

*Sending

*Postlude

Pastor Luke Schmalz

Lorene Witte

The First Congregational Church

Your Independent Worship Center



Joseph Forgives His Brothers

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 Jack Brooks, David VandenBelt, Lorene Witte

Secretary Lorene Witte 924-4710

CCLI 1401200 (cell) 231-282-0515

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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.

August 16, 2026

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

Prelude **Lorene Witte**

Announcements

Welcome

Call to Worship (Psalm 133)

Pastor: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

All: Praise the Lord!

Opening Prayer

***Opening Hymn-** “Bind Us Together”- **Blue Hymnal #425**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” - **Blue Hymnal #426**

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: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

***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: Genesis 45:1-15, Matthew 15:10-28

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message: “Joseph Forgives”

Pastor Luke Schmalz

***The Apostle’s Creed** (words projected)

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 #462**

Sacrament of Holy Communion - Litany (words projected)

Communion Song - “Are You Washed in the Blood?” - **Voices of Six**

***Sending Hymn** - “Standing on the Promises” - **Blue Hymnal #410**
vs 1,2,5

***Dismissal Prayer for Revival** (words projected - unison)

Almighty God, we have gathered here today to worship you. As we prepare to leave we ask you to breathe new life into our church. May a renewed passion be kindled within us, a fervent desire to spread the message of hope and salvation to spread the message of hope and salvation to our community. us to deepen our love for you and love for our neighbors. Empower us with the Holy spirit, filling us with the strength, wisdom, and courage to proclaim your gospel with clarity and conviction. May we long for our community’s salvation as you do and help us to shine as beacons of hope to our community. Amen.

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Altar Rep: Tracy Stern

Greeting us today: Bill Black

Next Sunday: Ted Caris

Song Leader: Voices of Six - Pat, Stacey, Beth, Gary, Bill, Dean

Scripture Reader: Carrie DeMull

Next Sunday: Pastor Luke

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

Happy Birthday to ~

Crystal Schmalz(16)

Happy Anniversary to ~

Dean & Jean Morehouse (21), Jack & Fran Stewart (22)

This Weeks Calendar

Sunday, August 16

10:00 a.m. Worship with communion- Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall
Come down and enjoy strawberry shortcake and ice cream treats with thanks to our Tech volunteers

Monday, August 17 Men's Coffee Time - Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered
12:00 noon Women's Summer Gathering - home of Carrie DeMull (meet at church to car pool at 11:30 a.m.)
5:00 p.m. Rooms of Refuge - Fellowship Hall
(Monday, August 17- Monday, August 24)

Tuesday, August 18 - *Church Office Closed*

Wednesday, August 19

9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee Time - Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered
1:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting - Library

Thursday, August 20 - *Church Office Closed*

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

Friday, August 21

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

Saturday, August 22

Sunday, August 23

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

Our Church News

With gratitude we come to give thanks to the Lord for God's boundless grace. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we extend the hand of friendship and love to all who have come. Welcome to worship.

60 & 90 - Did you notice the fish bowl & the colored ping pong balls on the bulletin table? *As of today (Wednesday) - the ping pong balls are gone!!!* Nice work!! But keep inviting - a new supply is coming!! Let's see how many people we can invite this summer. For every person you invite put a ball in the fish bowl. Let's try and fill it up.

TODAY we recognize our volunteer Tech Booth assistants - Jeff Stewart, Robin DeKleva, Kendra Lachniet, Carrie DeMull & April Fletcher. Many are at the booth every week. Come down to Fellowship Hall and enjoy some strawberry short cake and ice cream treats. Thank YOU Tech Booth - we appreciate YOU!!

Rooms of Refuge will be using Fellowship Hall Monday, August 17 - Monday, August 24. If you are willing to provide a meal please sign the sheet by the office door - we still need several dates of meals.

Ladies Luncheon at the home of Carrie DeMull on Monday, August 17 at 12:00 noon. Car pool from church at 11:30 a.m. please bring a dish to pass. Main dish provided (Chicken Salad croissants).



"I am your brother, Joseph..."

GOD SENT ME

before you to preserve life."

Genesis 45:4-5