

THE CHURCH OF THE DAMASCUS ROAD

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CODR'S MISSION:

to break the vicious cycle of incarceration by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ both inside and outside the prison walls. We help individuals take responsibility for their lives and provide a healthy support system for their reentry into society.



It's all about the Love!

We're off to a great start so far this year with our service in Rockwell City growing and new opportunities to share the Gospel in the Fort Dodge Prison. God has given us his amazing love and we get the privilege of sharing it with others. We are truly blessed!

The calendar is filling up! Pastor Kelli would love to visit your church or community group and share about the mission of CODR Prison Ministry!

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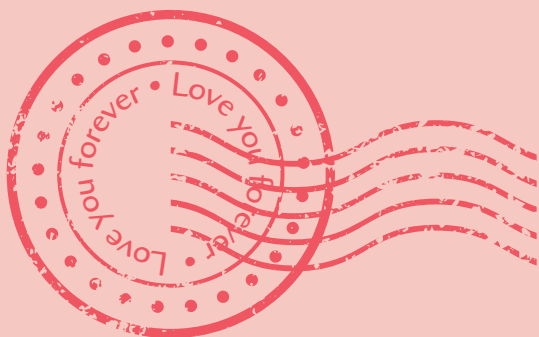
Letter from the Pastor

Happy belated Valentines Day! I hope yours was as good as mine. I am continually amazed and humbled by the relationships God has blessed me with. It's definitely not my doing and can only be explained by God's grace



2024 is shaping up to be an awesome year for CODR Prison Ministry. We're planning our Easter Service at the Fort Dodge Prison and looking forward to offering baptism there for the first time in 5 years! We've also identified our volunteer team and begun the training process for Prison Fellowship Academy at FDCF which will start toward the end of March.

Our worship service at Rockwell City has been steadily growing to 30-35 men and we're hoping to run out of chairs soon! (I'm sure we can find more:) The guys we're supporting, in our Reentry Program, have been working hard and making great progress in their transition back to society. None of this is possible without your generous support so thank you so much for all you do! You are making a huge difference in a lot of lives!



A NOTE FROM JAN

(OUR BELOVED OFFICE MANAGER)

Hi everyone, I am the office manager for Church of the Damascus Road. I have worked here for 5 ½ years and in that time I've seen our special church go through some big changes, especially during Covid 19. There were many days during the pandemic when I wondered if we were ever going to get back in the prisons, but thankfully we've been able to have services again.

I was raised on a farm north of Humboldt, IA and attended school there through high School. My family and I attended the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in Humboldt where I enjoyed singing with my two sisters and mother. We loved attending church as a family.

I have lived in Fort Dodge for 40 years now and currently attend First Covenant Church where I still enjoy singing in the choir in addition to attending all of the women's activities.

My favorite Bible verse is John 3:16. That verse means a lot to me. I made Jesus Christ the center of my life when I was in my teens and have been a member of the Christian faith ever since. It's been a great pleasure serving the CODR Prison Ministry. Thank you all for your support!

Janet Enderlin



SERMON on the MOUNT

Matthew 5-7

This month we've been taking a deep dive into one of the most relevant and meaningful sections of scripture, The Sermon on the Mount. Jesus has gotten baptized, spent time in the desert fasting and being tempted, now he's gathered his disciples and he wants to tell them what the Kingdom of Heaven is all about.

It's not what they're expecting. It's a kingdom where poverty is cherished and the humble are exalted. Jesus raises the bar on what it means to live righteously, challenges us to depend on him completely and warns against the sin of hypocrisy.

It's been an amazing journey as we're preparing for Jesus' death and resurrection. We've been feeling God's presence in awesome new ways and would love to have you come worship with us!

**THANK YOU TO THE
FOLLOWING
CHURCHES FOR
HAVING US COME
SPEAK!**

**1st Presbyterian
Fort Dodge IA**

**Spirit of Hope
Rockwell City IA**

**1st Covenant
Fort Dodge IA**

**Samuel LC
Eagle Grove IA**

**Zion/St. John LC
Sheffield IA**

**Grace LC
Spirit Lake IA**

HOUSING FACILITY UPDATE



It's taken longer than expected to find an acceptable option for our Reentry Housing Facility. The places we have looked at are either way too expensive to remodel or they're in the wrong location. We're taking our time

though and know that the right property will come when God says we're ready. In the meantime we're investing in a new bookkeeping system and new computers (much needed:) which will allow us to grow and maintain financial accountability in the years to come. Please keep the housing issue in your prayers as this continues to be the biggest obstacle individuals face after release. Thank You!

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- **The increased attendance at our Rockwell City service!**
- **The great relationship we have with our Fort Dodge City Leaders!**
- **Our faithful volunteers who make this ministry so much fun!**

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- **More local volunteers to help with reentry support and filling out our church council**
- **Safe and affordable housing options for Reentry**
- **Build new partnerships with local Employers**

A Special Thank you to our January Donors



Individuals

*Adam & Inga Sanford
Brian Underwood
Charles & Mary Sukup
Dale & Lisa Siebert
Dennis & Candace Booth
Mark & Connie Gustafson
Gary & Linda Eichelberger
George Hedges
Glen & Sharon Houts
Jim & Melinda McColley
Kelli & Leah Glasgo
Larry Lubinus
Lorae Current
Lyle & Hilda Hartling
Margaret Jackson
Melba Shelby
Marilyn Jorgensen Sill
Mel Renken
Steve & Barb Licata
Steve Pedersen*

Churches

*Augustana LC, Manson
Badger LC, Badger
Bethany LC, Emmetsburg
Bethany LC, Laurens
Elk Creek LC, Northwood
Faith LC, Marcus
Faith LC, Holstein
First LC, Algona
First LC, Milford
First PC, Fort Dodge
First PC, Lakota
Grace LC, Ft Dodge
Lost Island LC Women
Lost Island LC
New Covenant Christian
Church, Fort Dodge
Our Savior's LC, Albert City
Samuel LC, Eagle Grove
St. Paul LC, Rockwell City
St. Paul ELC, Manson
St. Paul LC, Treynor
Washington LC, Duncombe*



Volunteer Menu



Come Worship With Us!

Prison worship is amazing! The men inside are hungry for the Gospel and praise God with all their might. Our volunteers always say they get way more than they give.

Connie's Closet


Supplying the Men's Halfway house with basic needs: washcloths, men's coats, gloves, hats, sweatshirts and sweatpants (XL-3X), shirts (XL-5X), belts (all sizes), shoes (tennis shoes, black dress, non-slip and work boots, socks (6-12 size), underwear (L-3X), and plastic hangers. Donations can be dropped off at St. Olaf or Grace Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge Ia.

CODR Church Council

Come to one of our CODR Church Council meetings and see what we're all about. We would love to have you! Our next meeting is March 11th from 4:30-6pm at St. Olaf LC in Fort Dodge IA

Become a CODR Financial Partner

*We're able to do this incredible work because of the financial support we get from people like you. To give online, check out our website at codrcare.org or you can send a check to The Church of the Damascus Road
239 N 11th St, Fort Dodge, IA 50501*



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