

The Carillon

June, 2024

First Congregational Church
Your Independent Worship Center
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THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES May 29, 2024

Present: 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, Ruth Cowles - Deacons

Absent: Beth Hooker – Board of Christian Ed, Lou Deleguardia-Moderator

I. Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm. Pat Krehn gave the opening prayer

II. Approval of the April 22, 2024 meeting minutes: Jack Butterick moved to approve, Dean Morehouse seconded, passed.

III. Public comments – none

IV. Board Reports

A. Board of Charitable Giving - The committee is made up of Jean Morehouse, Barb Veldman, 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. Thank you notes have been received from Compassion House and PCA. We will meet in the fall to distribute the rest of the budget. The Board provided a meal for the Rooms of Refuge Program on April 23. Dean and Jean, Pastor Luke, Mary and Jack Butterick visited PCA to learn first hand how PCA is helping and healing children in our county. In April/May, the Men’s Fellowship attended PCA and Youth for Christ functions in Newaygo and Muskegon giving each group \$500 from the Men’s Fellowship participants’ monthly contributions of lunch money that the chefs did not use.

B. Board of Deacons – Ruth Cowles

May 12 was Mother's Day Sunday. May 19 was Pentecost Sunday. May 26 was the worship service in the Veteran's Park. June 16 is Father's Day. The Deacons will discuss this at their next meeting. June 23 is picnic Sunday after worship. August 11 is the Church's anniversary.

C. Board of Christian Ed - The Christian Ed. Board is working through some scheduling issues. Luke has been in contact with Beth. Trying to get things firmed up with updated materials and supplies. Working on a time to get together.

D. Board of Trustees – John Cooper

The dispose in the kitchen has been repaired. The urinal in the men's bathroom has been fixed. The signs inside the church have been updated. Financial statement update was presented with April being 33% of the year. Income is at 35% of budget and expenses are at 28% of the budget. We are doing well.

E. Women's Fellowship – Jean Morehouse

Women's Fellowship met in April. Pat called Gary again to install a handrail. Our new kitchen license is posted in the kitchen. No inspector has come to inspect the kitchen yet. A tea luncheon was held on May 11. 19 women were in attendance. Lou Deleguardia came in and talked about scams and fraud. The Women's Fellowship provided food and didn't take any donations. There will be a travel log get together in the fall given by Pat Krehn and her daughter in law Rache sometime in September. Working on a fundraiser for Gary for his Guatemala trip in spring. Sally Deshetler will be moving mid to late June and we will have Sunday to recognize her with a cake and bio given by Jim Rynberg. Next meeting Wednesday, June 5.

F. Men's Fellowship – Dean Morehouse

Dean commented on the Music Committee. Many members want the FCC Hymn sing to be reinstated. They are looking for a pianist to replace Rachel. Congo connections have been given lists to call and should be working on that. Leslie Anderson will sing on June 9.

The Men's Fellowship had their meeting May 1st. 19 gentlemen were in attendance. Dave Lorenz was the speaker. He was from Travel Michigan. There has been a change in Leadership. Ted Caris will be the leader and _____ will take minutes. Jim Rynberg will retire from getting speakers. The new leadership starts in September.

G. Technology Board – Jack Stewart

The new website was launched on April 14. The website performance is beautiful. I have added our church to a list of "white pages" on the web, which is an alphabetical listing of all the different churches in Fremont. I am a little concerned about the lack of different content and definitions on the website. Pat Krehn said she has a bunch of newer pictures to add to the website. There will be a new church logo coming, and the deacons will talk about that at the next meeting.

V. Pastor's Report-Pastor Luke

Luke will be flexing his schedule more now that Nora is out of school. Monday, Wednesday, Friday morning Luke will try to be at the church office. 3 new members joined in April and 2 more are expected to join. Creation Care Sunday went well. Administrative Assistance Day was celebrated by Lorene. A flower arrangement was given to her for her amazing work in the office. I attended a luncheon on Abuse Reporting and Human Trafficking. I am an official reporter in the church for suspected child/elder abuse. I report To Child Protective Services. The Executive Council needs to get involved to create a resolution/policy regarding abuse of children and elder abuse. This talk was tabled until the next meeting. The Altar clothes will be green this Sunday because we are entering ordinary/growing time. The Hope Initiative will start Sunday, June 2 with a meeting after worship. Gifts are needed for Father's Day. June 23 is the start of summer. The church will be Having an ice cream social. July 7 is the next all church service in the park. June 12, Family Night Dinner, needs to be covered. Pat Krehn will make Barbecue and chips.

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

VII. Old Business

Pastor Luke shared his finding about the all church town hall meeting held in April. We need to have a second meeting to follow up with specific ideas for the church. Focusing on fewer things and doing them well will be our motto. Three Key points were discussed: Worship, Discipleship, and Fellowship. Condense our leadership structure to make it a little bit more streamline. Sunday night fellowship maybe and drop the family night meals. Quarterly fellowship meetings were discussed. Having a dedicated guest greeter follow up team was discussed. We need to be open to more radical things. The discussion was tabled until next month. Members of council to reflect on this and bring them to the next meeting.

VIII. New Business-None

IX. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next Meeting is June 24, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. in the Library

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie DeMull

Success is Boring - Pastor Luke

I recently finished reading two books: one on productivity and work, and the other on leadership. Coupled with my journey to lose weight, I find myself deeply immersed in the self-help mindset. I have a particular fondness for this genre of books, a passion inherited from my father. He was an avid reader of these types of books, particularly those on how to become a better leader. I suspect he owned every John Maxwell book ever published. His dedication to becoming the best leader he could be resulted in his success as a pastor, and he passed on his love for self-improvement to me.

One of the things that struck me most in my reading is that success is boring. Now, I don't mean that it is boring to succeed, but rather that the path to success is often tedious. Every overnight success is years in the making. Success results from daily effort put in over years, practicing the basics repeatedly, and doing the small things right. It involves making the right choices consistently over a long period. There are no shortcuts to success.

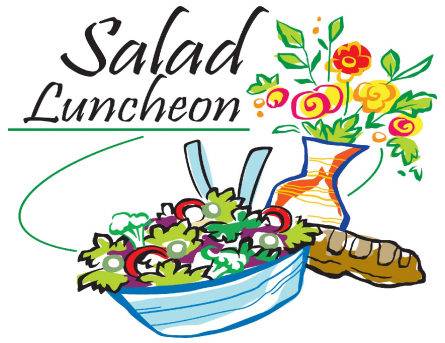
This concept applies to the church in two ways. First, in our spiritual life, spiritual growth is like any other growth: slow and steady. It is about doing the little things regularly—prayer, Bible reading, corporate worship, and service to others. I have known many people who have had dramatic experiences but soon returned to their previous lives. Serving God is not about dramatic experiences alone but about the daily walk with Him. Second, in building the church as an institution, there is no magic bullet for revitalization. A successful church results from simple but challenging tasks: Christians who are growing, people willing to give of their time, leaders able to have hard conversations and prioritize the church's good over their desires, personal outreach to the community, and so on. These are the things that lead to success years down the road.

Everyone wants to win the lottery, be an overnight success, or experience dramatic revival. Usually, these unexpected events result from years of work. True overnight success rarely leads to durable victories. To fulfill God's call in our lives, both individually and as a church, we must be ready to do the boring, slow work. But in the end, it will lead to success, and we will hear, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

WELL DONE,
—GOOD—
AND
faithful
SERVANT.

Book Circle:

Our next meeting is our annual Salad Luncheon at the home of Bev Williams. Tuesday, June 4 at 12:00 noon.
Please bring a salad to share.



Men's Fellowship:

Join us Wednesday, June 5 at noon for our Men's Fellowship Lunch. Our speaker will be Genji Leclair, who will tell us all about raising honey bees and making honey under the label, Great Lakes Bee Co, since 1974.



Would You Like to Chat?

With summer upon us you might have a need or a burden you would like to talk with Pastor Luke about. Or you might just want to chat for a bit. Please call the church office or reach out directly to Pastor Luke to schedule a meeting.



Suggestion Box:

A Suggestion Box is located on the table outside the church office. If you have a useful suggestion please put it in the box.

Walk Up Choir:

Walk Up Choir will be singing "Faith of Our Fathers" next Sunday, June 9. Join us at 9:30 a.m. if you would like to go over the song. Or just come up to sing when it is time.

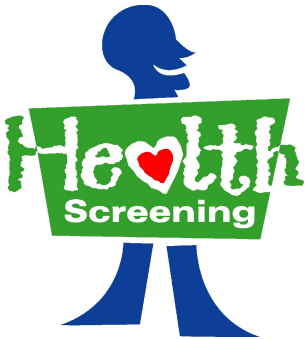


Looking Ahead:

June 9 - Leslie Anderson - special music
June 16 - Walk Up Choir
June 23 - Mat Emerick - performance
June 30 - Stacey Church, Martha Kallenbach, Jack Brooks - special music



Life Line Screening:



Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today? Life Line Screening will be here at First Congregational Church on Friday, July 26, 2024 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. Please refer to the attached flyer to get more info about how you can sign up. There is no time like the present to take action!

Three ways to register:

- Call toll-free: 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001
- Online: <https://www.llsa.social/hzca>
- Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607

Dates to Note:

June 2 - Deacons' Meeting - 11:30 a.m.
June 4 - Book Circle Annual Salad Luncheon - 12:00 noon
June 5 - Women's Fellowship Board Meeting - 10:00 a.m.
June 5 - Men's Fellowship Lunch - 12:00 noon
June 9 - Farewell Gathering for Sally DeShetler
June 10 - Tech Board - 6:30 p.m.
June 12 - Family Night - 6:00 p.m.
June 16 - Father's Day
June 16 - Walk Up Choir
June 17 - Trustees Meeting - 6:40 p.m.
June 23 - Summer Sunday Celebration
June 24 - Executive Council - 6:30 p.m.
June 26 - Family Night 6:00 p.m.



Ladies: Mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Women's Gathering on Thursday August 15, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the home of Carrie DeMull on Martin Lake. Please bring a dish to share - the beverage and main course will be provided



Join us next Sunday, June 9
as we say our best wishes to

SALLY DESHETLER

Sally will be moving to Ohio to be closer to her children.
We will miss her & pray for this new journey in her life.

June Birthdays

3	Lauren McKivitz
24	David Vandenberg
25	Lissa Denney
7	Jim Rynberg
29	Shirley Hooker
30	Ted Caris



June Anniversaries

3	Miles & Ruth Cowles
27	Ted & Jeannie Caris
30	David & Linda White

