

***The Peace of Christ**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Sending**

***Postlude**

Pastor Luke Schmalz

Lorene Witte

The First Congregational Church

Your Independent Worship Center



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

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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.



January 4, 2026

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

Prelude
Announcements
Welcome

Lorene Witte

Call to Worship (Psalm 147:12-20)

Pastor: Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat. He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. He hurls down hail like crumbs—who can stand before his cold? He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow. He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances.

All: Praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer

***Opening Hymn** - “Another Year is Dawning” - **Blue Hymnal #811**

Prayer of Confession

All: God of love, all year long we pursue powers and money, yet you come in weakness. All season long we covet great material gifts, when you alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake our lives, that we may witness to your transforming love. 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: Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our god. People of God, through the coming of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate, the Lord has comforted and redeemed us too!

All: In Christ we receive the salvation of our God. Glory to God is the highest!

***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

Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message: “Jesus is Our Hope”

Pastor Luke Schmalz

***The Apostle’s Creed** (see screen)

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**

***Communion Preparation** - “Come to the Table” - **Blue Hymnal #464**

Sacrament of Holy Communion (see litany on screen)

Sending Hymn - “Joy to the World” - **Blue Hymnal #270**

***Benediction**

The joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the Magi, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

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Altar Rep:

Greeting us today: Ted Caris

Next Sunday: Luke & Karla Pfeiffer

Song Leader: Bill Black

Scripture Reader: Mat Emerick

Next Sunday:

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

Happy Birthday to ~

Happy Anniversary to ~

Prayer Requests ~

The Family of Duane VanDuzen - the funeral service will be held in the sanctuary on Friday, January 23 at 11:00 a.m.

This Weeks Calendar

Sunday, January 4

10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall
11:15 a.m. Deacon's Meeting - Library

Monday, January 5

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

Tuesday, January 6 - Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 7

9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered
12:00 noon Men's Fellowship Luncheon - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, January 8 - Church Office Closed

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

Friday, January 9 - Church Office Closed

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

Saturday, January 10

9:00 a.m. All Church Pancake Breakfast - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 11

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

Our Church News

We're so glad you're here! There are many good reasons to come to church, but the best one is to worship and thank God for His amazing love — shown through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's what our church is all about.

Offering Envelopes for 2026 are available on the table by the office. They are marked with your name. If you would like a box of envelopes for giving please let Lorene know.

The Sound Booth is looking for volunteer help with operating the sound board or running the projector (the projector is all set to go - you just need to advance the slides at the appropriate time) for worship. If you are interested and willing talk with Pastor Luke or Jeff Stewart.

Noisy Offering ... Thanks to YOU, we achieved our goal of contributing \$500 to the newly formed Newaygo County Church Alliance fund. The fund is coordinated by True North with money held at FCC until needed. Recipients are neighbors who have fallen through the cracks. Well done, FCC! Charitable Giving/jb

Today - January 4, Sunday, the congregation is asked to bring 2 dozen cookies to church and leave them in the kitchen. Pat Krehn's Small Group would like to start out 2026 by showing appreciation to groups of people in our community that go above and beyond to help others in need. Men's Fellowship will deliver them. If you can't bring cookies on Sunday drop them off on Monday. We will start with: Fire Department, Police Department, Ambulance, School Bus Garage, Post Office, City Hall.

Wednesday, January 7 - Men's Fellowship Luncheon - 12:00 noon. Men (and ladies) are invited to join us for a lunch prepared by Pastor Luke, a devotional by Jack Butterick and speaker, Carmen Faulkner with the TRU North Engage program.



Members & Friends - Mark your calendar - New Year Celebration Pancake Breakfast - Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Attendance is very important as we plan for the New Year. **FREE!**

The Tuesday Small Group meeting at the home of Pat Krehn will be meeting at 10:00 a.m. on January 13 and 27.

New Board & Committee Secretary/Chairs - be sure to include the office email in your emailing of agendas & minutes (congo@fremontfcc.org) so they can be kept on file.