

***The Peace of Christ**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

***Sending**

Pastor Luke Schmalz

***Postlude:** Rachel Poches

The First Congregational Church

Your Independent Worship Center



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

CCLI 1401200 (cell) 231-282-0515

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

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

Offering plates are located in the narthex.



December 22, 2024

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

Prelude: Rachel Poches

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship (Psalm 80)

Pastor: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Pastor: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

All: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Opening Prayer

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

Opening Hymn - "O Little Town of Bethlehem"- Blue Hymnal #245

vs 1 & 2

Drama -The Fulfillment of Ebenezer Scrooge

Scrooge - Mat Emerick

Jacob Marley - David VandenBelt

Ghost of Christmas Past - Kelly Parks

Ghost of Christmas Present - Pastor Luke Schmalz

Ghost of Christmas Future - Judy Nadeau

Ghost of Christmas Beginning & Christmas End - Rachel Poches

Kids Program: Zain, Ronan, Nora & Azzy

***Hymn - "What Child is This?" - words on screen**

***Hymn - "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" - words on screen**

Scripture:

Micah 5:2-5, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message: "Blessed"

Pastor Luke Schmalz

*** The Apostles' Creed - (words projected)**

Prayer of Confession

All: Lord God, our lives are filled with sin. We forget our neighbor's needs and do not love you above all else. We need a Savior. Help us to be ready for Jesus in our own hearts. O come, O come, Savior of the World. 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.

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**

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

Benediction

Pastor: Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

continued on back page

Our Church News

Altar Rep: Jim Rynberg

Greeting us today: Ted Caris

Next Sunday: Ruth Cowles

Song Leader: Pat Krehn

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

Happy Birthday to ~

Don McKivitz, Suzanne VandenBelt(22), Pastor Luke Schmalz(28)

Happy Anniversary to ~

Prayer Requests ~

This Weeks Calendar

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

Monday, December 23

9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered

Tuesday, December 24 - *Church Office Closed*

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service - sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25 - *Christmas Day!* - *Church Office Closed*

Thursday, December 26 - *Church Office Closed*

No Crafters

Friday, December 27

9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Library

10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered

Saturday, December 28

Sunday, December 29

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall



6:30 p.m. Tuesday ~ December 24

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.

Join with us on Tuesday evening, Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m. for our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Scripture, Christmas Carols, Cello, Keyboard, and Organ.

Poinsettia's can be picked up following the Christmas Eve service. Thank you to all who donated for a poinsettia(s).

Thank you Mat and Friends for sharing your acting talents with us this morning.

Thank YOU shoppers and crafters. Between the sale of crafts and the Plum Pudding items, the event brought in \$5,951.00 for the Women's Fellowship. The Women's Fellowship will be donating 10% of the profits to local charities, a contribution to the Wood Shop, and a contribution to the church's general fund.

Community Closet is a Fremont charity helping the needy, located on the east side of the Rec Center: We believe that God is able to provide everything that we need out of His love and abundance. There are no price tags. Details: <https://www.communityclosetcharities.com>. Your contributions Dec. 8 and 15 total: towels-48, blankets-8, winter clothing-17, bed-sheet-8, cash-\$40. Thank YOU! We ask your continued support through January 5. Please put donations and/or checks to Community Closet Charities in the area west of the main Sanctuary doors. Merry Christmas. For Charitable Giving/Jack

Looking Ahead - December Special Music/Service

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

Dec 29 - Stacey, Martha, Jack

Pastor Luke will be on vacation December 26-January 3.

Executive Council will not meet this month.





*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.