

# The Carillon March, 2024

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

February 26, 2023

Present: Lou Deleguardia - Moderator, 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

Absent: Beth Hooker – Board of Christian Ed, Jack Butterick - Board of Charitable Giving

I. Meeting called to order at 6:42. Lou gave the opening prayer

II. Approval of the January 22, 2024 meeting minutes: Dean moved to approve, Pat seconded, passed

III. Public comments – none

### IV. Board Reports

A. Board of Charitable Giving - No Report

B. Board of Deacons – Ruth Cowles

1. Ruth shared that the Calvin Conference went well. Pastor Luke will further elaborate on this.

2. New member/inquiry is going well. 8 people currently are attending. Talk about the 150th anniversary is ongoing.

3. Dean has diligently been working on getting song leaders lined up for our Sunday morning services. The Deacon’s think he is doing an excellent job.

4. Pastor Luke is working on the details for the Hope Initiative.

5. \$650 dollars was raised for Garrett Hanshue honoring his work with the Tech Booth on Sunday mornings.

6. The Music Committee has been having wonderful music during the worship service. Since we have a piano player, do we want the Praise Team to come back and sing

once a month? Discussion followed.

7. Deacon's have been trying to keep in contact with members of the congregation, reaching out to non members and members not attending on a regular basis to make them aware of what is happening at church on a monthly basis.

C. Board of Christian Ed - no report.

D. Board of Trustees – John Cooper

1. Decision was made for no loop system. Trustees are in the process of purchasing a microphone and speaker system. The cost will be less than \$200.

2. Bernie and Mike are building a stand for our book library. Community will be able to get books through a drive through format. Pastor Luke has plans for Bibles and other religious related materials. Maybe put stickers on the inside of every book with the church name on them.

3. Is there a budget for the 150th anniversary celebration?

4. Financial Statement-We have gone through 8% of the year with income being 5% of the budget and expenses are 7% of the budget. With people returning to church, we expect the number to improve over the next few months.

E. Women's Fellowship – Jean Morehouse

No meeting in February. Next meeting will be the 1st Monday in March.

F. Men's Fellowship – Dean Morehouse

1. The Luncheon meeting for February was well attended. Jeff and Susan Stewart provided a garden salad and cupcakes. Dean had Pizza Hut deliver pizza which everyone enjoyed.

3. Pastor Luke gave a thoughtful devotional about some of the conflicts Jesus had about being human.

4. Speaker was Lou Deleguardia representing Edward Jones. He gave an excellent presentation and discussion on the numerous scams that are prevalent on our phones and internet.

5. Treasury Balance \$1,181

6. Next meeting will be March 6. Speaker will be Scott Swinehart, Patriot Farm. Jim Reynburg will do the cooking and Tom Schmidt will lead the devotional.

G. Technology Board – Jack Stewart

1. Still trying to correct video/audio issues.

2. The new developer for the website is working out well. Need help in getting pictures of the exterior of the church, sanctuary pictures, and pictures of Pastor Luke with his robe on.

3. Technology Board wishes Deacon's would take responsibility for the content of the website. No volunteers have come forward. Maybe Stacy's sister Kelly, who loves to take pictures, would like to volunteer.

V. Pastor's Report – Pastor Luke Schmalz

- A. “Rooms for Refuge” a program run by Love, Inc was housed at church for a fill in week and went really well. If another week is needed, we will definitely consider doing it again.
- B. Pastor Luke attended the Calvin Symposium on Worship.
- C. Ash Wednesday service was attended by 12 people.
- D. New Member/Inquirer class started February 18.v There has been an average of 6 to 8 people in attendance.
- E. Family meals have started back up every other week on Wednesday evening.
- F. March 24th is Palm Sunday. Easter is March 31st. Articles will be put in the Times Indicator again regarding the holiday worship schedule.
- G. Pastor Luke would like to take vacation April 1-5. Still firming up the details of that.
- H. During the Men's Lenten Breakfast on February 24, Pastor Luke gave a devotional about “Joy”.
- I. The banners in the lobby were switched out.

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

VII. Old Business – none

VIII. New Business

- A. Lou brought up the idea of needing better communication between boards and committees and supporting the needs of the boards and committees through ongoing communication between the different groups within the church. Discussion followed.
- B. The Committee for Growth and Expansion wants to further this communication between the committees and boards by inviting the congregation to a meeting after worship on the 14th of April . This would give the committee time to announce it during worship, the bulletin, and the monthly newsletter. This meeting will be a casual meeting for the congregation to discuss any topics that they have on their minds including discussion of topics that can't be directed to a specific committee or board.

IX. Lou said the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:54.

Next Meeting is March 25, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. in the Library

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie DeMull

## **Our Church Family:**

### *Health Concerns ~*

We give thanks to those who are recovering nicely from recent surgeries, covid, colds, etc.

We pray our shut ins - Yvonne Lee, Siria Pinnick, Bill Sherman

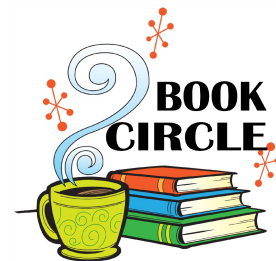


### *Celebrations ~*

Betty Speet will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 19, Her address is 402 E Pine if you would like to send her a note. Happy Birthday, Betty!!

## **Book Circle:**

Book Circle begins their new season on Tuesday, March 5 at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to come. We meet at the Fremont Public Library in the upper level conference room, the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.



## **Men's Lenten Breakfast:**

Saturday's during Lent, February 17 - March 30, 8:00 a.m. at the Church of the Living Christ. All men of the community are encouraged to attend. This years topic is Fruits of the Spirit - Discover the joy of living on God's Kingdom path.



## **Men's Fellowship Luncheon:**

Wednesday, March 6 at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. Scott Swinehart of Patriot Farms will be our speaker. Jim Rynberg is the chef. All men are welcome to attend!!



## **Family Night:**

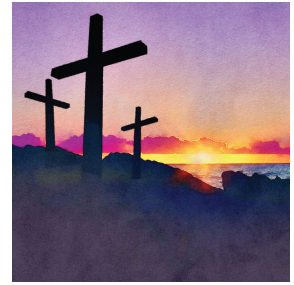
Our Family Night Fellowship began again in February. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Join us on Wednesday March 13 and March 27.



## Easter:

We will have a **Good Friday** service on March 29.

On Sunday, March 31, **Easter Sunday** we will give thanks to the Risen Lord. Easter hymns, special music, an Easter message. Come worship with us!!



## Altar Flowers & Coffee Hosts:



The March/April sign up sheet is located on the counter in Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up to serve coffee or donate flowers for the Altar.

If you have flowers at home you would like to share on Sunday, we welcome those, or as you know Jim is always willing to put an arrangement together for you too.



## Walk Up / Walk in Choir:

We will be singing again on Sunday, March 17. Our hymn will be "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Blue Hymnal #324.

We will meet at 9:15 a.m. to go over the hymn. If you don't make the practice and know the hymn, please join us.



**REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR  
CLOCKS ON  
SATURDAY EVENING  
Spring Forward**



*Thank you to each one who donated  
Easter flowers to help make our sanctuary  
a lovely place in which to celebrate our  
Lord's resurrection.*

Pat, Robin & Jennifer Dekleva in memory of Howard & Mary Pikel and John & JoAnn Dekleva.

Heidi Redding in memory of Harlow W. Redding.

James Rynberg in memory of Lila & John Rynberg.

Jack & Mary Butterick in honor of our parents.

Brad & Stacey Church in honor of their wonderful family & friends.

Arnold & Betty Dougan in honor of family & friends.

Pat Krehn in honor of family & friends.

Dean & Jean Morehouse in honor of our family.

Kelly Parks, Holly & Lyle Shepherd, Stacey & Brad Curch and families in honor of Arnie & Betty Dougan and Jerry Church.

Heidi Redding in honor of my one year old great grand daughter, Willa Mae Daugherty, daughter of Matthew & Lauren Daugherty, all of Ada.

James Rynberg in honor of London Walker; Watson Wuebben.

Jeff & Susan Stewart in honor of Jack & Fran Stewart.

## March Birthdays

7	Peter Lindner Susan Zeerip
14	Stacey Church
19	Betty Speet
23	Bernie Denney
31	Barb Clark



## March Anniversaries

24 David & Mary Zeerip



## **Dates to Note:**

Sunday, March 3 - 10:00 a.m. worship w/ communion  
Sunday, March 3 - 11:15 a.m. New Member Class  
Monday, March 4 - 10:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship Board  
Tuesday, March 5 - 1:00 p.m. Book Circle  
Wednesday, March 6 - 12:00 noon Men's Fellowship Lunch  
Sunday, March 10 - 10:00 a.m. Worship  
Sunday, March 10 - 11:15 a.m. New Member Class  
Monday, March 11 - 6:30 p.m. Tech Board  
Wednesday, March 13 - 6:00 p.m. Family Night  
Sunday, March 17 - 10:00 a.m. Worship  
Sunday, March 17 - 11:15 Deacons  
Monday March 18 & Wednesday March 20 - Lorene out of office  
Monday, March 18 - 6:30 p.m. Trustees  
Sunday, March 24 - 10:00 Palm Sunday Worship  
Monday, March 25 - 6:30 p.m. Executive Council  
Wednesday, March 27 - 6:00 p.m. Family Night  
Friday, March 29 - Time TBA Good Friday Service  
Sunday, March 31 - 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday worship

M/W/F - 9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee  
M/W/F - 10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open  
Thursday - 10:00 a.m. Christmas Crafters  
Saturday March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 8:00 a.m. Men's Lenten Breakfast



## **Discipline Equals Freedom**

I recently completed Jocko Willink's book, "Discipline Equals Freedom," authored by the former Navy SEAL turned entrepreneur known for his unyielding perspective on business, health, and life. Positioned in the prime target demographic—mid-thirties, career-focused, and in need of a health transformation—I found resonance with his no-excuses approach, especially as health had become a priority after a wake-up call earlier this year.



While Jocko's book initially spurred thoughts about discipline in the context of physical health and fitness, it inevitably led me to ponder its broader applications, particularly in matters of faith. The common misconception suggests that serving God merely requires having faith, and once that is achieved, the journey is complete—an intellectual pursuit. However, this perspective overlooks a significant theme in the Bible—the role of self-discipline.

Living a life devoted to God involves more than faith alone; it requires continuous growth in faith, understanding, and the resilience to resist sin. Learning, by its nature, is challenging, and growth demands effort. In the face of a heart that inclines towards sin, living according to the divine calling necessitates the cultivation of self-discipline.

The imperative of self-discipline in our spiritual journey is underscored by practices like fasting during Lent. Fasting serves as a deliberate effort to foster growth in faith and discipline, preparing us for the inevitable challenges life throws our way. In this way, discipline becomes synonymous with freedom in our spiritual lives. It enables us to grow in faith, fortify ourselves against temptation, and navigate the terrain of our spiritual journey with resilience. Discipline is not just a means to an end but a continuous process, applicable to both the physical and the spiritual realms. It's a transformative tool that empowers us to navigate the complexities of life with freedom and purpose.

