

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



The Growing Season
October 23, 2022

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go ST. MARGARET Albert Peace, arr. Craig Courtney
Great Is Thy Faithfulness FAITHFULNESS William Runyan, arr. Dan Forrest

WE APPROACH OUR GOD

The Welcome

The Gathering Song

Come, Christians, Join to Sing Christian Henry Bateman
Based on a Cuban folk song, arr. Hal H. Hopson

The Call to Worship

Leader: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives. We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in His holy temple. We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

All: Teach us Your ways and make straight our paths in this hour of worship and always.

*The Song of Praise

Better Is One Day

Matt Redman

*The Greeting

*The Song of Confession and Forgiveness

His Mercy Is More

Matt Papa, Matt Boswell

The Prayer of Adoration

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: O God, by Your power may we, with all Your children, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with Your goodness. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lesson

Luke 18:9-14

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Message

"Have Mercy on Me, a Sinner"

The Prayer for Blessing on the Word

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GOODNESS

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Hymn

Let Your Heart Be Broken Bryan Jeffery Leech, WYE VALLEY James Mountain
(Please sign and pass the friendship registers.)

LOOKING AHEAD

Handbell choir – Tuesday, 5:15pm

Praise Team – Wednesday, 5:30pm

Chancel Choir – Wednesday at 6:30pm

We will be hosting a **Trunk or Treat** this Wednesday, October 26th from 7:00-8:00pm! If you are interested in decorating a trunk, please let Madelyn (madelyn@firstgrandville.org) know or sign up at the sign-up center! For those that are interested in helping but are unable to attend, you can bring candy donations and place them in the box in the parlor.

All Singers Welcome! The Chancel Choir is preparing Advent and Christmas music. You are invited to sing with us during this holy season. Please attend rehearsals in the Sanctuary on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. We will prepare the cantata, "Joy Has Dawned", to share in worship on December 4 & 18. Full rehearsal is Monday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Senior trip to Shipsewana - Join the Grandville Senior Neighbors and Grandville First Reformed Church Seniors on Tuesday, December 6, for a day in Shipsewana. The day will begin at 8:00am and will be stopping at B & G Discounts, followed by lunch at the Blue Gate. A fine buffet is served before we enjoy "Our Christmas Dinner the musical". After that it's off to E & S Sales, then Forks Country Line. Cost per person is \$85. Payment is due November 4. For more information contact Sherri at 616-531-5250.

Cran Hill Camping Weekend 2023 - Now is the time again to start planning for next summer's church campout at Cran Hill Ranch. The dates are Friday, July 14 – Sunday, July 16, 2023. There is a signup sheet at the signup center for you to sign up or you can email me (Cheryl DeVries) at youravoncheryl@gmail.com to let me know you are interested.

Esther Circle – we will meet Tuesday, November 1. Our last lesson on Psalm 23, lesson 8. Warm welcome awaits you for coffee, fellowship and informal study. Hope to see you there. Contact Karen Diekema – 616-644-0820 if you have any questions.

FOCUS meets on Wednesdays beginning at 5:30pm with a meal followed by programming for grades Kindergarten – 5th grade. This week they will be serving chicken squares.

Pig-in-the-blankets - Esther Circle will be making pig-in-the-blankets this year. The cost is \$12 per package of 6. They will be available for pick up Thursday, November 10 from noon – 1:00, and after worship on Sunday, November 13. Please place your order on the form at the sign up center.

Women in the Word - meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 -11:00am in the upstairs adult education room. This fall we turn our attention to the book of Hebrews. Books will be available for \$10. If anyone needs an alternative form of the book we would be happy to assist. Marilyn Stelma – 616-450-6008.

Men's Bible Study - will meet every second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2:30pm. We meet at Marge's Donut Den at 1751 28th. St. SW. David Bast will discuss the book which he authored on the Psalms. Mark Davis will lead the discussion on some of the Psalms not covered in David Bast's book.

MegaMen Bible study - meets every Wednesday at 6:00am in the Youth Lounge. If you would enjoy fellowship with other men that dig into the Word, come join us. Contact Dave Lidgard – dlidgard@hpseagles.net or Bob Stelma - mstelmau78@yahoo.com if you have questions.

Urbana 2022 - Urbana Missions Conference is happening this December 28-31 in Indianapolis, Indiana. For high school seniors, college students, and grad students. Cost is \$615 for students and \$715 for non-students. Support is available from Missions Endowment Fund for students. Contact Kin Ma (makinm67@gmail.com), Jon Hull (jon@firstgrandville.org), or Jeff Watson (jeffw@firstgrandville.org) for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Pastor Melanie Kilgore will be installed on Sunday, November 20 at 3:00pm.
- Help is needed for Christmas decor on Friday, November 25 at 9:30am.
- Celebrate with Pastor Bud and Patty on December 18. Details to come.
- Sunday, Christmas Day, we will worship at 10:00am. **Note the time change.**

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Grandville High School Young Life – at Buursma’s barn – 5048 8th Ave., Grandville, at 7:27pm. . Contact Jon Hull – jon@firstgrandville.org or 517-803-5686 for further information.

Grandville Middle School WyldLife – October 25 at 7:27pm in the Youth gym.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE

Advent Festival – We are looking for volunteers to help plan the Advent Festival this year. It will take place on November 26. Please contact Madelyn if you would like to help! Madelyn@firstgrandville.org

FOCUS dinner clean up crew – we are looking for some people to clean up following the FOCUS dinners on Wednesday night. After being here all day cooking and serving we would like to give the kitchen ladies a break and clean up for them. To volunteer to do this please call the office – 534-5465 or email mail@firstgrandville.org.

Maple Tree Preschool Panera Bread fundraiser – this Tuesday, October 25, from 4:00-8:00pm. You can find a flyer in your mailbox you need to bring with you or for the code to order online.

Thanksgiving Food Collection for the Domestic Crisis Center: For the entire month of November, we will be collecting non-perishable foods, toiletries, diapers of every size, and household items for the Domestic Crisis Center in Grand Rapids. As the “month of Thanksgiving” unfolds, our front steps will grow with your generosity. Please place these items on the front steps of the sanctuary beginning November 6 through Thanksgiving Day when we will gather (10:00 AM) to give thanks to God for His abundance in our lives. Consistory members will be available following each service to help you unload your cars if you so desire. We will also hold a drive through food drop-off event on the Friday after Thanksgiving (11-25-22) from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM where church members will be available to unload your cars and pack the bus for the journey to the DCC.

Venezuelan Trip and Home Visit: Pastor Jose Rivas will be traveling to Venezuela on November 29 for 6 days to visit his family and bring much needed supplies. Jose’s mom has not been in good health, recently diagnosed with high blood pressure in addition to her cancer battle. First Church would like to send some of these things: personal care (hygiene items), shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants for men and women, clothing for boys and girls ages 8 to 12, shoes sizes 6,7,8,9 for boys and girls, for adults, 10,11,12. In Venezuela these things are very expensive, (where the basic salary is \$10 per month). There is a box with the Venezuelan flag in the Narthex for these items. Thank you in advance!

October is disability awareness month celebrated throughout the month in a variety of ways. The RCA and the CRC are asking churches to have a disability Sunday in October or when it can fit in to the worship schedule. Because we are in transition and the worship schedule is quite full, we will celebrate this event in early 2023. The theme this year for our disability concerns training was: “let’s end ableism in the church”! If you need assistance with any additional accommodations, my contact information is: Casey Dutmer: Email - casedut@gmail.com or phone - 616-450-6429.

Food pantry needs – crackers, cereal/oatmeal, canned meats, Jello, pudding, canned tomatoes, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, canned beef stew, canned pasta (SpaghettiO’s), rice, stuffing, boxed potatoes, hamburger or tuna helper. Please leave donations in the cart in the Activity Center.

Hand2hand - We are taking non-perishable food donations for hand2hand. These items need to be in individual packets. Items needed are: popcorn packets, trail mix, pudding snack packs, granola bars, fruit snacks, applesauce/fruit cups, crackers, pretzels, goldfish crackers, any bagged snack, meat sticks, instant cereal, instant mac ‘n cheese, soup. There is a box in the narthex to place your donations. Thank you!

Greeters – We are looking for two families every Sunday to greet at the north and south ends of the narthex. If you would be willing to sign up for 1 or more Sundays please sign up at the sign up center.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Ferris	83 on the 2 nd	Helen Dertien	93 on the 27 th
Chuck Porte	86 on the 11 th	Pat Marcusse	91 on the 29 th
Gerald Brouwer	86 on the 22 nd	Bob Brouwer	80 on the 30 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:

- **Norma Boss**, under the care of hospice.
- **Scott Johnson**, had an emergency stent put in October 18 and is recovering.
- **Jeff Muller**, is home recovering and doing well.
- **Joelle Smith**, is home recovering from back surgery.
- **Wayne Veneklasen**, is recovering at home.
- **Sam Cook**, being treated for pneumonia.
- **Carmen Rivas** (Jose's mom), is struggling with hypertension and a cancer battle.
- **Beverly VanDuinen** (Jeff's mom), is under the care of hospice.
- Pray for the people of **Ukraine**.
- Pray for anyone affected in any way by **the Corona virus**.
- **Continued prayers for: Janet Pofahl, Maria Oskam, Terry Jolink, Joyce VanderMarkt, Doug Hunderman, Curt Stoel, Don Ferris, Lois Morehouse, Roy DeJonge, Don Alderink, Karin Dykstra, Sydney & Ellie Hollen, Bob Waters, Kathy VanRiper.**

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

- **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, Art Tusch, Bob Verburg, Trudie Wierda, Mary Zomerlei
FAH Birthday – November 27 – Helen Dertien, Sunset Manor, 725 Baldwin St., #2046, Jenison, MI 49428
November 29 – Pat Marcusse - Lakeside Vista, 340 W. 40th St., Holland, MI 49423

In case of an emergency and no one is at church you may call Pastors Bud Pratt - 708-302-5645, Jeff Watson – 616-250-7148, Matt Cook - 616-893-4189 or consistory vice president Bob Stelma - 616-822-3859, or any of the other elders.