



**Pantry Collections for May:**

- Cake mixes
- Frosting
- Birthday Napkins
- Candles
- 9 x 13 pans (throw away tins)

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
**2 Corinthians 9:7**

Missions Committee is looking for a few people to help fill the pantry on Saturday mornings. If you are interested in helping, please contact a committee member or call the church office.

~Thank you



Missions bought two garden beds for the women and children at Grace and Mercy. Pictured is Bethanie Burns, staff member and Elodie who lives at the facility.

To everyone who prayed and helped my parents, Craig and myself, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I was so amazed at the love shown by all. You came in as a team and made sure my parents were taken care of and I know my parents are grateful, as I am. I should be headed home on Wednesday afternoon. I am anxious to get there. I am sure it will take some time to get adjust. We thank you again.

*Tami and Craig Wolfeale and family*

**Update:** Tami is home! Please continue to keep the family in your prayers.

May

Focus

2024

**First Reformed Church-824-3161**

**Office hours**

**Mon.-Fri. 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**firstref@adamswells.com**

**Worship~10:30 a.m.**

**Interim Pastor- Adam Carroll**

**CE Coordinator & Music Director-**

**Isabella Stutzman**

**Family Ministries Assistant-**

**Jen Sturgeon**

**Worship Nursery:**

**May 5-Julia J.**

**May 12-Jon & Angie O.**

**May 19-Chuck & Tammy K.**

**May 26-Connie & Christie**

**Greeters: Devin & Lindsay S.**

**Audio: Mike G. & Aaron S.**

**Video: Devon B. & Jarie S.**

**Children's Church**

**Elementary-Lindsay S.**

**Sunday School-Leslie N.**

**Eat & Greet Donuts**

**May 5-Denny & Lorraine F.**

**May 12-Chuck & Tammy K.**

**May 19-Chuck & Tammy K.**

**May 26-Need Volunteer**



**Celebrating Birthday's**

**May 4-Rev. Joel Reif**

**May 4-Bree Kohlhagen**

**May 10-Tammy Smith**

**May 12-Margaret Crandall**

**May 16-Leslie Crockett**

**May 21-Adam Karwoski**

**May 21-Mick Jackson**

**May 22-Cooper Moore**

**May 27-Bo Kohlhagen**

**May 28-Pam Tuttle**

**May 28-Leslie Neuenschwander**

**May 29-Carol Beckley**

**May 30-Courtney Graham**

**Mother's Day Carnation Project**

Celebrate moms, grandmoms, and all those that embody the calling of motherhood with a beautiful carnation this Mother's Day. Proceeds from this free-will donation fundraiser will benefit Right to Life of Northeast Indiana and help continue our life-saving work in our region. **Look for these flowers the weekend of May 12th!**



**Mother's Day Carnations**

**May 12th**



**Upcoming Events & Dates to Note**

**Every Monday:**

9:00 a.m.-AA Meeting-Rider Lounge

**Every Thursday:**

9:00 a.m.-T.O.P.S-(Taking off Pounds Sensibly)

**May 4:** 2-4:30 p.m.- VBS Training-First Church of Christ

**May 5:** 9:00 a.m.-Confirmation Class, 9:15 a.m. Connections

Class, 9:15 a.m.-Adult Sunday School,

9:45-Eat & Greet (Rider Lounge) 10:30 a.m.-Worship

**May 6:** 6:30 p.m.-Missions Meeting

**May 7:** 6:30 p.m.-Christian Education Meeting

**May 13:** 6:00 p.m.-Trustees, 6:30 p.m.-Consistory,

7:30 p.m. Elders

**May 12:MOTHER'S DAY**-9:00 a.m.-Confirmation Class,

9:15 a.m. Connections Class, 9:15 a.m.-Adult Sunday

School, 9:45-Eat & Greet (Rider Lounge)

10:30 a.m.-Worship

**May 18:** 10:00 a.m.-Derby Cart Race!

**May 19:** 9:00 a.m.-Confirmation Class, 9:15 a.m.

Connections Class, 9:15 a.m.-Adult Sunday School,

9:45-Eat & Greet (Rider Lounge) 10:30 a.m.-Worship

**May 24:** Office Closed

**May 26:** 9:15 a.m.-Connections Class, 9:45-Eat & Greet

(Rider Lounge) 10:30 a.m.-Worship

**May 27:** Memorial Day-Office Closed

**May 31:** Parent Date Night

**SAVE THE DATES:**

**June 15<sup>th</sup> -VBS volunteer mixer**

**June 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> ~Church Camping-Ouabache State Park**

**June 30<sup>th</sup>-Family Sunday**

Would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers and support during our illness. There are no words to tell you how much you all mean to us.

*Keith & Carolyn Wehner*

*From the Music Director and Christian Education Coordinator*

### **Race Day Q&A**

When: May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM

Where: The corner of Bennett & Poplar St.

Q: How will the race day work?

A: Two racers will go at a time. The carts will be timed and fastest time will win. There will be several age-based brackets and prizes awarded to the winners of each bracket.

Q: Is protective gear required?

A: Yes, every racer will be required to wear a helmet. Any other protective gear is optional. Helmets will not be provided. While we plan to have lots of fun on race day, we also want to stay safe.

Q: How will cart sharing work?

A: We will make sure that people sharing carts participate in separate heats on race day.

Q: What is the cart show?

A: The cart show will happen in the church parking lot immediately following the race. The show is an opportunity to display how you've decorated your cart and potentially win prizes. Prizes will be awarded for People's Choice, Koolest Kids Kart, and Awesomest Adult Cart. Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges except for People's Choice, which will be chosen by popular vote.

Q: Who can participate in the cart show?

A: Every person who's registered for the cart race is automatically entered into the cart show. If you are interested in participating in the cart show but not the race speak to Isabella or Jen.

Q: When will prizes be awarded?

A: There will be an award ceremony during lunch for both the race and cart show.

Q: Is everyone welcome to watch the race and come to the church for lunch?

A: Yes! Everybody is welcome to watch the race and come back to the church afterwards for the cart show and lunch. If you plan to watch the race and come for lunch, please RSVP through our event page on Facebook, which you can find by searching "Derby Cart Build and Race". Those that did not have to pay a registration fee are encouraged to donate \$5 for their lunch.

Q: Will seating be provided at the race?

A: No. Everyone who wants to watch the race will need to bring their own chairs.

Q: Where can we park?

A: We have permission from the hospital to use their parking lot off Bennett St. (east of Scott St. and between Elm and Cherry St.) during the race. After the race, everyone can walk back to First Reformed Church or move their vehicles to the Thoma Funeral Home parking lot (given there isn't a funeral that day). The church parking lot has to remain open for the Cart Show.

### **From the Desk of Pastor Adam Carroll**

Prince of Peace

A few days ago a colleague of mine and I were discussing spiritual formation, and the practical implications of faith on our daily lives. He asked me a question that for some reason surprised me, "on a heart level, what does Jesus mean to you?" Maybe this is a question we rarely give much consideration to. Yes, we know the correct Sunday school answer. And we know why Jesus is important to story of the Gospel. But, on a heart level, what does Jesus mean to us?

As I said, the question surprised me, so for a moment I just stood in silence processing the question. The first thing that came to mind were all the chaotic times in my life. The times in life I felt overwhelmed, confused, and hopeless. These were the times that Jesus became most real to me. In the chaotic times I learned that Jesus was my sense of calm in times of trouble, and this realization has had the biggest practical implications as I strive to represent Christ well in the world. On the heart level, Jesus is a source of calm in midst of stress. The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

As I think about the Prince of Peace in light of our journey through Acts thus far I cannot help but think of Peter as he stood in front of the crowd in Acts 2, Ananias as he approaches Saul in Acts 9, or the early church as a whole as they faithfully continued to pursue God in spite of the dangers and chaos surrounding them. I am sure each needed to experience Jesus as a source of peace during those times. The same sense of peace is available to each of us as well. During the chaotic times of our life, we can trust that Jesus continues to offer us a piece of calm in the midst of storms.

Pastor Adam