

A group of young men are playing pool in a recreation room. In the foreground, three men are focused on the game, leaning over the pool table. One man in a pink polo shirt is on the left, another in a white and pink striped polo is in the middle, and a third in a dark green t-shirt is on the right. In the background, a man in a black and white plaid shirt is smiling and looking towards the camera. The room has a casual, social atmosphere with other people visible in the distance.

themilestone fall 2021



first reformed church
ORANGE CITY, IA

THE LEADING EDGE

PASTOR TIM BREEN



I'm a big fan of summer road trips. For me, there are few things more delightful than seeing different parts of the country, observing the landscapes, and listening to a couple of good audiobooks along the way. During these warmer months, our family has had opportunities to do this, taking in parts of Kentucky, Tennessee, Colorado, and Wyoming through the windows of our van and RV. We love it.

While none of us enjoys road construction, there is one aspect of highway repair that I've always found fascinating. It happens when a section of 4-lane interstate requires full-on replacement, and the crews take on the project *all at once*, as it were.

Maybe you've seen this on one of your trips. The whole enterprise typically spans fifteen or twenty miles. As you drive along on the other side of the median, you'll first see the worn-out, time-to-be-replaced roads; for too long they've gotten along with patchwork asphalt and other temporary fixes. Behind this come the jackhammers and the cranes, taking apart and moving the old concrete to the side.

After a few miles come the concrete grinders and the road-leveling machines. They smooth out the earth beneath and turn the old material into crushed gravel. Drive on a little ways and you'll see crews working to lay frames and rebar to strengthen the forthcoming freeway.

Further down the line, perhaps a dozen miles distant from the destruction tools, are the crews and equipment laying down the new, smooth highway material. Last of all come the striping crews with their yellow and white lane-marking paints.

It's like seeing an entire road life-cycle in the span of half an hour.

This summer, I gained a new appreciation for how God works across the life-cycles of his people. While most of the front-line work with our youth and college ministries is led by Ross, Sarah, and Devon, I plunged in pretty deep myself during July and August. In a span of about a month, I got to hang out with our elementary students at VBS, run around with 150 middle-schoolers and 30 college students at Camp Geneva in Michigan, and then experience spiritual transformation with 1400 high school believers at Rocky Mountain High. Along the way, I learned some new songs, some new styles, and some new slang! When it was all done, I was ready for a couple of quiet days over at Landsmeer!

But—as I told the FRCOC high-schoolers—I was extremely encouraged by my summer with this rising generation of Christians. They think in new ways. They celebrate differently. They use a different set of tools. But they love Jesus. I mean, they really, really love Jesus. And I'm excited to see what will happen when they assume increasing leadership at our church. They're ready for it.

As Lead Pastor, I have the privilege of ministering to all of our generations. I visit senior citizens after surgery. I do lunch with CEO's and schoolteachers. I serve on the Northwestern faculty, shoot hoops with middle-schoolers, and tell Bible stories down in Wee Blessings. I even get to hold and bless newborns! It's a bit like driving past that road work on the other side of the freeway—my journey allows me to see God's Spirit operating in different believers at different stages of life almost every day.

Does serving an all-generations church like ours present complexities? Sure. There's always a little bit of negotiating about music style, technology, and teaching themes. But the payoff is amazing! We are a body of baby Christians and finish-line saints. We use different terms, we interact in different ways, but we are being formed together into a kind of pathway that will lead others to Jesus! I wouldn't have it any other way. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you!

Church Directory

Two ways to access:

- 1 Download a password protected PDF from our website at <http://frcoc.org/church-directory>.
o Contact the office for the password.
- 2 Get the Instant Church Directory app on your device. Your username is the email listed in our directory.



Connect Online

Our social media provides uplifting, encouraging content throughout the week. Follow us for Bible Verses, Sermon Quotes, Stories of Celebration and much more!



frcorangecity



frc_oc



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FRC App

- Listen to past messages
- See our church calendar
- Take message notes (under Sunday)
- View our bulletin (under Publications)
- Connect with our FRC staff



Search for First Reformed Orange City on your

- Phone
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- Roku
- Apple TV (Gen 4)

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FREE access to thousands of video Bible studies and supplemental materials for study individually and with groups of any size.

Get access at frcoc.org/rightnow-media or scan the QR code.



WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON...

AMANDA HAVERDINK, WORSHIP COORDINATOR

We have had a great summer in the FRCOC music department: outdoor bluegrass service, brass joining the praise teams, new people joining the teams, and even a field trip to a larger Siouxland church. In those things, but especially in our Sunday morning services, I have been reminded again and again just how much our congregation loves to worship through music and singing. Just the other day Pastor Tim and I planned out the music through October. It is going to be good! I have also started working on the December orchestra (Christmas starts in July in my world!), and I can hardly wait! God is moving in our midst and it is so very good.



MARK HAVERDINK, PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Fall is here and that means some more opportunities for the men of the congregation to get connected and grow deeper in their spiritual walk with the Lord. Monthly Men's Breakfast takes place on the first Saturday of the month and weekly Men's Bible Study groups meet every Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening.

SARAH KUIPER, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

After a jam-packed summer, we are excited for some new adventures in ministry this year. Kids Choir will be back this fall, and we will be rolling out our new AWANA program on Wednesday nights. Be on the lookout for some fun family activities, as well as information about our upcoming Christmas Program soon.



APRIL BEAVER, WOMEN'S MINISTRIES & SOCIAL MEDIA

Women's Ministry at FRC is a place for women to grow in relationship with God and each other. One Saturday a month we get together at a Women's Morning Gathering to hear what God is doing in the lives of other women in our church and to fellowship with each other. We also have several autumn Bible studies lined up including a 6-Week study on Revelation and the restart of our Thursday Morning Bible Study. Check out our Women's Ministry page at frcoc.org for all the details and sign up for our Women's Ministry email newsletter so you don't miss a chance to get involved. The main goal of our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) is to share hope and encouragement with you throughout the week. Help us be a light to our community by liking and sharing our encouraging posts.

TOM HYDEEN, MINISTRY ASSISTANT

The Senior Adults (65+ years old) ministry has resumed. Covid shut us down, but we are back! The 2nd Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. we get together. October 14 – “We Get What You Don't Want” with reps from O.C. Sanitation; November 11 – “Veteran's Day Reflections” with Riley Bruxvoort and comrades; December 9 – “Music for Christmas” – MOC-FV high school choir concert. We have openings for singers in Sanctuary Choir. Our rehearsals resume September 8 at 8 p.m. in the Chapel. Veteran and new singers are always welcome. Add your voice in praise to our wonderful God! We will present anthems about twice/month at both morning services. Questions? Please contact Tom Hydeen.





LYLE LUNDGREN, CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR

I have hit the ground running and am testing the waters as to what direction we need to go in my new role. A verse from Ephesians came to mind as I think of connecting ministries. Eph. 4:12, "to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up".

Big items on my radar are: Distribute the *Connect & Get Plugged In* cards which we started handing out August 29. I am working with Ken and April on a New Member/Guest Welcome folder and am excited to see what April creates for this. We are also laying the groundwork for a new and re-booted Small Group ministry here at FRC. I am excited to see how the Holy Spirit will engage each one of us in ministry!

FRC welcomes Lyle Lundgren to the position of "Connections Coordinator". Lyle recently retired from teaching and coaching at MOC-FV and just finished a term as Elder here at FRC. Get to know Lyle by reading the complete interview at frcoc.org/announcements.

How will God lead you in this new role?

When I retired from teaching and coaching, I knew that I did not want to just sit around. I know that I need to always challenge myself to grow and to stay sharp spiritually, mentally and physically. I already feel the Holy Spirit leading me into this new opportunity to not only grow spiritually as an individual but to help others grow and be stretched in their faith walk. My biggest challenge will be two-fold:

1. Make sure that I develop and utilize other lay leaders in our congregation as a resource for ideas and to empower them to lead and mentor their brothers and sisters in Christ. I am already praying for this team that I will be able to work with.
2. I have to make sure that I maintain a steady course of direction. I love to think outside of the box when it comes to developing new ministry ideas. I need to make sure that I listen well to others and make sure that I/we don't bite off more than we can chew at any one time.

ROSS ENGER, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

Our youth ministries have celebrated God's work in our trips to Power Connection and Rocky Mountain High. Along with you, I've also delighted in hearing Professions of Faith and having quality family time this summer. This semester Jam and Surf are back on Wednesday nights and our teens will be challenged by a Sunday Bible study reading plan through the YouVersion Bible app. Please join me in praying for our middle and high school students and our volunteers who love them.



KEN OLDENKAMP, CONNECTIONS TEAM LEADER

As the fall programming gets rolling there are many opportunities to get involved at FRC. Each of us have different gifts that can be used in different ministries. If you are interested in childrens or youth ministries, music, greeting, serving and making meals, visiting elderly, prayer worriers, there is a spot for you to volunteer. Fill out the *Get Connected* card that you can find at the Welcome Center. As our community grows and changes we encourage everyone to invite your new neighbor, co-worker, or friend to worship with us.

DEVON ROOK, SEMINARY INTERN

We are in a unique position as a small college town to reach young people who are entering into one of the most formative times in their lives. So often in Scripture fellowship happens around worship and a meal. Over the past year we have seen our college breakfast and worship attendance grow significantly and we strive to engage with these young adults wherever they are at on their faith journey. We hope to continue to grow this ministry and find new ways to encourage their walk with Christ.



Welcome

FRC is growing! We have had many new families coming to church here on Sunday. It is exciting to see all the new faces. Please welcome them all!



Joel & Laura Stauffer
William, Thomas, Emily



Mady Bixby



Bryan & Jill Vanden Bosch



Pat & Breanne Van Gelder
Braylon & Blair



Mike Miller



Alvin & Sandy Nibbelink



Darin & Krista Pals
Tyra & Dani



Henrietta
Muilenburg



Verle & Connie
Duistermars



Joel & Angela Boersma
Becca, Andrew, Greta



Larry & Judy Dokter

New Faces



Cameron & Mariah
McKinney, Stella



Gloria Warren



Jamie & Stacy Balcom, Atarah & Keziah



Troy & Rachel Van Roekel
Jaylie, Jaxon, Joah



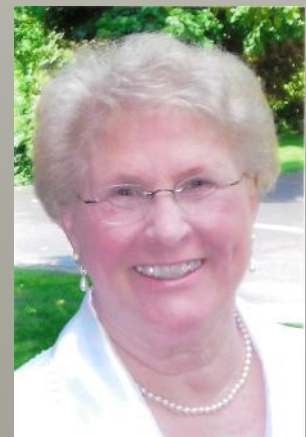
Austin & Kate Schlatter, Wrenley



Lynn & Denise Sneller



Kevin & Paula Lourens



Audrey Landegent

LITTLE ONES *welcome*



Lydia Menke

Born: April 21, 2021
Parents: Craig & Nicky
Menke



Stella McKinney

Born: June 3, 2021
Parents: Cameron & Mariah
McKinney



Elsie Vande Brake

Born: August 11, 2021
Parents: Tony & Kolbie
Vande Brake



Jonah Mangold

Born: August 14, 2021
Parents: Dan & Rebecca
Mangold



Ames Rook

Born: August 26, 2021
Parents: Devon & Abby
Rook



Cooper Van Roekel

Born: August 26, 2021
Parents: Dan & Sarah
Van Roekel



Wrenley Schlatter

Born: August 27, 2021
Parents: Austin & Kate
Schlatter

KINGDOM PARTNERSHIP

"They've got a little bit of everything—including the kitchen sink!"

That's what went through my mind when I first stepped into the Warehouse, a new dry goods distribution center operated by Sunnybrook Church's Hope Center.

Along with senior leaders from several other local churches, I had been invited by Sunnybrook's Senior Pastor Jeff Moes to see—and sample—the inventory at the Warehouse. An hour later, I drove away with a vanload of furniture, AV equipment, diapers... and a great deal of excitement about a partnership with FRCOC.

The origins of The Warehouse in Sioux City began with a gifts-in-kind agreement between World Vision and Costco Stores. The national membership-retailer was paying millions of dollars to destroy overstocked, out-of-season, or good used merchandise each year. World Vision, sensing an opportunity to bless others, offered to regularly take this stuff—coolers, tents, housewares, office supplies, and, yes, even kitchen sinks—off their hands.

Because of Sunnybrook's long-standing connection to World Vision, the church was brought in early as a stakeholder in distributing this merchandise from a Costco hub in Chicago. The ministry has since evolved to a monthly or twice-monthly semi-load being delivered from Illinois to Sioux City.



Hope Center Director Gary Blankers says that the regular distribution of these quality goods—which now include contributions from Office Depot and QVC as well—represent an important expression of the Hope Center's core mission, "Walk With Me." In addition to a food distribution and a work-release program, the Hope Center aims to serve Northwest Iowa with a "hand up, not a hand out."

The abundance of available items means that churches like ours have the opportunity to take and distribute these items to people in our city as well. These goods—which also include lawn equipment, tables, food preparation equipment, toys, and holiday decorations—can be used for any valid ministry purpose, so long as they are not sold, raffled, or otherwise monetized. We have already had the privilege of using and giving away thousands of dollars of these items in our community.

"None of these things are life-essentials," Blankers said, "But they are a blessing to people who would otherwise never have been able to afford them. Our hope is to just be good stewards of it all."

Blankers has encouraged FRCOC to play an active role in seeing that the power-washers, air-fryers, rocking chairs, and above-ground swimming pools find good homes. "And if you can think of anything similar that would bless someone, please let us know," he urged. Citing, among other things, the random appearance of a bidet toilet, he laughed, "*we just never know what might show up.*"

If you are interested in helping our church—or helping Solid Rock Ministries in Storm Lake—to find homes for these items, please contact Pastor Mark, Ken, or me sometime soon!

Pastor Tim



THE HOPE CENTER WAREHOUSE
SIOUX CITY, IOWA





Summer...

VBS 2021 was an amazing time! During our time together, we learned to have CONFIDENCE because we are known by God, belong to God, & are forgiven by God. Our 140 students & 80 volunteers raised over \$1700 dollars for the Sack Pack Program, providing 450 sacks for local kids in need. We can't wait for next year!



at FRC

Pictured here: July's Southern Gospel Gathering, tying a prayer blanket for Claire Yaw, the Blessing of the Backpacks and the church golf outing.



UPCOMING *events*

First Reformed Church 150th Celebration

- **October 20** - Harvest Party
- **October 27 & 28** -Diamond Dinners for 75+ members and spouses
- **November 24** - Thanksgiving Eve Service
- **November 28** - Advent begins
- **December 12** - Children's Christmas Program
- **December 11** - Bountiful Table Food Distribution
- **December 16** - Blue Christmas

