjoy the lake, the cabin, the vacations, and the ball games. But most importantly, enjoy your time looking for God at work and growing in your knowledge of Jesus—the way, the truth, and the life.

May God bless each and every one of you and your families.

Prayer Team Update

FRED WILGENBURG

For any prayer requests feel free to email us at midwestnetprayer@gmail.com

- May prayer concerns
- Continued prayers for those battling cancer
- Praises to God for good health reports
- Prayers for church leaders, network leadership and Alliance leaders
- Prayers for churches searching for pastors
- Prayers for older church members and leading them to a new purpose in their life



From the Network Pastor SETH SUNDSTROM

A Reminder!

I will be taking a sabbatical from May 26 through August 14, 2026, after ten years of serving in network leadership through denominational transition, the formation of the ARC, and the ongoing work of walking with churches and pastors. This sabbatical is intended for rest, spiritual renewal, and emotional and relational health—ie fishing. During that time, I will step away from coaching, consulting, conflict mediation, meetings, email, and work-related texts. While I am away, please direct questions to the following people:

- *General Questions*
 - **Brenda Van Beek (605)595-7369**
- *CKT/church or pastoral crisis matters*
 - **Rick Van Ravenswaay (605) 906-3340**
- *Board-related matters*
 - **Codey Moret (605)690-9941**

I would be grateful for your prayers, your help in honoring these boundaries.

Q: WHERE WAS SOLOMON'S TEMPLE LOCATED?

A: ON THE SIDE OF HIS HEAD

Financial Update BRENDA VAN BEEK

Check out the link below for a summary of our 2026 year-to-date finances - thank you for being in ministry together!

[Jan-April 2026 Financial Update](#)

Q: WHY COULDN'T JONAH TRUST THE OCEAN

A: HE KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT IT

Find helpful guidance on the following topics on our Resources Page below!

- COMPENSATION & BENEFITS
- MINISTRY PARTNER VIDEOS
- DIRECTORIES & FORMS
- ORDINATION INFORMATION
- COVENANT KEEPERS
- PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

[HTTPS://MIDWESTNETWORK.ORG/RESOURCES](https://midwestnetwork.org/resources)



Seth and our VP Brian Dengler did a video on the importance & meaning of sabbatical. Check it out on the [MEDIA PAGE!](#)



Network Happenings

BRENDA VAN BEEK

This year has already been a busy one for the Network and the Alliance! We've held a Pastor's Retreat, launched another course for pastors working through Pathways, wrapped up our revitalization book club, and begun work on the first 5-year renewals of our member churches. Moving forward, our board is preparing to update our bylaws (more details to come soon) and send Seth on a well-deserved sabbatical for the summer.

The Alliance has also been busy making ministry more effective for our churches: You'll hear more about their discipleship and leadership development initiatives at the next Gathering in Michigan; an application for IRS 501(c)(3) group exemption is being pursued; and other practical ministry partnerships continue to emerge and develop. It's an exciting time!

Pastors, elders and deacons are encouraged to get involved with the Network, too - following are some of the opportunities available:

- Pathways coaching: Tier 2 ordained pastors can serve as coaches for our Pathways pastors.
- Revitalization Book club: New book suggestions are welcomed for our next series this fall!
- Youth ministry cohort: Ty Hogue is open to continuing growth of the cohort he's leading.
- Compensation & Benefits Team: This small team meets in the summer/fall and has room for more.

This activity is made possible because our churches are in a healthy rhythm of financially supporting the Network and Alliance.

On a more personal note, an update on my breast cancer journey: I had surgery on March 10, and the follow-up determined that I will require another surgery on June 23, as there were additional areas of concern. I'll also begin radiation treatments soon, and have been put on a prescription that halts the growth of any tumors that remain. God's surpassing peace remains present, and I've recovered well from my first surgery, but I would still appreciate your prayers! The doctors tell me it's all still very treatable with a high likelihood of cure.

Transitions/Updates

SETH SUNDSTROM

Installed

Josh Lucas - First Reformed of Baldwin WI 5/10/2026

Accepted Calls

Riaan van Staden - Immanuel Reformed of Belmond IA

Transitions

Riverview Reformed of Yankton, SD

Seeking Pastor

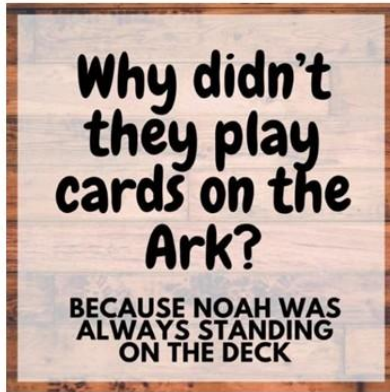
Bethel Reformed of Brandon WI *
Chandler Reformed of Chandler MN
Delaware Reformed of Lennox SD
Faith Reformed of Wisconsin Rapids WI *
First Reformed of Meservey IA
Free Grace Reformed of Middleburg IA *
Willmar First Reformed of Willmar, MN

*CURRENTLY WORKING WITH [HTTPS://WWW.CHEMISTRYSTAFFING.COM](https://www.chemistrystaffing.com)

Pastor's Retreat Pictures 2026



KID'S PAGE



What starts with an E,
ends with an E - but only
has one letter?

An envelope



God's SURVIVAL KIT

Pack of Gum

To remind you God will always stick with you
Hebrews 10:23

Chocolate Kisses

To remind you of God's love
1 John 4:7

Yootsie Rolls

To remind you God is always there even when
you bite off more than you can chew
Psalms 9:9

Starbursts

To give you a burst of energy to
continue your walk with God
Colossians 1:29

Snickers

To remind you that God has a sense of humor
John 15:11

All of this assembled to remind you of
God's love for you

JESUS IS MY JAM



AND I'M HERE TO SPREAD IT!



We ALL Need S'MORE of JESUS

Bible Would You Rather?



Check the choice would you rather make

- Live through a famine OR live through the plagues of Egypt
- Hide spies in your house OR hide a baby from Pharaoh
- Be a sheep OR be a shepherd
- See Jesus walk on water OR see him heal a blind man
- Have dinner with Moses OR have dinner with Paul
- Have the strength of Samson OR wisdom of Solomon
- Be imprisoned for over 2 years OR be swallowed by a whale
- Be present at Jesus' birth OR be present at his resurrection
- Name the animals OR help build the ark



the BIBLE in fifty words

- God Creates
- Adam Ate
- Noah Floats
- Abraham's Oath
- Jacob Schemes
- Joseph Dreams
- Bush Lit
- Sea Split
- Law Spoken
- Tablets Broken
- Judges Appointed
- Kings Anointed
- God Forgotten
- Rulers Rotten
- Kingdom Broke
- Prophets Hope
- Mary Favored
- Baby Savior
- Crucified
- Jesus Died
- Third Morn
- World Reborn
- Spirit Glows
- Love Grows
- Earth Awaits
- God Creates...

June



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7pm Elders	3	4	5	6
7 9:30am Worship	8	9 7pm Executive Committee	10	11	12	13
14 9:30am Worship 	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:30am Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:30am Worship	29	30				

BULLETIN BLOOPERS

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

LESSONS FROM A LITTLE VOICE

A woman invited several guests over for dinner. When everyone gathered around the table, she turned to her 6-year-old daughter and asked, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the little girl replied.

Her mother smiled. "Just say what you hear Mommy say."

The child bowed her head and prayed sincerely, "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

