

The Carillon May, 2024

First Congregational Church
Your Independent Worship Center
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THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 22, 2024

Present: Lou Deleguardia - Moderator, Pat Krehn – Vice Moderator, John Cooper – Trustees, Dean Morehouse – Men’s Fellowship, Jean Morehouse – Women’s Fellowship, Jack Stewart – Technology Board, Pastor Luke Schmalz, Carrie De Mull – Clerk, Jack Butterick-Charitable Giving

Absent: Beth Hooker – Board of Christian Ed

I. Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm. Pastor Luke gave the opening prayer

II. Approval of the March 25, 2024 meeting minutes: Dean moved to approve, Pat seconded, passed

III. Public comments – none

IV. Board Reports

A. Board of Charitable Giving - The committee is made up of Jean Morehouse, BarbVeldman, Shelli Waldo, Jack Butterick, and ex-officio Pastor Luke.

The budget for 2024 is \$3000 and we have used 50% of that amount in April with donations of \$300 each to the following: Compassion House, Hygiene Bags w/Inspire Church, Newaygo County Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (PCA), Community Closet, and Love Inc. We will get together this fall to award the balance of our budget to other local charities. The Board will also be providing a dinner for the Rooms Of Refuge program on April 23. Three of us on the board, plus Dean Morehouse and Mary Butterick will visit and learn first hand how PCA is helping and healing children in our county on April 29.

B. Board of Deacons – Ruth Cowles

The Easter Service was well attended. 60 parishioners and 6 children attended. Cookies were handed out at the end of the service and the Easter Egg Hunt was successful. Pastor Luke will be doing a 5 week sermon series on I John

from May 19 through Pentecost Sunday. Creation Care Sunday will be April 28. New Members' Induction was April 21. The new members are Brad Church, Pat DeKleva, and Cathy Kellerman. Administrative Professional Day was April 24, and Jim Rynberg was going to be taking care of it. Carnations will be handed out on Mother's Day, May 12. May 26 will be the first service in the park for the summer months. The Deacons will provide the communion elements and print the Programs. Deacons will be providing dinner for The Rooms Of Refuge week of April 22 through April 28 on the evening of April 28.

C. Board of Christian Ed - no report.

D. Board of Trustees – John Cooper

The Trustees have been monitoring the water leak situation by the front door that is leaking into the janitor's closet. Haven't had any significant rainfall to monitor the situation. The microphone and speaker has been used in Fellowship Hall. The Trustees have voted to buy a second defibrillator. Books have been audited by Bill Black and Ted Caris. Several minor suggestions from them will be discussed at the next Trustee's meeting. Several large pledges have been received. Income is at 31% of the budget. Expenses are at 23% of the budget. March is 25% of the year. We are in good financial shape.

E. Women's Fellowship – Jean Morehouse

The handrail for the steps is going to be installed by Gary Hooker. He has the materials and we are waiting until he has the time to do the installation. The Kitchen license with the District Health Department has been renewed. We are waiting for the semi-annual inspection. It's ant season, so everyone is asked to clean up well (counters and floors) after using the kitchen. Also clean up the Fellowship Hall floors and tables. We will be cooking for the Rooms of Refuge Program on Thursday, April 25. We purchased a new bench for the entryway and moved the Welcome Table upstairs by Lorene's office. We suggest that the Deacons rotate greeting at that spot, as it is easier to "catch" visitors and hand them a welcome packet. On Saturday, May 11 from 11:00 until 1:00 we will have Tea and Lunch for the ladies of the church. Lou will be our guest speaker. There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall next to the Coffee sign up sheet. Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 8 at 10:00 am. There will be a dinner this fall to raise money to help Gary fund his trip to Guatemala. We have also purchased seasonal banners from the Disciples of Christ to display around the church.

F. Men's Fellowship – Dean Morehouse

Dean commented on the music committee and Men's Fellowship. The Music Committee will meet in two weeks. Will be talking about the Walk up Choir and special music that will be happening over the next few months. Men's Fellowship met on April 13. There were 22 men present from different churches. The speaker was Jackilyn Roseberry from the Fremont Area District Library.

The chef was Jack Butterick and he also did the devotional. The fund balance is \$1250. \$500 will be given to the PCA and \$500 will be given to the Youth for Christ organization.

G. Technology Board – Jack Stewart

The new website launched April 14. The Deacons have taken full responsibility for the site. The search engine is up and running. We welcome comments and suggestions good or bad. Lou asked Who will be the dedicated person to gather pictures? The Deacons will be in charge of getting pictures along with Jeff, Lorene, Judy, and Pastor Luke. We need to get a spring picture of the church.

V. Pastor's Report-Pastor Luke

Attendance has been very good. We had a successful defibrillator training. Three new members joined the church. There has been a good response to the Rooms of Refuge program meals initiative. Along with Creation Sunday we will be having a tree planted and a dedication. The tentative date of the dedication is April 28. Mother's Day, May 12, Crystal will be preaching. May 19 will be Pentecost Sunday. The color will be red. The first Eucharistical service will be Memorial weekend. Pastor Luke will be starting up articles in the Times Indicator again. The 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee is working hard. Family dinners Wednesday evenings have been going well. 4 people have signed up for the Hope Initiative 30 day devotional. 3 circles is an intense 6 week program that will be offered also. Gift bags have been made for guests.

VI. Acceptance of reports – Jean moved and John seconded to approve – passed.

VII. Old Business – none

VIII. New Business

Discussion of the findings from Congregational meeting on April 14, 2024. Our Strengths: welcoming, caring, belonging, and fellowship. Our growth areas: Children's programs, music, and evangelism. Full time organist is needed. Where will the money come from? Sunday afternoon hymn sings were another suggestion. We need to be more effective by identifying the needs in the community by promoting worship, reaching out to retirement communities, after school activities, etc.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Next Meeting is May 29, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. in the Library

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie DeMull

Spring Tea

Saturday, May 11

11:00 a.m. ~ 1:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall ~ Lunch will be served

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office

Lou Deleguardia will present information on

"Scams ~ what you should know about"



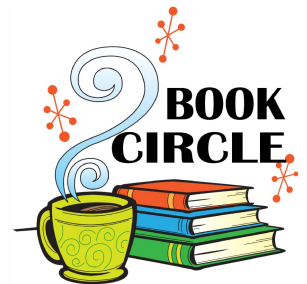
Christmas Crafters:



The crafters are looking for baby yarn - perhaps you have some left over from a previous project? That is just what we need. Drop it off at church.

Book Circle:

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the Fremont Public Library Community room. Ann Werner will do the book review. All are welcome!!

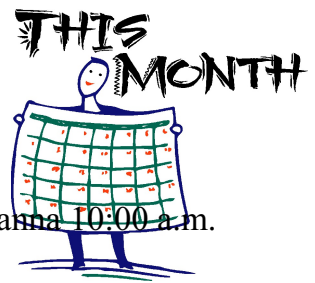


Family Night:

Join us for food, fun and fellowship Wednesday, May 8 and May 22 at 6:00 p.m.



Dates to Note:



Wednesday, May 1 - Men's Fellowship Lunch - 12:00 noon
Sunday, May 5 - Worship with communion. Special Music by Mick Hanna 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 5 - Deacon's Meeting - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, May 7 - Book Circle - 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8 - Women's Fellowship board meeting - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, May 8 - Family Night - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 11 - Women's Fellowship Spring Tea 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 12 - Mother's Day - Crystal Schmalz will lead us in worship
Monday, May 13 - Technology Board - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14 - Outside Work Bee
Sunday, May 19 - Walk Up Choir rehearsal - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, May 19 - Pentecost Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Monday, May 20 - Trustees Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 22 - Family Night - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 26 - No worship here - Worship in the Park - 10:00 a.m.
Monday, May 27 - church office closed in observance of Memorial Day
Wednesday, May 29 - Executive Council - 6:30 p.m.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday - Men's Coffee - 9:30 a.m. - ?

Thursdays - Christmas Crafters - 10:00 a.m. - ?

Monday/Wednesday/Friday - Woodshop is open **IF** two or more are gathered

Congratulations:

...to Ellise Pfeiffer, a senior at Fremont High, who signed with Muskegon Community College to play softball.



Outside Work Bee:

Tuesday, May 14, with a rain date of May 16th.

Tasks: general cleanup of grounds and spreading mulch in front and side landscaping. Bring your own rake, trowel, etc.

Many hands make light and quick work!



Carillon:



Would you prefer to receive the Carillon via snail mail instead of email - or email instead of snail mail? Let Lorene know if you'd like it sent to you in a different manner. Call the church office 924-4710 or email congo@fremontfcc.org



May Birthdays

2	Kendra Pfeiffer Karen Zick
3	Gail Cooper
4	Jeannie Caris
5	Bill Sherman
13	Siria Pinnick Craig Zeerip
14	Linda White
17	Tony DeMull
23	Brian Stroschin
24	Ted Clark Lou Deleguardia
26	Duane VanDuzen

May Anniversaries

3	John & Gail Cooper
25	Brad & Stacey Church



Thoughts from Pastor Luke:

"A Chapter a Day Keeps the Devil Away"

I first encountered this memorable saying from the son of one of my hospice patients, and it has stayed with me ever since. While some may question the folk theology behind the idea, I believe it captures a deeper truth—that engaging with the Bible can truly transform us. While a thorough engagement with Scripture goes beyond simply reading a chapter a day, even a brief two-minute session holds value. Reading the Bible won't shield us from life's challenges or automatically make us faithful Christians, but it's impossible to truly grow in faith without immersing ourselves in its pages.

Throughout history, engagement with the Bible has taken various forms, from listening to it being read aloud to encountering it through religious images, sermons, creeds, and songs. The Bible occupies a central role in our faith journey and spiritual growth. It allows us to hear God speaking directly to us, serving as the primary means through which we discern truth and assess whether messages align with God's word.

Moreover, the Bible narrates God's enduring love for humanity, intertwining His story with ours. As we delve deeply into Scripture, its ideas, metaphors, and imagery begin to shape our thinking and transform our lives. Ultimately, the Bible offers profound insights into the nature of God, drawing us closer to Him as we seek to understand and apply its teachings in our lives. Therefore, the Bible should hold a central place in our daily lives, guiding and shaping our thoughts, actions, and relationship with God.

