



RISE UP CHURCH

2023 Church Profile



Introduction

[Rise Up Church](#) gets its name from Isaiah 30:18: “Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you, therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.” God is rising up to show his compassion in our community and world and the people of Rise Up Church are rising up to join Him!

The purpose of this document is to introduce you to Rise Up and to invite you to consider whether God might be calling you to become this exciting young church’s next pastor. Thank you for reading.

Our Community

[Cedar Springs](#), the Red Flannel Capital of the U.S.A., is located just 19 miles north of Grand Rapids, MI. It offers many opportunities for different interests. The [Fred Meijer White Pine Trail](#), a continuous 93 mile trail, runs through the outskirts of downtown. Cedar is home to several coffee shops, restaurants, a small hometown [movie theater](#), retail stores, pickleball and tennis courts, an active [library](#) with programming for all ages, both [public](#) and [charter](#) schools, and a host of other businesses and organizations.

Many community events take place throughout the year including the [Red Flannel Festival](#) in October, Easter Extravaganza in the spring, Christmas tree decorating/nativity scene in December, back-to-school bash in August, community Halloween event, and more.

The 2023 census notes that the population of Cedar is 3,678 with 16,181 in the 49319 zip code area - which is the Cedar Springs school district.

For more information on Cedar check out this website: [Chamber of Commerce](#)

Our Story

In June 1950, Grant CRC started Bible studies in three, local one-room schools. One of them was at “Pioneer” schoolhouse on 19 Mile Rd. in Cedar Springs. In 1958, that Bible-study-turned-church opened a new facility on 17 Mile Road as Pioneer Christian Reformed Church. Pioneer CRC carried on a 60 year Gospel ministry in the Cedar Springs community.

As Pioneer prepared to close in 2018, both its people and the Classis prayed fervently that God would raise up a new ministry in Cedar Springs. In 2019, with support from Classis, River Rock Church, CRC Resonate, and the Legacy Fund that Pioneer had donated, a new church plant began in Cedar Springs. God raised up Rev. Jon Huizenga, a Pastor in the Classis, to lead the church plant. Jon had planted two churches previously, most recently River Rock Church in nearby Rockford.

In May, 2019, a group of seven men and women attended a church-planting conference called “Launch”. There, Isaiah 30:18 and the name Rise Up Church arose. That name and passage seemed to us a gift from God for this Cedar Springs ministry.

Every Sunday worship launched on January 12, 2020 in Cedar Springs Middle School with a crowd of 128 attendees and was followed by 60-70 attendees on succeeding Sundays. This was interrupted nine

Sundays later by the Covid pandemic. By God's grace, the church navigated the Covid season with remarkable strength and unity and was able to return to every-Sunday worship at the school in November of 2021. Gradual growth has continued so that a new record worship attendance of 129 was set on Easter Sunday 2023 with attendance of 100 common in the spring and an average of 70-80 during the summer.

Rise Up Church has made important organizational strides. In 2022, the church incorporated and organized as a congregation in the Christian Reformed denomination, including forming Rise Up Church's first board/council. That same year the church asked Classis for ownership of the 58 acre piece of property that Pioneer CRC had left as a legacy along with the funds remaining in the legacy account. Classis approved the request and, in early 2023, the deed to the property at 17 Mile Rd. and Algoma Ave. as well as the funds (\$77,000) were gifted to Rise Up Church.

Rise Up Church has so far celebrated eight adult baptisms and six infant baptisms. The staff includes a full-time Pastor and a part-time Worship Team Leader. Several Team Leaders are guiding ministry areas including: Worship, Children (Rise Up Kids), Hospitality, Compassion (benevolence), Small Groups, and Youth Ministry. The church engages regularly in community projects and supports Hand 2 Hand, a food ministry to students who need it. The Youth Group has organized a Cedar Springs mission trip for three consecutive summers. God is developing Rise Up Church as a community of compassion in Jesus' name that beautifully reflects all the kinds of people that live in and around Cedar Springs, Michigan.

Pastor Huizenga is asking to retire in September 2024. The church and Pastor are working together to seek Rise Up Church's next Pastor with hopes for a period of overlap (3 months if possible) that will enable a healthy and helpful hand-off. We trust that God, who rises up in compassion, will bring us our next leader with the desire and skills to journey into the next chapter of Rise Up Church's important ministry in the Cedar Springs area.

Our Mission

Rising up to join God's story of compassion.

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. Isaiah 30:18

Our Vision

The following vision narrative articulates the vision we have been developing along the way. Our next step in this process is a congregational conversation about our vision at an October, 2023 gathering.

VISION NARRATIVE

The story of Rise Up Church begins in a place: Cedar Springs, Michigan. Demographically, 75% of the population are not connected to a church. Recurring challenges of our culture include isolation and individualism, uncertainty about the relevance of church, and a low-level lack of hope created by financial and other pressures. Yet, Cedar Springs is an eager, growing community with a sense of promise and small-city pride. We love the greater Cedar Springs community!

God pointed us to Isaiah 30:18: “Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you, therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.” We are excited that this name, RISE UP CHURCH, describes what God is doing. GOD IS RISING UP IN COMPASSION TOWARD US AND ALL OF OUR NEIGHBORS. In response to his rising up, we are rising up together to join him. We welcome anyone and everyone to join the journey.

Four practices help us join God’s compassion in our context. They are: JOY - As we experience God’s face shining on us producing joy, we grow in giving that same face of joy with each other. (Numbers 6:22-27) BELONGING - our lives change when we belong to a community that is powered by the love of Jesus. (Romans 8:14-16) PRAYING - as Jesus taught us, we join God when we pray. And, PARTNERING - Jesus sent his disciples with partners and we expect that his Spirit will also lead us to partners - as individuals and as a church. (Luke 10:1-2)

Strategically, we bring these practices into three locations of our lives: At CHURCH where, under Jesus’ lordship, we practice the practices and where he disciples us. At HOME or NEIGHBORHOOD, where living out our practices make Jesus’ presence evident. In PUBLIC SPACES, where we are usually guests of others, not hosts, our practices witness to Jesus’ presence. The question here is not whether God is present, but whether his presence will be noticed and received.

We measure our ministry success by looking for and celebrating stories of how, where and who we see experiencing and expressing God’s compassion at work in the life of Rise Up Church.

Our Current Ministries

- *Weekly worship at Cedar Springs Middle School*
 - Our goal is to welcome all of the kinds of people who live in the Cedar area into a community of compassion in Jesus’ name.
 - The pastor and worship team leader collaborate to create worship services.
 - Many teams collaborate for hospitality, set-up/tear-down, Rise Up Kids, prayer, music, and technology.
 - A unique “Half Time” break is working well as a community building tool.
- *Children’s Ministry*
 - Rise Up Kids is developing a team of leaders and student helpers to lead a high-quality ministry for children through 5th grade using the *Dwell Curriculum*. They meet in the school gym during the 2nd half of the worship service.
- *Small Groups and Gatherings*
 - We have featured a book of the Bible in each of the last three school years for a Bible study/sermon series. Groups meet to study the passage (using *Discover Your Bible* materials) prior to a sermon on Sunday. Usually eight weeks in the fall and a longer stretch starting in January.
 - We are developing a team to create regular gatherings that can serve to build relationships and be invitation events. Past events have included cornhole tournaments, group games, bounce houses, potlucks, and a pie baking contest.

- *Compassion Team*
 - This team responds to needs within and outside of the Rise Up congregation. A recent project included flooring, painting, and other repairs for a church family. Another effort helped a family avoid homelessness and move to more stable housing.
- *Community Engagement*
 - From our beginning, Rise Up has sought to be "in, with, and among" the people of Cedar Springs. We regularly join our community when and where we see a place to contribute. We often participate in Cedar Springs Chamber of Commerce sponsored events. We also partner with a local ministry called City Impact. Rise Up's students have done local mission trips for three consecutive summers.
- *Youth Group*
 - The youth group began in 2023 (except for mission trips in prior years) gathering 6th - 12th grade students. It includes strong student leaders and three adult volunteer leaders.
- *Board*
 - We call our council "the board". Currently, two elders and two deacons and the Pastor make up the board. Both men and women serve. The board meets monthly and also convenes a monthly meeting with all the Ministry Team leaders. We are proud of the collaborative history of Rise Up's leaders in which the Pastor, Board and Teams listen, collaborate, and discern together.
- *Prayer*
 - We recently began a Friday morning prayer gathering. On Sunday mornings, an open prayer time takes place when set-up is mostly complete - usually 25 minutes before the service begins. Prayer-gifted people are present and active in church life.

Our Strengths and Challenges

Our *strengths* as a congregation:

- Community-engaged with a vision for including all the kinds of people in our community and for people rising up to join God every day.
- Faith that God is rising up around us. (Isaiah 30:18)
- Strong leadership gifts are present with a history of healthy collaboration.
- Very open and welcoming.
- A wide range of age and economic demographics.
- Strong music team and leader with committed participation.
- Rise Up Kids and Youth group and the next generations they serve.
- Financially stable.
- The need for set-up and teardown could be viewed as an inconvenience, but for Rise Up, it is embraced as an opportunity to socialize and assimilate while serving the church.
- A debt free 58 acre parcel of property in a good location.

Our *challenges* as a congregation:

- As a new church, we often need to imagine and develop systems that we do not yet have in place. For example: assimilation strategies, guest follow-up practices, future staffing.

- We may need to secure some space which is available beyond our Sunday rental of the school.
- Discerning the way forward will continue to require Spirit enabled collaboration, empowerment, and discernment.

Our Life Together in Pictures



Position Description

Rise Up Church

Classis Grand

Rapids North

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Pastor
Reports to	Rise Up Board
Status	Full Time - Salaried with housing allowance
Compensation	Compensation will be commensurate with experience and guided by the CRCNA minister compensation survey information. (For reference: the average salary and housing allowance total for Classis Grand Rapids North is \$74,622.)

OVERVIEW

The pastor is deeply committed to serving Christ, on a journey to be increasingly more Christ-like, and passionate about sharing the joy of the gospel with those at Rise Up Church as well as those in the community of Cedar Springs. The pastor will shepherd the Rise Up family in matters of faith, prayer, discipleship, spiritual wellbeing, and service to others. In partnership with the board, the pastor will lead this young church plant into the future bringing its vision and mission to fruition in real and tangible ways. Creativity will be encouraged, explored, and realized in weekly worship gatherings, outreach opportunities, and the nurturing of individuals' faithwalk. A desire to partner with the board and staff in a teamwork setting will match Rise Up's value for partnership and collaboration. Engagement with the local ministerial association and community opportunities are highly valued and expected.

Pastors are human and therefore not able to be all things to all people. At Rise Up, we're very cognizant of this. We acknowledge and celebrate strengths and walk alongside the pastor to support him/her in areas that are more challenging. Proactively caring for the pastor's wellbeing is a high priority.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES include the following:

Leadership

- Models and encourages genuine prayer with and for the Rise Up family and community.
- Models and encourages authenticity and integrity in relationships within the congregation and community.
- Sees children and youth as important partners in the church and supports ministry that engages and discipless them.
- Engages in strategic planning and execution of the church's mission and vision.
- Provides supervision and support to church staff.
- Collaborates and engages in active partnership with Rise Up Church's board.
- Encourages and values proper guidance, training, and direction that will support and empower healthy and impactful ministry teams.
- Represents Rise Up Church at Classis Grand Rapids North meetings. Serves on classical/denominational committees as appropriate.
- Models the importance of ongoing personal and professional development.
- Engages in disciplining relationships: for self enrichment and with others for their spiritual growth.
- Carries out other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the board.

Community Outreach

- Promotes, encourages, and engages with the Rise Up family in extending the compassion of Jesus to the community through acts of service and care.
- Represents Rise Up Church in the greater Cedar Spring community.

Christian Growth and Community

- Promotes and engages in ministry that helps the Rise Up family to become mature in faith and equipped for service.
- Actively participates in and supports efforts that strengthen relationships for everyone within Rise Up's family.

Worship

- Preaches regularly - ordinarily on Sunday mornings.
- Offers practical and real-life preaching that is deeply grounded in Scripture.
- Works with the worship team leader and others to develop meaningful, spirit-dependent, effective worship opportunities.
- Administers the Sacraments of baptism and communion.
- Plans and participates in special worship services as needed.

Pastoral Care

- Engages in pastoral care of Rise Up's family along with the Compassion Team and the elders and deacons as together they meet the needs of our church family.
- May, upon request, provide services such as weddings and funerals.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

The worship team leader.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. A personal relationship with Jesus Christ which serves as the bedrock of all aspects of life.
2. Demonstrated love of walking alongside people and sharing life with them.
3. Demonstrated leadership, administrative, and interpersonal skills.
4. Demonstrated ability to work with, and minister, to diverse individuals from all walks of life.
5. Demonstrated ability to engage with the broader community in which Rise Up is located.
6. Demonstrated clear verbal and written communication.
7. Demonstrated ability to engage in a team ministry and work well with others.
8. Demonstrated accountability, responsibility, and integrity.
9. Demonstrated desire to be a life-long learner and open to trying new things.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

1. A masters of divinity degree is preferred.
2. Ordination in the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA) or the Reformed Church in America (RCA) is required.
3. Experience in church leadership is required.
4. Experience in a church plant setting is beneficial but not required.

Search Team Members

Chris Striebel



Chris currently works as the executive director of The Salvation Army Great Lakes Division emergency disaster service program. He has been working in the mission of disaster services for 14 years and has been a program director for 5 years. Chris has been attending Rise Up Church for 3 years. He's been able to serve in a quiet capacity, helping with events and clean up. Chris enjoys the atmosphere and the intentional focus Rise Up puts on loving people and supporting them where they are. Chris is a father of 3 children and husband to his wife, Julie.

Cindy Martinie



Cindy has had the same job for 38 years, developing flight management software for GE Aerospace, mainly on the Boeing 737. Cindy has been involved with Rise Up since early in 2019. She plays violin with the Praise Team and sews banners for the Children's Ministry. She has been married for 37 years to Randy, who works in Development at Calvin University. They have two children - a son/daughter-in-law in Clinton NY and a daughter/son-in-law in Hudsonville MI. In her spare time Cindy likes to camp and hike in National Parks, sew/quilt and do stained glass.

Emma Noorman



Emma recently graduated from Cedar Springs High School with her EMT license. She works at Life EMS as an EMT and plans to continue her education and become a Naturopathic Doctor. Emma has been going to Rise Up Church almost since it first started. She has gone on two of the three youth mission trips and plans to go on more. Emma has an amazing family, boyfriend, and his family. In her spare time, Emma loves being outside and taking care of her plants. She also loves traveling, going on road trips, and seeing new things.

Greg Busse



Greg was an educator for 34 years primarily at the middle school. He also coached varsity tennis and was self-employed as a landscaper. Greg is an elder on Rise Up's board and leads the Congregational Life Team. He has been married to Karen for close to 37 years. They have four married children and nine grandchildren. He enjoys spending time with family, reading, restoring their property into native plants, and participating in any activity that involves the outdoors.

Jan Coil



Jan retired from the Kent County Health Department at the end of 2020 where she supervised programs serving pregnant women and babies. Prior to that she taught school, ran homeless shelters and substance abuse treatment centers in Detroit and worked at MSU Extension. She's currently the co-chair of Rise Up's Compassion Team and works with the A/V Team for worship. Jan enjoys travel, reading, kayaking, biking, working on art creations and a great sunset. Jan has been married to her husband Jeff for 22 years and they have 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

Kerri Neymeiyer



Kerri holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in illustration from Kendall College of Art and Design and does freelance work as an illustrator, primarily within the greeting card industry. At Rise Up Church she uses her arts background to create the marketing and outreach materials. She also serves as a pianist on the Praise Team. Kerri is a stay at home mother to three young children and is expecting another baby in early 2024.

Lis Van Harten (chair)



Lis recently retired as the CRCNA's U.S. director of Congregational Ministries (now called Thrive) and the director of Pastor Church Resources. She worked for the denomination for 20 years during which time caring for pastors' wellbeing was her focus. Lis serves on Rise Up's board and leads the Hospitality Team. She finds joy in reading, gardening, sewing, traveling, camping, and her 4 kids and 10 grandkids. Lis has been married to Dave for 43 years and is looking forward to many more.

Application Process

We request that all candidates submit the following in order to be considered:

- One page cover letter
- Resume
- One to two page statement of faith which will include answers to the following questions:
 - What excites you about a young church plant?
 - In what ways do you feel God has gifted you for this type of ministry?
 - Please describe, with examples, how you see yourself as both a self-starter and a collaborative leader?
- URL/Link to a recent sermon in video or audio format

All requested information can be emailed to:

DLVANHARTEN@GMAIL.COM - Lis Van Harten: chair of the search team

or mailed to:

Rise Up Church Search Team
% Lis Van Harten
1925 17 Mile Rd NE
Cedar Springs, MI 49319