



# **FIRST REFORMED CHURCH**

Grandville, Michigan

**Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church**  
**December 31, 2023**

Prelude

Welcome

\*Songs of Worship

*For Unto Us a Child is Born*  
*Open the Eyes of my Heart*

\*Greeting

Congregational Prayer

Kevin – With the best gift of Christmas, you blessed us with Jesus who in that Silent Night became human, yet remained the Child of Grace.

**All: In this Season, we celebrate the gift of His life, as we also consider his death and resurrection.**

Kevin: Christ was born, he died, he rose from the dead, and He will come again to take us home.

**All: Hallelujah and Amen!**

\*Song of Worship

*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*  
*The First Noel*

Scripture – Luke 2:25-35

Sermon

God With the World

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Offertory Music

*All Glory Be to Christ*

Announcements

Mission Moment

\*Sending Song

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*

\*Blessing

Postlude

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

**Worship Leaders:** Pastors – Jeff Watson, Matt Cook, Melanie Kilgore; Liturgist – Kevin Meyer; Prelude & Postlude – Rhonda Talsma & Pamela Boone Slagter

**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!

**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 Luke 2:25-35.

### **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.

No **Sunday Connect** for kids today. Sunday Connect will resume on January 7.

**NEXT WEEK** – Pastor Jeff Watson will begin a new sermon series “Life Lessons from Ecclesiastes.” The message will come from Ecclesiastes 1:1-11. Next week is Community Sunday and we will be celebrating the baptism of Matthew Harold Kallemeyn.

**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 cake will be available after the service. Community Sunday’s are a great opportunity to invite friends.

### **Stewardship Update:**

Offerings received December 24, 2023

Offering plate: \$ 15,945.00

Online: \$ 3,690.00

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

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

The office will not be open on January 1.

### **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:**

- **Doug Hunderman** is recovering from heart surgery
- **Cathy Tuinstra** is at Mission Point.
- **Bob Schuitman** is having knee surgery on January 8.
- **Shirley Ghysels** was diagnosed with colon cancer and is having surgery January 4.
- **Jan Hodges** is home recovering from surgery.
- **Bob Verburg** is under the care of hospice.
- **Don Scovel** continues with chemo.
- **Esther Dawdy** (Jon Hull’s grandma) is under the care of hospice.
- **Pray for peace in Israel and Ukraine.**
- **Northern Nigeria** after the mass killings on Christmas Day
- **Continued prayers for: Casey Dutmer, Joyce VanderMarkt, Helen Huizenga, Roy DeJonge, Lois Morehouse, and Jeremy Ross.**

#### **We extend condolences & comfort to:**

- **The Doug Diekman family** in the death of Doug’s grandma, Fran Rinkus, on December 26.

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

**Esther Circle** – will meet on Tuesday, January 2, in the upstairs Adult Ed Room. Greg Vaughn will be meeting with us to tell us about the Food Pantry. All women are welcome to meet for a time of coffee, fellowship, mission interests, and informal Bible study. 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**

**First Reformed Youth Movie Night Fundraiser** -This Wednesday, January 3 from 6:00-9:00pm. Kids flicks from 6:00-7:00, main movie 7:00-9:00pm. Free Admission. Popcorn, candy, and pop for sale. Donations accepted.

**Connect with Eight Sign-Ups** in January – We had great connections this Fall and are opening up sign ups in January for families/couples and singles to connect with others in the congregation over a meal. Sign up again or if you missed the Fall session sign up this time. New groups will be put together the end of January to meet in February, March and April. Any questions - email Ashley VanDyk ([ashleysuevandyk@gmail.com](mailto:ashleysuevandyk@gmail.com)) for families and Lynne Rosema ([tlrosema@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tlrosema@sbcglobal.net)) for adults.

**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.

**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** – Each week we deliver food for 51 kids to Century Park Learning Center so the kids will have food to eat for the weekend. We are receiving non-expired, non-perishable food donations. Items needed are:

popcorn packets, trail mix, pudding snack packs, granola bars, fruit snacks, applesauce/fruit cups, crackers, raisins, any bagged snack, instant oatmeal, cereal, instant mac 'n cheese.

These items need to be in individual packets. Please place your donations in the 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. We 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. We will resume on January 7.

**Young Life** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) – All City Club on January 22. Details to come.

**WyldLife** (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades) – resumes on January 30, 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.

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Carol Bernson	82 on the 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Don Ferris	88 on the 27 <sup>th</sup>
Lois Kosten	87 on the 11 <sup>th</sup>		
Marjorie Fisk	89 on the 20 <sup>th</sup>		