

Benediction

Pastor: May the God of peace himself sanctify your entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do this.

All: Amen

***The Peace of Christ**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Sending**

Pastor Luke Schmalz

***Postlude:** Lorene Witte



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 Rachel Poches, David VandenBelt, Lorene Witte
Secretary Lorene Witte 924-4710
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Church: 231-924-4710 714 Hillcrest Drive - Fremont Mi 49412
Offering plates are located in the narthex.

The First Congregational Church
Your Independent Worship Center



December 15, 2024

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

Prelude: Lorene Witte

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship (Isaiah 12:2-6)

Pastor: Surely God is my salvation;

All: I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

Pastor: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day:

All: “Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Opening Prayer

Walk Up Choir/Opening Hymn -

“Low, How a Rose ‘Er Blooming” - **Blue Hymnal #255**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”- **Blue Hymnal #245**

Prayer of Confession

All: O promised Christ: We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God’s will is that you should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Prayer

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 everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ’s way of hope and peace.

All: Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

***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.

Children’s Message & Lighting of the Advent Candle - Carrie DeMull

JeLy Bell! All kids are invited to go to the JeLy Room for JeLY Church!

(JeLy ~ Jesus Loves You)

Scripture:

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message: “Sing Aloud”

***The Apostles’ Creed** (words projected)

Special Music - “All is Well” by Michael W. Smith & Wayne Kirkpatrick-
Jean Howarth

Moments of Praise & Prayer Requests

Prayers of the Congregation

The Lord’s Prayer (words projected)

***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**

Special Music - “Not That Far from Bethlehem” by Jeff Borders, Gayla Borders & Lowell Alexander - **Jean Howarth**

***Closing Hymn - “Joy to the World” - Blue Hymnal #270** vs 1& 2

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Altar Rep: Jim Rynberg

Greeting us today: Kelly Parks

Next Sunday: Ted Caris

Song Leader: Bill Black

Tech Booth - Thank you volunteers! Garrett, Robin, Lou, Kendra

Happy Birthday to ~

Kelly Parks(17)

Happy Anniversary to ~

Prayer Requests ~

This Weeks Calendar

Sunday, December 15 - *Third Sunday of Advent*

- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:15 a.m. Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal - sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 16

- 9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered
- 6:30 p.m. Trustees - Library

Tuesday, December 17 - *Church Office Closed*

Wednesday, December 18

- 9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered

Thursday, December 19 - *Church Office Closed*

No Crafters

Friday, December 20

- 9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Library
- 10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered

Saturday, December 21

Sunday, December 22 - *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

- 10:00 a.m. Worship with a special Drama Presentation - Scrooge's Story Continues
- 11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall

Christmas Craft Sale

Shop after worship today

50% off

(excluding the RADA cutlery)

Our Church News

Welcome to worship! We are grateful for your presence - whether you are a visitor or a member. Friends and guests, welcome to worship in the name of Jesus, who is both Savior and Friend and who welcomes all. Welcome to worship as we continue to prepare our hearts for the coming Messiah.

Advent Invite cards are located on the table in the narthex. It's not too late to invite.

Thank you to Jean Howarth for sharing your gift of music with us this morning.

The Walk Up Choir will sing today. The songs chosen are: "Low! How a Rose E'er Blooming" #255 and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #245

Thank YOU for the donations to the Community Closet. The baskets were overflowing after service last Sunday. Hallelujah! Jack Butterick will deliver 30 towels/blankets and one shawl to CC on Tuesday. Thank you to all for your outreach and caring for needy people in our midst.

Pastor Luke has completed a report and his thoughts on the November All Church Meeting. If you would like a copy please let Lorene know and she will email or mail you the report. If you have any thoughts on the reporting please talk to Pastor Luke.

Looking Ahead - December Special Music/Service

Dec 22 - Drama - Mat Emerick & Friends - Scrooge's Story Continues

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve 6:30 p.m. Choir with solo by Pat Krehn, Stacey Church & Rachel Poches (cello & piano) - traditional candle lighting and carols

Dec 29 - Stacey, Martha, Jack

Rooms of Refuges is looking for overnight volunteers on Dec 24 and Dec 29 from 5 pm to 9am the following morning. If interested contact Love Inc at 231-519-6261 or email ROR@lovincnewaygo.com



*Thank you to each one who donated
poinsettias to help make our sanctuary a lovely
place in which to celebrate our Lord's birth.*

Brad & Stacey Church in memory of Jerry & JoAnn Church.

John & Gail Cooper in memory of loved ones.

Robin & Pat Dekleva in memory of John and JoAnn Dekleva and
Howard and Mary Pekel.

Arnie & Betty Dougan, Kelly & Kyle Parks, Lyle & Holly
Shepherd, Brad & Stacey Church and families in memory
of Jerry Church and Jack Gillette.

Pat Krehn in memory of Bill & Millie Sherman.

Judy Nadeau & Les Salacina in memory of Van Nadeau.

Heidi Redding in memory of Harlow W. Redding.

Lyle & Holly Shepherd and family and Dianna & Frank Force and
family in memory of Shirley Shepherd-Brooks.

Tracy Stern in memory of Viola Stern.

Dave & Linda White in memory of our parents.

Jack & Mary Butterick in honor of our church family.

Arnold & Betty Dougan in honor of family and friends.

Kelly & Kyle Parks, Holly & Lyle Shepherd, Stacey & Brad
Church and families in honor of Arnie and Betty Dougan.

Peter & Nancy Lindner in honor of our families and friends.

Dean & Jean Morehouse in honor of our church family

Heidi Redding in honor of my family and Fremont friends.

Loretta & Duane VanDuzen in honor of our families.