



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Grandville, Michigan

**Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church
September 24, 2023**

Prelude *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee/ Come, Thou Almighty King/ To God Be the Glory*

Welcome, Call to Worship, Prayer

Songs of Worship *Build Your Kingdom Here
All the Poor and Powerless
Sanctuary*

*Greeting

Choir and Dance *Shout to the Lord*

Scripture – 1 Timothy 4:6-10

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Message *“Listen and Learn”*

Baptism

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Song *Down to the River to Pray*

Announcements

Mission Moment

*Sending Song

World Needs Jesus

*Blessing

Postlude

Toccata in E Minor

**All who are able, please stand*

Worship Leaders: Pastors – Jeff Watson, Melanie Kilgore, Matt Cook; Prelude – Barb Vander Heide & Nancy Ryskamp; Organist – Nancy Ryskamp; Choir Director – Rick Gossett, Choir Accompanist – Rhonda Talsma; Guest Dulcimers – Tom & Jeanne Bossardet.

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 the baptism of Ruby Gail Freeman, daughter of Austin & Amber Freeman.

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

We are celebrating the baptism of Ruby Gail Freeman, daughter of Austin & Amber Freeman.

New member class will meet in Pastor Jeff's office. [This is a 2-week class led by Pastor Jeff and is for anyone interested in joining church or would like to learn more about the church.](#)

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 Sunday Connect for adults who plan to attend.

Worship (ages 3 year olds – 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 year olds meet in the Nursery
- 3 year olds – 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)

No Middle & High School Sunday Connect today.

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.

DR Parent info meeting at 6:00pm in the Youth Lounge.

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

NEXT WEEK – Pastor Melanie Kilgore will continue with the sermon series called “**Surprise the World.**” The message will come from Matthew 10:1-7.

Community Sunday – the first Sunday of every month. This is a way to connect with people in our community, especially someone you might not know. We will be wearing name tags found on the tables in the Narthex and cookies will be available after the service. Community Sunday’s are a great opportunity to invite friends.

Stewardship Update:

Offerings received September 17, 2023

Offering plate: \$ 12,178.00

Online: \$ 4,564.00

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:

- **Nancy Matthews** is hospitalized following a fall.
- **Hans Dulimarta** is recovering from cornea replacement surgery.
- **Alice Karsten** is dealing with health concerns.
- **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.

- **Continued prayers for: Ken Viening, Joyce VanderMarkt, Randy Kehr, Helen Huizenga, Roy DeJonge, Lois Morehouse, Bob Waters, Jeremy Ross, Mary Hollen, Steve Jackman**

Congratulations to:

- **Zach & Rachel Kallemeyn** at the birth of a baby boy, Matthew Harold, on September 13.

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), **Abram Swart** (Jack & Myrt Manders 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

THANK YOU...

...for all the birthday cards and calls. **Ruth Cole**

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Browneye	83 on the 7 th	Shirley Schuitman	81 on the 15 th
Don Scovel	84 on the 9 th	David Krombeen	82 on the 26 th
Crystal Baum	96 on the 10 th	Maria Oskam	86 on the 31 st
Arlene Jacobitz	81 on the 10 th		

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.

Church Survey was sent out in the all-church email. It is due today! 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.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, September 25

7:27pm Young Life

TUESDAY, September 26

5:15pm Bells of Joy

7:27pm WyldLife

WEDNESDAY, September 27

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study

9:30am Women in the Word

5:30pm Praise Team

5:30pm MidWeek Connect – Goulash for dinner.

6:00pm Ukulele Band Practice

6:30pm Book study

THURSDAY, September 28

9:00am Zumba

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 meets on Wednesdays from 9:30 - 11:00am in the upstairs Adult Education classroom. This fall, we turn our attention to the book of Philippians. 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.

The Esther Circle meets the first Tuesday of every month at 9:30am in the Adult Education classroom. On October 3 George Werkema, founding minister of Matthews House, will talk about the tiny houses they are involved with. Also Sheri Wolenta, who manages Lydia House, will also be informing us of a new women's and children's home. Our study will be postponed for this month. Contact Karen Diekema – 616-644-0820.

Men's Bible Study meets at Marge's Donut Den on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 2:30pm. Mark Davis and David Bast are the discussion leaders. Our topic for study is The Parables. You are encouraged to bring a friend! Contact Chuck Porte - 616-261-4402.

LOOKING AHEAD

Ukulele Band Practice is Wednesday 6:00-6:30pm. If you would like to play in our Ukulele Band for the Sunday, October 1st service, join us in the Fellowship Room (behind the Narthex) on Wednesday evening. Beginners are welcome! If you need a ukulele, contact Pastor Melanie (melanie@firstgrandville.org) or Tony Williams (616-970-2221).

Eat and Connect is an opportunity for all ages to connect over a meal 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

Sunday Connect – Pastor Jeff will be teaching the following dates: October 22, 29, November 5, 12, and 19.

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.

Meal Train for the Kallemeyn's – Congratulations to Zach and Rachel who had a baby boy, Matthew Harold, on September 13. If you would like to bring them a meal, sign up here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/od1zel?>

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 and jelly, canned fruit, Jello, pudding, rice, pancake mix and syrup, crackers. Please leave food in the cart located in the Activity Center.

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 25 at 7:27pm at Sanders house – 5825 Ayrshire Ct..

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