



The Carillon August, 2026

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



Sunday, August 9 ~ Come, celebrate 151 years ~
Worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a breakfast brunch.
ALL ARE WELCOME!!

In Every Season, Turn to God

Are you enjoying a happy time? Praise God.

Is life becoming difficult? Seek God.

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? Worship God.

Are you suffering great pain? Trust God.

Are you unsure what to do? Ask God.

Are you overwhelmed with joy? Thank God.



It Is No Secret: A Song Born of Transformation

Billy Graham's public ministry gained national attention at the Rose Bowl in 1949, where a remarkable response marked the beginning of a historic movement. He returned to the same venue in November 2004, 55 years later, to commemorate that milestone.

Before the 1949 event, Billy appeared as a guest on a radio show hosted by songwriter and performer Stuart Hamblen. During the broadcast, Hamblen encouraged listeners to attend the meetings at the Rose Bowl. Before leaving, Billy invited Hamblen to attend as well. Though not a Christian at the time, Hamblen agreed. (His wife, however, was a believer.)

That evening, Hamblen did not go forward with others to profess faith in Christ, but he left deeply unsettled. Later that night, he went to Graham's hotel, where he shared his restless spirit. Through Billy's witness and prayer, Hamblen gave his life to the Lord.

Soon after, actor John Wayne asked him, "Stuart, what's this about you hitting the sawdust trail?"

Hamblen replied, "That's no secret, John, what God has done for me. He can do it for you or anyone else."

Wayne responded, "That sounds like a song. Why don't you write one?"

And so, "It Is No Secret (What God Can Do)" was born.

Hamblen later wrote many Gospel songs, once saying, "I try to write music with a spiritual uplift instead of a moral downbeat."

Chorus of "It is No Secret":

*It is no secret - What God can do - What He's done for others - He'll do for you
With arms wide open - He'll pardon you - It is no secret - What God can do.*





AUGUST

2026

August Dates to Note:

August 2 - Worship with communion 10:00 am
August 2 - Deacon's Meeting following worship 11:30 am
August 3 - Women's Fellowship Board 10:00 am
August 9 - Worship 10:00 a.m.
August 9 - Church Anniversary/Birthday 151 years - Breakfast Brunch 11:30 am
August 10 - Tech meeting - 6:30 p.m.
August 12 - Bible Study with Beth 6:00 pm
August 16 - Worship with Communion 10:00 am
August 16 - Strawberry Short Cake and Ice Cream Treats following worship
August 17 - Ladies Summer Gathering at Carrie DeMull's 12:00 noon
August 17 - August 24 - Rooms of Refuge in Fellowship Hall
August 19 - Trustees Meeting 1:30 pm
August 23 - Worship 10:00 am
August 24 - Executive Council 6:30 pm
August 30 - Worship 10:00 am

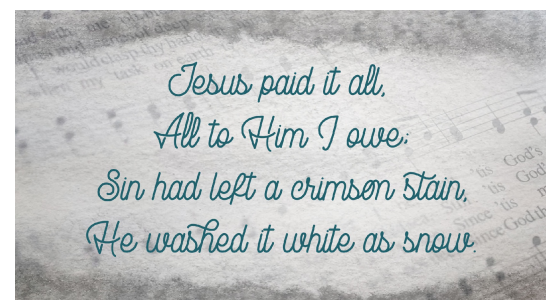
Christmas Crafters - Thursdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Men's Coffee - M/W/F - 9:30 am - ?

Woodshop Open - M/W/F - 10:00 am - ?

Accept forgiveness from God and put your sin behind you.

It is not our business to remember what God has forgotten.





Our Church Family:

Remember to keep in your prayers and thoughts those battling cancer, those not feeling 100%, those who aren't able to come to church, those who are shut in, those who are lonely, those who are just tired and feel worn out, those dealing with pain, those who are grieving, and those who have moved away from us especially Sally DeShetler and Yvonne Lee.

Ladies:

Have you signed up for the **Summer Gathering** at the home of Carrie DeMull?

Monday - August 17 - 12:00 noon

Bring a small dish to pass - Chicken Salad Croissants will be provided

We will car pool from church at 11:30 am



Sunday, August 16

Join us following worship to say “**thank you tech booth volunteers**” - YOU are appreciated!! We will have strawberry shortcake and ice cream treats. Our tech booth is maned by Jeff Stewart, Kendra Pfeiffer, Robin DeKleva, April Fletcher and Carrie DeMull.

August Birthdays

- 4 Jack Butterick
- 7 Pat Krehn
- 8 Jeff Stewart
- 14 Jack Stewart
- 16 Crystal Schmalz
- 29 Elise Pfeiffer
- 31 Heidi Redding



August Anniversaries

- 2 Luke & Karla Pfeiffer
- 4 Pastor Luke & Crystal Schmalz
- 5 Glenn & Robin Dickmann
- 11 Jeff & Susan Stewart
- 21 Dean & Jean Morehouse
- 22 Jack & Fran Stewart
- 24 Tony & Carrie DeMull
- 31 Mike & Jane Stroschin



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 20, 2026

DRAFT

Present: Stacey Church – Moderator, Dean Morehouse – Men’s Fellowship, Bill Black – Trustees, Carrie DeMull – Clerk/Deacons, Jean Morehouse – Women’s Fellowship/Board of Charitable Giving

Absent: Luke Schmalz – Pastor

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.
Stacey Church opened with prayer and called the meeting to order.
- II. Carrie DeMull made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Dean Morehouse seconded. Passed
- III. Public comments
 1. Growth Initiative: Dean Morehouse
The EC referenced the bulletin board on the wall that has the goals for 2026 on it. The goals that we decided on we have surpassed or are in the works. 50 visitors this year. As of July 20, we have had 62 visitors. Small groups are going strong. The booth at the Gerber Baby Food Festival is happening. We need some new goals. How does the congregation feel about our church and what direction we are headed? Let’s talk about it and let someone on the Executive Council know what your thoughts are. The anniversary/birthday of our church is August 9. There will be a pancake breakfast after worship. Come join us downstairs after worship on August 9 to celebrate. August 16, after worship, we will recognize the tech booth volunteers with a strawberry shortcake coffee hour downstairs. Come join us! Many milestones to celebrate!
 2. Security Review Update: Gary Hooker – No update.

IV. Board Reports

A. Board of Deacons – Carrie DeMull

- Harmony Hybrid Open House was July 17. The parents will see the church and the classroom space. Stacey Church and Bill Black represented FCC in Pastor Luke's absence. It was a very successful event with many families in attendance. The kid's energy on the 3rd floor was delightful, and the parents seemed please despite the temperature and humidity. The August 18 car wash fundraiser that was scheduled was cancelled due to the air quality alerts from the Canadian wildfires.
- July 19, Rap Posnik filled in for Pastor Luke leading worship. Pastor Luke was on vacation. Pastor Luke will bless the bread and juice before he leaves for vacation.
- August 9 is the churches 151 anniversary/birthday celebration down in fellowship hall. There will be a pancake breakfast served following worship.
- August 17-24, Rooms of Refuge will be here. Look for a signup sheet by the office to help provide part of a dinner.
- The last two weeks of July, Pastor Luke will be available by text after class.
- Calling the congregation to check in is going well.
- We are in the first stages of implementing a distinct way to follow-up with guests that come to church. We will be giving them a Welcome Bag, but we will start follow-up right away and get their contact information. More to come on this later.

B. Board of Christian Education – No Report

C. Board of Trustees – Bill Black

- Financially we are doing very well. Income is at 63%, with expenses at 50%.
- Plumber was here to finish the restroom repairs downstairs.
- Jeff Stewart and Bill Black are working on the steeple lights. They will be anchored in the ground, instead of high up in the steeple.
- Will be getting new lights up front for our church sign.
- 2 new fans for the sanctuary have been bought and put in.

D. Women's Fellowship- Jean Morehouse

- The summer annual gathering at Carrie DeMull's house will be August 17 at noon. Chicken salad sandwiches will be served. Drinks will be provided. Please bring a small dish to pass. Carpooling will happen at church at 11:30 am if anyone would like to ride together. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex and downstairs in fellowship hall.
- We will start meeting again in August.
- A soup luncheon will take place after worship to help raise money for the Crop Walk. This soup luncheon will be in place of the Friday night spaghetti supper.

E. Men's Fellowship – No Report.

V. Pastor's Report – No Report

VI. Acceptance of reports – Dean Morehouse motioned to accept the above reports. Bill Black seconded. Passed

VII. Old Business - None

- August 9 breakfast is set with Men's Fellowship serving and Jeff Stewart cooking.
- Tech Booth recognition Sunday will be August 16 after worship. Enjoy strawberry shortcake and coffee after worship.

VIII. New Business

- The EC did accept the resignation of Jack Stewart as he has resigned from the Technology Committee.

IX. For the Good of the Order

- Harmony Hybrid may be a good recipient of our Noisy Offering collections for the next few months.

Meeting adjourned with a closing prayer by Stacey Church at 8:22 pm.

Next Meeting is Monday, August 24, at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Carrie DeMull

When the Road Gets Rough

It had been a long trip home, and the weary traveler still had miles to go. So when a sign appeared reading, “Rough Road Ahead — 4 miles,” he braced himself.

Rough was an understatement. The lanes narrowed, the shoulder disappeared, and traffic slowed to a crawl. Drivers carefully weaved around potholes and construction equipment, inching forward one stretch at a time. But just as the sign promised, after four difficult miles, the road opened up and smoothed out again.

Jesus offers a similar kind of clarity about life. In John 16:33 (NIV), He says, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Notice He doesn’t say we might face trouble. It is part of the journey. There will be stretches that feel slow, uncertain and hard.

Notice that Jesus didn’t say we “might” have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled by hope.

The promise is just as certain as the warning sign. The rough road does not last forever, and it does not have the final say. Christ has already gone before us, and smoother ground is ahead.

