



## FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Grandville, Michigan

**Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church**  
**December 10, 2023**  
**Second Week of Advent**

Prelude

Welcome

\*Greeting

\*Song of Worship *Born is the King (It's Christmas)*

Advent Lighting

Natalie: On the second Sunday of Advent, we consider Peace. Jesus came to be our Prince of Peace. The peace Jesus brings is one of safety, wholeness, completeness, welfare, tranquility, and perfect harmony with God and others.

Zoey: God announced this peace through the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist who gave this message: A voice cries in the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Natalie: We recognize how this world needs peace, and how we each need peace. Today we light this candle, recognizing that we have peace because Christ has come and will come again. Until that day, we carry that peace into this world. (light candle)

Kids Musical Preview

Scripture – Matthew 1:18-25

Message *"God with Joseph"*

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Offertory Song *Advent Suite*

Announcements

\*Sending Song *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

\*Blessing

Postlude *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*\*All who are able, please stand.*

**Worship Leaders:** Pastors – Jeff Watson, Matt Cook, Melanie Kilgore; Welcome – Scott Farney; Advent Readers – Natalie Breuker & Zoey Buchholz; Kids Musical Director – Barb Nienhuis; Kids Piano Accompanist – Barbara Gossett; Offering Soloist – Mike Dertien

## **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 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.

## **TODAY at First**

Pastor Jeff will continue with the Advent sermon series: God With Us. The message will come from Matthew 1:18-25.

## **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** (3 years – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade) 10:45-11:45am

- 3 years – PreK meet in room #113 South (downstairs)
- Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade meet in the downstairs assembly room
- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades meet in room #113 North (downstairs)

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

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

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

**NEXT WEEK** – Pastor Jeff Watson will continue with the Advent sermon series “God With Us”. The message will come from Luke 1:26-38.

**Kids' Musical** – Due to the boiler issues, the Kids' Christmas Musical will be postponed to February 11.

## **Stewardship Update:**

Offerings received December 3, 2023

Offering plate: \$ 11,704.00

Online: \$ 5,264.00

Thanksgiving offering: \$ 15,118.00

**Text to Give** - 616-208-4301

The 2024 offering envelopes can be found in your mailslots in the Activity Center.

## 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 recovering at Rivertown Ridge.
- **Cathy Tuinstra** is recovering at home.
- **Don Scovel** continues with 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, Joyce VanderMarkt, Helen Huizenga, Roy DeJonge, Lois Morehouse, and Jeremy Ross.**

### We extend condolences to:

- The **family & friends of Arlene Jacobitz**, who passed away December 2.

### 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, 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

6:30pm

Chancel Choir

6:30pm

Facilities Council

7:27pm Young Life

## TUESDAY

7:27pm WyldLife

## WEDNESDAY

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study

9:30am Women in the Word

5:30pm Praise Team

6:00-7:30pm Preschool & K-5 MidWeek Connect

6:30pm Chancel Choir

## 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](mailto:dlidgard@hpseagles.net) or Bob Stelma - [mstelmau78@yahoo.com](mailto:mstelmau78@yahoo.com).

**Women in the Word** – Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:00am in the upstairs Adult Ed Room. 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

## UPCOMING SERVICES

December 17 – Choir Cantata

December 24 – 9:30am – Family friendly service

11:00pm – Candlelight Service

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Grandville Community Choir Concert** – the community is invited. Thursday, December 14, 7:00pm at Ivanrest Christian Reformed Church. Prime Timers are encouraged to come and sit together.

**Pizza & Pajama Party** – Celebrate the end of the Midweek Connect for the year with a Pizza and Pajama Party next Wednesday, December 13! All are welcome to join us for pizza in the Activity Center at 6. The Preschool, Parent, and Pajama Party will begin at 6:30PM downstairs in Room 113S. The elementary

party will begin at 6:30PM in the Assembly Room downstairs. Sign up Here:  
<https://forms.gle/9BzMoeVi9HupsYDe7>

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE**

**Care and Connection** – The Care and Connection Council has identified a growing need for transportation assistance for those in our church family who are not able to drive. This includes driving them to and from church functions and to and from scheduled medical appointments. We are looking for volunteers who can provide this type of service. See Harold Ludema or Bob Stelma for further details.

**Christmas Mailbox** – The Esther Circle sponsors a Christmas mailbox for Christmas cards sent to church friends. The money you would spend on stamps goes to The Other Way. There is a box at the end of our mailboxes for your contribution. Thank you from the Esther Circle.

**Stamps for Wycliffe** – Please continue to save your stamps for Wycliffe Associates. WA has a dedicated team that trims, sorts, and sells stamps for mission projects. So, please save your canceled and uncanceled stamps, as well as any stamp collections that you no longer want, to donate to WA. There is a box under the mailboxes in the Fellowship Room for your donations. Already donated stamps will be delivered February 1, but don't stop saving. This is an ongoing project. A big thank you for the stamps already donated. If you have questions or would like something picked up contact Doris. 616 531-8335

**Hand2hand** – We would like to pack a few extra items for the kids over Christmas Break. We are asking for donations of sugar cookie mix, frosting, pancake mix, and syrup. These items need to be non-breakable, non-expired, and non-perishable. Financial gifts are also welcome. Please place donations in the hand2hand box in the Narthex.

**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](mailto:jon@firstgrandville.org)/517-803-5686

**Middle School Youth Group** (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) meets Sundays from 4:00-5:30pm in the Youth Lounge. Snacks provided. Last youth group for the year will be December 17 and will resume on January 7.

**High School Youth Group** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) meets Sundays from 6:30-8:00pm in the Youth Lounge. Food provided. Last youth group for the year will be December 17 and will resume on January 7.

**Young Life** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) – meets Monday, December 11, at 7:27pm at church. The theme is Ugly Christmas Sweater.

**WyldLife** (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades) – meets December 12, at 7:27pm, at church.

**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.