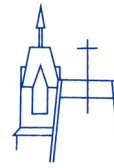
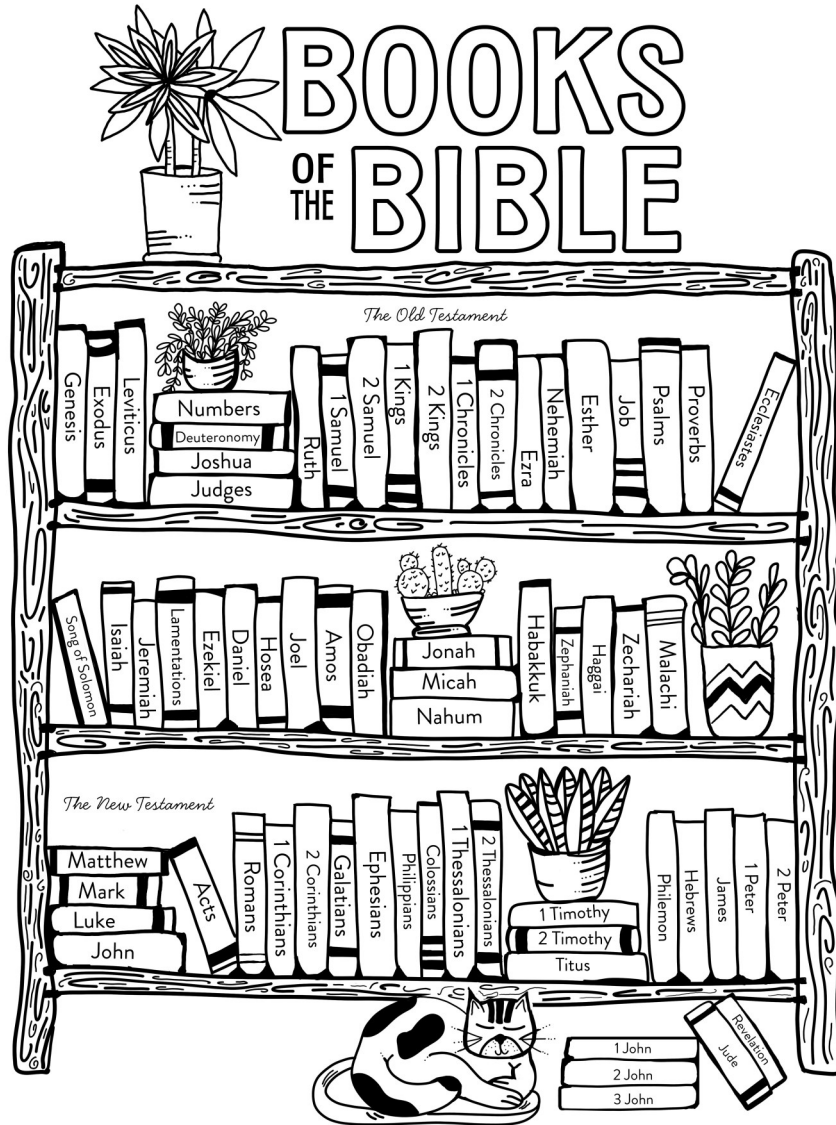


Just for fun... a page to color!



APRIL 20 FERRY LOG 24

Ferry Memorial Reformed Church • Reformed Church in America



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It's so hard to say goodbye to Ferry Church. During our time here, our family has grown so close to so many of you. You have encouraged us. You've walked alongside us. You've tolerated my eccentricities. And you've blessed us with your wisdom and generosity, your grace and kindness.

Ferry is an extraordinarily kind congregation that has passed through a difficult couple of years and landed again on her feet. In the past several years this congregation has taken significant steps forward so that it can continue its mission for Christ in White Lake. I pray that you continue to support the Consistory and Pastor Beth as they continue to lead this church to a deeper realization of its purpose. And I pray above all else that you would all allow God to become more present in your lives through faith, fellowship and deeper spiritual formation.

After a series of conversations this past year about the future of Ferry Church, the Consistory has focused on four key values to guide their decisions for the next several years. 1) Meaningful worship grounded in intergenerational music and a consistent emphasis on the Word of God. 2) Local Mission, meaning that we remain connected to mission partners in our immediate area and that we become personally invested in our community. 3) Hospitality for those outside of our church community when they visit or interact with our church and an openness to those in

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our community who need facilities or resources. (Donna Nelson is beginning a hospitality committee this summer and I'm sure she will be looking for collaborators.)
4) A consistent approach to all people, both inside and outside of the church, that honors the Image of God in everyone. With this vision and the goals attached to it, Ferry is poised to grow and develop as a church through this brief period of pastoral transition.

As we leave, Kari and I would appreciate your prayers as we look for employment and coordinate a cross-country move. Pray that we find a new home that was gracious and kind as this home was to us.

In February I promised you all a written update on the Future Fund. To recap: The Future Fund is an endowment of the church, primarily supplied through the generosity of Bern and Karen Bolema, that was originally intended for the purchase of adjacent property. With their passing, the Consistory has the authority and opportunity to use the Future Fund for other purposes with a majority vote of two-thirds of the elders and deacons. For several months we have been taking suggestions from the congregation and considering ways in which the endowment could be used to enhance our current facilities rather than expanding our property. This past month the Consistory voted to use some of the endowment for a handful of projects while investing the remainder of the funds in a long-range investment.

The projects that were approved include:

- Sponsoring a church-wide work day (or two) to freshen up the nursery with new paint and new fixtures.

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Fun Fact



Saying thank you may help boost your mood. Expressing gratitude is not only for the recipient as research shows that gratitude helps you see the good in your life. This is seen over and over again in the book that we love as apostle Paul writes “give thanks for all things, in all circumstances” (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18), being thankful even in suffering (Romans 5:3-5; James 1:1-4) and to do everything in the name of Jesus out of a spirit of gratefulness (Colossians 3:17). Pastor Raully just introduced us to a Hebrew prayer that is meant to be sung when you wake up in the morning to show gratitude to our Lord our God. In English it says “I offer thanks to You, our God, for You have mercifully restored my soul within me; Your faithfulness is great.” Hebrew: “Modeh ani lefaneha meleh hai vekayam, she’he’hezrta bee neshmatee b’hemla, raba emunatecha.” So, it doesn’t matter how or when you say it, but thank you goes a long way for not only your physical and emotional health, but also your spiritual health!

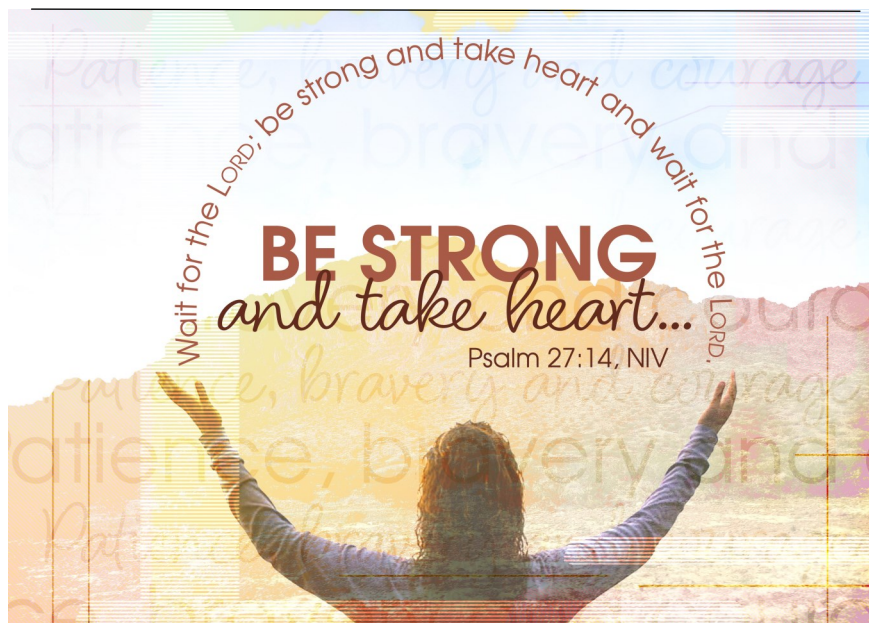
Kari Donahue

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Lastly, I want to inform you what the next steps are in the search process. An Ad Hoc team has been established to search for an Interim Minister. The team consists of myself, Ben Jeffries, Mark Grotenhuis, Josh Fredenburg. We have brought Pastor Beth in as part of this process as she will play a vital role with the Interim Minister. The team is working with Classis and the Regional Synod to help with the transition process. We are currently reviewing applications and hope to have an Interim in place by the first of May. As we move forward in this process, I am optimistic that our future at Ferry will be bright and hope that you will join me with the same feeling of confidence. Please feel free to reach out to myself, the Ad Hoc team or Consistory if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Rachelle Johnson
vice-president, consistory



(Continued from page 2)

- Transforming the prayer room (which functions more like a storage room) into a Sunday School room that will be more welcoming and visible for visiting families and bring the children up out of the basement.
- New interior signage with evacuation/safety information and directions for visitors.
- Construction of an accessibility ramp and a handicapped-accessible door for the entryway that leads from the Fellowship Hall into the parking lot
- Installation of a new electronic sign on Old Channel Trail.
- New carpet for the youth room.
- Remodeling the men's bathroom in the narthex to make it more accessible

Hopefully these projects will be finished within the next year. Other than the electronic sign, none are particularly expensive. Together, though, they signify our commitment to a church that is more welcome to guests and invested in our youth programs.

Pastor Raully



Coffee Fellowship Volunteers:

Sign up for one Sunday (or more) to prepare and serve coffee—or to provide and set out cookies or other treats.

It's a fun way to meet people!

The sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.





Hello all,

From Pastor Beth~

Spring is upon us, and we are officially in the season of April showers. As I write this, I look out my office window at the cloudy sky and light showers of rain. Though the weather doesn't seem to match it, we are still in the liturgical season of celebrating Christ's resurrection!

We celebrated Easter on the last day of March and continue to celebrate into this month. What a comfort to know that our savior has conquered all the darkness in this world—even death.

Revelation 21:4 describes a future existence for believers where death will be no more. It says "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Christ's resurrection has made possible this future existence where all will be made right.

In this future existence we also will be resurrected upon Christ's return. 1 Corinthians 15:54 describes our coming resurrection saying, "When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

One day we will be resurrected like Christ was, and death will be defeated once and for all. What a wonderful hope we have in Him! May the Holy Spirit help us endure hardships now by reminding us that there is a coming day where pain and death will be no more!

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Hello Congregation,

Many of us were surprised at Pastor Raully's resigning letter. Thoughts and questions entered minds as some people saw the news as a storm fast approaching. Others were disappointed, angered, anxious, while others found true joy and happiness for Raully and his family. Whatever emotion you felt and still feel, you are not alone. I have heard from many of you with the same thoughts, feelings, and questions.

There are a few points I would like to make with Raully and Kari's news. First, not all storms come to disrupt your life. There are those occasional storms that come to clear a path forward. With Raully's leadership, Consistory went on a 1 year Vision exercise to dig into Ferry's core values and build our identity as a modern church based on our four core values (Image of God, Local Missions, Meaningful Worship, Hospitality). This type of analysis has not been done at Ferry in over 40 years. Such an examination has cleared a path for our future and what it means to worship together as a church and community.

Secondly, Ferry is an incredible, strong congregation. We are a kind and caring community. We support one another in our joys and in our trials. Even though Raully and Kari will be leaving, we as a church will remain steadfast in our caring for one another as this is the cornerstone of the church community. As part of that devotion to one another, I would ask that you pray for Consistory and for Pastor Beth as we maneuver through this transition. Also pray for Raully and Kari as they seek God's calling to be closer to family in Montana.

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their New Direction Program. This program offers classes such as Parenting, Health, Relationships, Managing Money and Bible Study. Attendees are given points that can be redeemed at the Love It Again Resale Store. For additional volunteer opportunities, please visit lovein-cofmuskegon.com/getinvolved/

April Mission of the Month - HOPE Project



The Hope Project began in 2006 as an outreach program to educate and inform the issue of human trafficking, to support victims who have survived it, and to prevent further cases through mentoring and education.

H.O.P.E. stands for: Houses of Prostitution Emptied, Houses of Promise Entered, Houses of Prayer Entered.

A special offering in support of this ministry will be received on Sunday April 21.

Cheryl VanGeison



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Youth Group Updates:

This past month the youth group had two mission trip fundraisers: our March Madness Bracket Fundraiser and the lunch/dinner Fundraiser at North Grove. Thank you to everyone who has supported us! So far we have raised over \$1,200 for the youth group. We are truly grateful!



This is enough money for each student to attend the trip for \$275, which was our original goal. Again, thank you very much to everyone who has contributed so far.

We are planning to have one more fundraiser before the trip with the hopes of bringing down costs for students even more, and to give the kids a chance to work towards their goal. It has been so encouraging to see the generosity of the congregation in this season.

As for events this month– Youth Group will be meeting every Sunday evening this month, and going to Defy Trampoline Park in Muskegon on April 14th! More details on this event will be sent out to parents the week prior.

Sunday School Updates:



This month in Sunday School, the kids will be learning about patience– “waiting until later for what you want now” (Orange Curriculum). In a day and age where we have quick access to things via the internet, TV streaming services, etc., learning patience feels quite important.

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They will be memorizing Psalm 27:14 which says, "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Each month this year the kids have had a new memory verse. They have started to earn rewards for memorizing the verses too, which has been fun!

That's a wrap for the monthly updates. Please reach out to me with any comments or questions, or if you'd just like to chat. Thank you for being a wonderful congregation.

Blessings,

Pastor Beth



Ferry Church Youth Group—2024

April 7th: Youth Group at the church

April 14th: Trampoline Park: Defy

April 21st: Youth Group at the church

April 28th: Youth Group at the church

May 5th: Grandparent game night

May 12th: Youth Group at the church

May 19th: Youth Group at the church

May 26: End of Year Party

EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY

Community Outreach Team—

February Mission of the Month -

Muskegon Rescue Mission



Total Amount Collected: \$2,160

On March 23, Ferry volunteers participated with MRM in serving an evening meal at the Women's Center.

We worked with Savannah, a current resident who managed the kitchen and coordinated our efforts very well! She is 18 years old and planning on enlisting in the Army in the near future. We were also able to meet and talk with some of the other residents to offer support and encouragement.

Another volunteer opportunity will be scheduled in May if there is enough interest to do so.

March Mission of the Month - LOVE INC



Total Amount Collected: \$1,762

Kim Wernstrom was our guest at the March 10th service. Ferry Church is considering partnering with Love INC by offering our church facility for classes offered by

(Continued on page 12)

OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

AUDIO VISUAL TEAMS

SOUND BOARD

- 7 Jeff Steensma
- 14 Josh Fredenburg
- 21 Mark Grotenhuis
- 28 Jeff Steensma



BROADCAST

- 7 Greta Auch
- 14 Stephy Grotenhuis
- 21 Greta Auch
- 28 Stephy Grotenhuis



PRESENTATION

- 7 Dave Roodvoets
- 14 Dawn Auch
- 21 Ann Jeffries
- 28 Elizabeth Grotenhuis



Scheduled Accompanists:

- 7 Cheryl Lohman
- 14 Carmen Huttenga, Praise Team
- 21 Kim Fiske
- 28 Carmen Huttenga, Praise Team



NURSERY INFANTS -AGE 4

APRIL

- 7 Brooke & Anna Cudney, Joyce Brownell
- 14 Misty & Joslynn Jaekel, Lyndsey Near
- 21 Kate & Bella Bultema, Bea Vanderstelt
- 28 Ann Jeffries, Joyce Brownell



- 01 Chris Sikkenga
- 04 Brock Weesies
- 05 Rich Weesies
- 06 Rachel Springer
- 07 Cara Falkowski
- 07 Kim Springer
- 08 Katie Bultema
- 08 Lynn Nelson
- 08 Rachel Weesies
- 09 Karl DeWitt
- 09 Ben Jeffries
- 11 Gayle Strasser
- 12 Cathy Aulerich
- 12 Nicole Grask



- 13 Marcia Brichan
- 14 Jeff Steensma
- 15 Chris DeRose
- 17 Joanne De Haan
- 17 Rachelle Johnson
- 18 Dave Roodvoets
- 20 Nick Bultema
- 20 Jim Sytsma
- 21 Sophie Donahue
- 22 Griffin Lownds
- 24 Naomi Huttenga
- 24 Bill Jellema
- 28 Linda Schutter
- 28 Anna Smit
- 30 Rich Breuker



- 05 Neil & Jeanne Flanders
- 29 Bill & Karen McClain
- 30 Jim & Gayle Strasser





APRIL

Mission of the Month



The HOPE Project

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1	2 8 am men's breakfast group 10 am Bible Study	3 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm DIVORCE Care	4	5	6
7 9:30 am Service with Communion 5 pm Youth Group	8	9 8 am men's breakfast group 10 am Bible Study	10 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm DIVORCE Care	11	12	13
14 9:30 am Service 5 pm Youth Group	15	16 8 am men's breakfast group 10 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Elders 6:30 pm Deacons ~8 pm Full Consistory	17 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm DIVORCE Care	18	19	20
21 9:30 am Service 5 pm Youth Group	22	23 8 am men's breakfast group 10 am Bible Study	24 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm DIVORCE Care	25	26	27
28 9:30 am Service 5 pm Youth Group	29	30 8 am men's breakfast group 10 am Bible Study				