

Welcome to First Reformed Church Buffalo Center

Pastor Sue Shike

641-251-2255

Nov 1, 2026

9:30 AM

Prelude

Ruth Ann Milbrandt

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of Invocation

Call to worship

L: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever.

P: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those He redeemed from trouble.

L: Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wonderful works to humankind.

P: For He satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry He fills with good things.

L: They sow fields, and plant vineyards, and get a fruitful yield. By His blessing they multiply greatly, and He does not let their cattle decrease.

P: Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the Lord, which endures forever.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Hymn of Invitation: # 122

“He Is Exalted” 2X

Confession

O Lord, who keeps His covenant of love with all who love Him and obey His commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have not listened to Your direction. Hear our prayers. We do not make requests because we are righteous, but because of Your great mercy. O Lord, listen; O Lord, forgive! In Jesus’ name, amen.

Assurance of pardon- Gloria Patri

Hymn # 723

“For The Fruit of All Creation”

Children’s message

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Joshua 3:7, 11-17 p. 193 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 p 1075

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 23:1-12 pg. 901

Sermon: True Leadership is found in service

Offering and Doxology

Hymn of Action: # 667 “God Has Spoken by the Prophets”

Prayer, Lord’s Prayer

**** Children pre K – 5th go to Sunday School Classes ****

Hymn: # 569

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Benediction

Closing Hymn: # 305

“He is Lord”

We are happy to see you today!

Prayer list: Shelley Volz, Mark Beenken, Brian Bashan, Linda Abels, Darlene Block. Remember those in care centers: Evelyn Winter, and Vi Krull,

Our sympathy and prayers to the family of Tim Heitland who passed away last week and service was Friday at the Congregational Church.

Attendance last week: 62 Offering \$988.00

Bulletin Cover - November is sponsored by the Sue Wubben family.

Worship Broadcast today is live on KIOU radio 107.3 and streamed on WCTA cable channel 2 and is given by a radio listener.

Chancel Choir is at 11:15 in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome! If you enjoy singing, please join us!

Consistory will meet Wednesday November 4 at 7 PM

Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes is Saturday November 14 at 4 PM. A potluck soup supper to follow. There is a container in the narthex to collect items that are needed such as: empty shoe boxes, stuffed animals, dolls, other toys, school supplies and personal items for ages 2-14. Please bring your items to the narthex by Saturday November 14th Money for the shipping of those boxes is also needed. Thanks

Noisy Offering Buckets will be out the Sundays in November to support the Angel Tree gifts at Christmas.

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held here at First Reformed November 25 at 7 PM. Refreshments will be served after.

God is moving in the earth. We are called to follow. The best way to do so is in community together. As confessing members following Christ, we grow, support and encourage one another in the life and mission of our congregation. We invite you to join in Active Membership by Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation, or Letter of Transfer. Please reach out to Pastor Sue with this important decision.

2026 Bible reading plan

11/01: Isaiah 45-48
11/02: Isaiah 49-52
11/03: Isaiah 53-57
11/04: Isaiah 58-61
11/05: Isaiah 62-65
11/06: Isaiah 66; Jeremiah 1-2
11/07: Jeremiah 3-5

Greeters for November

Nov 1 Jay and Clarice Mayland
Nov 8 Volunteers needed
Nov 15 Marlene Bruhns
Nov 22 Rob and Angela Schmitt
Nov 29 Chris and Jessica Alphs

Main Street Market has a box for cards for the residents at TMNH. They love to get mail.

Angelita, a teenager in Guatemala received a shoebox a couple years ago and that kicked off a dramatic change in her life. Before receiving her gift, she said she felt worthless and struggled with both drugs and alcohol. She also was tormented by terrifying nightmares. When her mother and then her pastor learned the depths of her distress, they began praying and she was invited to an outreach event at the church. There she opened her shoebox filled with a notebook, sewing kit, colorful bracelets and more and she thought, "maybe God does love me." After learning the full story of all the Lord has done for her, she gave her life to Him. "I now never feel alone," she says. "Jesus saved me from many things and He is the one who can fill any void."

Ukraine: As I received my shoebox gift along with all of my siblings, it was an answer to my mom's prayers that God would provide. Inside my box, I found a doll wearing a dress and pink plastic heels. I was so surprised, I thought, *Is that for me?* I felt so special—so loved!

I was delighted to share my new treasure with my friends. Every day, we played with the doll together outside. Each night, one of my friends took her home for a sleepover. This continued day after day. I recently learned that my doll—which I received more than 20 years ago—is still being enjoyed by family friends in Ukraine.

My shoebox is something imprinted on my heart that never goes away. It's an unforgettable moment that I talk about every day. It had an everlasting impact—an eternal impact.

NIGERIA: IDOL WORSHIPPERS BECOME EVANGELISTS THROUGH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD "The danger zone." That's what people called a community in Nigeria where people pledged allegiance to witchcraft and idolatry. For years, Pastor Peter* had sown Gospel seeds in this difficult area but, it seemed, with little effect. A fledgling church existed, though it struggled. That all changed, however, when he partnered with Operation Christmas Child to bring 150 gift-filled shoeboxes to the boys and girls living in the danger zone. When Ruby, the daughter of a shrine leader, received a shoebox gift, it prompted her whole family to start coming to church! Pastor Peter started The Greatest Journey lessons with some of the shoebox recipients, and since then, idolatry practices have dropped off and 100 children now attend Sunday school. "Thank God for Operation Christmas Child," he said. "The church work was made easy through the boxes."

GUATEMALA: I've never met my birth mother. People at the orphanage told me that she brought me there when I was a few months old. At the orphanage in Guatemala, the caretakers provided for our basic needs. They taught us, fed us, and clothed us, but their limited resources meant that we ate a steady diet of rice and beans and wore whatever clothes were available, no matter what the size. Sometimes, the girls wore boy clothes because that's what the orphanage had on hand. I don't remember us having any combs or brushes.

We did have a toothbrush—one toothbrush for 10 girls. We shared it, like we shared everything else. That's why I was so excited when we each received our own Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift. My favorite thing I received in my box was a toothbrush of my very own. I got a lot of use out of it. It was a prized possession. To this day when I pack shoebox gifts, I don't just include one toothbrush—I pack at least four of them in each box! That way, the children can use them for a long time, or have enough of them to give to their friends or family members.