

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549

**FORM 8-K**

CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

DATE OF REPORT (Date of earliest event reported): December 28, 2022

**FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Indiana (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	
001-41342 (Commission File Number)	35-1544218 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

**200 East Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 792  
Muncie, IN 47305-2814**

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

**(765) 747-1500**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not Applicable**

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Title of Each Class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.125 stated value per share	FRME	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC
Depository Shares, each representing a 1/100th interest in a share of Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A	FRMEP	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

## **ITEM 8.01 OTHER EVENTS**

First Merchants Bank (the "Bank"), the wholly-owned banking subsidiary of First Merchants Corporation, has been operating under a Settlement Agreement and Agreed Order (the "Settlement Agreement") with the United States Department of Justice ("DOJ") since August 8, 2019. The Settlement Agreement included a four year term but was able to be terminated sooner (i.e., after three years) if the Bank had met or exceeded all of the terms of the Settlement Agreement. On December 28, 2022, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana approved a joint request by the Bank and the DOJ to terminate the Settlement Agreement effective immediately.

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## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

First Merchants Corporation  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Michele M. Kawiecki

Michele M. Kawiecki

Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Dated: January 3, 2023