



themilestone

SUMMER 2023

Introducing:

Pastor Greg Alderman

Transition Pastor

I was born and raised in Southern California as the youngest of 3. At a very young age, I developed a lifelong love for baseball, and specifically the Dodgers. (I apologize in advance for any baseball references you might hear from me!)

I graduated from UCLA with a degree in History. While in college, a young man in my Navy ROTC program led me to the Lord after my freshman year. After receiving Christ, I was fully engaged in preparing for a career in the Navy, when I experienced a profound call on my life to become a pastor. I radically changed directions and began preparing for ministry at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California.

I met my wife, Veronica, at Laurel Pines Camp in the Summer of 1995, and we were married a year later on August 3, 1996. We moved to Sioux Center, Iowa in May of 1998, where I was installed as the Associate Pastor at First Reformed Church (Now Centerpoint). After 18 months on staff there, I became the Lead Pastor and stayed another 7 years. We have four children, of which the younger 3 were born in Sioux Center: Erin (26) and her husband, Chad, have 2 daughters: Ellie (21 mo) and Kaylee (2 mo). They live in Denton, Texas about 4 miles west of us.

Gabe (24) and his wife, DeAnna, have 2 daughters: Bella (21 mo) and Hazel (5 mo). They live in Denton, Texas and live about 4 miles southeast of us.

Emily (22), who lives in Colorado.

Ross (20), who lives in Denton, Texas about 1 mile south of us.

In 2006, we moved to Northern California where I became the Senior Pastor of Christ Community Church in Carmichael, which is a suburb of Sacramento. I led that church for just shy of 16 years before Veronica and I moved to Texas to be near our grandchildren. Last summer, I started a nonprofit called One Voice Board, which works to help churches and other nonprofits develop healthy boards. My hope is to raise enough support to do that work full-time.

As you now know, I am also working as a transitional pastor. FRC is my second such assignment and I am very blessed and excited to be working with you. Coming back to Northwest Iowa is, in many ways, a dream come true. It is providing me an opportunity to see what God has done in my life and how God has truly blessed me along the journey. I look forward to this season of ministry with you, and I join you in great expectation and anticipation of what God has in store for us.



WELCOME *New Faces*



Cody, Sarah, & Wilhelmina Hunt



Ethan, Amber, Jacen, Archer, & Kalyca Huizenga



Brent Douma



Art & Darla Vander Wilt



Gaylen & Marla VanderLugt

Welcome LITTLE ONES



Marlee Alise

Born: May 17, 2023
Parents: Jake & Alli
Krommendyk



Ivy Rose

Born: July 10, 2023
Parents: Austin & Kate
Schlatter



Malakai David

Born: July 31, 2023
Parents: Ross & Stacy
Hoekstra

Meet the New Consistory Members



Elder
Tim Zeutenhorst

How many terms have you served? I have served two terms both as an Elder & Deacon.

Tell us about your Family. My wife Lori and I have two children. Tyler and his wife Rachel along with our two grandsons, and our daughter Anna all live in Orange City. I am in my 32nd year at the Van Engelenhoven Insurance Agency. Lori and I enjoy traveling and spending time with our family. In addition, I like to cook, read, exercise, and follow the Northwestern Red Raiders, St. Louis Cardinals, Iowa Hawkeyes, and Kansas City Chiefs.

What is your Life Verse? "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" John 14:6

What is your favorite Church Potluck Dish? Snickers Salad (light on the apples & heavy on the Snickers).

How many terms have you served? I have been a Deacon twice, but this is my first term as Elder.

Tell us about your Family. My wife is Shelly. Two of her daughter's families live in the Omaha area, and one daughter's family lives just outside of Orange City. We have ten grandchildren, who have been involved in lots of sports and other school activities. I am retired from my full-time job as a Regulatory Affairs Specialist at Diamond Vogel, and am now working some part-time hours for Old Masters. I enjoy sports and music, and enjoy having the opportunity to play guitar with a number of various people of various ages.

What is your Life Verse? My life verses are Luke 17: 7-10 (a passage I found in recent years).

What is your earliest memory of FRC? My two brothers and I would have to come in through the front door of the old church by ourselves and sit in the second row, to be joined later by my parents who were practicing with the choir.



Elder
Randy Ritsema

How many terms have you served? This is my first term.

Tell us about your Family. I work for Civco Radiotherapy (Formally Med-Tec) In Orange City. I am married to Amanda and have 5 boys. I enjoy classic cars and anything mechanical. I also enjoy going "picking" like the American pickers!

What is your Life Verse? "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

What is your favorite Church Potluck Dish? Snicker Salad



Mike DeKoster Deacon



Reed Rau Deacon

How many terms have you served? This is my first term.

Tell us about your Family. I am married to my wonderful wife Andrea for 11 years. We have 3 little girls. Grace (6), Selah (3), and Lydia (9 mo). I run a construction company called Kingdom Contracting that we established in 2022.

What is your Life Verse? Ephesians 2:8-10. "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith. It is not from yourselves but is a gift from God. Not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are Gods handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do." I always felt growing up that I needed to earn my parents favor. That same thinking went forward in my faith journey. It wasn't until after I was married when everything started to make more sense and God really opened my heart to scripture. When I came across these words that Paul wrote, they spoke right to my heart and I thank God daily for His son's work on the cross in order to save a sinner like me.

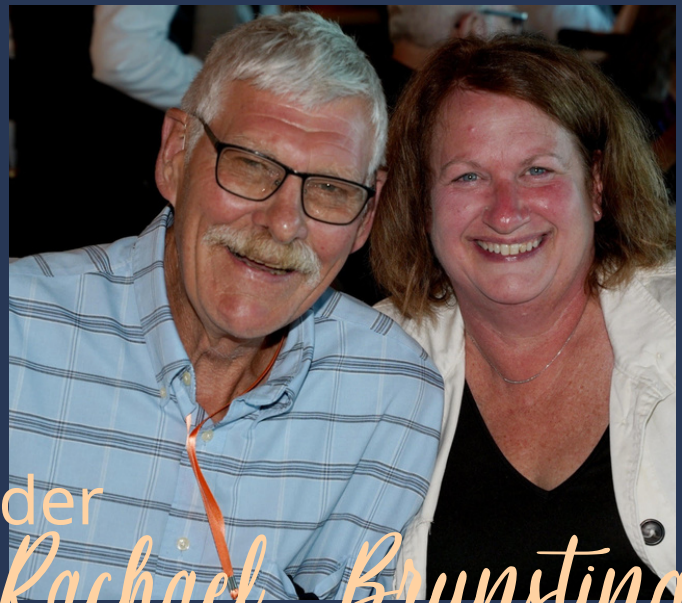
What is the most embarrassing thing your child(ren) have done while in church? All three of my daughters, around the age of 6 months, seem to have wanted to preach or really vocalize with the pastor, usually during the quietest parts of the sermon!

How many terms have you served? This is my first term.

Tell us about your Family. Rog and I have 7 children together, 20 grands and 1 great grand. I am recently retired from OCAHS and I am loving it!

What is your Life Verse? "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord , who has compassion on you." Isaiah 54:10

What is the most embarrassing thing your child(ren) have done while in church? My brother was a guest pastor at the church we attended. Before the service, he jokingly told my girls to give him the time to stop hand signal if his sermon went too long. About 3 minutes into the sermon one of my girls stood up and gave him the signal. I was horrified.



Elder *Rachael Brunsting*

How many terms have you served? This is my second term.

Tell us about yourself. I am a life long member of FRC. One of my relatives took part in founding FRC. I enjoy being a volunteer worship leader and being on praise team. I work at MOC-Floyd Valley as the Communications Director. Outside of work, you can find me helping with the Pride of the Dutchmen Marching Band, crewing for the local hot air balloon, or helping out on my family farm. I also enjoy baking and creating custom cakes for my friends and family.

What is your Life Verse? "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

What is your earliest memory of FRC: Playing tic-tac-toe on on the church bulletin with my mom during the service.



Jack Bonnacroy Deacon

High School

Rocky Mountain High



What will you be taking away from Rocky 2023?

"That I am loved unconditionally no matter what obstacle that's in my way or the ones I'm going through. Jesus never leaves."





Describe one way you noticed God at work in either the people on our team, the ministries we served, or in your own life because of this trip?

"I saw the eyes of students be opened to real material needs that exist in the world.

One student pointed out how glaring the needs were, 'and that is only one neighborhood amid millions of neighborhoods.'"



Middle School
Omaha Urban Plunge

KINGDOM PARTNERSHIP

Article written by Sara Van Zee, Mission Director at FRC, in regards to FRC's partnership with Ukraine

We have been so blessed by your partnership with our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. We want to keep you informed of how your generosity is helping to support those still dealing with the effects of war every day.

In July, we were able to host a solar light build. We had a great turnout and made 50 solar lights and charging stations. One of the highlights of the evening, was praying over the lights and having a chance to write messages in the lights.

Dave Nonnenmacher was then able to travel to Ukraine. Unfortunately, the physical lights are still in Moldova, waiting on Customs paperwork to get across the border. Once the lights cross the border, they will serve many areas in need. With your generosity we were able to purchase food and supplies for some of the frontline communities. There was one drop off site where the need was great and hours before the food and supplies came, the drop off site had been under heavy shelling.

Your generosity continued, and the beginning of August we were able to send more donations to the Ukraine churches we are partnering with by way of Alina's parents. Once again, your partnership was timely and many items were able to be purchased, such as, shoes, washing machines, items for vehicle reliability, and freezers to help with food preservation.

We will keep you updated as to when we hear the solar lights have been able to move across the border. Please continue to pray for the people, both in Ukraine, and those who have fled to other parts of the world.



Mission Opportunities

We are so excited about this upcoming Fall and all of the opportunities to join us on Mission!

Helping without Hurting

This five week course will allow us to take a deep dive into how do we as a church community engage with those in need in our community and how do we best alleviate material poverty while engaging in the intrinsic value of God's character within others.

September 6, 13, 20, 27, & October 4 | 6:30-7:30pm

Engage Global

This will be an interactive weekend of learning what God's word says about His heart and mission for the world, paired with some cross cultural experiences and ending with the question, "What does this mean for our church?"

September 15-17 in Minneapolis, MN

Compton, CA

We will be traveling to Compton, CA where we will work alongside our Kingdom Network church family as they minister to their community. City Church of Compton is a long term partner with First Reformed Church and we look forward to continuing that partnership as we spread the Gospel.

October 10-16 Compton, CA

If you would like more information about any of these opportunities you can visit frcoc.org/missions or email saravz@frcoc.org

Children

July 10-12 was our VBS! We had a blast and we think the kids did too! Our fall programming will be starting on August 30th with a Kick-Off Picnic starting at 6:00 PM!





UPCOMING *events*

Children & Youth Ministry Kick Off Event
Wednesday, Aug. 30 | 6:00-7:00 PM

Helping Without Hurting Class
Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, & Oct. 4 | 6:30 PM

Status Update
Sunday, Sept. 10 | 9:45 AM

Missions Update: Sara Van Zee
Sunday, Sept. 17 | 9:45 AM

Adult Sunday School: *The Guide*
Sundays, Sept. 24 | 9:45 AM

Adult Sunday School: Refined by Fire
Sundays, Sept. 24 - Oct. 15 | 9:45 AM

Seen Seminar
Wednesday, Oct. 18 | 6:30 PM

Adult Sunday School: Amazed by Creation
Sundays, Oct. 22 - Nov. 12 | 9:45 AM

Explore FRC Connection Classes
Oct 11, 18, & 25 | 6:30 PM

