

Steps to take to forgive from your heart...

- ① In prayer, declare your decision to _____, then ask God to _____ the person.
- ② Live out your forgiveness in _____ and _____.
- ③ When possible, seek _____.

Life Application questions

- *What important truths about forgiveness has God taught you from his Word today?*
- *Is there a place where you feel bound by hurt and bitterness in your past?*
- *Who has God placed on your heart to forgive?*
- *What is it, specifically, that you need to forgive? How has this impacted you?*
- *What step can you take today to begin the process of forgiveness?*

Sermon audio and notes are available online at
www.rockfordreformedchurch.org/sermons-2/

Prayer Fellowship

Recovery & Intercession:

- ~**Dennis Vander Kuyl** is recovering from knee replacement surgery on April 13.
- ~**Dave Mundwiler** recent test results show no change – stable! Continues treatments every 3 weeks.
- ~**Shirley Barth** is home but under Hospice Care.
- ~**Bill Boyd** continues dialysis and awaits a transplant.
- ~**Ray Dulyea** continued prayer his kidney “numbers” will not change.
- ~Be in prayer for **disaster victims**, and **people searching for jobs**.
- ~Pray for our military: **Phil Scholten, Nick Welch** and all military personnel.

Extended Family:

- ~**Helen Heemstra** (Terri Katsma’s mom) undergoing chemo treatments.
- ~**Russ VerMerris** (Kevin’s dad) continues chemo treatments.
- ~**Dawson Babiak** (nephew of VandenHeuvels) in maintenance phase of chemo.

Sympathy:

Sympathy is expressed to **Carol Knox & Ruth Hosler and families** at the death of their brother, **Bob Mellema**, on April 16.

Welcome!

We are glad you're here! We want your experience to be a good one, so we have put together a bit of info to help you know what to expect while you are here.

Our worship service: Thanks for joining us today! We will begin the service with singing. Feel free to stand, sing, or just listen as we express our worship to God. If you don't know the songs, don't worry, just follow along with the words on the screen!

The message: This is a time of practical teaching from the Bible. Often, multi-media presentations are incorporated to supplement the message. There is space in the bulletin to take notes if you wish.

The offering: This is a time to share with the church how God has blessed us financially. If you are visiting, don't feel you have to contribute. The only thing we'd like from you is your connections card (bulletin insert).

Prayer time: We will pray together a couple of times throughout the service.

Refreshments: Join us for coffee in the lobby after service! Visitors may pick up a complementary gift mug and welcome packet. If you have any questions, this is the place to find answers!

Childcare: Your children are welcome to remain with you throughout the service! We love that our church is a welcoming place for families. We do have a nursery for children ages 0-3 years if you would prefer to use that. We also have a parent-infant room near the back of the sanctuary for fussy children and nursing mothers. Children ages 3-7 are invited to participate in Children's Worship, an age-appropriate worship and learning time. Children start service with their parents and will be dismissed part way through. If you are unfamiliar with this program, you are encouraged to accompany your kids the first time. They can be picked up after each service in Room 112 on the lower level. Children 8 and older are encouraged to remain in the service with their parents. Children's bulletins are available.

Formality: We have no dress code. Whether you are in jeans or a tux, we're just glad you're here! You are also welcome to sip your coffee or read along with scripture passages on your mobile devices. We just ask that you silence your phones as a courtesy to others.

To learn more about our ministries and beliefs, be sure to pick up a welcome packet in the lobby or visit our website: rockfordreformedchurch.org.

Vision: To always be a living reflection of Christ's hands, feet, and voice in the community.

Mission: To connect people to Jesus Christ and encourage them to grow in their relationship with Him through worship and fellowship, so they will reach out to serve and disciple others for the glory of God.

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Rockford Reformed Church
connecting • growing • serving

Sunday, May 1, 2016
Worship @ 8:45am & 11:00am

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONGS OF WORSHIP

Build Your Kingdom Here, Grace Alone

OFFERING

How Marvelous

Children (ages 3-7) are invited to Children's Worship downstairs

PRAYER

MOMENT FOR MISSION: The Other Way Ministries, Kurt Reppart

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32 (p.892)

MESSAGE

“Life Together: The Freedom of Forgiveness”

Pastor Paul Bradford

COMMUNION

Jesus Paid It All



RESPONSE

From The Inside Out

CLOSING BLESSING

Today's Nursery Volunteers:

(8:45am) Julie Ringnald, Brianna Knapp
(11:00am) Beth & Anna Triesenberg, Kori Yurick

Today's Children's Worship Volunteers:

(8:45am) Chris Knapp, Nicholas Knapp
(11:00am) Nancy Steenwyk



Next Sunday: “Life Together: Living in the Light”
Ephesians 5:1-17 (p.892) • Pastor Paul Bradford

What's Going On?

Today:

8:20am & 10:40am: Prayer in Pastor Paul's office to pray over the services. All welcome!

10:00am: Sunday School for all ages. Last Week!!! Until Fall.

Ages 3, 4, & DK meet in Classroom #122

Grades K-5th meet in Classroom #101

Middle School (grades 6-8) Youth Room #153

Senior High (grades 9-12) Classroom #246

Adult Class: "The Four Gospels," led by Bren Shantz. Meet in the Fireside Room #253.

Sun, May 1: Worship Team Meeting/Lunch following 2nd service.

6:30pm: High School Youth Group. End of year party. Leave church at 2:30pm!!

This Week:

Tuesdays, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Breakfast. Join us any time.

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00am: "What's So Amazing About Grace" (by Phillip Yancy), led by Marcia Coleman & Jean Boyd in Room #212.

Wed, May 4, 10:0am: Adult Fellowship Group. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, goodies and great conversation. Everyone welcome!

Wednesday, 6:30pm: MS Youth Group. Last meeting. End of year party!

Thurs, May 5: National Day of Prayer. The sanctuary will be open 8:00am to 4:30pm for those who would like to come and pray.

Every other Friday, 6:30-7:30am: Men's Breakfast & Study – "33," a look at the 33 years of Jesus' life on earth. Meet in the gym for a "real" breakfast. Next meeting is May 6.

Fridays, 9:30-11:00am: Women's Bible Study – "Unglued" (Lysa TerKeurst) led by Emillie Clayton & Trisha Van Stensel in the Fireside Room #253. (Child care provided)

Announcements/Events - GENERAL:

Mailboxes and bulletin boards have been moved to the church office hallway. Each family now has a hanging file folder. Consistory, Staff, Ministry Teams, Bible Studies, etc. still have a designated mail area and there is a table in the hallway for flyers, sign-ups, etc. We hope this is a solution that will work for everyone.

Kids Hope Book Drive: New books needed for Valley View Elem. Kids Hope reading incentive. Deadline is TODAY!

Sun, May 8: Blood Pressure Screening after both services in Rm#211.

"One Sunday" Pentecost Special Offering on May 15. This offering provides opportunities to support local church planting efforts. Use the special offering envelope from your packet, or a pew envelope, and mark it "Pentecost" to have it posted to your givings. Be sure your name and/or offering envelope number are on the envelope. *Make checks out to Rockford Reformed Church.*

"Buy A Brick" – Purchase a brick for our Memorial Prayer Garden with the name of your loved one. (\$40) Order forms available on the table in the church office hallway. Orders due May 30.

On-line Giving now available. You can give directly from your phone or computer! There's a link to the form on the front page of our website www.RockfordReformedChurch.org



Announcements/Events - YOUTH:

Brian Ellis: brian@rockfordrc.org

Sundays, 10:00am: Sunday School. Last Week!!! Until Fall.

Sundays, 2:30pm: HS Youth Group. End of year party – Canoe Race. Meet at church at 2:30pm!!!

Wednesdays, 6:30pm: MS Youth Group. End of year party!! In Youth Room #153.

Mission Trips: HS June 12-18, MS July 31-Aug 6

Announcements/Events - CHILDREN:

Children's Ministries – Beth Jennings, Director: beth@rockfordrc.org

Pioneer Clubs – Laura Jolliffe, Coordinator: laura@rockfordrc.org

Sun, July 24 – Wed, July 27, 6-8pm: "Cave Quest" Vacation Bible School for ages 3 years through those who have completed 5th grade. Register your children now at www.rockfordreformedchurch.org/vbs/

Attendance / Finance:

Last week's attendance: 281

Last week's Ministry & Missions offering: \$10,828.81

Last week's FLC Debt Reduction offering: \$5,410.00

The Freedom of Forgiveness 7th in Series: Life Together

Text: 4:26-27,31-32

Sunday: 5/1/2016

Intro

God's Word

① **Anger, bitterness, and malice.**

② **Why forgive?**

Ⓐ Because God _____.

Ⓑ So we can be _____.

③ **Forgiveness is not...**

Ⓐ Minimizing the _____ of the offense.

Ⓑ _____.

Ⓒ Ignoring _____ behavior.

Ⓓ Inconsistent with _____.

④ **Forgiveness is...**

Ⓐ Releasing a person from a _____ _____.

Ⓑ An act of _____ in God to make all _____ right.

Ⓒ An act of the _____.

Ⓓ A choice to overcome _____ with _____.

Ⓔ A key that _____ _____ from the past and allows you to _____.

Ⓕ An expression of _____ _____.

Our Response

The Bible commands you to _____ as God _____; this will _____ and _____ your soul.