

***Prayer of Dedication**

What First Congregational Church Means to Me - Dean Morehouse

***Sending Hymn - "I'll Fly Away" - Blue Hymnal #779 vs 1 & 3**

***Benediction**

Pastor Luke Schmalz

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen

***The Peace of Christ**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Sending**

Pastor Luke Schmalz

***Postlude**

Tammy Krol



August 10, 2025

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

Prelude:
Announcements

Tammy Krol

Welcome

Call to Worship (Psalm 50)

Pastor: The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

All: Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

Pastor: “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”

All: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

Pastor: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

All: Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God.” Praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn - “Nothing But the Blood” - **Blue Hymnal #337 vs 1,2,4**

What First Congregational Church Means to Me - Ted Caris

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. 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: While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God’s love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

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)

What First Congregational Church Means to Us - Jack & Mary Butterick
Scripture

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, Luke 12:32-40

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message:

Pastor Luke Schmalz

Loving Our Community Since 1875

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

***Hymn** - “Since Jesus Came Into My Heart” - **Blue Hymnal #503**

Moments of Praise & Prayer Requests

Prayers of the Congregation

Litany for a Anniversary Celebration (words projected or see insert)

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
continued on back page

Welcome,

In Joshua chapter 4, Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, orders the people to build a memorial, to inspire the question, "Why are these stones important to you?" Allowing the telling of the story of God's love. This Anniversary celebration serves a similar purpose. Allowing us to tell the story of First Congregational Church of Fremont. How

150 years ago, a few people in a small town felt the call of God to plant a church. How it has been a difficult road at times. The church has struggled mightily and has gotten close to closing several times. But it is also a story of success. God has and continues to work through flawed people to fulfill his mission in Fremont. These years have seen the gospel preached, sacraments served, the needy cared for, and community nurtured. We celebrate today to remind ourselves of God's faithfulness and our mission. We remember that

we are here to answer Jesus' call in Matthew 28 to go into all the world (in this case, go to Fremont, MI) and make disciples by preaching the gospel, giving the sacraments, and caring for the needy. Thank you for joining us to celebrate our history, mission, and the good work done over the last 150 years. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider First Congregational Church. Please contact me with any questions at

pastorluke@fremontfcc.org or the church office at 231-924-4710.

Pastor Luke Schmalz

Deeply Rooted ~ Future Focused

Pastor Luke Schmalz 920-428-0030

Office Hours - Call the church office

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. Today's service will be available at our website - www.fremontfcc.org and also on Facebook and YouTube.

Altar Rep: Susan Stewart

Greeting us today: Jim Rynberg

Next Sunday: Ruth Cowles

Song Leader: Gary & Beth Hooker

Scripture Reader:

Next Sunday:

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

Happy Birthday to ~

Jack Stewart (14), Crystal Schmalz(16)

Happy Anniversary to ~

Jeff & Susan Stewart (11)

Prayer Requests ~

Carol Black - under Hospice Care

Betty Dougan - heart valve replacement on Thursday

This Weeks Calendar

Sunday, August 10 - 150th Anniversary Celebration!

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:15 a.m. Neighborhood Block Party

Monday, August 11

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. Tech Board Meeting - Library

Tuesday, August 12 - Church Office Closed

7:00 p.m. Deb Emerick Summer Musical Celebration - Dogwood Center

Wednesday, August 13

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

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

6:00 p.m. Bible Study with Beth Hooker - library

Thursday, August 14 - Church Office Closed

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

Friday, August 15

Saturday, August 16

Sunday, August 17

10:00 a.m. Worship Service with communion

No Noisy offering this month - the current schedule is:

H.E.R.E. - July 20 - Aug 17

Hand 2 Hand - Sept 28 - Oct 26

Noisy Offering - last Sunday in Nov & Dec

Our Church News

As we worship — indeed, as we live — we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses to our Lord Jesus Christ. So we can lay aside every weight and sin (Hebrews 12:1-2). Welcome to our 150th year celebration!

Pick up a coffee mug, a sticker, and an updated Anniversary Booklet located in the narthex - a gift from the 150th Anniversary Committee.

Ladies - Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Library to study God's word together. This study is led by Beth Hooker and all are welcome.

We Are HERE - Helping Every Real Expression of need, as expressed in Matthew 25:31-40 and serves needy children in Newaygo County's six school districts. Many of these children have no access to basic personal care products. During the period July 20 - August 17, please donate toothbrushes and travel size containers of toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, body lotion, bath soap, underwear, feminine hygiene products, shaving soap/disposable razors. If you prefer to make a check donation, please write your check to First Congregational, with HERE in the memo line and put it in the offering plate. Your participation in this project will be greatly appreciated by the children receiving your donations, and the teachers who see the need first hand. For Charitable Giving/Jack

Birthday Card Shower- Sally DeShetler will be turning 103 in late October and we would like to "shower" her with birthday greetings. A box is located on the table by the church office. Drop off a note to Sally and we will see that they are delivered to her.

Communion - On the recommendation of the Board of Deacons, the Executive Council has decided to increase the frequency of communion. Starting in September, we will have communion twice a month (the first and third Sundays). In the future, we will explore increasing the frequency from there (i.e. during Advent and Lent or just weekly in general). As we celebrate our 150th Anniversary, we are also asking what are the new things God is asking us to do. This is one area where we embrace our "deep roots" as communion has been a central aspect of Christian worship throughout history. We are excited to see what God will do as we start this new chapter

The annual Women's Luncheon will be held on September 4 at 12:00 noon at the home of Carrie DeMull on Martin Lake. All women are invited!!

Litany for a Anniversary Celebration

Pastor: For the Church universal, of which these buildings are a visible symbol,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For your presence whenever two or three have gathered in your name,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For this place where we may be still and know that you are God,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For our past and a vision of the future that lies ahead,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For the pardon of our sins when we have fallen short of your glory,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For the holy Eucharist in which we have a foretaste of your eternal kingdom,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For the faith of those who have gone before us and for our encouragement by their perseverance,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For all the benefactors of this place who have died in the peace of Christ and are at rest,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: For the fellowship of all your saints,
All: We thank you, Lord.

Pastor: O God, from living and chosen stones you prepare an everlasting dwelling place for your majesty. Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit those who serve you here may always be kept within your presence. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever.

All: Amen.