



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Grandville, Michigan

Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church
October 29, 2023

Prelude *O God our Help in Ages Past/A Mighty Fortress is our God*

Welcome, Call to Worship, Prayer

*Song of Worship *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

*Greeting

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Tony: We are called to a life of faith.

All: However we may answer that call, God is listening.

June: We are called to a life of renewal.

All: Whenever we lose our way, God is patient and forgiving.

Tony: We are called to a life of service.

All: For both our needs and our talents, God inspires and strengthens.

June: We are called to a life of love.

All: God forever loves us and abides with us, as we are and where we are.

Tony: Gracious and forgiving God, turn our hearts towards you, that we may love you more faithfully and follow you more actively.

All: We confess before you now that we do not always love others as you ask us to.

June: We offer words in place of action. We are too quick to judge and too slow to accept; too quick to anger and too slow to repent. Lord, have mercy.

All: We confess that we love our own comforts more than we should.

Tony: We reserve our time and our abilities for our own benefit. We hold back our money and material gifts despite the needs of others. Lord, have mercy.

All: We confess that we struggle to love you with all our heart, mind, and soul.

June: We chase our own plans instead of seeking your purpose. We follow other values that pull us away from your word.

All: Lord, have mercy.

June: Our faith teaches us that we are not saved or justified through what we do, but only through the immensity of God's love. That does not mean however, that we are left alone to do nothing. Through the love and blessings we receive, we are called to respond with gratitude and service, affirming that even the smallest gift offered in love is sacred in God's eyes.

All: Amen.

*Songs of Worship *O Praise the Name/How Great is Our God*

Scripture – James 2:14-26 & Message *“A Faith that Works”*

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Song *Hymn of Heaven*

Announcements

*Sending Song *Take My Life and Let it Be*

*Blessing

Postlude *A Mighty Fortress is our God*

**All who are able, please stand*

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! Please join us for coffee in the Activity Center following the service.

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

Pastor Jeff Watson will continue with the sermon series from the book of James. The message will come from James 2:14-26. Brandon, Tiffany, Zoey and Elsa Buccholz and Dorothy Pyke will be joining church today.

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.

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)

Adult Sunday School with Pastor Jeff in the upstairs Adult Ed Classroom.

Middle & High School Sunday Connect in the Youth Lounge from 10:45-11:30am.

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

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

NEXT WEEK – Pastor Jeff Watson will continue with the sermon series from the book of James. The message will come from James 3:1-12.

Worship Leaders: Pastors – Jeff Watson, Melanie Kilgore, Matt Cook; Liturgists – Tony & June Williams; Organist – Nancy Ryskamp, Dancers – Anna Brown, Anna & Claire VanHekken, Maria Unger, Daphne Nichols, & June Williams

Stewardship Update:

Offerings received October 22, 2023

Offering plate: \$ 13,919.00

Online: \$ 4,861.00

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:

- **Bruce Slagter** is home recovering from hip replacement.
- **Don Scovel** has begun chemo.
- **Nancy Matthews** is at home recovering.
- **Karen VanSingel** (Frank Barone's mom) is recovering from surgery on October 22 to address an infection in the bones of her foot.
- **Esther Dawdy** (Jon Hull's grandma) is under the care of hospice.
- **Pray for peace in Israel and Ukraine.**
- **Continued prayers for: Hans Dulimarta, Alice Karsten, Maria Oskam, Joyce VanderMarkt, Randy Kehr, Helen Huizenga, Roy DeJonge, Lois Morehouse, Jeremy Ross, Steve Jackman**

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,
Fran Rinkus, Kay TenHaken, Bob Verburg, Trudie Wierda, Mary Zomerlei

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.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

7:27pm Young Life

WEDNESDAY

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study
9:30am Women in the Word
5:30pm Praise Team
5:30pm MidWeek Connect – Chicken Carbonera
6:30pm Chancel Choir
6:30-7:30pm Book Study
6:30pm Pickleball

THURSDAY

9:00am Zumba

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 - davidlidgard@hpseagles.net or Bob Stelma - mstelmau78@yahoo.com.

Women in the Word – Wednesdays 9:30 - 11:00am in the Youth Lounge. We will be studying 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.

Esther Circle – the 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.

Men's Bible Study – 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 is The Parables. You are encouraged to bring a friend! Contact Chuck Porte - 616-261-4402

THANK YOU...

...With praise and thanksgiving to God for the healing, Bob no longer needs immunotherapy as the cancer is inactive at this time. We are so thankful to the congregation for the prayers, concern, visits, and cards..

Bob and Kathy Waters

LOOKING AHEAD

Pigs-In-The-Blanket – Esther Circle will be making and selling Pigs-In-The-Blanket this year. The cost is \$15 per package of 7. They will be available for pick up Friday, November 10, from noon-1:00pm, and after worship on Sunday, November 11 and 18. Please place your order on the form at the Sign-Up Center.

Cran Hill Camping Weekend – July 19-21, 2024. This all-church camping weekend is open to everyone in the church. This year's camp sites will be at the Ridgeview sites. If you would like to attend, please sign up at the Sign-Up Center or email Cheryl DeVries. Deadline to sign up is November 1st. Please sign up as soon as possible before spots are opened up to the public. More details and how to pay will be available after November 1st. All sites must be paid for by the 14th. Questions: Cheryl DeVries (616-443-2002 or youravoncheryl@gmail.com)

Adult Sunday Connect – October 29, November 5, 12, & 19. Pastor Jeff will be teaching in the upstairs Adult Ed Room.

Worship Services will be held in the gym beginning November 12 due to boiler issues.

Thanksgiving Service will be Wednesday evening at 7:00pm in the gym.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE

Church Set-Up – beginning November 12, we need help setting up chairs in the gym for our worship service. We would like to have 2 teams – one for the 1st & 3rd Sundays and another for the 2nd & 4th Sundays. Set up will begin at 8:00am. If you can help, sign up at the Sign-Up Center.

Raking at the Matthew's House- Saturday, November 4 at 10:00am. Help rake and clean up Clark & Nancy Matthew's yard – 6232 Kenowa. If you are willing to help, please contact Pastor Melanie – melanie@firstgrandville.org.

Thanksgiving Food Collection for the Domestic Crisis Center: For the entire month of November, we will be collecting non-perishable foods, toiletries, diapers of every size, and household items for the Domestic Crisis Center in Grand Rapids. Please place these items in the Fellowship Room beginning November 5 through Sunday, November 19. Donated items can also be brought forward during our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00pm. Consistory members will be available at the portico following Sunday services to help you unload your cars if you so desire. We will be bringing the donated items to the Domestic Crisis Center on Friday, November 24. Watch for details.

Other Way Christmas Store - We are also collecting new unopened toys for this ministry (unwrapped with prices still attached). You can find a list of needed items in your mailslot. The Christmas Store makes these gifts available to low income families at greatly reduced prices. There are boxes in the narthex for your toy donations. The toy drive ends on December 3.

Hand2hand is 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. You can find a list of items in your mailslot. 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!

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

Greeters needed! 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 and syrup, crackers. Please leave food in the cart located in the Activity Center.

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

Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grades) meets Sundays from 4:00-5:30pm in the Youth Lounge. Snacks provided. We will have a costume party tonight!

High School Youth Group (9th-12th grades) meets Sundays from 6:30-8:00pm in the Youth Lounge. Food provided. We will have a costume party tonight!

Young Life (9th-12th grades) – meets Monday, October 30, at 7:27pm at the church gym. Costume Club this week!

WyldLife (7th & 8th grades) – meets November 14, at 7:27pm at the Olson's house – 6033 Hillsborough Ct.

Youth Pop Can Drive – your empty cans can be dropped off 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.

Dominican Republic Youth Trip Fundraiser – the youth will be selling Dutch Apple Pies for Thanksgiving. They are \$18.00 each. To order your pies sign up at the Sign-Up Center, or contact Jon with your name and how many pies you would like. Orders need to be in by November 10. Pick up will be Saturday, November 18 at noon in the Youth Lounge.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Ferris	84 on the 2 nd
Andrea Kragt	80 on the 6 th
Chuck Porte	87 on the 11 th
Gerald Brouwer	87 on the 22 nd
Bob Holwerda	80 on the 25 th
Helen Dertien	94 on the 27 th
Pat Marcusse	92 on the 29 th
Bob Brower	81 on the 30 th