



Newsletter

Growing Towards Something Beautiful

Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche communities, speaks with such wisdom when he writes the following:

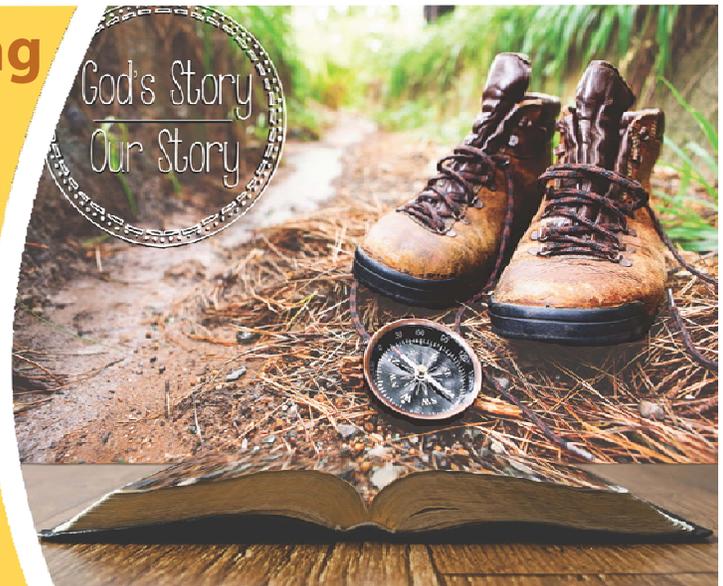
"Almost everyone finds their early days in a community ideal. It all seems perfect. They feel they are surrounded by saints, heroes, or at the least, most exceptional people who are everything they want to be themselves. And then comes the let-down. The greater their idealization of the community at the start, the greater the disenchantment. If people manage to get through this second period, they come to a third phase—that of realism and of true commitment. They no longer see other members of the community as saints or devils, but as people—each with a mixture of good and bad, darkness and light, each growing and each with their own hope. The community is neither heaven nor hell, but planted firmly on earth, and they are ready to walk in it, and with it. They accept the community and the other members as they are; they are confident that together they can grow towards something more beautiful."

When we think about the early church, we may be tempted to imagine congregations that were pure and pristine and who had it all together. If only we could get back to the purity of the early church, we say. But you don't have to read far into any of the New Testament letters to see that they were anything but perfect. They had all the problems that we have (and then some)! Leaders like Paul, Peter, James and John are trying to help each of these fledgling churches to see each other realistically—as "saints in Christ" (those set apart by grace) who, though far from perfect, are growing together towards something more beautiful. As people with a mixture of good and bad, darkness and light, who are being gathered up into one story—God's Story of Redemption.

Over the summer, as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary and prepare to move into our new sanctuary, we're going to engage the different letters of the New Testament from Romans to Revelation. Get ready. Although these letters were written 2000 years ago, we will see a reflection of ourselves in them. And through these letters, the Spirit will speak to us today. So as we see ourselves in these letters, may our eyes be opened and our hearts transformed to also see the living Christ among us. Like the early church, we too are a people always under construction, pilgrims "on the way" towards becoming something more beautiful for God's glory and the sake of the world.

To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, from one generation to the next! Amen! – Eph. 3:21

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean Koopers".



God's Story
Our Story

Summer Worship Times begin on May 15!

Join us at 8am or 10am

Inside this Issue

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Pastoral Search Update

We are excited to share that the search process for our open pastoral positions is coming to a culmination! When we began, we intended to search for Pastor Megan's position first, and then conduct a search for Pastor Marijke's position. God surprised us along the way and brought us two very gifted people that we believe are both the right fit for Fellowship Church as we look to the next exciting chapter.

We are pleased to recommend **Lindsay Small** for the role of **Minister of Discipleship and Congregational Life**. This position will focus on helping people "belong" and "grow" through spiritual growth opportunities, small groups and missional communities, and our congregational care ministries. In a nutshell, Lindsay will help us be "internally strong" as a church. Lindsay preached at Fellowship on May 1st. If you weren't able to be with us and would like to hear her sermon and/or learn more about Lindsay and her family, go to the sermon link on our website.

And we are equally thrilled to recommend **Nate Schipper** for the role of **Minister of Equipping and Missional Engagement**. This position will focus on helping people "serve" and "share" through identifying and developing spiritual gifts, discerning how to use their gifts and talents to serve others, and participate in outreach and mission opportunities locally, nationally and globally. In a nutshell, Nate will help us be "externally focused." Nate will preach at Fellowship on **May 8th**.

There will be a special **Congregational Meeting** to vote on whether to extend a call to Lindsay and Nate on May 15 (Pentecost) at 11:15am (we will have two worship services that day: 8:00 and 10:00).

We have experienced God's leading in a powerful way through this search process, and we are very excited about both of these candidates. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to talk with any member of the Search Team: Kristin Garris (*Chair*), Dick Schaap (*Chair*), Laurie Bos, Patrick Cisler, Hannah Clark, Paul DeBoer, Brian Keepers and Ginger VandenBrink.

Financial Report

We are nearing the end of our fiscal year (June 30).

Please help us finish strong by giving as you are able to our Fellowship Ministries and Mission Funds.

Our **General Fund** supports the operations of our church, our staff, children and youth, worship, and learning opportunities. We have been consistently behind budget this year and would ask that you consider giving additional money to this important area of our ministry.

Budget: \$912,665

Gifts Received: \$825,987

Difference: **-\$86,678**

Our **Mission Fund** supports individuals and organizations locally, nationally, and globally. Please prayerfully consider what you might be able to give to help us meet our commitments to our mission partners.

Budget: \$121,529

Gifts Received: \$112,410

Difference: **-\$9,119**

Our **Christian Aid Fund** is a special monthly offering where 100% of the contributions go to the selected organization. In March we were able to give \$2,533 to Ladder House. In April we collected \$2,105 to Ottagan Addictions Recover (OAR).

At **Easter** we had a special offering for the Bobb-Kelly's. You generously gave \$7,835. They will make great use of these funds in providing for the needs of the children in Nicaragua. See more about the Bobb-Kelly's on page 7 of this newsletter.

Thank you for the ways you have been faithfully and joyfully giving. God is doing great things through your gifts back to Him!

Kudos Sunday

Join us May 22 as we give thanks to everyone who helps to enrich our life and ministry at Fellowship

Thank You



VBS 2016: Cave Quest

Cave Quest VBS is coming! Get ready for an over-the-top, underground cave adventure!

That's right...from **June 20-24**, children ages four (Kindergarten 2017) through entering 5th

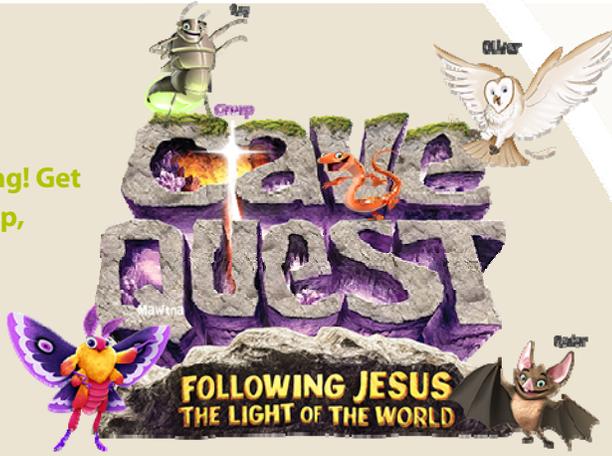
grade can go on an awesome cave adventure from 8:45 am to 11:30 am every day. Children will start and end the day learning rockin' songs during Sing and Play Rock. They will then travel to other stations with their cave crews. Stations include crafts, Spelunker Sports and Games, KidVid Cinema, and Deep Bible Quests. Halfway through the day, children will get to eat a snack from the Cavern Café. The four-year olds and the kindergarteners will be doing similar activities in their very own area, but will join the big kids for the start and end of the day. Every day the kids will meet a new Bible buddy who will talk about the day's Bible point. **Sign up now online through our church website.** You may sign up your child to be with one other special friend during the week in his or her crew. Once you sign up, your family will receive a free Cave Quest CD with all of the VBS songs!

We are also looking for many, many volunteers to be Crew Leaders, junior Crew Leaders, kitchen helpers, Junior Preschool/Kindergarten helpers, craft helpers, game helpers, video helpers, floaters, & registration helpers. Junior leaders can help as long as they are entering sixth grade or older. All adult and student helpers will be required to have a background check and attend a mandatory training in June. Volunteers sign up online through the church website. Sign up is easy and takes less than 5 minutes. You can read all of the job descriptions and choose the job you wish to have. Last year we had close to 100 volunteers helping during the course of VBS week, and we would love you to sign up for VBS '16!! We can't do this special summer ministry without your help! Thank you all.

Look for the poster with items you can donate for VBS in the concourse in mid-May.

VBS is June 20-24

Register online TODAY!



Open Auditions for Worship Band

Open auditions for Fellowship's Worship Band will be held on **June 28-30**. Adults and High School students with gifts in music are encouraged to sign up for a time slot by contacting Jordan Clegg or by filling out an online form (provided at a later date).

Auditions will be held during the following dates and times:

June 28- 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM

June 29- 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

June 30- 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM

If you can't make it to these dates, don't worry! Additional auditions will be held in **August**.

Examples of skills desired

(* indicates greatest need):

- Piano*
- Guitar
- Vocalist*
- Bass guitar
- Drums*
- Flute
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Synthesizer/Keyboard
- Electric guitar*
- any other instrument you can think of!

Summer Youth Events

Mark your calendars for our Summer Youth Events. We would love to connect with you all this summer!

HSM (9th-12th Grade)

Elevate (6th-8th Grade)

June 21 7-9pm Bonfire

June 24-25 8pm-8am Lock In

July 9-17 Summer Serve

July 29 7-9pm Bonfire

August 10 7-9pm Beach Night

August 12 7-9pm Game Night

August 21 12-4pm Craig's Cruisers

**Last day of Sunday School
is May 15**

Learn more about what's going on at Fellowship by visiting our web site

www.fellowshipreformed.org or calling 616.399.9280.



Construction & Capital Campaign

Construction continues to go well. The exterior work will be completed over the coming month and interior work is moving along nicely. The office staff have moved out of the offices into temporary locations so crews can begin demolition work. Plans are currently being reviewed for the re-purposing of the existing sanctuary.

Check out the most current updates on the project at:

<http://www.fellowshipreformed.org/imagine/>

During worship on April 24, Pastor Brian shared that we are at our half-way point for the capital campaign and have received nearly 70% of pledges. This totals over \$1.5 million dollars! Thank you for your faithfulness. Updated pledge cards are available at the Welcome Center and also in the Sanctuary if you have experienced a significant change in life that requires you to change your commitment. This is also a great time to join in the project if you are new to Fellowship. We are excited to think about all of the great things that God is doing and will do through this church.



Celebrating 50 years at Fellowship

It was nearly fifty years ago that the first worship service took place in the Waukazoo Elementary School gymnasium. Can you believe it? This calls for a big celebration!

The 50th Anniversary planning team has called this time, "Jubilee." In the Old Testament the Israelites were called to celebrate Jubilee every 50 years. It was a time of celebration, freedom, and new beginnings. We, too, feel that this is a time of Jubilee at Fellowship as we celebrate what God has done, is doing, and will do.

Please plan on the following special events. In particular, please let your neighbors know about our June 12 neighborhood block party.

Jubilee Celebration Events

June 12
8 & 10am worship services

1-4p celebration at Lakewood Elementary

- with food, music, art, games, and more!
- And at 2pm don't miss...



with opening band, The Voice

Free for everyone!

Summer
Move into new sanctuary!

September 25
Special Sunday evening dedication service for the new Sanctuary



Congregational Meeting & Celebration

At our Annual Congregational meeting on April 24 we covered the following:

- the sanctuary was full and we easily reached quorum
- thanked our outgoing consistory members & approved our single slate
- celebrated Bob Ellis and his 4 years of service to Fellowship as President
- approved the 2016-2017 budget
- heard about recommendations from the pastoral search team which included revised job descriptions and the selection of two candidates:
 - Minister of Discipleship and Congregational Life
 - Minister of Equipping and Missional Engagement
- Pastor Jim Baar will be working approximately 15 hours per week as the Minister of Seniors and Pastoral Visitation
- May 15 will be a special congregational meeting at 11:15am for a congregational vote on the candidates. Childcare will be in the nursery or youth center.
- learned about the progress with construction and also how the Facility Planning Team is looking at Gathering Space renovation, installing snow melt piping in the concrete, replacing carpet and updating paint in the rest of the facility, and waiting to learn if the existing building will need to receive a fire suppression system
- celebrated receiving almost 70% of pledges toward the capital campaign
- learned about Fellowship's 50th Anniversary and a special neighborhood block party that will be happening on June 12

After the meeting, we had a special time in our new sanctuary where we briefly worshipped together and then wrote verses and words of blessings throughout the space. If you were unable to attend on April 24, feel free to contact the church office to schedule a time to see the new sanctuary and write a word of blessing in the space.



Pentecost Sunday, May 15

Each year, we celebrate the joyous event of Pentecost as a worshipping body by **wearing red** and gathering a special offering for new and growing congregations. This year's special offering will be for the **Latino Seminary Student Fund**. It offers financial support for Latino seminarians in the Holland Classis, many of whom come to Holland without a support system in place and begin new church plants.

Please note this is a *special* offering, intended to be gathered in addition to regular tithes and offerings, so only gifts marked "Pentecost" will be directed toward this fund.



God's Story, Our Story

May 15 – Pentecost Sunday; Summer schedule begins

Text: Acts 2:1-4; Preaching: Brian Keepers

May 22 – Trinity Sunday/Kudos Sunday

Text: Romans; Preaching: Brian Keepers

May 29 - Memorial Day Weekend

Text: 1st & 2nd Corinthians; Preaching: Jim Baar

June 5

Text: Galatians; Preaching: David Bast

June 12 - FRC's 50th Anniversary

Text: Ephesians; Preaching: Brian Keepers

June 19

Text: Philippians; Preaching: TBA

June 26

Text: 1 & 2 Timothy & Titus; Preaching: TBA

July 3

Text: Colossians; Preaching: TBA

July 10

Text: 1 & 2 Thessalonians; Preaching: TBA

July 17

Text: Philemon; Preaching: TBA

July 24

Text: Hebrews; Preaching: TBA

July 31

Text: James; Preaching: TBA

August 7

Text: 1 Peter; Preaching: TBA

August 14

Text: 2nd Peter & Jude; Preaching: TBA

August 21

Text: 1,2,3 John; Preaching: TBA

August 28

Text: Revelation; Preaching: TBA

Vital Worship Grant Comes to a Close

It has been a year full of great learning with the Vital

Worship Grant we

received through the Calvin Institute of Christian

Worship. Since the fall we have hired Joel Schoon-Tanis

as our Artist in Residence, opened an art studio on the

North side of the building, assembled an Artist Cohort,

started an open studio time on

Wednesday afternoons,

discussed theology and art,

created original art for the

season of Advent, Thanksgiving,

the Lenten Journey and a number

of other worship services, and most

importantly, nurtured relationships

among artists from both inside and

outside the Fellowship community.



Along the way we have made some helpful observations, had many learning opportunities, and have faced a few challenges. Here are a few notable observations and learnings from the project:

- For some the title of "artist" is difficult to accept even when the skills and passion of an artist are obvious to others.
- The Artist Cohort flourishes when we have a common project or theme and tends to wane when we get stuck in the planning phase.
- Art in worship sometimes needs some sort of aid or explanation to help the congregation interact with it in meaningful ways.

The grant project officially ends at the end of May. In June, Jordan, Joel, and Emily Christensen, a member of the Artist Cohort, will be attending a Grants Colloquium at Calvin College to give a report on the outcomes of the project. Our hope is that the Artist Cohort will continue well beyond the grant project and that Fellowship will continue to grow in its appreciation of artists and the arts in worship as a result of things set in motion with this project.

If you are interesting in joining the Artist Cohort or supporting the arts in any way at Fellowship, please contact Jordan Clegg, Minister of Creative Arts & Worship.



Focus Mission Partners

In September 2014, the Mission Crew embarked on a discernment process that involved listening to the voices of a focus group and observing the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Our desire to deepen our commitment to missions was evident. The hope of the Mission Crew is to move our church family from the common practice of transactional mission support to transformational mission engagement. We trust this will not only impact the communities we support, but will actively further our commitment to developing faithful followers of Jesus in our own community as well. We desire to begin by partnering with 1 or 2 global mission partners. These mission partners will actively focus on helping children live and become all that God intends them to be.

We have identified 5 preferred characteristics of a Focus Mission Partner:

1. **Christ Honoring**
2. **Accountable to a trusted organization**
3. **Relational with the Fellowship community**
4. **Accessible for the Fellowship community to be involved in multiple ways**
5. **Multi-generational engagement options available**



In early April, four representatives from the Mission Crew were able to visit Bluefields, Nicaragua to see the ministry that Adrian and Bernadeth Bobb-Kelly lead. They are impacting the lives of many children and their community by operating a feeding ministry that daily feeds 160 children, providing medical treatment not only to their community, but also remote communities that are accessible by traveling hours in a boat. They provide safe and loving homes for orphaned and neglected children, have begun school scholarships for children, and minister alongside of and with several pastors and congregations in the area. They had the privilege of witnessing the never-ending energy and love that Adrian and Bernadeth and their family have for this community and how much the

community loves and respects them. We are anxious to see how we are able to more faithfully come alongside the Bobb-Kelly's to further this ministry.

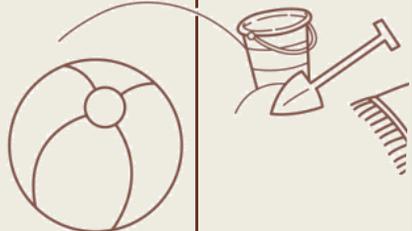


In July, several from the Fellowship family will be traveling with Marlin and Sally Vis and The Peace Project to Israel Palestine. Last year we were excited to hear about the impact the group traveling to Israel Palestine made on the children they interacted with, as well as the impact that the children had on the visiting group. We are so thrilled to again be a part of this RCA sponsored trip as we desire to bring the love of Christ to this part of the world by offering hope and love through avenues of art and sports. We cherish the gift of being educated through the teaching of Marlin and Sally about the life of Jesus where he walked and ministered.

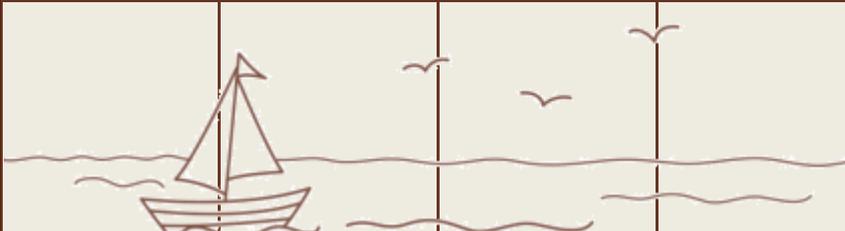


It is our desire for every member of the Fellowship family to step deeper into Missions with us – in our community, regionally and globally. Please join us as we pray for God's direction and leading as we continue to step forward. We encourage and invite you to join us on this journey!

May & June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 15 Summer Worship Times Begin 8:00, 10:00am Worship 10:00am LAST Sunday School 9:15am Spiritual Fitness 11:15am Congregational Mtg	16 1:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Exercise Class 7:00pm Needlework Group	17 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters 6:30pm Mission Crew	18 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 1:00pm Heath Ministry Team 6:30pm ACTS Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Band	19	20	21 8:00am Church Grounds Clean-Up 11:00am Ken Chamberlain Memorial
22 Thank You Sunday 8:00, 10:00am Worship 11:00am 1st Grade Graduation from Children & Worship	23 6:00pm Exercise Class 7:00pm Needlework Group 7:00pm MLC Meeting	24 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters	25 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 5:30pm Joyful Recovery 6:30pm Worship Band	26 7:00pm Women in Faith	27 9:00am Wonderful Widows Breakfast	28
29 8:00, 10:00am Worship	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters	June 1 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 6:30pm Worship Band	2 9:00am Prime Timers Breakfast	3	4
5 Graduation Sunday 8:00, 10:00am Worship 9:00am New Members Coffee	6 6:00pm Exercise Class 7:00pm Needlework Group	7 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters 7:00pm All God's People	8 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Wonderful Widows 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 5:30pm Joyful Recovery 6:30pm CLC + Parish Teams 6:30pm Worship Band 7:30pm Facility Planning Team	9	10	11
12 50th Jubilee Celebration 8:00, 10:00am Worship Celebrating 50 Years 10:45am Special Needs Ministry 1:00pm Jubilee Block Party	13 6:00pm Exercise Class 7:00pm Needlework Group	14 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters	15 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 6:30pm Worship Band	16	17	18
19 Father's Day 8:00, 10:00am Worship	20 8:45am VBS 6:00pm Exercise Class 7:00pm Needlework Group	21 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:45am VBS 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters 7:00pm Mission Crew Meeting 7:00pm HSM Bonfire	22 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:45am VBS 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 5:30pm Joyful Recovery 6:30pm Worship Band	23 8:45am VBS 9:00am Wonderful Widows Breakfast	24 8:45am VBS 8:00pm Elevate Lock-In	25
26 New Elder/Deacon Installation 8:00, 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Full Consistory Picnic	27 6:00pm Exercise Class 7:00pm Needlework Group 7:00pm MLC Meeting	28 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters	29 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 6:30pm Worship Band	30		

July & August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
					July 1	2
3 8:00, 10:00am Worship	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters 7:00pm Building & Grounds Mtg 7:00pm All God's People	6 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 6:30pm Worship Band	7 9:00am Prime Timers Breakfast 7:00pm Women in Faith	8	9 HSM Leaves for Summer Serve
10 8:00, 10:00am Worship 10:45am Special Needs Ministry 6:00pm Prayer Team	11 6:00pm Exercise Class 7:00pm Needlework Group	12 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters 12:00pm Wonderful Widows 7:00pm Human Resources Mtg	13 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 5:30pm Joyful Recovery 6:30pm CLC Meeting 6:30pm Worship Band 7:30pm Facility Planning Team	14	15	16
17 HSM Returns from Summer Serve 8:00, 10:00am Worship	18 6:00pm Exercise Class 7:00pm Needlework Group	19 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters	20 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 6:30pm Worship Band	21	22	23
24 8:00, 10:00am Worship	25 6:00pm Exercise Class 7:00pm Needlework Group 7:00pm MLC Meeting	26 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters	27 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 5:30pm Joyful Recovery 6:30pm Worship Band	28 9:00am Wonderful Widows Breakfast	29 7:00pm Elevate Bonfire	30
31 8:00, 10:00am Worship	August 1 6:00pm Exercise Class 7:00pm Needlework Group	2 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters 7:00pm All God's Children	3 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 6:30pm Worship Band	4 9:00am Prime Timers Breakfast 7:00pm Women in Faith	5	6
7 8:00, 10:00am Worship	8 6:00pm Exercise Class 7:00pm Needlework Group	9 8:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Heart to Heart Quilters	10 6:30am Men Built for Others 6:45am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Knitting/Sewing MC 12:00pm Wonderful Widows 12:00pm Art Studio Open Hours 5:30pm Joyful Recovery 6:30pm CLC Meeting 6:30pm Worship Band 7:00pm HSM Beach Night 7:30pm Facility Planning Team	11	12 7:00pm Elevate Game Night	13



Summer
2016

Newsletter



Summer 2016, Volume 22, Number 2 Published Quarterly by Fellowship Reformed Church

Jubilee Celebration June 12

VBS 2015

June 20-24

8:45-11:30am

Register online TODAY!

Printed calendars now
available at the Welcome Center.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Holland, MI 49424
Permit No. 25

Return Service Requested

Holland, MI 49424

300 North 168th Avenue

