

1 Samuel 4:1b-22
Putting God in a Box

Main Point: When our faith is more superstition than worship & repentance, we need a renewed vision of the Sovereign Lord who won't be put in a box.

I. The Disaster of Superstitious Faith (4:1-11)

II. The Discipline of Our Sovereign LORD (4:12-22)



Faith Reformed
BOLDLY LIVING GOD'S WORD

February 4, 2024

Liz Eberspacher

Prelude
Congregational Sharing
*Greeting One Another

APPROACH TO GOD

*Call to Worship Psalm 99:1-5
*Song of Praise
 Praise to the Lord the Almighty
*Prayer of Praise
* Song of Praise
 You've Already Won

RENEWAL IN CHRIST

Confession of Sin
Assurance of Forgiveness Heb. 10:19-23
*Song of Assurance
 Jesus Thank You
Presentation of New Members

THE WORD OF GOD

Children's Church (3–5-year-olds)
Scripture Reading 1 Samuel 4:1b-22
Sermon "Putting God in a Box" Page 269

RESPONSE TO GOD

Offertory Prayer
Song of Response *Thou Art Worthy* Hymn #72
 *Affirmation of Faith From WCF 2.2
Congregational Prayer
*Benediction
*Doxology
*Postlude Mary Holle

*Congregation standing if able

FAITH REFORMED CHURCH

Rev. Zach Tarter, Pastor Jon Damkot, Youth Director
243 S 4th St, Cedar Grove, WI 53013 920.668.6725
www.faithreformedchurch.org

Our Worship

As we gather to worship this morning through faith in Christ, we are entering into conversation with God as He speaks in His Word and is with us by the Spirit. Our worship service has an intentional movement that focuses on the Gospel:

- We begin with our **APPROACH TO GOD**, hearing a call to worship from His word and then responding to Him with songs and prayers of praise.
- We then have a time of **RENEWAL IN CHRIST** in which we confess our sins and hear His promise of forgiveness in His word and through song.
- Assured of His grace, we then listen to **THE WORD OF GOD** as it is preached from our passage for that day, and we all receive the sacrament of communion monthly as a “visible word” from God.
- After hearing the Word preached, we end our service with our **RESPONSE TO GOD**. We give offerings, affirm our faith, pray for needs in the congregation and world, and hear a blessing from God before singing a final praise to Him.

Through it all, God intends to bless us and change us by His grace so that we would go into the world to live for His glory. So let us come in humble faith, ready to hear and respond to our God and Savior.

Reflections

“That is what I call rabbit-foot theology. When we...operate this way, our concern is not to seek God but to control him, not to submit to God but to use him. So we prefer religious magic to spiritual holiness; we are interested in success, not repentance... Yahweh will suffer shame rather than allow you to carry on a false relationship with him; and Yahweh will allow you to be disappointed with him if it will awaken you to the sort of God he really is” (Ralph Davis, *1 Samuel*, p. 54-55).

If you wish to reach Pastor Zach, you may dial the church office or reach him by cell phone at 920-212-5489. His office hours are Tuesday-Friday 9:30-5:30. If you are unable to reach Pastor Zach you may contact the Elder on call. The Elder on call for February is Andy Brill (920-917-8690).

Prayer Guide

Praises and Thanksgivings

Jesus Resurrection
Our living hope in Jesus

Petitions

That our state and nation would value life and protect life in the womb
For people to hear the gospel hope
A heart of submission to Christ
Spiritual wisdom and discernment
Commitment to be reading Scripture
Discipline and courage to obey
To be guided by Scripture, not culture
Courage to stand firm for the gospel
Our ministry in the PCA
Pastor Zach Tarter
Jon Damkot – Youth Director
BJ Hilbelink – Pastoral Assistant
Disciple making at Faith Reformed
Spiritual revival
Our government leaders
Our youth to grow in Christ
Those serving in the military
The unity of Cedar Grove churches
Those with addictions/in jail or prison
Our persecuted brothers & sisters

Health

Shirley Wieberdink – came home on Friday, prayers for continued healing.
Norm DeRuyter – continued prayers that the toe continues to heal and will not need surgery.
Rich & Linda Dykstra – prayers for ongoing health concerns
Ruth Ann Wieberdink – back has been some better, continue to pray for healing
Donna Caljouw – continued prayers as she continues to get treatment for her cancer
Edie Beernink – continues to be on oxygen and will be having a pacemaker put in in the coming weeks.
Rob Danforth - prayers for continued healing and strength after suffering a cardiac arrest last Monday
Don Schreurs – is at Pine Haven Oostburg Campus, prayers as he has decided to discontinue treatment for his cancer

Shut-ins

Wayne Navis
Neil Bruggink
Delores Droppers
Herb Dirkse – Cedar Grove Gardens, Building 2 – room 10

Mission & Outreach

Converge – Tom & Tanya Clyde
For our unchurched neighbors

Schedule

TODAY

Men's Breakfast – 7:00am
Worship Service – 9:00am
Sunday School – 10:30am

Monday – 6:30pm Women's Ministry Team Meeting

Tuesday – 1:30pm Ladies of Faith
-6:30pm Women's Bible Study
-8:15pm Men's Bible Study

Wednesday – 6:00pm Connect
- 6:30pm Quest
- 6:30pm Prayer Group
- 7:45pm Men's Bible Study

Thursday – 6:00am Men's Bible Study
- 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 4:30-6:00pm Food Pantry

Saturday – 8:00am - Noon Women's "Belong" conference at Faith

UPCOMING EVENTS AT FAITH:

February 12 – Blood Bank
February 21 – Youth Soup Supper Fundraiser at Calvary

Ushers for February: Jeff Broetzmann, Gil Meinen, Brian Beernink

Nursery for February 4: Janice Hesselink & Wyatt Dolfen

Nursery for February 11: Alyssa Obbink & Nolan Meinen

Refreshments for February: Care Group #6 (Shelli & Linda)

Greeters February 4 – **Narthex:** BJ & Colette Hilbelink Family
- **Great Room:** Jan & Kim Hoitink

Greeters February 11 - **Narthex:** Jeff & Vicki Hollander
- **Great Room:** Al & Mary Holle

Serving in the Military:

Jackson DeRuyter

*Pray for all our troops serving around the world

Family Life at Faith

The Cedar Grove Area Food Pantry served 30 families at the January Food Pantry. The next Food Pantry will be held on Thursday, February 8th. **Right now, we are low on cereal, canned vegetables & fruits, soup, and paper products. We are also asking for gloves. Many people that came this month were asking for them.** Please check the expiration dates on your donations! If you could help us serve one month – please contact Faith Reformed Church (920-668-6725). Thank you for your generosity!

For Love INC in February, we will be collecting **Towels & Linens:** bath towels, hand towels, washcloths, blankets, sheets, and pillowcases. Gently used items accepted. For questions on your donations, please contact your Love, Inc Representative, Jodi Danforth (920-254-1385). Thank you.

The 2024 Women's Conference at Faith is this Saturday from 8:00am – Noon. This year we have the pleasure of hearing from author and speaker Susan Tyner on the theme "Belong". Explore how the messy and seemingly unlikely women in Jesus' genealogy fit into God's redemption plan for humanity.

This is a morning of worship, fellowship, food, crafts, and shopping. Registration is now live on the church website under Special Events: <https://www.faithreformedchurch.org/special-events-2/>.

All women are welcome, so invite your family, friends, and coworkers by simply sharing the link! As always, if you have any questions, you can contact anyone on the women's ministry team.

Ladies of Faith will meet Tuesday, February 6th at 1:30pm. Bible study #1 will be led by Muriel Meinen. Hostesses are Muriel Meinen and Delores Bruggink. You can pick up a copy of the secretary/treasure's reports in the information center.

Seniors, save the date - The Care Connection will be hosting a Senior Luncheon here at Faith Church on Wednesday, May 1st. More information and sign-up sheet to come in the coming weeks.

The February Newsletter was sent out this week. If you prefer a paper copy, you can pick on up at the information center.

Family Life at Faith

Men's Retreat: For all men 11th grade & older, the Wisconsin Presbytery is again hosting a retreat at the Green Lake Conference Center. The retreat starts on Friday, March 15 @ 5:00pm and ends on Saturday, March 16 @ 3:00pm. The speaker this year is Dr. Irwyn Ince, the Coordinator for Mission to North America, and he will lead us in a study of Hebrews. This is a wonderful time to gather with men in our church and around Wisconsin for fellowship and spiritual growth, while also enjoying some basketball, cards, and good food! **If you are planning to attend, please indicate so on the sign-up in the Narthex. We need to register by February 11th.**

Care Connection – We are looking for some new members. Some of our responsibilities include caring for those in our congregation and the community around us. We have done this a number of different ways. We supply the necessary supplies for the prayer blankets that are made by our 7th and 8th grade students, give out gift cards for those who are struggling or going through a difficult time, gifts for new brides in our church and also for new babies born into the church and miscellaneous other ways. If you are interested and feel that this would be a good fit for you – please see Debbie Meeusen or Wendy Wonser.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE SHEBOYGAN KICK-OFF RALLY

When: Sunday, **FEBRUARY 11, 2024, 1:30 PM** – 3:30 PM

Where: **Knights of Columbus Hall**, 833 Center Avenue, Sheboygan

Guest Speakers: **Anne & Tim Shininger** will share the story of their daughter, Monica Rose, who was born with genetic abnormalities, and how she was a blessing to them and others around her.

This will “kick-off” the Lent 40 Days for Life peaceful, prayerful vigil which begins Ash Wednesday, February 14.

Please join us and be inspired to be a witness for the sanctity of life. You’ll be home in plenty of time to settle in and watch the Super Bowl later that afternoon.

You are welcome to join us at First Reformed Church, Cedar Grove on Saturday, February 10 for our FRC Café Valentine Dinner & Talent Show! Doors open at 5:30, dinner at 6:00 with talent show to follow. Let us know if you’d like to come. Call the church at 920-668-6261. It is appreciated but not essential to know attendance by Sunday, February 4.

Youth News

CORE (Grades 6-12) - ***Tonight, February 4th*** Core small group Bible studies meet at **Faith Reformed** from **6:00-7:00PM!**

CONNECT (Grades 6-12) - **Wednesday, February 7th** students are invited to Connect with each other and God at **Faith Reformed** from **6:00-7:30PM!** Worship begins at 6:20.

QUEST (Grades 5K-5) - **Wednesday, February 7th** Quest will meet at **Faith Reformed** from **6:30-7:30PM**. Registration and games begin at 6:10.

Soup Songs & Serving Christ - The youth group will hold a soup supper at **Calvary OPC** to support our summer mission trip. On **Wednesday, February 21st** we'll serve dinner from **4:30-6:30PM** and the Connect band will hold a concert in the sanctuary at 6:30PM. You can dine in, take it to-go, or order **delivery** at this link: <https://faithcedargrove.breezechms.com/form/SSS24>

Soup Songs & Serving Christ Envelope Drive - One way you can donate to the fundraiser is by **donating ingredients through our envelope drive**. To do so, it's as simple as picking up an envelope in the Narthex, putting the specified amount in the envelope, and dropping it in the collection plate before **Sunday, February 18th**. Thanks for your continued support of the youth!

HS Baltimore Mission Trip - This summer, incoming freshmen through current seniors are invited to serve alongside Inverness Presbyterian Church from June 22-29! Forms (including trip information) are due **Sunday, February 18th** and can be found at the link below.

HS FORT Winter Retreat (Grades 9-12) - This year's retreat at Crescent Lake Bible Camp is rescheduled for **March 1-3**. Forms (including trip information) are due **Sunday, February 18th** and can be found at the link below.

FORT & Baltimore
forms: <https://www.faithreformedchurch.org/events/youth/>
