

March 5, 2023  
Lent

**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

Prelude  
*Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*  
*In Christ Alone*  
*It is Well*

**WE APPROACH OUR GOD**

Welcome, Call to Worship, Prayer

\*Song of Worship  
*Nothing But the Blood of Jesus*

\*Greeting

The Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly and cleanse us from my sin.

**Congregation: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

Leader: Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit.

\*Song of Worship  
*Great Are You Lord*

Lenten Candles & Reading

Song of Response  
*Christ Be Our Light*

Baptism of Annie Joy Timmer

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

Prayer

Scripture - John 8:12-20

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Message  
"The Light of the World"

Prayer

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GOODNESS**

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer  
Song

*King of Kings*

\*Final Song  
*Be Thou My Vision*

Needs of the Congregation

Announcements

\*Benediction

Postlude  
*Christ is the World's True Light*

\*All who are able, please stand

**Worship Leaders:** Pastors – Pastors Jeff Watson, Melanie Kilgore, Matt Cook; Praise Team; Organist – Nancy Ryskamp; Lenten Readers – Anna & Susan Kooima

**Stewardship Update:**

Feb. 26 Collection Plate	\$ 7,938.00
Online Giving:	\$ 4,233.00
Total Offering:	\$ 12,171.00

Average weekly offering needed to make 2023 budget	\$ 17,493.00
2023 Annual budget	\$909,683.00

**Text to Give** - 616-208-4301

**Please follow our church social media pages:**

Facebook: First Reformed Church

**WELCOME to 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. 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.

**FOR KIDS** - Kid's Worship bags and Sweet Reward papers are available as you enter the Sanctuary. We invite children to use these to engage with our worship service. Completed Sweet Reward papers can be turned in at the Welcome Desk for a sweet reward.

**THIS WEEK** - Pastor Jeff Watson will be sharing from the I AM series and his message will be from John 8:12-20 titled "The Light of the World". We will also be baptizing Annie Joy Timmer, daughter of Alex and Allison Timmer.

**NEXT WEEK** – Pastor Jeff Watson will be continuing with the I AM series and his message will be from John 10:1-10 titled "The Door."

**TODAY at FRC**

**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 downstairs in room #113 South when you arrive and picked up after the worship service.

**Sunday school** (Nursery-5th Grade) 10:45-11:45am

- Birth - 3year olds meet in the Nursery
- 3 year olds - PreK meet in room #113 South
- Kindergarten - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade meet in the downstairs assembly room
- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades meet in room #113 north

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

**Adult Sunday School** – Pastor Jeff will be teaching about his time in Israel in the upstairs Adult Ed Room at 11:00am.

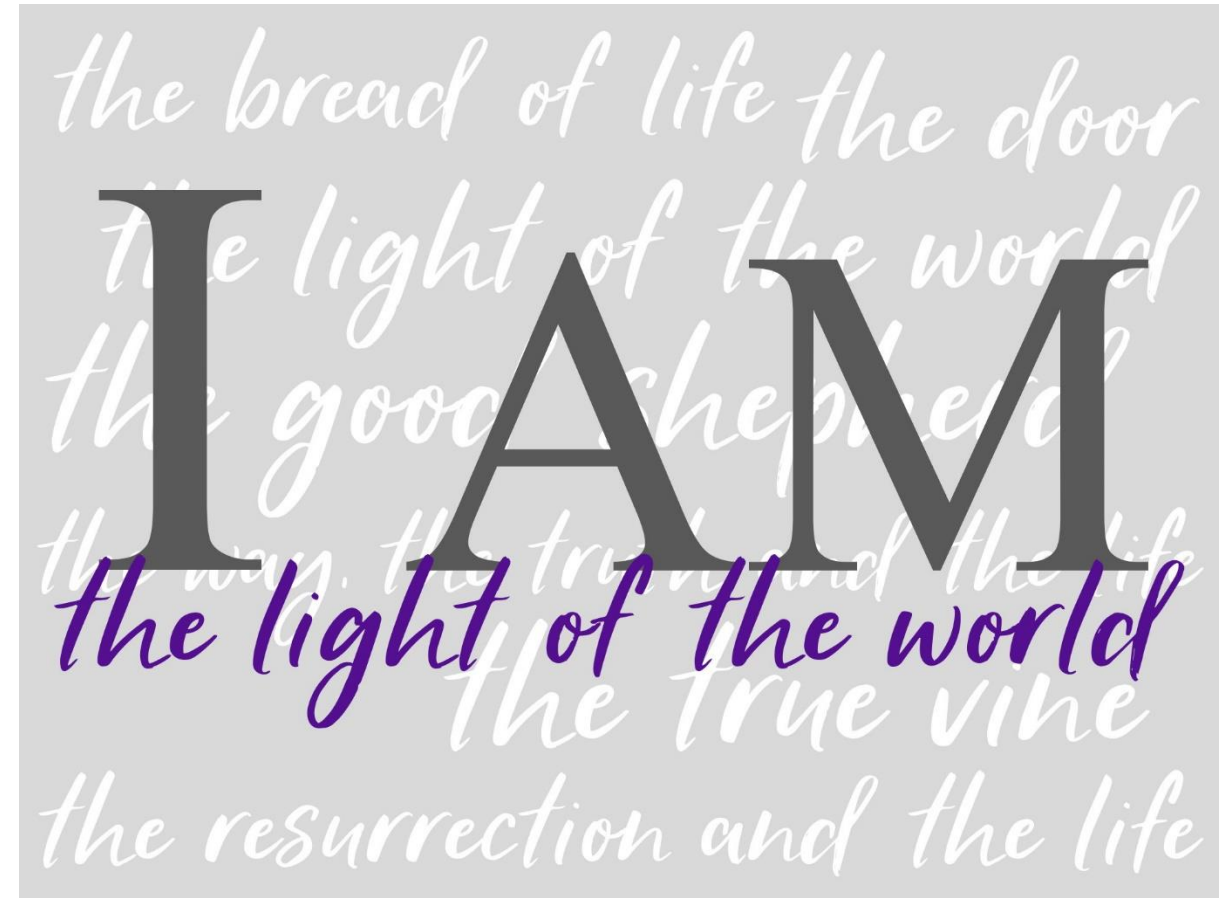
**Middle School Youth Group** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) from 4:00-5:30pm in the Youth Gym. Snacks provided. Contact Jon Hull - [jon@firstgrandville.org](mailto:jon@firstgrandville.org) or 517-803-5686 for further information.

**High School Youth Group** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) from 6:30pm - 8:00pm in the Youth Gym. Contact Jon Hull - [jon@firstgrandville.org](mailto:jon@firstgrandville.org) or 517-803-5686 for further information.

In case of an emergency and no one is at church you may call Pastors 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.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Larry DeVries	82 on the 1 <sup>st</sup>	Carol Verburg	84 on the 10 <sup>th</sup>
Elaine Hart	80 on the 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bobbi VanKuiken	84 on the 16 <sup>th</sup>
Nancy Matthews	82 on the 4 <sup>th</sup>	Eloise Anderson	91 on the 17 <sup>th</sup>
Bruce Averill	80 on the 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Stegehuis	84 on the 18 <sup>th</sup>
Betty Beemer	80 on the 8 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Isenga	88 on the 18 <sup>th</sup>
Elaine Hudson	84 on the 9 <sup>th</sup>		



**FIRST REFORMED CHURCH**

GRANDVILLE, MICHIGAN

Phone: 534-5465  
Prayer Line: 534-0113

Email: [mail@firstgrandville.org](mailto:mail@firstgrandville.org)  
Fax: 534-1185

## 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:

- **Ken Ploeg** is recovering from hip replacement.
- **Helen Huizenga** has moved to rehab to recover from a broken femur.
- **Linda Timmerman** is recovering from eye surgery.
- **Brian Kehr's** back surgery is scheduled for March 8.
- **Fred Henderson** has been diagnosed with cancer and is under the care of hospice.
- **Trent Bailey** (a former member of our youth group) finished his last chemo treatment after a grueling six months. He will be having a test in March to get results.
- **Dan Cole** is at home under the care of hospice after a 12 year battle with cancer.
- **Beverly VanDuinen** (Jeff's mom) is under the care of hospice.
- **Pray for the people of Turkey and Syria** who were involved in the earthquake.
- Pray for the people of **Ukraine**.
- Pray for anyone affected by the different illnesses this season.
- **Continued prayers for: Maria Oskam, Roy DeJonge, Joyce VanderMarkt, Lois Morehouse, Don Alderink, Karin Dykstra, Ellie Hollen, Bob Waters, Kathy VanRiper.**

### We extend Christian Sympathy to:

- The **family and friends of Evelyn Lindhout**, who passed away February 25.

### 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, Pat Marcusse, Kay Mekkes, Bob & Lois Morehouse, Bob Verburg, Trudie Wierda, Mary Zomerlei

*We have received word from our missionaries in Turkey, Haluk and Wendy Bilgen, that they are safe after the powerful earthquake on February 6.*

*As the death toll is rising and rescue efforts continue, Haluk and Wendy share, "Thank you for your prayers! May God have mercy on the people who are in great distress right now in the earthquake zone! I found out this morning from one of the pastors of our church in Antalya that there are some Turkish Christians that died in the earthquake and some are injured. Please pray for them and their families!"*

## THIS WEEK

### MONDAY

7:27pm Young Life

### TUESDAY

9:30am Esther Circle

5:15pm Bells of Joy

### WEDNESDAY

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study

9:30am Women in the Word

5:30pm FOCUS dinner (Sloppy Joes) followed by children's programming

5:30pm Praise Team

6:30 Chancel Choir

### THURSDAY

9:00am Zumba

### SATURDAY

6:00pm Ultimate Date Night

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

**Grandville High School Young Life** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) – Monday, March 6, at 7:27pm at the Holleman's - 3566 Apache Ct. Contact Jon Hull - [jon@firstgrandville.org](mailto:jon@firstgrandville.org) or 517-803-5686 for further information.

**Grandville Middle School WyldLife** (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades)- March 14, 7:27pm, in the Youth Gym.

## Youth Mission Trip fundraisers

**Pop Can Drive** - There is a labeled trash can in the Youth Lounge for you to drop off your empty cans. We have a lot of pop cans that need to be recycled. If you would like to return cans to put money in your student's youth account for future trips, contact Jon Hull - [jon@firstgrandville.org](mailto:jon@firstgrandville.org) or 517-803-5686.

**College Scholarships:** Scholarship forms are available in the office or online. These are for anyone who is a member of church and going to college in Fall 2023. They are due to the office no later than **Friday, April 14, at noon.**

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Inquirer's class** - An Inquirer's Class is planned for March 12 and 19 taught by Pastor Jeff for those interested in considering First Reformed Church as their potential church home. (Class held on Sundays at 11:00am in Pastor Jeff's office). Please email [deb@firstgrandville.org](mailto:deb@firstgrandville.org) if you would like to attend.

**Memorial Easter Plants** - We will purchase potted spring flowers to decorate the church for our Easter worship celebration. You are welcome to donate a \$15 spring plant in memory of a relative or friend or in thanksgiving for a friend or relative. Their name will be listed in the Easter worship bulletin. There are forms available at the Sign-up Center, Welcome Desk and the Office to fill out and submit to the office along with \$15 per plant by March 26. After the Easter service, please take your plant home.

**Ultimate Date Night** - The *Ultimate Date Night* with Jay and Laura Laffoon is coming to our church **THIS SATURDAY**, March 11, from 6- 7:30pm. At *Ultimate Date Night*, not only will couples engage with their spouse through laughter and music, they will be energized and inspired by thought-provoking content and practical tools they can use immediately in their relationship.

So why not take this opportunity? Family and friends are welcome too.

There are 3 ways to purchase tickets (\$30 per couple):

- After the service in the Activity Center.
- Purchase tickets online at [firstgrandville.org](http://firstgrandville.org).
- Use the QR Code



**Volunteers NEEDED** - The planning committee for *Ultimate Date Night* is looking for 10-12 volunteer couples to promote and help at the event. Volunteers will receive complimentary tickets to attend the event too! Please sign up outside the Fellowship Room. Questions? Email [heidi\\_smitley@hotmail.com](mailto:heidi_smitley@hotmail.com) or [steph.holleman@gmail.com](mailto:steph.holleman@gmail.com).

**Family Game Night** - Join us for a Family Game Night on Wednesday, March 22nd from 6:30-7:30pm! We will meet in the gym following the FOCUS dinner. All ages are welcome!

**New Directory Coming!** - Please send any pictures or updates this week for the directory to [deb@firstgrandville.org](mailto:deb@firstgrandville.org). We will begin printing them the week of March 13.

**Women in the Word** - meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 -11:00am in the upstairs Adult Ed Room. This winter, we will be studying the book *Adventurous Prayer*. Books will be available in the church office for \$8. If anyone needs an alternative form of the book, we would be happy to assist. Marilyn Stelma – 616-450-6008.

**Esther Circle** - will be meeting Tuesday, March 7, at 9:30am in the upstairs Adult Ed Room. A warm welcome awaits you for a time of fellowship and an informal Bible study. We are studying *Women and Identity*. Books will be available if you do not have one. Jon Hull will be our guest. Contact Karen Diekema - 616-644-0820 - with any questions you may have.

**MegaMen Bible Study** - meets every Wednesday at 6:00am in the Youth Lounge. Come enjoy fellowship with other men and dig into the Word, come join us. Contact Dave Lidgard - [davidlidgard@hpseagles.net](mailto:davidlidgard@hpseagles.net) or Bob Stelma - [mstelmaw78@yahoo.com](mailto:mstelmaw78@yahoo.com) if you have questions.

**Men's Bible Study** - meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 2:30pm 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.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE

**Consistory Nominations** - It is time to begin the process of nominating and electing new members for our Consistory. If you know someone who you feel has the gifts for leadership as either an Elder or a Deacon, please place the name of that person in the nominations box located on the table in the narthex. You may also speak to any member of the nominations committee – Chris Bajema, Jan Hodges, Heidi Smitley, Justin Stadt, Bob Stelma, Laura VanHekken, Dan Venema or Tony Williams. The committee will accept nominations from the congregation through March 15.

**Hand2hand** - Each week we deliver food for 46 kids to Century Park Learning Center so the kids will have food to eat for the weekend. We are receiving non-expired, non-perishable food donations. Items needed are:  
popcorn packets, trail mix, pudding snack packs, granola bars, fruit snacks, applesauce/fruit cups, crackers, raisins, any bagged snack, instant oatmeal, cereal, instant mac 'n cheese.

These items need to be in individual packets. Please place your donations in the box in the narthex. Thank you! We need 4 people to help pack on March 15 and 22 at 6:30pm upstairs in the hand2hand room. Please sign up at the Sign-up Center.

**THANK YOU...to Wells Orchard for donating apples to help feed our hand2hand kids with fresh produce!**

**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.