



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Grandville, Michigan

Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church
January 7, 2024
Epiphany

Prelude *Rock of Ages Medley*

Welcome

*Song of Worship *10,000 Reasons*

*Greeting

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Matt: Lord, you are our guide. You once used a star to lead people to Christ, and you have given us Jesus, the light of the world.

All: We confess our poor sense of direction. We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way.

Matt: We fail to follow the signs you provide.

All: Forgive our waywardness, God. Lead us to the Christ so that we may follow his way to you.

Matt: Just as you baptized your Son, baptize us with your Spirit so that forgiven and renewed, we may preach your Word to the nations.

All: That we may tell of your glory found in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light forever.

Matt: Hear these words of assurance from John 1, "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. To all who have received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

*Songs of Worship *All Creatures of Our God and King*
Behold Our God

Baptism

Scripture – Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Sermon "The Search for Meaning"

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Offertory Music *Star of Wonder*

Announcements

Mission Moment

*Sending Song *Your Name*

*Blessing

Postlude *Your Name*

**All who are able, please stand.*

Worship Leaders: Pastors – Jeff Watson, Matt Cook, Melanie Kilgore; Liturgist – Matt Cook; Prelude & Postlude – Becca Hollen

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 & cake 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.

Mother's Room – The "Mothers' Room" is now located and accessible in the back of the Fellowship Room. It is a comfortable, private space to tend to the needs of babies and watch the live service.

Children's Library – The Children's Library has been relocated downstairs in Room 108.

TODAY at First

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. Name tags are available on the tables in the Narthex.

Pastor Jeff will begin a new sermon series: Life Lessons from Ecclesiastes. The message will come from Ecclesiastes 1:1-11. We will be celebrating the baptism of Matthew Harold Kallemeyn, son of Zach & Rachel Kallemeyn. Join us after the service for cake to celebrate with the Kallemeyn's.

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-5th Grade) 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)

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 the sermon series "Life Lessons from Ecclesiastes." The message will come from Ecclesiastes 2:17-24. We will also be celebrating communion.

Stewardship Update:

Offerings received December 31, 2023

Offering plate: \$ 12,732.00

Mail in gifts \$ 9,300.00

Online: \$ 5,750.00

Text to Give - 616-208-4301

Year End Financial Update as of December 31, 2023

Total Offerings \$897,422.00

Total Expenses -\$887,840.00

Net Profit for 2023 \$9,582.00

Thank you for support in 2023. We look forward to your continued support in the New Year.

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 Holwerda** is home following a hospital stay for Covid.
- **Cathy Tuinstra** is at Mission Point.
- **Bob Schuitman** is having knee surgery on January 8.
- **Shirley Ghysels** is recovering from surgery for colon cancer.
- **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.**
- **Continued prayers for: Doug Hunderman, Jan Hodges, Casey Dutmer, Joyce VanderMarkt, 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, 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.

THANK YOU...

Dear First Church, My mom really appreciated all of the Christmas cards. Thank you for remembering her. **Jeff DeVree**

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

6:30pm Facilities Council

TUESDAY

5:15pm Bells of Joy

WEDNESDAY

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study
5:30pm Praise Team
5:30pm MidWeek Connect meal – Pulled Pork
6:00-7:00pm K – 5 MidWeek Connect
7:00-7:45pm K – 5 Kids Choir
6:30-7:30pm Preschool MidWeek Connect
6:30pm Chancel Choir
6:30-7:30pm Podcast group

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

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

Connect with Eight Sign-Ups – 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) for families and Lynne Rosema (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/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.

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

WyldLife (7th & 8th 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 nd
Lois Kosten	87 on the 11 th
Marjorie Fisk	89 on the 20 th
Don Ferris	88 on the 27 th