

FIRST Reformed Church



IMPACT REPORT | SUMMER 2023

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P2 LOOKING AHEAD



Hey FRC!

In the next 5 months there is going to be a lot of great things happening here at our church. As the last details for our programming year are being finalized, I wanted to take a moment and clue you in to some of the things you can look forward to.

- Adam

Sunday, August 27 / Connections Fair At FRC

Following the worship service, swing by the fellowship hall booths to see how you can serve and be served by the ministries of the church!

Sunday, September 10 / Haiti Meal Packing Event

Last year FRC packed over 106,000 meals for our mission partners in Haiti. This year we are going to try and do it again!

Sunday, October 1 & October 8 / ARC 2 Part Orientation Meeting

This 2 part meeting, promoted by the Consistory, will help FRC members grasp what the ARC is all about (see pg. 4 for more details).

Sunday, October 22 / Annual Invite Someone To Church Day!

Do you know someone who hasn't been to church in a while? Is there a neighbor across the street who has never been to a worship service before? Do you have a co-worker who is looking for a church home? Invite them all on November 5! We will make this a day of connecting and exploring at FRC.

P3 LOOKING AHEAD



UPCOMING SERMONS

[September 17 - October 29](#)

"Devotion" is an in depth, verse by verse reflection on the Lord's Prayer as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. Together we will learn from the Master Himself about praying (and living) with pure devotion.

**NEW
SONG**

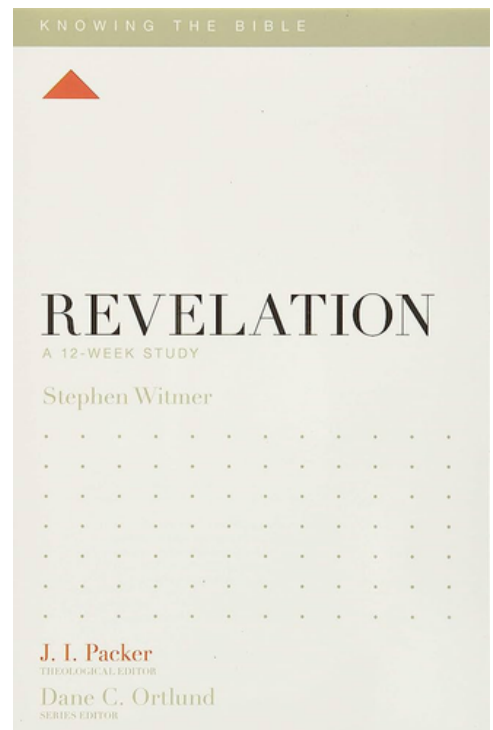


Scan this QR code with your smartphone and listen to a new song that will be introduced during this sermon series. It's called, "Yet not I, but through Christ in me by CityAlight."

FEATURED BIBLE STUDY:

Tuesday Nights / FRC / 7:00 - 8:00PM
Available Either On Live Stream/Zoom (TBD)
October 3 - December 26
Led By Pastor Adam
Free Book!
Sign Up Sheet By Office Window

In this accessible study, readers will better understand and appreciate Revelation's core message: Jesus Christ has already defeated Satan, sin, and death on our behalf—a truth that gives us great hope for the future. Join us!!!!



P4 ARC | TRANSITION UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

FRC is still on course to separate from the RCA by the end of this calendar year. This will happen when the West Sioux Classis meets in September to cast its approving vote and release our membership from the RCA for joining the Alliance of Reformed churches (ARC).

In the mean time, the Executive Team has been investigating what steps need to be taken to ensure that our church can enter the ARC with "feet ready to hit the ground". Considerable time, prayer and conversations have been shared on topics such as:

- *What will happen to Pastor Adam's retirement during this time?*
- *How will FRC be assessed financially compared to the RCA?*
- *Will the ARC have a different process for ordaining seminary students like Ross?*
- *When we join the ARC, what churches will we get to/have to partner with for accountability and ministry impact?*

For all of these details and more, the Executive Team has made plans to offer an "ARC Orientation" for our congregation at the beginning of the programming year. This 2 part orientation will be held after the worship services on October 1 & October 8. Mark your calendars now and be sure to join us if you can. (This meeting will be recorded and live streamed for those who are unable to attend in person).

FRC Exectuvie Team

ARC: 2 PT. ORIENTATION MEETING

Sunday, October 1 - "How It Works: The ARC in 2023"

Sunday, October 8 - "Turning The Page: FRC In The ARC."





THANK YOU!

"We had a great week at VBS! We had around 180 kids come learn how to Shine Jesus' Light when life feels dark, when we don't get along, when good things happen, when we are sad and when we need help. We are thankful for the 40+ volunteers that made the week run smoothly. Thanks to the committee for their time and energy getting things ready for the week. It is so fun seeing the smiles on the kids' faces every night. We think everyone had a good week learning more about Jesus and glorifying Him. "

-VBS Committee , 2023





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SUMMER OF SERVICE LEAH IN LAOS

This summer, I had an amazing opportunity to serve God's people through the Summer of Service program at Northwestern. The program sent 14 people across the world in 2023 for a duration of six to ten weeks to be God's hands and feet! Each site is individually different; duties ranging from working in hospitals, orphanages and refugee camps and even teaching vacation Bible school and English as a second language!

I was sent to the Vientiane, Laos, a small country in Southeast Asia. Tasked with teaching English as a second language to employees of a

large hospital, and learning about the medical system in a third world country through shadowing the doctors and nurses at the hospital, I was immediately immersed in the culture of the country.

Needless to say, Laos has a vastly different way of living than Northwest Iowa. Although I could delve into all the different aspects of the Lao culture, I would like to highlight the religion of Lao and key takeaways from the time I was there in this report.

98% of the Lao people are either Buddhists or Animists. In a nutshell,

Buddhists believe that if you do so many good works in your life you will have a better afterlife. Animists believe in spirits; both good or bad. That leaves the last 2%, who are Christians. This was the first time I felt like I was surrounded by people who weren't the same as me. They didn't speak the same language, hold the same values, or even believe in a God.

This really caused me to ponder and begin to fully rely on what I believed in, which is such an essential benefit of going to a different culture to serve. What surprised me, though, is how much I still saw God in the Lao people. It reminded me that although they don't even know their creator,

they are still made in the image of God! They bear attributes of him; kindness, love, generosity, selflessness, and more.

Along with spending time with the Lao people, I had opportunities to see how beautiful the mountains and villages of Lao were outside the city. I stood in awe of God's creation seeing the animals and nature he has created, even on the other side of the world.

Most of all, staying in Laos caused me to zoom out of focus on myself and onto the world. After seeing many people who are not blessed with many resources, I gained a deep



desire to help them in some way. Whether that may be through a kind word, donating money or time, packing meals here in the states, sponsoring a child, or even listening to their stories, it is now easier than ever to help God's people who are in need.

I would like to share the verse that came alive for me during my time in Laos. "It is more blessed to give than receive" Acts 20:35. I encourage whoever is reading this to think about how this verse has been true to their life. I would love to talk more about my experience in Laos and missions to whoever wants to hear more!



****Leah Rozeboom will share more of her experience from Laos on Sunday, October 8 during the worship service. Join us in -person, online, or local channel 76 if you can to hear more!***

ROCKY RECAP



On July 21, 44 students and 6 leaders from FRC traveled to the YMCA camp in Estes Park, Colorado for the Rocky Mountain High youth conference. From white water rafting on the Cashe La Poudre river, to hikes on Hallet Peak, to sand volleyball and tons of activities in between, FRC's group had a BLAST.

But the week away wasn't just about fun and games.

Students spent time listening to speakers Megan Marshman and Marquise Cox about the thrill, the challenge, and the call of following Jesus as young adults. Through inspiring and, at times, intense presentations, the group was pressed to answer difficult questions at youth group and small group time about life and faith.

To hear more about the experiences shared and lessons learned from this year's Colorado adventure, be sure to **worship with us in the month of November**. Students will help shape those worship services with Adam and Ross as a way of teaching our congregation the three most important lessons learned at Rocky Mountain High.

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