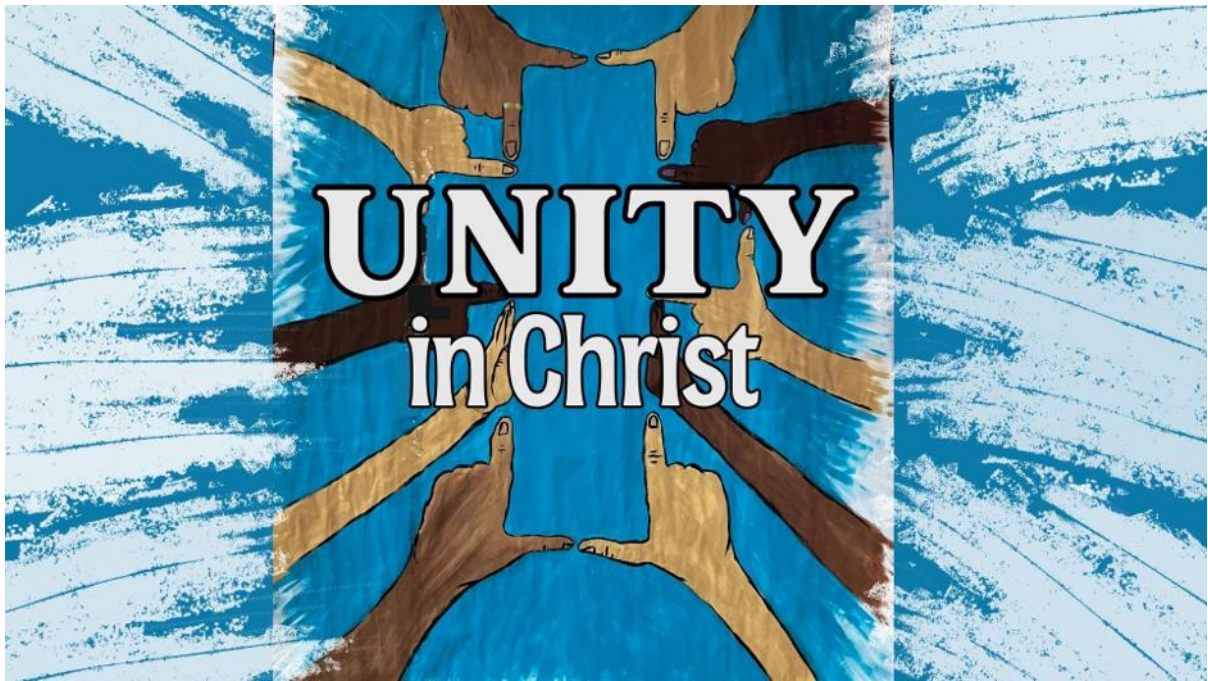




FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Grandville, Michigan

Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church
September 13, 2026

Prelude	<i>Arise, My Soul, Arise!</i>
Welcome	
Song of Worship	<i>Make Us One</i>
Greeting	
Songs of Worship	<i>Praise the Lord Forever</i> <i>All Hail Christ</i>
Scripture – John 17:20-23	
Sermon	“Prayer for Unity”
Offertory	
Offertory Music	
Announcements	
Sending Song	<i>My Friends May You Grow in Grace</i>
Blessing	
Postlude	<i>Shine, Jesus, Shine</i>

Worship Leaders: Pastors – Jeff Watson, Matt Cook, Melanie Kilgore; Organist – Rhonda Talsma;
Welcome – Dan, Annie, Faith & Matthew Venema

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! Join us for the Kick-Off lunch next door in The Commons following worship!

Mother's Room – The Mother's Room is accessible off The Gathering Room to tend to the needs of babies.

TODAY at First – Pastor Jeff Watson will continue the series called “Unity in Christ.” He will be preaching from John 17:20-23 titled “Prayer for Unity”.

Sunday Connect Schedule:

Nursery (3 year olds & under) can be dropped off in the nursery when you arrive and picked up after the worship service.

NEXT WEEK – Pastor Melanie Kilgore will continue the series called “Unity in Christ.” She will be preaching from 1 Corinthians 1:10-13.

6:30-8:00pm – **High School Youth Group Kick-Off**

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH PRAYERS & CONCERNS

For prayer updates during the week, please call the **Prayer Line** – 534-0113

- **Maria Oskam** is at the Oaks in Byron Center for rehab.
- **Lou Stelma** is recovering from skin cancer surgery.
- **Phil Davis** is home recovering from hip surgery.
- **Kyle Klaassen** was deployed in August for 10 months.
- **Bob Stark** (Alyce Stark's husband) is at American House under the care of hospice.
- Please pray for our **Transformation Team** and their work on a mission and vision for our church.
- **Continued prayers for: Ruth Plaggemaars, Doug Koster, Don Kempema, John Boeve, Bob Schuitman, Pam Jackman, Bill VanHorn, Linda Timmerman, Mike VanWyhe, Roy DeJonge, Olive Lambries, and Meg Oskam.**

We Extend Condolences to:

- **Garrit Harkema** (Lauren Abrell's fiancé) **and family**, at the death of his grandpa, Warren Boer, on September 7.

Please keep all our military troops in your prayers, especially:

Jeremy Stegehuis, Jeff Shuck & Tony Shuck (Betty Isenga's grandsons), **AJ Frens** (Duane & Gail's grandson), **Abram Swart** (Jack & Myrt Manders grandson), **Taran Silva** (Masan Silva's brother), **Sylas Belden** (Ken & Barb VanderHeide's grandson).

Please keep in your hearts, minds, and prayers:

Our **Family at Home members** - Crystal Baum, Randy & Sue Kehr, Joyce Moored, Kay TenHaken, and Joyce VanderMarkt.

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, consistory Vice President Kathy Carpenter – 616-308-6095 – or any of the other elders.

Stewardship Update:

Offerings received September 6, 2026

Offering Plate:	\$ 4,569.00
Online:	\$ 4,582.00

Financial Questions – If you have any financial questions contact, Steve Westrick - treasurer@firstgrandville.org

Mission of the Month

Josh & Virginia Ham – Josh & Virginia Ham serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Cameroon, where Josh is a translation consultant and Virginia is the country's linguistics coordinator. Since 2002, they have helped launch and support Bible translation projects so that people can experience God's word in their own language.

Hand2Hand – Hand2Hand provides food for kids facing weekend hunger 280 schools in West Michigan. First is one of about 150 churches that collect food for local schools. Our partner school is Century Park Learning Center. We are doing a collection drive at the end of the month.

Church Emails – If you would like to receive church emails and updates, please contact the office (deb@firstgrandville.org).

Church Facebook group – Join our Congregational page to hear about updates through the week: "First Grandville Congregational Connection."

THANK YOU...

...The words of comfort from our church family following the recent death of our father/papa, Gerald Clark, has been a welcome embrace of Christ's love. Thank you for supporting us during this time. **Heidi, Bill, Andrew, Ben, Caleb & Gabby Smitley**

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

7:27pm Young Life

TUESDAY

5:15pm Bells of Joy
7:27pm WyldLife

WEDNESDAY

6:00am MegaMen Bible Study
5:20pm MidWeek Connect meal
5:30pm Praise Team
6:00-7:30pm Kid's programming (includes Kids Choir)
6:00-7:30pm Middle School Youth Group
6:30pm Chancel Choir

ONGOING MINISTRIES

MegaMen Bible Study – Wednesdays at 6:00am in the Lounge.

Contact: Dave Lidgard (dlidgard@hpseagles.net) or Bob Stelma (mstelmau78@yahoo.com).

Men's Bible Study – Begins Thursday, September 10. The President of Words of Hope will be speaking. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at Marge's Donut Den at 2:30pm. Contact: Chuck Porte (seaporte@sbcglobal.net).

Women in the Word – This is a Bible Study for women of all ages. Will begin Wednesday, September 16, at 9:30am in the large classroom upstairs. We will be studying Isaiah. Study books are available in the church office for \$10.

GIVE & SERVE

Sunday Connect Teachers and Youth Group Leaders – We are still looking for more trusted and loving adults (of all ages)! If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to Lauren Abrell at (630-750-6458 / lauren@firstgrandville.org) for Youth Ministries or Jeff Watson (616-250-7148 / jeffw@firstgrandville.org) for Kids Ministries.

Hand2Hand Deliverer – We need a person(s) to deliver Hand2Hand food to Century Park Learning Center one Thursday morning a month. If you are able to help with this, contact Kelly Kievit (kievit.kelly@gmail.com)

Food Pantry Needs canned fruit, canned meat, pancake mix, syrup, beef stew, crackers, Jell-O, pudding, Hamburger or Tuna Helper, shampoo, toothpaste, and bar soap. Please leave food in the cart located in the Activity Center.

Wycliffe Stamp Ministry – Please save your canceled and uncanceled stamps for Wycliffe Associates. All stamps work, even non-profit stamps. Just cut them out so that there is at least ½ inch around the stamp. Volunteers at Wycliffe will trim them closer. This stamp ministry helps to support a different mission project each year. Stamp collections are also welcome. The donation box is in the Fellowship Room under the mailboxes. Contact: Doris Kuipers (616-617-0231)

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday Connect – Begins Wednesday, September 16.

Sunday Connect – Begins September 20.

December 6 – Christmas Musical: Including kids and choir.

Mission & Vision Listening Circles – Sunday, September 27 following the worship service. As we continue discerning our mission and vision for the future, the Transformation Team is hosting listening circles to hear from our congregation. This gathering will be a chance to share your thoughts and perspective about the mission and vision of the church and what God might be inviting us into. Join us next door in the Commons for coffee and treats.

La Casa Community Meal – Sunday, October 4. We will be preparing a meal to share with LaCasa following our combined worship service. Please sign up to bring one of your favorite dishes or to help with setup or cleanup. Contact: Amy Cyr-Watson (231-883-4528/amycyrlly@gmail.com)

Adult Sunday Connect – Disagreements among family members, friends and church members over politics, religion and basically anything pulls us apart. Jesus calls us to be One with Him and fellow believers. We will discuss practical steps to discuss and resolve differences through the book discussion of *Think Again* by Adam Grant. Join us Sundays after church on October 11, 18 and 25 for a discussion of this book. The paperback book (\$11) is available in the church office or on Amazon. Contact: Lee Cook (cook.lee@sbcglobal.net).

Online Church Directory – Our online church directory is complete! Thank you for helping us keep our church family's contact information up to date. You can access the directory on our website under "Members." The directory is password protected to help keep your information confidential. If you need the password, please contact the church office. We will not publish the password in the bulletin, on our website, or during worship services. If you would prefer a printed directory, please contact Deb in the office to request a copy. **It's not too late to add your picture to the directory.** You can email a picture to Deb or stop by the Welcome Desk and have Sandy take your picture! Contact: deb@firstgrandville.org.

Fall Eat and Connect – Looking for a simple way to meet and get to know others in our church? Sign up for Fall Eat & Connect! You'll be placed in a group of 7–8 people to share a meal and enjoy time getting to know one another. You can choose to meet:

- One time
- Two or three times

Sign up at the Sign-Up Center. Contact: Lynne Rosema (616- 901-5784tlrosema@sbcglobal.net).

KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Kindergarten & 6th Grade Bible Presentation | Sunday, September 20 | 9:30am

This year, we are presenting Bibles to Kindergarteners and 6th Grade Students during the worship service. Please join us as we celebrate them!

TONIGHT! | High School Youth Group Kick-Off | 6:30-8pm | Lounge

ALL High School students & their friends are invited to join us for dinner, games, biblical teaching, & LifeGroups. We will celebrate the beginning of fall & the football season - wear your team's colors/jersey! LifeGroup leaders will also be introduced this evening.

SUNDAY CONNECT (FALL 2026):

All Sunday Connect classes will begin NEXT Sunday, September 20 (10:45-11:45am). K-12th students will meet in the Assembly Room (downstairs) - they will be dismissed to grade specific classrooms from there! At 11:45am, parents will need to pick up their Preschoolers - 6th Graders from the specific classrooms listed below;

7-12th Graders will be dismissed on their own from their respective rooms.

- Pre-School & Kindergarteners will be reviewing A Beginner's Gospel Story (Room 113S)
- 1st-3rd will be discovering God's Faithful Promises (Room 118)
- 4-6th will be studying the Old Testament (Room 108)
- 7-8th will be looking at an Introduction to Theology (Room 103)
- 9-12th will be discussing Spiritual Practices (Room 105)

Wednesday Connect Kids Programming (K-6th Grade) | Wednesday, September 16 | 6:00-7:30pm

Meet in Room 113N (downstairs) – The new Kids Choir Room. At 6:45 games, Biblical teaching, and small groups begin. 6th graders will join the Middle School Youth Group after Kids Choir practice.

Middle School Youth Group Kick-Off (6-8th Grade) | Wednesday, September 16 | 6-7:30pm | Lounge

All Middle School students & their friends are invited to join us for dessert, games, biblical teaching, & LifeGroups. We will celebrate the beginning of fall together! *6th Graders will join us in the Lounge after Kids Choir Practice is over.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- 2 Females for High School Youth Group (6:30-8pm on Sunday Nights)
- 1 Female and 1 Male for Middle School Youth Group (6-7:30pm on Wednesday Evenings)
- 2 Wednesday Night teachers for K-2nd grades (6:00-7:30pm)
- 2 Wednesday Night teachers for 3rd-5th grades (6-7:30pm)
- 2 Preschool/Kindergarten for Kids Worship (Sunday – 9:15-10:45am)

Love to cook, bake, and/or feed hungry teens?! This fall, we are searching for willing parents, ministry teams, and/or volunteers to provide dinner for our High School Youth Group (20-25 people). The dates needed are... October 4 & December 13, 2026. If you are interested in signing up for one of those dates, please visit the sign-up center and/or talk to Lauren Abrell (lauren@firstgrandville.org) directly!

Stay Connected

GroupMe Text Communication - link to join on our LinkTree

Instagram: [@frcmiddleyouth](https://www.instagram.com/frcmiddleyouth) and [@first_reformed_youth](https://www.instagram.com/first_reformed_youth)

Facebook: First Reformed Youth

LinkTree: www.linktr.ee/firstreformedyouth

Questions? Reach out to Lauren Abrell (lauren@firstgrandville.org) or (630)750-6458)

YOUNGLIFE

High School Young Life (9th-12th Grade)

Monday, September 14 at 7:27pm | First Club! | First Reformed Church

Facebook: Grandville HS Young Life & Instagram: @younglifeghs

Middle School Wyld Life (7th & 8th Grade)

Tuesday, September 15 at 7:27pm | First Club! | First Reformed Church

Facebook: Grandville WyldLife & Instagram: @gmswyldlife