



# “The First Edition”

**December 2019**

**of First Reformed Church  
Sioux Falls, SD**

*“Connect with others,  
Grow in faith, and  
Be Transformed by the Holy Spirit”*

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## So This is Christmas

Here we are in December and all of the Christmas activities are building up and the decorations are being lit up. And who do we see showing up to announce the season? Many of us hold on to Christ as the center of Christmas but we get a bit frustrated with all of the hype about this character, St Nicholas or Father Christmas or Sinterklaas or in the USA we know him as Santa Claus. Where did this jolly gift giver really come from and why is he so much a part of the Christmas celebration.

If you will take a trip back into history with me, I would like you to meet the young man by the name of Nicholas. Nicholas was born in what is now the area of Turkey near the city of Myra. He was born the only child to a couple who had developed a very lucrative trading business. They were active in many parts of the region. But of what is more important to know this that the family was very devoted to their faith. Nicholas was raised with a strong Christian education and was even sent on a tour through the Holy Lands so that he might better understand and respect the meaning of Christ in his life.

At the age of 16 years, the family was broken apart when both of Nicholas’s parents were overcome with a plague that was in the area. They passed away and Nicholas was left an orphan, a very wealthy orphan. But to follow the path that his parents had laid out for him, he moved in with an uncle who was a priest in the Catholic Church so that he might continue his religious education.

But, what was to become of the fortune that Nicholas was left with following his parent’s death. With the strong guidance of his uncle and his commitment to following Christ, Nicholas chose these verses that he committed himself to live out. His life verses were Matthew 6: 1-4. These verses read as follows: <sup>1</sup>*“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”* <sup>2</sup>*“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.”* <sup>3</sup>*“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,”* <sup>4</sup>*so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”* *Continued on page 6*



**Sunday’s**

**@ FRC**

**8:30 am**

Traditional Service

**10:30 am**

Contemporary

Service



**Merry Christmas from the  
staff of First Reformed Church**

Pastor Ken, Tanner, Lisa,  
Lyle, Craig,  
Courtney, Jenn

To locate the calendar, please go to the home page of the church website



**Christmas Eve Worship**

Tuesday, December 24th

2 Candlelight Worship

Services:

4:00 & 5:30 pm

Same worship service - choice of two different times

*You're Invited to:*



Sunday, December 15th

**Children's Christmas Program**

9:40 am (between worship services )

FRC Sanctuary

See page 7 for full practice schedule



**Sunday, December 29th**

One worship service only

**10:00 am**

Also, there will be NO Kids or Youth Sunday School, Sprouts in Worship or Children & Worship on Dec. 29th



**December 8, 15 & 22 Worship**

Duplicate services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

We know that people of all ages love to sing Christmas carols during Advent.

And, that is why this December, we are filling both worship services with carols.

In fact, during December, both worship services will be exactly the same - with the same carols, worship bands, etc.

So come, let us adore him and worship together!

## December Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Roger Kriz  
Darcy Van Gorp  
Jacob Vermeer  
Owen Albers  
Doug VanRoekel
- 2 Glen Landeen
- 4 Taylor Klein  
William Jonescheit
- 5 Ashley Meyer  
Mark Zweep
- 7 Ronitta Sandahl
- 8 Jacob Green
- 9 Jason Burns
- 10 Abby Larsen  
Tate VanderLinden
- 11 Olivia Albers  
Keri Eberline
- 13 Sean Guthmiller
- 14 Norman Buysman  
Haley Lee  
Luke Boe  
Cooper Hutchinson
- 15 LaVonne Reemtsma
- 17 Carol Nugteren  
Levi DeWitt  
Todd Canfield
- 18 Amber Burns  
Janet Anthes  
Jackson Ellens
- 19 Nick Rogers
- 20 Katie Lathan
- 21 Patty Terpening
- 22 Beckham Dewitt  
Madelyn Becker
- 23 Alex Rhode

- 24 Tina Buysman  
Timothy Klein
- 25 Katie Whisler
- 26 Benita Weinacht  
Collin Dewitt
- 28 Lynette Foltz  
Karen DeWitt  
Peyton Klein  
Hunter DeWitt
- 29 Laurie Landeen  
Abby Nieuwsma  
Shaun Drummond
- 30 Vicki Berg  
Connor Westra  
Andre Barnabe
- 31 Lorna De Bulten  
Delany Lammers  
Eva Punt

### Anniversaries

- 8 Don & Carol Nugteren
- 11 Jason & Carmen Doppenberg
- 27 Jay & Diane Nagel  
Stu & Shirley Oines
- 28 Neal & Laurie Landeen
- 29 Bill & Mary Schoep



*If we missed your birthday, please, notify the office so we can update our records and include you next year.*



Sunday,  
December 8th  
**Congregational  
Potluck &  
Meeting**

11:30 am lunch in the church fellowship hall  
**For Lunch:**  
Chicken provided

***If your last name begins with A-E,***  
please bring a dessert to share  
***If you last name begins with F-Z,***  
please bring a salad or side to share

Once lunch is done, we will move to the sanctuary for the annual meeting. At the annual meeting, we will hear team 2019 highlights and affirm the elder/deacon nominees. We will also vote on the proposed 2020 budget.

***Elder & Deacon Nominees are:***

For Elder: Jeff Christensen, Chuck Hoelscher  
For Deacon: Steve Chrisopulos, Shaun Drummond, Sean Guthmiller, Greg Hegstad, Ryan Hutchinson

All members are encouraged to enjoy lunch and then attend the annual meeting



Wednesday,  
December  
11th  
**Christmas  
Goodies  
Exchange**

6:15 pm / Kitchenette  
(located in the Education wing)

*Here is how it works:*

People will bring a batch or more of a favorite homemade Christmas goody (cookies, candy, bars, etc)

to the church on Dec. 11th @ 6:15pm

All goodies will placed on the table in the kitchenette

And, then the fun begins because everyone fills a platter of the various goodies to take home

**And....each person will also be able to take home one or more plates of goodies to give and "bless" someone with**

(this can be anyone from a neighbor, family member, or someone you appreciate)

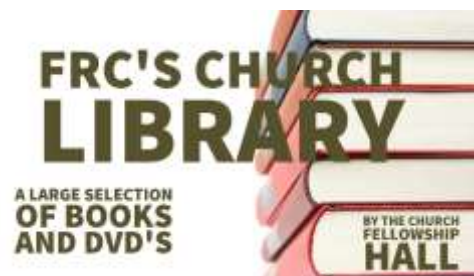
Sign up and indicate which goody you will be bringing at the Welcome Table in the front foyer or online on FRC's website by Monday, December 9th

**Church Library**

Did you know that the church library (located on the east side of the fellowship hall) has a large variety of books and DVD's for people of all ages to check out? And, each month, new items are being added.

**In November**, adult books added include:

- "Strands of Truth"* by Colleen Cable
- "To the Moon & Back"* by Karen Kingsbury
- "Rise of the Mystics"* by Ted Dekker
- "The Twelfth Iman"* by Joel C. Rosenberg
- "No Ocean Too Wide"* by Carrie Turansky



Also, don't forget to check out the new children's books added to the library this month too

*If we missed your birthday, please, notify the office so we can update our records and include you next year.*

## So This is Christmas

*Continued from page 1*

Nicholas lived out his life giving to the needy and doing in private as much as was possible so that the praise would go to his Heavenly Father.

As he grew, Nicholas became very active in the church and rose to the position of Bishop of Myra. This is significant because at the time Bishop Nicholas lived, there was a great controversy in the church, was the Trinity 3 in 1, a very difficult thing for the human mind to comprehend or was the Trinity 3 separate beings? There was a bishop from the area of Egypt, Bishop Arius, who was questioning the relationship of the deity of the Trinity. In looking through the records to see who was in attendance at the council of Nicaea, it is recorded that Bishop Nicholas from the area of Myra was in attendance and a very strong defendant of the position that the Trinity was truly 3 in 1. This gives us validity that Bishop Nicholas truly did exist.

From this point on, the story becomes more clouded as so many cultures and traditions have come to influence who we see Santa Claus as the person he is today. Though events in Italy, middle Europe, the Scandinavian countries and then to the Netherlands, the story of this gift giver have changed and grown until we reach the USA and the influence we see our own culture has played on forming this jolly Christmas character.

There are 3 primary influences that we look to when we see who the American Santa Claus is. First there was Thomas Nast. He was an illustrator for the Harper's Weekly magazine. He lived during the time of the civil war and was influence to create this Santa. Santa is dressed in a blue coat with white stars and red and white striped pants. The American flag is very visible in the background and children with an open present in the fore front.



Secondly, there was active in the Episcopal Church in New York when he penned the poem, "A Visit from St Nicholas" which later became "The Night Before Christmas". He would write poems for his children that would be shared at Christmas time. But a friend of his encouraged him to have the poem published and took it upon himself to send it to the Troy Sentinel where it was published in 1823.

Finally, there was Haddon Sundblom, a commercial illustrator from Chicago who was hired to create a commercial using the character of Santa Claus and this is what he designed. The fur is gone.



With all of this history in a very brief form, the fact remains that Santa Claus continues to live out the characteristics of Saint Nicholas. He is the gift giver who represents our Father in Heaven who gives us blessings in abundance. But the greatest gift that was ever given was the gift of His only begotten Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

It is important to remember that "A real Santa knows the real reason for this season". God bless you as you celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*Merry Christmas to all,  
Santa*

*Style Hwon*



Serving 5:30 - 6:15 pm  
in the church fellowship hall

Come and delight in a home cooked meal  
without the rush

*Free will donation*

**December Menu:**

- December 4th: Walking tacos/nachos  
(served by Faith Circle)
- December 11th: Spaghetti w/meat sauce  
(served by Drenth small group)
- December 18th, 25th & January 1st - NO The Table

And, of course, there will be hotdogs, sides,  
desserts, and drinks with every meal



**Children's Program Practice Schedules**

**Ages Preschool through 5th Grade**

Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour  
(practicing the music parts)

Wednesday's evenings from 6:15 - 7:00 pm  
Dec 4th & Dec 11th

(Please try to attend both of these Wednesday  
evening practices)

Practicing in the theatre room  
(lower level of Education wing)

**Sprouts Kids**

You will be practicing during Sprouts each Sunday

*Contact Jo Beal or Tanner Mans  
with any questions*

**3rd Grade Bibles**

Bibles will be handed out to 3rd graders at the  
Children's Christmas Program on December 15th.

We would like to personalize each Bible with the  
child's name. If you have a 3rd grader in your  
family and have not already talked to Courtney  
about youth child's Bible, please do so asap. You  
can call or text Courtney (360-8105).

In December during the Sunday School hour



**"A Night in Bethlehem"**

Preschool through 5th grade

Sundays mornings: December 1, 8, & 22  
9:30 - 10:15 am

Meets in the lower level of the education wing

Go back in time with us to explore  
Bethlehem of long ago:

- Dec. 1: Music & shepherds in Bible times
- Dec. 8: Jewelry & market place in Bible times
- Dec. 22: Rope making, carpenters, & the Stable

*Come grow closer to Jesus with us in December*

*Reminder*

**NO Adventure Kids**

Until Wednesday, January 8th  
Enjoy the Christmas season with  
your family and friends

**Winter Weather Reminders:**

- Wear appropriate shoes. Take advantage of the car port.
- Drive slow in parking lot.
- Use 57th Street entrance to avoid hills on Tomar Road entrances.
- Respect Limited Mobility parking signs, but park in these spots if you have limited mobility.
- Leave earlier from home to avoid rushing.
- Park further out if you walk easier on slippery roads so others can park closer.
- Be available to help people to and from their car.

**WHERE TO LOOK FOR CHURCH CANCELLATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER:**

- Church Website
- A message sent for those on the e-prayer line
- KNWC radio or website
- KELO website

**Snow Removal**

Unfortunately, with the early snow we have already received this year, it looks like it could be a long winter.



This winter, we have hired a new snow removal company, and they want to do a good job. To help them know when activities are at church, we will be giving them a copy of the church calendar. But, if we missed something, your event changes including gets cancelled, or you know of a time or day when the lots need to be cleared, please contact one of the church staff members or an Operations team member. We will then contact the snow removal company. Thank you for your assistance in helping us keep the parking lot clean and safe.



**Center of Hope Winter Clothing Drive**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Center of Hope clothing drive. Many people will be blessed with your donations of winter attire and blankets. *Your donations filled approximately 55 tall kitchen garbage bags!* We also want to thank Galen Versteeg and Jan Peters who delivered these donations to the Center of Hope.



**Women's Monthly Bible Study Groups Christmas Parties**

**Esther Circle Bible Study**

Thursday, December 12th  
6:00 pm / FRC fellowship hall

Join us for an evening of fun, food, & fellowship

Service Project: Children's Inn

We will be gathering new items needed for infants, youth, teens, and women to help them with daily needs

Contact Person: Pat Bosma

leoandpatbosma@gmail.com or 507-370-3434

**Faith Circle Bible Study**

Will not be meeting in December

Next meeting, Thursday, January 16th

This will be their Christmas party - NO lesson



### Kids Christmas Celebration

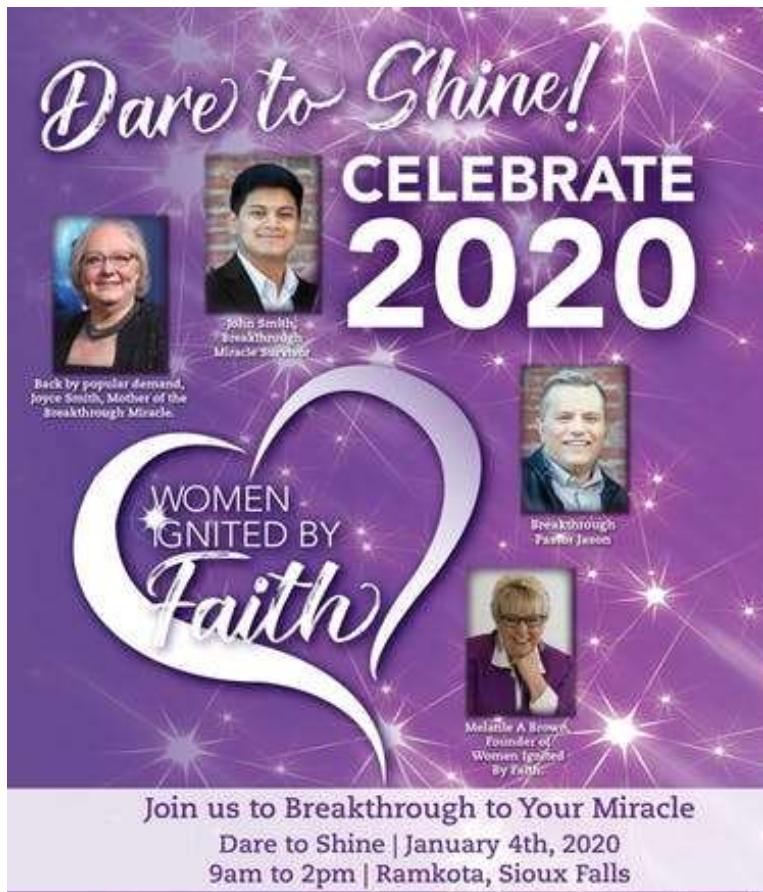


A HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers for the Kids Christmas Celebration. This includes this year's coordinators (Amy Drummond & Amber Burns), volunteers during the event, cookie & frosting makers, and FRC's very special Santa.

The kids were able to see an extra caring Santa, frost and decorate their own cookie, and take home crafts that will be displayed throughout the Christmas season.

What a wonderful way to show the love of Jesus to families from FRC and the community.





*Ladies You Are Invited To:*

**Dare to Shine! Celebrate 2020  
GOD's Perfect Vision**

Saturday, January 4, 2020

Ramkota, Sioux Falls

Cost: \$42.00 per ticket

*Schedule for the day:*

8 am: Doors open for Registration

9am: Celebrate 2020 ~His Plan...Our Purpose

9:15 to 11am: Panel of Powerful Women that have made a decision to follow God's Purpose. How they keep their Faith strong and stay Confident.

11 am: Dare To Shine ~Breakthrough to Your Miracle

11:30: Lunch (included)

12:30 to 2pm: John & Joyce Smith's Miracle, from the *Breakthrough* movie

John Smith speaking about his Miracle, "God still does the Impossible" John Smith believes in miracles!

Sign up to go with ladies from FRC on the church website under the "Events" tab, at the Welcome Table in the front foyer, or by emailing Lisa in the church office ([office@firstreformedfsd.com](mailto:office@firstreformedfsd.com))

**Sign up deadline: Wednesday, December 18th**

*Here is a little bit about the Breakthrough Movie (which John Smith will be speaking on)*

On Jan. 19, 2015, Smith, then 14, was playing with two friends out on the frozen Lake Sainte Louise in St. Charles, Mo., when they fell through thin ice into the frigid water below. While his two friends were rescued, Smith slipped under the surface and sank to the bottom where he remained for 15 minutes.

First Responders retrieved his lifeless body and transported him to nearby St. Joseph Hospital West where CPR was performed for an additional 43 minutes to no avail.

As John's mother, Joyce, arrived at the hospital, doctors prepared to tell her that her son had died but she "walked up to the end of the bed and felt his feet, how cold and gray they were," she recalls. "I remembered in church all my life hearing this scripture that says, 'The Holy Spirit will raise Christ Jesus from the dead.'"

Joyce, began praying loudly over her son's body. "The minute I prayed 'Holy Spirit, please come and give me back my son!' his heartbeat started!"

**Plus, as a preview to the event, we will be showing the movie "Breakthrough" at FRC on Sunday, December 15th - 4:00 pm - FRC large multipurpose room**

Everyone is invited (families, couples, & individuals)

Free Popcorn

Bring your own drinks

### 2020 Offering Envelopes

In mid to late December, we will be putting the 2020 offering envelope boxes in your church mailbox.

If you have not used envelopes in the past or did not receive envelopes in your mailbox after late December and would like to begin using the envelopes, please contact Lisa in the church office. We will be glad to get you offering envelopes for 2020. You do not have to be a FRC member to receive these envelopes.

Also, as a reminder, we do offer electronic giving through ACH. These offerings are also recorded on your yearly giving statement. And, this way of giving is very convenient and safe. Talk to Lisa or any deacon to learn more and to obtain an ACH enrollment form.

### Prayer Group

All men are invited to join the Men’s prayer group which meets in FRC’s Prayer Room

**Every other Wednesday @ 5:30 pm**  
December 4th & December 18th

Contact Lyle Kroon to learn more

### Notes From FRC Deacons

#### Weekly Averages through October 31, 2019

##### General & Capital Improvements Fund

2019 Budget: \$12,063.32

Receipts: \$10,558.35

Expenses: \$10,441.14

##### Building Debt Reduction

2019 Budget: \$ 799.62

Receipts: \$ 774.12

### Yearly Assessments (Per Member)

As we close out the year, the Deacons would like to remind everyone that over \$41,800 of our 2019 general fund budget goes to the RCA for assessment payments. To break this down even further, in 2019, FRC paid \$115.49 to the RCA for each confessing member.

If you are a member here, please consider this amount as you are giving to the church. Thank you!

### Monthly Special Offering

\$852.00 was donated by the Congregation for the October special offering to Diana Langerock. Our sincere thanks to all who donated.

#### 2019 Special Offering Schedule

**December** - West Haven/Robins Nest Orphanages

To donate, please use one of the “Special Offering” envelopes located at the entrances or in the pews.

### 2020 1st Quarter Schedules

The 2020 1st quarter schedules for nursery, greeting, coffee serving, and children & worship assistants will be coming out in the next week or two.

If you have always thought about serving in one or more of these areas, now is the time to get involved.

Simply contact Lisa in the church office (office@firstreformedfsd.com), and we will add your name to the schedule(s) of your choice.

### Nursery on Christmas Eve

We would like to provide the option of nursery care to our families with young children on Christmas Eve. If you are able to serve in the nursery at either the 4:00 or 5:30 pm service on Christmas Eve, please contact Courtney VanGinkel (605-214-7922) or Lisa in the church office. As a reminder, both Christmas Eve services are identical. So, you still are be able to attend one of the Christmas Eve services.

# FRC Youth Ministry

6th - 12th grade youth

## Youth Sunday School



Sunday's from 9:30 - 10:15 am  
During Advent  
Sunday's Dec 8th & Dec 22nd  
Christmas Devotional:  
"Behold"  
Breakfast will be served  
No Sunday School on Dec. 15th & 29th



**Hy-Vee Card Sales**  
(Following the 8:30 service in the fellowship hall)  
**December 8:** Boerema  
**December 15:** Burns  
**December 22:** DeBulten  
**December 29:** No Sales



High School Students  
**Rocky Mountain High**  
Saturday, July 25 - Wednesday, July 29th  
Estes Park, CO  
Registration is now OPEN  
Go to:  
[synodyouth.org/rocky-mountain-high](http://synodyouth.org/rocky-mountain-high)  
to learn more  
\$100 Deposit due by January 22, 2020

**Opportunity For All Men**



**RES GEN**  
MEN'S SUMMIT 2020



**W. JONNIE**  
COMEDIAN



**SAMMY ADEBISI**  
SIOUX CITY PASTOR



**CHRIS BROUSSARD**  
FOX SPORTS ANALYST



**STUART HALL**  
RETHINK GROUP



**JASON WILSON**  
THE UNION FOUNDER



**TOM HENDERSON**  
RES GEN FOUNDER

**SATURDAY JANUARY 25**  
8AM - 2:30PM **COST \$40**  
INCLUDES LUNCH



**CENTRAL CHURCH**  
3102 W RALPH ROGERS RD  
SIOUX FALLS, SD

**TICKETS: RESGEN.ORG**

**Opportunity to Serve**



**on Saturday, December 14th**

We are still in need of volunteers for December 14th from the 3pm-9th shifts. We encourage families or individuals to sign up to serve - your responsibility will be to monitor an inflatable. Sign up online on FRC's website under the "Serve" tab.



**Celebrate Christmas**  
*Inspiration Hills Fundraiser*

Make an order & come on over! Celebrate Christmas is an Inspiration Hills Fundraiser for our Summer Camp Scholarships! Order the goodies you would like for Christmas and pick it up before your celebrations happen. Pick up is on December 20th or 21st! You can even join us for lunch for some Chili and Cinnamon Rolls! Register for your goodies, optional meal, and pick up day! Visit [www.inspirationhills.org](http://www.inspirationhills.org) for more information on how to register online!





**CENTRAL CHURCH**  
3102 W RALPH ROGERS RD  
SIOUX FALLS, SD  
NO CHILDCARE PROVIDED

**TICKETS: RESGEN.ORG**

The Treasurer's Report is not available online for the general public. FRC members can see a copy of the report in the My FRC section of this website.



**First Reformed Church**

4800 S. Tomar Road, Sioux Falls SD 57108

**Phone:** 605-338-1553

**Office Hours:** 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Phone Prayer Line:** 605-338-1553 Option #2

**Email:** office@firstreformedsf.com

**The Consistory**

**Elders**

**2019**

Darcy VanGorp  
Galen Versteeg

**2020**

Cal Hoekstra  
Dave VanNieuwenhuyzen  
Vice President

**2021**

Tim Klein  
Jeff Spaans

**Deacons**

**2019**

Bill Blewett  
Jay Headley  
Treasurer

**2020**

Luke Boe  
Mark DeWitt

**2021**

Kevin Huls  
Travis VanGinkel

**Website**

www.firstreformedsf.com



firstreformedsf



FirstReformedSF

**Admin Team**

Dave VanNieuwenhuyzen  
Vice President  
Jay Headley  
Treasurer  
Patti Kuck  
Scott Wick  
Scott Perrenoud



Each week, both worship services can be viewed live or any day of the week that works with your schedule. All links can be found on FRC's website.



Here is the link to get this set up for FRC to receive donations from your purchases at Amazon Smile:  
[smile.amazon.com/ch/46-6036730](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-6036730)



Advent  
Worship  
Series

**How to Contact your Church Staff:**

Pastor Ken Eberline - Pastor - 261-3150; email: ken@firstreformedsf.com

Tanner Mans - Director of Youth Ministries - 370-2743; Email: TannerM@firstreformedsf.com

Lyle Kroon - Traditional Service Worship Coordinator - 212-1309; email: clam@firstreformedsf.com

Craig Pederson - Contemporary Worship Coordinator - 376-1005; email: cp.under.par@icloud.com

Lisa Drenth - Office Manager-338-1553; email: office@firstreformedsf.com

Courtney Drenth & Jennifer Peterson - Adventure Kids & VBS Coordinators - courtneydrenth@gmail.com

Deadline for article submission for the First Edition : The third Sunday of the month unless otherwise published.