

# The Carillon

## April, 2025

First Congregational Church  
Your Independent Worship Center  
714 Hillcrest Drive - Fremont MI 49412  
231-924-4710  
congo@fremontfcc.org ~ [www.fremontfcc.org](http://www.fremontfcc.org)



### THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2025

#### DRAFT

Present: Pat Krehn – Moderator, Jean Morehouse – Women’s Fellowship, Pastor Luke Schmalz, Carrie De Mull – Clerk, Jack Butterick - Board of Charitable Giving, Jack Stewart - Technology Board, Dave White-Deacon’s

Absent: Stacy Church-Vice Moderator

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

II. Approval of the February 24, 2025 meeting minutes: Jean moved to approve. Jack B. seconded. Passed

III. Public comments – None

#### IV. Board Reports

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

Contributions made in February: Insight Pregnancy Center, Vera’s House/St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Community of God Church, Hope 101 Ministry, Wellspring Adult Daycare, and Empowerment. The board will be meeting March 25 to review donations and new activities for April-June.

##### B. Board of Deacon’s – Dave White

Met on March 12. Discussion of the 150 th anniversary celebration. Articles are being written for the Times Indicator. Small groups are getting ready to launch. No music committee report. The website will be updated for lent. Deacon’s will continue making calls to congregation members just to check in. Discussion on the large pulpit Bible. Easy to use with big print. Gideon’s training went well.

##### C. Board of Christian Education – Pastor Luke

Currently working on the puppet stage for the puppet show later in the year. The workshop is on board to also build a puppet stage out of wood to be used permanently by the children.

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

For the budget, pledge income is at 40%, and the expenses are at 15%. Expenses are below budget. Final balance for the Edward Jones account is \$518,000 with the addition of the UCC fund. John prepared a summary financial statement that was handed out. The meeting next month will be about the budget and finances. Gary Hooker will put up another railing on the East side of the altar. The dishwasher is leaking, and it will be repaired Wednesday, March 26. The trustees are aware of the ants and squirrel problem. Land Sale: Information for congregational meeting: Newaygo Engineering and Survey will be conducting the survey on our total property. The split will then take place, and the zoning board will Ok the survey and sale of the property to the south of the church. \$1500 for the survey and they are booking 4 weeks out. We are selling as one big lot. The trustees motioned to give the Charitable Giving Committee \$3000 for the year. The donations that went out this past month are part of last year's budget (2024). The trustees also sold the CONGO trailer for \$500. It has been sitting in the back and was last registered in 2002

#### E. Women's Fellowship-Jean Morehouse

On Saturday, May 3, the Women's Fellowship will be having a Spring Fling at 11:00 am. All the women of the church are invited. Gary Hooker will be putting up another handrail using Women's Fellowship funds. Women's fellowship will be having a luncheon after worship following the congregational meeting on the 30 th of March.

#### F. Technology Board – Jack Stewart

The new website is still working great. The Deacon's need to update the church picture from a winter scene to a spring/summer scene. NCATS, VOIP technician will be coming on Wednesday, March 26, to port the church number from AT & T to NCATS. Usually will take from 2 hours to 2 weeks for this to happen.

#### V. Pastor's Report-Pastor Luke

Lent has begun with a small Ash Wednesday service. Sunny Sunday service went well. March 31-April 5, Pastor Luke will be on vacation, resuming pulpit duties on April 6. Rooms of Refuge will be downstairs from April 14 th through the 21 st . This is our first weekly commitment of the year. April 13 will have a Palm Sunday Service, April 18 we will have a Good Friday service, and April 20 will have an Easter service. Creation Care Sunday will be April 27. Carrie will be doing a special Sunday School with the Children on that day. The 150 th celebration preparations are going smoothly. Banners, yard signs, and coffee cups have been ordered. Working on a display for the church to commemorate the 150 th anniversary celebration.

Small groups are almost ready to go. There will be two groups. Mat Emerick will also be hosting a community bereavement group as part of small groups also. This group will be affiliated with the Patchwork Pear.

Julie from Hope 101 would like to partner with us for a dinner at the church. This dinner will take place Thursday evening, May 1. They will be using the kitchen and the downstairs area of the church

Garett has decided to go to college. We will be planning a celebration to honor his volunteer work with us sometime this spring/summer.

VI. Acceptance of reports – Bill moved, and Dave seconded to approve – passed.

VII. Old Business

Trustees are interested in helping the church solidify the budget. A list of people that have grown up in the church has been prepared. The EC will try and get addresses for these people and send out a 150 th anniversary letter acknowledging their part in the church’s history. In doing this, maybe a few would be able to donate monies to the church to help with the budget.

VIII. New Business

Facilitation of the Congregational meeting: Jean will do a description/photograph of what we are voting on. Bill will prepare a statement of why we are parting with the land. Pastor Luke is planning on a 45 minute Sunday service. Meeting will follow downstairs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM

Next Meeting is April 28, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. in the library.

Respectfully submitted  
Carrie DeMull

**Creation Care Sunday, April 27**

Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who founded the Boy Scouts, asked troop members to “leave this world a little better than you found it.” For Christians, that aim is rooted in Scripture.

Using a Bible-like parable, biology professor Michael Duncan writes: “Imagine you owned a property and rented it out to tenants for a period of time. Upon move-in, the tenants found the place clean and in perfect working order. As the owner of the property, it is your desire to see that the tenants regard the condition of the property and live in such a way that does not destroy the house. This is the mindset that we should adopt as tenants living on the earth.”



**Caring for God’s Creation**

Almost five centuries ago, John Calvin encouraged creation care too. “The earth was given to man, with this condition, that he should occupy himself in its cultivation,” he wrote. “Let him who possesses a field, so partake of its yearly fruits, that he may not suffer the ground to be injured by his negligence, but let him endeavor to hand it down to posterity as he received it, or even better cultivated. Moreover, that this economy, and this diligence, with respect to those good things which God has given us to enjoy, may flourish among us; let everyone regard himself as the steward of God in all things which he possesses.”

## **Rooms of Refuge**

Rooms of Refuge will be using Fellowship Hall April 14 - 21. A sign up sheet is located by the church office and in Fellowship Hall if you would be interested in providing a meal, spending the night, or providing breakfast to go items (muffins, granola bar, cereal, milk, etc). We are partnering with another church in providing for the residents so dates will be determined at a later time.



## **Small Groups:**

Have you signed up for participating in a Small Group? A sign up sheet is located by the church office.

## **Small Groups**

*Why do Small Group?*

In a word to help us grow. First and for most to grow as Christians. Second, to grow as a church by caring for one another and gaining a greater insight into the Bible. Third, is to grow numerically, small groups have been an effective method for numerical growth in many churches and can be for First Congregational Church.

*Small Groups help us to live our values*

1. Congregational - These groups are built around the idea of community. The group is lead by the group with each member playing a roll as God has gifted them. All participate.
2. Biblical - The group is built around the love of the Bible and how God speaks to us through it. Each group engages directly with the Bible and explores what it is saying to them. This is done in a safe environment that allows each person to grow in there ability to engage with the text.
3. Missional - The groups are designed to help FCC to engage with its mission. This mission is defined by three passages Matthew 11:4-6 to heal, care, and preach, Matthew 22:34-40 to love God and Neighbor, and Matthew 28:18-20 to go and make disciples

*What are Small Groups?*

A church small group is a regular gathering of 4-12 people focused on fostering spiritual growth and meaningful relationships. These groups provide a space for Bible study, prayer, and mutual support, aiming to build a strong sense of community and encourage discipleship within the larger church body.

The Goal of the small groups of FCC are to make disciples who love God and love one another by healing the sick, caring for the poor, and preaching the gospel.



*How does a Small Group work?*

**Outline:**

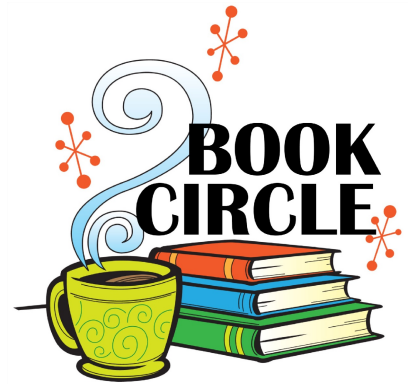
- Open with Prayer
- Personal Reflection/ time of sharing
- Bible Passage
- Discussion
- Personal Application
- Close with Prayer

**Rules:**

- No Lord but Christ
- Love your neighbor as your self
- Engage the Bible where you are
- Questions are Good
- Its okay to not know the answer
- Its okay to disagree
- Share openly
- Embrace the awkward
- Everyone participates

**Book Circle:**

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 1 at 1:00 p.m. at the Fremont Public Library. We will be discussing the book entitled "James." All are welcome!



**Men's Fellowship Luncheon**

We will be serving lunch on Wednesday, April 2 at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. All men are encouraged to attend.

**Men's Lenten Breakfast**

Men's Lenten Breakfast continues thru April 19 at 8:00 a.m. at the Church of the Living Christ. All men are welcome to attend!



**Lenten Prayer  
Breakfast**

## Dates to Note:

April 1 - Book Circle - 1:00 p.m. Fremont Public Library  
April 2 - Men's Fellowship Luncheon - 12:00 noon  
April 6 - Worship with Communion - 10:00 a.m.  
April 6 - Deacons Meeting 11:30 a.m.  
April 7 - Women's Fellowship Board - 10:00 a.m.  
April 13 - Palm Sunday Worship - special music by Jean Howarth - 10:00 a.m.  
April 14 - 21 - Rooms of Refuge  
April 14 - Tech Board - 6:30 p.m.  
April 15 - Trustees Meeting - 11:00 a.m.  
April 18 - Good Friday Service - 6:00 p.m.  
April 20 - Easter Worship - 10:00 a.m.  
April 27 - Creation Care Worship/Noisy Offering - 10:00 a.m.  
April 28 - Executive Council - 6:30 p.m.

Men's Fellowship Coffee - M/W/F - 9:30 a.m. - ?

Woodshop is open M/W/F - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. when two or more are gathered

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

## Our Church Family:

### *Health Concerns ~*

Kelly Parks is back to work following her partial hip replacement but is still regaining her stamina.

Arnie & Betty Dougan have been down with Covid.

### *Those Who Have Moved~*

Sally DeShetler

Apostolic Christian Village - Room 312

10680 Steiner Road

Rittman OH 44270

Ann Werner

c/o Barbara Ross

41360 Fox Run #120

Novi Mi 48377

Yvonne Lee

6500 Freetown Road

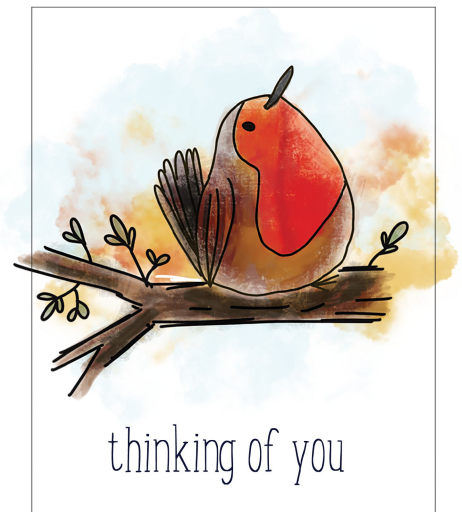
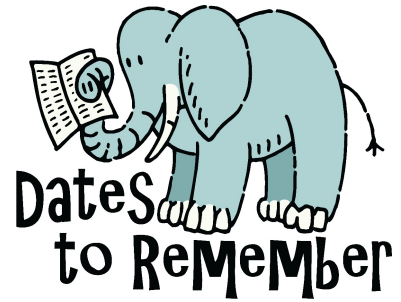
Apt 216

Columba MD 21044

David Zeerip

PO Box 960

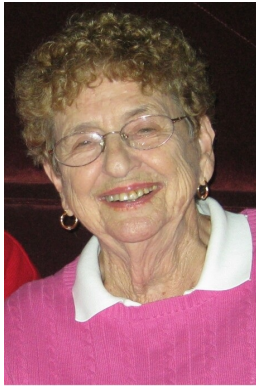
Benson AZ 85602





*Sympathy ~*

**Siria Fedora Marie Mary Delores Pieri Pinnick** passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 23. Her daughter Cristine said they are planning a service possibly in May with burial in the Memorial Garden. Please keep the Pinnick family in your thoughts and prayers.



Siria Fedora Marie Mary Delores Pieri Pinnick was born on May 13, 1926, and passed away peacefully on March 23, 2025. Yes, that was her full name; her 3 daughters have NMN -no middle name- because she felt that she had a few too many. This was typical of Siria, who liked to forge her own path. She married Joseph F. Pinnick (deceased) on February 15, 1947, and together they had 4 children- Cristine Holstrom (Tom – deceased), Patricia Decker (deceased) (Paul), Kathleen Bartholomew (John), and Thomas. She had 8 grandchildren: Jennifer Decker Jackson (Terrence), Sarah Decker Sitzler (Luke), Abigail Holstrom, Elizabeth Holstrom Monaweck, John Bartholomew, Joe Bartholomew, Katie Bartholomew Kiss (David), and Matthew Fletcher. She also had 8 great-grandchildren: Miah, Brynn, Taryn, Paige, Mabel, Jace, Lumi and Jude. She had a great-great grandson, Kroix. She cherished her special relationship with her niece, Diane Prater.

Siria was the “fun” mom and grandmother. She was always up for an adventure, a new craft or game, and loved to entertain. Her family was important in her life, but she also had so many outside interests – she clerked at Graichen’s – a prominent women’s store in Fremont - and relished her years as a contributor to the Fremont Times Indicator. She taught aerobics, skied, and played golf and tennis. Siria was involved in state and local politics and never shied away from letting you know how she felt about a candidate or an issue.

Siria loved to shop! One of her favorite activities in her later years was to visit garage sales with her garage sale buddy, Ellie. Her children and grandchildren were often recipients of her found treasures. She also loved to travel and together with husband Joe was able to explore multiple continents.

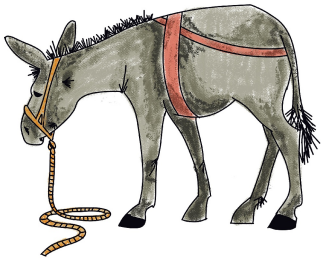
Siria was a unique character – from her original name to her outgoing personality, her willingness to open her doors to visitors, guests, and family, her skill at cooking and creating delicious meals, and her spirit of adventure. She was the model for strong Pinnick women and granddaughters. She will be missed.

A celebration of Siria’s life will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions can be made to Harbor Hospice online ([harborhospicemi.org](http://harborhospicemi.org)) or mailed to 1050 W. Western Ave #400, Muskegon, Mi 49441. Memorial contributions may also be sent to Fremont Congregational Church, 714 Hillcrest Ave, Fremont, Mi 49412.



**BUTTERFLY — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus’ lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ’s resurrection — and ours.**

## **Be The Donkey**



Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

“When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?” she replied. “If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor.”

Jesus told his followers they’d need to carry (or “take up”) their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?

## **Because Jesus Said So**



One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can’t wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. “You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend,” Begg says. “You’ve never been in a Bible study. You’ve never been baptized. You didn’t know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!”

In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief’s entrance interview. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, “On what basis are you here?” The thief simply replies, “The man on the middle cross said I can come.”

## **Pressed**

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for “olive press.” During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.



Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn’t fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

“All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don’t succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances,” the authors write. “We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive.”



## April Birthdays

7	Carrie DeMull
8	David Zeerip
11	Yvonne Lee
19	Arnold Dougan
21	Bill Black Linda Oosterhouse
24	Beth Hooker
27	Mary Butterick



## April Anniversaries

6	Gary & Beth Hooker
19	Arnie & Betty Dougan
24	Duane & Loretta VanDuzen
30	Pat & Robin Dekleva

### The Blessing of Fellowship

Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



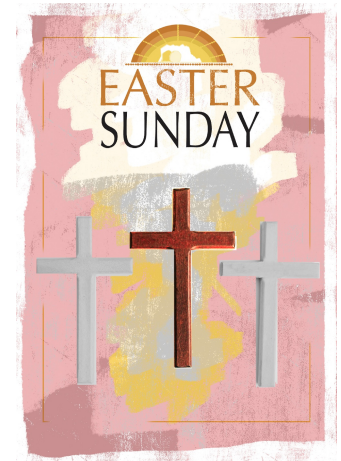
Palm Sunday Worship - April 13 - 10:00 a.m.



Good Friday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m.



Easter Sunday Worship - April 20 10:00 a.m.



***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.***

Jack & Mary Butterick in memory of our parents.

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

Dave & Linda White in memory of Tom & Susan Rockwell.

Barbara Blass-Frisbey in honor of my children.

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

Arnie & Betty Dougan in honor of family & friends.

Pat Krehn in honor of my family & church family.

Dean & Jean Morehouse in honor of our church family.

