



**Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church
September 3, 2023**

Prelude *O Worship the King/Let All Things Now Living*

Welcome, Call to Worship, Prayer

Song of Worship *This is Amazing Grace*

*Greeting

*Songs of Worship *Open the Eyes of my Heart
Surrender*

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Leader: We gather from our lives that are filled with busyness and schedules, jumping from one thing immediately into the next. We know that these patterns of life are unsustainable. Yet, we struggle to stop, to reorient, to find peace.

People: Lord, break into our never-ending routines with your presence. Show us a better way.

Leader: Help us today, Lord, to hear your voice, to feel you walking alongside of us. Open us up to receive the gifts that you have so graciously prepared for us.

People: We are here God, looking to You. Move among and through us today. Bring us into the paths you have prepared.

Leader: Hear these words for Isaiah 12, "God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation."

People: Praise be to God!

*Song of Worship *Praise to the Lord the Almighty*

Scripture – Hebrews 4:1-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Message *“Entering His Rest”*

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Song *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Announcements

*Sending Song *Your Name*

*Blessing

Postlude *Make the Sounds of Praise*

**All who are able, please stand*

Worship Leaders: Pastors – Jeff Watson, Melanie Kilgore, Matt Cook; Organist – Nancy Ryskamp

WELCOME to First Reformed Church (FRC)

We're so glad you're here! May you experience the presence of the Living God. If you are visiting, welcome! There are guest cards in the pews you can complete and put in the offering plate. Feel free to stop by our Welcome Desk near the main entrance – we'd love to connect with you! Following the service, join us for coffee in the Activity Center.

Nursery is available for birth – 4-year olds.

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 treat.

Mother's Room – The "Mothers' Room" is located across from the nursery and is a comfortable, private space to tend to the needs of babies and watch the live service.

Hearing devices are available for those who need it. Inquire at the Welcome Desk.

THIS WEEK – Pastor Jeff Watson will conclude the sermon series **“Rest & Restore.”** The message will come from **Hebrews 4:1-11.**

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY, September 5

9:30am Esther Circle

WEDNESDAY, September 6

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study

2:00pm Celebration of Life for Karin Dykstra

5:30pm Praise Team

THURSDAY, September 7

9:00am Zumba

NEXT WEEK – Pastor Jeff Watson will begin a new sermon series called “**Surprise the World.**” The message will come from **Colossians 4:2-6** and **1 Peter 3:15-16**. We will be baptizing Sophie Lutke.

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 Lee Cook – 616-446-7880, or any of the other elders.

Stewardship Update:

Offerings received August 27, 2023

Offering plate: \$ 14,357.00

Online: \$ 3,800.00

Text to Give - 616-208-4301

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carole Kempema	87 on the 1 st	James Stelma	81 on the 21 st
Victor DeJonge	85 on the 12 th	Martin Lantinga	81 on the 23 rd
Evelyn Telgen	90 on the 13 th	Marilyn DeVree	91 on the 28 th
Ruth Cole	96 on the 16 th	Karen Diekema	85 on the 29 th

THANK YOU...

*...so much for the kind words, visits, prayers and phone calls. They were very much appreciated. **Betty Isenga***

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday Fall Kick Off Celebration on Sunday, September 10 with an all-church luncheon immediately following the service. Weather permitting, we will be eating outside. There will be tables and chairs set up outside, but feel free to bring lawn chairs or a blanket! All are welcome!

Neighborhood & Church Block Party- Wednesday, September 13, 5:30-7:30pm. Join us behind the church for food and fun as we gather with our neighbors living behind the church. Various community partners and Grandville leaders will be joining us to host tables and booths with fun, interactive activities. We will also have raffles and activities for all ages! If you would like to help or have questions, contact Pastor Melanie (melanie@firstgrandville.org)

Sunday Connect (formerly Sunday School) for all ages begins Sunday, September 17.

Mid-Week Connect Kick Off (formerly FOCUS) begins Wednesday, September 20 at 5:30pm for dinner. Classes and choir begin at 6:30pm. All are welcome!

New Member Class – a 2-week class led by Pastor Jeff on September 24 and October 1. This is for anyone interested in joining church or would like to learn more about the church. Contact Pastor Jeff if you would like to attend – jeffw@firstgrandville.org.

Eat and Connect is an opportunity for all ages and life stages to connect over a meal. Groups will meet once a month for the next three months. Each group will plan to meet at a restaurant or home. Sign-ups and more information coming in September. Questions? Contact Ashley VanDyk (616-431-1717 /ashleysuevandyk@gmail.com) or Lynne Rosema (616-901-578/ tlrosema@sbcglobal.net)

Mid-Week Connect (formerly FOCUS) Wednesday Evening Opportunities for Adults:

A delicious dinner is offered every week from 5:30-6:30pm in the Activity Center. All are welcome.

The following groups meet at 6:30pm:

1. **Book Study** – “My Body is Not a Prayer Request” by Amy Kenny – mixes humor, personal narrative, and theology to invite faith communities to rethink their unintentional ableism and welcome the wisdom of disabled people. Meets two-three times a month. Contact Terry Jolink for more information at 616-648-6001, or sign-up at the Sign-Up Center.
2. **Podcast Group**- This group will discuss the topic of Spiritual Disciplines using the podcast series “GroundWork” with David Bast. Meets once a month. Contact Nicole Clark at 616-706-0907 for more information.
3. **Pickleball** – meets twice a month, starting in October. Contact Deb Timmer at 616-534-5465 for more information.
4. **Guitar Group** – for beginners and experienced guitar players. Bring a guitar (or we have some to borrow) and learn how to play with the group. Meets once a month. Those from outside the church are welcome to join! Contact Tony Williams at 616-970-2221 for more information.

Questions? Contact Pastor Melanie (melanie@firstgrandville.org)

YOUTH MINISTRIES Contact person: Jon Hull – jon@firstgrandville.org/517-803-5686

Middle School & High School (6th - 12th grades) **Sunday Connect** starts Sunday, September 17. We will meet in the Youth Lounge following worship.

Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grades) starts Sunday, September 10 from 4:00-5:30pm in the Youth Gym. Snacks provided.

High School Youth Group (9th-12th grades) starts Sunday, September 10 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm in the Youth Gym.

Young Life (9th-12th grades) – starts Monday, September 11 at 7:27pm in the Youth Gym.

WyldLife (7th & 8th grades) – starts Tuesday, September 26 at 7:27pm in the Youth Gym.

Youth Pop Can Drive – You can drop off your empty cans in the Youth Lounge. If you would like to return cans to put money in your student’s youth account for future trips, contact Jon Hull.

MUSIC MINISTRIES Contact person: Rick Gossett – rickthetenor@proton.me/616-204-3566
Bells of Joy rehearsal begins September 12 at 5:15pm.

Chancel choir rehearsals begin September 20 at 6:30pm

ONGOING MINISTRIES

MegaMen Bible Study – Wednesdays at 6:00am in the Youth Lounge. Come enjoy fellowship with other men and dig into the Word. Contact: Dave Lidgard - dlidgard@hpseagles.net or Bob Stelma - mstelmau78@yahoo.com.

Women in the Word – Wednesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:00am in the upstairs Adult Education classroom. This fall we turn our attention to the book of Philippians. Join us for a time of fellowship, coffee, and an introduction to our study on Wednesday, September 20. Books will be available for \$10, or you can pick one up in the office. If anyone needs an alternative form of the book, we would be happy to assist. Contact: Marilyn Stelma – 616-450-6008.

Esther Circle – first Tuesday of every month at 9:30am in the Adult Education classroom beginning on Tuesday, September 5. Pastor Melanie will be our guest with the lesson. All women are welcome to meet for a time of coffee, fellowship, mission interests, and an informal Bible study. Our study is “Women and Identity.” We are on Lesson 6 and copies will be available. Contact Karen Diekema – 616-644-0820.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE

Sunday Connect leaders – Fall programming begins Sunday, September 17. **Children’s Ministry needs leaders.** Contact Madelyn – madelyn@firstgrandville.org

Kids Hope Mentors for East Elementary – We are looking for adults willing to be Kids Hope Mentors for the coming school year. Kids Hope Mentors meet once a week for one hour with a student. This one-on-one attention of another caring and consistent adult in a student’s life makes a difference! If you are interested, or would like more details, please reach out to Pastor Melanie (melanie@firstgrandville.org) or Madelyn (madelyn@firstgrandville.org).

Young Life Banquet – Join us for the Grand Rapids SouthWest Young Life Banquet on Monday, October 16, 2023! The event will be held at South Harbor Church in Byron Center from 6:00-8:00pm. To attend this event, please complete the form at this link: <http://grswyl.org/banquet23>.

Greeters – We are looking for families, couples, or individuals to greet this Fall. There are two slots every Sunday. Sign-up at the Sign-Up Center.

Food Pantry Needs – applesauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, Jello, pudding, rice, pancake mix, syrup and crackers. Please leave food in the cart located in the Activity Center.

Hand2hand – Starting at the end of September we will be delivering food weekly to kids at Century Park Learning Center so they 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, bagged snacks, instant oatmeal, cereal, instant mac 'n cheese.

These items need to be in individual packets. Your financial gifts are welcome. Please place your donations in the hand2hand box in the Narthex. Thank you!

Bible League Conference – You are invited to Bible League's "Growing Inward-Reaching Outward" conference on Friday, September 8 at Friendship Christian Reformed Church in Byron Center. Hear from keynote speaker Carol Kent and friends of Bible League. For registration details: bibleleague.org/tickets.

Faith & Blue Food Drive – Saturday, October 7, 1:00-3:00pm at Wedgewood Park. The Grandville Police Department is partnering with area churches to collect food and basic needs. You can donate non-perishable food and toiletries at Wedgewood Park on October

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH PRAYERS & CONCERNS

For prayer updates during the week, please call the **Prayer Line** – 534-0113

Celebration of Life:

- There will be a Celebration of Life for **Karin Dykstra** on Wednesday, September 6, at 2:00pm with coffee and cookies to follow.

We extend prayers of healing & comfort for:

- **Wayne Veneklasen** is home recovering from a hip replacement.
- **Joyce VanderMarkt** is recovering from outpatient surgery.
- **Jan Hodges** continues to recover from surgery.
- **Ken Viening** is dealing with health concerns.
- **Don Scovel** is awaiting further testing for cyst on his pancreas.
- **Maria Oskam** is dealing with health concerns.
- **Esther Dawdy** (Jon Hull's grandma) is under the care of hospice.
- **Steve Jackman** (Pam Jackman's husband) is home recovering following heart surgery.
- **Mary Hollen** (Todd Hollen's mom) is dealing with heart issues.
- **Jeremy Ross** (Duane & Gail Frens' nephew) was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer.
- The people affected by the **fires in Maui**.
- **Continued prayers for: Randy Kehr, Helen Huizenga, Roy DeJonge, Joyce VanderMarkt, Lois Morehouse, Don Alderink, Bob Waters.**

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

- **Jeremy Stegehuis, Jeff Shuck & Tony Shuck** (Betty Isenga's grandsons), **Ben Westrick, Ben DeRuyter** (Jack and Jackie's grandson), **AJ Frens** (Duane & Gail's grandson)

Please keep in your hearts, minds, and prayers:

Our **Family at Home members** - Eloise Anderson, Crystal Baum, Mary Lou Besteman, Dorothy Cook, Helen Dertien, Marilyn DeVree, Arlene Jacobitz, Pat Marcusse, Kay Mekkes, Bob & Lois Morehouse, Bob Verburg, Trudie Wierda, Mary Zomerlei