first reformed church
ORANGE CITY, IA

themilestone

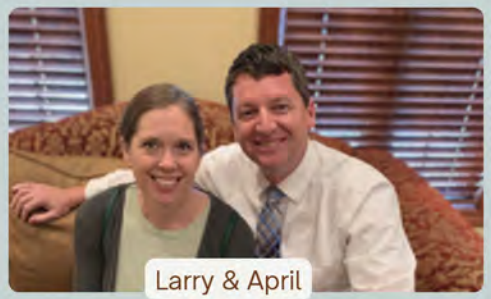
FALL 2025

WELCOME New Faces

Scott & Cheryl Van Steenwyk

Brent, Ashley, Brynlee, Braelynn, Addison, & Kylee Den Ouden

Aaron & Allie Eckmann

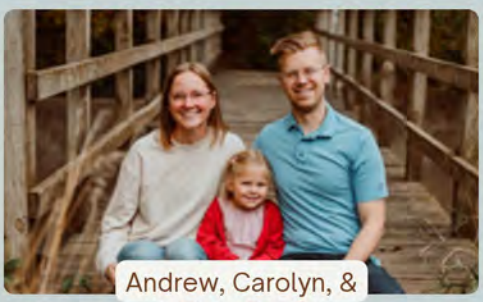


Larry & April Carlson

Ricky & Jenna Rietveld

Gary & Julie Hegstad

Lucas Heiberger & Jana Vermeer



Andrew, Carolyn, & Thea Runk

William Minnick

Welcome LITTLE ONES

Keegan

Born: September 13

Parents: Kyle & Kelli Boersma

Everett

Born: September 29

Parents: Micah & Heather Rensink

Trunk or Treat

On Wednesday evening, October 29, our church parking lot came alive with laughter, costumes, and community at Trunk or Treat! We were pleased to welcome so many community members for an evening of joy and connection.

Over 450 hot dogs were served, along with plenty of popcorn and Orange Crush floats, as trunks passed out mounds of candy to excited kids and families. Cozy costumes, a few well-placed heaters, and a lot of smiles kept the cold at bay as everyone enjoyed creative displays and festive fun.

This year's 25 trunks included everything from hippies and Santa & Mrs. Claus to Thomas the Train, Ripley's spooky science experiment, mini golf, and a camping adventure. The coveted Candy Corn Cup went to "The Sandlot" by the Nonnemachers for their standout creativity and nostalgia. Trunk or Treat was a wonderful reminder of the joy that comes when our church and community come together to celebrate and connect.

In Kids Ministries, we believe there is no junior Holy Spirit. Kids don't get a lesser version of God. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is living and active in them right now. Our job isn't to hold back; it's to create space for the Spirit to move in mighty ways, even in the youngest hearts.

FRC Kids

The Holy Spirit is moving through What's In The Bible, AWANA, and Sunday School, where children discover God's story and their place in it. We see the Spirit at work when a preschooler's eyes light up with that "I get it" look as they hear a Bible story for the first time. We see it in our dedicated teachers who faithfully disciple children week after week.

It shows up in the laughter and joy of community events like VBS and Trunk or Treat, where families connect and faith grows. It's evident in meaningful milestones such as our 4th and 5th Grade Retreat and our First Grade Bibles celebration.

Every moment, every story, song, and smile reminds us that God is doing something powerful in the hearts of our kids. And we are honored to help nurture that work.

Chili Cookoff

Our annual Chili Cook-Off brought the heat and the crowd! Over 350 people enjoyed an evening of great food, fun competition, and plenty of fellowship. With eight unique chilis to sample, taste-testers had their work cut out for them. Congratulations to John Rayhel, whose “Over the Top Smoked Chili” took home the top prize!

LOCAL MINISTRY FAIR

The Chili Cook-Off provided an opportunity to highlight several of our closest local ministry partners and learn how we can continue to support their work in our community. Each ministry will use the funds raised to meet a specific need this holiday season.

Hope Haven – Hope Haven's wheelchair ministry empowers individuals with disabilities by sending wheelchairs globally. Funds will be used to add essential tools to each pediatric wheelchair being sent to underserved communities.

Family Crisis Center – The Family Crisis Center promotes safety, healing, and freedom for families recovering from trauma. Funds are going towards a specific family's needs as they continue their journey toward stability and healing.

Pioneer Home – The Pioneer Home provides affordable, Christian, and independent living for senior citizens in our community.

Whispers of Love, Hope, and Joy – Whispers empowers women and children who are survivors of domestic violence. This past year, The Genesis House joined with Whispers, merging boards and resources to strengthen their shared mission of healing and restoration. They will use the funds to host a special holiday celebration for families living on campus.

ATLAS – As a Christian mentoring organization, ATLAS focuses on truth, love, and self-control through meaningful mentoring relationships. Funds will help support the mentors who continue walking alongside those seeking guidance.

Youth Ministry

It's been a full and fun fall for our youth ministry. Since kickoff in September, we've had more students and adult leaders than ever before. September highlights included students serving at Legacy Thrift, making soup and cookie mix jars for local families, and joining other area youth groups for a High School Worship Night at Christ Chapel for Rocky+. Seeing students design creative trunks for Trunk or Treat was another great moment of community and joy.

Weekly Sunday morning Bible studies have also been encouraging as our middle and high school groups explore Christian leadership and learn how to live out their faith through service and example.

Trout Lake Youth Retreat

In November, thirty high school students and seven leaders braved the cold at Trout Lake Camp in Minnesota at a retreat centered on Ephesians 2:22, *"In Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit."* We saw that verse come to life as students grew more comfortable and unified, being built up together by the Spirit.

A New Partnership in Brazil

Written by Sara Van Zee

This fall, Pastor Fred and I traveled to Brazil to visit Igreja Presbiteriana de Manaus (IPM), a large, thriving church passionate about outreach and evangelism along the Amazon River. We were invited to see how their ministry supports missionaries and reaches remote communities with both medical care and the gospel. While there, we met two men whose stories resonated with our global strategies as a church -Jesse and Edmundo, from the Hixkaryana, an indigenous tribe deep in the Amazon.

Jesse - Bible Translator

Edmundo - Missionary in Training

Jesse serves as a Bible translator. He has already completed the New Testament in the Hixkaryana language and is now working on the Old Testament. For the first time, his people will have access to the full Word of God in their own language.

Edmundo, the son of the tribe's chief, plays a vital role in opening the door for ministry within their community. Because of his relationship and leadership, there is now an opportunity for gospel partnership with a group that has been largely unreached. Our church is exploring a possible partnership with Edmundo and his family through IPM, giving FRC a direct connection with an indigenous people group in Brazil.

In the months ahead, we'll share more about this exciting next step. Please join us in praying for wisdom and for God's continued work among the Hixkaryana people as His Word takes root and grows.

Igreja Presbiteriana de Manaus®

A Moment in Missions

FRC Mission Highlights

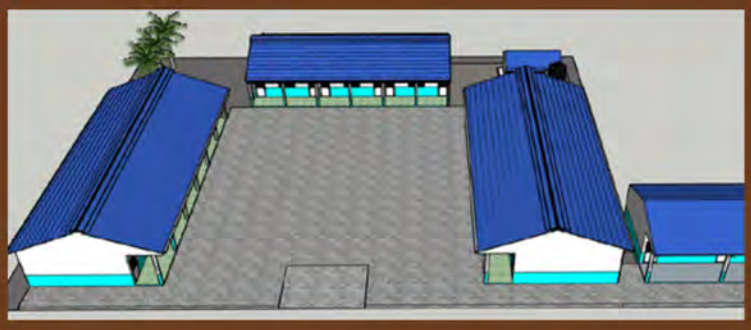
Hope for Haiti

Thank you to everyone who came to hear Pascal Neary from Children of the Promise (COTP) share about what's next for Haiti. COTP continues to care for children in crisis while working toward healthy Christian family placements. One key focus of their mission is family strengthening through education, which is vital for the foundation of strong families, communities, and a thriving nation.

COTP recently received exciting news: Digicel, Haiti's leading phone company, has chosen them for a generous gift—partnering with them for a new school facility that will make education accessible to students with special needs. Digicel will fund and build the facility, while COTP will contribute 10% of the cost and furnish the building. To help reach their $80,000 goal, you can join us in supporting this project.

Together, we can build hope for Haiti's future. If you would like to give to this project through FRC, designate your gift to "Amplify Haiti". Just as we plant trees for the future shade they will give, you can plant a seed of hope for the future of Haiti.

To learn more and see the video from the campus visit: childrenofthepromise.org.

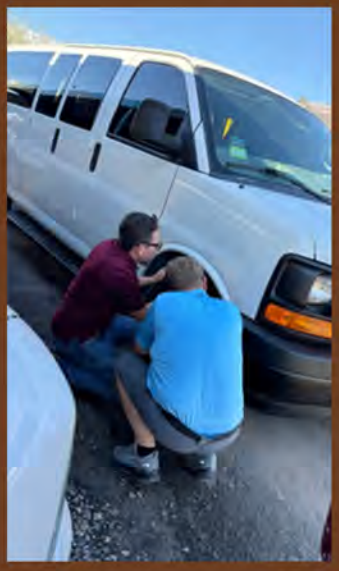


Guaymas, Mexico

After this past fiscal year, the Missions Team was entrusted with a portion of the church's financial surplus to meet pressing needs among our partners. One need stood out - the churches in Guaymas, Mexico, needed a reliable 15-passenger van. The one used during our visit to Guaymas was borrowed and falling apart, yet vital for transporting pastors to trainings and bringing children to weekly programs and meals.

Because of border regulations and title transfer challenges, we decided to purchase a van in Mexico. In September, Randy Vande Griend and Sara Van Zee traveled to Guaymas with two leaders from Emmanuel Church in California to explore options and make the purchase. With Randy's guidance and the leadership of the church in Guaymas, we found the right van.

This van has already been a great blessing, providing reliable transportation for ministry and outreach. Thank you for giving generously!



Upcoming Events

Beast Feast Wild Game Fundraiser
Wednesday, December 3
5:15 PM

Kids' Christmas Program
Sunday, December 7
5:30 PM

Blue Christmas
Sunday, December 14
5:30 PM

Bountiful Table & Diaper Distribution
Wednesday, December 17
5:00 PM

Christmas Eve Services
Wednesday, December 24
4:00 PM & 6:00 PM