



- 03 Don Poel
- 04 Stephy Grotenhuis
- 07 Ryan Amstutz
- 07 Gary Hedrick
- 08 Ron Pyper
- 08 Ryan Springer
- 09 Melinda Moore
- 09 Dan Proctor
- 10 Barb Paton
- 11 Joan Grasman
- 12 Maureen Johnson

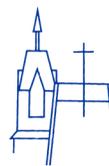


- 14 Cindy Amstutz
- 16 Bern Bolema
- 16 Owen Weesies
- 17 Ron Bekius
- 18 Mari DeRose
- 18 Ernie Reid
- 20 Jill Mahan
- 21 Nancy Radel
- 22 Trent Grasak
- 25 Josh Fredenburg
- 25 Katie Hedrick
- 26 Neil Flanders
- 26 Ann Grinwis
- 26 Phyllis Sikkenga
- 30 Gary Ransom
- 30 Brad Tate
- 30 Jennifer Weesies

- 01 Randy & Carissa Biggs
- 04 Dan & Janice Proctor
- 07 Ben & Ann Jeffries
- 13 Bryan & Jill Mahan
- 14 Matt & Lindsay DeRose
- 17 Jim & Onolee Franks
- 17 Ernie & Terri Reid
- 19 Brian & Sarah Balon
- 19 Adam & Deann Falkowski
- 19 Jason & Misty Jaekel
- 23 Dave & Mary Vermeulen



- 24 Tony & Sue Moulds
- 26 Rich & Gina Houtteman
- 27 Ron & Mary Pyper
- 29 John & Molly Smit



# FERRY LOG

June 2020

Ferry Memorial Reformed Church, Reformed Church in America



## In Concert



Like many I have spent much of the last 3 months in a room by myself with little opportunity to engage people face to face. Some days it may feel like a blessing to be able to continue to work while others are stuck home. Other days it may feel like a burden. Some days it may help you to draw closer to God. Other days it may make God feel very far away.

As I have been seeking to find comfort and encouragement for the everyday circumstance we now find ourselves in, I first thought to look where the church responded during previous pandemics. Just over 100 years ago some congregations and denominations shut their doors to help protect people from the spread of the Spanish flu, while school and other places remained open. Some attributed this action as a Christ like response to love their neighbors and care for the health of the community.

Second, I looked to the persecuted church. The church has always found itself in places that are hostile to the gospel. In the new testament we read numerous references to persecution. Today, there is what is called the 10 - 40 window. It is the area that straddles the equator and holds most of the places where government persecution of Christians is pervasive. In these countries Christians meet in secret hoping to go undiscovered. But, their love for Jesus compels them to share

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the gospel despite the risks and realities of what it may cost.

More recently, I have been pondering those who spend time in prison for their faith. We know many of the apostles were beaten and imprisoned again and again. What is it like, I wonder, to sit in a cold cell knowing you may never see the light of day again? What is it like to be confined and not able to see those you love? What is it like to be told what to do and when to do it? Well this was one of Paul's experiences.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. - Acts 16:25

I fully get the first part. When in trouble pray. But singing hymns? Now I don't get the feeling this was singing out of obligation or cultural norms, as some may do only on a Sunday morning. This was a powerful expression of the joy of the Lord they had within them. After all, the other prisoners were enjoying the concert, and the joy was so powerful that the earth responded with the clapping of an earthquake. I know I'm embellishing the text, but to try and see it not as a run of the mill occasion and to help see it as astounding. For that is truly what this event was.

So, my question is this: How can we have the same joy in every circumstance that brings us to throw an impromptu concert at midnight for people who don't know the Savior we love? I'm not sure I fully know the answer yet. But here is what I can see is true.

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Here are three things Peter L. Steinke, in his book *How Your Church Family Works*, suggests we avoid. "Continuous reactivity creates three processes that prevent the system from being resourceful and flexible—a shrinking of perspective, a tightening of the circle, and a shifting of the burden." When we find ourselves in a system that feels unhealthy and pressurized, here are three helpful responses we can implement. We can grow a larger perspective on our current surroundings. We can widen our circle of people. We can accept our own responsibility instead of blaming or passing off the burden of responsibility to others.

Pressure and reactivity are great for making things happen fast, but we also need skills beyond just survival. Let's work together to foster long-term solutions for ourselves, our church, and our society.

## June Mission of the Month



For information about this ministry, please go to

<https://www.wm-tc.com/>

# YOUTH & Family



Anyone know what this is? This “jiggler” weight rested atop my mother’s pressure cooker when I was a youngster. A dangerous item, its job was to regulate a safe pressure within the system. It sounded cool too! It was the sound of steam tension and a mechanical rattling of one’s nerves.

In a pressurized system, things need to react quickly in order to maintain safety. We humans, also have such pressure regulating devices. We have survival instincts that can kick in during times of stress or threat. Our reactions are largely good and can be helpful tools of self-preservation. This is built into our biology in a good way.

We humans also need calm. We need things to make sense. We need our lives to be predictable and manageable. While we can function for short bursts in “survival mode,” we aren’t meant to get locked into pressure and reactivity. Living inside a pressure cooker is not a long-term solution for our lives.

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They didn't have a sleep number bed, but they had Jesus. They didn't have a soft pillow and warm blanket, but they had Jesus. They didn't have Netflix or Hulu, but they had Jesus. They didn't have steak & potatoes, with a nice slice of pie, but they had Jesus. They couldn't go where they wanted when they wanted, but they had Jesus. They couldn't .... They didn't .... They wouldn't .... but they had Jesus.

Maybe that's it. Maybe when we realize all we have is Jesus, we realize Jesus is all we need. It doesn't matter where we are, who we are with, what the circumstances are. We have Jesus, and that is reason to be filled with joy. Enough joy to sing and bring the roof down from the immense joy we feel and share with those in earshot.

So, however long this current circumstance continues, we have Jesus. We may not be together, and we may remain apart longer than we would like, but we have Jesus. We may have struggles in finances, relationships, or health, but we have Jesus. Regardless of what we have lost or how we feel, we have Jesus. We had Jesus yesterday. We have Jesus today. We will have Jesus tomorrow, and every tomorrow. If that doesn't excite you, you may need to check your pulse. But if you're starting to feel a little bit of what Paul and Silas felt, let the singing begin!



*Pastor Leighton*