

FORRESTON REFORMED CHURCH

At Forreton Reformed Church, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek to live by faith, be known by love and to be a voice of hope.



Our church profile provides a summary of our history, congregation, community, and ministry description. FRC is excited to enter a new chapter serving God and his kingdom. We believe we are a church that belongs to Jesus Christ and to the community. We see it as our mission to bring the two together. Our past is rich in history and our future is full of promise. We are seeking a new pastor who will journey alongside us and fulfill God's mission for our church.

As you review this information, please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to be our next Pastor. We trust the Holy Spirit will speak to you and guide you. Pray with us and for us as we listen to and discern the Holy Spirit's direction for Forreton Reformed Church.

Pastoral Search Profile

Forreton Reformed Church
501 3rd Avenue
Forreton, IL 61030

ForretonReformedChurch1863@gmail.com

www.forretonreformedchurch.org

In the beginning, God...



Forreston Reformed Church has been a fixture in the Forreston Community since the early days of the village. The village was platted by mainly German immigrants in 1854. The settler's theology was rooted in the Reformed tradition, and they desired to continue that tradition in this new land. At that time, the nearest Reformed Church was 10 miles away from Forreston and the horse and buggy mode of travel made it difficult to make the journey to church and back each week. To meet their need to worship close to home, FRC was started by 8 members in 1863. The congregation grew quickly, drawing community members into their fellowship. Three years later, in 1866, the first church building was dedicated "to the glory of God". Worship was conducted in German until 1941 when the WW II anti-German tensions brought an end to that custom. Another custom, segregated seating, with women sitting on one side and the men on the other, was followed until post WW II, which was a welcome change.

Historically, the ministry of the church has had a strong connection with the community. The congregation lovingly invests resources in our community and the surrounding area, as many of our fellowship extends to other communities. Over the years as needs arose, FRC was there to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Examples of some current community connections are featured in this profile in the "Ministries and Community Connections" segment.

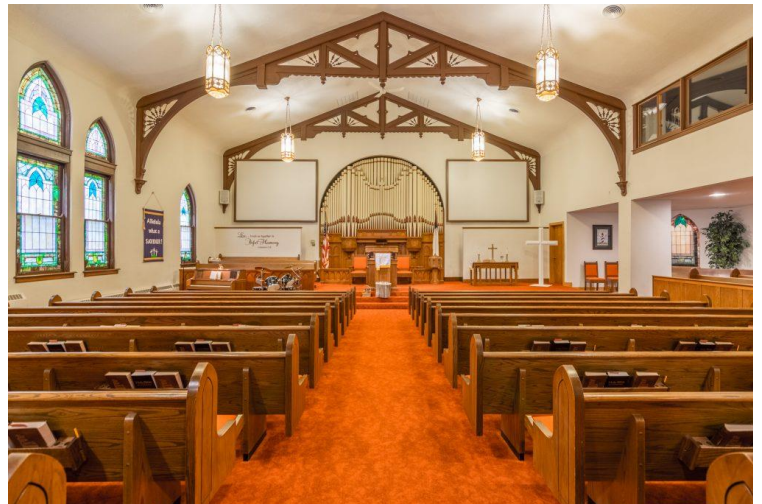




FRC has always been deeply involved in mission work. In 1872 the church sent out its first “home grown” missionary to India. Over the years, many members of our congregation have been called to the mission field to serve as full-time missionaries sharing Christ with the world. The church has been blessed to have had 9 members answer the call to be ministers. The Lord continues to work in the hearts and lives of the congregation. Members support not only global and domestic ministries but are also involved with mission trips and local ministry opportunities. As the congregation began to age, in 1949 a “recorder ministry” was begun to meet the need for “in-home” Sunday worship for those unable to leave their homes. In 2019, this ministry went online and worship services are now live streamed to bring the worship service to those unable to attend in person.

[Forreston Reformed Church | Forreston IL | Facebook](#)

We live in an ever-changing world. Traditions fade, people and programs come go. But God’s Word remains the same now and forever. As time goes on, the church’s needs change whether they be spiritual or physical, God has always met those needs in ways we didn’t think possible. New traditions have started, new people have joined us, new strategies have been formulated and when growth has required expansion, all has been done prayerfully and to the glory of God. We are Blessed to be a Blessing.



Ministries and Community Connections

FRC has a long history of mission, ministries, and community connections. Some of those activities currently include:

- Support of international RCA missionaries in the Netherlands.
- Support of international missionaries in England.
- Support of domestic mission at Winnebago Reformed Church in Winnebago, Nebraska.
- Support of domestic RCA mission in Annville, Kentucky.
- Support of Local community missions, including New Life Community Center and American Grace Foundation.



New Life Community Center: Twice a year, FRC collects food donations for the local food pantry. In the Spring, FRC members bring groceries to church for the “Bring by Spring” food-drive. In the Fall, FRC members become “Grocery Goblins” by collecting food donations door-to-door throughout Forreston. Each year, FRC is able to provide dozens of grocery bags full of food to help stock the shelves of the food pantry.



American Grace Foundation: The “Annville Trailer” is a local ministry that grew out of FRC. American Grace Foundation collects donated used clothing, housewares, furniture, appliances, etc. Twice a month, the goods are transported to Grace Covenant Ministries in Annville, KY. The goods are sold at low-cost to those in need at a resale shop which helps fund Grace Covenant Ministries. FRC has been supporting the ministries in Annville for more than 40 years.

FRC is an active member of the Forreston Council of Churches which is made up of 5 local churches. The council holds various joint Community Worship Services for: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, Thanksgiving, and the Forreston Sauerkraut Days festival.

FRC is also an active member of the Forreston Area Business Association (F.A.B.A.) where planning for community activities takes place. FRC sees these opportunities to be a vital part of the community and is an important part of the ministry in Forreston and the surrounding area.



FRC pastor and members lead a Bible Study twice a month for a few residents at the Elmer Davis apartment facility in Forreston.

FRC Hosts:

- “Blessings A la Mode” community service that gathers annually on the Sunday evening before the start of school each August. It is a time of prayer for our schools, teachers, staff, and students. Ice cream is served after the prayer service.
- FRC hosts the local Boy Scouts troop. For over 60 years, the Boy Scouts have considered FRC their home which brings youth into a church that may not otherwise be a part of a church.
- FRC hosts the annual Vacation Bible School for the Forreston Council of Churches and dozens of children in the community.
- FRC hosted a Community Men’s Prayer Breakfast once a month from November through April. The breakfast is prepared by community members, provides a time of fellowship and prayer which is typically led by community pastors and/or guest speakers.

OUR COMMUNITY

Forreaston is a rural farming community of 1500 people located in the heart of scenic northwest Illinois. The Village of Forreaston includes a variety of organizations to meet your essential needs, including: Worship, Schools, Retail, Restaurants, Services, Health Care, Library, Manufacturing, Parks and Recreation.

[About Us | Village of Forreaston Illinois](#)



The City of Freeport is just 13 miles north of Forreaston, and offers additional opportunities for shopping, dining, parks, recreation, hospital, community college, and a variety of services and entertainment options. Rockford is a larger city just 45 minutes east of Forreaston. Rockford provides extensive retail with all the big box stores, a wide variety of dining and entertainment, 3 large hospitals colleges, minor league baseball and hockey, along with many parks and recreational activities.

[City of Freeport, Illinois](#)

[Welcome to Rockford | Rockford, IL Trips & Travel](#)

Cardinal Pride fills the Forrestville Valley School District which has received Exemplary Designation from the Illinois State Board of Education being in the top 10% of Illinois Schools. Classroom ratio is 20:1 with a graduation rate of 96%.

[Forrestville Valley CUSD 221](#)

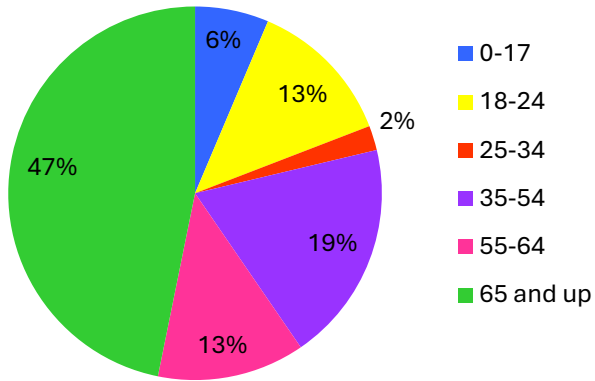


As an agricultural community, fresh sweet corn and other garden vegetables along with fruits and a variety of produce are available during the summer from multiple local farmer's markets as well as local meat markets which can provide delicious farm-to-table meals.

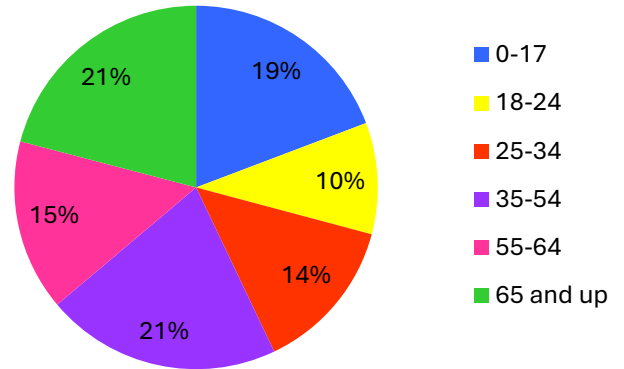
[Farmer's Markets - Ogle County Farm Bureau](#)

Infographics for Forreston

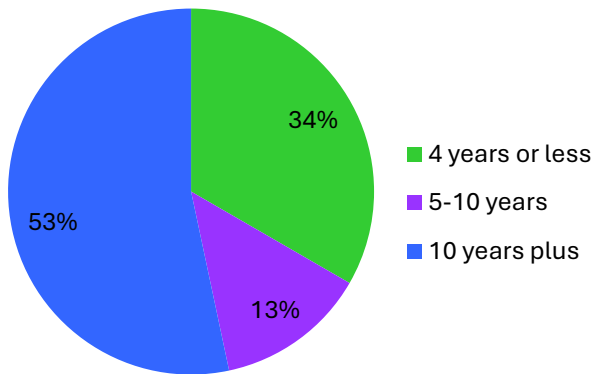
Age of FRC Congregants



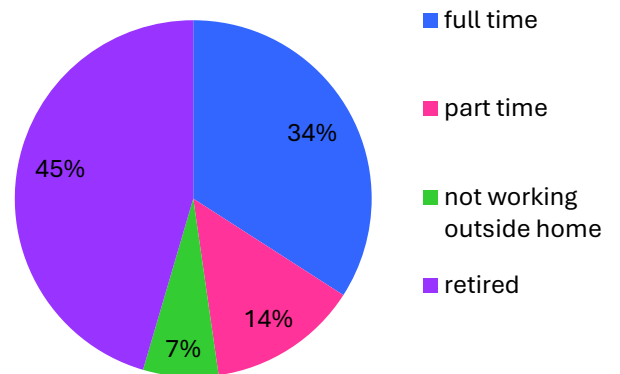
Age of the Forreston Community



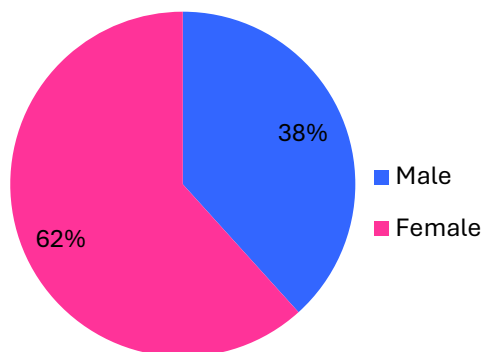
Years Attending FRC



Employment of Congregants

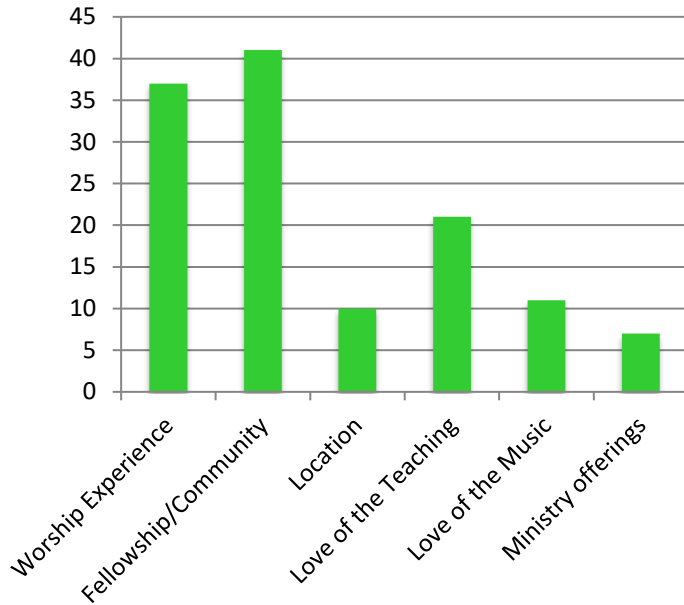


Gender

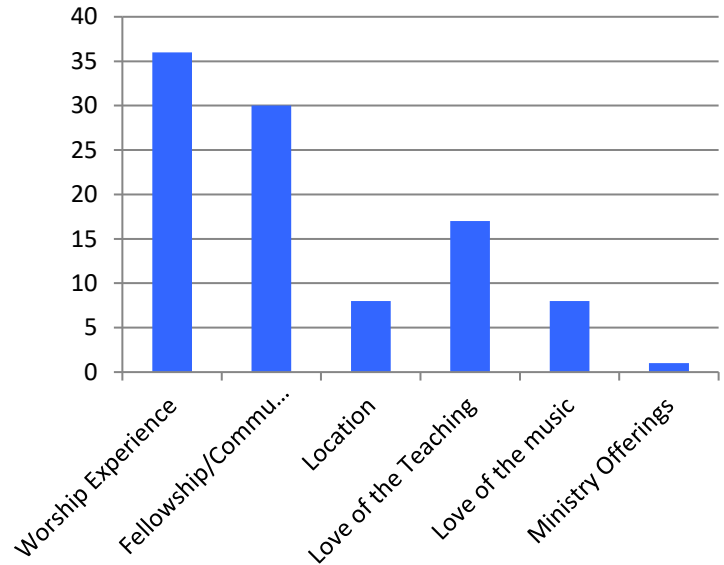


Congregational Survey

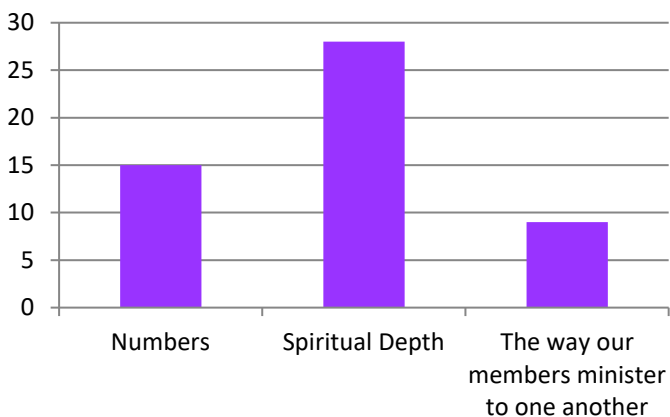
Reasons People Attend FRC



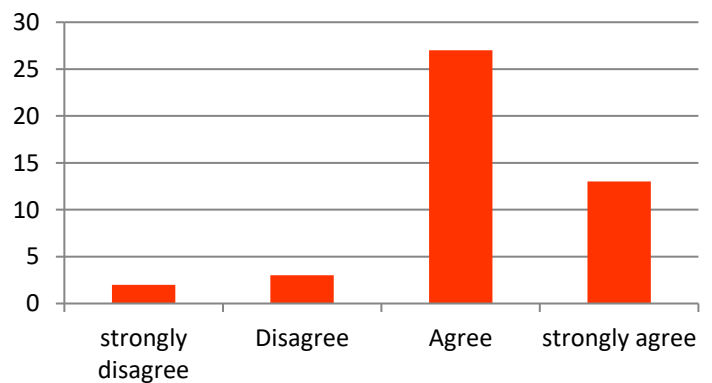
Why do you attend FRC?



In the next 5 years, what area do you think is most important for FRC to grow?



We do an adequate job serving both the spiritual and other needs of our community.



A letter from the former pastor of FRC:

Dear potential pastoral candidate for Forreston Reformed Church,

As the former pastor, I would like to encourage you to explore the ministry you might have here at FRC. I hope to give you a bit of insight into what pastoring at FRC might be like for the next pastor of this flock.

First off, FRC is a solid congregation which has solid leadership in the elders and deacons who seek to grow as they serve. It has been a joy to work with them. They are open to dealing with the challenges and changes that ministry faces today in staying Biblical while seeking to connect with the community.

While FRC might be seen as a small congregation, it has a big heart for this small community and that opens doors for pastoring the community around you. There are many opportunities to engage the community and interact. You can become part of this community and participate in ways and places that give you conversations with people in so many places and positions.

I have found connections and friends wherever I have decided to engage. Whether it is the Lions Club, Forreston Area Business Association, being chaplain of the volunteer fire and ambulance department crews, or just walking around town, you can have conversations.

You may find being on the sidelines of a ballgame, shopping at the local stores, stopping at the post office, bank, hardware store, or library, you will find you meet people quickly and are asked to join in with community activities. You have opportunity to share concern for their struggles and become part of their lives.

The congregation is open and encourages community involvement. FRC gets behind creative ideas such as delivering candy on Halloween to the kids from atop a deer stand in front of the church! Or collecting food for the local food pantry by distributing bags to houses all over town and then picking up all the donations given.

Forreston has a community pride that is seen in the support of the schools and teams. There is also an openness about working together with the other churches for community worship and celebrations. FRC has been a leader in this community cooperation.

When you appreciate the small-town culture, it becomes a blessing that opens doors. Yes, people know what other people are doing, but that also means they care about one another, and you find out what people are going through, and you can minister to them.

The next pastor will find that as you love the FRC people and community, they love you back.

Pastor Lyle Zumdahl (Retired: 12-31-24)
Forreston Reformed Church Pastor: 2017-2024

Pastor Job Description

Position Description

The pastor will faithfully guide the congregation into its next chapter of ministry.

Preaching and Worship

The pastor will preach and teach the Word of God at worship services to initiate and develop personal relationships with Jesus Christ and encourage personal spiritual growth in living out their faith.

Community Engagement

The pastor will be actively involved in the life of the community by participating in various groups and organizations to be an integral part of the community as Forreton Reformed Church connects and interacts with the cultural, business, educational, civic, recreational, and spiritual life of our neighbors.

Leadership and Administration

The pastor, along with the consistory, will provide principal leadership of the church's staff and volunteers and perform administrative roles and duties as required by the consistory and Illinois Classis.

Pastoral Care and Counseling

The pastor will provide counseling and pastoral care to all members, shut-ins, and be available for emergency calls, as possible.

Position Requirements

- A personal and growing relationship of love for Jesus Christ and a passion to humbly and boldly serve him.
- Ordained in the Reformed Church in America or those denominations approved by the Illinois classis.
- A sincere love and compassion for all people.
- Leadership skills with the ability to cast vision for the church and people skills that will draw and develop skills of others into the work of the church.
- Continue developing personal and professional skills.
- Be a relationship builder in the congregation and community.
- Participate in the life of the Illinois Classis and RCA as appropriate.
- Perform activities that support the life, health, operation, and effectiveness of FRC's ministry.

Application Process

If you believe you can contribute to the next chapter in Forreston Reformed Church's story and would like to enter the search process, we would like to hear from you.

A candidate will be considered when we have received all of the following:

- ☐ **Letter of Introduction**
- ☐ **3-5 References** – please include personal and professional.
(We will not contact references without giving you prior notice)
- ☐ **Resume**
- ☐ **Link(s) to view 2-3 sermons or other teaching venues**
- ☐ **Questions** – please submit your answers to the following questions:
 - After reviewing FRC's profile, job description, and website, how do you believe your specific gifts, experiences, and calling might be a fit for Forreston Reformed Church?
 - Forreston Reformed Church is part of the Reformed Church in America. While most of the people we are seeking to reach don't care about denominations, we desire a level of theological unity among our leaders. How do you see yourself fitting into a tradition of covenantal theology?
 - Have you been a part of a community where the agricultural industry has been a big part of the culture?

Send your application material to

forrestonreformedchurch1863@gmail.com

Please attach all documents and information as PDF files

For additional information or to ask questions, please contact:

Larry Tigges at forrestonreformedchurch1863@gmail.com

Our Mission

FORRESTON REFORMED CHURCH EXISTS TO EXALT GOD WITH EACH OTHER, BEFORE OUR COMMUNITY, AND IN OUR WORLD BY PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND BY LIVING THE GOSPEL OF LOVE

