

# The Carillon

## July, 2026

First Congregational Church  
Your Independent Worship Center  
714 Hillcrest Drive - Fremont MI 49412  
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### THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 22, 2026 **DRAFT**

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

I. Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm. Stacey opened with prayer and called the meeting to order.

II. Pastor Luke made A motion to accept the minutes as written. Dean Morehouse seconded them. Passed II.

#### Public comments

##### 1. Growth Initiative: Dean Morehouse

Dean asked us to review and read the handout, “The Next Step.” What is the next step? Change can be exciting, but also scary. Are we ready for a blended worship service again? How do we attract younger people to our congregation. We have seen a lot of growth in the last few months. How do we keep the momentum going?

##### 2. Security Review Update: Gary Hooker – No update.

#### IV. Board Reports

##### A. Board of Charitable Giving – Jean Morehouse

- The last 3 months the congregation has been supporting YFC. We have sent 7 children to camp this summer.
- Noisy Offering will be happening on June 28.
- Charitable giving will decide after the special By Law vote/congregational meeting on June 28 which charitable organization we will be giving to during the next quarter.

##### B. Board of Deacons – Carrie DeMull

- Rooms of Refuge will be back in August.
- 42 people attended the Town Hall meeting on June 6.
- The 2 initiatives that the deacons have launched are going well. Have you invited someone to church. The WOW text launch has begun on Wednesday mornings.
- Pastor Luke’s schooling has started, and he will be in Ohio from July 20 –

31. He will be preaching on July 26.

- Pastor Luke will be on vacation July 13 – 19. Rap will be preaching on that Sunday.
- Pastor Luke has started summer hours. Call the church office before driving in to make sure someone is there.
- July 5th there will be another Ecumenical service at the downtown market at 10:00 am.
  - YFC will be using our church on June 9 and June 23. The congregation has supplied food for the children in attendance.
  - June 30, at 5:00 pm there will be a YFC picnic at the Fremont Lake Park with the congregation being invited. The main dish will be provided. Just bring a dessert to share and let Jack Butterick know you will be coming.
    - The deacons have started calling the congregation to check in and see how everyone is doing and if they need anything from the church or the deacons.
    - The plan for hot weather: We will be using either fellowship hall to worship downstairs if the weather is hot or the small chapel. There will be a microphone and speaker system set up downstairs. We will sit fellowship style at the round tables or move into the chapel.
      - The EC has voted to put the revised Constitution and By-Laws up for a vote to the congregation on June 28.
      - Pastor Luke is doing the Father's Day service and all the men in the congregation get cookies.
      - There was a discussion of needs of the congregation while Pastor Luke is gone. Lorene will be giving out the names of the Co-Chairs of the Deacons if help is needed.

#### C. Music Committee Report: Dean Morehouse

- Jackson Brooks began playing the organ 2 Sundays ago.
- There will be no Deb Emerick concert this summer.
- Church has 3 pianos. All 3 will be kept and used.

#### D. Board of Christian Education – No Report

#### E. Board of Trustees – Bill Black

- Financially we are doing very well.
- A letter will be going out to the congregation updated them on the parking lot paving that will be happening June 30 – July 8. No parking at the church during this time. The parking lot will have a smaller footprint than it does now with more green space.
  - 2 more fans will be bought for the sanctuary to use this summer to use during hot weather.
  - The new door closure systems will be looked at again because they are stiff and hard to open.

#### F. 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 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.

- Baby Food Festival is coming July 21 – 25. The Women’s Fellowship will have a booth there on Kid’s Day the 22nd of July from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. We will be giving out suckers and having the children “Come Find Jesus.” They will get a mini-Jesus figure to take home. Brochures about our church will also be available. Women’s Fellowship will be downtown at the booth. Come join us.

- The bulletin boards are being recovered downstairs.

- No meeting in July. Next meeting will be August 3.

- Sunday, September 20, Women’s Fellowship will provide a soup luncheon as a fundraiser for the Crop Walk. Do we have a new contact for the crop walk or a representative since Jack Butterick has stepped down? Will take this up with the deacons at our next meeting.

#### G. Technology Board – Jack Stewart- No Report

#### H. Men’s Fellowship – Dean Morehouse

- Thanks to Bill Black and Ted Caris for getting speakers and chefs for this year’s Men’s Fellowship meetings.

- No summer meetings. We will start back up in the fall.

#### V. Pastor’s Report - Pastor Luke

- No service at church July 5.

- Vacation July 13 – 19.

- Rap is preaching on July 19.

- Stacey and Bill are working with Harmony Hybrid, a home school organization, that will be using our church. They will be having a car wash fundraiser and an open house/informational meeting sometime in July. Pastor Luke has a phone meeting with the director on Wednesday, June 24.

- August 9 is the church anniversary. Will be having a celebration and breakfast after church.

- August 17-24 Rooms of Refuge will be using Fellowship Hall. Look for a sign-up sheet to sign up for dinners.

#### VI. Acceptance of reports – Carrie DeMull motioned to accept the above reports. Bill Black seconded. Passed

#### VII. Old Business

- Special meeting right after church on June 28 to approve the new church constitution and by-laws.

#### VIII. New Business

- An anniversary celebration for the church will take place on August 9. We will be having a breakfast after worship.

- Ecumenical service discussion: Few people attended the Memorial Day service downtown. There will be a July service downtown. Would there be enough interest in the congregation to have a Labor Day service at the church? Will the congregation see it as a division in our leadership? We decided to continue for this

summer and have a discussion at the congregational meeting this fall to talk about next year.

IX. For the Good of the Order

- There will be recognizing the Tech Booth volunteers on Sunday, August 16, after worship. Ice cream treats/strawberry shortcake will be served downstairs in fellowship hall.

Meeting adjourned with a closing prayer by Pastor Luke at 8:32 pm.

Next Meeting is Monday, July 20 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted Carrie DeMull

**Church Parking Lot:**

The Board of Trustees, after due consideration, has decided to repave our parking lot and driveways. We will not be repaving the entire lot. We will pave about 75% of the existing lot. Those areas we are not using, against the golf course, and some of the area to the south will be ripped up and replanted with grass.



Work will begin on Tuesday, June 30th and will be completed in a day or two. We are being asked to stay off the new ash vault for about a week while it is cured. The timing works well, because we will not have a service here on Sunday, July 5th. That is the weekend of the ecumenical service downtown at the farmer's market. We are asking people that will be coming to Men's coffee or crafters to use the parking space available across the street at the Christian Church. The woodshop will be closed during this time, but Men's Coffee, Crafters, normal office hours, and other activities will continue as normal. We will have tape across the driveways until the ash vault has cured, about 6days after paving.

Our Church has experienced a generous outpouring of income of pledges and donations, and this combined with prudent investing and a generous stock market has made this possible. However, if you would like to contribute to this project, it would be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made out to Fremont Congregational Church with "parking lot" on the memo line.

Thank You All for your cooperation during this week and thank God for a new parking lot!

Blessings!  
Bill Black



**Church Anniversary:**

Come worship on Sunday, August 9 at 10:00 a.m.  
Following worship will be have breakfast in celebration of our  
Church Anniversary - 151 years and going strong!!!



**PLUS**

**60 & 90**

Did you notice the fish bowl & the colored ping pong balls on the bulletin table? Let's see how many people we can invite this summer. For every person you invite put a ball in the fish bowl. Let's try and fill it up and let it overflow!



**Joint Worship**

There will be NO church service here next Sunday, July 5 - we will join area churches with a joint service at 10:00 a.m. at the Farmer's Market. Bring a chair for seating (a few chairs are available).



**Bible Study with Beth**

The Women's Bible Study with Beth will meet for the remainder of the Summer on July 8 and August 12.



## Prayer - Pastor Luke



In Mark chapter 9, we find the story of a young man possessed by a demon. The boy's father brought him to the disciples, and they were unable to cast the demon out. Jesus arrives and does so with ease. The disciples approach him later on and ask why they could not do so. Jesus tells them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer." The disciples failed not because God did not want to heal this child nor because God did not want to work through them. But because the disciples were not in alignment with God. They

thought doing the work of God was about the right technique or personal knowledge. They thought by relying on themselves they could heal the boy, and so they failed. To succeed, they needed complete dependence on God. This is what prayer does. It does not change God but transforms us. It opens us up to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. It moves us into greater unity with and dependence on our heavenly Father. Prayer changes us and opens us up to God working through us.

This matters for us today because it is easy to depend on ourselves. We are smart and talented; we can do it. Also, if we succeed, then we get all the credit. So we don't act on faith. We do the right programs, read the right books, and work hard. Nothing wrong with any of that but we don't need God for any of it. We exclude God from the work of the church and then wonder why we did not succeed. Prayer is the secret to success in God's work. If we hope to succeed in building a church that will be here in another 150 years, we must become a people of prayer. If we hope for church growth, we must pray. If we want to see more children in our Sunday school, we need to pray every day for it. The revitalization of First Congregational Church of Fremont will happen by nothing but prayer. If I have one hope for this summer, it is that this summer we become a church that prays.

## Women's Summer Gathering at Carrie's

Mark your calendar for Monday, August 17 for a Summer Lunch at Carrie DeMull's at 12:00 noon. The main dish will be provided (chicken salad crossaints) - please bring a side dish to pass. Car Pooling will be available from the church parking lot.

Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall or by the church office or call the church (924-4710) so proper planning can be made.



## 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

### July Dates to Note:

July 2 - No Crafters due to parking repaving

July 3 - Church Office closed in observance of Independence Day

July 4 - Independence Day - Happy Birthday! America

July 5 - NO Worship here - Joint Worship at the Farmer's Market - 10:00 a.m.

July 6 - NO Women's Fellowship Board Meeting

July 8 - Deacons Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

July 8 - Bible Study with Beth - 6:00 p.m.

July 12 - Worship - 10:00 a.m.

July 13 - 19 - Pastor Luke on vacation

July 14 - Small Group (Pat's) - home of Carrie DeMull - 10:00 a.m.

July 15 - Trustees - 1:30 p.m.

July 17 - "Tour the Hybrid" 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

July 18 - Hybrid Car Wash - church parking lot - 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

July 19 - Worship with Pastor Rap - 10:00 a.m.

July 20-31 - Pastor at class

July 20 - Executive Council 6:30 -p.m.

July 24 - Life Line Screening - Fellowship Hall 8:00 a.m. - ?

July 26 - Worship 10:00 a.m.

July 28 - Small Group (Pat's) - home of Pat Krehn - 10:00 a.m.

M/W/F - Men's Fellowship Coffee - 9:30 a..m. - ?      Thursdays - Christmas Crafters - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



## Harmony Hybrid

With the approval of the Executive Council a home school group called “Harmony Hybrid” led by Denise Halgren will be renting the upstairs area of the church. Denise is currently on a military base in Maryland and is retired. She will be moving to Fremont to be closer to her grandchildren. Harmony Hybrid is a Christian tutoring and educational support service for local home school families. It provides small-group instruction and academic enrichment to supplement home learning.

Their Mission Statement: At Harmony Hybrid, we are committed to offering a Christian education that focuses on training up a generation with academic excellence. Our goal is to empower each student to realize their God-given potential, preparing them to navigate life’s challenges and positively impact the world.

Vision Statement: The Harmony Hybrid will be an ambassador of the kingdom of God, providing a Christ centered education through Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and a strong partnership between the staff, students, families and surrounding community.

They currently have 29 students enrolled. They plan to use the third floor on Tuesday and Thursday’s from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

July 17 - tours to prospective and registered families (classrooms will not be finished), their staff will be present. 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

July 18 - a fundraiser will be held in the parking lot - a car wash - 11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

They have a Facebook page (Harmony Hybrid of Fremont).

From Denise: *Thank you again for being a HUGE part of this community endeavor. I can't tell you how many times we have heard people say that your church is the biggest blessing for leasing us this space.*



COMING FALL 2026  
**HARMONY HYBRID**

**ABOUT HH**  
Harmony Hybrid is a Christian tutoring and educational support service for local homeschool families. Harmony Hybrid will exist to provide small-group instruction, academic enrichment, and community connection for children who learn primarily at home.

**CONTACT**  
Denise Halgren  
Email: harmonyhybridfremont@gmail.com  
Phone: (269) 357-1922

**QUICK FACTS**

- Tues/Thurs 9 am -2 pm
- Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Drop and go
- \$65/wk (sibling discounts)
- Held on the campus of First Congregational Church (714 Hillcrest)
- Enrollment is open now!
- Now hiring teachers
- Find more information on Facebook, "Harmony Hybrid of Fremont"

**HARMONY HYBRID OF FREMONT**  
FAITH • EDUCATION • FAMILY



