

The Growing Season

July 18, 2021

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

Joy in Hope
Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Barbara Boertje
African American Spiritual, arr. Lloyd Larson

WE APPROACH OUR GOD

The Welcome

*The Song of Praise

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship

Brian Doerksen

*The Call to Worship

Leader: Children of God - welcome to this place of love and grace. God invites all of us to be a part of this beloved community!

All: We all are welcome, just as we are. We all are loved, just as we are.

Leader: We come to this place, seeking signs of the Living God.

All: God's love can become visible within each one of us!

Leader: Let our hearts be glad! God is faithful to us and God rules in love.

All: Praise be to God!

*The Hymn of Praise

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson, NETTLETON

Traditional American melody from John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*

The Children's Blessing

The Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to You the things in our lives that are beautiful and good as well as the things that are hurtful and hateful.

All: We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with conditions. We judge and condemn.

Leader: We throw the first stone and we keep the logs in our own eyes.

All: Forgive us, Lord. Forgive our sins and empower us to be imitators of Your love. Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness:

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Our God fulfils His promises and is true to His word. We have confessed our sins. God has forgiven us. Thanks be to God for this amazing gift of love! Amen.

*The Song of Preparation

I Give You My Heart

Reuben Morgan

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lesson

Psalms 13

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Message

"I Will Sing to the Lord"

*The Hymn of Response

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Charles Wesley AZMON Carl G. Glaser,
Arr. Lowell Mason

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GOODNESS

The News of the Church Alive

*The Song of Blessing

We Receive Your Blessing

Grace & Natasha Moes

*The Benediction

*The Postlude

Consider the Lilies

Barbara Boertje

*All who are able, please stand

Worship Leaders: Preaching – Pastor Eildert Zwart; Liturgist – Bob Stelma; Organist – Barb VanderHeide; Praise Team

Please follow our church social media pages:

Instagram: frcgrandville

Facebook: First Reformed Church

Stewardship Update:

July 11 Collection Plate	\$ 10,821.00
Online Giving:	<u>\$ 3,972.00</u>
Total Offering:	\$ 14,793.00

Average weekly offering needed to make 2021 budget	\$ 16,975.00
2021 Annual budget	\$882,740.00
Outstanding Mortgage Balance	\$ 57,000.00
Text to Give - 616-208-4301	

Mortgage update as of July 12, 2021 - As you can see we are making great progress on paying off our mortgage balance, as of today we owe \$57,000. Since December 31, 2020 we have paid off \$122,548. Once again we have an opportunity to pay this balance off by the end of this year. A church family has made us an offer to challenge us to a match gift up to \$25,000. Wouldn't it be great if we could pay our mortgage off by the end of this year? Please consider making a gift over and above your regular offering to the Building Fund. With all of us working on this we should be able to start 2022 debt free.

As always we are thankful for your gifts and offering to our church, "God is Good".

Your Finance Deacons: Tim Kooima, Tony Williams, & Mark Donker.

Our sincerest appreciation and thanks for all of the calls, texts, messages, cards, meals, flowers, and prayers during the passing of our mother and grandmother. Much love to our FIRST family. John, Kelly and Madeline Kievit

Sunday School – 3 years old – 5th grade - will resume on August 15.

Nursery Open - First Church would like to announce that our nurseries are fully operational. We are thankful for your patience over the last year and a half. Our volunteers are ready to care for your children. Please call Angie Walker if you have any questions about the precautions the nursery staff will be taking (616-828-6580). Angie is also seeking additional volunteers if you are willing.

Next Bonfire Night – Wednesday, July 28 - Want to connect with others while playing yard games, play on the playground, make smores? Grab a camp chair and come to the Family Life Center parking lot any time between 7 and 9pm.

Youth Mission Trip fundraiser:

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

Summer campers - If you have a child going to camp this summer and would like their name in the bulletin to pray for them while they are there, please email mail@firstgrandville.org with their name and date they will be at camp.

Maple Tree Preschool Registration - Preschool registration for 2021-2022 has begun! If you know of a family looking for a preschool, please have them check out www.mapletreepreschool.org and [Maple Tree Preschool's Facebook page](#).

FOCUS Nights - We are currently planning for FOCUS to return on Wednesday nights in the fall. Stay tuned as details become available.

Items needed for August shipment to Haiti – Either bar, liquid, or hotel sample soap, Beanie Babies they can use for kids in the hospital, cloth tote bags (can be used and can have logos on them). Questions? Call Joyce Bolthouse – 643-8223

Lost & Found – Umbrella in the west entry, brown Bible on the table in the narthex, and a blue jacket on the coat rack by the elevator.

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:

- **Roy DeJonge**, home recovering from a stroke.
- **Roger Tuinstra**, under the care of hospice at American House.
- **Kim Duimstra** (Chuck's daughter and caregiver), recovering from mini strokes.
- Janet Pofahl's granddaughter, **Erica**, was involved in a serious bus accident in Georgia and is hospitalized with severe burns.
- Pray for anyone affected in any way by **the Corona virus**.
- **Continued prayers for: Jim Danek, BJ Veneklasen, Trudie Wierda, Don Alderink, Karin Dykstra, Chuck Duimstra, Curt Stoel, Andrew Lau, Kim (VanPortfliet) Start, Jakob Kempema, Rikki Leanne DePuy.**

We extend Christian sympathy to:

- **The family and friends of Al Groendyk**, who passed away on July 11.
- **The family and friends of Annette De Ridder**, who passed away on July 10.
- **Bob Poll and family** at the passing of his mother, Marilyn Poll, on July 9.

Camper this week:

- **Cameron Malnar**

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), **Ben Westrick**

Please keep in your hearts and minds:

- **Our Family at Home members** – Eloise Anderson, Judy Baartman, Crystal Baum, Norma Boss, Ron & Dorothy Cook, Helen Dertien, Karin Dykstra, Arlene Jacobitz, Ev Lindhout, Pat Marcusse, Kay Mekkes, Janet Pofahl, Evelyn Watson, Mary Zomerlei

Psalm Sermon Outline

“I WILL SING TO THE LORD!”

Psalm 13

Text: “I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt so bountifully with me.” (Psalm 13:6 RSV)

This psalm is one I have used often in my calling as a pastor. I have used it especially with people who were enduring some pain or sorrow that seemed to have no end, because the psalmist repeatedly asks the question: “How long, O Lord?”

- I. **THE PLIGHT.** (vss. 1-2)
 - A. The writer of this psalm was caught up in the burden of his grief and pain. It was filling his thoughts.
 - B. These words express the pain and frustration we have all experienced at various times in our lives.
- II. **THE PRAYER.** (vss. 3-4)
 - A. One of the outstanding features of this prayer is the language which the psalmist used; notice especially how direct and how demanding it is.
 - B. Behind his words, we see that this man's greatest desire was simply to be close to God.
- III. **THE PLEDGE.** (vss. 5-6)
 - A. The pledge this man made was rooted in his trust in God. He realized how trustworthy God had been.
 - B. The psalmist's communion with God had produced a change in his mood and feelings.
 - C. The change of mood eventually led him to an expression of joy, and in that joy the psalmist made a pledge that he would sing to the Lord.

Conclusion: This kind of pledge...and this kind of singing must come from the heart! It's a response of commitment and praise to God for all His goodness.