



themilestone

WINTER 2022



first reformed church
ORANGE CITY, IA

THE LEADING EDGE

PASTOR TIM BREEN



A number of years ago, Tamara and I began using a personal finance and budgeting tool called *Mint*. This online service tracks all of our spending, savings, and long-term retirement planning. Mint shows us, at a glance, how much we have paid for our utilities, groceries, gas, and how we can be better stewards of our financial resources.

The other thing that I like about the Mint system is that it sends us regular *Progress Reports* about our family finances. It assesses our long-term and medium-term goals and clarifies what we've accomplished—and where work remains to be done.

During the months of January and February, we have talked quite a bit about our church's five-year vision, a picture of God's calling on our congregation called RISE25. At press time, we are developing a webpage to talk about this dream; please check out frcoc.org/RISE25 soon to see the vision in its entirety. But even before that site goes live, I thought that I'd like to share a brief *Progress Report*, Mint-style, on where we've come and where we're going with RISE25.

Among the biggest checks-in-the-box in the journey toward 2025 has been the establishment of the *Connections Coordinator* position at FRCOC. It's been awesome to see Lyle Lundgren live into this role; his new hub of info and activity, the Link, is an awesome one-stop-shop for discovering ways to get involved and included in ministry at our church.

Another win has been felt in the launch of our pilot learning program for pre-seminary students at Northwestern College. Sophomore Nathan Tornow and freshman Dustin Groen are already adding value to our ministry and it will be wonderful to see how they grow in their giftedness as they participate in leadership at FRCOC.

Finally, RISE25's call to reach out into our community was expressed during our *Thousand-Dollar Thank-You* program when we provided lunch and encouragement to Orange City's senior care facility workers and sanitation department employees. In a remarkable twist, one of these groups turned around and made a cash donation to our church's ministry that far exceeded the price of the lunch we bought for them!

So what's ahead? Like all visions, prioritization matters greatly. At our February retreat, I provided our elders and deacons with a list of twenty potential "next steps" in RISE25, and I asked them to prioritize the items on that list. For me, priority lives at the intersection of *urgency* and *importance*; put another way, the things we do first are the strongest combination of what is *immediate* and what is *significant*.

In response, they committed to these big projects as the next big challenges for our church:

Continue to emphasize service experiences and embodied gospel living by exploring the addition of a full-time *Director of Missions* to coordinate 3 or more annual service projects, to cultivate strong relationships with supported partners, empower members to greater use of their spiritual gifts, and develop a portfolio of opportunities for our church to impact Siouxland.

Refresh and revise our statements of mission and vision for the next decade, including re-thinking our marketing methods, naming our unique congregational culture, and reflecting on how our name "First Reformed Church" might be understood in light of denominational changes.

Begin processes to appraise our sanctuary and online environments by consulting with field experts on the functionality and feel of our worship space and by continuing to elevate our ability to broadcast online (including Sunday services, mid-week curricula, and cross-congregational learnings).

Next in the queue will be mental health projects, ministry to kids with special needs, and exploration of other ministry campuses. There's a bright future ahead for a church that commits to this kind of vision!

As always, I want to hear about your personal passions too! RISE25 can't just be the consistory's plan; it will only work when our whole church comes together and owns the dream. Let's follow Jesus bravely into this work!

WELCOME *New Faces*



Adam & Kate Howerzyl, Ashlyn



Ben Henker



Jan Van Gelder



Kevin & Kim Van Klompensburg, Brandon



Kevin & Beth Tullar, Trevor, Connor, Kaylin



Jon & Amy Schmidt, Micah, Isaac, Skylar



Tim & Amy Struck, Clare, Katie, Ellie



Lynnette Pennings



WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON...

AMANDA HAVERDINK, WORSHIP COORDINATOR

The music at FRC continues to be a vibrant celebration, consisting of hymns that resonate with deep memories, and new songs that call us into worship-- all for the purpose of drawing us closer to God, worshipping Him and being filled again with awe and worship. God is so faithful to equip our incredible volunteers, and I am beyond blessed to serve with them!



MARK HAVERDINK, PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Let's face it...life can be difficult. The winter weather, lack of sunlight, and illness are just a few things that make it tough. Is this causing you to feel stress and anxiety? Do you carry a burden that you would like some assistance with? Then consider giving me a call at the church office, 737-4909. I would love to chat and look forward to spending time with you.

SARAH KUIPER, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

After a busy 1st of the year, we are looking forward to an even busier 2nd half of the year. We are preparing for our Family Sock Hop on Feb. 16, Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt boxes in the middle of March, Palm Sunday, the Pinewood Derby April 27, and VBS July 19-21. Along with our regular weekly ministries, we are looking forward to these special opportunities to share God's love with our community!



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. This spring we have a lot of ways for you to get involved including Bible studies, a Lenten Brunch, monthly Saturday morning gatherings, and much more. Check out our Women's Ministry page at frcoc.org/womens-ministry for all the ways you can get involved and to sign up for our Women's Ministry Newsletter. Stay connected with FRC all week long by following us on social media - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter. On our social media platforms we share Bible verses, sermon quotes, stories of celebration and much more, designed to encourage you and build your faith. Help us be a light to our community by liking and sharing our posts.

TOM HYDEEN, MINISTRY ASSISTANT

The gatherings of Senior Adults (65+ years old) are up and running. It has been good to meet together. Plans have been made for the upcoming months. Here is a list of some future events and guests: Christians in China from a Chinese perspective, Honor Flight reflections by two of our own veterans, a former casino security guard tells us tales from the casino, and a local lawyer will come and give counsel concerning details we older folks need to have in place. We will continue to meet throughout the summer and into the fall.

Sanctuary Choir continues through the end of April. Very thankful for the loyal participation of the musicians. We will present anthems 2 times/month for the rest of the school year and, at this time, plan to have an end-of-the-year concert in April to highlight some of the favorite anthems we have used this school year. There was a line in a recent anthem which one choir member found very encouraging: "Darkness is crumbling from the praises we sing." It is significant to understand that our lives and actions have an impact on the coming of God's kingdom here and now.





LYLE LUNDGREN, CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR

Welcome to THE LINK located in the NE corner of the Fellowship Hall. This area is meant to be interactive and is for all church members. It is designed to allow people to get connected in varying aspects of our church family. The Link consists of 6 boards of opportunities to get involved: The Small Group Ministry; Serving; Missions (local, regional and abroad); Upcoming Events; New Faces/New Members and Leadership. I hope you will stop by THE LINK and see how you can get connected in the body of Christ at 1st Church.



KEN OLDENKAMP, CONNECTIONS TEAM LEADER

It's been a great year at FRC. We are so thankful for the volunteers that help with ministry here. Each Sunday there are volunteers helping in different areas. The door is opened for you when you arrive and the coffee is on. There are volunteers running video, sound, nursery, college breakfast, security, praise team, Sunday school teachers, coffee makers, coffee servers. This takes a huge amount of volunteers. I would like to challenge you to step up and help out in one of these areas. Check out the Link or talk to me or Lyle to get plugged in.



ROSS ENGER, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

Personally, I want to thank the people of First Reformed Church for the love and support given to Jackie, the kids, and myself in welcoming the newest addition to our family this winter. Professionally, the greatest joys in my life have been seeing our newest batch of youth volunteers cohere as a team in support of our teens. From pizza, prayer, and praise activities to small groups and Bible studies, the Holy Spirit's presence in our individual and team growth is noticeable and gives me great anticipation for our upcoming retreats and summer trips.

DEVON ROOK, SEMINARY INTERN

It's hard to believe we are already into the second half of the school year. Our college breakfast ministry between services continues to grow significantly as does college student attendance in worship. The Northwestern students have expressed just how thankful they are to have a church community welcome them in with a warm meal and great fellowship. As we seek to encourage them in their walk with Christ, it is encouraging for us to see their excitement and faithfulness in worship every week!



Volunteer Focus

Say hello to Bill Van Marel, a volunteer greeter at First Reformed Church.

Bill is one of the friendly faces who greet you on Sunday mornings by opening the door and extending a warm handshake. One of the reasons Bill enjoys volunteering is that it is his way to show God's love to others. Bill exemplifies Colossians 3:23 by putting his whole heart into greeting people as they come to FRC.

Our greeters are the first step in making our church a welcoming place to be. Would you like to extend God's love to others by being part of the greeting team? If so, contact Ken Oldenkamp at ken@frcoc.org.

KINGDOM PARTNERSHIP

Pastor Tim: Daniel, can you explain what ATLAS is? What does the acronym stand for, and what is the vision of your ministry?

Daniel Den Boer: Sure. ATLAS stands for Attaining Truth, Love, and Self Control. It was started in Sioux Center about 20 years ago. The Orange City office was the third location to be started. Right now there are about 16 or 20 different ATLAS offices spread as far as North Carolina. The vision for applying the same kinds of wisdom we find in Alcoholics Anonymous to other areas of life—a sponsorship model that addresses addiction, family dysfunction, or pornography.

How long have you been in this role, and what drew you to it?

I've been at ATLAS for about three years. I'd always thought that I wanted to teach theology in a college classroom; what I found at ATLAS was this place where there is like a head-on collision between what the Bible says and what people are experiencing. There is so much richness when what the Bible says, or what St. Augustine says, connects with what someone struggling with drinking too much might be feeling.



How many people contribute and serve in the Orange City office?

In the past three years, we've moved from 2 full-time and one part-time to four full-time and two part-time staff. So we're at six, plus our volunteers.

Why might someone invite ATLAS to walk with them through life? What might be going on in their lives?



These kinds of challenges include addiction to alcohol or other substances, pornography, dysfunction in a family or other relationship. There's everything from depression and anxiety to a sense of purposelessness and a lack of calling in life. We are able to meet with anyone, and whenever we sense professional help is needed, we refer those people out. We get to be a first step, and because we practice grace, nobody ever leaves our office feeling judged.

As you think about how ATLAS might be continuing to evolve, where are your sacred ambitions for this ministry and for its community impact?

It's leaning harder into the community impact. We can do a lot in terms of helping people think preventively, "offensively". I think of parenting, things like that. After-school stuff. Adolescent work. We can see this moment as a crisis or an opportunity.

If people sense a desire to support ATLAS, and/or to pray for ATLAS, what could be the tangible and the spiritual ways of helping?

Prayer is critical. There is a sense in which our work means that we are "in the thick of it." We need to have a spiritually rich staff culture, and without the prayers of this community on our behalf it would be really hard to do this work.

And of course, we are completely non-profit. All the financial support we receive we put into caring for people. And we need volunteers. If you are at a place in your life where you feel called or led to impact someone else, we're the people to call because we can find that person for you fairly soon.

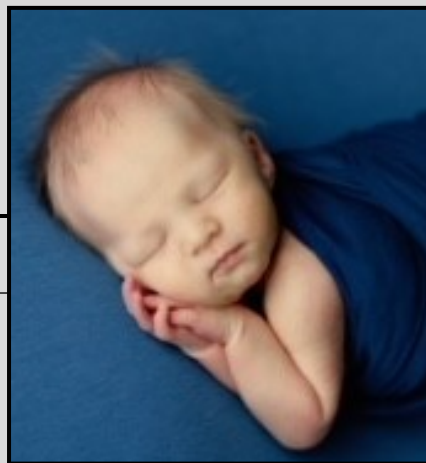


LITTLE ONES *welcome*



Jansen Van Kempen

Born: September 10, 2021
Parents: Josh & Vanessa
Van Kempen



Ole Enger

Born: December 7, 2021
Parents: Ross & Jackie
Enger



Emelia Jeltema

Born: August 11, 2021
Parents: Jamie & Laura
Jeltema



Hannah Roghair

Born: February 1, 2022
Parents: Andrew & Kelsey
Roghair

Grace & Claire Mirande

Born: February 14, 2022
Parents: John & Pennie
Mirande



UPCOMING *events*

- **March 2** - Ash Wednesday
- **April 10** - Palm Sunday
- **April 14** - Maundy Thursday
- **April 17** - Easter
- **April 24** - Mission Emphasis Week
- **April 27** - Pinewood Derby

HAPPENINGS AT FRC



NWC Praise Team



Chili Cook-Off Champs Riley & Rob Bruxvoort



Diamond Dinner



Bountiful Table Distribution



Cooking Decorating, Women's Gathering

