



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Grandville, Michigan

**Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church
November 19, 2023**

Prelude *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

Call to Worship

*Song of Worship *Down to the River to Pray*

Welcome & Prayer

*Greeting

*Song of Worship *Oh Give Thanks to the Lord*

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Scott: Our lives are structured with calendars and planning.

Everyone: Yet we do not know what tomorrow brings.

Scott: Even though we make plans, James 4:14 states: "What is your life? For you are as a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."

Everyone: Plan in the way of James 4:15: "If the Lord wills, we shall do this or that."

Scott: Hear these words of Assurance: "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."

Everyone: Amen

Song of Response *Lord I Need You*

Kids and Youth Choir *Canon of Praise*

Baptism; Crew Allen Miller

Scripture – James 4:13-17

Message "What is Your Life?"

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Offertory Song *Gratitude*

Announcements

*Sending Song *Because He Lives*

*Blessing

Postlude *Now Thank We All Our God/Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

**All who are able, please stand.*

Worship Leaders: Pastors – Jeff Watson, Matt Cook, Melanie Kilgore; Liturgist – Scott Farney; Pianist – Pamela Boone Slagter; Offertory Soloist – Mike Dertien; Kids and Youth Choir Director – Barb Nienhuis; Kids and Youth Choir Accompanist – 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! 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 4:13-17. We will be baptizing Crew Allen Miller, son of Cole & Alexis Miller.

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 10:45-11:45am

- 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.

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

NEXT WEEK – Pastor Jeff Watson will continue with the sermon series from the book of James. The message will come from James 5:7-12.

Stewardship Update:

Offerings received November 12, 2023

Offering plate: \$ 5,433.00

Online: \$ 3,738.00

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:

- **Bob Verburg** is at The Oaks of Byron Center for rehab.
- **Arlene Jacobitz** is under the care of hospice.
- **Cathy Tuinstra** is recovering from multiple infections.
- **Don Scovel** continues with chemo.
- **Shirley Ghysels** is having an upper and lower GI on December 5.
- **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, and 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.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

7:27pm Young Life

7:30pm Consistory

TUESDAY

5:15pm Bells of Joy

WEDNESDAY

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study

9:30am Women in the Word

7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service – with Nursery

FRIDAY

9:30AM Domestic Crisis Center delivery

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

LOOKING AHEAD

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. For more information or to get involved, contact madelyn@firstgrandville.org

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 – Today is the last day to pick up your pigs-in-the-blanket. There will be a table in the gym hallway to pick them up at.

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

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

Thanksgiving Service will be this Wednesday evening, November 22, at 7:00pm in the gym. Nursery provided.

Prime Timers – Thursday, December 14, 7:00pm the Grandville Community Choir Concert at Ivanrest Christian Reformed Church. Refreshments served.

Christmas Eve services

9:30am – Family friendly service

11:00pm – Candlelight Service

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE

Church Set-Up – We need a few more volunteers to set up chairs on Sundays at 8:15am. Join one of our set up teams or show up before a service to help (8:15 on Sundays and 5:45pm on Thanksgiving Eve). A Thanksgiving Sign-Up Sheet is at the Sign-Up Center.

Thanksgiving Food Collection for the Domestic Crisis Center: Donations will continue to be collected this week until Wednesday. There are several ways to make your donations:

1. Drop off your donations during the week and leave on the table in the Fellowship Room.
 2. Bring to the Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, 7:00pm and place on the designated table.
- There will be consistory members available at the portico before and after the Sunday service to unload your car. 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 Tuesday, December 12, at 7:27pm.

Young Life (9th-12th grades) – meets Monday, November 20, at the Koetje's – 3600 Clarey Dr. at 7:27pm.

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	Coffee filters
Alfredo sauce	64 oz or larger bottles of juice (shelf kind – ex. apple, grape, fruit)
Noodles	Bags of sugar
Flavored rice (ex. Rice a roni) seasoning, etc.	Spices – garlic powder, garlic salt, seasoning salt, lemon pepper, chili
Taco seasoning	Gravy packets/chili making packets
Taco shells	Brownie mixes
Taco sauce or salsa	Vegetable oil
Canned fruit	Tuna and canned chicken
Applesauce	Ready to eat soups
Baby food/cereal	Ready to eat pasta (SpaghettiOs, ravioli, etc.)
Condiments: BBQ sauce, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, hot sauce	
Salad dressing (especially ranch)	Northern beans (large jars)
Cereal – sugary types	Toilet paper
Regular coffee for coffee makers	Paper towel