

FAITH'S MINISTRY PROGRAMS

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Coffee Break strives to reach out to women seeking to know more about God's Word, and facilitate community among women of all ages. This study meets on Wednesday mornings and includes women from in our congregation and many from the community. Coffee Break also includes Little Lambs and Story Hour for preschool children.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) works to reach out to children of the community with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The churches in Pella all cooperate in this all-town event for one week in June. Each church hosts a different age group, Faith routinely hosting 3rd graders and usually hosts 90-100 kids. The congregation rallies around this outreach, volunteering in many ways to make VBS meaningful and fun for the kids.

Project Serve brings together those willing to serve God and encourage others in their faith by going out to serve in Jesus' name and working where there is a need. This team sends out two or three work teams each year to domestic and international locations. In recent years, members of Faith have served in Cary, Mississippi, Nicaragua, Honduras and Compton, California.

Backpack Program is a program that Faith supports, providing food to needy area school children. Healthy packaged food is sent home with specific children in backpacks for weekend use.

Kid's Hope is a program where adults mentor at-risk children, identified by teachers, from 3 community elementary schools. They aim to provide adult mentorship guidance and friendship.

Umbrella of Care encompasses several ways to serve at Faith. There are many ways members of Faith excel in service and this program helps them serve in areas where they are gifted. Whether it's home repair, car maintenance, food preparation and serving, visiting the elderly or sick, sending cards to church family members, there's a spot for all of Faith members to serve.

The Mission Team works to encourage the congregation to be personally involved with the missionaries we support and to encourage them to be mission-minded. Opportunities include Project Angel Tree, Christian Reformed Home Missions, the Back to God Hour, and Pella Pro-Life.



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FELLOWSHIP

Daybreak Bible Study is a Bible study that meets every Tuesday morning at 6:15 AM helping women of all ages grow in the Word together. This group has members from in and outside the congregation.

The Fellowship Team works to provide Christian fellowship opportunities within the congregation. Some of the events routinely planned are the Fall Dinner, Pastor Appreciation lunch, the All-Church Picnic, game nights, senior citizen outings, and a graduation celebration for all graduates.

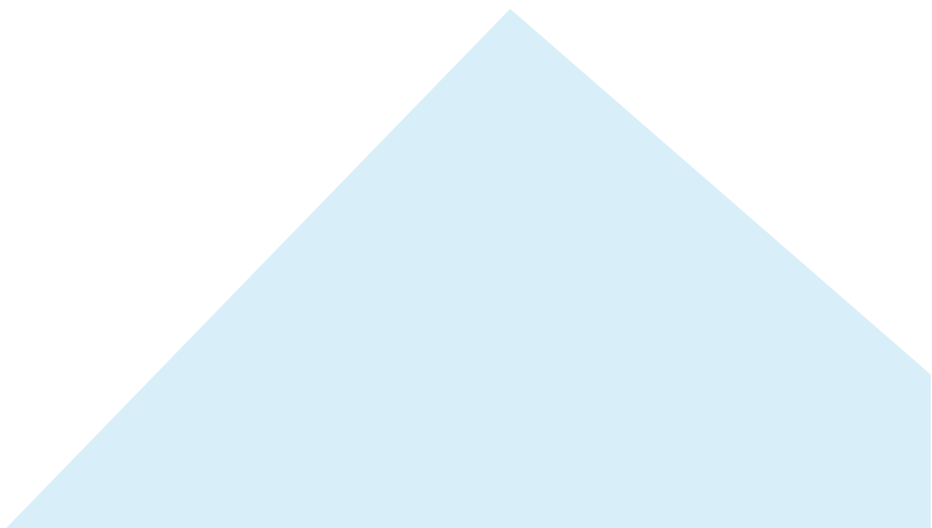
Friendship Bible Hour operates to help those with mental disabilities in their spiritual growth. This group of adults meets on Tuesday evenings for singing, Bible study, and fellowship. The group has members from Faith and other churches in the community.

Men's Prayer Breakfast is a group of men of all ages who meet together for an hour on Saturday mornings to grow in active prayer, supplication and thanks.

The Prayer Chain works to encourage the congregation by supporting each other in prayer. It is a means used to circulate prayer requests or praises by telephone or email to all church members in a timely fashion.

The Prayer Team meets on Wednesday evenings to pray for our church and all of the groups meeting.

Small Group Ministries are in place to provide community within our congregation in a deeper way through relationships and "doing life together." These groups meet at times that work for each group and study Bible study material that is chosen by the group.



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DISCIPLESHIP

Cadets helps grow boys spiritually, physically, mentally and socially through activities, projects and Bible lessons. It is a club for boy in grades 3-8 that meets every Wednesday evening. Faith's Cadets includes boys and leaders from Faith and other churches.

GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior) is a club for girls grades 3-8 that meets alternate Wednesday evenings. It's a group that encourages girls in their spiritual life, and includes girls from Faith and other churches.

Sunday School classes meet every Sunday morning after church for ages 4-adult. One Faith volunteer oversees the Sunday School curriculum and organization and works closely with Faith's Youth Director.

Faith Young People's is a youth group for teens in 9th-12th grades that meets Wednesday evenings for Bible study, service projects, fellowship and tons of fun! Through these activities the teens learn more about the Christian walk. Our youth group is led by our Youth Director and other adult leaders.

FAITH'S WORSHIP STYLE

Faith desires that its worship allows members and non-memers to encounter and experience God through meaningful services. A thematic approach is utilized during worship. The services are planned by individual members of the Worship Ministry Team. This involves choosing the music and the style in which the music will be sung. Lay members of the congregation lead worship as members of praise teams. Children's messages are included in each morning service and another member of the congregation or the pastor delivers a message to them. They are then dismissed for Kids of the Kingdom, a time spent in singing, a Bible story, a snack and games.

Most services utilize piano, keyboard, drums and guitars. Occasional services are led by piano or organ alone. While live music is preferred for singing, CDs are routinely used as gathering and/or exit music and as accompaniment for solo or small group music. Our morning services are intended to be a blending of old and new elements. Over the past few years, our congregation has joined area churches in large combined evening services once a month.

HISTORY OF FAITH CRC

It all started with a few families from Calvary Christian Reformed Church acting on a vision of starting a daughter church. They began meeting in the summer of 1968 at Pella Christian Grade School. People from other congregations soon joined in with this emerging group.

On October 10, 1968 an organizational meeting was held. Faith Christian Reformed Church was the name they chose. Forty-two families were received as members.

In February 1969 God provided the opportunity to purchase property at the corner of 10th and University. This was near the new public high school and many homes were being built in that area.

Groundbreaking for the building was April 8, 1969. Over the next ten months countless hours of volunteer labor were provided as church members worked alongside the contractors to construct the new building. On February 8, 1970 members worshipped in their new sanctuary and dedication service was held June 21, 1970.

During the first ten years, the membership of Faith grew from 42 families to 114. New families were moving to Pella for employment and newly married couples were joining the young church.

In 1996 Faith CRC was blessed to support the beginning of their own daughter church, Grace Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, as a joint effort with Calvary CRC.

Over the past decades the council and congregation have made thought worthy changes to some policies including in 2008 the change in selection process of council members from election to random selection of nominees approved by the council and affirmed by the congregation. Since 2011 women have served the office of deacon and elder for our church. In 2012 children were welcomed to partake in the sacrament of communion upon the discernment of their parents.

2018 marked the 50th anniversary of Faith Christian Reformed Church. It was celebrated with a Saturday evening meal and program in which all living previous pastors joined in fellowship that night and Sunday morning worship.

As we proceed into the future with God's leading the vision Faith Church is to live to serve our neighborhood, community, and God's world with the love of Jesus.