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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

**First Merchants Corp**

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(Name of Issuer)

**Common Stock**

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(Title of Class of Securities)

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(CUSIP Number)

**03/31/2026**

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(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)  
 Rule 13d-1(c)  
 Rule 13d-1(d)
- 
- 

SCHEDULE 13G

**CUSIP No.**

Names of Reporting Persons

1

Vanguard Capital Management

Check the appropriate box if a member of a Group (see instructions)

2

(a)

(b)

3

Sec Use Only

Citizenship or Place of Organization

4

PENNSYLVANIA

Number of Shares Beneficially

5

Sole Voting Power

468,473.00

Owned by Each Reporting Person With: 6 Shared Voting Power  
0.00  
Sole Dispositive Power  
7  
3,199,084.00  
Shared Dispositive Power  
8  
0.00

Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person

3,199,084.00

Check box if the aggregate amount in row (9) excludes certain shares (See Instructions)

Percent of class represented by amount in row (9)

5.04 %

Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions)

IA

**Comment for Type of Reporting Person:** In accordance with SEC Release No. 34-39538 (January 12, 1998), this Schedule 13G reflects the securities beneficially owned, or deemed to be beneficially owned, by Vanguard Capital Management LLC and the following affiliates of Vanguard Capital Management LLC or business divisions of such affiliates: Vanguard Asset Management Limited, Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, Vanguard Global Advisers, LLC and Vanguard Investments Australia Ltd. This Schedule 13G includes securities held by Vanguard funds, or sleeves thereof, over which Vanguard Capital Management LLC exercises dispositive power, in addition to securities held by clients over which the affiliates or business divisions of such affiliates indicated above exercise dispositive and/or voting power. This Schedule 13G does not include securities, if any, beneficially owned by other subsidiaries or affiliates of Vanguard Capital Management LLC, or business divisions of such subsidiaries, whose ownership of securities is disaggregated from that of the reporting business unit in accordance with such release.

## SCHEDULE 13G

Item 1.

Name of issuer:

(a)

First Merchants Corp

Address of issuer's principal executive offices:

(b)

200 East Jackson Street, Muncie, IN, 47305

Item 2.

Name of person filing:

(a)

Vanguard Capital Management

Address or principal business office or, if none, residence:

(b)

100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern, PA, 19355

Citizenship:

(c)

PA

Title of class of securities:

(d)

Common Stock

(e)

CUSIP No.:

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to §§ 240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

(a)

Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o);

(b)

Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c);

- (c)  Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c);
- (d)  Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8);
- (e)  An investment adviser in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f)  An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g)  A parent holding company or control person in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h)  A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);
- (i)  A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3);
- (j)  A non-U.S. institution in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J). If filing as a non-U.S. institution in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J), please specify the type of institution:
- (k)  Group, in accordance with Rule 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(K).

Item 4. Ownership

Amount beneficially owned:

(a) 3199084

Percent of class:

(b) 5.04 %

(c) Number of shares as to which the person has:

(i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote:

468473

(ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote:

0

(iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

3199084

(iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

0

Item 5. Ownership of 5 Percent or Less of a Class.

Item 6. Ownership of more than 5 Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

If any other person is known to have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, such securities, a statement to that effect should be included in response to this item and, if such interest relates to more than 5 percent of the class, such person should be identified. A listing of the shareholders of an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 or the beneficiaries of employee benefit plan, pension fund or endowment fund is not required.

Vanguard Capital Management, including investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and other managed accounts, have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the securities reported herein. No one other person's interest in the securities reported herein is more than 5%.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company or Control Person.

Not Applicable

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not Applicable

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable

Item 10. Certifications:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired

and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect, other than activities solely in connection with a nomination under § 240.14a-11.

## SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Vanguard Capital Management

Signature: Ashley Grim

Name/Title: Head of Global Fund Administration

Date: 04/29/2026