

The Carillon July, 2024

First Congregational Church
Your Independent Worship Center
714 Hillcrest Drive - Fremont MI 49412
231-924-4710
congo@fremontfcc.org ~ www.fremontfcc.org



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES June 24, 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, David White- Deacons

Absent: Beth Hooker – Board of Christian Ed

I. Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm. Pastor Luke gave the opening prayer

II. Approval of the May 29, 2024 meeting minutes: Jean Morehouse moved to approve, Pat Krehn 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. We will meet again in the fall to distribute the other 50% of the donations.

B. Board of Deacons – David White
David is new to the EC and the Board of Deacons. Will report next month.

C. Board of Christian Ed - The Christian Ed. Board (Mat Emerick, Kelly Parks, Pastor Luke) met and talked about the structure of Sunday School. Children ages 4 Through 12 are encouraged to attend. Sunday School will consist of a story time, music, snacks, and an activity. To help facilitate, the board bought some Sunday School materials, Bible story books, and DVD’s. Lou Deleguardia mentioned that

he has a 32" television that he can donate to the church for Sunday School use. Quiet bags have been put together and a schedule will be made from a list of volunteers. Will need background checks for all the volunteers.

D. Board of Trustees – John Cooper

The Trustees are in the process of cleaning out the audio-visual room in the Basement throwing out the old, obsolete equipment to create more storage room for other items. Bill Black has fixed the leaks going into the basement storage room. We have created a new timesheet for anyone working and getting paid by the church. The audit committee recommended the timesheet to keep track of who is working at the church and getting paid. May Financial Summary-May is 42% of the year. Both income and expenses are at 38%. As a result, we have not had to take as much money out of investments.

E. Women's Fellowship – Jean Morehouse

Women's Fellowship met June 5. Still waiting on the handrail. Pat talked to Gary about the railing this week. Gary will work on getting it done. Tabled a few things until the fall. The Farewell party for Sally was June 9. Jean talked with Jane Stroschin about painting the front side of the welcome table, something light and bright. August 15 will be the 2nd Annual Martin Lake get together at Carrie DeMull's house. Next meeting will be August 5, 2024

F. Men's Fellowship – Dean Morehouse

Dean commented on the Music Committee. Last group of special music will be this Sunday with Stacy, Margaret and Jack singing. Dave Vandenbelt has been filling in for Rachel on the piano. It is working out well. Deb Emerick annual concert will be at the Dogwood center on July 14, with the money raised being matched by a anonymous donor. The money will go to the Compassion Home.

The Men's Fellowship had their meeting June 5. Todd Blake was the speaker. Dinner was sloppy joes out of bear meat. Everyone thanked the Mayor, Jim Rynberg, for getting speakers. The new moderator will be Ted Caris. The new Secretary/Treasurer will be Bill Black. At September 4th's meeting, Dr. Eric Shaffer from Corewell Health will speak.

G. Technology Board – Jack Stewart

Website is operating fine. Still tweaking it every now and then, but it is running how it should.

V. Pastor's Report-Pastor Luke

The Hope Initiative kicked off this past month with a wrap up meeting in July. Summer Sunday, June 23rd's Ice Cream event went really well. Attendance totals for April 44, May 42, June 39. The numbers are steady even into summer. A Farewell party for Ann Werner will happen in mid July, beginning of August. On July 7 there will be the all church service at Veterans Memorial Park. July 4, 5

the church office will be closed. Sunday, July 28, will be picnic Sunday. August 10 will be Bill Sherman's funeral at the church. Pastor's tentative vacation week is August 18 through the 25. August 4 and 16 Pastor will be unavailable.

August 11 will be the church's anniversary celebration.

VI. Acceptance of reports – Jack Cooper moved and Pat Krehn seconded to approve – passed.

VII. Old Business-None

VIII. New Business

The 150th Anniversary committee met and discussed the anniversary celebration. Costs were discussed. Picnic type meals were discussed. Separate meal for Community Leaders. Cost for different types of memorabilia: coffee mugs, yard signs, etc. \$3200 budget. Lou volunteered to match \$3000. A banner across Main Street was discussed, stickers for vehicles, and advertising throughout the year. 200 chairs have been donated. Still in the preliminary stages. The committee will need to sit down and write the last 25 years of the church history. Working on that as well.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next Meeting is July 22, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. in the Library

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie DeMull



Book Circle:

Book Circle will not meet at the Library - they will be having a special event at 5:30 p.m. at Water's Edge on Tuesday, July 2.

Combined Worship:

There will be no service here on Sunday, July 7. We will be worshipping together with area churches at Veteran's Memorial Park at 10:00 a.m. Bring your lawn chair for seating. Golf carts will be running to aid with walking. Pastor Adam Sculnick of Second Christian Reformed Church will be delivering the message "Freedom". Other area pastors will be involved as well.





Men's Fellowship Luncheon:

There will no noon luncheon for the summer months of July and August. See you again September 5.

July Dates to Note:

Tuesday, July 2 - Book Circle Special Event
Thursday, July 4 - Independence Day! - No crafters
Friday, July 5 - Church office closed
Sunday, July 7 - Worship in the Park - 10:00 a.m.
Monday, July 8 - Tech Board - 6:30 p.m.
Friday, July 12 - Lorene out of the office
Sunday, July 14 - Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, July 14 - Deacons' Meeting - 11:30 a.m.
Monday, July 15 - Trustees Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 20 - 90th Birthday party for Arnie & Betty Dougan - F. Hall
Sunday, July 21 - Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Monday, July 22 - Executive Council - 6:30 p.m.
Friday, July 26 - Life Line Screening - Fellowship Hall
Sunday, July 28 - Worship - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, July 28 - Picnic Sunday



Men's Coffee - Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 9:30 a.m. - ?
Christmas Crafters - Thursday's 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (No crafters July 4)
Woodshop is Open Monday/Wednesday/Friday - when two or more are gathered

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. 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.ilsa.social/hsc>
- Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607



Our Church Family:



New Address:

Sally DeShetler has moved to The Inn at CoalRidge. We received the following note from her daughter Gail.

Dear Friends-

Mom has settled into her new home in Wadsworth, Ohio (near Akron) and we are excited to tell you she is already involved in the daily activities, has gone on a bus trip and everyone loves her! We are so blessed to have her near us and our children/grandchildren are looking forward to including her in all the family events. She will miss all of you and has cherished her 72 years with you. Tom and I thank you for your years for friendship.

I am attaching her contact information and will keep you up to date on her news.

My best - Gail

The Inn at CoalRidge
1300 CoalRidge Pkwy #401
Wadsworth, OH 44281

231-519-9959

email: bobdeshetler@yahoo.com

Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to the family of *Bill Sherman*. Bill passed away on Father's Day, June 16.



Bill (Wilson) L. Sherman age 90 of Newaygo, formerly of Grand Rapids, passed away at home surrounded by his family on Sunday morning, Father's Day, June 16, 2024. He was born on May 5, 1934 in Grandville, Michigan. Bill was a US Army Veteran and employed for 33 years at the General Motors Fisher Body 36th street Plant in Wyoming, Michigan. He retired in 1990 as a General Manager. After retirement, volunteering became a big part of Bills life. He was a member of First

Congregational Church of Fremont, volunteered at Love INC of Newaygo County, and TrueNorth Food Pantry. Bill served on the Emerald Sylvan Lake Association and Brooks Township Boards. Bill served as project Manager for the Emerald Sylvan Sewer System currently in place. Bill was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Millie (Millicent) Louise Sherman, his parents, Wilson F and Eva Sherman, sisters, Maxine Maas and Betty Neuberg, his brother Jerry Sherman and brother-in-laws Matt Neuberg and Wendall Grummet. He is survived by 3 sons, 8 grandchildren, & 12 great-grandchildren: Bill (Brenda Lausman) Sherman, his children Adam Sherman, Josh (Kelsey) Sherman, Zach (Jessica) Sherman, & their children Isabelle, Zoey, Elias, & Brooks Sherman; Steven (Jeanne) Sherman, their children Jessica (Andrew) Ulrich, Jeffrey (Chassity) Sherman, Jaclyn (Chris) Peck, & their children Anderson & Josselyn Ulrich & Jett, Charlotte, & Eleanor Sherman, & James Peck; Scott (Danette) Sherman, their children Tessa (Nate) Meendering, Tylin (Taylin) Sherman, & their children Emma Louise Meendering & Bailey Sherman. Bill is also survived by his sister Joyce Grummet of Jenison, sister-in-law Jeanne Sherman of Grand Haven and many nieces and nephews. According to his wishes, cremation has taken place, and a celebration of Bill's life will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday August 10, 2024 at First Congregational Church of Fremont with Pastor Luke Schmalz officiating. Interment will be in Grandville Cemetery. Suggested Memorial: First Congregational Church of Fremont. Arrangements are by Kroeze-Wolffis Funeral Home, Inc. of Fremont.

Awareness of God - Pastor Luke

Sometimes, you say something and the full implication doesn't hit you until later. This happened to me recently. At the last Family Night Dinner, I taught the first part of a Bible study on prayer. One of the topics we discussed was why we pray. One of the reasons I included was that prayer helps us build an awareness of God. I saw this in the research I did and thought it was correct, so I included it. But I had not thought too much about what it meant. However, it has been stuck in my head ever since. Part of what it means to grow as a Christian is to develop a greater sense and awareness of God, to see Him at work and to feel His presence. It is similar to how, as children, we often fail to appreciate all our parents did for us until much later. This ability to see and understand another is part of our growth as a person. It is the same for a child of God. We love our Heavenly Father and appreciate what He has done, but often see very little of it. As we grow, we begin to see and feel God far more regularly and in more ways. This is developed through prayer by building a relationship with God. As we begin to know Him better, we begin to see His work more readily.



The question for all of us is: do you have an awareness of God? Do you feel His presence and does He regularly come to your mind? The goal of the Christian life is to see and know God, and so often we are too wrapped up in the world to see Him. Are you doing this? Are you so distracted by life that you don't notice God at work in your life? It's easy to fall into that trap, but also easy to climb out. All we need to do is spend time in prayer.

July Birthdays

1	Mary Zeerip
7	Michael Stroschin
16	Ruth Cowles
19	Shelli Waldo
23	June Britt Jennifer Dekleva

July Anniversaries

2	Craig & Susan Zeerip
26	Ted & Barb Clark
29	Bernie & Lissa Denney



Prepared for a purpose

Timothy Dalrymple, president and CEO of Christianity Today, was a successful Stanford gymnast with Olympic dreams. But he broke his neck before the 1996 Olympic Trials and never reached his sport's "promised land." Although the injury led to chronic pain, Dalrymple doesn't regret his pursuit or even the fall.



Even while hospitalized, he experienced "a profound assurance" of God's loving presence. "If I could know the peace of God even when my health and hopes were stripped away from me, then what did I have to fear?" he writes. "It was a liberating revelation. Since God is with us even in the valley of the shadow of death, we need fear no evil, for no evil can take God away."

In the long run, so-called failure can matter more than victory, Dalrymple learned. "The purpose of my gymnastics career was never to purchase a few shining moments of gold-medal glory but to prepare me for the rest of my life. It was never about making me a champion. It was about [shaping me into the image of Christ and] making me an instrument [for the glory of Christ and for the good of the world]."

What musical instrument is mentioned in the final poem of Psalms as a means to praise the Lord?

- A. brass
- B. percussion
- C. strings
- D. woodwinds
- E. all of the above



Answer: E (See Psalm 150:3-5.)

Prayer for July 4th

The following lines are from a long prayer, “That America Fulfil the Promise of Its Founding,” by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan. Though written in 1945, it rings true yet today. (Full text at <https://tinyurl.com/nhc8747x>.)

O God, who is Liberator and Redeemer, Lawgiver and Judge, ...

May America remain loyal
to the principles of the Declaration of Independence,
and extend their application
to ever-widening areas of life.

Keep out of our life all manner of oppression,
persecution,
and unjust discrimination;
save us from religious,
racial and class conflicts;
may our country be a haven of refuge
to the victims of injustice and misrule.

Instruct us in the art of living together,
of reconciling differences of opinion
and averting clashes of interest,
of helping one another
to achieve a harmonious and abundant life ...

That the Star-Spangled Banner,
the symbol of our American democracy,
may ever wave o’er the land of the free
and the home of the brave. Amen.



