

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem ... and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8



The Growing Season
July 31, 2022

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

Voluntary on Old Hundredth

Henry Purcell

WE APPROACH OUR GOD

The Welcome

*The Hymn of Praise

God Has Spoken by His Prophets

George W. Briggs, Ludwig van Beethoven

*The Call to Worship

Leader: We are here to worship a remarkable God.

People: The love of God welcomes us, the grace of Christ awaits us, the joy of the Spirit fills us.

Leader: We come with joy as the recipients of Your amazing grace.

People: The love of God overflows our hearts, the grace of Christ liberates our spirits, and joy of the Spirit sings in our minds.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God together!

*The Songs of Praise

***That's Why We Praise Him
Lord, Reign in Me***

Tommy Walker
Brenton Brown

*The Greeting

The Prayer of Confession

Leader: Spirit of God, we confess that we put on airs more often than we put on the armor of God. We are guilty of girding ourselves with lies instead of the truth.

People: We try to protect ourselves with arrogance, superstition, and self-reliance instead of righteousness, faith, and Your gift of salvation.

Leader: Our footsteps do not follow Your path of peace. We are quick to use Your Word to attack one another, instead of striking out against the sins we personally commit.

People: Forgive us, Holy God. Gift us with the wisdom and strength to change our ways, so that we may live as Your faithful ambassadors of the Good News.

The Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: In this place we find God's Word, God's way, God's love, God's forgiveness. What more do we need?

People: In every journey, in every moment, in every heart, we receive the daily bread we need – God's hope, God's mercy and God's joy. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

The Song of Response

Take, O Take Me as I Am

John L. Bell

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lessons

Genesis 12:1-3, Matthew 28:18-20

The Message

“Church on a Mission”

The Prayer for Blessing

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GOODNESS

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Song

Give Me Jesus

African American Spiritual, arr. Fernando Ortega

(Please sign and pass the friendship registers.)

The News of the Church Alive

*The Sending Song

You Keep Hope Alive

Jon Reddick, Jess Cates Anthony Skinner

*The Benediction

*The Postlude

More About Jesus

John Sweney, arr. Harold DeCou

*All who are able, please stand

Worship Leaders: Preaching – Pastor Jeff Watson, Pastor Melanie Vlietstra- Kilgore; Liturgist – Pastor Matt Cook; Organist – Barb Vander Heide; Praise Team

Please follow our church social media pages:

Instagram: frcgrandville

Facebook: First Reformed Church

Stewardship Update:

July 24 Collection Plate \$ 7749.00

Online Giving: \$ 4311.00

Total Offering: \$12,060.00

Average weekly offering needed
to make 2022 budget \$ 18,258.00
2022 Annual budget \$949,429.00

Text to Give - 616-208-4301

TODAY’S HAPPENINGS

Nursery is available. Children can be dropped off in the nursery when you arrive & picked up after the worship service. We are looking for volunteers to round out our summer nursery schedule. Contact Jill Crame (jill.crame@gmail.com) or Madelyn Alfaro (madelyn@firstgrandville.org) to get involved!

Question & Answer Time – Following today’s service Jeff Watson and Melanie Vlietstra-Kilgore will host a time for you to ask questions and talk about our journey as we continue to discern our call and mission as a church.

LOOKING AHEAD

Art at the Park - Join us every other Wednesday at 10:00am for art and fun at the park! This is a great opportunity for fellowship for parents and kids alike! All ages are welcome. Email Madelyn with any questions (madelyn@firstgrandville.org).

-August 3: Wedgwood Park

-August 17: Hughes Park

Praise Team – Wednesday, 5:30pm

Thank you for your amazing and generous response to the backpack drive! We brought 142 backpacks to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. To God be the glory!

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.

Maple Tree Preschool Registration - Preschool registration for 2022-2023 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](#).

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE

Children's ministry volunteers needed! We have several opportunities for individuals of all gifts and talents. Contact Madelyn for more information: madelyn@firstgrandville.org

Thank you for the birthday cards and wishes. Phil Davis

Thank you to Pastor Bud, Pastor Matt and everyone for cards, visits, and phone calls following my recent surgery and recuperation. They were very much appreciated. Sincerely, Ethel Karsten

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Don Kempema	87 on the 3 rd
Marie Roos	89 on the 5 th
Art Tusch	89 on the 5 th
Orlene Porte	87 on the 15 th
Shirley Brouwer	83 on the 28 th

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:

- **Jeff Muller**, is out of ICU. He is on the liver transplant recovery floor at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, and may be released this weekend.
- **Joyce Bolthouse**, at Green Acres Assisted Living, under the care of hospice.
- **Art Tusch**, at a rehab hospital gaining strength.
- **Curt Stoel**, has begun radiation treatments for cancer.
- **Hannah Arendsen** (Janet Pofahl's great granddaughter) hospitalized with brain injuries following a serious car accident.
- **Kathy VanRiper**, Joni VanDuinen's sister, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- **Arvin Bleyenbergh** (Lila VacaGuzman's father), has been diagnosed with leukemia and will have treatment once a month.
- **Tristen Raimer** (Laurie Dragecivech's nephew), home recovering from surgery for a mass on his kidney.
- Pray for the people of **Ukraine**.
- Pray for anyone affected in any way by **the Corona virus**.
- Pray for God's leading as we continue our search for a new worship director.
- **Continued prayers for: Janet Pofahl, Morey Cook, Don Kempema, Bob Verburg, Lois Morehouse, Kay Mekkes, Roy DeJonge, Don Alderink, Karin Dykstra.**

Campers this week:

- **Emmerson & Breckon Roberts, Amelia, Evelyn, Henry, Violet Stadt, Anna & Claire VanHekken**

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, Ben DeRuyter** (Jack and Jackie's grandson)

Please keep in your hearts and minds:

- **Our Family at Home members** – Eloise Anderson, Crystal Baum, Mary Lou Besteman, Norma Boss, Dorothy Cook, Helen Dertien, Marilyn DeVree, Karin Dykstra, Arlene Jacobitz, Ev Lindhout, Pat Marcusse, Kay Mekkes, Bob & Lois Morehouse, Janet Pofahl, Bob Verburg, Trudie Wierda, Mary Zomerlei

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.