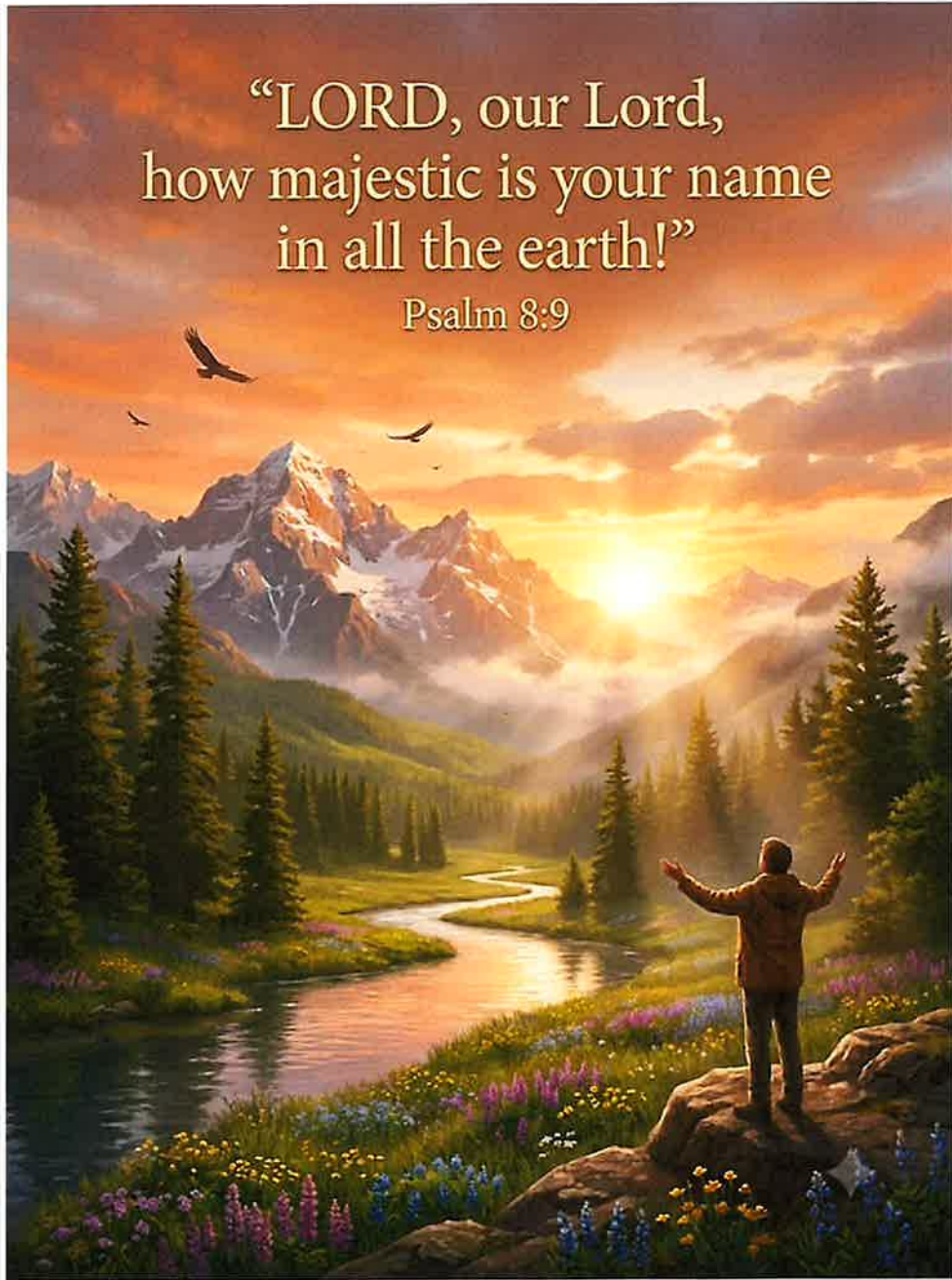


“LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name
in all the earth!”

Psalm 8:9



October Niekerk News 2026

Niekerk Contact Information:

Phone: 616-396-4388

Prayer Line: 616-396-2697

Interim Pastor

John Nyitray

Office: 616-396-4388 #3

Phone: 616-834-3853

Email: john@niekerkcrc.org

Youth Director

Trisha Texer

Office: 616-396-4388

Email: youthdirector@niekerkcrc.org

Administrative Assistant

Julie Mulder

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:00am—2:00pm

Phone: 616-396-4388

Email: secretary@niekerkcrc.org

Worship Coordinator

Carol Hochhalter

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00am—noon

Phone: 616-396-4388

Email: worshipleader@niekerkcrc.org

Prayer Line Maintained by:

Brian Bosch

Newsletter DEADLine

For the
November Niekerk News is:
October 18, 2026

Gifts for Visitors

Just a reminder, there are gift bags and folders that can be handed to our visitors



***Phonebooks can be
found by the
Information Center
magazine rack.***



a letter from the pastor

Living True

As we seek to live out our mission to grow in Christ and make Him known, Jesus will use the people He brings into our fellowship to help us grow in our love for Him and for others. All who have or will enter the doors of Niekerk are in various places in our walk with God. Some have discovered the freedom of the gospel. Some are just beginning the walk of faith, and some have yet to know the amazing grace of God in Jesus.

One ministry opportunity coming up this month, October 22nd—is the great Pumpkin Party. There we will meet people who simply need to be encouraged to take a next step in discovering more of the love of the Father in the gift of His Son, Jesus. Read what Rebecca Pippert wrote about the welcome a man named Bill received one Sunday:

When I first came to Portland, Oregon, I met a student on one of the campuses where I worked. He was brilliant and looked like he was always pondering the esoteric. His hair was always mussed, and the entire time I knew him, I never once saw him wear a pair of shoes. Rain, sleet or snow, Bill was always barefoot. While he was attending college, he had become a Christian. At this time, a well-dressed, middle-class church across the street from the campus wanted to develop more of a ministry to the students. They were not sure how to go about it, but they tried to make them feel welcome. One day Bill decided to worship there. He walked into this church, wearing his blue jeans, T-shirt and of course no shoes. People looked a bit uncomfortable, but no one said anything. So, Bill began walking down the aisle looking for a seat. The church was quite crowded that Sunday, so as he got down to the front pew and realized that there were no seats, he just squatted on the carpet—perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, but perhaps unnerving for a church congregation. The tension in the air became so thick one could slice it. Suddenly, an elderly man began walking down the aisle toward the boy. Was he going to scold Bill? My friends who saw him approaching said they thought, "You can't blame him." "His world is too distant from Bill's to understand." "You can't blame him for what he's going to do." As the man kept walking slowly down the aisle, the church became utterly silent, all eyes were focused on him, you could not hear anyone breathe. When the man reached Bill, with some difficulty he lowered himself and sat down next to him on the carpet. He and Bill worshipped together on the floor that Sunday. I was told there was not a dry eye in the congregation. The irony is that probably the only one who failed to see how great the giving had been that Sunday was Bill. But grace is always that way. It gives without the receiver realizing how great the gift really is. As this man walked alongside of his brother and loved him with all that he had received from Christ's love, so must we. He made Bill feel welcome, feel as if he had a home.
-- Rebecca Pippert, *Out of the Salt Shaker and Into the World.*

Lord, teach us to care for others with your love so all who enter our doors will feel welcome and at home at Niekerk. Amen.

Pastor John Nyitray

August 31, 2026

Total Budgeted YTD Receipts	\$ 438,934.67
Total Actual YTD Receipts	\$ 407,165.93
Over(Under) Budget	\$ (31,768.74)

GENERAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$519,255.41
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$46,242.00
This Month Envelopes Receipts	\$58,189.58
Year to Date Budget Envelopes	\$338,809.05
Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
Interest	\$3,169.27
Facilities Rental Income	\$0.00
Total Receipts	\$341,978.32
This Month Disbursements	\$50,248.24
Year to Date Disbursements	\$353,271.39
Fund Balance	\$507,962.34

EVANGELISM FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$9,880.03
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$4,875.00
YTD Receipts from Envelopes	\$36,358.61
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$36,358.61
YTD Disbursements	\$25,383.07
Allocated Not Paid	\$9,000.00
Fund Balance	\$11,855.57

BUILDING RENOVATIONS FUND	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$104,738.98
Monthly Budget Amount Required	\$3,750.00
YTD Envelope Receipts	\$28,829.00
YTD Over Budget Receipts	\$0.00
YTD Total Receipts	\$28,829.00
YTD Disbursements	\$1,235.00
Fund Balance	\$132,332.98

SPECIAL FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	0.00
This Month Special Fund	9,944.11
Year To Date Special Fund	86,137.72
This Month Disbursements	10,044.11
Year To Date Disbursements	86,037.72
Fund Balance	100.00

MISCELLANEOUS FUND:	BALANCE
2026 Beginning Balance	\$ 38,768.06
Current Fund Balances:	
Niekerk Tuition Fund	11,178.76
Hockey Rock	4,668.80
Niekerk Christian Ed Fund	27,033.77
Hand 2 Hand Ministries	6,508.54
Community Impact	1,227.54
Health Pantry	849.46
Family Mission Trip Fund	3,365.84
Fund Balance	\$ 54,832.71

Cash Balances	
Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2026	\$ 672,522.48
Ending Balance as of 08/31/26	\$ 716,083.60

CHURCH BUDGET	ACTUAL DOLLARS	BUDGETED DOLLARS	INCOME VARIANCE
Receipts	407,165.93	438,934.67	(31,768.74)
Disbursements	379,889.46	438,934.67	59,045.21
Allocated Not Paid	9,000.00		
Spendable Income	18,276.47		27,276.47

NIEKERK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2026, at 7:30 PM

Growing in Christ and Making Him Known

01. Devotions and Opening Prayer: Carl Helder
02. Approved Council Minutes: August 3, 2026, by Randy Hoogewind
03. Approved Deacons' Meeting: Joe Texer

a. Review of August 3 Deacons' Meeting Minutes

b. Loose Offering Collections & Schedule:

August offerings confirmed:

August 2	Intervarsity/Aaron Green	\$1,522.00
August 9	Haven Missionary Homes	\$1,337.11
August 16	Laura Helder	\$2,948.00
August 23	Health Pantry	\$1,084.00
August 30	Niekerk Christian Education Fund	\$1,662.00

c. October offering scheduled as follows:

October 4	LEAD Scholarship Fund (CRCNA) All Nations Heritage Sunday
October 11	Heights of Hope
October 18	Langteau's
October 25	Forgotten Man Ministries

d. August Benevolent Fund Balance:	\$14,347.66
Number of Disbursements	0
Amount	0
Deposits	0
August Ending Benevolent Fund Balance	\$14,347.66

Benevolent Needs Discussed. No known Benevolent needs inside the congregation. Discussed various needs within the congregation and how we can help. No known benevolent needs outside the congregation.

e. Open Discussion, Correspondence & Other Items.

- Reminder on evening prayer—meet in the sanctuary no later than 4:45pm with the praise team and pastor.
- Retires' Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, October 27.
- Discussed Niekerk's Christian Education Fund and qualifications around receiving support through Niekerk.

Next Meeting is Monday, October 5, with opening devotions by Tom Staal.
Closing Prayer by Tom Staal
Meeting Adjourned

04. Search Team: Dave Helder. All going well with several potential pastors being reviewed
05. Shepherding Team: Pastor John Nyitray. Visitation report. Report on members that have not been in attendance.

06. Pulpit Supply Schedule provided by Randy Hoogewind (*Subject to Change)

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Evening Worship</u>
October 4	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
October 11	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
October 18	David Bast	John Ornee
October 25	Ren Broekhuizen	Duane Terpstra
November 1	John Nyitray	Tom Pettinga
November 8	John Nyitray	John Ornee
November 15	David Bast	Tom Pettinga
November 22	Dr. Paul Mpindi	Duane Terpstra
November 26	John Nyitray (Thanksgiving)	
November 29	John Wagenveld	Cal Compagner

07. Next Communions: October 4 and December 6

08. Administration Leadership Team meeting scheduled for Monday, September 21. At that meeting several items will be discussed:

- Will be reviewing and potentially making modifications to the nomination/election process of Elders and Deacons. This will then be brought to Council for approval.
- The 2027 budget will be discussed.
- Teams were encouraged to get their budgets to the Budget Team asap.

09. New Member, Profession of Faith, Baptism, and other membership matters

- Jack and Jean Hoeksema were approved at the September 6 morning prior to the service so that they could be introduced on September 13 morning service.
- Classis Meeting October 1, 2026. Registration at 4:30pm. Meeting at 5:00pm. Ric Lucas and Mike Schierbeek are assigned delegates with Gary Meiste and Joe Texer as alternate delegates.

10. Mutual Censure

11. Other pressing matters that should be discussed before our next meeting.

- October 4 is going to be a church potluck. October is Pastor Appreciation month.
- Note: Pastor John will be in Florida January 24 thru February 14, 2027

12. Next meeting, October 5, 2026, at 7:30pm. Elders and Deacons Meeting at 6:30pm.

13. Motion made and supported to adjourn. Joe Texer closed in prayer.

October Thank You Notes

Larry and I would like to thank you for ALL the prayers! And also, for the cards, calls, and food that has been sent our way during this time. I have had radiation treatments and will continue with chemotherapy, which the doctors say will keep this cancer under control, not a cure but under control. Please continue to pray that the treatments will be effective.

Barb & Larry Shoemaker

Thank you to the congregation for cards, calls, food and birthday wishes. I thank God for blessing me with 96 years.

Jerene Janssen

Thank you for the many cards, calls, visits, and other forms of blessings on my 85th birthday. God is good all the time and all the time God is good.

Jack & Joyce Koeman

I would like to thank the Niekerk Congregation for your visits, prayers and words of encouragement after my second knee surgery in July. I had my pic line removed and I'm on oral antibiotics till the end of this year. I continue physical therapy while working on straightening out my knee.

Dale Walters

Thank you for the many calls, cards, prayers and kind words of support offered to our family during the time of our mom/grandma/wife's stroke and passing. We so appreciate the love and support.

The Koopman
Van Harn & Fennema family

Niekerk CRC Friends,

Thank you for your generous faithful support. As the school the school year begins our educators are preparing to teach our youth how to have healthy relationships. Join us in prayer that this generation protects life and is not pressured by the things of this world.

Gratefully,
Marilyn
Positive Options

Lost
&
Found



September

Knockaround black/gray sunglasses
Black reading glasses
Elephant craft

*** Items can be picked up in the office under
the elder and deacon mailboxes***



Ladies Getaway!

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
November 10, 11 & 12

- Come join us for a fun getaway at the Farmstead Inn in Shipshewana, Indiana.
- Have fun shopping at the many unique stores!
- Work on your favorite craft or quilting project!
- See the new play "The Christmas Rush" at the Blue Gate Theater!
- Just come and relax and enjoy some wonderful fellowship, great food, and many laughs!
- Sign up at the Information Center!
- For questions, contact Deb Bosch at 616-796-4554.

The last day to sign up is October 11!

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HAPPY BIRTHDAY				1	2 Earl Plaggemars	3
4	5	6 Harv Helder Aiden Leenstra Kaylin Van Dyke	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Christie Rietman Daniel Staal Bryce Faris	14 Melanie Russcher	15	16	17
18	19 Mike Roelofs Judy Chacko	20	21 Pete Jacobsen Mark Brouwer	22	23 Larry Van Dyke Grahm Van Dyke	24
25 Jon Boeve	26 Judy Lubbers Bette Jansen	27	28 Lorraine Snay	29 Maryjo Staal Kris Bulthuis Margaret Timmer	30	31 Mohan Chacko



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Our church's Bible study library **is now digital...**

AND GIGANTIC.

Over 20,000 discipleship videos for kids, youth, and adults.

android chromecast  iPhone & iPad **Roku**  tv firetv

www.rightnowmedia.org

Join for **FREE**

Here is the QR code for Niekerk!



Save paper towel & toilet paper tubes

Crystal, our craft coordinator for WN@N, would like people to save paper towel and toilet paper tubes for crafts for the kids.



community impact news

The team met September 1, most of the meeting was focused on the Pumpkin Party and planning because its coming Thursday, October 22!

We could use your help! Many volunteers are needed and the sign-up sheet is at the Information Center.

We also need bakers! Plan to bring your pumpkin or Apple dessert on Thursday before 5:00pm; make sure you label it with your name.

There will be an adult category and a kid category with prizes!

This is such a great community event and we thank you for your involvement.



At The Gate ...

The Gate in biblical times was the place that many things happened. People met to talk and get the latest news. Prophets often spoke to the people gathered at the gate. Each Sunday beginning October 11, at 11:00, we will meet in the narthex to continue to study the text of the sermon for that morning and seek to apply it to our lives.



Jan Bos
458 W Main Ave
Zeeland, MI 49464

Stan Brandsen
Appledorn South
727 Apple Avenue #C02
Holland, MI 49423

Jim & Lorraine Snay
Quincy Place
12300 Quincy St
Holland, MI 49424
Jim's Room #167
Lorraine's room #28



We share **GIFT CARDS**
with your church!



Corners Of Your Field is a partnership between your church and our ministry. We return a portion of the value of your donation as gift cards to your church to be used with those directly in your care.



Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

ITS EASY!

1. Go to your device's app store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in Niekerk's directory.
4. Make a password.

NEW: If a family would like to use one email address and one password. Contact Julie Mulder.

****Contact Julie Mulder for assistance****

Wednesday Night at Niekerk
Program on November 4
Beginning at 6:30pm
In the sanctuary

Our speaker:
Director Curt Gritters
RN, BSN, MBA, CDP
with the Dementia Institute



Curt Gritters will share more information on dementia and what the institute has to offer.

What is dementia?

Dementia is not a specific disease but a general term for the persistent loss of brain function, including impairment of memory, abstract thinking, and decision-making that interferes with everyday life.

What is the dementia Institute?

A certified team dedicated to improving the well-being of people living with dementia and the community that surrounds them.

What we offer:

- Free memory screenings
- In-person and virtual classes
- Private consultations
- Care navigation
- Certifications for professionals
- Accreditation for organizations
- Customizable services

Our Mission

In fulfilling God's calling to serve others, we will serve with love and compassion, commit o to excellence, and follow Christ's teachings and examples in all we do.





October

- 10-4 AM** Emma Texer
Deb Slenk
PM Char Janssen
Kim Walters
- 10-11 AM** Kathie Helder
Linda Timmer
PM Carol Venema
Sandy Van Dyke
- 10-18 AM** Laura Vander Zwaag
Jessica Schutter
PM Deb Slenk
Lisa Kragt
- 10-25 AM** Sara Heeres
Kathi Petroelje
PM Kaylin Van Dyke
Abby Helder

November

- 11-1 AM** Trisha Texer
Renee & Kayla Texer
PM Dawn Folkert
Kris Roelofs
- 11-8 AM** Melinda Kryger
Pat Texer
PM Dana Hondred
Emma Texer
- 11-15 AM** Margaret Timmer
Laura Vander Zwaag
PM Kathie Helder
Sandy Van Dyke
- 11-22 AM** Carol Venema
Lisa Kragt
PM Linda Timmer
Jessica Schutter
- 11-26 AM** Char Janssen
Kim Walters
- 11-29 AM** Kathi Petroelje
Kaylin Van Dyke
PM Sara Heeres
Abby Helder



Nursery Volunteers: Remember to find your own replacement if you are unable to volunteer. Contact Kaylin Van Dyke with any concerns.

October & November DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

October 2	Hand2Hand Packing
October 4	Pastor Appreciation Potluck
October 5	Council Meeting
October 7	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
October 9	Hand2Hand Packing
October 16	Hand2Hand Packing
October 22	The Great Pumpkin Party
October 28	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
October 30	Monthly Prayer Gathering
	Hand2Hand Packing
November 2	Council Meeting
November 4	Wednesday Night at Niekerk
November 5	Hand2Hand Packing
November 11	Red Cross Blood Drive
November 13	Hand2Hand Packing
November 26	Thanksgiving Day Service
November 27	Monthly Prayer Meeting
December 6	Christmas Caroling



Church Members in Care Facilities

Appledorn South
Stan Brandsen

Royal Park Atrium
Marge Boeve
Nick Ellerbroek

**Resthaven Janssen
Cottage**
Bernard "Bud" Bos

Quincy Place Senior Living
Jim & Lorraine Snay
Duane & Guy Tucker

Royal Park Place
Judy Bosch
Nonie Rietman



**American
Red Cross**

**2026
Blood Drive Dates**
Wednesday, November 11
Monday, January 18
Monday, March 15
Monday, May 10



October

- October 4** Dale Walters
Jon Boeve
PM Dale Walters
- October 11** Mark & Jan Hop
- October 18** Ric Lucas
Mike Schutter
PM Ric Lucas
- October 25** Jim Means
Denny Stoel
PM Jim Means

**Remember to find your own replacement if you are unable to volunteer. Contact Jon Boeve with any concerns.

INDOOR WALKING!

Mondays and Thursdays
9:00am to 11:30am

The church will be open for those who need to get out, get moving, and stretch their legs. Whether you're an Olympic speed walker or a casual slow walker, all are welcome to come out, bring their kids, invite a friend, and start walking laps here at Niekerk.



Remember to schedule your meetings, community group events, and any other activities with the church office.

Shared Meals



The freezer has Chicken Alfredo Casserole, Meatloaf & Cheesy hashbrowns, Chicken Pot Pie, Tater Tot Casserole, Ham & Potato Casserole, Ham & Broccoli Breakfast Casserole, Cream Turkey, and Pizza Casserole. These meals are for members of our church with needs and for those outside our church that could use a helping hand.



**BRING
YOUR
crafts**

Ladies Quilting & Craft Day

Ladies take your sewing, knitting, scrapbooking, stamping or any other activity and join other women for a craft day starting at 9 AM until 4 PM in En Gedi. No need to sign up; come when you can, and leave when you must.



Harvest Stand Ministries NEWSLETTER

FALL 2026

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR 2026 FALL BANQUET!



Mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 6, and join us for an inspiring evening at Foundry Church as we gather for the Harvest Stand Ministries Annual Fall Banquet.

This special evening is one of the highlights of our year and serves as a vital fundraiser that helps sustain and grow the ministry. Guests will enjoy a delicious catered dinner, participate in our raffle auction, hear powerful stories of hope and transformation from those whose lives have been impacted by Harvest Stand Ministries, and receive an exciting update on our Capital Campaign.

Whether you've partnered with us for years or are just getting to know our ministry, this event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate what God is doing through Harvest Stand and discover how you can be part of the work ahead.

We hope you'll join us for an evening of fellowship, encouragement, and generosity as we look back on all God has done and look forward with anticipation to the future.

To reserve your spot, email or call Kimberlee Grose – kimberlee@harveststand.org or 616.741.8250 x6.

CELEBRATING A SEASON OF COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT

As we reflect on the past several months, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who participated in and supported our spring and summer fundraising events. Because of your generosity, enthusiasm, and willingness to come alongside Harvest Stand, these events were not only successful – they were a wonderful reminder of the incredible community that surrounds our mission.

WALTERS GARDENS PLANT SALE – Our annual Walters Gardens Plant Sale was a tremendous success! We want to thank everyone who purchased beautiful plants, volunteered, and helped spread the word. With everyone working together, the sale raised significant funds to support the ministry. Beyond the fundraising, it was a fun event that brought people together around the love of gardening, while investing in lives being transformed through Harvest Stand.



DRIVING OUT HUNGER GOLF OUTING – We were thrilled to welcome 100 golfers to Winding Creek for our annual Driving Out Hunger Golf Outing. Although the day was cut short by rain, the weather couldn't dampen the spirit of the event. It was a day filled with fellowship, laughter, and generous support for our mission. We are incredibly thankful to our golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who helped make the outing a success. Special thanks again to our Tournament Sponsor: Shoreline Technology Solutions, for helping to make the entire day possible!



GROWING HOPE AT OUR NEW HOME

As Harvest Stand Ministries continues our Capital Campaign, we're looking forward to the day we can begin renovating our newly acquired building and eventually welcoming clients into this new space. While renovations have not yet begun, we're grateful that the property is already becoming a place of ministry.

One of the great blessings of our new home is the two grassy lots that came with the property. Rather than letting this land sit unused while we wait to begin renovations, we transformed it into gardens this summer. Numerous vegetable plants were planted, which provided additional fresh produce items for our clients and families each week.



We're especially thankful for two dedicated volunteers, Carolyn and Laurie, who have embraced this project with enthusiasm. They cared for the gardens by planting, watering, and tending vegetables throughout the season, then harvesting them when the time arrived.

While we continue to raise funds needed to renovate our future home, it's exciting to see the property already being used to bless our community. Even before the doors of the building open, seeds are being planted that nourish families and reflect the heart of Harvest Stand Ministries.

FIGHTING HUNGER BUILDING HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We are excited to share another encouraging update on our Fighting Hunger, Building Hope Capital Campaign!

Over the past several months, we have continued to make meaningful progress toward creating a permanent home for Harvest Stand. One of the most significant milestones is that the architectural plans and construction blueprints for our future facility are now complete. As you can see in the updated rendering of the front of the building, the vision for this space is becoming more tangible every day.

We are also thrilled to announce that Harvest Stand has been awarded funding through the Community Foundation of Holland/Zeeland's Responsive Grants.

This generous investment has helped propel our campaign beyond the \$2 million mark, bringing us one step closer to our \$2.5 million goal. We are incredibly grateful for this partnership and for the many individuals, families, churches, businesses, and foundations that have faithfully supported this vision.

With these exciting milestones behind us, we are anticipating renovations to begin in early spring. While there is still work to be done, we are filled with hope and anticipation as we prepare for this next chapter.

As we continue to move forward, we ask for your prayers and support. Your encouragement, generosity, and faithful partnership have brought us this far, and we are deeply grateful. Together, we are not simply renovating a building – we are creating a place where neighbors will experience hope, dignity, and practical support for years to come.

If you would like to learn more about the Fighting Hunger, Building Hope Capital Campaign or explore how you can help make this new home a reality, please contact Jordan Palladino, Executive Director of Harvest Stand, at jordan@harveststand.org. We would be honored to share the vision with you and invite you to be part of this exciting season.



GET INVOLVED



Pray:

It is so important to cover this ministry in prayer! Please keep our clients, volunteers, and staff in your prayers as we continue to serve Christ at Harvest Stand Ministries.



Volunteer:

HSM couldn't do what we do without our dedicated team of volunteers. We are so thankful for each individual that gives their time and talents to this ministry! We have several different ways that individuals or teams can serve. Call the office at 616-741-8250, or email info@harveststand.org if you are interested!



Donate:

Pantry: We accept nonperishable donations 24/7 at HSM! We also will accept cleaning, hygiene, and paper products.

Clothing: With the colder months around the corner we would appreciate fall and winter wear as well as any seasonal clothing donations.

Finances: With the generous support of people like you, we can make a greater impact in the community!

If you are interested in supporting us financially, you can give online at: harveststandministries.org, or by mail at: 100 S. Pine St. STE 100, Zeeland, MI 49464



Harvest Stand Ministries pantry needs

Canned: Baked Beans, Carrots, Chili Beans, Fruit Cocktail, Kidney Beans, Mandarin Oranges, Mixed Vegetables, Peas, Pineapple, Soups (Chunky), Tomatoes (Diced, Stewed), Tuna

Household: Dish Soap/Dishwasher Detergent, Feminine Hygiene Products, Laundry Detergent, Lotion, Multi-Surface Cleaning Spray

Other: Cereal, Cooking Oil, Flour, Gluten-Free Items, Individually Packaged Snacks (Trail Mix, Jerky, Crackers), Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Pancake Syrup, Rice, Salad Dressing, Salsa

Drop-off (non-perishable): 24/7 at Harvest Stand (clothing accepted)

Drop-off (perishable): Mon–Thu, 9 AM–4 PM



FROM THE CHAPLAIN



UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF JESUS

Recently, I have found myself meditating on the unconditional love of Jesus. What an incredible gift it is to know that God's love for us is not based on what we have done, the choices we have

made, or the good deeds we can somehow offer Him.

Scripture tells us, ***"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*** Jesus said that He did not come for the righteous, but for the sinners.

Unconditional.

That truth is at the heart of why I believe this ministry is so important. In fact, I often think that if Jesus were here walking the earth in the flesh today, He would be walking the halls and visiting the pods of the jail.

Jesus spent time with those society labeled as **"the sinners."** He met with them. He ate with them. He fellowshiped with them. He loved them.

I think we still create that same label today. We look at those sitting behind bars and see **"the sinners."** They are the criminals. They are the ones who messed up. They are the ones who made the bad choices. Their sins are visible, documented, and sometimes known by the entire community.

But Scripture does not divide humanity into **"the sinners"** and **"the good people."**

We are all sinners.

The person sitting in a jail cell and the person sitting in a church pew have the exact same fundamental need: Jesus Christ. We have all sinned. We have all fallen short of God's standard. None of us can earn our way to God through our choices, our morality, or our good deeds.

I like to say, ***"Some of us are legal sinners, some of us are illegal sinners, and some of us are illegal sinners who just haven't been caught."***

Our sins may look different. The earthly consequences may look different. But before God, our need is the same. **We are sinners in need of a Savior.**

And this is where the unconditional love of God becomes so incredible. We did not deserve His love. We did not earn it. God did not wait for us to clean ourselves up, make better choices, or somehow become worthy of Him. **He loved us while we were still sinners.**

There is no greater expression of that unconditional love than the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus willingly gave His life for sinners, for the guilty, the broken, the rebellious, and the undeserving. **That includes the person sitting in the jail cell, and it includes you and me.** That is the love we have received, and that is the love we are called to bring into the Ottawa County Jail.

And that is what Reach the Forgotten is about. We go to the forgotten, to men and women who are often labeled by society as broken, hopeless, or beyond redemption, and we bring them the love and truth of Jesus Christ. We love them unconditionally. We boldly share the Gospel with them. And we have the privilege of watching God truly transform the hearts and lives of men and women inside the Ottawa County Jail.



Thank you for not overlooking these men and women. Thank you for partnering with us as we bring the hope, love, and saving power of Jesus Christ into the Ottawa County Jail.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Juvenile Ministry Launches! We are excited to share that we have launched our first ministry team at the Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center! Our volunteers will now be going in on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons, giving us another opportunity to bring the hope of Jesus to those who are often forgotten.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

We recently had a wonderful Volunteer Appreciation Picnic! It was a great opportunity to thank our incredible volunteers, enjoy some good food together, and meet one another's families. We were also grateful to have the Jail Captain and her husband join us. We are incredibly thankful for the men and women God has brought together to serve this ministry!

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

Our annual Ottawa County banquet is coming up, and we'd love for you to join us!

We hope and pray that you will set aside the evening and RSVP. This will be an incredible opportunity to hear stories, see the impact of the ministry firsthand, and experience what God is doing through Reach the Forgotten in the Ottawa County Jail.

Tuesday, October 6, 2026
Community Reformed Church, Zeeland
Fellowship: 6:00 PM
Dinner: 6:30 PM

Please RSVP and come celebrate with us. We would love to see you there!

BROKEN VESSELS

FROM THE EAST REGIONAL LEADER



Kenny Hovis

I was in a meeting the other day and was asked if I knew of the Japanese art form called Kintsugi. I had never heard of it, so it started a bit of a research project.

Kintsugi is the art of repairing broken ceramics with a special lacquer mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. Each piece is unique, with its scars visible. This process is considered to make the piece of art even stronger than it was in its original form.

This is a beautiful picture of the work God does in a believer's life. He picks up the broken pieces that result from the choices we have made when we surrender to Him. He restores us into something usable for His honor and glory. Like the restored pottery of Kintsugi, our scars may still be visible, but we become stronger through restoration. As 2 Corinthians 4:7 says, *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."* (ESV)

At RTF, we work with people who see themselves as unusable by God, damaged beyond repair, and discarded by society. But that is not how God sees them. In their brokenness, He sees a vessel worth restoring so the Potter's power can be seen. Restoration comes only by laying our brokenness at the foot of the cross.

Will you help this work continue? Pray for the chaplains and volunteers serving in our jails. Consider carrying the message of restoration (2 Corinthians 5:17-20) into one of the counties we serve. Or financially support those bringing hope and healing behind bars. All three are needed.

Together with God, we are building an art gallery that will shine for eternity. I can't wait to see what it looks like!



Ways to Give:

Phone:

616.784.4620

Online:

jailministry.org

Mail:

1480 Buchanan Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49507



RTF counties in Michigan

Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dependent solely on your generosity



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THANK YOU for your prayers & financial support! Our ministry would not be possible without you.

Niekerk Ministry Teams

Updated 9/23/26

<u>Council Committee</u>	<u>Chair/Contact Person</u>	<u>Team Members</u>
Community Impact Team	Cheryl Bosch, Dave Walters Carl Helder Sara Heeres MJ Staal Kim Walters Dale Walters	Scott Edewaard*, Deb Slenk, Ryan Texer, Margaret Timmer, Marv Venema, Sara Walters Trisha Texer Sara Heeres, Phil Helder, Steve Kragt, Jen Leenstra, Margaret Timmer
Congregational Life Team	Ken Schierbeek*	
Fellowship Team	Jan Hop & Jane Steenwyk Ken Schierbeek MJ Staal/Jamie Hop Linda Nyhof Carl Helder Julie Mulder	Curt & Marcy Brower, Abby Helder, Sue Hoekstra, Mark Hop, Bob Steenwyk Carol Keen, Bev Leegwater, Ken & Joyce Schierbeek, Bryan & Kaylin Van Dyke Jim Hondred, Vern Hoeksema, Greg Leenstra
Wednesday Night at Niekerk		
Community Groups		
Greeters/Welcome Assistant		
Pine Rest Counseling		
Newsletter Editor		
Discipleship Team	Trisha Texer Gary Meiste* Kaylin Van Dyke Marilyn Russcher Kim Walters Kaylin Van Dyke Jim Means Nancy Means Trisha Texer Trisha Texer Trisha Texer	Brian Bosch, Stephanie Edewaard, Kurt Rigtterink, Linda Timmer, Kaylin Van Dyke Scott Helder (4 th -5 th), Christine VanGeldern (6 th -7 th) Carl Helder (8 th) Lindsey Haan, Renee Texer Rita Helder, Jane Steenwyk, Linda Timmer, Sandy Van Dyke Elmer & Leona Nyhof, Gary & Marilyn Russcher Abby Helder & Trisha Texer Henry Bosch, Terry Bosch, Mike Roelofs, Wayne Tjarks Carol Hochhalter, Char Janssen, Stephanie Edewaards, Kristi Driscoll, Nancy Means, & Kaylin Van Dyke Melissa Dozeman, Scott & Stephanie Edewaard, Joe Texer Melissa Dozeman, Scott & Stephanie Edewaard, Joe Texer
Building Men for Life		
Growing Hope Globally		
Hand2Hand Ministries		
Heights of Hope Rep's		
Hockey Rock		
Health Pantry		
Youth Director		
Middle School Youth Group		
Youth Group		
Young Adults		

Finance Team Financial/Member Secretary General Fund Treasurer	Joe Texer* Kathi Petroelje Mike Dozeman	Mike Dozeman, Ivan Janssen, Brent Kapenga, Larry Van Dyke
Missions Team Missionary Financial Support Growing Hope Globally	Scott Edewaard* Carl Helder	Dave Helder, Bev Leep, Joe Texer, Wayne Tjarks
Prayer Team Oversee Prayer Activities Worship Coordinator	Dave Helder Carol Hochhalter	Delia Gale, Doug Gritter, Carl Helder, Pastor John Nyitray, Gary Morren
Support Team Administrative Assistant Building Supervisors Custodian Donations Emergency Response Historian Kitchen Media Team Safe Church Abuse Prevention Physical Safety (Security)	Tom Staal* Julie Mulder Ric & Karen Lucas Karen Koopman Cheryl Bosch Char Janssen Jane Steenwyk/ Jan Hop Joe Texer Jamie Hop Jon Boeve	Ric Lucas, Jane Steenwyk, Mike Venema Jack Koeman, Bev Leegwater, & Karen Lucas Jon Boeve, Jessica Bosch & Jamie Hop Joyce Dalman, Elaine Helder, Verna Jansen, Char Janssen, Karen Lucas, & Linda Timmer Julie Mulder Jim Means, Ric Lucas
Worship Team Banner Changes Flower/Decorations Greeter Coordinator Nursery Visual Arts Power Point Sound Booth	Carol Hochhalter* Donna Lampen Linda Nyhof Kaylin Van Dyke Jamie Hop Jamie Hop	Jamie Hop, Jen Leep, Dan Petroelje, MJ Staal Bonnie Nagelkirk, Jane Steenwyk Melanie Russcher, Renee Texer, Lindsey Haan Melissa Dozeman, Jan Hop, Tim Leep, Bryan Van Dyke Zeb Driscoll, Jamie Hop, Jacob Staal, Mary Jo Staal, Joe Texer

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