



the milestone

SUMMER 2026



FEATURE STORY

Helping Families Win

FAITHFULLY TAKING THE NEXT STEP TOGETHER

BY APRIL BEAVER, DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OPERATIONS

BECAUSE OF A GENEROUS DONOR, FRC is placing a special emphasis on helping families nurture what matters most. This gift launched Helping Families Win, an initiative designed to encourage and equip families through every stage of life.

Winning does not mean getting everything right or achieving perfect results. The opposite of winning is not losing. It's giving up.

Instead, we believe winning means faithfully taking the next step while trusting God to do what only He can do. Whether that step is starting a conversation, praying together, asking for help, or trying again, we want to walk alongside families as they move forward with hope, grace, and confidence in God.



*"The opposite of winning isn't losing.
It's giving up."*



WELCOME HOME

New Faces + Little Ones

Meet some of the people who have recently begun calling First Reformed Church home, along with the newest little ones in our church family.

CONTENT UNAVAILABLE ONLINE

KIDS' MINISTRIES

VBS: Kingdom Quest

SEEDS OF FAITH PLANTED ALONG THE WAY

BY SARAH KUIPER, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

WALL-TO-WALL KIDS. ROCKING WORSHIP. Four nights of organized chaos. It must have been VBS!

This summer, our kids set off on a Kingdom Quest, and our building was transformed into different worlds just waiting to be explored. Each night brought another adventure as kids moved from place to place, played games, created, learned about God's Kingdom, and discovered what it means to follow Jesus.

"Each night brought another adventure."





THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE of energy! Our rooms were packed, the hallways were buzzing, and when it was time for worship, our kids showed up ready to SING. There were plenty of smiles, plenty of laughter, and maybe even a little bit of running in the hallways along the way.

VBS was about more than four fun-filled nights. Through every game, craft, song, lesson, and conversation, our volunteers had the opportunity to point kids toward Jesus. They were reminded that God knows them, loves them, and has a place for them in His Kingdom.

“Four nights. A whole lot of kids. An incredible team of volunteers. And countless seeds of faith planted.”

NONE OF IT would have happened without the incredible team of volunteers who gave their time, energy, creativity, and patience to make each night possible.

Four nights. A whole lot of kids. An incredible team of volunteers. And countless seeds of faith planted.

That’s a pretty great adventure.



YOUTH MINISTRY

More Than Just a Summer

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT HELP STUDENTS GROW IN FAITH

WRITTEN BY ROSS ENGER, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

ONE OF THE REAL JOYS of this summer was seeing more students than ever say yes to spending time together. Forty-one high school students and eight adults spent five days at Rocky Mountain High, a conference at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. Sixty-three middle school students and nine adults gathered for a series of summer events like Nerf & Nuggets and a trip to Thunder Road in Sioux Falls.

These events create great memories, but their impact goes deeper than the fun. Time spent together gives students opportunities to build friendships with one another and relationships with Christian adults who know them, care about them, and encourage them in their faith.

It takes a church family to help students grow in Christ.



“It takes a church family to help students grow in Christ.”





THAT IS ONE OF THE THINGS we are especially grateful for at FRC. Our students are surrounded by a church family that prays for them, invests in them, and supports the people who walk alongside them. As we look ahead, we would love to see even more people find ways to be part of that community of encouragement and support.

Thank you for continuing to pray for our students and for helping create a church where they can grow together and toward Christ. We're so grateful for our church family!

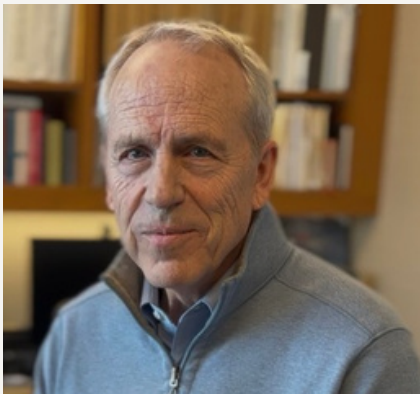


MEET OUR NEW ELDERS & DEACONS

Called to Serve

Each summer, we introduce the leaders beginning new terms on FRC's consistory. Elders and deacons help provide spiritual leadership, care, and stewardship for our church family. We invite you to get to know them and pray for them as they serve.

NEW ELDERS



MARTY GUTHMILLER • ELDER

HOW MANY TERMS HAVE YOU SERVED? This is not my first time on Consistory. I have served several terms as both deacon and elder.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. I have been married to Tami for 44+ years and we have 3 sons, Jameson, Brett, and Casey, all living in Orange City. We also have 6 grandchildren. I enjoy being outdoors, hunting, and most spectator sports.

FAVORITE POTLUCK DISH? Probably my favorite potluck dish is broccoli salad.



KRIS KORVER • ELDER

HOW MANY TERMS HAVE YOU SERVED? This will be my first term serving as an elder at FRC. I did serve as an elder at Trinity.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. Ann and I have been married for 34 years and we have three kids. Christian (Shelbie) lives in California. Elizabeth (Sam) lives in Colorado. Luke is a senior at NWC.

IF YOU COULD BE A STAFF MEMBER FOR THE DAY, WHO WOULD YOU BE AND WHY? I'd say Ross – investing in the lives of the next generation of leaders.



DOUG TE GROTENHUIS • ELDER

HOW MANY TERMS HAVE YOU SERVED? I've previously served as both a deacon and elder.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. I'm married to Peg, and we have three children and two grandchildren – Jen and Ben Grev in Minnesota with their girls Junia and Ezra, Sarah in Colorado, and Aaron and his wife Jordan in Indiana.

FAVORITE POTLUCK DISH? I'll go with meatballs of any type.

NEW DEACONS



ADAM HOWERZYL · DEACON

HOW MANY TERMS HAVE YOU SERVED? This is my first term.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My wife, Kate, and I have been married for 8 years. We have three children: Ashlyn (5), Calvin (3), and Jady (2). We have lived in Orange City since 2018 and attended FRC for around 4 years.

FAVORITE POTLUCK DISH? Any kind of berry pie is my favorite!

SERVING TOGETHER

Please pray that these elders and deacons will lead with wisdom, humility, courage, and love as they begin their terms of service.



DREW NONNEMACHER · DEACON

HOW MANY TERMS HAVE YOU SERVED? This is my first term!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

Karina and I have four boys and we both work at MOC-Floyd Valley. I am a 6th grade teacher. We love being part of the Orange City community and enjoy our involvement with the church!

IF YOU COULD BE A STAFF MEMBER FOR THE DAY, WHO WOULD YOU BE? I would definitely be the worship leader! Our sound system would be turned on and turned up loud for the whole day!



TYLER ZEUTENHORST · DEACON

HOW MANY TERMS HAVE YOU SERVED? This is my second term serving as a deacon.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

I am fortunate to have considered FRC my church home for more than 36 years. My wife Rachel and I have three sons: Isaac, Samuel, and James. I work as an engineer at Diamond Vogel.

WHAT IS YOUR EARLIEST CHURCH MEMORY? Singing in the children's choir. I specifically remember the long, red robes we wore and the nervous feelings I would get before singing in front of the congregation.



MISSIONAL GENEROSITY

Giving Beyond Ourselves

GENEROSITY THAT REACHES BEYOND OUR WALLS

A LOOK AT HOW GOD'S PROVISION SUPPORTS MINISTRY NEAR AND FAR

THROUGH THE GIFTS ENTRUSTED TO FRC, God provides resources to support ministry beyond what happens within our walls. During the 2025–2026 fiscal year, a significant portion of the church budget was directed to mission partners serving people locally, regionally, and internationally.

The Missions Team carefully reviews each partnership to ensure its work aligns with FRC's beliefs and mission. Through these partnerships, resources help strengthen churches, support Christian education, care for people facing hardship, share the gospel, and equip ministry leaders around the world.

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

These funds support local and national partners such as Northwestern College, City Church of Compton, Inspiration Hills, Hope Haven, Whispers, the Orange City Food Pantry, Christian counseling, camp scholarships, community organizations, and assistance for people facing immediate needs.

AROUND THE WORLD

International giving supports missionaries and ministry partners in sharing the gospel, developing churches, caring for children and families, distributing Christian resources, and serving communities in places such as Mexico, Haiti, Bahrain, Nicaragua, Japan, Niger, Ethiopia, India, and beyond.

\$401,230

***BUDGETED AND SPENT ON
MISSION WORK IN 2025–2026***

Local + National: \$293,230

International: \$108,000

GENEROSITY BEYOND THE BUDGET

RESPONDING TO NEEDS BOTH NEAR AND FAR

THE ANNUAL MISSIONS BUDGET tells only part of the story. Throughout the 2025–2026 fiscal year, God provided additional opportunities for the congregation to give and for FRC to share resources beyond what had already been budgeted.

Some came through special offerings, fundraisers, and designated giving. Others came from excess funds that the deacons chose to direct toward mission work and urgent needs.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS + DESIGNATED GIFTS: \$152,075

MUCH OF THIS GENEROSITY stayed close to home. These gifts helped send missionaries from within our church family, supported local organizations serving children and families, provided scholarships and assistance for people facing difficult circumstances, and strengthened ministries meeting practical needs in our community.

Some gifts were collected through special offerings and church events. Others came from individuals who chose to support a specific ministry or need.

EXCESS FUNDS SHARED: \$75,000

WHEN RESOURCES EXCEEDED the year's expenses, the deacons prayerfully considered how a portion of those funds could serve needs beyond FRC. The Missions Team identified needs and presented them to the deacons, who chose to fund each request.

These gifts helped provide pediatric wheelchairs and school supplies in Haiti, food for people living near the frontlines in Ukraine, flood recovery in Myanmar, support for new missionaries preparing to serve abroad, and resources for a church in Mexico.

GIVEN AND SHARED BEYOND THE ANNUAL MISSIONS BUDGET: \$227,075

TOGETHER, THESE GIFTS REFLECT a willingness to respond when God brings a need or opportunity before us. Some reached people and ministries closely connected to our congregation. Others traveled across the world. Each one became a way to share what God had provided.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING SO GENEROUSLY. Through regular offerings, designated gifts, special fundraisers, and other acts of generosity, you have helped make this work possible. We are grateful for the ways you continue to trust God, respond to needs, and share what He has provided with others near and far.

\$628,305

***DIRECTED TO MISSION WORK
IN 2025–2026***

MINISTRY STORY

Building Hope Together

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD

BY KURT FRANJE, SIOUX COUNTY HABITAT DIRECTOR

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S MISSION is to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. The involvement of local churches is one of the most beautiful and meaningful ways for our mission to be lived out. As Romans 12:4-5 says, *"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."*

At Siouxland Habitat, we are a small team and realistically don't have all the "members" to solely fulfill our mission. We rely on the local community and churches to be hands and feet of Jesus, to be the "many members" who help us put God's love into action as we serve families in need.



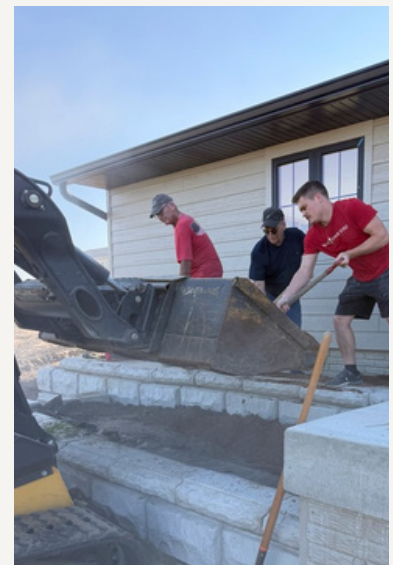
AS WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH First Reformed Church on the Orange City Habitat home, we have been deeply blessed and encouraged by your church's Christian care for the Chavez family and service for their future home. Seeing the young and old work side by side, seeing other saints come with food and refreshments, and hearing words of encouragement and willingness to help is a wonderful living testimony of the many members belonging to one another and serving in Christ's name.

Thank you, First Reformed Church, for joining together with Habitat to share God's great, great love!





“We rely on the local community and churches to be hands and feet of Jesus, to be the ‘many members’ who help us put God’s love into action as we serve families in need.”



FRC'S ESL READING PARTNERSHIP

Growing Readers, Growing Community

INVESTING IN YOUNG READERS TOGETHER

BY ANDREW RUNCK,
MOC-FLOYD VALLEY ESL TEACHER

THIS FALL, FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, Northwestern College, and MOC-Floyd Valley Community School District are excited to launch a new after-school literacy program called Bridges, designed to support first- and second-grade students.

“Together, we have an opportunity to invest in children and strengthen our community, one reader at a time.”



GETTING INVOLVED

BRIDGES' MISSION is to help these young students strengthen their reading and language skills while building confidence and meaningful relationships in the community. Twice each week, participating students will come to FRC after school to enjoy a snack, connect with caring adults, take part in fun activities, and receive individualized reading instruction with trained tutors from Northwestern College.

A UNIQUE ASPECT of this program is the partnership we have with Northwestern College and FRC. Northwestern College teacher candidates will provide literacy instruction using an evidence-based reading intervention program called Reading Ready. As these future educators gain valuable experience working with children, students receive additional support that will make a lasting difference in their academic success. It is a wonderful example of how different organizations can work together to serve children and families in our community.

As an educator at MOC-FV, I want to say that we are very thankful for FRC, which plays the other vital role in our partnership. By opening its doors, providing a welcoming space, offering snacks and coordinating volunteers, the church helps create an environment where students can grow academically and socially. In fact, for many students, the support and encouragement they receive through community connections may be just as valuable as the academic instruction itself.

THIS IS WHY we are looking for individuals who would like to be part of this effort. Volunteers may assist with welcoming students, serving snacks, helping with activities, supporting transportation needs, or connecting with families. Individuals who speak Spanish in addition to English are encouraged to get involved, as bilingual communication will be an important bridge between the program and participating families. We are also seeking donations of snacks for students to enjoy during program sessions.

BRIDGES REFLECTS a shared belief that raising successful readers is not the responsibility of schools alone. When schools, churches, colleges, and community members work together, students gain the support they need to grow academically, socially, and spiritually. Together, we have an opportunity to invest in children and strengthen our community, one reader at a time.

For more information about volunteering or donating snacks, please contact Sara Van Zee or go to frcoc.org/missions.

“When schools, churches, colleges, and community members work together, students gain the support they need to grow academically, socially, and spiritually.”

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Events

DATES & DETAILS

BEAST FEAST FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, September 30 · 5:15 PM
Fellowship Hall

FALL CLEANUP

Wednesday, October 7 · 5:30 PM
Local Homes

COMPTON, CA MISSION TRIP

October 19–26

TRUNK OR TREAT

Wednesday, October 28 · 6:00 PM
North Parking Lot

CHILI COOK-OFF

Wednesday, November 4 · 5:15 PM
Fellowship Hall

LOCAL MINISTRY FAIR

Wednesday, November 4 · 5:15 PM
Fellowship Hall

