

***Sending**

***Postlude**

Pastor Luke Schmalz

Lorene Witte

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



W.H. Black in memory of Carol Black.
Jack & Mary Butterick in memory of our parents & other loved ones.
Brad & Stacey Church in memory of Jerry & JoAnn Church.
John & Gail Cooper in memory of family.
Ruth Cowles in memory of Jeff Oberlin.
Pat & Robin Dekleva in memory of Howard & Mary Pikel and John &
JoAnn Dekleva.
Tony & Carrie DeMull in memory of my father.
Robin & Glenn Dickmann in memory of Evelyn & William Malone,
Bill Malone & Karen Wilson.
Arnie & Betty Dougan in memory of loved ones.
Peter & Nancy Lindner in memory of our parents.
Dean & Jean Morehouse in memory of Jack Trowbridge & Sally
Morehouse Judson.
Luke & Karla Pfeiffer in memory of Sandra & Stan Pfeiffer.
Barb & Larry Ross in memory of our dear sister, Ann.
Jim Rynberg in memory of Lila & John Rynberg and David & John H.
Rynberg.
Pastor Luke & Crystal Schmalz in memory of Rev. Michael Schmalz.
Lyle & Holly Shepherd & family, Dianne & Frank Force & family in
memory of Shirley Brooks.
Dave & Linda White in memory of parents & loved ones.

Jack & Mary Butterick in honor of Lorene Witte.
Brad & Stacey Church in honor of family & friends.
Tony & Carrie DeMull in honor of my grandchildren.
Arnie & Betty Dougan in honor of family.
Pat Krehn in honor of my family who bring me great joy!
Kelly Parks & family, Holly & Lyle Shepherd & family, Stacey & Brad
Church & Family in honor of Arnie & Betty Dougan.
Jim Rynberg in honor of London Walker & Watson Wuebben.
Jeff & Susan Stewart in honor of Jack & Fran Stewart.

The First Congregational Church

Your Independent Worship Center



**SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**



December 7, 2025

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

Prelude

Lorene Witte

Announcements

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Call to Worship

Pastor: Hear the prophet speak of our Hope.

(Habakuk 3:17-19) Though the fig tree does not blossom
and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive
fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut
off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I
will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my
salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet
like the feet of a deer and makes me tread upon the heights.
To the leader: with stringed instruments.

Opening Prayer

***Opening Hymn**“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”**Blue Hymnal #244**

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.

JeLy Bell! All kids are invited to go the the JeLy Room for JeLy Church!
(JeLy ~ Jesus Loves You)

Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7; 18-19, Matthew 3:1-12

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message:

Pastor Luke Schmalz

“Hope for Justice”

***The Apostle’s Creed** (see screen)

Special Music - Stacey Church, Martha Kallenbach, Jack Brooks

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**

***Hymn of Preparation - “Come to the Table” - Blue Hymnal #462**

Sacrament of Holy Communion (see litany on screen or bulletin insert)

Special Music - Stacey Church, Martha Kallenbach, Jack Brooks

Noisy Offering/Sending Hymn - “Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing”
Blue Hymnal #237

***Benediction**

Pastor Luke Schmalz

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 will all joy and peace in
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit.

***The Peace of Christ**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Continued on back page

Altar Rep: Jack Butterick

Greeting us today: Bill Black

Next Sunday: Kelly Parks

Song Leaders: Stacey Church

Scripture Reader:

Next Sunday:

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

Happy Birthday to ~

Happy Anniversary to ~

Prayer Requests ~

Duane VanDuzen - health concerns

This Weeks Calendar

Sunday, December 7 - *Second Sunday of Advent*

10:00 a.m. Worship - Special Music Stacey, Jack, Martha

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

Monday, December 8

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, December 9 - *Church Office Closed*

Wednesday, December 10

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 Lunch - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 11 - *Church Office Closed*

Friday, December 12

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

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

Saturday, December 13

Sunday, December 14 - *Third Sunday of Advent*

10:00 a.m. Worship

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

Our Church News

On this second Sunday of Advent, we eagerly welcome all who have joined with us in anticipation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May this time of worship be encouraging and inspirational to all.

Thank you to Stacey Church, Martha Kallenbach and Jack Brooks for sharing their gift of music with us this morning.

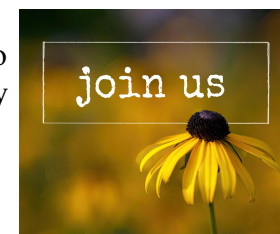
Noisy Offerings TODAY (date change due to no service last Sunday) and December 28. Our contributions will be earmarked for the newly formed Newaygo County Church Alliance. Recipients of help will be our neighbors who have fallen through the cracks. Love your neighbor as yourself. CG/Jack

The Deacons meeting for today has been canceled.

Check out the Craft Sale in Fellowship Hall following worship.

Women's Fellowship Invitation:

Women's Fellowship would like to invite you to join us. Our meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 10am in the church library.



Activities that we are involved in include:

1. Crafters - held on Thursdays at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great activity to get to know people. You don't have to be artistic. There are always people to help you work on the crafts. Every year we have a Christmas Craft Fair where we sell our treasures that we make!! For more information please see Gail Cooper.

2. We hold church dinners and luncheons in Fellowship Hall to make money for CROP, Guatemala, etc., special occasions such as our Spring Fling and sometimes just to get together as a congregation.

3. Funeral (Celebration of Life) luncheons

4. Travelogues

5. Holiday activities

We would love to have you join us!

For more information see Jean Morehouse, Carrie DeMull, Susan Stewart, Gail Cooper or Pat Krehn.