

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.

*Sending

Pastor Luke Schmalz

*Postlude

Jack Brooks

Prayer of Thanksgiving for 151st Anniversary

Eternal and loving God, today we give thanks to You for Your goodness through all the years of worship and witness in First Congregational Church of Fremont. We give You thanks for Your grace in calling us to be Your people, for Your love revealed to us in Christ Your Son, for Your gift of the Spirit and the joy of salvation. We give thanks for those who established this congregation 151 years ago and for their faith and vision, for their gifts and abilities. We give thanks for all who have been members of this congregation, those who have given freely of their time and money, and for those whose wisdom guided our congregation. We give thanks for all who have preached and taught here: for all who have confessed here that Jesus is Lord; and all who today lead in worship, witness, and service in our Church. As we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward with eager eyes to the future. We pray that You would continue to make Your love known among us. Give us a zeal for mission. Help us to look beyond our walls to those who do not know You. Make this church a blessing to those around us, and embolden us to move forward with strength toward what lies ahead.

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

The First Congregational Church

Your Independent Worship Center



August 9, 2026

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

Prelude

Jack Brooks

Announcements

Welcome

Call to Worship (Psalm 105)

Pastor: O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

All: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he has uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Pastor: he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who had been sold as a slave. His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD kept testing him. The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free. He made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions, to instruct his officials at his pleasure and to teach his elders wisdom.

Opening Prayer

***Opening Hymn-** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”- **Blue Hymnal #33**

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 37:1-28, Matthew 14:22-33

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Message: “Joseph in the Pit”

Pastor Luke Schmalz

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

Special Music - “Shepherd of My Heart”

- Stacey Church

Anniversary Prayer (words on back of bulletin & 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**

***Sending Hymn -** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” - **Blue Hymnal #151**

***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

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Altar Rep: Tracy Stern

Greeting us today: Ted, Jeannie & Todd Caris

Next Sunday: Bill Black

Song Leader: Pat Krehn

Scripture Reader: Cathy Kellerman

Next Sunday: Carrie DeMull

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

Happy Birthday to ~ Jack Stewart (14)

Happy Anniversary to ~ Jeff & Susan Stewart (11)

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory Alicia Lynn (Rynberg) Wuebben Westfall, age 58, who passed away peacefully at her home in Saline, Michigan, on Monday, August 3, 2026. Given by Alicia's two children: Allyse Walker and David Wuebben and by her father, Jim Rynberg.

This Weeks Calendar

Sunday, August 9

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall - Come down and enjoy a breakfast brunch together in honor of our church's 151th Birthday/Anniversary

Monday, August 10 Men's Coffee Time - Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open - when two or three are gathered
6:30 p.m. Tech Committee - Library

Tuesday, August 11 - *Church Office Closed*

Wednesday, August 12

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 - Library

Thursday, August 13 - *Church Office Closed*

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

Friday, August 14

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

Saturday, August 15

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

Our Church News

Life is often hard, for many reasons. So we gather to be fed and strengthened by Jesus, our Good Shepherd; to be assured of his presence and goodness. Welcome to worship.



~TODAY ~ Sunday, August 9~

**Happy 151st Birthday/ Anniversary
to the
First Congregational Church.**

**Following worship this morning
come down to Fellowship Hall
and enjoy a breakfast brunch.
ALL are Welcome!!!**

60 & 90 - Did you notice the fish bowl & the colored ping pong balls on the bulletin table? 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.

The next Bible Study with Beth will be Wednesday, August 12 at 6:00 p.m.

On Sunday, August 16 we will 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.

Ladies Luncheon at the home of Carrie DeMull on Monday, August 17 at 12:00 noon. Car pool from church at 11:30 please bring a dish to pass. Main dish provided (Chicken Salad croissants). Please sign up on the sheet by the office door or in Fellowship Hall so we can plan accordingly.