



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 next Sunday, April 2nd. 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  
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## The First Congregational Church

Your Independent Worship Center



Fremont Congregational Creative Ministries presents  
 a special Drama for Worship for the Whole Family

**"Circus Parable"**

March 26, 2023

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

**Prelude:** Rachel Poches

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship** - Psalm 130

Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

All: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

Pastor: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

All: O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

**Opening Prayer**

**\*Opening Hymn** - "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" **Blue Hymnal #210** vs 1

**A Lenten Drama Presentation "Circus Parable"**

*"Circus Parable" Players:* Camden, Caylor, Cullin, Calliope and Todd Jones, Norah Schmalz, Paydon and Mitia Westenfelder, Tim Roggatz, Kelly Parks, Mat Emerick

**Prayer of Confession**

All: Lord, we have denied you by refusing to know you. We have betrayed you by keeping our distance. We have mocked you by pretending we are not yours. Lord, we are lost; let your forgiveness find us. Welcome us into your strong, forgiving arms and let us feel reconciled again. 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.

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

**All: 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:** John 11:1-45

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "Jesus Wept" - *Pastor Luke Schmalz*

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

**\*Hymn** - "Revive Us Again" - **Blue Hymnal #434**

**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** - "Love Lifted Me" - **Blue Hymnal #508** vs. 1

**\*Benediction**

Pastor: God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; make our mouths speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In his holy name we pray.

**All: Amen**

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

**\*Postlude:** Rachel Poches

**Greeting us today:** Carrie & Tony DeMull

Next Sunday: Jean & Dean Morehouse

**Happy Birthday to ~**

Karen Roggatz (27), George Purvis (30), Barb Clark, Nancy Smalligan (31)

**Happy Anniversary to~**

**Prayer Requests ~**

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

*Health Concerns:*

### **This Week's Calendar**

**Sunday, March 26 - Fifth Sunday of Lent**

10:00 a.m. Worship (with rescheduled Lenten Drama)

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

**Monday, March 27**

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

10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open

6:30 p.m. Executive Council - Library

**Tuesday, March 28 - Church Office Closed**

1:00 p.m. Book Circle - Fremont Public Library

**Wednesday, March 29**

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

10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open

**Thursday, March 30 - Church Office Closed**

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

**Friday, March 31**

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

10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open

**Saturday, April 1**

7:30 a.m. Men's Lenten Breakfast - Church of the Living Christ

**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

### **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](http://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

**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.

**The special Lenten Drama "Circus Parable"** that was scheduled for last Sunday has been rescheduled (due to illness) for TODAY. The drama is based on the classic Christian film "Parable"- it's the allegorical story of a circus under the rule of an evil puppet master, and "the man who dared to be different," who gave his life to save others! As a follow up to the drama presentation the actual movie "Parable" will be shown in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. A potluck will be held before the movie from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.



**Book Circle will have an** organizational meeting at the Fremont Public Library Board room on Tuesday, March 28 at 1:00 p.m. Questions - call Ann Werner 924-0192

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

### **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.





