



# **FIRST REFORMED CHURCH**

Grandville, Michigan

**Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church  
February 4, 2024**

Prelude *Stand Up for Jesus/Onward, Christian Soldiers*

Welcome

\*Song of Worship *Let the Whole Creation Cry*

\*Greeting

\*Call to Worship

Leader 1: In love and joy God calls us together.

**All: We meet this day, as friends, as neighbors, as sisters and brothers in Christ.**

Leader 2: Called together by God, we bring our praise and thanks to God:

**All: We bring our songs, our hearts, our prayers, our lives.**

Leader 1: Grateful for this opportunity to give and receive, let us worship God.

\*Song of Worship *That's Why We Praise Him*

Prayer of Confession & Assurance

Leader 1: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Leader 2: Thank you, Heavenly Father, that everything under heaven is within your authority and under your control.

**All: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.**

Leader 1: What has a man from all the toil and strain with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of pain, and his work is a vexation; even in the night his mind does not rest.

Leader 2: Lord Jesus, I am your child and my strength and comfort is in You.

**All: Love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And love your neighbor as yourself.**

Leader 1: Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

Leader 2: This is living life without Christ. But we know that the whole duty and delight of man is to worship and praise You.

**Congregation: Fear God and keep His commandments. This is the duty of every person. Enjoy the life given to you, as a gift from God!**

\*Songs of Worship *Salvation Belongs to Our God  
I Love You Lord*

Sermon "Love Interrupts"

Scripture – Ecclesiastes 7:15-23

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Offering Song *Gratitude*

Announcements

\*Sending Song *Solid Rock*

\*Blessing

Postlude *Our God is Mighty*

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

**Worship Leaders:** Pastors – Jeff Watson, Matt Cook; Liturgists – Tony & June Williams; Soloist – Ricardo Alfaro; Worship Leader – Barb Nienhuis; Organist – Rhonda Talsma; 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! 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 and cookies 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 "Mother's Room" is now accessible off the Fellowship Room. It is a comfortable space to tend to the needs of babies.

### **TODAY at First**

Pastor Jeff will continue the sermon series: "Life Lessons from Ecclesiastes." The message will come from Ecclesiastes 7:15-23. It is also Community Sunday (first Sunday of every month). This is a way to connect with people in our community, especially someone you might not know. Name tags will be available on the tables in the Narthex and cookies served following the service.

### **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 – 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.

**Pine Ridge Service Trip** information meeting in the upstairs conference room following worship.

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

Our **High School Youth Group** was at Spring Hill Camp for a retreat this weekend. There will not be Youth Group tonight.

**NEXT WEEK** – Pastor Jeff Watson will continue the sermon series "Life Lessons from Ecclesiastes." The Children's Musical "Christmas Comes to Lone Star Gulch" will be part of the service.

## Stewardship Update:

Offerings received January 28, 2024

Offering Plate: \$ 9,843.00

Online: \$ 3,630.00

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

**Communion Offering** – If you have a communion offering from our January 14 service (which was cancelled due to snow) you may put it in the offering plate this Sunday. Please make sure it is in the communion offering envelope.

## 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:

- **Don Ferris** is recovering from outpatient back surgery.
- **Bob Waters** is being treated for an infection.
- **Casey Dutmer** is recovering from surgery.
- **Shirley Ghysels** is home and continues to recover.
- **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, Joyce VanderMarkt, Helen Huizenga, Roy DeJonge, Lois Morehouse, and Jeremy Ross.**

### We Extend Condolences to:

- **Carol Verburg and family**, at the passing of her husband Bob, on January 31. Funeral arrangements are being made through Cook Funeral Home

### 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, 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

### TUESDAY

9:30am Esther Circle

5:15pm Bells of Joy

### WEDNESDAY

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study

5:30pm Praise Team

5:30pm MidWeek Connect meal – Chicken squares

6:15-7:45pm Dress Rehearsal for Kid's Musical

6:30-7:30pm Preschool MidWeek Connect

6:30pm Chancel Choir

6:30-7:30pm Podcast & Guitar Group

### THURSDAY

9:00am Zumba

### SATURDAY

10:30-noon Final Dress Rehearsal for the Kid's Musical

## ONGOING MINISTRIES

**Esther Circle** – meets this Tuesday, February 6 at 9:30am in the Adult Education Room. 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

**MegaMen Bible Study** – Wednesdays at 6:00am in the Youth Lounge. Come for Bible study and fellowship. 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 Douglas Connelly's *Angels Standing Guard*. Books are available for \$10 and can be picked up in the office. Contact: Marilyn Stelma – 616-450-6008

**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. The topic is The Parables. You are encouraged to bring a friend! Contact: Chuck Porte - 616-261-4402.

Be sure to stop by the Welcome Center to see the plaque and book, given to the FRC Men's Bible Study group, as a thank you for funding the new well for their village. The work on the well, for the Nigerian village, was done through the Samuel Omogo Foundation.

**Calling all Flute Players** – We are reviving our flute choir and plan to play on February 25. All ages and

all ability levels are welcome. If interested call Barb Nienhuis – 616-485-3417.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**Consistory Nominations** – It is time once again to begin the process of nominating and electing new members for our Consistory. If you know someone who you feel has the gifts for leadership as either an Elder or a Deacon, please place the name of that person in the nominations box located on the table in the narthex. You may also speak to any member of the nominations committee – Steve DeVette, Mark Donker, Kim Donze, Ron Hasper, Chad Holleman, Bryce Lutke (Chair), Sue Plasman, and Anne Potyraj. Or you may place the name(s) in a sealed envelope in the mail slot of any committee member. The committee will accept nominations from the congregation through February 25.

**Children's Musical** – Next week Sunday, February 11, will be the Children's Musical "Christmas Comes to Lone Star Gulch" during the service.

**Ash Wednesday Service** – Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30pm. Following our MidWeek Connect Meal, join us as we begin this season of lent for an interactive Ash Wednesday Service for all ages.

**Valentine Dinner** – Come join us for a special Valentine's Day dinner on Wednesday, February 14. Dinner will be Chicken Cordon Bleu, cheesy potatoes, strawberry spinach salad, and Red Velvet Cake. Donations will be accepted to cover costs of Wednesday night meals. Please sign up at Sign-Up Center so we have a better idea of numbers.

**Maple Tree Preschool's 2024/2025 registration is now open!** Go to Maple Tree's website for more information and to register online. Join us for an Open House on Monday, February 5, 6:00-7:00 pm (limited to 2 adults and students interested in attending Maple Tree in 2024/2005).

**Widow and Widowers** – Let's LEAP back to the 80s! Join us Thursday, February 29 at 1:30 pm in the Youth Lounge for fun, games, dessert and fellowship. Please sign up at the Sign-Up Center. Any questions - call Lynne Rosema(616-901-5784)

**Prime Timers Game Afternoon** – Thursday, February 15 from 1:00-3:00pm in the Youth Lounge. Check the Sign-Up Center for details and to sign up.

**Lost & Found** – There are two pairs of women's black gloves on the center desk in the office if you are missing any.

**YOUTH MINISTRIES** Contact person: Jon Hull – [jon@firstgrandville.org](mailto:jon@firstgrandville.org)/517-803-5686

**Young Life** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) – meets Monday, February 5, at 7:27pm at the Olson's – 6033 Hillsborough Ct. Broomball club!

**WyldLife** (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades) – meets February 13, at 7:27pm, in the Youth Gym.

**Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser Taco Dinner** – Wednesday, February 21, at 5:30pm.

**Youth Dominican Republic Trip** – June 14-21, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Please be praying for youth who are signed up and are considering signing up!

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE

**Pine Ridge Service Trip** – June 7-15, 2024. There is an Information Meeting **TODAY** in the conference room upstairs by the south stairs. Mary Cook will have information about the trip including work that will be done, transportation, and cost. If you can't make it to the meeting, please contact Mary Cook at [marycook5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marycook5@sbcglobal.net) or 616-295-8568 for more details!

**Profession of Faith Mentors are needed!** Contact Jeff Watson or Jon Hull for more information.

**Cookie donations** – We are in need of cookie donations for our Community Sundays. There is a box in the little freezer in the kitchen labeled for donations. You can drop them off anytime.

**Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) volunteers** – Are you looking for a place to invest your time in Kingdom work? PRC Grand Rapids has an urgent need for volunteers at their Compassionate Support Services office. The needs include receptionist assistants, sorters, and cleaners. All details including contact information can be found at [www.prcforlife.org/join-us/volunteer](http://www.prcforlife.org/join-us/volunteer)

**Youth Sunday Connect** -- If you are interested in providing a snack for Sunday Connect and getting to know some of our youth students, please fill out the snack sign up form in the Sign-Up Center by the Activity Center!

**Hand2Hand Updated needs** – 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:

Peanut butter (plastic jar), jelly (plastic bottle), 1 lb. Box spaghetti noodles, 24 oz. canned pasta sauce, 12 oz. canned chicken, chicken flavored rice, packets, canned green beans

These items need to be in individual packets. Please place your donations in the box in the narthex.

**Food Pantry Needs** - Canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, syrup, canned meat, diced tomatoes, beef stew, muffin mix, Hamburg Helper, shampoo, body soap. Please **NO** canned vegetables. You can leave food in the cart in the Activity Center.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Fran Davis	80 on the 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Carol Stoel	80 on the 4 <sup>th</sup>
Mary Zomelei	87 on the 4 <sup>th</sup>
Alice Karsten	88 on the 9 <sup>th</sup>
Dick Robinson	82 on the 14 <sup>th</sup>
Leah Brinks	86 on the 25 <sup>th</sup>
Carolyn Cole	84 on the 29 <sup>th</sup>