



**Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church  
September 10, 2023**

Prelude *How Firm a Foundation / The Church's One Foundation*

Welcome, Call to Worship, Prayer

Song of Worship *Lord's Prayer*

\*Greeting

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Leader: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

**Congregation: We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.**

Leader: Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service.

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Congregation: Alleluia! Amen.**

\*Songs of Worship *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
Great Are You Lord*

Scripture – Colossians 4:2-6, 1 Peter 3:15-16

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Message "Bless"

Baptism

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Baptism Song

*The Blessing*

Announcements

\*Sending Song

*10,000 Reasons*

\*Blessing

Postlude

*Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee*

*\*All who are able, please stand*

**Worship Leaders:** Pastors – Jeff Watson, Melanie Kilgore, Matt Cook; Liturgist – Kathy Geurink;  
Pianist – Barbara Gossett

### **WELCOME to First Reformed Church**

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! Today we celebrate the baptism of Sophie Wren Lutke, daughter of Bryce & Ali Lutke. Following the service, join us for lunch outside.

**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.

### **TODAY at First**

**Nursery** is available for birth – 4-year olds.

**Middle School Youth Group** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) from 4:00-6:00pm at the Hangout Spot.

**High School Youth Group** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. Pool party at the Dykstra's.

**THIS 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.**

### **THIS WEEK**

MONDAY, September 11

6:30pm

Facilities Council

7:00pm

Worship Council

7:27pm

Young Life

TUESDAY, September 12

5:15pm Bells of Joy  
6:30pm Praise Team

WEDNESDAY, September 6

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study  
5:30-7:30pm Neighborhood Block Party

THURSDAY, September 7

9:00am Zumba

**NEXT WEEK** – Pastor Jeff Watson will continue with the sermon series called “**Surprise the World.**” The message will come from Luke 7:33-35.

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 September 3, 2023

Offering plate: \$ 6,376.00

Online: \$ 4,922.00

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

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**Sunday Fall Kick Off Celebration TODAY!** Join us for an all-church luncheon immediately following the service. Weather permitting, we will be eating outside. There will be tables and chairs set up outside. All are welcome!

**Neighborhood & Church Block Party** – **this** Wednesday, September 13, 5:30-7:30pm. Join us behind the church for tacos, dessert, games, prizes and local vendors with our neighbors living behind the church. If you would like to help or have questions, contact Pastor Melanie ([melanie@firstgrandville.org](mailto:melanie@firstgrandville.org))

**First Grandville Shirts**- If you would like to purchase a First Grandville Shirt, you can place an order at the table in the Narthex after the service this week and next. Shirts are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth sizes. Questions? Contact Pastor Melanie – [melanie@firstgrandville.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:melanie@firstgrandville.org))

**YOUTH MINISTRIES** Contact person: Jon Hull – [jon@firstgrandville.org](mailto: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** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) starts **TODAY**, Sunday, September 10 from 4:00-6:00pm at the Hangout Spot – 3901 Chicago Dr. Drop off and pick up at the Hangout Spot. Cost is \$20.

**High School Youth Group** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) starts **TODAY**, Sunday, September 10 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm with a pool party at the Dykstra’s – 942 Timberwinds Dr.

**Young Life** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) – starts Monday, September 11 at 7:27pm at Connelly’s - 376 Normandy Ct., Grandville.

**WyldLife** (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rickthetenor@proton.me)/616-204-3566  
**Bells of Joy** rehearsals begin 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](mailto:dlidgard@hpseagles.net) or Bob Stelma - [mstelmau78@yahoo.com](mailto: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 \$8, 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. 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.” Contact Karen Diekema – 616-644-0820.

**Church Survey** – You received a survey in the all-church email. There are also hard copies available on the table in the Narthex. The purpose of the survey is to help us gauge our intergenerational identity. Please fill out one per family member and return to the basket on the table in the Narthex by September 24.

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE**

**Sunday Connect leaders** – Fall programming begins Sunday, September 17. **Children’s Ministry needs leaders.** Contact Madelyn – [madelyn@firstgrandville.org](mailto: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](mailto:melanie@firstgrandville.org)) or Madelyn ([madelyn@firstgrandville.org](mailto: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-breakable, non-expired, non-perishable food donations. Items needed are:

mac and cheese, canned soup (kid friendly), bagged chips, breakfast bars, rice krispie treats, microwave popcorn, fruit cups, cookies, trail mix, pouch yogurt (non-refrigerated)

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

**Hand2hand** – We are in need of a delivery person to help deliver the backpacks to Century Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. If interested please contact Kelly Kievit – [Kievit.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:Kievit.kelly@gmail.com).

**Fall Fest Cookie Walk- Saturday, September 30 from 11am-4pm.** We are participating in Grandville's Annual Fall Fest by hosting a Cookie Walk (like a Cake Walk). We are in need of donated homemade cookies (each cookie packaged individually in a ziplock bag). We hope to collect 200 cookies. If you are able to make cookies, please place them in the designated box in the Kitchen freezer by Wednesday, September 27.

We are also looking for 9 volunteers to run the Cookie Walk for 2 hour segments (10:30-12:30, 12:15-2:15, 2:00-4:00pm). If you are willing to help at the Cookie Walk, please sign-up at the Sign-Up Center. Questions? Contact Pastor Melanie – [melanie@firstgrandville.org](mailto:melanie@firstgrandville.org).

**Request from our mission partners at Bethany Christian Services** – A family of 5 recently arrived from the Democratic Republic of Congo and they would love to find affordable housing in Grandville because they already have close connections in this city. If you know of anyone who is willing to rent to the family, you can contact Katie at Bethany Christian Services ([kcarpenter@bethany.org](mailto:kcarpenter@bethany.org) or 616-591-7214).

**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 7.

## 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:

- **Carol Hoffman** is recovering from knee replacement.
- **Joyce VanderMarkt** is recovering from outpatient surgery.
- **Ken Viening** is dealing with health concerns.
- **Don Scovel** has further testing for a cyst on his pancreas on September 15.
- **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.
- **Continued prayers for: Randy Kehr, Helen Huizenga, Roy DeJonge, Lois Morehouse, Don Alderink, Bob Waters, Jeremy Ross, Mary Hollen.**

### 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