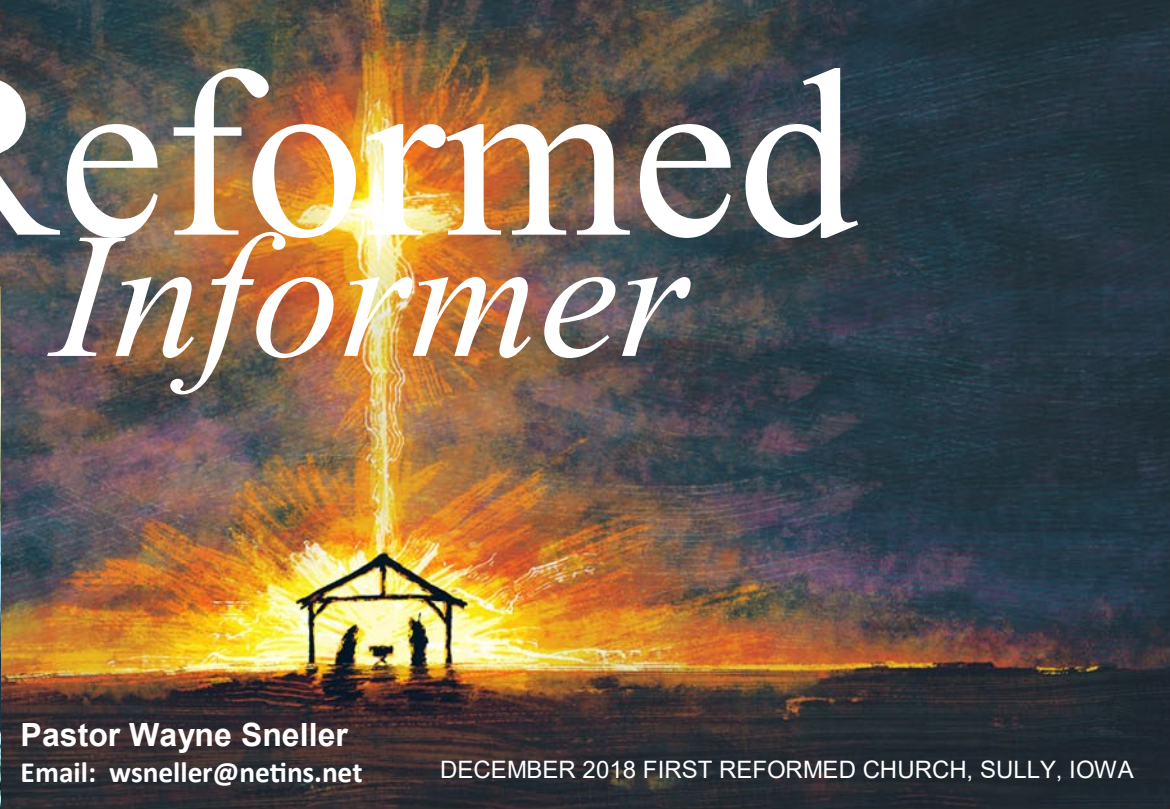


# Reformed *Informer*



**Pastor Wayne Sneller**  
Email: [wsneller@netins.net](mailto:wsneller@netins.net)

DECEMBER 2018 FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, SULLY, IOWA



## "Refugee"

Dear Friends,

One image that always comes into my mind at Christmas is that of Joseph and Mary headed into Bethlehem. Luke 2:4 records that "Joseph traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee". From there my mind flashes to the image that Matthew 2:13-15 describes for us. It is the story of their flight into Egypt to escape the death threats of Herod. The Bible says it was at night the Holy family of the baby Jesus and Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt because an angel of the Lord had appeared to Joseph in a dream.

It struck me this year as I thought about it that Jesus was a refugee!

Images of refugees trying to enter the borders of the United States legal and illegal are prominent in my mind. The images of families fleeing the devastated and scorched towns of the recent California fires are broadcast on TV each night. Rickety boats bulging and bloated with refugees seeking new homes in Greece and beyond fill the mailings I get from mission organizations.

I am reminded that we currently have over 65 million refugees who have been forced to leave their homes in the world this past year!

I have never had to abandon my home or possessions due to a flood, fire or war (I have ducked into my basement a time or two as tornadoes were in the vicinity), but I believe that Jesus is Immanuel, (God with Us) in all that we experience!

For those who have been forced to abandon their homes and possessions—either permanently or temporarily—can find comfort in learning that Jesus and his parents knew the refugee experience first hand.

What about the rest of us? We have the opportunity and challenge to also practice the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40, "When disciples feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, visit prisoners, and welcome strangers, Jesus says, "I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me!"

Now isn't that the meaning of Christmas!

Giving hope in the name of Christ!

Have a Blessed Advent and Christmas!

Pastor Wayne





**IMPACT YOUTH GROUP—6th—8th grade.** We will meet **EVERY** Sunday evening at 5:00 pm in the Well (downstairs in the basement)

**Who: ALL 6th—8th graders**  
**Impact Youth will be meeting EVERY SUNDAY at 4 pm in the**

**WELL throughout the year!**

**December Dates:**

December 2—6 pm—Family Night  
December 9—4:59 pm—Eating Contest  
December 16—4:59 pm—Christmas party & Set up Luminaries

**NO MEETING December 23 and 30**

**Leaders:** Jeff & Alison Knouse, Denny & Donna Liekweg, Caden Dunsbergen & Hailey Scandridge

**Youth & Ed Director—**

**Jeff Knouse**

**Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday & Sunday's**

**Email: [jkfrcsully@gmail.com](mailto:jkfrcsully@gmail.com)**

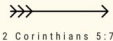
**phone: 641-594-2935 ext. 3**

**Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/sullyfrcyouth/](http://www.facebook.com/sullyfrcyouth/)**

**FAITHWALKERS—9th-12th grade**

We will meet **EVERY** Sunday evening at 6:30 pm in the Well (downstairs in the basement)

**FAITH WALKERS**



2 Corinthians 5:7

**FAITHWALKERS**

**All 9th - 12th Grade invited**  
**Upcoming Events:**

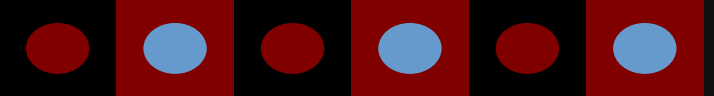
**December 2—6 pm—Family Night**

**December 9—6:27 pm—Coffee House**

**December 16—6:27 pm—Christmas Party**

**NO MEETING December 23 & 30**

**Leaders:** Jeff & Alison Knouse, Brent & Sandy De Jong and Cale & Kendra Van Wyk



Advent is my favorite season in the church calendar; it's all about anticipation. In youth ministry we're often found anticipating the next youth group or next summer's trip, but when Advent comes around we get to remember that Christ came as one of us, and that one day He will come again to rescue us. The sweet, innocent baby in the manger is the same one who will rule heaven and earth forevermore. In this season let's love and serve each other well. Let's go above and beyond the normal to care for our brothers and sisters, and share the magic of Advent with each person we encounter. Merry Christmas, everyone!



**Prayer Breakfast**  
Free Jesus, and donuts.

Every Friday morning at 7:30 am all 9th—12th grade are invited to come for donuts, chocolate milk, orange juice and prayer. Invite your friends! It's a great way to end the school week!



**December 9, 11—1 pm**

Our Faithwalker Soup Dinner will be held in the Gathering Place.



**IMPACT youth will be hosting a Bake Sale during the soup dinner.**



**Operation Christmas Child 2018**



## Children's Ministry

Director—

**Julie Van Manen**

Office Hours: Wednesdays

Email: [julievmfrcsully@gmail.com](mailto:julievmfrcsully@gmail.com)

Office phone: 641-594-2935 ext

Cell phone: 641-521-7951

# STARS

On November 14, the STARS after school program concluded the fall session with a family meal followed by the children singing *Thankful* and their memory work, The Books of the Old Testament, under the direction of Jeff Knouse. In addition to Bible lessons during the month of November, children also decorated wooden cars and packed shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse.



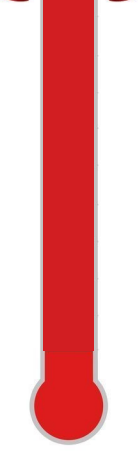
**STARS will begin again Wednesday, January 9, and will meet each Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. until Wednesday, March 13.**

### Focus on the Reason for the Season

As we enter the Advent Season – we enter an exciting time for children. In our many preparations for Christmas let us remember to share the real Christmas story with our children as we give them the gift of time. One of the ways you can do this is by sharing daily advent devotions. Each family with a 3 year old – 4<sup>th</sup> grader will receive an advent chain to assist you in your preparation for Christmas. May you enjoy this Christmas time and may you create memories that last a lifetime as you focus on the birth of the Christ child this month.



**\$516.76**



## Sunday School Christmas Program



To celebrate the birth of our Saviour, our Beginner and Primary Sunday School departments will present, An Unexpected Christmas, on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 8—**

**ATTENTION: Sunday School Christmas Program Practice - Beginner(3yrs. - Kdg.) and Primary(1st-4th grade) will have practice. The Beginner children will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the Primary children will begin at 9:30. They will be singing a couple of songs together. The Beginner children will be finished at 10:30 and the Primary children will end practice at 11:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, December 9 at 6:00 pm—Sunday school Christmas Program for our Beginner (3 yr—K) and Primary (1st—4th grade) Departments. A coffee time will be held after the service! Last day of Sunday school is December 16. We will resume classes on January 6, 2019.**

**Sunday School Christmas Project - The entire Sunday School department has a goal to raise \$500 for a special Christmas offering to buy some farm animals for children through World Vision. At the end of November our goal was reached! Praise the Lord! We are going to see how many more animals we can buy as we continue to raise money thru Sunday, December 16.**



### DECEMBER SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

THIS SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN IS DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN AGES 4-10. EACH OF THE SCRIPTURES BELOW SHOULD TAKE TEN MINUTES TO JOURNAL. YOU CAN USE THIS PLAN IN CONJUNCTION THE ADULT WRITING PLAN AS A FAMILY DEVOTIONAL. FAMILY BIBLE STUDY, OR HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS TIME LEARNING ABOUT JESUS AS YOU INSCRIBE THE WORD!

Day 1: Isaiah 9:6  
Day 2: Isaiah 11:2  
Day 3: Isaiah 53:3  
Day 4: Micah 5:2  
Day 5: Isaiah 7:14  
Day 6: Matthew 1:18  
Day 7: Matthew 1:21

Day 8: Matthew 1:22  
Day 9: Matthew 1:24  
Day 10: Matthew 2:1-2  
Day 11: Matthew 2:3  
Day 12: Matthew 2:6  
Day 13: Matthew 2:8  
Day 14: Matthew 2:11

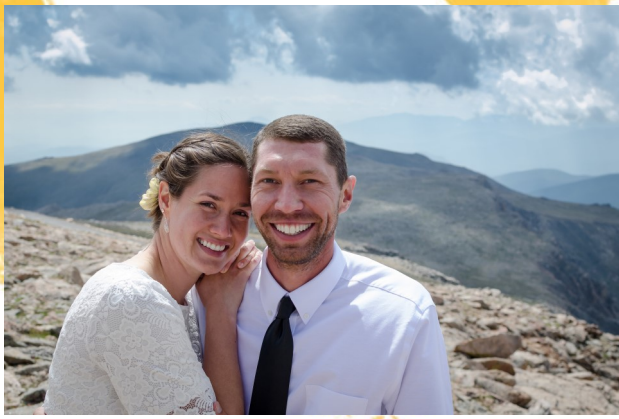
Day 15: Luke 1:28  
Day 16: Luke 1:30-31  
Day 17: Luke 1:32  
Day 18: Luke 1:37  
Day 19: Luke 1:41

Day 20: Luke 1:42  
Day 21: Luke 1:46-47

Day 22: Luke 1:49  
Day 23: Luke 1:53  
Day 24: Luke 1:54  
Day 25: Luke 2:1  
Day 26: Luke 2:4  
Day 27: Luke 2:7  
Day 28: Luke 2:10

Day 29: Luke 2:13-14  
Day 30: Luke 2:16  
Day 31: Luke 2:20

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS



## Nick & Hannah De Penning

**Birthdays:** November 18, 1983 Nick  
March 15, 1989 Hannah

**Anniversary:** August 6, 2018

When you think of a mountain top experience, do you imagine a wedding? Nick & Hannah De Penning did and were married on top of the beautiful Mount Evans in Colorado on August 6 of this year. Three big horn sheep also wanted to be captured in time forever as they happened to pass by while the photos were being taken after the ceremony!

Nick & Hannah both work as teachers at the Lynnville-Sully school. Nick is the elementary and middle school Physical Education and Reading teacher and Hannah teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Nick grew up in

Sully and attended Lynnville-Sully for his years in education as well as Central College in Pella. Hannah is from the Kalona area, attending Mid-Prairie schools before going on for further education at Cornell College.

Nick's parents Donavon and Darlys De Penning live in Sully and he has one sister Kathryn in Greece. Hannah has two sisters; Kally Sporrer, Tea, SD and Amy Johnson, El Paso, TX as well as one brother Christian Boehmer, Osceola, Iowa and her parents are Chris and Linda Boehmer. When Nick and Hannah are not at school, they enjoy anything outside, games, and traveling.

Being a part of First Reformed means a welcoming atmosphere and Nick and Hannah do just that as they sit at the Welcome table and greet everyone on most Sunday mornings. There are also times for joyful celebration and multiple opportunities to become involved in all areas of the church life. They each have special memories of their respective churches as Hannah remembers going to midnight mass on Christmas Eve when growing up and Nick enjoys when the congregation comes together for special events!

Thanks so much Nick and Hannah for letting us "Get To Know You Better!"

**LIVE ANIMAL CHRISTMAS SHOW:** Our church van will be traveling to a Live Animal Nativity Play at Washington, IA on **Sunday afternoon, December 9**. The **tickets are free** and I have spoken for 20 and want to turn in any extras on November 28, so **sign up is NOW!** At least one vehicle will leave at about 11:30 from church. You may sign up by emailing the church, or sign up on a sheet outside the church office, or call me. You can look up the information on <http://liveanimalchristmasplay.com/> Contact: Lois Vander Leest 641-793-2772 or 641-629-0830

**LIVE ANIMAL Christmas Show**  
*Show Times*  
 \*TUESDAY 6:00 PM | DECEMBER 4  
 SATURDAY 11:00AM, 2:00PM 5:00PM | DECEMBER 8  
 SUNDAY 11:00AM, 2:00 PM 5:00PM | DECEMBER 9  
 855.825.4113 | [www.liveanimalchristmasplay.com](http://www.liveanimalchristmasplay.com) | Free Admission  
 \* Tuesday is a special night of celebration for all! | Special Needs | Handicap | ASL Sign Language  
 2:00 PM Shows reserved for groups of 10 or more. Register online today!



**Sunday,  
December 16—Candlelight  
Service  
at 6:00 pm**

This will be a night to sit back and enjoy an hour of inspiring Christmas Bible stories and music, celebrating the birth of our Savior. This year the staff of FRC will be participating in the service. Coffee time will follow in the Gathering Place



**CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE**

## Inscribe the Word

### DECEMBER SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

WRITING OUT SCRIPTURES IS A WAY TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD AND HEAR HIS VOICE WITHOUT DISTRACTIONS. EACH OF THE SCRIPTURES BELOW SHOULD TAKE FIFTEEN MINUTES TO COPY. SO GRAB YOUR JOURNAL, YOUR BIBLE, AND SOME PRETTY PENS. AND LET US INSCRIBE THE WORD TOGETHER.

### THE BIRTH OF THE Messiah!

Day 1: Isaiah 9:6-7  
 Day 2: Isaiah 11:1-4  
 Day 3: Isaiah 53:3-7  
 Day 4: Micah 5:2-5  
 Day 5: Isaiah 7:14-15  
 Day 6: Matthew 1:18-19  
 Day 7: Matthew 1:20-21

Day 20: Luke 1:42-45  
 Day 21: Luke 1:46-48

Day 8: Matthew 1:22-23  
 Day 9: Matthew 1:24-25  
 Day 10: Matthew 2:1-2  
 Day 11: Matthew 2:3-5  
 Day 12: Matthew 2:6-7  
 Day 13: Matthew 2:8-10  
 Day 14: Matthew 2:11-12

Day 22: Luke 1:49-51  
 Day 23: Luke 1:52-54  
 Day 24: Luke 1:55-56  
 Day 25: Luke 2:1-3  
 Day 26: Luke 2:4-6  
 Day 27: Luke 2:7-9  
 Day 28: Luke 2:10-12

Day 15: Luke 1:26-28  
 Day 16: Luke 1:29-31  
 Day 17: Luke 1:32-34  
 Day 18: Luke 1:35-38  
 Day 19: Luke 1:39-41

Day 29: Luke 2:13-15  
 Day 30: Luke 2:16-18  
 Day 31: Luke 2:19-20



[WWW.THEFELICITYBEE.COM](http://WWW.THEFELICITYBEE.COM)



# DECEMBER

**December 1**

Oaklynn Vos

**December 2**Austin Kramer ~ Scott Van Kooten  
Emily Van Manen**December 3**Laura Fikse ~ Ada Kay Van Maanen  
Randy Huyser**December 4**Shawna Maasdam ~ Julie Van Manen  
Lindsay Nees**December 5**

Jodi Hansen

**December 6**Dylann Huyser ~ Chuck Johnson  
Brady Van Wyk ~ Meldon Vos  
Kreighton Vos ~ Kennedy Van Manen**December 7**

Rhonna Fiihr ~ Nathan Young

**December 8****Corky Boat** ~ Lucas Rozendaal  
Shelby Shinkle**December 9**Breianne Dunham ~ Dick Schnell  
Brittney Hansen**December 12**

Jeff Van Wyk

**December 13**

Rita Vos

**December 14**

Coltin Collins ~ Kaylee Van Maanen

**December 16**

Marissa Vos

**December 17**Glenn Fiihr ~ Brooke Jansen  
Allen Scholten ~ Bentlee Vos**December 19****Deloris McKeag (81)****December 20**Aiden Chapman ~ Shirley Dunsbergen  
Dana Rozendaal ~ Dorothy Van Maanen  
Hudson Winegar ~ Derrick Zimmerman**December 24**

John Kramer

**December 25**

Craig Maasdam ~ Marlene Rozendaal

**December 26**Joel Harthoorn ~ Hollie Nunnikhoven  
Amelia Rozendaal**December 29**Carol Lukehart ~ Susan Maasdam  
Zoey Nunnikhoven ~ Tessa Van Maanen  
Mandeesa Vos**December 30**

Alivia Nikkel ~ Nora Vos

**December 3**Tim & Nicole Dunsbergen (25)  
Clarence & Lynn Wyma (53)**December 9**

Jeff &amp; Deb Van Wyk (30)

**December 16**

Jeff &amp; Alison Knouse (1)

**December 17**

Chris &amp; Kelly De Jong (2)

**December 21**

Drew &amp; Shelby Shinkle (4)

**December 22**

Keith &amp; Glenda Renaud (47)

**December 27**

Meldon &amp; Eloise Vos (27)

**December 30**Dennis & Linda Van Maanen (53)  
Lucas & Leah Rozendaal (1)

## Looking Ahead...

**Sunday, December 9, 9:30 am - Installation/Ordination of Elders & Deacons. 11:00 am orientation for newly elected Elders and Deacons****Wednesday, December 12 - Elder, Consistory and Deacon Meetings****Sunday, December 16, 6 pm - Christmas Music Night and Candlelight Service****Monday, December 17, 6:30 pm - Inspirations Preschool Christmas program****Sunday December 23 & 30 - NO Sunday school classes & No Evening worship service****Tuesday, December 25, 10 am - Christmas Day Service****Wednesday, January 2, 6:30 pm - Consistory Supper in the Gathering Place****Wednesday, January 9, 3:30 pm - STARS Afterschool Program starts back up****Tuesday, January 8, 9:00 am - Sewing Days begin in the Gathering Place. Other dates are: January 22, February 5 & 19 and March 5.****SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE:** The tree with the Angel tree tags will be located near the nurseries and elevator. The tags will have a child's age & gender. The ages are 1 - 14. Gifts are **NOT** to be wrapped, put in a plastic bag and attach the tag to the bag. **Due date is Wednesday, December 12** and will be delivered to Newton on this date. Last year we delivered over 40 gifts! Any questions please contact Deb Johnson at 594-2702 or Velda Dunsbergen at 594-2716

Sign up for text alerts.

In case of inclement winter weather the decision to cancel services will be made by **7:30 a.m. for the morning service and 3 p.m.** for the evening service. Church meetings will be cancelled if the Lynnville-Sully School cancels classes or is dismissed early for bad weather. Cancellations will be announced on KGRN, KCCI, WHO TV and [www.sullyfrc.org](http://www.sullyfrc.org), through our FRC email list and now **TEXT ALERTS!****SIGN UP for TEXT ALERTS** on our website at [sullyfrc.org](http://sullyfrc.org) on the home page under the service times (join FRC Text)! You will then be notified by a text when services are cancelled! You can also sign up for volunteer opportunities as well!

# Thanksgiving Eve Service 2018

# Thanksgiving Blessings



After a great message "I Choose Thankful" by Pastor Wayne Sneller, food donations were collected by the kids at FRC! **Thank you all for your support** by all the food that was brought in on Wednesday evening at our Thanksgiving Eve Service. 19 families in the surrounding communities have been helped out through your generosity! Thank you to those who helped make our Dessert Fest another successful event! The Gathering Place was buzzing with fellowship and lots of great desserts! **Due to the weather on Sunday, November 25, you can still give to our Thanksgiving offering on Sunday, December 2.** We are so thankful for your generosity through the monetary gifts as well as the food brought in throughout this past month. God has richly blessed us! God is good!



So much to be  
thankful for!  
God is good!




# December 2018 Prayer Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Johnnie & Delia De Jong
2 Margaret De Jong	3 Morgan De Jong	4 Dale De Penning	5 Donavon & Darlys De Penning	6 Howard De Penning	7 Nick & Hannah De Penning	8 Bryce, Katelyn & Brinley Doane
9 Gerald & Elaine Droppert	10 Joshua, Breianne, Hudson & Emersyn Dunham	11 Andy, Jamie, Christian & Ellington Dunsbergen	12 Beryl & Velda Dunsbergen	13 Blake & Cathryn Dunsbergen	14 Brandon Dunsbergen	15 Bruce, Lynn Shannon & Ellie Dunsbergen
16 Dennis & Lisa Dunsbergen	17 Dustin, Dana, Josh, Mason, Carter & Reese Dunsbergen	18 Kenton & Kayla Dunsbergen	19 Melvin & Shirley Dunsbergen	20 Ron & Julie Dunsbergen	21 Tim, Nicole, Caden & Carson Dunsbergen	22 Wanda Dunsbergen
23 Dan, Stephanie, Emily, Will, Zachary & Jacob Dykema	24 Glenn & Rhonna Fiihr	25 Chad, Lynnette, Evan, Kendra & Laura Fikse	26 David, Lisa, Shelby & Cale Foster	27 Joan Gose	28 Eileen Gruver	29 Jamie, Cindy, Acea & Callista Hackert
30 Ken & Verna Hackert	31 Karen Hackert			<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p> <b>First Reformed Church</b>                      807 3rd St. PO Box 208                      Sully, Iowa 50251                      641-594-2935                      frcsully@netins.net                      www.sullyfrc.org  <b>Next Deadline: December 25</b> </p> </div>		

# December 2018 Activity Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30am Pastor Wayne Sneller— 10:45 am Sunday School 12 pm Reunion 6 pm Pastor Tom VandeBerg 6 pm Impact & Faithwalkers	3	4	5 5:45 am Promise Keepers 5:30 pm Family Night Meal 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th	6 6:30 pm Staff Christmas Party	7 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	8 9:00 Beginner & Primary SS practice 11—1 pm Faithwalker Soup Dinner  11—1 pm Impact Bake Sale
9 9:30am Pastor Wayne Sneller- Installation of Elders/Deacons 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 11 am New Deacon/ Elder Orientation 4:59 pm IMPACT 6:27 pm Faithwalkers 6 pm Sunday School Christmas Program	10	11	12 5:45 am Promise Keepers 5:30 Family Night Meal 6:15 pm 6th—8th 6:45 pm 9th—12th 6:30 pm Elders Mtg. 6:45 pm Deacons Mtg 7:30 pm Consistory	13	14 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	15
16 9:30 am Pastor Wayne Sneller 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages 6 pm Christmas Candlelight Service	17 6:30 pm Inspirations Preschool Christmas Program	18	19 5:45 am Promise Keepers	20	21 7:30 am Prayer Breakfast	22 10—3pm Reunion  5 pm Reunion
23 10 am Pastor Wayne Sneller NO Sunday School NO Evening Worship	24	25 	26 5:45 am Promise Keepers	27	28 3—10 pm Reunion in the Gathering Place	29 5 pm Van Rees/ De Hoedt Rehearsal
30 Building Fund Offering 9:30 am Pastor Wayne Sneller No Sunday School No Evening Service	31 4 pm Van Rees/ De Hoedt Wedding	10 am Christmas Service  12 pm Reunion in the Well				