

### UPCOMING SERMONS

The first two weeks of June we will spend finishing up exploring Scripture and reflecting on the work of the Holy Spirit.

#### June 1

(Pastor Scott)  
1 John 3:11-24

We Know the Spirit's Presence Within

#### June 8

(Pastor Scott)  
Acts 2:1-13

We Receive the Spirit

Over the next several weeks we will be exploring select stories in scripture. The stories have power. They reveal how God Shows Himself in Our World.

#### June 15

(Pastor Mario)  
God Tells the Story of Rest  
Genesis 1:27-2:3

#### June 22

Pastor Rick  
God Tells Us Abraham's Story  
Genesis 15:1-21

#### June 29

Pastor Scott  
God Tells Us of His Salvation  
Exodus 13

#### July 6

Pastor Scott  
God Tells Us of His Patience  
Judges 6

#### July 13

Pastor Scott  
God Tells Us the Story of His Presence  
1 Kings 8:1-11

### SECOND OFFERING SCHEDULE

Every Sunday the offering bags are passed twice. The first offering goes to The River Life (or General) Fund. This is for the normal operation of the church. The second offerings are designated for a special purpose or for one of our Kingdom Partners.

**June 01:** Benevolence  
**June 08:** Christian Education Fund  
**June 15:** Missions  
**June 22:** Camp Dunamis  
**June 29:** Christian Education Fund

### Summer Fun Events for July and August

The Children's and Youth Ministries Departments have planned a number of fun events for the summer:



#### June 18

Amazing Race @ The River 6-8 PM  
Fun, games, and races throughout the campus.

#### July 12

Redlands Football (Soccer) Club Game against San Diego City Club at Redlands High School, 7 PM.  
(\$9 for Adults, Kids 12 & Under Free)

#### July 30

Skate Night @ Cal Skate in Grand Terrace; 6:30-8:00 PM, \$8.00 per person.

#### August 6

Inland Empire 66ers Baseball Game at San Manuel Stadium in San Bernardino, 6:35 PM. Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased by July 23.

Sign up for the Summer Fun events using the QR Code to the right or contact Pastor Rick (909)576-5214 and he will help you out.



### THE RIVER RECOGNIZES HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

During worship Sunday, June 1 the River recognized and congratulated this year's high school and college graduates:

- Gideon Distelberg graduated from Beaumont High School.
- Daniella Whitman graduated from Redlands East Valley High School.
- Karla Whitman graduated from Cal Baptist University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing.
- Juliann Lackey graduated from University of Redlands with a Masters of Arts Degree in Education.
- Kameryn Elgersma graduated from USC with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

*Congratulations!*



## CRCNA Synod 2025

Pastor Scott is a delegate to this year's Synod. The Synod convened virtually on Wednesday, May 28 to do some of the initial business of the Synod in order to make room in their in-person meeting for some of the weightier matters. The Synod will meet in person June 13-19, 2025, at Redeemer University in Ancaster, Ontario.

The theme of this year's Synod is "Journey With Jesus," based on the Emmaus Road story of Luke 24. This theme was also used at the ten Gather events throughout the denomination. The Emmaus road story will be explored through several subthemes:

- "We had hoped": Recognizing our disappointments and unmet expectations.
- "Slow to Believe": Acknowledging times we don't see or trust God's work
- "Recognizing Jesus": Experiencing the presence of Jesus in our lives and churches
- "Returning to Jerusalem": Sharing the good news of Jesus with others
- "Clothed with Power": Recognizing the Holy Spirit's empowering role in ministry.

"Synod is the ecclesiastical body of delegates that provides governance and leadership for the members, congregations, classes, agencies, and ministries of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. While many think of synod as a one week meeting in June each year, synod actually fills an essential denomination-wide governance and leadership role alongside the regionally delegated authority of the church classes and the locally elected church councils. While the delegates of synod meet in person for one week, the work of synod continues on throughout the year. Each decision made by synod determines the work and direction of denominational staff, committees, and Council of Delegates meetings." (Quoted from the CRCNA website.)

The Synod agenda for 2025 includes reports from agencies, institutions, and ministries of the church; standing committees; denominationally related educational institutions including Dordt University, the Institute of Christian Studies, King's University, Kuyper College, Redeemer University, and Trinity Christian College. It will also receive and consider reports from Task Forces including the Assisted Suicide Task Force, the Virtual Church Task Force, and the Team to Clarify Distinctions in Synodical Pronouncements, Decisions, Reports, Positions, and Advice.

The agenda also includes processing various overtures and communications to the Synod. This year there is one carry-over overture from 2024, 29 new overtures from various Classes and Councils, and eight communications from Classes and Councils.


In addition to the agenda, the Synod also includes time for worship, prayer, fellowship, and relationship building. More information is available online at <https://www.crcna.org/synod/annual-synod>.

## The River Enters Team in Redlands Hunger Walk

The River is excited to have a team walking again in this year's Redlands Hunger Walk/Run on Saturday, June 7. This is the 11th year for the walk.

The walk/run begins at 7:45. As the walkers & runners pass the finish line, they are given goody bags. Although preregistration is closed, there will be onsite registration the morning of the walk.

If you are interested or want more information you can contact Carol Jones who is coordinating the event. The walk is an activity of Redlands Family Services, which also has an outreach center in Yucaipa.



**11TH ANNUAL**  
**REDLANDS HUNGER WALK & RUN**  
 STEPPING UP  
 TO STOP  
 HUNGER

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025 - 7:45AM**  
 UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS  
 NEAR TED RUNNER STADIUM

**Pre-Registration Closes  
 May 23rd\***

On site registration opens June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7am

\*T-Shirts and other swag guaranteed only for pre-registration

**Kiwanis Club of Redlands is providing  
 Pancake Breakfast for FREE!**





## VANSOLENS WELCOME NEW DAUGHTER, QUINN JAMES INTO THEIR FAMILY

On Wednesday, May 14, the Ben, Sarah, and Ezra VanSolen welcomed baby girl Quinn James into their family. Both mom and baby are doing well at home. Please pray for them as they transition to a family of four.

If you would like to bring the Van Soelens a meal during the next few weeks as please sign up online at <https://takethemameal.com/XWPH7853> or contact Pastor Rick by phone, text, or email, (909)576-5241, [rwdebruyne@gmail.com](mailto:rwdebruyne@gmail.com).



## FAITH ELISE LIGHTFOOT

Last month we announced that Brian, Amy, and Elinor Lightfoot welcomed Faith Elise into their family on Friday, April 18. At the time we didn't have a picture to share. Here are a couple. Please continue to keep their family in prayer as Faith Elise grows and develops/



## DEKOCK BAPTISM



On Sunday, May 25, Kyle and Nichole had three of their boys baptised.

Nichole posted on Facebook: "A very special day. We got to baptize the three boys

Deshawne, Keon, and Karson. Beyond blessed to have a church where we feel supported. A church family to lean on, guide us, and love us through our life journey. Where our boys are welcomed and feel comfortable to be themselves and to growth in their faith in the Lord." Grandpa Russ got to offer a prayer of blessing over the family.



## The River Observes National Day of Prayer

Approximately 20 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall, Thursday, May 1 to participate in the National Day of Prayer. Following a meal of hearty chili, Jeff Mercer led the group into prayer with a song and people prayed around their tables. Prayers were offered for the Nation, state, county and city governments, schools, homes, family, churches, conflict around the world, the dividedness in the nation, etc. Jeff closed in prayer and another song.

People of the River also participated in National Day of Prayer by praying in 15 minute increments around the clock during the 24 hours of May 1.

Thank you to the Prayer and Worship Team for organizing this special event. Mark your calendars now for next year's National Day of Prayer. It's always the first Thursday in May which will be May 7, 2026.

BE A PART OF THE DAY OF PRAYER BY...

# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

THURSDAY, MAY 1ST

**Praying around the Clock**  
Sign up for a 15-minute time slot

**Prayer Night**  
5:15 pm - Chili Dinner  
6:00 pm - Time of Prayer and Worship



### ***The River Recognizes Mothers with “Build A Bouquet” Station***

On Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 11, the Hospitality and Events Team provided a “Build A Bouquet” station for Mothers and/or their children to make a small bouquet. They had several blossoms and filler flowers to chose from. Sixty bouquets were made. During his welcome, Pastor Scott did a great job of not only acknowledging mothers but being sensitive to the fact that for some, Mother’s Day can be difficult. Thank you team, and blessings to all of our mothers and mother figures.



### ***Generosity and Outreach (GO) Team Hosts Missionary Luncheons***

Almost 40 people gathered after church on Sunday, April 27, to hear Laura B. share about the work she and her husband, Pete, have been doing. Laura is Ryan and Miriam Tolsma’s daughter. The Bs have been living in Tennessee and working remotely as they continue their work in a Bible translation project among an unreached people group in Asia. Many speak a language other than the national language which most have never had the opportunity to learn. The Bs are grateful to be able to meet online with a friend who is a mother-tongue speaker of the language in their area of work, which builds their language ability and helps them to render the truths of Scripture into this language more effectively. Many of their friends in Asia recently celebrated the Lunar New Year, which, for most, involves traveling to their hometowns, spending time with family, enjoying good food, and giving gifts of money to the younger generation. The holiday also typically includes traditions related to idols and appeasing local spirits and spirits of ancestors. For those who are among the first believers in their communities, it can be challenging to discern which traditions are good to keep, which should be adjusted, and which should be abandoned. Friends in Asia also face similar challenges regarding traditional customs for other holidays, weddings and funerals, dilemmas similar to those faced by new believers in various cultures throughout history since the early church.

The Bs have been preparing for their upcoming trip to Asia to reconnect with national co-workers there. They ask everyone to pray with them for protection, wisdom, and physical and emotional strength and for opportunities to be able to accomplish all He has planned for them to do there. Pray that the Holy Spirit would be at work among this isolated people group and draw many of them to their Savior.

July 6, the Generosity and Outreach Team will be hosting a missionary luncheon with Steve Wonderink. Steve and Frankie serve in Egypt with Resonate Global Missions. Mark your calendars and save the date!



### ***Cadets Pinewood Derby Another Great Night***

The congregation enjoyed another evening of fun with the annual Cadets Pinewood Derby. At 5:15 PM the Council provided a meal of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs with chips and ice cream. The races started around 6:15 PM. Each of the boys works hard to style their car and have it be as fast as possible. At the end of the race, trophies were awarded.

**Speed:**  
Andrew Huibregtse  
Ohri Harrington  
Malachi Verkaik

**Paint & Design:**  
Everett Hekman  
Gramm Nydam  
Merit Keast

**Turkey:**  
(Slowest car to still  
cross the finish line)  
Hudson Lee



### **HIKING THE GRAND CANYON** *By Don Bueermann*

Pastor Rick asked me to briefly write about my recent backpacking trip to the Grand Canyon with four other men in the congregation: Mark DeBoer, Paul Dewaard, Scott Elgersma and Marv Shaw. We hiked out of the North Rim on the Bill Hall trail along the Deer Creek/Thunder River Loop. If you'd like to see this location, you can find many hikers filming this route on You Tube.

This was my second backpacking trip into the Grand Canyon, and I was surprised by what I learned on this trip. I encountered God in a very real way; I clearly saw God as the Creator God. I get so busy in my day-to-day life that I do not seriously consider God creating my natural surroundings. I go through my rather mundane life with my head down living in my relatively comfortable modern world. This was not the case in the Grand Canyon. On the trail, I was hot, dirty, concerned about water & food; I found myself in awe of the One who created this spectacular natural wonder. The Canyon's sheer size, varied colors & geologic diversity screams out God as Creator-this place was no accident of time, water and wind.

I'm disappointed in myself, that I don't see God in the same way back in Redlands, but I'm trying. Don't be like me...see God today, in whatever setting you are in, as The Creator of heaven & earth. He is worthy of all our praise!

### **The River Thanks Volunteers with Mexican Fiesta Dinner**

On Tuesday, May 5, The River Staff hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for all those who help out in the various ministries of the church. There were 95 people in attendance! Staff festively decorated the room and tables, as well as serving and cleaning up. Pastor Mario welcomed everyone and spoke on behalf of the staff expressing appreciation for everyone's contributions. The meal included burittos and sides from Jose's in Redlands. Each of the volunteers also got five tickets for a raffle of several gifts. After dinner the gifts were raffled off. Childcare was provided along with pizza for the kids.





## A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



*Marvalee Jorritsma*

MAY 16, 1938 - MAY 5, 2025



On Tuesday, May 27 members of the River joined Marvalee's family and friends for a Celebration of Marvalee's life. The day began with a graveside service at Riverside National Cemetery for the family and a few close friends. After the service the family came back to the River for a light lunch. Marvalee's service began at 1:00 PM. Marvalee's son, Doug, welcomed everyone. Pastor Scott opened with prayer and shared a few reflections on Marvalee's life and some scripture. Doug, Mike Jorritsma, Debbie Prins (Marvalee's daughter), and Austin Jorritsma, one of the grandchildren, shared memories of Marvalee. Sandi Wagner, Marvalee's other daughter, put together a slide show set to Psalm 23, Jesus Loves Me, and other Christian music. Noah and Hollyn Wagner, two of Marvalee's great grandchildren, read Psalm 23 and Pastor Rick brought a brief message from the Psalm. Arlen Hofman and Bill Bierling shared a few comments and closed the service with prayer and a benediction. Jeff Mercer and Jill Leonard did an amazing job providing music before and after the service, and leading the congregation in singing. The congregation sang It is Well, In the Garden, and Amazing Grace.



Carol	Jones	June 10
Marlene	Hekman	June 13
Mary	DeWaard	June 17
Joe	Adcock	June 18
Peter	Kremer	June 18
Cecil	Miller	June 21
William	Heemstra	June 26
Wayne	Reagan	June 28
Gladys	De Bruyne	June 30
Dick	Dirksen	July 01
Norma	DeDoes	July 02
Dennis	Barton	July 03
Erich	Melzer	July 07
Wanda	Bachman	July 11

### PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES

**Pearl Koning:** Pearl Koning is struggling with pneumonia. It has affected her appetite and caused some increase in confusion. She has been placed on hospice, not for end of life care but to qualify her for in home nursing, etc. They will continue to treat her pneumonia. Please pray for Pearl and all of her family as they navigate this new challenge.

**Pete and Betty Kremer:** Pete's condition has declined over the past few weeks. He began having seizures and is heavily medicated. The last two days, he has not been eating. The kids are with Pete and Betty a lot and they have brought a caregiver into the home. Pray for Pete, that he knows God's presence and peace as he walks through this part of his journey. Pray for Betty that she may know the Spirit's presence as she watches her husband of 68 years decline. Pray for the family as they care for and encourage their parents. Pray for the care givers that they might see Christ in the family in this difficult season.

**Chris and Jim Nydam and family:** Chris is undergoing six months of chemotherapy following surgery. She has some side effects but is doing well. She is avoiding exposure due to her compromised immune system.

**Dale and Glenda VanderTuig:** Dale fell in April and injured one of his vertebrae. He is healing up but still has some pain.

Continued on next page...



## **Prayer Requests and Praises continued from last page...**

**Bruce and Karen Grip:** Karen is doing well after knee surgery April 14. Please pray for her continuing recuperation and therapy.

**Harold Milligan:** Harold is doing better after another short stay at the hospital. He finally got his CPAP machine which seems to be helping. Please continue to pray for Harold as he struggles with his ongoing health issues.

**Jack and Mae Bailey:** Jack has been moved to Skilled Nursing at Plymouth Village after numerous falls. Mae is in the memory care unit there. Please keep them in prayer for their health issues and for the pain of being apart after so many years. Jack does try to get to the hymns twice a week in the memory support facility.

**Rich and Karen Jarvis:** Karen and Rich are traveling right now, but she will continue therapy after she gets home and may be facing the possibility of another surgery to fuse vertebrae in her neck. Pray for strength and endurance as they travel and for her medical treatment when they get back.

**Debbie Clinton:** Debbie remains on the list for a liver and kidney transplant. She is at home and is limiting contact with crowds to avoid getting sick. Please continue to pray for her and her kids as they care for her.

**Pastor Bill and Harriet Bierling:** From Bill, "Good news is that Harriet is now having her weekly transfusions at Loma Linda in Beaumont. A big praise the Lord! Continue to pray for strength during her treatments each week."

**Norma Greenfield:** Norma is doing better and getting around, but please continue to pray for her health and strength.

**Roger and Theora Whitman:** Roger completed his treatment for erythrodermic cutaneous T-cell lymphoma and is in the evaluation phase. In this phase he will continue treatments as long as doctors think it is effective. Continue to pray for Roger and his family in this journey and for their travels back and forth to LA.

**Glenn and Claire Huibregtse:** Glen continues to have quarterly cancer treatments. Praise God, the treatments have lowered his cancer markers and he has not had any side effects and feels good. Please be in prayer for their daughter, Wendy, and their family. Wendy is still experiencing severe migraines. They are still trying to decide on options for treatment. Glenn and Claire thank you for your prayers and concern.

**Grace Florence:** Grace is making progress but continues to need prayer.

**Chuck and Joy Griffin:** Praise God the spot doctors were concerned about was not cancerous. They will be monitoring him over the coming months. Continue to pray for Chuck and Joy as they manage Chuck's ongoing health issues.

**Dick Dirksen:** Dick is able to be in church most Sundays but continues to have in-home care during the day.

**Jean Wagner:** Jean continues to have severe knee pain but is doing well under the circumstances and staying as active as possible. Praise God for her strength and determination!

**Sohail and Sonia Samson:** Sonia is basically homebound most of the time with a debilitating auto-immune disease. Sohail stays home as her primary caregiver. Please pray for God's continuing grace and strength as they manage Sonia's pain, weakness, and limitations.

**Remember All of Our Nonagenarians:** We have twelve members in their 90s and several people a couple of years away from 90. Praise God for long life and their life with us at The River. With long life often comes increasing aches and pains and ongoing health concerns. .