

The Growing Season
September 12, 2021

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

When Morning Gilds the Skies

arr. Dale Wood

WE APPROACH OUR GOD

The Welcome

*The Hymn of Praise

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Henry Van Dyke
ODE TO JOY Ludwig van Beethoven

*The Call to Worship

Leader 1: Today we worship and rest in the Lord our God.

ALL: We put aside productivity to wonder and worship.

Leader 2: Today we worship and do a different kind of work.

ALL: We have gathered to do liturgy, the work of the people.

Leader 1: Today we worship, for the world does not revolve around us.

ALL: We revolve around God and God's goodness and grace.

Leader 2: Come, let us worship God!

*The Songs of Praise

*Way Maker
Ten Thousand Reasons*

Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu
Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman

The Call to Reconciliation

Leader 2: What are folks saying about us? Do they mention our kindness, or how hard we are on others; do they speak of our love, or about our selfishness?

Leader 1: God invites us to follow Jesus and reflect Him in our lives. Join me, as we confess how we have not done so, as we pray together, saying,

The Prayer for Forgiveness (*spoken together*)

Dear Lord, forgive us when the way we live does not match our claim to be Christ's followers. We say we love others, but speak bitter words to them. We think we are good and gracious people, but hurl insults at those we do not like, or those we fear. We are quicker to speak of judgment for others, rather than being voices for justice.

But with Your gracious mercy, God, You can put out the wildfires of bitterness sparked by our words. You can stop the words on the tips of our tongues and transform them into whispers of peace and love. You can open our ears so that we can hear all that Your Son who brings grace and hope, Jesus the Messiah, has to share with us, in these moments and all those to come. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader 1: Can we handle it – the good news; the fact that God's grace can transform us; that God can teach us new songs; that God can fill us with hope and joy?

Leader 2: It is hard to believe, which may be why it is hard to accept it. But God loves us, God has mercy on us, God is with us.

ALL: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

*The Song of Forgiveness

What a Beautiful Name

Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lesson

Mark 8:27-38

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Message

"The Paths We Travel"

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GOODNESS
I Surrender with I Surrender All

*The Song of Commitment

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts
The Offertory Prayer
The Video

Summer Highlights

The News of the Church Alive

*The Benediction

*The Postlude

Alleluia! Song of Gladness

arr. Robert J. Powell

*All who are able, please stand

Worship Leaders: Preaching –Pastor Matt Cook; Liturgist – Jeff Watson, Reid Dykstra; Organist – Beth Sweers; Praise Team

Please follow our church social media pages:

Instagram: frcgrandville

Facebook: First Reformed Church

Stewardship Update:

September 5 Collection Plate	\$ 9,611.00
Online Giving:	<u>\$ 3,477.00</u>
Total Offering:	\$ 13,088.00

Average weekly offering needed to make 2021 budget	\$ 16,975.00
2021 Annual budget	\$882,740.00

Text to Give - 616-208-4301

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

Our **Fall Kick Off celebration** will take place today after church. Join us for an outdoor picnic serving pulled pork and fixins. Everyone welcome!

Kids Sunday fall programs kick off TODAY. Ages 3 years - Kindergarten can be dropped off in room #113 South when you arrive. 1st Grade-5th Grade can be dropped off in the downstairs Assembly Room when you arrive. All kids can be picked up immediately following the service. We are following Grandville Public School Covid guidelines, so masks are required for kids, as well as our volunteers. We are excited to "Blast Off" into this new season! Nursery will also be available.

High School youth group kick off – TODAY from 6 to 8pm - Barbecue/pool party at 3501 Apache Ct, Grandville. Please bring a side dish to pass. Questions? Contact Jeff Watson – 250-7148 or jeffw@firstgrandville.org

Jr. High youth group kick off - TODAY from 3 to 5, at Rebounderz in Jenison. Drop off and pick up will be at Rebounderz. Cost is \$20. **Please let Jeff know if your son or daughter is coming ahead of time.** Questions? Contact Jon Hull – 517-803-5686 or jon@firstgrandville.org or Jeff Watson – 250-7148 or jeffw@firstgrandville.org

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Women in the Word – begins September 15 with coffee and fellowship at 9:30am in the upstairs adult ed room. We will continue to study *Walking with God in the Desert*, a study by Ray VanderLaan. Questions? Call Marilyn Stelma – 616-450-6008

Our annual **Mission Sunday** will take place on September 19. This will be a great time to learn more about how our church is partnering with 15 ministry partners around the world. Our guests will be Roland and Jane VanEs from Kenya. There will also be video updates from three other missionaries.

FOCUS will start on October 6.

OTHER ITEMS

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.

Youth group volunteers needed – One female and one male Jr. High leader which meets Sundays from 4:00- 5:30pm.
2 Jr. High Sunday school leaders which meets Sundays 11:00-11:45am.

Volunteers - Children's Ministry is looking for volunteers to serve in the nursery and in the kids programs. If you are interested (even if just once every 4-6 weeks!) please contact Angie angie@firstgrandville.org or 616-828-6580.

Food pantry needs - Canned fruits, applesauce, cream soups, beef stew, pancake mix and syrup, cake mix and frosting, muffin mix, stuffing, canned pasta, drinks, canned meats, rice, boxed potatoes and gravy, hamburger/tuna Helper, personal care items. You may drop these items off in the grocery cart located in the Activity Center.

Missing - There is a large punchbowl missing from the kitchen. If you happen to have it at your house could you please return it to the kitchen! Thank you!

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:

- **Kay Mekkes**, at Brookcrest following a hospital stay for an infection.
- **Pat Lantinga**, at Mary Free Bed for rehab following a stroke.
- **Ken Ploeg**, at home recovering from an infection in his back.
- Pray for anyone affected in any way by **the Corona virus**.
- **Continued prayers for: Ron Cook, Roy DeJonge, BJ Veneklasen, Trudie Wierda, Don Alderink, Karin Dykstra, Chuck Duimstra, Kim Duimstra, Curt Stoel, Erica Obi, Kim (VanPortfliet) Start, Jakob Kempema, Rikki Leanne DePuy.**

We extend Christian sympathy to:

- The **Joyce Browneye family**, at the death of Joyce's husband Larry, on September 4.
- **Wayne & Laurel Jordan**, at the death of Laurel's father, Russell Winquist, on September 3.

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, Bob & Lois Morehouse, Janet Pofahl, Evelyn Watson, Mary Zomerlei
FAH Birthdays: September 21 – Ron Cook, Byron Center Manor, 2115 84th St., Ste. A, Byron Center, 49315
September 24 – Janet Pofahl, 3954 Mohawk, Grandville, 49418

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 Bob Stelma - 616-822-3859, or any of the other elders.