



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Grandville, Michigan

**Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church
November 12, 2023**

Prelude – Handbells

Do Lord

Welcome & Prayer

*Song of Worship

Holy, Holy, Holy

*Greeting

Call to Worship

Leader: God of grace, you have given us minds to know You, hearts to love You and voices to sing Your praise.

People: We bring heart, soul, mind and body.

Leader: We share blessings and fears.

People: We bring faith and doubt.

Leader: Fill us with Your Spirit that we may celebrate Your grace.

People: Open our eyes and open our hearts that we may praise our Holy God in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Song of Worship

Open the Eyes of my Heart

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Leader: Father, forgive us, for we are slow to learn, prone to forget and afraid to climb;

People: We are often blind to the light that shines around us.

Leader: Forgive our wasted hours and unspent opportunities;

People: Open our eyes to the light that shines around us and help us find strength through Jesus Christ Your Son.

Song of Response

Ancient Words

Scripture – James 4:1-12

Message

“Friendship with God”

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Offertory Song

Announcements

*Sending Song

Mighty to Save

*Blessing

Postlude

Revive Us Again

**All who are able, please stand*

Worship Leaders: Pastors – Jeff Watson, Matt Cook; Handbell Choir, Director Rick Gossett, Praise Team

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! Please join us for coffee in the Gym or the Youth Lounge following the service.

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

Mothers’ Room – The Mothers’ Room is closed and will be open after the boiler is fixed.

TODAY at First

Pastor Jeff Watson will continue with the sermon series from the book of James. The message will come from James 4:1-12.

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.

No Middle & High School Youth Group today.

NEXT WEEK – Pastor Jeff Watson will continue with the sermon series from the book of James. The message will come from James 4:13-27.

Stewardship Update:

Offerings received November 5, 2023

Offering plate: \$ 8,998.00

Online: \$ 4,715.00

Text to Give - 616-208-4301

THANK YOU...

...a special Thank You for the crew that helped with the clean up at the Matthews. With heartfelt thanks,

Clark Matthews

...for your prayers and caring for Nancy, and your continued support for me as I face each tomorrow without her. Your love was shown in so many ways. **Clark Matthews**

...for all the cards for my birthday. May God bless. **Maria Oskam**

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:

- **Shirley Ghysels** has a low blood count and is looking for answers.
- **Bob Verburg** has a UTI.
- **Don Scovel** has begun chemo.
- **Esther Dawdy** (Jon Hull's grandma) is under the care of hospice.
- **Pray for peace in Israel and Ukraine.**
- **Continued prayers for: Alice Karsten, Maria Oskam, Joyce VanderMarkt, Randy Kehr, Helen Huizenga, Roy DeJonge, Lois Morehouse, Jeremy Ross**

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, Helen Dertien, Marilyn DeVree, Arlene Jacobitz, Pat Marcusse, Kay Mekkes, Bob & Lois Morehouse, Fran Rinkus, Kay TenHaken, Bob Verburg, Trudie Wierda, and 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.

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 – 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 Youth Lounge. 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

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

6:30pm Facilities Council
7:00pm Worship Council
7:27pm Young Life

TUESDAY

11:45am Prime Timers Potluck
5:15pm Bells of Joy
7:27pm WyldLife

WEDNESDAY

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study
9:30am Women in the Word
5:30pm Praise Team
5:30pm MidWeek Connect – Chicken Squares
6:00-7:00pm K – 5 MidWeek Connect- Gratitude Project
7:00-7:45pm K – 5 Kids Choir
6:30-7:30pm Preschool MidWeek Connect
6:30pm Chancel Choir

THURSDAY

9:00am Zumba

LOOKING AHEAD

Prime Timers November Potluck – Tuesday, November 14 at 11:45 in the Family Life Center. Good food and fellowship Cider will be served at 11:45 -- 12:00 dining. Speaker, Doris Kuipers, will share her experience of being a Light House Keeper. Please sign up for food and attendance on the sheets available at the Sign-Up Center. Bring a friend.

The Gratitude Project – November 15, 6:15-7PM. Our Elementary Midweek Connect is excited to present The Gratitude Project. This group has been working to plan and prepare three service projects and would love to have you participate! Activities include delivering dinner to First Responders, packing for Hand2Hand, and thanking teachers and soldiers. We will meet in the gym at 6:10. Contact Madelyn (madelyn@firstgrandville.org) for more information.

Advent Festival – November 26, 3:30-5:30PM. Celebrate the Advent season with an afternoon of fun for all ages! We are also in need of volunteers to help set up, run crafts, and clean up. Please contact Madelyn (madelyn@firstgrandville.org) for more information or to get involved.

Young Adult Friendsgiving – Thursday, November 30 at 6pm. Gather with other young adults at the Curry's house for a meal. Everyone please bring a breakfast dish to pass.
RSVP to Pastor Melanie – melanie@firstgrandville.org.

Pigs-In-The-Blanket – The Esther Circle would like to remind everyone to pick up your pigs-in-the-blanket order. There are some extra to be sold if you would like them. The Esther Circle uses these funds for local mission projects and also some programs for our youth.

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

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

Thanksgiving Service will be Wednesday evening, November 22, 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 or if you are ever available to help any Sunday please just show up!

Thanksgiving Food Collection for the Domestic Crisis Center: For the entire month of November, we will be collecting non-perishable foods and care items (see list on back) for the Domestic Crisis Center in Grand Rapids. Please place these items in the Fellowship Room beginning November 5. 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 unload cars. We will be bringing the donated items to the Domestic Crisis Center on Friday, November 24. We will start packing the bus at 9:30am.

Other Way Christmas Store - We are collecting new unopened toys to provide gifts for low income families at reduced prices. You can find a list of needed items in your mailslot. Toys need to be unwrapped with prices still attached. 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!

[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.

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

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

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.

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 contact Jon Hull.

First Reformed Food drive suggestions

Spaghetti sauce

Alfredo sauce

Noodles

Flavored rice (ex. Rice a roni)

Taco seasoning

Taco shells

Taco sauce or salsa

Canned fruit

Applesauce

Baby food/cereal

Condiments: BBQ sauce, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, hot sauce

Salad dressing (especially ranch)

Cereal – sugary types

Regular coffee for coffee makers

Coffee filters

64 oz or larger bottles of juice (shelf kind – ex. apple, grape, fruit)

Bags of sugar

Spices – garlic powder, garlic salt, seasoning salt, lemon pepper, chili seasoning etc.

Gravy packets/chili making packets

Brownie mixes

Vegetable oil

Tuna and canned chicken

Ready to eat soups

Ready to eat pasta (SpaghettiOs, ravioli etc.)

Northern beans (large jars)

Toilet paper

Paper towel