



The Carillon July, 2025

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

JUNE 23, 2025

DRAFT

Present: Pat Krehn – Moderator, Stacey Church – Vice Moderator, Jean Morehouse – Women's Fellowship, Pastor Luke Schmalz, Carrie De Mull – Clerk, Dave White - Deacon's, Jack Butterick – Board of Charitable Giving

Absent: Bill Black – Trustees, Jack Stewart – Technology Board

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

II. Approval of the May 27, 2025 meeting minutes: Stacey motioned to approve. Pastor Luke seconded. Passed

III. Public comments – None

IV. Board Reports

A. Board of Charitable Giving – Jack Butterick

The Board of Charitable Giving met on June 18 and implemented the following activities: The \$900 remaining of our \$3000 budget will be dispersed equally between Empowerment, Hope 101 Ministry, and Wellspring.

July 20 – August 17 we will be collecting basic personal care products for HERE (Helping Every Real Expression) located in Newaygo County serving 6 school districts. Many of the children do not have access to personal care items. Girls without personal care items often stay home from school. Funding is provided by 8 churches, including FCC, and two area businesses. During this period of July 20 to August 17, please donate toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, body lotion, bath soap, and underwear and feminine hygiene products. If you prefer to make a check donation, please write your check to First Congregational Church and put HERE in the memo line. Your participation in the project will be greatly appreciated by all the children receiving your donations.

Starting in October, we will be collecting food donations for the charity Hand 2 Hand. Hand 2 Hand is an organization that provides weekend meals to children in the 6 different school districts in Newaygo County. We will be collecting mixed fruit cups, applesauce, snacks that are individually wrapped, ramen noodles, Mac and cheese, and spaghetti 0's. Look for more information to come this September.

B. Board of Deacon's – Dave White

150th Anniversary celebration is moving along nicely. No music report. Website is running smoothly. Discussed getting more communion volunteers. Will discuss during New Business.

C. Board of Christian Education – No Report

D. Board of Trustees – Jean/Pat for Bill Black

We are almost at 50% of the budget (half the year). Income and pledges are at 71%. Looking at ways to cut expenses. Snowplowing will be one of the items that gets looked into. Also looking into why DTE and Consumer's Energy bills are still high for the summer months. The checking about is getting low, so trustees are going to have to use some of the investment money to cover the bills.

Discussion about land: The survey is back. We have a parcel number. The appraisal still needs to be done.

E. Women's Fellowship-Jean Morehouse

The men of the church have put posts in for the banners we will be having in the front of the church. The first banner that will be purchased will say ALL ARE WELCOME 10:00 AM Sunday.

Still working on the handrail project at the front of the sanctuary.

September 26 there will be a spaghetti dinner for the CROP Walk.

\$200 was given to an aviation camp happening at the Fremont Airport. It will be used for the weekly snacks during the camp. We've already received a thank you!

Travelogue in August is being planned.

We will be ordering 25 double sided spider signs for the craft sale (signs with 2 metal prongs to stick in the ground).

August 4 is our next meeting.

F. Technology Board – Pat

There has been an audio problem with the videoing of the services. Jeff and I have been working to resolve the issue.

There was a building security issue in Lorene's absence, and it has been taken care of.

No volunteers for the tech booth yet.

G. Men's Fellowship – Jean

The posts for the banners have been put in the ground.

V. Pastor's Report-Pastor Luke

Father's Day service went well. 2 funerals this month (Pinnick and Price).

There will be another service in the park on July 6. The new location for this service will be at the Shack in White Cloud.

On July 19, there will be a civic leader's dinner to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church. Volunteers are needed for this. Sign up to volunteer on the signup sheet by Lorene's office.

July 27 there will be a historical service at the church commemorating the 150th anniversary celebration.

If the weather continues to be too warm to be in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, we will have services downstairs.

Pastor Luke will have summer hours in the office now, Monday through Thursday. Friday's Pastor Luke will work from home.

A letter will be going out this week to inform the congregation on the updates for the 150th Anniversary celebration.

Forming another small group will be tabled until fall.

VI. Acceptance of reports – Pastor Luke moved, and Jean seconded to approve – passed.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business-

Discussions about frequency of meetings of boards and committees. We will have an all-church meeting in September to discuss what the boards and committees would look like with different frequency of meeting times and then conclude with a vote in October at the annual meeting depending on the outcome of the September discussion.

Further talk was done about FCC's identity. Talked as a group about who we are. Talked about the 3 streams of the church. Sacramental, evangelical, and charismatic. Take the best one of these ideas (streams) and live it out as a church. The EC talked about the church as being Evangelical. Talked about different ways to make the church more Sacramental. Communion more than once a month? Discussion was started and a motion was made by Carrie to have communion given by pew and intinction on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month starting in September. Stacey seconded. Passed.

Pastor Luke closed with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Next Meeting is Monday, July 28, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. in the library.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie DeMull

Communion Update:

On the recommendation of the Board of Deacons, the Executive Council has decided to increase the frequency of communion. Starting in September, we will have communion twice a month (the first and third Sundays). In the future, we will explore increasing the frequency from there (i.e. During Advent and Lent or just weekly in general). As we celebrate our 150th Anniversary we are also asking what are the new things God is asking us to do. This is one area where we embrace our "deep roots" as communion has been a central aspect of Christian worship throughout history. We are excited to see what God will do as we start this new chapter.



Something New - Pastor Luke



We are rapidly approaching our 150th Anniversary on August 9th. I am so excited about what is planned for this big birthday. But moments like this are not just about looking back, they also provide time to look to the future. We are a deeply rooted AND future-focused church. We look forward to who God wants us to be. This anniversary is also a chance to ask what new things will help us fulfill God's mission for FCC in Fremont. Ways we can better make disciples of Fremont. One way we can do that is to build on one of our strongest features- our diversity. FCC has always been a church that unites around the worship of our Lord and Savior and allows for a diversity of opinions on secondary issues. We allow disagreement and encourage discussion of those disagreements in love. We have all types of believers from Pentecostals to Greek Orthodox worshipping together. And that is the heart of a congregational church unity in essentials and love in everything. We look to the future and contemplate what new things are needed and can look at the various streams of Christianity and incorporate the best of each.

I would argue that you can divide Christianity into three streams, each differentiated by its main focus. Each has strengths and weaknesses. The first stream is focused on tradition and sacrament. These churches have set liturgies that can be traced back to the early church, they follow the lectionary and have weekly communion. This stream places a high value on the history of the church particularly the early church. This focus gives these churches a lot of depth. We have started to lean into this by following the lectionary and church year. We can grow in this stream by having communion more often and having a more sacramental understanding of it (sacramental meaning that grace is given through physical objects like bread, wine, and water) and by learning more from the greatest thinkers of the past.

The second stream is the stream we as a church live into most. This stream emphasizes the Bible, mission, and evangelism. The strength of this stream is its love for and time spent in the Bible, its goal of serving others, and sharing the good news of Jesus with everyone. We are a church that lives out these strengths. We place a high value on the Bible and digging into the word. We strive to do good in the world through all our actions. And we are growing in our evangelism. There is not much to add to this stream. Rather our work here is to grow.

The third stream emphasizes emotional worship and God's direct work in the world through the Holy Spirit. This may be the fastest-growing part of Christianity today. This stream is known for its joyful, emotional worship and expectation to experience God's intervention. It places a lot of importance on being filled with and sensitive to

the movement of the Spirit. This stream may be the most distant from the FCC. But there is much we can take from this stream while still being true to who we are. First, we can place a great emphasis on the Holy Spirit and the Spirit's work in the church. We can seek to be sensitive to the move of the Spirit and develop an expectation of seeing God work in the world. We can also be open to greater emotions and passion in our worship.

As we look for what God wants to add to who we are and reflect on what the next chapter of FCC is. It is helpful to look at what our brothers and sisters in the Lord are doing and bring in their strengths. The depth of the first stream, the mission of the second, and the Spirit-empowered life of the third are all things we can build on. God has big plans for FCC and wants to continue to use us to build his kingdom in Fremont. All we need to do is be open to the new thing God is seeking to do in us.

July Dates to Note:

Wednesday, July 2 - 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
Sunday, July 6 - 10:00 a.m. Community Worship at the Shack
Sunday, July 6 - 11:30 a.m. Deacons Meeting
Wednesday, July 9 - 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
Friday, July 11 - Life Line Screening - Fellowship Hall
Sunday, July 13 - 10:00 a.m. Worship
Monday, July 14 - 6:30 p.m. Tech Board
Tuesday, July 15 - 10:00 a.m. Trustees
Wednesday, July 16 - 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
Saturday - July 19 - 5:30 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner for Civic Leaders - Fellowship Hall
Sunday, July 20 - 10:00 a.m. Worship
Wednesday, July 23 - 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
Sunday, July 27 - 10:00 a.m. Historical Worship Service
Sunday, July 27 - Noisy Offering Sunday
Monday, July 29 - 6:30 p.m. Executive Council
Wednesday, July 30 - 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study



Christmas Crafters - Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Men's Coffee - M/W/F - 9:30 a.m.
Woodshop Open - 10:00 a.m. when two or three are gathered

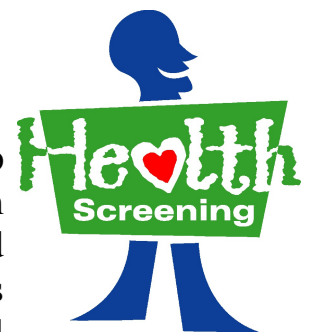
Community Worship Service:

Sunday, July 6th, our church will be participating in a special outdoor worship service at **The Shack**, beginning at 10:00 am. You can look forward to a vibrant morning of praise and fellowship as we join with multiple local churches to worship outdoors. After the service, stick around for refreshments and fellowship! This unique service will feature a sermon from Pastor Kent Rottman, a former Fremont native and interim pastor at Second Christian Reformed Church and inspiring music from the Grace Adventures Ministry Team. An offering will be received to support Grace Adventures Ministries. Accessibility is a priority! Golf carts will be readily available to assist anyone needing help getting from the parking area into the park. Don't let mobility concerns keep you from joining us. Please bring your own chairs or blankets for comfortable seating. Should weather not cooperate, our service will move to First Christian Reformed Church located at 721 Hillcrest Ave. Come celebrate your holiday weekend by worshipping with fellow believers in unity!



Life Line Screening:

Friday July 11 - Life Line Screening will once again be in Fellowship Hall. A simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screening, enabling you to take charge of your health. Using ultrasound technology, Life Line screening can now actually see inside your arteries for plaque buildup, one of the leading causes of stroke. To sign up call 800-772-8243.



July Birthdays

7 Michael Stroschin

16 Ruth Cowles

19 Shelli Waldo

23 June Britt

Jennifer Dekleva **July Anniversaries**

2 Craig & Susan Zeerip

26 Ted & Barb Clark



TO: Church Members and Friends
SUBJECT: 150th Anniversary



In 2023, we formed a small committee to focus on celebrating a major milestone in our church's history: its 150th Anniversary. You will see a number of things over the next few months including historical articles, advertising, memorabilia and special events.

Without ruining all of the surprises, we do need your support and participation and encourage you to engage in the following:

- 1) Share your memories with each other and the anniversary committee.
- 2) Consider this is not only a "Yea! Us" celebration, but also a chance to discuss why we have been here for 150 years and how we hope to be here another 150 years with Jesus as the answer.
- 3) Remember we are "Deeply Rooted – Future Focused" and take this opportunity to discover our roots and explore how we can strengthen our foundation to last well into the future.

In addition, we need your help in hosting two of the planned events:

- 1) We are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner for the local civic leaders and their families with our church leadership on **Saturday evening, July 19th**. In addition to having some of our church leaders in attendance, we are requesting your help with food preparation, serving, clean-up, etc. This event will be in the Fellowship Hall.
- 2) We will have a "Neighborhood Block Party" for the community after church service on **Sunday, August 10**. Again, we could use your help with food prep, serving and clean-up. We plan to have some young strong help to manage handling the tables and chairs for this outside picnic.

We will provide a sign-up sheet outside of Lorene's office if you would be willing to volunteer for either or both events.

We also want you to understand that funding for this historical celebration is provided by a church member and none of the expenses will be coming out of our general funds.

We are very excited about the entire anniversary celebration season and hope all of you will be able to participate and enjoy it. Thank-you.

Your 150th Anniversary Committee – Lou Deleguardia, Judy Nadeau, Jim Rynberg and Pastor Luke.

Our Church Family -

Health Concerns:

We continue to remember **Carol Black** who is under hospice care and **Betty Dougan** with medical concerns.



Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to the family of Wanda Price - mother of Dan and Kathy Price and mother-in-law of Mat Emerick. Her service was held in the church on Wednesday, June 18 with Pastor Luke officiating

We extend our sympathy to the family of Siria Pinnick. The service for Siria was held on Saturday, May 24 in the sanctuary with Pastor Luke officiating.



Siria Fedora Marie Mary Delores Pieri Pinnick was born on May 13, 1926, and passed away peacefully on March 23, 2025. Yes, that was her full name; her 3 daughters have NMN -no middle name- because she felt that she had a few too many. This was typical of Siria, who liked to forge her own path. She married Joseph F. Pinnick (deceased) on February 15, 1947, and together they had 4 children- Cristine Holstrom (Tom – deceased), Patricia Decker (deceased) (Paul), Kathleen Bartholomew (John), and Thomas. She had 8 grandchildren: Jennifer Decker Jackson (Terrence), Sarah Decker Sitzer (Luke), Abigail Holstrom, Elizabeth Holstrom Monaweck, John Bartholomew, Joe Bartholomew, Katie Bartholomew Kiss (David), and Matthew Fletcher. She also had 8 great-grandchildren: Miah, Brynn, Taryn, Paige, Mabel, Jace, Lumi and Jude. She had a great-great grandson, Kroix. She cherished her special relationship with her niece, Diane Prater.

Siria was the “fun” mom and grandmother. She was always up for an adventure, a new craft or game, and loved to entertain. Her family was important in her life, but she also had so many outside interests – she clerked at Graichen’s – a prominent women’s store in Fremont - and relished her years as a contributor to the Fremont Times Indicator. She taught aerobics, skied, and played golf and tennis. Siria was involved in state and local politics and never shied away from letting you know how she felt about a candidate or an issue.

Siria loved to shop! One of her favorite activities in her later years was to visit garage sales with her garage sale buddy, Ellie. Her children and grandchildren were often recipients of her found treasures. She also loved to travel and together with husband Joe was able to explore multiple continents.

Siria was a unique character – from her original name to her outgoing personality, her willingness to open her doors to visitors, guests, and family, her skill at cooking and creating delicious meals, and her spirit of adventure. She was the model for strong Pinnick women and granddaughters. She will be missed.

Memorial contributions can be made to Harbor Hospice online (harborhospicemi.org) or mailed to 1050 W. Western Ave #400, Muskegon, Mi 49441. Memorial contributions may also be sent to Fremont Congregational Church, 714 Hillcrest Ave, Fremont, Mi 49412.