

HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE

Advent III

The Reception of New Members

December 11, 2022

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

Two Settings on Wachet Auf ~ Wake, Awake! A Voice is Calling

Johann Sebastian Bach
Charles Callahan

WE APPROACH OUR GOD

The Welcome

The Gathering Words

based on Matthew 11

Leader 1: We hear the echo of a promise: "I'm coming!"

People: Are you really the One?

Leader 2: "The blind receive their sight and the lame walk."

People: Are you really the One?

Leader 1: "The lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear."

People: Are you really the One?

Leader 2: "The dead are raised and the poor eat their fill."

People: But are you really the One?

Leader 1: "I'm the One who changes the world.

Are you really ready for Me?"

People: With God's help, we're ready to follow You.

We're ready for You!

*The Advent Hymn

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Charles Coffin, tr. John Chandler
PUER NOBIS, Adapt. Michael Praetorius

*The Greeting

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

The Advent Song

Christ Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell

The Prayer of Confession

Leader 1: Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed

People: We have not loved You with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

Help us to welcome You with joy today, to embrace You with our whole being, and to share Your love with others.

The Words of Assurance

Leader 2: The Lord, who is our giver of joy, cleanses us from our sins, and restores us in His image.

People: All praise and glory be to His name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Lesson

Matthew 11:2-6

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Message

“Expectations, Prison, and Joy”

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

Adore with O Come, All Ye Faithful

Graham Kendrick, Martin Chalk
ADESTE FIDELES John Francis Wade

The Reception of New Members

The News of the Church Alive

The Kids’ Praise Choir Christmas Musical

“A Lamb’s Tale”

Martha Bolton, Dennis Allen

*All who are able, please stand

Worship Leaders: Preaching – Pastor Jeff Watson; Liturgists – Jon Hull, Celia Kempema, The Kilgores; Organist – Patty Pratt; Pianist – Barbara Gossett; Kids’ Praise Choir, directed by Barb Nienhuis; Praise Team

Image - Hope, Peace, Joy, Love © 2022 Nicholas Markell | Eyekons

Advent Candle Lighting liturgy ©Carol Penner

Please follow our church social media pages:

Instagram: frcgrandville

Facebook: First Reformed Church

Stewardship Update:

Dec. 4 Collection Plate	\$ 13,720.00
Online Giving:	<u>\$ 8,625.00</u>
Total Offering:	\$ 22,345.00

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

Text to Give - 616-208-4301

Thanksgiving offering: \$ 20,462.00

Communion offering: \$ 1,120.00

TODAY at FRC

Welcome to First Reformed Church in Grandville. If you are visiting, a warm welcome to you. Our prayer is that this worship service will usher you to the throne of grace. Pastor Jeff Watson brings the morning message. 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. We would love to meet you. Please join us for coffee time following the service in the room to your left.

Sunday Children's Programming Schedule:

Nursery (birth – 3 year olds) - can be dropped off in the nursery when you arrive and picked up after the worship service. Nursery will also be available during adult Sunday school if you plan to attend.

Children in Worship (ages 3 years – Kindergarten) can be dropped off in room #113 South when you arrive and picked up after the worship service.

No Sunday school today for 1st-5th grades.

Middle School (6th - 8th grades) & **High School** (9th - 12th grades) **Sunday School** meets in the Youth Lounge following worship.

Middle School youth group (6th-8th grades) from 4:00-5:30pm in the Youth Gym. Snacks provided. Contact Jon Hull – jon@firstgrandville.org or 517-803-5686 for further information.

High School youth group (9th-12th grades) from 6:30pm - 8:00pm in the Youth Gym. Food provided. Contact Jon Hull – jon@firstgrandville.org or 517-803-5686 for further information.

Appreciation Cards for Bud & Patty – There is a box in the narthex for you to send words of thanks or a fond memory as they retire.

LOOKING AHEAD

Handbell choir – Tuesday, 5:15pm

Praise Team – Wednesday, 5:30pm

Chancel Choir – Wednesday at 6:30pm

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 pot pie. This will be the last FOCUS until January 11.

Women in the Word - meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 -11:00am in the upstairs adult education room. 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.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Aleksandar Smiljic	88 on the 14 th	Jerry Hart	81 on the 26 th
Lois Morehouse	81 on the 15 th	Ruth DeJonge	83 on the 27 th
Joyce VanderMarkt	90 on the 17 th	Sheryl Tusch	86 on the 29 th
Jane Krombeen	80 on the 19 th	Carol Hoffman	87 on the 30 th

UPCOMING EVENTS

- On the Fourth Sunday in Advent (December 18) Pastor Bud will bring the Word of God and the second half of the **Christmas Cantata "Joy Has Dawned"** will be presented (as well as a **celebration** of Bud and Patty's ministry among us).
- On **Christmas Eve** (December 24th at 11:00 PM) we will gather for our traditional Lessons and Carols celebration of the Lord's birth. Pastor Bud, preaching.
- On Christmas day (Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 AM...**NOTE THE TIME CHANGE**) we will gather for a less formal **family friendly worship service** where the simple story of our Savior's birth will be shared with all children participating in the story.

Grandville Community Choir – will be having a Christmas concert on Thursday, December 15, at 7:00pm here in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Grandville High School Young Life – Monday, December 12, at 7:27pm at the Holleman's – 3566 Apache Ct. Contact Jon Hull – jon@firstgrandville.org or 517-803-5686.

Grandville Middle School WyldLife – December 20 at 7:27pm at the Olson's - Olson's - 6033 Hillsborough Ct.

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

Meal Train for Alex & Allison Timmer – If you would like to make a meal for the Timmer family here is the link to sign up – <https://mealtrain.com/k0n1kd>. If you are unable to sign up online you can sign up at the sign-up center.

Missionary Christmas cards - Want to send our Missionaries in the field a reminder of our love and appreciation for them this Christmas season? Our Missionaries often tell us how meaningful the Christmas cards are that they receive from First Church every year. There is a list of our missionaries in your mailslot. Please use this to label your cards and place them in the mailbox next to the congregation mailboxes by Wednesday, December 14th.

Family at Home Christmas Cards - Sharing the joy of Christmas with our Family at Home members is a gift you can give them by sending a card. Knowing their church family remembers them during this season is truly a gift. Simply write the member's name on the envelope. You can find a list of the Family at Home members in your mailslot. Maybe add a personal note to your card and sign your name. These cards can be dropped on the table in the Activity Center by December 14.

Hand2hand – Each week we deliver food for 43 kids to Century Park Learning Center so the kids will have food to eat for the weekend. We are taking non-perishable food donations for hand2hand. 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 or cheese sticks, instant oatmeal, cereal, instant mac 'n cheese, soup, canned pasta, yogurt pouches. These items need to be in individual packets There is a box in the narthex to place your donations. Thank you!

THANK YOU...

... to everybody for the cards, prayers, and love that were sent. I am feeling much better and close to being back to myself. **Pat Lantinga**

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:

- **Pat Stegehuis**, hospitalized with a-fib.
- **Maria Oskam**, having surgery December 21.
- **Pat Lantinga**, home recovering from a fractured sternum.
- **Arvin Bleyenbergh** (Lila VacaGuzman's father), is under the care of hospice.
- **Lorretta VerSluis** (Joyce Ferris' sister), is off the ventilator, but still battling pneumonia at Blodgett.
- **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: Sue Kehr, Jeff Muller, Ev Lindhout, Ron See, Terry Jolink, Joyce VanderMarkt, Lois Morehouse, Roy DeJonge, Don Alderink, Karin Dykstra, Sydney & Ellie Hollen, Bob Waters, Kathy VanRiper.**

Congratulations to:

- **Alex & Allison Timmer and family**, at the birth of a baby girl, Annie Joy, on December 6.

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, 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 – December 15 – Lois Morehouse – Rivertown Ridge, Unit 108, 3555 Copper River Ave., Wyoming 49418

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, Melanie Kilgore – 269-330-0155 or consistory vice president Bob Stelma - 616-822-3859, or any of the other elders.