

of his life. And God the Spirit, who came upon Christ in the fullness of power, empower you to live a life of faith. To the glory of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

***The Peace of Christ**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Sending**

Pastor Luke Schmalz

***Postlude**

Rachel Poches



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

email: congo@fremontfcc.org Website: 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.

The First Congregational Church

Your Independent Worship Center



Matthew 3:16, NRSV

January 11, 2026

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

Prelude
Announcements
Welcome

Rachel Poches

Call to Worship (Psalm 29)

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor. The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

All: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

Pastor: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare, and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

All: May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Opening Prayer

***Opening Hymn** - "As With Gladness Men of Old" - **Blue Hymnal #290**
vs 1,2,3

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage. In your loving-kindness have mercy on us and free us from sin. Remind us the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace.

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: Friends, hear the good news! Though we are unworthy, we are granted God's favor in Jesus Christ and are baptized into the church of his beloved Son. Friends, believe the good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***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

Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-42, Matthew 2:13-17

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message: "The Baptism of Jesus"

Pastor Luke Schmalz

***The Apostle's Creed** (see screen)

*** Hymn** - Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine - **Blue Hymnal #467** vs 1&4

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**

***Sending Hymn** - "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" - **Blue Hymnal #391**

***Benediction**

God the Father, who sent his Spirit upon his Son, bless with the presence of his Spirit. Jesus, who received the Spirit and manifested the Father, abide in you and make you a manifestation.

continued on back page

Altar Rep:

Greeting us today: Luke & Karla Pfeiffer

Next Sunday: Ted Caris

Song Leader:

Scripture Reader:

Next Sunday:

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

Happy Birthday to ~

Glenn Dickmann (2- belated), Nathan McKivitz(14), Lauren Stroschin (15)

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. Visitation Thursday, January 22 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Crandell Funeral Home and Friday, January 23 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. at church.

Jim Rynberg - medical concerns

This Weeks Calendar

Sunday, January 11

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

Monday, January 12

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. Technology Board - Library

Tuesday, January 13 - Church Office Closed

10:00 a.m. Small Group - Pat Krehn's home

Wednesday, January 14

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

Thursday, January 15 - Church Office Closed

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

Friday, January 16

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

Saturday, January 17

Sunday, January 18

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

Our Church News

Long ago, wise travelers followed a star in search of the promised Savior — and their journey led them to joy. Whatever brought you here today, we're glad you came! May you find God's presence and guidance shining brightly in your life.

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.

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.

Ladies - are you interested in a Valentine Luncheon on Friday, February 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Moon Dance. If you would like to come and have lunch together sign up on the sheet by the church office or in Fellowship Hall so we can plan accordingly.

Thank you Cookie Bakers. We received and delivered **552** cookies!!!



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS