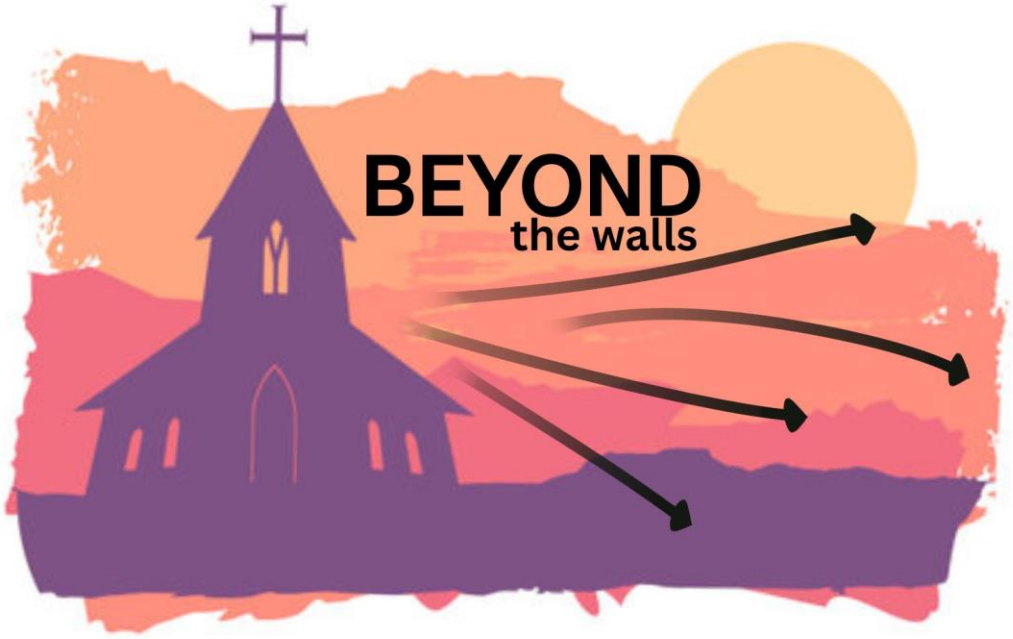

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Grandville, Michigan

Welcome to Worship at First Reformed Church
October 25, 2026

Prelude *Rock of Ages*

Chancel Choir *Send the Light*

Welcome

Song of Worship *Cornerstone*

Greeting

Our Confession

Tim: We give thanks for those who called the Church back to the Word of God during the Reformation. Yet we confess that we have not always lived as one body in Christ.

All: We have allowed our differences to divide us and forgotten that we belong to one another.

Anna: We speak of reconciliation, yet sometimes hold onto hurt or struggle to take the first step.

All: Forgive us, Lord. Reform us by your Spirit. Make us one in Christ, and teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Amen.

Our Assurance of Forgiveness

Tim: Hear the good news: In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting our sins against us.

All: Through Christ, we are forgiven. We are a new creation in Christ.

Anna: The old has passed away; the new has come!

All: Lord, help us to live as people who have been reconciled to God and to one another. Amen.

Song of Worship *I Surrender*

Scripture – Matthew 22:32-40

Sermon One Degree at a Time

Offertory

Offertory Music *Worthy of it All / I Exalt Thee*

Announcements

Sending Song *The Solid Rock*

Mission Moment Video

Blessing

Postlude *When the Roll is Called Up Yonder*

Worship Leaders – Pastors – Jeff Watson, Matt Cook, Melanie Kilgore; Prelude/Postlude – Pamela Slagter; Choir Director – Rick Gossett; Liturgists – Tim & Anna Kooima

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 coffee 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 – we will continue the series on our Mission & Vision. Pastor Jeff Watson will be preaching from Matthew 22:34-40 titled "One Degree at a Time."

During Worship:
Nursery (3 year olds & under) can be dropped off in the nursery when you arrive and picked up after the worship service.
Worship Toddler (ages 2 & 3) – can be dropped off in the room next to the Nursery when you arrive.
Worship Preschool (ages 4 years – Kindergarten) can be dropped off downstairs in room #113 South when you arrive.

Sunday Connect Schedule:
ALL students (Preschool -6th) 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)
- Adult Connect – Charged Conversations, depolarizing our divided discussions. Please join us upstairs after church service (10:45) as we learn together how to be better peacemakers.

6:15-8:00pm – **High School Youth Group** – see bulletin announcement

NEXT WEEK – we will begin a new series on the Belhar Confession. Pastor Jeff Watson will be preaching.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH PRAYERS & CONCERNS
For prayer updates during the week, please call the **Prayer Line** – 534-0113

- **John Boeve** is at Cleveland Clinic for ongoing health issues.
- **Denise Poll** is recovering from elbow surgery and a broken pelvis.
- **Maria Oskam** is at Railside.
- Please pray for our **Transformation Team** and their work on a mission and vision for our church and our **Search Team for the Kid's Ministry Director.**
- **Continued prayers for: Kyle Klaassen, Don Kempema, Bob Schuitman, Pam Jackman, Bill VanHorn, Linda Timmerman, Mike VanWyhe, and Roy DeJonge.**

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 October 18, 2026

Offering Plate:	$ 4,750.00
Online:	$ 7,352.00

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

Mission of the Month

James Sundararajan (RCA Global Mission) – James' ministry for the next 10 years is to work alongside partners to record and distribute the audio Bible in 90 new Indian languages. Many languages are presently being translated and we aim to work with translation agencies in recording the audio for these newly translated texts.

La Casa de mi Padre – La Casa de mi Padre is a multi-cultural Spanish-speaking congregation that embraces people of many different cultural backgrounds. They meet in the gym on Sundays and share our space on the south side of the building. We love worshipping together, eating together, and supporting each other's work.

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…

…for the thoughts & prayers following my recent surgery. **Sharon Ludema**

Elders
Brian Boone
Kathy Carpenter
Brian Clark
Doug Diekman
Scott Farney
Susan Kooima
Larry Kuipers
Adam Lancto
Bob Poll
Doug Timmer
Steve Watson

Deacons
Mike Brouwer
Stacy Brown
Robb DeVries
Austin Freeman
Zach Kallemeyn
Charlie Kleinheksel
Katie Purser
Shannon See
Annie Venema
Steve Westrick
Aubrey Williams

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

7:27pm	Young Life

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

6:00am	MegaMen Bible Study
9:30am	Women in the Word
5:20pm	MidWeek Connect meal – Sloppy Joes
5:30pm	Praise Team
6:00-7:30pm	Kids' programming (includes Kids' Choir)
6:00-7:30pm	Middle School Youth Group
6:30pm	Chancel Choir

Missing – One of our piano benches is missing! If you have any information or knowledge regarding the whereabouts of this piano bench, please call the church office. It went missing around September 24.

Wedding Coordinator- We are looking for a wedding coordinator to help couples celebrate their special day! If you enjoy helping things run smoothly and would be interested in serving couples in this way, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Deb, for more information or to express your interest. Contact: Deb (deb@firstgrandville.org).

LOOKING AHEAD

Thanksgiving Eve Service – Wednesday, November 25
Advent Festival – Sunday, November 29 3-5pm (for all ages!)

Women's "Rooted" Bible Study – Wednesdays 6:30pm. This weekly Bible study will be working through the book *Rooted*. Contact Esther Pewterbaugh (626-246-5758) or Mary Cook ((616) 295-8568) if you are interested in attending so we can purchase materials. Feel free to ask questions as we work together to see what the bible study will look like each week. Start Date: TBD

Adult Ed – Join us for Adult Connect on November 8 and 15 as we welcome Pastor Anna Radcliffe, a former member of First Reformed. Anna serves as Director of Discipleship and Church Innovation for the Reformed Church in America and co-pastors City Chapel in Grand Rapids with her husband, Ron. She will explore current church trends and ways we can engage youth and nurture the next generation of believers.

Serve & Connect - Sunday, November 1, during our Sunday Connect hour (10:45–11:45am), everyone is invited to take part in an hour of serving our community and loving our neighbors. There will be service projects in the basement for kids and youth. Other opportunities to sign up for are: Freezer Meals, Raking, Kids Kits for Maple Tree Preschool families.

Pigs-in-a-blanket – The Esther Circle will be making pigs-in-a -blanket. Cost is $15 per package of 6. Pick-up on Friday, November 13, from 11:30am-1:00pm, or after worship on Sunday, November 15. Please place your order on the sign-up sheet at the Sign-Up Center by Sunday, November 8.

Cran Hill Camping – Signups for Cran Hill camping weekend July 16-18, 2027, are going on now for all interested families from First Grandville. We love to have new people join us. Please sign up at the Sign-Up Center or contact Cheryl DeVries (616-443-2002 or youravoncheryl@gmail.com). Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, November 4th. You will receive a link and QR code to pick your campsite from the list of sites and pay Cran Hill.

Hand2Hand "Stock the Shelves" Event – We are finishing up our "stock the shelves" event to provide weekend food backpacks for participating students at Century Park Learning Center! We will continue any donations throughout the rest of the school year. You can find a handout for suggested donations on the shelf next to the Welcome Center. Designated cash/check offerings or grocery gift cards are also welcome. **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED! WE ARE SO GRATEFUL!**

Dutch Apple Pie Fundraiser | $25/pie or $60/3 pies | Youth Ministry

Help our high school youth ministry students fundraise for summer trips and fall/winter retreats! They will be selling Dutch Apple Pies from Oct. 14 until Nov.13! Reserve your pie(s) at the Sign-up Center or by scanning the QR code. Payments can be completed before or at pick-up. You must pick up your pie(s) from the Activity Center on Sat., Nov 21 from 12-2pm. Questions? Lauren Abrell (lauren@firstgrandville.org).

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 – 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 – Bible Study for women of all ages. Wednesdays 9:30am in the large classroom upstairs. We are studying Isaiah. Study books are available in the church office for $10.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

TONIGHT | High School LifeGroup Dinner & Bible Study | 6:30-8pm | Off-Site!
ALL high school students & their friends are invited to join their Life Group for dinner, games, & Bible study. These nights give students & leaders intentional time to bond & to dig deeper into Scripture. They are nights full of food, laughter, and good discussion with one another!

We meet Off-Site on Sunday, so please check the address of where your student is supposed to go:

- **9-11th Grade Guys & 9-10th Grade Girls will meet at The Smitley's House**
  - 4363 56th St SW, Grandville
  - Led by Ben McCarty, Cristian Padilla, & Lauren Abrell
- **12th Grade Guys + 11-12th Grade Girls will meet at The Kleinheksel's House**
  - 3590 Apache Ct SW, Grandville
  - Led by Colin Diekman, Garrit Harkema, & Jasmine Namminga

Middle School Youth Group | Wednesday, October 28 | 6-7:30P | Youth Lounge
All middle school students & their friends are invited to join us for dessert, games, biblical teaching, & LifeGroups. We will do some Fall activities & talk about how God cslms all our fears. Costumes are encouraged! *6th Graders will join us in the lounge after kids' choir practice is over.*

Profession of Faith - Interest Form due Nov. 1
Profession of Faith is a milestone journey where students (7th - 12th Grade) publicly declare their commitment to following Christ and embracing the teachings of the Christian faith. The act of professing faith builds upon the RCA order for the Sacrament of Baptism and the theological framework of Romans 10:9-11. All who profess their faith become communicant members of the Church.

Do you want to make Profession of Faith? Use the QR code to fill out the interest form!

SAVE THE DATES! JUNE 13-19, 2027 | HS DISCIPLESHIP TRIP TO NASHVILLE
Your student has voted! Our Summer 2027 discipleship trip will be a domestic mission trip to Nashville, TN, with CSM. ALL 9th-12th graders & their friends (based on the 2026-27 school year) are invited to join us! Registration will open November 1. We will also have a student/parent interest meeting after Youth Group (from 8-8:15p) on Nov. 1! The estimated cost for this trip is $650.

Stay Connected
GroupMe Text Communication - link to join on our LinkTree
Instagram: @frcmiddleyouth and @first_reformed_youth
Facebook: First Reformed Youth
LinkTree: www.linktr.ee/firstreformedyth
Questions? Reach out to Lauren Abrell (lauren@firstgrandville.org or (630)750-6458)

GRANDVILLE YOUNGLIFE
High School Young Life (9th-12th Grade)
Monday, October 26 at 7:27pm | Costume Club | First Reformed Church (3060 Wilson Ave)
Facebook: Grandville HS Young Life & Instagram: @younglifeghs

Middle School Wyld Life (7th & 8th Grade)
Tuesday, October 27 at 7:27pm | The Adams's House (353 Ridgeside Ct)
Facebook: Grandville WyldLife & Instagram: @gmswyldlife

GIVE & SERVE

Thanksgiving Food Collection – For the entire month of November, we will be collecting non-perishable foods and care items (see list below) for the Sojourner Domestic Crisis Home (YWCA) in Grand Rapids. Please place donated items on the Sanctuary steps beginning November 1. Donated items can also be brought forward during our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00pm. If you need assistance bringing items to the front, please reach out to a staff or consistory member. Donated items will be delivered to Sojourner House on Friday, November 29. Anyone is welcome to help load the bus at 9:00am or deliver and unload the items at Sojourner House around 9:30am!

Advent Festival help – It is crazy to think that we are already beginning to prepare for the Christmas Season and plan Advent Festival! Advent Festival has been a long-standing event at FRC where families (of all ages) can gather and kick-off the Holiday season together with snacks, crafts, and a biblical lesson on the birth of Christ. This year, we are hosting Advent Festival on **Sunday, November 29 from 3-5pm** in the Activity Center. At 4:30pm, we will have kids and families gather in the Sanctuary for a Christmas sing-along, picture book story, and Christmas tree lighting.

Here are the roles we need volunteers for...
2-3 Greeters/Floaters
4 Craft Table Hosts
1-2 Advent Take Home Gift Givers
If your family would like to "own" a role or if you have a high schooler who would like service hours, just let us know and we can make it happen! Contact – Deb (deb@firstgrandville.org) or Lauren (lauren@firstgrandville.org).

Thanksgiving Offering – Month of November- In previous years, our Thanksgiving Offering began during the Thanksgiving Eve service. This year, we're extending the offering throughout the entire month of November so that we can support these local and global ministry partners without competing with year-end giving. We invite you to prayerfully consider supporting the eight ministries with a gift of any amount. Our goal for this year's offering is $20,000. Thank you for your generosity and for helping these ministries make a difference near and far!

Food Pantry Delivery Drivers Needed – We need one or two individuals/couples willing to deliver food from our church's food pantry to those in need of food. Volunteers are scheduled twice a month, and we can work with your availability. You only deliver when contacted by UCOM with a delivery request—if you aren't contacted, there is no delivery that month. If you're interested in helping with this simple but meaningful ministry, please contact Pastor Melanie (melanie@firstgrandville.org) or Kelly Kievit (kievit.kelly@gmail.com).

Hospitality Help – We're looking for volunteers to help with hospitality throughout the year! Opportunities include Sunday morning coffee clean-up, bringing in cookies, plating cookies for special occasions, and helping serve special meals. If you enjoy helping behind the scenes and making others feel welcome, we'd love to have you join us! Sign-up at the Sign-Up Center. Contact: Sandy Morris (jskmorris@yahoo.com)

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)