

# The Carillon November, 2024

First Congregational Church  
Your Independent Worship Center  
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## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES October 28, 2024 **DRAFT**

Present: Lou Deleguardia - Moderator, Pat Krehn – Vice Moderator, John Cooper – Trustees, Jean Morehouse – Women’s Fellowship, Pastor Luke Schmalz, Carrie De Mull – Clerk, Ruth Cowles - Deacons, Jack Butterick - Board of Charitable Giving

Absent: Jack Stewart - Technology, Ted Caris - Men’s Fellowship

I. Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm. Lou gave the opening prayer.

II. Approval of the September 23, 2024 meeting minutes: Pastor Luke moved to approve, John seconded, passed.

III. Public comments – None

### IV. Board Reports

#### A. Board of Charitable Giving – Jack Butterick

Thank you to the members/friends of FCC for your generous contributions so that we were able to give to many organization in Newaygo County: Compassion Home/Fremont, HERE Hygiene/Inspire/Fremont, NC Prevention of Child Abuse/White Cloud, Community Closet/Fremont, Love, Inc./Rooms of Refuge/Fremont, Empowerment/Fremont, Hope 101 Ministry, Insight Pregnancy/Fremont, Vera’s House/Newaygo, Wellspring/Fremont as well as additional contributions to the Crop Walk. The final number for the Crop Walk was \$1405 ranking us #5 out of 18 participants. Church of the Living Christ and All Saints were the top 2 contributors with a total of \$21,961. \$5,500 stays in Newaygo County. Our budget for 2025 is \$3500.00.

#### B. Board of Deacon’s – Ruth Cowles

Rooms for Refuge stayed at the church in October. Autumn Sunday was well attended. Pastor Luke and Lou attended the Gideon’s Banquet. The Chosen has started weekly Sunday evenings at 5:00. Board approved vacation days for Pastor Luke: October 16, 24, 25. The website needs to prep for fall and Advent. Discussed

the all church meeting. Discussed the vision of the church and how to move forward. Accepted Bernie's withdrawal of membership from the Deacons.

C. Board of Christian Education – Pastor Luke

There has been consistent attendance of 3 children. The group is working on attending church a number of times to earn a 21 scoop Sundae. The injury to a child on October 21 was minor.

D. Board of Trustees – John Cooper

The squirrel damage to the outer door has been fixed. We will probably have to replace the doors in the next 2 to 3 years. The doors are sagging. The gutters containing the little trees have been cleaned out. September is 75% of the year. Income is at 65% because we have not had to take as much money out of investments. Expenses are at 66%.

E. Women's Fellowship-Jean Morehouse

Met at the beginning of the month. The spaghetti dinner for the CROP walk was well attended. The new handrail is installed and it is being used. There was a purchase of a new crock pot to be used for church functions. Coffee hour supplies have been moved to the old AV room along with several kitchen supplies. Looking to purchase new table clothes for luncheons. Looking to purchase enough for all the table. The table clothes will replace the old lace ones. Gearing up for the craft show in December. We will be renaming the "Plum Pudding Shop". Suggestions welcome.

F. Men's Fellowship – Lou

Men's Fellowship has their lunches and guest speakers planned for the next few months. Nothing else to report.

G. Technology Board – No Report

Lou brought up the topic of training for the Tech Booth and getting an easier way to download the service to You Tube. Lou will look into it.

H. Music Committee-Pastor Luke

We will have special music in November with Stacy, Jack, and Karen singing on Sunday November 2. Matt's niece will be November 9.

V. Pastor's Report-Pastor Luke

The Chosen began 2 weeks ago. It is going well. Last month Pastor had 3 days of vacation. Hay Art has wrapped up. We have the canvas that was left over to use. It will be stored in the banner room. It can have removable stickers applied. Women's and Men's Fellowship will collaborate to put posts up in grass by the front of the church by the road so that other banners can be put up at different times of the year. John recommended that Men's and Women's Fellowship talk about it and get a cost. Hoping to be done before the ground freezes so we can advertise for Christmas and Easter. Another Hope Initiative will be starting in November. All Saints Sunday will be November 2. There will be pictures on the altar and a slide show of members that have passed away this year. Judy Nadeau's wedding is happening

in November. Rooms for Refuge will be November 18 – 25. Holding off the next visit until Spring so more members can help. November 24 is Christ the King Sunday. The next Sunday after that is Advent. There will be an all-church meeting November 17, with a follow-up meeting in February.

VI. Acceptance of reports – John and Jack moved, and Pat seconded to approve – passed.

VII. Old Business-None

VIII. New Business

How do we simplify our structure and programs in the church? Focus in on a handful of clear things we want to focus on and lower the burden of the people doing the work. Maybe start by looking at the bylaws to see where we can restructure and combine. Lou suggested an all committee meeting to get clarification of who actually wants to participate in the daily activities of the church and not just be on a committee or board because one was asked. Lou proposed at the next EC meeting to review the mission statement and look at different ways to revise it and get a clearer understanding and clearer picture to see what direction the church needs to go.

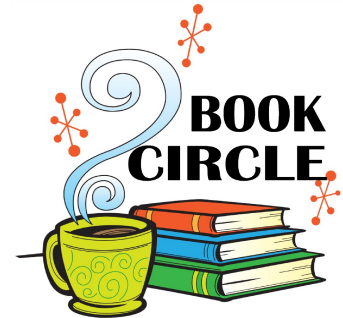
Leadership changes: Tabled

IX. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Next Meeting is November 25, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. in the library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrie DeMull

### **Book Circle**



Our last Book Circle of 2024 will be Tuesday, November 5, 1:00 p.m. at the Fremont Public Library. We will resume again in March, 2025.

### **Men's Fellowship Lunch**

Join us Wednesday, November 6 for our lunch provided by John Cooper. Our speaker will be James Kelly, Executive Direction of MSU Extension. This is open to all men of the church and our community. Come! Invite a friend!





## All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 3 we remembered those who have passed from our congregation in 2024 as well as our loved ones who have passed before us. We remembered Millie Sherman, JoAnn Dekleva, Bill Sherman, Mary Zeerip and Dick Ramm.

## Hope Initiative

Reinvigorate yourself and our church for the task of evangelism that can be completed in 30 days! We will begin another session in November. If you are interested in participating please sign the sheet by the church office or let Lorene know and she will sign you up.



## Rooms of Refuge

Our fellowship hall will be used November 18-25 for those who need a warm place to sleep. We will also be providing meals - if you are willing there is a sign up sheet outside the church office or let Lorene know and she will sign you up.

*Did you know? Since January 2024 Rooms of Refuge has provided shelter for 35 adults and 13 children totaling 816 bed nights!*



## Women's Fellowship Harvest Table:

Our "Harvest Table" is set up by the church office and ends this Sunday, **November 10**. Please consider bringing canned goods, pantry items, health care products, etc. for True North. If you prefer, monetary gifts can be given too. Please put "food pantry" on the memo line of your check written out to True North.





## Christmas Craft Sale and Plum Pudding Shoppe

Saturday, December 7 - Less than one month away! Our ladies have been busy making crafts all year long. Pass the word and let your friends know our sale will be from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Plum Pudding needs your help! You have been generous in the past with your baked goods and specialty items. Please consider helping us again.

In accordance with the State of Michigan Food Requirements this is the required list of food items that can be made for Plum Pudding:

- Breads - not frozen
- Similar baked goods
- Vinegar & flavored vinegar
- Cakes - not refrigerated
- Muffins
- Cooked fruit pies
- Jams & Jellies (in glass jars that can be stored at room temperature)
- Cookies
- Dry herbs and dry herb mixes
- Dry baking mixes
- Dry dip mixes
- Dry soup mixes
- Dehydrated vegetables or fruits
- Popcorn
- Chocolate covered pretzels, marshmallows, graham crackers, rice krispie treats
- Coated or uncoated nuts
- Dried pasta made with eggs
- Roasted coffee beans or ground roasted coffee



All food items have to be labeled with a list of ingredients with your FIRST name, The First Congregational Church 231-924-4710 on the label.



Thank you for your cooperation,  
Mary Butterick, Plum Pudding Coordinator

## Our Church Family:

### *Health Concerns ~*

Our shut ins: *Ann Werner, Yvonne Lee, Karen Zick, Siria Pinnick* - Drop them a note and let them know you are thinking of them!

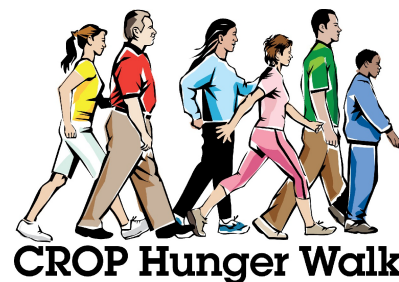
### *Sympathy ~*

We extend our sympathy to *Rachel and Greg Poches*. Rachel's grandmother passed away. She was an intricate part of Rachel's life. Her services will be held the end of the month out west.

Congratulations.... to *Kendra Pfeiffer* from White Cloud Public Schools who was honored as a 2024 Distinguished Lakeshore Educator. Kendra's passion for education and commitment to her students is an inspiration. Kendra received around \$1,000 worth of school supplies.

## 2024 CROP Walk

Thank you one and all for your participation in various ways in support of CROP Walk 2024. You are appreciated!!



\*Approximately 56 walkers and volunteers gathered on a beautiful fall Sunday. Participants viewed local Hay Art while walking.

\*Challenge Teams collecting \$250 or more will receive a \$125 match. There were 13 successful teams which provided an extra \$1625.

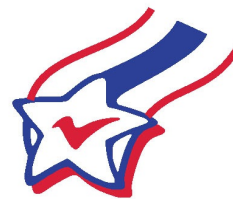
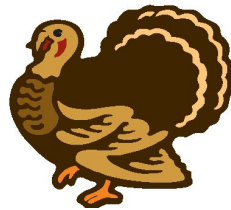
\*Barb Hunsucker, Kay Cummings Clouse and Gail Tilley (our super fundraisers) raised over \$8645 collectively.

\*Crop Hunger Walk info was shared at a Community Worship Service, a "Bee the Change" Library program and sharing at Green Acres.

\*11 Fremont businesses were \$100 Sponsors. Our thank you signs highlighted these businesses at the "Bee the Change" Hay Art.

\*The Chamber of Commerce food collection brought in 306 pounds of food. Much of it was collected at Fremont Christian Church. This food was given to local pantries.

\*More than \$22,700 was collected due to your efforts!



**November Dates to Note:**

- November 2 - Change your clocks - fall back!
- November 3 - All Saints Sunday
- November 3 - Deacon's Meeting 11:30 a.m.
- November 5 - Remember to Vote!
- November 5 - Book Circle 1:00 p.m. Fremont Public Library
- November 6 - Women's Fellowship Board Meeting - 10:00 a.m. (Note date)
- November 6 - Men's Luncheon 12:00 noon
- November 10 - Harvest Ingathering Ends
- November 11 - Tech Board 6:30 p.m.
- November 18 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- November 18 - 25 Rooms of Refuge
- November 24 - Christ the King Sunday
- November 25 - Executive Council 6:30 p.m.
- November 28 - Thanksgiving Day

M-W-F Men's Coffee 10:00 a.m.

M-W-F Wood Shop open 10:00 a.m. when two or more are gathered

Thursday - Christmas Crafters 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**November Birthdays**

- 8 Gary Hooker
- 16 Barb Veldman
- 19 Luke Pfeiffer  
Rosemary Tittle
- 21 Loretta VanDuzen
- 25 Dougan Church  
Kyle Parks
- 29 David White



November  
BIRTHDAYS

**Poinsettia Order**

Red 4 ½” pot - small blooms    **\$8.00**        \_\_\_\_\_ (Quantity)  
Red 6 ½” pot - 4-7 blooms       **\$12.00**        \_\_\_\_\_ (Quantity)  
Red 7"double - 10-14 blooms    **\$20.00**        \_\_\_\_\_ (Quantity)  
Red 8"triple - 14-18 blooms     **\$30.00**        \_\_\_\_\_ (Quantity)  
Red 10"quad - 18-24 blooms    **\$38.00**        \_\_\_\_\_ (Quantity)

Pot cover will be gold



\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed

Poinsettia(s) to be used during Advent.

\_\_\_\_\_ Following worship service, I/we will pick up our poinsettia(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ Following worship service, the Altar Committee may  
take care of my/our poinsettia(s) in an appropriate way.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Or

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

This completed form, along with your payment for each poinsettia ordered may be placed in the offering plate,  
or turned into the church office no later than **November 17, 2024 - NO LATE ORDERS**



**From Pastor Luke:**



November brings two contrasting days: Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday, and Black Friday, my least favorite. Thanksgiving is a celebration of gratitude, family, and reflection, a holiday that has resisted commercialization. Unlike Christmas, where decorations appear months in advance, Thanksgiving remains simply a day to gather and appreciate what we already have. It's about pausing from daily life to enjoy a meal, share memories, and express thanks for the blessings in our lives.

In stark contrast, Black Friday immediately shifts the focus to shopping and consumerism, often casting aside the gratitude felt the day before. This day emphasizes getting what we don't have, hunting for deals, and finding the "perfect" items. While Thanksgiving centers on values like contentment and gratitude, Black Friday promotes a kind of frenzy to acquire more. The two holidays stand as opposites—one draws us toward a selfless appreciation, while the other can steer us toward a sense of lack and desire.

Gratitude, particularly, is also essential in the Christian life. Each week, Christians gather to give thanks for God's blessings, lifting praises from a place of thankfulness and humility. This practice of gratitude is more than a seasonal tradition; it's a lifestyle that shapes a person's view of the world, encouraging contentment and a generous spirit.

As we move through this season, it's worth reflecting on which mindset resonates more. Are we inclined toward being Thanksgiving people, marked by gratitude and fulfillment, or Black Friday people, always seeking the next acquisition? Cultivating gratitude might not come with a shopping cart, but it brings a far deeper richness to our lives.

