



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Grandville, Michigan

Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church
March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday

Prelude *Lyra Davidica*

Welcome

*Song of Worship *Hosanna*

*Greeting

Kids Choir *Hosanna*

Liturgy

Jeff: On the first Palm Sunday, the people lined the streets filled with hope and joy as they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. The crowds gathered, waving palm branches shouting:

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Jeff: Hosanna meaning “come save us.” The people were looking for a leader, for a king, for a savior. But that very week their shouts would turn from Hosanna to:

All: Crucify him, crucify him.

Jeff: Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week together, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Enliven us by the familiar but always new story of shame and triumph, suffering and hope that this week reveals.

All: Mold us to the ways of the humble Jesus whose life we honor this morning and lead us always to a deeper experience of your love for us and others. Amen

*Song of Worship *God So Loved
Above All*

Choir Anthem *On That Day When He Rode into Jerusalem*

Scripture – Matthew 27:45-56

Sermon “The Final Hour”

Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts & Prayer

Offertory Song *Mighty is the Power of the Cross*

Announcements

*Sending Song *Worthy is the Lamb*

*Blessing

Postlude *Ride on in Majesty*

**All who are able, please stand.*

Worship Leaders: Pastors – Jeff Watson, Melanie Kilgore, Matt Cook; Scripture Reader – Jay Kleinheksel; Worship Leader – Mike Dertien; Chancel Choir Director – Rick Gossett, Chancel Choir Accompanist/Organist – Rhonda Talsma; Kids Choir Director – Barb Nienhuis, Kids 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! 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 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 is Palm Sunday

Pastor Melanie Kilgore will continue the series "The Final Night." She will be preaching from Matthew 27:45-56 titled "The Final Hour."

Prayer & Praise – following the service, if you would like to share a prayer request or praise, a Pastor and two elders are available in front of the organ.

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) 10:45-11:30am

- 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)

New Member Class – 10:45am in Pastor Jeff's office.

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

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

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

NEXT WEEK we will be celebrating Easter. Pastor Jeff Watson will be preaching from Matthew 28:1-10 titled "He is Risen!"

Stewardship Update:

Offerings received March 17, 2024

Offering Plate: \$12,476.00

Online: \$ 3,188.00

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:

- **Ruth Cole** is in nursing care with hospice.
- **Don Scovel** had his final chemo treatment on March 21.
- **Ethel Karsten** is at Mary Free Bed for rehab following a stroke.
- **Don Alderink** is having surgery on April 3.
- **Pat Stegehuis** is home continuing to recover.
- **Brian & Brad Dykstra's sister Heather** is hospitalized in Colorado and has been added to the heart transplant list.
- **Ellie Mott** (Todd & Becca Hollen's niece) is home and the family would appreciate prayers for strength and nutrition for her brain cancer.
- **Esther Dawdy** (Jon Hull's grandma) is under the care of hospice.
- **Pray for peace in Israel and Ukraine.**
- **Continued prayers for: Casey Dutmer, Doug Hunderman, 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, 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.

Missionary Update from Haiti- Gladys Thomas

Gladys shares, "We are going through some tough times in Haiti with violence and unrest at their highest point. No one is safe in the country and there is a lot of heartache as we watch the suffering of the population. The international community is thinking of a military intervention in Haiti, but they have been holding back for almost 2 years now, and in the meantime, Haiti is spiraling down. We are praying and praying, as I know, God has a plan for Haiti." A link to her full update was sent out in the Wednesday email.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

7:27pm Young Life

TUESDAY

5:15pm Bells of Joy

7:27pm WyldLife

WEDNESDAY

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study

5:30pm Praise Team

6:30pm Chancel Choir

THURSDAY

9:00am Zumba

7:00pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service

ONGOING MINISTRIES

Esther Circle – first Tuesday of the month at 9:30am in the Adult Education Room. All women are welcome to join us for coffee, fellowship, mission interests, and informal Bible study. We are starting a new study called Woman of God. 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) or Bob Stelma (mstelmau78@yahoo.com).

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).

UPCOMING SERVICES

March 28, 7:00pm – Maundy Thursday Communion Service

March 31 – Easter

LOOKING AHEAD

New Members Class – New Members Class **TODAY**, March 24, taught by Pastor Jeff for those interested in considering First Reformed Church as their potential church home. (Class held at 10:45am in Pastor Jeff's office).

Spring Break Stay and Play – Join us for an open gym on Wednesday, April 3, from 10:00am – noon. Snacks provided. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Young Adult Axe Throwing Event – Young Adults (20 somethings) join us for a fun night of axe throwing at FlannelJax's in Grand Rapids on Thursday, April 18 from 5:30-6:30pm followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Cost is \$26 a person. Please sign-up at the Sign-Up Center or contact Pastor Melanie by Monday, April 15.

Euchre Tournament Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser - Saturday, April 20, 6:30 in the Lounge. \$20 at the door to play with money going towards the Youth Mission Trip in June. Anyone who plays Euchre can come for an enjoyable evening of fun and fellowship while meeting new people. Sign up at the Sign-Up Center as a single to be paired with someone or as a couple/team. The youth will be providing desserts/snacks and drinks. Questions call Lynne Rosema (616-901-5784) or Jon Hull (517-803-5686)

Cello Ensemble – If you play cello and would like to participate in a cello ensemble at the Maundy Thursday service on March 28 at 7pm, please contact Pastor Melanie. Practices will be on Wednesday nights.

Maple Tree Preschool's 2024/2025 registration is now open! Go to Maple Tree's website for more information and to register online.

YOUTH MINISTRIES Contact person: Jon Hull – jon@firstgrandville.org/517-803-5686

Young Life (9th-12th grades) – meets Monday, March 25, at 7:27pm in the gym.

WyldLife (7th & 8th grades) – meets March 26, at 7:27pm, at the Mann's house – 3166 Coronation Ct.

College Scholarships: Scholarship forms are available in the office or online for anyone who is a member of church and going to college in Fall 2024. Forms are due to the office no later than **Friday, April 12, at noon.**

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

Youth Pop Can Drive – your empty cans can be dropped off in the Lounge. If you would like to return cans to put money in your student's youth account for future trips, contact Jon Hull.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR SERVE

Sunday Techs – We are in need of more techs to help run sound, our presentation program, and live stream. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Melanie (melanie@firstgrandville.org).

Cookie Donations – Do you love to bake? We are in need of more cookies for our Community Sundays. Donations can be placed in the little freezer in the kitchen labeled "Donations."

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:

12 oz. canned chicken, chicken flavored rice packets, 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 – 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.

Thank you so much for the stamps you donated to Wycliffe Associates. The stamps from our church were delivered in February. From the stamps donated by different organizations and people in 2023, the stamp program contributed \$15,000 for Bible translation. Please continue to save your stamps as this is an ongoing program. If you have questions, call Doris at 616 531-8335.