

The Carillon

September, 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 Minutes
August 26, 2024

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

II. Approval of the July 22, 2024 meeting minutes: Pat moved to approve, Pastor Luke seconded, passed.

III. Public comments – None.

IV. Board Reports

A. Board of Charitable Giving - The Board will meet on September 10, 2024 to award the remaining \$1500.00 to local charities and talk about the Crop Walk on October 6, 2024. Barb Veldman is our representative on the planning committee. The Gerber Foundation will match donations from retirees who retired after June 2002. Women's Fellowship will sponsor a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on October 4, 2024.

B. Board of Deacon's-No Report

C. Board of Christian Education-No Report

D. Women's Fellowship-Jean Morehouse

Pat contacted Gary about the handrail for the pulpit area. The supplies are being delivered and installation should be the week of August 26. Bill Black offered to help Gary with this. The Guatemala fundraiser was again tabled until January. The Crop Walk Spaghetti Fundraiser dinner is scheduled for October 4, with a time to be determined. August 28th, during the family dinner, Pat and her daughter in law, Rachael will talk about their trip to California. A picnic style dinner will be served from 6:00 until 7:00. The Coffee Hour supplies have now been transferred from the old WF storage room to the old AV room closer to the kitchen. The next meeting is September 9 at 10:00 a.m.

E. Men's Fellowship-Dean Morehouse

Men's Fellowship will be meeting on Wednesday, September 4. Ted Caris will be here to report next month.

F. Board of Trustees – John Cooper

The pledge letter asking for 2025 pledges has been mailed. September 15 is the deadline for those to come back to the church so that we can present a balanced budget at our October 20 annual meeting. The new motor has been ordered for the kitchen exhaust fan. The Trustees will install it soon. The July Financial summary showed income at 52% of the budget and expenses at 52% of the budget. July is 58% of the year, which means we have had to take less from investments than budgeted.

G. Technology Board – Jack Stewart

The church website is working flawlessly, but updates need to be updated by the Deacon's.

H. Music Committee-Dean Morehouse

There will be special music happening at FCC by the Vandenberg Family this fall. Mat Emerick will have the Patchwork Pear concert at his house on August 29 at 6:30 p.m. Stacy, Martha, and Jack will perform on Sunday, September 22 during worship. On November 10, Matt's niece will perform for the congregation. The Music Committee will be giving Compassion Home a gift of \$20,440. An anonymous donor will be adding another \$20,000 for a total of \$40,440.

V. Pastor's Report-Pastor Luke

Christmas in July was well attended. Pastor Luke officiated at Bill Sherman's funeral. There will be a service in the park on September 1 with no service at church. We will be hosting Rooms of Refuge September 16 – 23. Pastor Luke will be asking other churches to volunteer either bodies or meals. FCC will be participating in the Harvest Festival Parade and the Hay Art. Autumn Sunday will be September 22 or 29. The Chosen will once again be shown at church this fall on Sunday evenings. Advent begins Sunday, December 1. The average attendance for July was 33.

VI. Acceptance of reports – John Cooper moved, and John Stewart seconded to approve – passed.

VII. Old Business-None

VIII. New Business-Rooms of Refuge: September 16-23. A signup sheet will be coming to sign up to volunteer and sign up for meal preparation. September 23, committees will need to bring their agendas to the meeting.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next Meeting is September 23, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. in the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie DeMull

Our Church Family:



Sympathy:

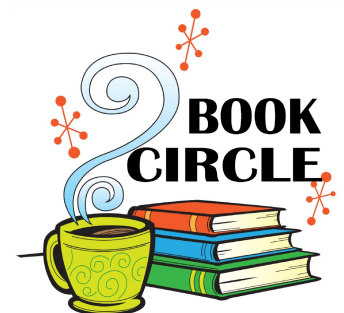
We extend our sympathy to the family of David Zeerip. Mary passed away in Arizona. Services were held in Arizona on August 10. Mary I. Zeerip, 84, of Benson, AZ, (formerly Fremont, Michigan) passed away at home on Friday, August 2, 2024. She was born in Detroit, Michigan on July 1, 1940 to Donald W. Durfee and Clara (Carbine) Durfee. After graduating from Farmington High School, she attended Michigan State University, earning a BS degree in Foods and Nutrition in 1962. She married the love of her life, David, in Wayland, Michigan that same year. They moved to Fremont, Michigan in 1969 to continue their family farm, now Heritage Farms, that was established in 1863. In addition to working alongside her husband in agriculture, she worked as a Dietician for Gerber Baby Food for 10 years in the Research and Development Department. She was a member of First Congregational Church of Fremont since 1970, serving on various boards as well as leading the Bethel Bible Series classes. Mary loved spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren, reading, and traveling to Central America. Mary is survived by her husband, David, of 62 years. She is also survived by her daughter Alison (Gary Lockard) Zeerip and her sons Zachary (Breanna) Dieffenbach and Trevor (Sabrina) Dieffenbach and their daughter, Susan Dieffenbach. Mary is also survived by her son, Craig (Susan) Zeerip and their four children, Justin (Jena) Zeerip and their children Jack, Adeline and Amelia; Brandon (Joanna) Zeerip and their children Briana, Hailey and Isaac; Collin (Mariah) Zeerip and their children Eleanor, Bea and Zeppelin; Lauren (Elijah) Olsen and their children Everly and Lillian. Her parents preceded her in death.

Health Concerns ~

Ann Werner is recovering from a bout of Covid. Keep her in your prayers as she adjusts to her new living space in Novi.

Book Circle:

Book Circle will be Tuesday, September 10 (note date due to the Labor Day Holiday) at the Fremont Public Library at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome!



Rooms of Refuge:

Rooms of Refuge will be using our facility once again on September 16 - 23. We are hoping to serve dinners to those staying here. A sign up sheet is located by the office or call Lorene and she will sign you up.



All Church Meeting:

Pastor Luke is having an All Church Meeting following worship on Sunday, September 29. This is a follow up from the April 14 All Church Meeting.



Annual Meeting:

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 20 following worship. Board Chairs please have your reports to the church office by Sunday, September 29.

Moderator: Lou Deleguardia
Clerk: Carrie DeMull
Trustees: John Cooper
Deacons: Ruth Cowles
Technology Board: Jack Stewart
Christian Ed: Mat Emerick
Altar Committee: Jim Rynberg
Music Committee: Dean Morehouse
Head Greeter: Ted Caris
House Chair: Bill Black
Memorial Garden: Mary Butterick
Nominating Committee: Mary Butterick/Pat Krehn
Women's Fellowship: Gail Cooper/Jean Morehouse
Women's Fellowship Treasurer's Report: Susan Stewart
Woodshop: Bill Black
Men's Fellowship: Dean Morehouse/ Jack Butterick



Stewardship:

Letters were sent with information for your 2025 pledges. In order to prepare a balanced budget for 2024, the Board of Trustees must ask the congregation for the 2025 pledges prior to the annual meeting. If you did not receive a letter and pledge card please let Lorene know and she will see you receive the information. The Trustees ask that pledge cards are received by Sunday, September 15.



Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee is charged with the duty of recommending a slate of elected officers, board and committee members for 2025 to members at the Annual Meeting in October. There are a number of vacancies to be filled. The committee will be calling you to explain the position that are open. Please consider these opportunities and prepare to do God's work.



Mary Butterick & Pat Krehn

Men's Fellowship:

We will meet for lunch together on Wednesday, September 4 at 12:00 noon. Our speaker will be Dr. Eric Shaffer who will speak on nutrition. Lunch will be nutritional sandwiches from the Tamarac Café. All men are welcome!!



Crop Walk, October 6 :

Crop Walk began in 1969, sponsored by Church World Service, to provide food, water and resources that empower hungry/thirsty people around the world to meet their own hunger-fighting programs in their communities. 25% of our donations stay in Newaygo county to help people here.



Women's Fellowship will sponsor a fund-raising Spaghetti Dinner Friday, October 4 and the participation Members/Friends/Guests will be appreciated.

The Gerber Foundation will match donations from former Gerber employees who retired before June 30, 2002 and individuals in this group will receive a Gerber matching grant form from Jack B.

On October 6, Crop Walk registration will begin at 12:45pm in Veteran's Memorial Park and the walk begins at 1:30pm.

The course is 4 miles but for those of us who can't walk the entire route, transportation will be provided back to Veterans Park. No bicycles or tricycles permitted. It is suggested that those with walkers walk around Veterans Memorial Park.

Handouts with details are available at the window of the FCC Kitchen as well as a basket for donations. Please make checks payable to CWS/CROP. Thank you!

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Handouts with details are available at the window of the FCC Kitchen as well as a basket for donations. Please make checks payable to CWS/CROP. Thank you!

The Board of Charitable Giving, Barb V and Jack B

Dates to Note:

Sunday, September 1 - No Worship here
Community Worship at Veterans Park 10:00 a.m.

Monday, September 2 - Labor Day - Church offices closed

Wednesday, September 4 - Men's Fellowship Luncheon - 12:00 noon

Sunday, September 8 - Worship with Communion - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 8 - Deacon's Meeting 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 10 - Book Circle - 1:00 p.m. Fremont Public Library

Sunday, September 15 - Worship 10:00 a.m.
Walk Up Choir
Pledge Cards due!

Monday, September 16-23 Rooms of Refuge

Sunday, September 22 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Special music Stacey, Martha, Jack
Autumn Sunday - Apple Pie at Fellowship Time

Thursday, September 26 - Harvest Parade using our Parking lot

Sunday, September 29 - Worship 10:00 a.m. followed by All Church Meeting
Annual Reports Due!

Thursday's 10:00 a.m. Christmas Crafters

Monday-Wednesday-Friday 9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee

Monday-Wednesday-Friday 10:00 a.m. Woodshop Open
(when two or more are gathered)

Looking ahead:

Crop Walk Women's Fellowship Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser - October 4

Crop Walk - October 6



September Birthdays

- 19 Betty Dougan
20 Brad Church
John Cooper
23 Nancy Lindner
27 Judy Nadeau
Jane Stroschin
29 Troyer Church
30 Norah Schmalz

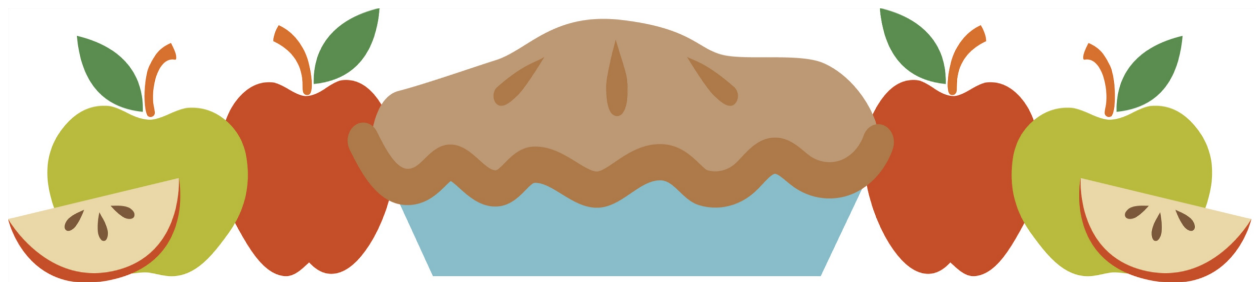


September Anniversaries

- 10 Bill & Carol Black
23 Pete & Nancy Lindner

Autumn Sunday

Come worship with us at 10:00 a.m.
Stay for Fellowship Time and enjoy a slice of
Apple Pie



What are you Harvesting?

Fall is around the corner and I am very excited. The signs are in the air, we have just celebrated Labor Day, school has started, and we have had a run of cool weather. I love fall. I love the weather, the holidays, everything about it. For me, fall feels like the start of the new year. One of the most important parts of fall in any agricultural community is the harvest. I am enjoying watching the farmers begin to harvest their fields.

This image leads me back to the Bible, filled with its agricultural metaphors. The harvest loomed large in the minds of the people in the Bible. Jesus uses the image of harvesting fruit to challenge us to reflect on the outcomes of our actions in Matthew 7. The harvest is revealing. The results don't lie. If the farmer chooses a poor field, plants at the wrong time, is unlucky, or any number of other things it will be revealed in the harvest. And that is true for everyone what you harvest personally, spiritually, and as a community reveals much. As much as we like to act like outcomes don't reflect what is put in this isn't true. What we harvest is the result of what we put in. You don't receive apples when you plant corn. My garden was not very productive this year because I never got around to planting it and those perennial plants in it went un-harvested. It is no one's fault but my own. The harvest revealed the truth.

The question we are to face is what are we harvesting and is it what we want to receive. Do our lives and actions reflect God? Do we like how we are living or not? If we don't like the results then we must change something. If our spiritual life is weak. If our community, church, or family is struggling then we are called to respond. Doing the same thing will result in the same results. Of course, everything does not depend on us. Sometimes the farmer has to deal with too little or too much rain, swings in weather at important moments, and the actions of others. And this is true for us as well there are things that will happen that are out of our hands. But like a good farmer, we must prepare for those things. As Jesus says in Matthew 7:17-20 "Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit, you will recognize them." By our fruit, we will be recognized. What we sow we will harvest. What are we harvesting? Is it the fruit of the Spirit or something else? What can be changed so the harvest is better? As you watch the farmers harvest their fields and the trucks of produce rumble past ask yourself what is the harvest I am bringing in?

Pastor Luke

