



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Grandville, Michigan

Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church
September 17, 2023

Prelude

Praise the Lord on High/Trust in Jesus

Welcome, Call to Worship, Prayer

Song of Worship

Sound of the Saints

*Greeting

Prayer of Confession & Request

Leader: We know that we should treat people around us more like Jesus treated those around him. We call ourselves "Christian" so this should be our goal. But, we realize that we can never measure up to Jesus, so we tend to give up and do nothing.

Congregation: Jesus offered joy and blessing.

Leader: Jesus interacted with the people who lived outside of the laws and rules of the religious leaders of the day. He ministered to them, he traveled with them, he ate with them.

Congregation: Jesus offered joy and blessing.

Leader: Jesus touched those that the religious leaders wanted no contact with. He loved those whom the leaders despised. He served the least of these.

Congregation: Jesus offered joy and blessing.

Leader: Christ-like attributes are gifts from God, and we already possess many of them. With God's help we can develop these attributes, so we are able to act more like Jesus to the people around us. May God fill us with the love Jesus has for others, and may we look for opportunities to serve.

Congregation: Help us, Lord, to offer joy and blessing.

*Songs of Worship

*Our God
Crown Him*

Scripture – Hebrews 13:1-2; Luke 7:33-35

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

"Eat"

Baptism Liturgy

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Announcements

*Sending Song

I Stand Amazed

*Blessing

Postlude

Thine is the Glory

**All who are able, please stand*

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

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 are preparing for the celebration of baptism for Hendrik Scott Gerard Pastoor.

FOR KIDS – Kid's Worship bags and Sweet Reward papers are available as you enter the Sanctuary. Completed Sweet Reward papers can be turned in at the Welcome Desk for a sweet treat.

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

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

TODAY at First

Sunday Kids Connect 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.

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 Connect (Nursery-5th Grade) 10:45-11:45am

- Birth – 3-years meet in the Nursery
- 3 years – PreK meet in room #113 South (downstairs)
- Kindergarten – 3rd grade meet in the downstairs assembly room
- 4th & 5th grades meet in room #113 north (downstairs)

Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grades) from 4:00-5:30pm in the Youth Gym.

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

THIS WEEK – Pastor Jeff Watson will continue with the sermon series called “**Surprise the World.**” The message will come from Hebrews 13:1-2; Luke 7:33-35.

NEXT WEEK – Pastor Jeff Watson will continue with the sermon series called “**Surprise the World.**” The message will come from 1 Timothy 4:6-10.

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 10, 2023

Offering plate: \$ 5,461.00

Online: \$ 3,670.00

Text to Give - 616-208-4301

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.
- **Jan Hodges** is recovering from surgery.
- **Don Scovel** is waiting for test results for a 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.
- **Continued prayers for: Ken Vining, Joyce VanderMarkt, 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

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, September 18

7:27pm Young Life
7:30pm Consistory

TUESDAY, September 12

1:00pm Grandville Ladies Literary Club
5:15pm Bells of Joy

WEDNESDAY, September 6

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study
9:30am Women in the Word
5:30pm Praise Team
5:30pm MidWeek Connect

THURSDAY, September 7

9:00am Zumba
6:00pm KidMin/Youth Volunteer Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD

First Grandville Shirts are available for purchase. Place your order at the table in the Narthex after the service. Shirts are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth sizes. Questions? Contact Pastor Melanie – melanie@firstgrandville.org.

MidWeek Connect Kick Off (formerly FOCUS) begins THIS Wednesday, September 20 at 5:30pm for dinner. Classes and choir begin at 6:30pm. Check out the flyer in the bulletin for more info.

New Member Class is 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 to connect over a meal and is starting October 1st. Sign-up at the Sign-Up Center in September. Each assigned group will plan to meet three times at a restaurant or home over the next 3 months. Sign-up as a single/couple; OR you can sign-up as a family. This is a great opportunity to connect with others in the church! Questions? Ashley VanDyk at 616-431-1717

Grandville Ladies Literary Club will meet on Tuesday, September 19, at 1:00 in the Fellowship Room. Special guests will be Tina Renshaw and her young sons, Cameron, a cellist and Parker, a violinist. They have performed in Europe and at Carnegie Hall. The meeting concludes about 2:00 with apple crisp from Carol Jolink. Questions? Sheryl Tusch – 616-662-5093.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE

Kids Hope Mentors for East Elementary to meet one-on-one with a student once a week for one hour over the next school year. 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 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>.

Hand2hand starts 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 is in need of a delivery person to help deliver the backpacks to Century Park on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. If interested, please contact Kelly Kievit – Kievit.kelly@gmail.com.

Fall Fest Cookie Walk on Saturday, September 30 from 11am-4pm. We are participating in Grandville's Annual Fall Fest by hosting a Cookie Walk and are in need of donated homemade cookies (each cookie packaged individually in a ziplock bag). We hope to collect 200 cookies. Donated cookies can be placed in the Fall Fest box located in the small top freezer in the main kitchen.

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.

Bethany Christian Services is looking for affordable housing in Grandville for a family of 5 recently arrived from the Democratic Republic of Congo. If you know of anyone who is willing to rent to the family, please contact Katie at Bethany Christian Services (kcarpenter@bethany.org or 616-591-72140).

Faith & Blue Food Drive is 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.

Interested in Learning More About Mission Work in Ecuador?

Priscilla Saltos, our missionary in Ecuador, is looking for volunteers from the church to help with bookkeeping needs, to write or to assist in writing and sending newsletters. If you're interested contact Brian Clark at 616-916-6890 or Steve Watson at 616-309-6676. Priscilla will also be here on October 8 for Mission Sunday!

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

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

Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grades) meets Sunday's from 4:00-5:30pm in the Youth Lounge. Snacks provided.

High School Youth Group (9th-12th grades) meets Sunday's from 6:30-8:00pm in the Youth Lounge. Food provided.

Young Life (9th-12th grades) – meets Monday, September 18 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 rehearsals begin September 12 at 5:15pm.

Chancel choir rehearsals begin September 20 at 6:30pm

ONGOING MINISTRIES

MegaMen Bible Study meets 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 starts this Wednesday, September 20, 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 and coffee, along with 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 meets 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 informal Bible study. Our study is “Women and Identity.” Contact Karen Diekema – 616-644-0820.

Church Survey was sent out 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.

MidWeek 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 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)