

UPCOMING events

- Chili Cook-Off Nov. 13
- Thanksgiving Eve Service Nov. 27
- Advent begins Dec. 1
- Jingle Jam Dec. 11
- Bountiful Table Dec. 14
- Christmas Program Dec. 15

HAPPENINGS AT F R C



themilestone
AUTUMN 2019

LEADING EDGE

PASTOR TIM BREEN

Ever seen a “sanctuary scoreboard”?

We had one in the congregation of my youth, North Blendon Reformed Church. Our scoreboard wasn’t quite like the Points Per Team/Period of Play/Time Outs Remaining scoreboards that we see in gyms and football stadiums. This one featured congregational statistics: Sunday School Participation, Offering Totals, and Attendance Last Sunday. I think it actually had a spot for “Record Attendance” on the bottom.

Today, attendance-taking in church is becoming more difficult. It’s not that we’ve forgotten how to count, it’s that we don’t know *what* to count.

This is especially true for churches like ours. Why? It’s because there are a variety of different types of participation on Sunday mornings. And we never see all the people we’re reaching.

You’ll often hear me mention this at the beginning of a message: in addition to welcoming those of you who are seated in the pews, I take a moment to greet the folks who is joining our worship experience by other means. Though we don’t have precise statistics, there are reasons to believe that many persons are doing so.

Beginning around 50 years ago, FRC recognized the ministry opportunities available through radio broadcasting. In the decades since, untold people within KSOU’s broadcast range (roughly Sioux Falls to Sioux City to Spencer) have tuned in to hear singing and sermons on Sundays.

In the subsequent years, FRC worked with Northwestern College to provide tape-delayed presentations of its services for people who were subscribed to local-access cable. With the dawn of the internet age, our church began recording and posting its messages on the internet (*note: due to copyright restrictions, we are still unable to broadcast most musical numbers on the web*), this created avenues for people far beyond Northwest Iowa to tune in to our teachings.

More recently, FRC has invested in two 24/7 television stations and has begun live-streaming our services on the internet and social media. We’ve tried podcasting as well.

Like most new innovations, online and television broadcast church services are double-edged swords. In certain cases, they may contribute to smaller attendance in the pews. Trust me, we’re aware of this. But research continues to bear out that fact that there are incredible new opportunities to make first contact with seekers—and to bless Christians far from our sanctuary – through streaming services. Expect our congregation to continue to explore this mission field and to make targeted investments in technologies to help more people Glorify God, Know Christ, and Make Him Known!

HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP

TAIZE
COMMUNITY -

FRANCE



The focus of our trip to Taizé was on the growth and development of each trip participants' faith. Each day we attended three contemplative chapel sessions in the Taizé Community that involved worship, prayer, reflections on Scripture, and silence. Additionally, we worked closely with, and had daily small group discussions with other teenagers from all over the world. Over 2,000 students from Germany, France, Spain, Italy, and other countries shared this experience with us.

Undoubtedly, God used this experience to broaden the perspective of our group, and gave us a better understanding of what it means to be a Christian in our world. The Holy Spirit gave our group strength, attention, curiosity, and the right words to share with the people we met at the Taizé Community. From Orthodox Serbians, to British Anglicans, Catholic Germans, and agnostic Italians, our group learned, shared our faith, and built trust with other students from a swath of backgrounds we couldn't have met on any other single trip.

The donors who helped make this trip possible don't know the true value of this trip, and to a certain extent no person knows the dividends this experience will provide our trip participants in the future. I believe, however, that the formative experience during this trip, and the identity-forming memory of it has altered the trajectory of the lives of the people that went, for the better. Thank you.



WELCOME

LITTLE ONES



Madelyn Vande Brake

Born: May 29
Parents: Kolbie & Tony
Vande Brake

Connor Warntjes

Born: May 30
Parents: Heather & Taylor
Warntjes

Cora Mangold

Born: September 10
Parents: Rebecca &
Dan Mangold



NEW FACES



Greg & Dawn Steggerda

Greg is the Director of Journey to Excellence at Diamond Vogel and Dawn is a piano teacher. They enjoy spending time with their grandkids and traveling.



Lee & Jo De Groot

Lee & Jo are Donna Muilenburg's parents. Jo lives here in Orange City and Lee is a resident at Pleasant Acres in Hull.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON...

AMANDA HAVERDINK, WORSHIP COORDINATOR

Amanda is deep in planning for the Christmas season! If your child would like a speaking part for the Kids Christmas Program (December 15, 5:30 PM) please let her know! She is also picking out music for (Crusty Rusty) Christmas Brass Ensemble.

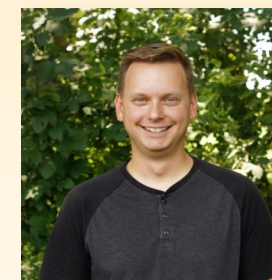


MARK HAVERDINK, PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Autumn is in full swing, which means some pretty busy times for our community. The schools are abuzz with activities and athletic events. The fall church calendar starts to hum as well. The Wednesday Night meals have started & there are opportunities to get involved with a small group & the men's breakfasts. These are all wonderful to get involved in, as well as growing closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If you are interested in any of these ministries please don't hesitate to let me know.

MISSY DOKTER, DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The Women's Ministries Team is planning a Coffee Conversation in November and a Christmas Cookie Exchange & Caroling event in December, and we would love for you to join in the fun! Sign up for the Soul Sisters re:Source (a digital weekly newsletter) by Emailing missy@frcoc.org, like the Soul Sisters Facebook page, and stay tuned for details about these and more upcoming opportunities!!!



ROSS ENGER, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

This fall our youth ministry begins a new curriculum through The Gospel Project. Each Wednesday, we, along with our youth sponsors, will look at a specific story from the Bible and explore what it means for how we live our lives. Then, on the following Sunday, we'll dig deeper into that theme by contrasting it with other Bible texts and sharing our thoughts with other adult volunteers. We'll have outreach events like Jump Scare night at Air Madness on October 26, and the annual High School retreat to Trout Lake Camp on November 8-10.

SARAH KUIPER, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

We have had a great first few weeks of Children's Ministries, and are looking forward to the rest of the year. We are looking forward to a Mother/Tween Daughter overnight retreat in November, and we have already started prepping for our Christmas Program, which is on Sunday, December 15th.



KEN OLDENKAMP, CONNECTIONS TEAM LEADER

The Connections Team has been excited to see many new faces around church and want to remind everyone to invite new neighbors, co-workers, and friends to join us. Gift boxes are available at the Welcome Center to give them when you invite them. The new coffee bar is a great place to meet and chat with someone you might not know.

KINGDOM PARTNERSHIP

What is the origin and mission of Remember Niger Coalition?

In 2006, I was sent by the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a missionary to work with the Evangelical Church of Niger (EERN), a Nigerian denomination. Inspired by the EERN's vision to transform their country through Christian education, I assisted its leaders in opening two new primary schools. However, I soon realized that in order for the leaders and members of the EERN to realize their inspired vision, more partners and funding would be necessary. I returned to the US in 2009, and The Remember Niger Coalition (RNC) was founded with the mission to unite people and mobilize resources to expand quality, Christian educational opportunities for children in Niger. We are motivated by Jesus' words in Matthew 25, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." We seek to unify people and mobilize resources to support and serve our Nigerian brothers and sisters in their efforts to create quality schools, and in so doing, answer God's call to 'help the least of these.'

What are the pressing needs of Nigerian kids? How are they alike (and different from) American students?

The need for quality Christian education in Niger is great. Niger currently ranks as the least developed country in the world —189th out of 189— on the UN's Human Development Index List. It is also the least educated country on the list, with only 50% of children attending primary school and 20% attending secondary school. Niger has the highest birth rate in the world, averaging over 7 children per woman. In fact, it is not uncommon for a child to have 10 and 12 siblings. Children are expected to work hard at home to contribute to the daily demands of family life. This includes bathing and caring for their younger siblings, gathering and preparing food, and taking care of other household needs. Just like children here in the US, Nigerian children like to play and laugh and develop friendships. They enjoy playing soccer, making crafts and learning new things in the classroom. They have a strong sense of community and a deep desire to contribute to the well-being of their country.

What are the biggest challenges to which members of First Reformed Church can commit themselves in prayer?

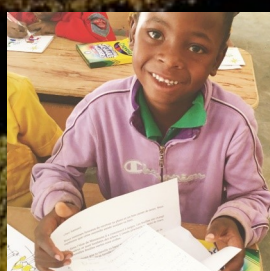
Wisdom and perseverance to continue to do the work that God has called us to, increased number of partnerships in Niger and the US, Financial resources to meet the basic needs of the students through Christian education and extending to proper nutrition, safety and good health, and discernment and God's leadership and direction as we move forward into the next decade

If someone wanted to sponsor a Nigerian child, what steps could they take?

We have a long list of children in Niger who can not attend school without the help of a sponsorship. The children in our sponsorship program includes orphans, the disabled and the very poor. A student sponsorship provides the cost of tuition as well as other supplies needed for a student to attend school for one year. The cost of a primary school sponsorship is \$420 per year or \$35 monthly. The cost to send a girl to secondary school is \$50 per month. To sponsor a student, please email Karen Pepin, our sponsorship coordinator, at karen@rememberniger.org. You may also visit our website at www.rememberniger.org/sponsorships for more information.



**KARA VANDERKAMP
NIGER**



SOLID ROCK MINISTRIES A MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

It was a fun summer for Solid Rock Ministries in Storm Lake. FRC collected close to 50 bicycles that were repaired and then given to the children in the area. Many of the children rode their bikes in a July 4th celebration parade. FRC held a VBS at Storm Lake for the area children. Volunteers helped out with activities and food over the 2 day event. The cover photo was taken at Storm Lake VBS. God continues to bless Solid Rock Ministries and we thank you for your continued support and prayers for this ministry as it grows!



NEW CLASSROOMS ADDED TO FRC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AREA



Check out the new classrooms in the children's ministry area! Five colorful classrooms were added, as well as a space for the Blocks & Knots ladies to work on their loving creations. Thank you to Gary Cleveringa and all the volunteers who worked so very hard over the summer months to complete this amazing space that was done in time for our fall kick off!