



To follow up our presentation of the drama "Circus Parable" this Sunday, we will be offering a special viewing of the historic (but nearly forgotten) film that it's based on.

The showing will be **TONIGHT**. We'll start at 5:30 with a potluck followed by the 22-minute film at 6:00 pm with a discussion afterward. We'll be finished by 7:00 pm.

During the 1960s a small corner of Christian filmmaking underwent a transformation from presenting static lectures, and "sentimental" treatments of Bible stories, to becoming art films meant to evoke personal revelations about God in the

viewer.

Rolf Forsberg's "Parable" was one such film, and it was controversial in portraying Christ (or a follower of Christ) as a clown and the world as a circus.

The film gained artistic accolades at its premiere at the 1964 New York World's Fair. In the years that followed, "Parable" won numerous awards including a Gold Lion from the Venice International Film Festival, a Hugo from the Chicago International Film Festival, and a citation from Cannes. This helped set the stage for a movement in Christian film making that would strive to connect with viewers on an artistic level (instead of simply preaching) and hopefully then connect viewers with God on a spiritual level.

Come and join us and connect!

Deeply Rooted ~ Future Focused

Pastor Luke Schmalz 920-428-0030

Office Hours - Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Please call the church office to meet with the Pastor

Keyboard/Organist Karen Roggatz, David VandenBelt, Lorene Witte

Creative Ministries Mat Emerick 231-923-2967

Music Minister Deb Emerick 231-924-9558

Secretary Lorene Witte 924-4710

(cell) 231-282-0515

Website: www.fremontfcc.org email: congo@fremontfcc.org

Church: 231-924-4710 714 Hillcrest Drive - Fremont Mi 49412

The First Congregational Church

Your Independent Worship Center



March 26, 2023

The Order of Worship
***please stand, if you are able**

Prelude: Lorene Witte

Processional - “He Is Exalted”(2 times thru) - **Blue Hymnal #36**

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship - Zachariah 9:9

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

All: Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Pastor: Lo, your king comes to you;

All: triumphant and victorious is he,

Pastor: humble and riding on a donkey,

All: on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Opening Prayer

***Opening Hymn** - “Hosanna, Laud Hosanna” - **Blue Hymnal #297**

Prayer of Confession

Pastor: O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you, we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem’s, that our faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own.

All: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118: Let those who fear the Lord say, “His steadfast love endures for ever.” Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

All: In Christ, God answers us and sets us free! In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

***Response** - “Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

JeLy Bell! All kids are invited to go to the JeLy Room for JeLY Church!
(JeLY - Jesus Loves You)

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message: “Open the Gates” - *Pastor Luke Schmalz*

***Apostles Creed** (words on wall)

***Hymn** - “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” - **Blue Hymnal #43** (v1,3,4)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Music during Communion - “Portrait of Grace” - **Choir**

Recognition of our Music Facilitator - **Deb Emerick**

Moments of Praise & Prayer Requests

Prayers of the Congregation

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

***Doxology** (As the offering is brought forward)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn** - “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” - **Blue Hymnal #324**

***Benediction**

Pastor: May our Lord, whose arms were spread on the cross to embrace the whole world, hap us this week to take up the cross and follow him.

All: Amen

***Pastor:** The Peace of Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**

***Postlude:** Lorene Witte

Greeting us today: Jean & Dean Morehouse

Next Sunday: Lou Delguardia

Happy Birthday to ~

Carrie DeMull (7), David Zeerip (8), Yvonne Lee (11)

Happy Anniversary to~

Gary & Beth Hooker (6)

Prayer Requests ~

Our shut-ins: JoAnn DeKleva, Yvonne Lee, Siria Pinnick, Marj Salata, Bill & Millie Sherman

Health Concerns:

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Fellowship Time - Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. Pot Luck - Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Movie "Parable" - Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 3

9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open

Tuesday, April 4 - Church Office Closed

Wednesday, April 5

9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Library
10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open
12:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Lunch - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 6 - Church Office Closed

10:00 a.m. Christmas Crafters - Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 7 - Good Friday

9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service - Sanctuary

Saturday, April 8

7:30 a.m. Men's Lenten Breakfast - Church of the Living Christ (Pastor Luke is speaking today)

Sunday, April 9 - Easter

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Fellowship Time - Fellowship Hall

Our Church News

Welcome to worship! We are grateful for your presence - whether you are a visitor or a member we are thankful to be worshipping together.

Today's service will be available at our website - www.fremontfcc.org and also on Facebook. And now it is also available in a third location YouTube. Our "channel" can be found at First Congregational Church of Fremont MI. Be sure and check out one of our three locations.

Offering plates are located in the narthex at this time, they will not be passed. An usher will bring your offerings to the Chancel for the Pastor to place on the altar.

Come join us for our Men's Lenten Breakfast held at Church of the Living Christ (605 Hemlock) on Saturday mornings February 25 - April 8, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Suggested donation: \$5.00 Pastor Luke will be leading the devotion at today.

Craft Corner - Spring items made by our crafters are available for a donation only (checks made out to Women's Fellowship). These items are located in the old Boy Scout display case which currently displayed pictures in Fellowship Hall.

We will have a Good Friday Service on April 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Men's Fellowship Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 5 at noon. Our speakers will be Ted Caris and Gary Hooker who will share some of their motorcycle adventures. Our chef is Ted Caris.

Note: The Deacons' meeting for today has moved to Sunday, April 16 following warship.

Requested Announcements

Coming to Fremont UMC Saturday, April 29 at 5:00 p.m. Brent Vernon, singer, song writer, ventriloquist, author, illustrator. Vernon is singer-songwriter and ventriloquist from South Florida, Using songs, stories, and humor to communicate his faith, he has crisscrossed countless times as well as performing in Ireland, Australia, Canada and the Caribbean With songs of hope and redemption, he encourages his listeners to passionately seek God's Kingdom while resting in God's faithfulness. Come see him live. A free will offering will be taken.

