

ADVENT IV
December 22, 2019

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Glorious Christmas Glorias

arr. Tammy Waldrop

WE APPROACH OUR GOD

Angels from the Realms of Glory

The Prelude

The Welcome

*The Carol

*The Call to Worship

Leader: Alleluia! The Christ Child comes and we await His birth.

People: Let us throw off our distractions and allow the chaos to settle.

Leader: Let us watch for the signs and listen to the messengers.

People: Let us stand on tiptoe and shout aloud and sing.

Leader: Something new is emerging, something new is being birthed.

People: We are waiting on the promise. We are waiting for Jesus!

*The Song of Praise

Adore with O Come Let Us Adore Him

*The Greeting

The Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy

Leader: Today we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of LOVE. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in His ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us His most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

People: We have learned to love from being loved by God. And so today, let us enact that love. Let us live that love. We know that the world needs more love. We need to remember how much God loves each one of us and we must share that love with others.

Leader: We are never apart from the love of God. It never leaves us. Hear these words from Romans 8, "Nothing can separate us from His love."

Let us pray together:

People: Dear God, teach us to love. May we always remember to put You first as we follow Christ's footsteps so we may know Your love and show it in our lives. Fill our hearts with love so that all may know the love You have sent - Your Son, our Savior. Amen.

The Advent Song

Hope for Everyone

Matt Maher, Jason Ingram

The Confession

Leader: We confess that we ignore the Savior You sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of Your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for His coming each moment in our waiting hearts.

People: Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the Light so that Your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Amen.

*The Song of Assurance

O Little Town of Bethlehem

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lessons

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25

The Message

"Love: God with Us!"

The Anthem

Mary Had a Baby

arr. Lloyd Larson

The Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GOODNESS

The Offering

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

The Holly and the Ivy

arr. Chip Davis

The News of the Church Alive

*The Carol

Angels We Have Heard On High

*The Benediction

*The Postlude

*All who are able, please stand

Worship Leaders:

Preaching – Pastor Bud Pratt; Liturgist – Pastor Matt Cook; Organ – Beth Sweers; Saxophone - Jeffrey Allardyce; Soloist - Lou Stelma; Bells of Joy; Kids' Praise Choir; Chancel Choir; Praise Team

NEXT SUNDAY: "The Reality of it All"; Isaiah 63:7 – 64:1, Matthew 2:13-23

PRAYER TEAM

Elders will be available at the front of the sanctuary following the service to pray with you or listen to your needs or concerns.

TODAY at FRC

Welcome to First Reformed Church in Grandville on this Fourth Sunday in the season of Advent! Advent is a season of preparation, anticipation, expectation and hope. We celebrate God's love coming down to us in the person of Jesus Christ, and we also await His return. If you are visiting, a warm welcome to you as well. If you are searching for a church home and would like more information about First Reformed Church, please stop at the Welcome Desk near the main entrance. A time for coffee and fellowship follows our service in the room to your left. Hope to see you there!

HELPERS TODAY

Nursery Today: Check-In: Kelly Kievit
Infant: Kristin Russell, Lauren Potyraj
Toddler: Brian & Nicole Clark, Brooke Hunderman, Katie Smith
Angie & Will Walker
4:30 Christmas Eve: Angie & Will Walker
Nursery Next Week: Infant: Marlene McKian, Ellie Kleinheksel
Toddler: Phil & Nicole Malnar, Aiden Adams

Ushers Today:	Kim Brinks	Brendan Wolford	Bill Ritsema	Jeff Sonnema
4:30pm Christmas Eve:	Glenn Swart	Eric Riha	Doug Nienhuis	
Candlelight Service:	Dan Wolma	Duane Frens	Steve Sweers	Jim Danek
Ushers Next Week:	Duane Frens	Dan Wolma	Steve Sweers	Jim Danek
	<u>Today</u>		<u>Next Week</u>	
Coffee Servers:	Gordy & Carol Waddell		Ed & Mary Jo Messenger	
	Steve & Val Westrick		Kevin & Bobbi Meyer	
Greeters:	Jeff & Kristy Muller		Gordy & Carol Waddell	
			Ed & Mary Jo Messenger	

Stewardship Update – December 22, 2019

Dec. 8 Offering:	\$ 14,255.00
Dec. 8 Online Giving:	\$ 2,307.00
Dec. 8 Miscellaneous Offering:	\$ 0.00
Total Offering for week Dec. 8:	\$ 16,562.00
Dec. 15 Offering:	\$ 12,360.00
Dec. 15 Online Giving:	\$ 2,700.00
Dec. 15 Miscellaneous Offering:	\$ 11,530.00
Total Offering for week Dec. 15:	\$ 26,590.00
December Total:	\$ 60,361.00
December Goal:	\$140,000.00
Nov. 29 Communion offering:	\$ 240.00
Outstanding Mortgage Balance	\$372,711.00
Text to Give - 616-208-4301	

A detailed financial report is available in the church office.

The **Food Pantry** is in need of jelly, peanut butter, pancake mix, syrup, cereal, and juice. You may leave your donations in the grocery cart in the Activity Center. Thanks!

In case of an emergency and no one is at church you may call Pastors Bud Pratt - 708-302-5645, Matt Cook - 616-893-4189 or consistory vice president Kevin Meyer - 616-719-9652, or any of the other elders.



Phone: 534-5465
Prayer Line: 534-0113

Email: mail@firstgrandville.org
Fax: 534-1185

Radio Broadcast Sunday mornings at 9:30am - WFUR - 102.9

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH PRAYERS & CONCERNS

For prayer updates during the week, please call the **Prayer Line** – 534-0113

We extend prayers of healing & comfort for:

- **Marie Roos**, fell and broke her hip and had surgery December 18.
- **Dave Timmerman**, home recovering and had a heart cath on December 20.
- **Judy Baartman**, a patient at Butterworth.
- **Doug Koster**, recovering from back surgery.
- **Jeff VanDuinen**, recovering from hip surgery.
- **Continued prayers for: Roy DeJonge, Jack Kosten, Joyce Bolthouse, Ed Kingma, Brian Kehr, Shirley Ghysels, Charlie Cobb, Curt Stoel, Kaitlin Kremers Lyons**

Please keep all our military troops in your prayers, especially:

- **Dustin Lambries, Jeremy Stegehuis, Jeff Shuck & Tony Shuck** (Betty Isenga's grandsons),
Edward Peter Tolhurst (Pat Bird's nephew)

Please keep in your hearts and minds:

- Our **Family at Home members** - Nelly Baak, Judy Baartman, Vern & Norma Boss, Milo Buikema, Sharon Bouwman, Bill & Helen Dertien, Arlene Jacobitz, Kathy Kermeen, Joyce Kooman, Ev Lindhout, Kay Mekkes, Dorothy VanderLaan, Bea Verburg, Evelyn Watson, Lois Wing, Mary Zomerlei

THANK YOU...

...for the Christmas plant. It touched my heart. **Evelyn Watson**

...for your support and prayers during my recovery from retina surgery. **Hans Dulimarta**

The Advent bulletin covers we are using were created by Joel Schoon-Tanis. Joel's painting explores God's creation and stories from a whimsical child-like perspective. Joel is a celebrated painter with many connections to the Reformed Church in America. His work has been shown all over the world. Several of his creations are in our children's library.

THIS WEEK

The office will have limited hours the next 2 weeks so please call ahead. The office will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 & 25, and Wednesday, January 1. The office will be open Monday, December 31, from 9:00am - noon for any last minute financial gifts.

TUESDAY

4:30pm Family friendly Christmas Eve service
11:00pm Candlelight lessons and carols service

THURSDAY

9:00am Men's Bible study - Chuck Porte - 261-4402 - Mark Davis will lead the discussion based upon Romans 4:1-25. The study manual explains the scripture in chapter 4, "What Abraham and David Discovered". See you there!

Advanced Calendar

Dec. 31 - Voice of Victory concert - 8:00pm
Jan. 3 - MomBreak - Diane Katsma - Mombreakmk@yahoo.com or 616-291-2443
Jan. 7 - Esther Circle - Joyce Bolthouse - 643-8223
Jan. 7 - WyldLife - Abbie Chamberlain - abbie.chamberlain@harborchurches.org
Jan. 8 - Blood Drive
Jan. 8 - Global Mission Council - Jeff Muller - 889-5187
Jan. 13 - Facilities Council - Steve Westrick - 893-6838
Jan. 13 - Worship Council - Denise Poll - 340-5325
Jan. 14 - Anna Circle - Lynne Rosema - 901-5784
Jan. 19 - All church lunch following worship

Maple Tree Preschool's 2020-2021 registration opens on January 1!

Tell your friends, neighbors, and family about Maple Tree Preschool! Classes for ages 3-5 are available in a two, three, four, or five half day format. To find out if Maple Tree Preschool is the right fit, invite families to our open houses on Saturday, January 11, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and Monday, February 3, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Registration is available online and at the open house. For online registration and a virtual tour, go to www.mapletreepreschool.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

There will be no **Children in Worship or Sunday School** until January 12.

There will be no more **FOCUS** until January 8.

Family Friendly Christmas Service with nursery provided December 24th at 4:30pm.

ADVANCE NOTICE - Since camp registration for summer opens up in January and for those of you starting to plan dates for your kids and your family summer vacations....mark in your calendar VBS for the week of June 22nd.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Jr. & Sr. High - No Sunday School until January 12.

Collision (5th & 6th graders) - February 2 from noon to 1:30pm.

Jr. High Youth Group (7th & 8th graders) - on Christmas break. We will resume January 8.

Sr. High Youth Group (9th - 12th graders) - We will be on Christmas break and resume on January 5 for sledding at Johnson Park. Meet at 6:15 at the Youth Lounge for pizza. Bring your own sled.

Please fill out and turn in the Spring Hill Retreat form to Jeff ASAP.

Youth mission trip - The high school youth group is going to Washington D.C. June 14th - 20th. Please pray for them as they plan for the trip.

Youth Mission Trip fundraisers:

- **Pop can drive** - There will be a labeled trash can in the Youth Lounge all year for you to drop off your empty cans.

Please follow our Jr. High & Sr. High Social Media pages:

Instagram - First_Reformed Youth

Facebook - First Reformed Youth

Camp registrations to **Camp Geneva and Cran Hill Ranch** are available in the kiosk.

LOOKING AHEAD

Blood Drive - We will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, January 8, from 3:30pm-7:00pm in the Parlor. You can sign up to give blood at the Sign Up Center, call 866-642-5663 or schedule directly at: https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/127367

Shake it up! Time again to switch up your Eat with Seven or Eight dining groups! If you haven't heard about this, groups of up to 8 adults (singles & couples of ALL ages) are randomly chosen to dine out together at a restaurant of that group's choosing. Interested? Just sign up on the clipboard outside the activity center. As before, if you already participated and would like to continue, no need to sign the list again; we'll just include you in the new random drawing. Otherwise if you cannot participate this round, please add your name to the "Take our names off for now" section. You can always rejoin when your schedule allows. Deadline to sign up is TODAY. Any questions, please contact Casey Dutmer 551-2430.

VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS & MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Mission trip to Annville, KY - If you are interested in going on the mission trip to Annville April 5-11, please put your name on the sheet at the sign-up center or contact Paul Brinks, Terry Jolink, Larry Kuipers, or Steve Watson. The cost is \$250 per person and includes meals and lodging.

It's time to "mail" your Christmas cards. Please use the church mail boxes and put the amount you would have spent on postage in the box attached to the side of the mail boxes. All money collected will be given to The Other Way. Thank you, **The Esther Circle**

Hat & Mitten collection - The Esther Circle will be collecting hats and mittens to be distributed to different agencies for needy children. There is a collection box under the mailboxes.

Matthew's House - Is in need of men's and women's coats. Place donations in the box under the mailslots. Questions? Contact Karen Diekema - 644-0820 or Carol Bernson - 667-8821.

