

FIRST

Reformed Church



IMPACT REPORT | FALL 2023

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P2 LOOKING AHEAD



Hey FRC!

Feel free to check out FRC's Quarterly Impact Report. It's packed with pictures highlights from the past few months of ministry. I hope you enjoy seeing what God is doing in and through our congregation. I sure am excited to see what God will do next!!

Adam

Sunday, December 17 / Annual Christmas Program

Be sure to join us if you can for FRC's annual Christmas program. As in year's past, the program will take place after the worship service in the sanctuary.

Sunday, December 17 / Annual Candle Light Service @ 6pm

It's always a cherished memory! This longstanding tradition is a great way to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and will be live-streamed, too!

Thursday, December 21 / Virtual Caroling Service

Do you like singing hymns but can't always make it to FRC in person? Join us online or channel 76 Sunday, December 21 for a night of virtual caroling at 6:30pm.

Sunday, January 7 / Ordination & Installation Service

Please keep our incoming Elders and Deacons in prayer as they prepare to lead and serve FRC over the next 3 years. Support them by joining us on this Sunday if you can!

P3 LOOKING AHEAD



**MONEY.
POSSESSIONS.
FOLLOWING JESUS.**

FEATURED BIBLE STUDY:

Monday Mornings At FRC

6:30AM

Every Week

Organized By: Ross Van Kley



Morning Men's

Bible Study

UPCOMING SERMONS

January 14 - February 4

"Money. Possessions. Following Jesus." is an extension of stewardship-related teachings Pastor Adam gave last year. Strap in for another round of challenging and inspiring teachings!

Every Monday morning at 6:30am in the church Fellowship Hall, these men from FRC come together to pray and listen to God's Word in the Bible.

These men enjoy coming in for this study prior to going to work for the day to motivate and refresh their minds on their purpose of working for God first before the work of this world.

For more information about joining this Bible study, or any Bible study held at FRC or by it's members, feel free to contact Ross via email at

ross@hullfrc.org

PARKING LOT MAKEOVER!

A NOTE OF THANKS!

"The Consistory would like to say thank you again to members of FRC for their cheerful and faithful giving - not only to this project, but in all things! Because of your commitment, we were able to take on this project (and others) this summer without having to secure a single loan from the bank."

BEFORE



***No more icy patch in the winter or mossy patch in the summer! All drainage and water run-off from the church has been tiled under the new concrete.**

AFTER



P4

PARKING LOT MAKEOVER!



***New steps that are safer on the north side of church!
No more useless sidewalk and cistern on the west side of church!**



PARKING LOT MAKEOVER!



***The largest part of the project was the replacement of our east side parking lot. The drain tile was buried underneath the concrete and ties into the sewer drain on the northeast corner. Unfortunately, in order to connect this tile to the sewer, the three large trees, which also happened to be in declining health, needed to come down. Talks of planting new trees on that same area of grass are in the works.**



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P7 THE WELL

“THE WELL” IS A GOD-FOCUSED, COMMUNITY CENTERED, WORSHIP INITIATIVE BEING LED BY POST GRADUATES AND YOUNG ADULTS FROM FRC.

On Sunday night, September 17, FRC hosted “The Well” at Westside Park. The invitation was made for people to come and drink deeply of God’s presence through the songs of worship and words of testimony shared.



The vision for this opportunity was born out of FRC’s worship committee: to create a place where young adults could share their passion for worship ministries by inviting the community of Hull to a real encounter with God.



Since September, The Well has been hosted 2 more times, both at FRC, in October and November. These worship opportunities have blessed church and community members. *What will God do next through this blossoming ministry?*



THE WELL SCHEDULE:

The Well will be organizing its next gatherings soon. Stay tuned!

Apologetics

Adam's Oxford Venture



Don't let the word mislead you: "apologetics" has nothing to do with learning how to apologize or seek forgiveness. Rather, apologetics comes from the Greek word *apologia*, which means to give a defense (as in a court of law) or to give a reasonable answer for a question.

The Bible actually commands every follower of Jesus to give such a defense and to provide such answers for why we believe what we do. In that way, every Christian does apologetics; every Christian is an apologist.

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." - 1 Peter 3:15

In the year ahead, I will be spending Wednesday mornings with 35 other people from around the globe engaging in lectures at the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics (OCCA) via an online course. This course is non-accredited, which means that I won't be formally studying apologetics or receive a degree from the course itself.

What participating in this course does mean is that I will be immersed in conversations, relationships and resources that will help me personally give an answer for the hope that I have in Jesus. I want to have more joy, passion, and confidence in being able to share my faith, and I want to help members of FRC have the same confidence and skills to do the same.

For more information about apologetics and what I'm learning, go to www.theocca.org.



OCCA
The Oxford Centre for
Christian Apologetics

-Adam

COMMUNITY MEALS

MEALS SERVED: 2nd Wednesdays of the month through April (5:30pm-6:45pm)

COST: FREE **Everyone who eats food is welcome!**

Earlier this year, on a Saturday morning in February, members of the Mission & Outreach Team gathered in the Fellowship hall to cast vision for the year ahead, and from their conversations and prayers came about an idea for impacting our church and community. It was a simple idea:

Feed people and give them a safe place to connect with our church.

Venturing into the unknown, the Committee planned and organized monthly meals for the 2023-2024 programming year without knowing what to expect. And, to everyone's great surprise, this ministry has flourished this fall.

By serving the meal on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (the same time that the food pantry is open), FRC has been able to welcome over 100 people from our community who would otherwise not be associated with our church or any church. A developing partnership with Zestos, a local food distribution ministry based in Orange City, as even allowed attendees of the community meal additional free groceries to take home! Join us and spread the word!



Left: Members of FRC serve macaroni and cheese, pulled pork sandwiches and more to community members. Right: (as seen left to right) Megan Anderson, Rod Hofmeyer, and Doug Anderson help distribute food with Zestos.

ARC | TRANSITION UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

FRC is still on course to separate from the RCA by the end of this calendar year. The final documents are in the process of being signed, sealed, and delivered to the West Sioux Classis Executive Team, which will solidify the separation from the RCA.

So... what happens next with FRC Finances?

Beginning in January of 2024, FRC will direct its assessments to the global “Alliance” board as well as to the “Horizon Network”. The board, which oversees the vision and direction of the entire denomination, is assessing each congregation 1% of it’s receipts while the Network assesses its partnering churches 2% of it’s receipts.

Will assessments in the ARC be more or less than they were in the RCA?

At the moment they will be less. However, as the ARC develops, the assessment percentage for each congregation may increase. This has yet to be determined.

In 2023, FRC was assessed 5% of it’s annual income, which ended up being roughly \$36,000. Accordingly, if FRC were to take in the same amount of money in 2024 while in the ARC, our assessments would turn out to be right around \$15,000 - **a difference of around \$20,000 annually (give or take)**. The aim of the ARC is to assess congregations in a way that allows more money to stay locally, allowing churches to strategically invest in ministries that will impact their communities for the Kingdom.

Have more questions about the ARC?

The Executive Team will continually work to inform the congregation with relevant updates about this process. Please contact Pastor Adam with any questions you have at pastoradam@hullfrc.org.