themilestone

SPRING 2025

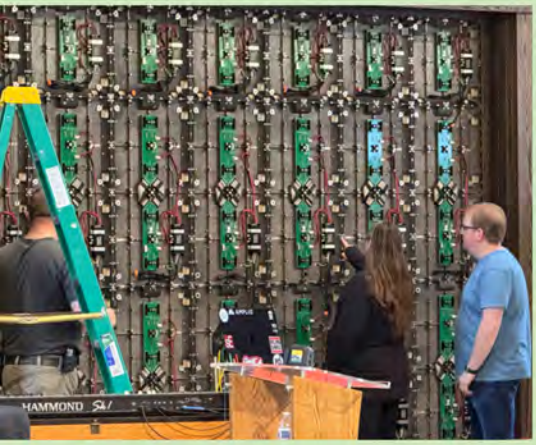
first reformed church
ORANGE CITY, IA

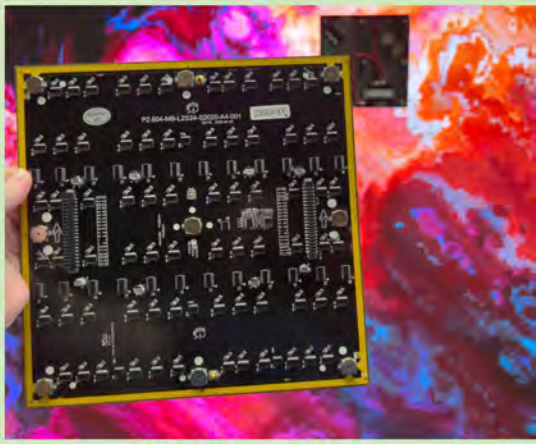
LED WALL *Upgrade*

For years, we had dreamed of upgrading our **aging projectors to LED walls**, but the cost seemed far out of reach. That changed last October when one projector failed. While researching replacements, we discovered that LED walls had become much more affordable—only slightly more than new projectors. We temporarily replaced the broken one with a used projector, knowing it was a short-term fix.

Just a few months later, **we received a generous donation** to improve our in-house and broadcast viewing experience. As we revisited the LED wall option, our second projector began to fail. Thankfully, the LED installation was already scheduled, and **the timing couldn't have been better**—we only had a few weeks of partial projection before installation began.

A great team made the project possible. Kingdom Contracting built custom boxes for the LED cabinets, electricians ran power, and volunteers like Mike Vander Stelt and Jack Bonnecroy handled network cabling. We chose a semi-professional install through Altitude LED, who provided a lead technician to guide our volunteers through assembling and mounting the modular panels.





Curious about what's behind the LED walls? Each screen consists of 1m x 2m cabinets, mounted directly onto plywood backing. Power and data cables are daisy-chained together, and each cabinet holds eight square LED modules that attach magnetically from the front. These modules can be easily removed and replaced if one fails. Altitude LED left us with extra modules so we can quickly swap them out and send any defective ones in for warranty repair—ensuring the screens stay vibrant and functional.

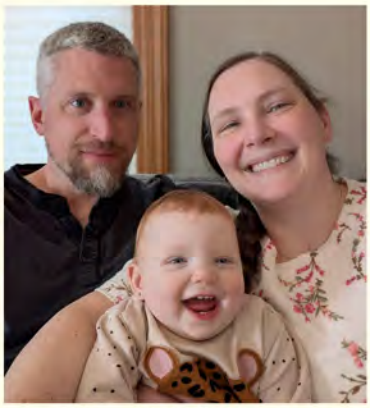
Altitude LED was truly impressed with the skill and dedication of our volunteer team. This project has already inspired other churches to explore similar upgrades. Most of all, it has been a powerful reminder that **God provides**—meeting our needs with the **right people and resources at just the right time.**

WELCOME *New Faces*

Taylor, Mindy, Kyler, Kaeden & Konnor Stichka

Jean De Jong

Kleyton & Emily De Groot



Mike, Kati & Coralie Morse

Matt, Shayla, Tia & Jack Dahl

Dan, Janie, Nash, & Sterling Haack & Blair Bandstra

Brent, Tara, Connor & Kelsey Oolman

Aaron Spoo & Kayla Hoffman

Welcome LITTLE ONES

Colter Christopher

Born:
April 25, 2025

Parents:
Chase & Amber Vermeer

Hadassah Joy

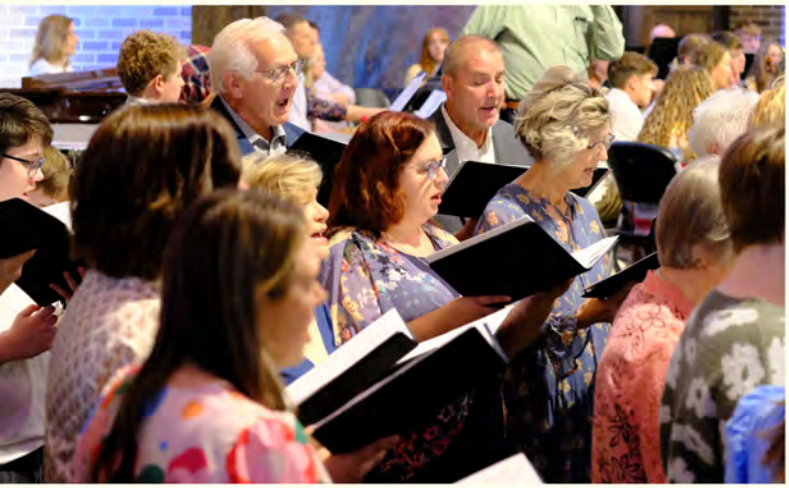
Born:
March 7, 2025

Parents:
Reed & Andrea Rau

Children's MINISTRIES

This year Kids Ministry was full of fun, faith, and growth! From the excitement of the special events to the weekly rhythm of Sunday School and Wednesday nights with AWANA and What's in the Bible, our kids had so many chances to learn, laugh, and connect. Special moments like prayer partner nights and the Palm Sunday processional made the year even more meaningful. We're so grateful for a fantastic year of smiles, friendships, and growing closer to Jesus!

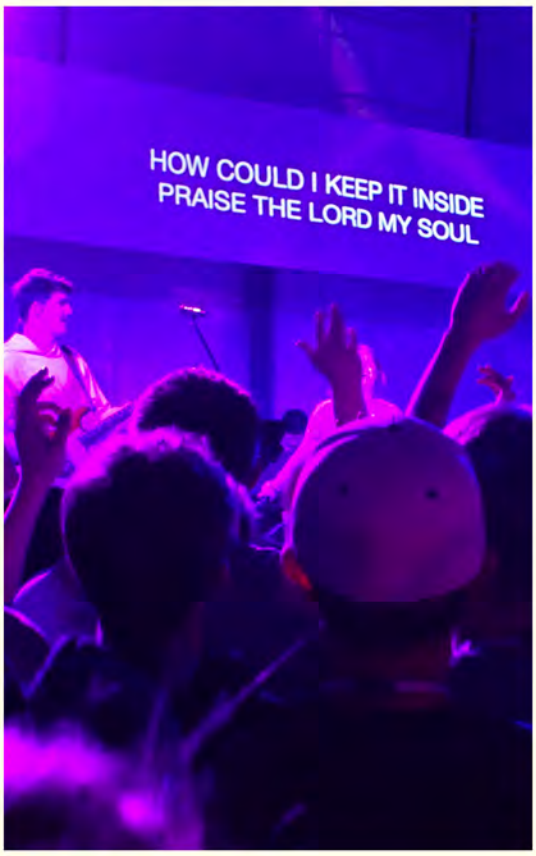
Easter AT FRC

"When Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, He had to call him by name. Otherwise, all the graves would have been emptied."
-- Pastor Mark Haverdink

"Jesus won our freedom on the cross, but He didn't stay there!"
-- Amanda Haverdink (Worship Leader)

"Resurrection life introduces us to a fear that unhinges, a freedom from what's toxic, a faith that releases us into a new way of living, and a joy generating hope."
-- Pastor Fred De Jong

Youth MINISTRIES

From *Around the World* table tennis to scatterball and a rock-paper-scissors tournament, our youth ministry embraced all kinds of experiences this spring to pursue our purpose of living a full John 10:10 life. Highlights included studying *Exodus* in our Sunday Bible study, connecting through daily text groups, and writing encouragement cards on Wednesday nights. A group of students and adult leaders attended the Ignite Youth Leadership Conference in Des Moines to take the next step in leadership, and our ministry year culminated in a Youth Sunday worship service that students helped plan and lead.



Our middle schoolers closed out the year with a retreat to Hidden Acres, discovering how Jesus anchors us in uncertainty. Whether serving others, leading worship, or laughing through games, our students grew in faith and friendship — and the best is yet to come!

PARTNERING IN *Missions*

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
– Galatians 6:2

FREEZER MEAL MINISTRY

Our Freezer Meal Ministry is a simple way to reflect God's love—offering ready-to-go meals to anyone in need, no questions asked. Whether for a tough season or just a busy day, we want everyone to feel cared for, supported, and never alone.

This ministry only works when we put it into action. Whether you need a meal or know someone who does, here's how you can be part of sharing comfort and kindness through food:

1. **Identify a need**
   This could be for yourself, a neighbor, coworker, friend, or anyone going through a difficult or busy time—*no reason is too small.*
2. **Grab a meal**
   Visit the freezer in the storage room behind the kitchen and choose a meal that suits the need.
3. **Write a note**
   Add a personal, encouraging message to go with the meal.
4. **Deliver the meal**
   Hand-deliver the meal with care and a warm smile.

"Thank you for offering a nutritious meal for my family." – A Busy Mom

SPRING SERVE DAY

This year's Spring Serve Day was more than just a chance to lend a helping hand—it was an opportunity to build meaningful relationships in our community. On a Wednesday evening, volunteers from our church shared a picnic supper with homeowners, then spent time helping with yardwork and outdoor projects. Serving side by side created space not just for work, but for connection—and those moments of shared life reminded us that people are always more important than projects.

The homeowners we served were deeply grateful for the practical help—freshly trimmed lawns, cleared flower beds, and cleaned-up outdoor spaces—but even more, they expressed heartfelt appreciation for the presence of our church family. That kind of gratitude affirmed that Spring Serve Day is about more than beautifying neighborhoods; it's about embodying Christ's love through presence, listening, and simple acts of kindness.

A NEW CHAPTER IN MISSION: PARTNERING IN GUAYMAS

We are entering an exciting new phase of global mission, where God is raising up indigenous missionaries to plant churches and transform their communities. One of our newest and most encouraging partnerships is in Guaymas, Mexico.

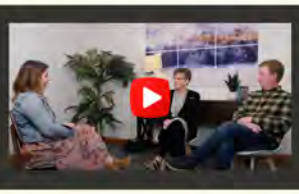
When we visited Guaymas in February, it immediately felt like family. The warmth, unity, and shared passion for ministry made it seem like we had been serving together for years. During our time there, we worked alongside Pastor Mario to help equip a local church with much-needed electricity and bathroom facilities. It was a joy to serve side by side, not just in construction, but in building lasting relationships.

At the heart of the mission is the "mother church," where Pastor Raphel Sr. and his three sons are each planting churches throughout the city. They're also preparing to serve as a central hub for the Kingdom Network in Mexico—an exciting step for the future of sustainable, locally led ministry.

We're especially excited to support Absolam, our first indigenous missionary added to our church's budget. He, his wife Dolce, and their three sons are actively living out the gospel in their community, and we can't wait to see how God continues to use them.

This partnership is also uniting us with Kingdom Network churches across the U.S. First Reformed Church helped begin the work in Guaymas, and a team from the Kingdom Network church in Chowchilla recently completed it—installing air conditioning and doors handmade by Absolam himself.

This is Kingdom work at its best: churches collaborating across borders, united by one mission and one Spirit. We're grateful to be part of what God is doing in Guaymas and beyond.



Learn more about our trip to Guaymas, Mexico at frcoc.org/missions.

Upcoming Events

Summer Worship Schedule Begins
May 25 @ 9:30 AM

Congregational Meeting
June 1, 10:45 AM

Vacation Bible School
July 14 - 16, 6 - 8:30 PM

Middle School Power Connection
July 22 - 27

Return to Two Sunday AM Services
(College Breakfast Resumes)
August 17, 8:30 & 10:30 AM