

April 8, 2026 Council Minutes

Present: Moderator Kay Rowntree, Moderator-Elect Ryan Venema, Treasurer Jean Bocker, Secretary Joanne Himebauch, Pastor Mark Hensley, Brad Charles, Jamie Pennington, Karla Pennington, Rae-Ellen Preuss, Sue Roberts, Jennifer Schmitz

Call to Order at 6:33

Opening Prayer - Jennifer Schmitz

Devotional Time - Pastor Mark. Reddit post on giving advice to teenagers. Paul to Colossians. Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Love binds everything together. Col. 3:12-17. Our world wants us to dress in fear and uncertainty. Paul says that we should dress in compassion and love.

Approval of the March 13, 2026 Council minutes. Rae-Ellen moved and Brad seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Approval of the March 8, 2026 Semi-Annual Business Meeting minutes- Not needed. This will be approved at the November meeting.

Parsonage Sale Update (Bob Brandemuehl). The surveyor came to add the two west lots to the church property and divide the parsonage 6 feet east of the maple tree. The parsonage lot is .67 acres. The Surveyor will present the map to be approved, with Bob's signature and Kay's signature. The parsonage will be zoned residential. The planning commission will need to approve it and Bob agreed to attend. The water lateral has been completed to the center of the parsonage building. The plumbing of the parsonage building is not grounded yet, but the plumber will be doing that next week. The water line was disconnected under the coffee pot station in the church basement. The inspector said that we are not in compliance with a light in the parsonage basement which needs to be redone. Marten's will fix that. The water in the parsonage is now turned on. The electrician will have it done before we clean up on Friday and Saturday, April 17, 18. Bob talked to Jess from TriSkill about the shed staying with the parsonage. Bob will get a concrete slab out near the parking lot, but Jess will pay for a new shed. Bob will double check with the inspector on the size of the shed without a permit. We will meet with Southwest Renee Koepsel the week of the 20th. We can't list the property until after the planning committee rezones it.

Treasurer's Report (Jean Bocker) - The Memorial CD matures in June. Brad asked about the negative balance in the first quarter. This is typical for our church. Eventually, offerings catch up with expenses by June or July. It was asked why the parsonage isn't listed as an asset on our balance sheet. It should be. Jamie mentioned that the church should be, too. It would make our net worth look better!

Finance Director's Report (Jamie Pennington)

Maxwell St. Days - Jamie has concerns, but we will look into asking the boy scouts on Sunday. After 1 pm, we don't get much traffic. But...our lot could be busier, due to the closing of the Kiwanis lot. The Jr. High will also have less available parking due to their reconstruction. Joanne will ask at the High School to see if there might be groups looking for service projects.

Jim Fillicetti consultation about endowment. Does the congregation need to approve an endowment? We don't need the congregation's approval for CDs, so we shouldn't need to for an endowment, either. We decided to invite Jim F to the May meeting. We already approved \$1,000 to pay him (\$150 per hour.)

Update on Memorial Committee and Carillon purchase. Jamie suggested that we eliminate the Memorial Committee and give this process to the Council. The SOP for Memorials is a sluggish process. We could put this forward to the congregation when we sell the parsonage, since it would need a change of the church's constitution. The majority of the committee approves the Millennial Carillon. But they didn't

want to deplete the Memorial funds. They want to give about half of the memorial funds, even though they don't have any other projects in mind. Over the years, the SOPs have been weaponized. Ryan thinks we need to be reminded that we didn't want to be bogged down with the responsibility of the SOP committee's work.

Rae-Ellen reminded us that Furnishings and Memorials was one group not long ago. It wasn't even an elected body. During the bathroom remodels, we had Trustees who approved the remodels. One family objected to paying for "toilets." Rae-Ellen said at the time that Furnishings and Memorials were split, that Memorials would end up with a big pot of money, which has happened. Rae-Ellen also pointed out that most of the SOPs are reactionary. Pastor Mark added that the SOPs are control measures, too.

Brad moved and Karla seconded to eliminate the Memorial SOP. Jean suggested inviting the Memorial Committee to explain why they won't pay for the rest of the Carillon. Karla suggested that we just eliminate the first sentence of the SOP. Brad amended his motion and Karla seconded to eliminate the first two bullet lines of the Memorial Committee's SOP. Motion carried. Jamie & Ryan abstained.

SOP Review (Ryan Venema) -Janine Coley had made copies of all the SOPs and gave these copies to each of the members of the SOP review group. They are all making notes on them and will meet together on April 16 to discuss their notes and discuss next steps. They will morph most SOPs to become *Policies*. These will become guidelines, rather than "must do's."

Kay looked at the constitution which declares that it's the Moderator's duty "to ensure that an SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) Manual is created, adopted, and maintained." But Pastor Mark reminded us that SOPs will still exist. There will still be SOPs about safety, etc. Jamie wondered who would tell the Memorial Committee. It was suggested that Kay inform them. Ryan mentioned that we are exercising our right as the Council to override the Memorial Committee's decision. Ryan moved and Brad seconded to call financial procedures; pastor terminating & hiring; building maintenance; safety & security; and real estate transactions as SOPs. All other current SOPs will be classified as Policies under review by the SOP/ Policies committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Jamie moved and Jennifer seconded to spend the Memorial money, minus the insurance money on the Millennial Carillon. Motion carried. Jennifer volunteered to talk with Janine about the importance of bells. Jamie agreed to let her know, as well. Jamie mentioned that we need to write an article for the Mukwonago Times when we rededicate the bells.

Other business? Judi will be having knee surgery on May 11. She requests that articles for the What's Happening and any other work for her by May 8. Kay mentioned that there is administrative professionals day coming up on April 22. Joanne agreed to get a card to pass around on Sunday.

Rae-Ellen met with McPherson Concrete today. They informed her that they cannot do our tower. Ryan Staude, recommended by Matt Carini, will come Friday morning to see if he could do it. Joanne will give her Butler Chimney as a 2nd possibility. Also..... The installation of the new elevator is coming.... The furnace might need to be replaced for \$75,000. Jamie suggested that we need to get Long-Term Planning together to discuss it.

Next Council Meeting - May 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Closing Prayer (Pastor Mark) & Adjournment - Brad moved and Ryan seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Himebauch
Council Secretary

April 2026 Director's Reports

Christian Ed - Sue Roberts

Youth Sunday School - nothing to report

Bible Study - Pastor Mark

We are now studying the Gospel of Luke after having finished Matthew.

Congregational Care- Jennifer Schmitz

From Jean Bocker - the Women's Agape Group leader

What WAG is: We play together, pray together, and work together for the benefit of our church. Our purpose is to strengthen our relationships with each other and with our church, to spread love and kindness internally, and to improve our church property.

We canceled our April meeting because of Holy Thursday services.

We will be cleaning the parsonage to prepare it for sale on Friday, April 17 & Saturday, April 18 from 9am to 5pm.

From Rae-Ellen Preuss - Funerals, Weddings, and Archivist

There was no activity for the archivist or the wedding hostess.

Connie Mitchell died 3/15/2026. The funeral was held at our church on 3/28/2026. The family did not request a meal after the service. They planned something private.

From Joanne Himebauch - Welcome / Hospitality and Fellowship

Hospitality/Welcome: I had to replenish supplies and pack some more Welcome bags. We've been giving out a fair amount of them!

Fellowship: The White Elephant Potluck and Gift Exchange was a wonderful event. Our next event will be on April 26. It will be a potato bake and the Not-So-Newlywed Game. So far, we have one couple that will participate. I've asked another couple, and am waiting on confirmation. Anyone else? We need 4 couples in total.

From Janine Coley - Visitation

No new report for this month.

Missions - Brad Charles

On March 30 th I met with Jaime Stamborski, the new volunteer coordinator at the Waukesha Hope Center. She is a Gateway student that will be transferring to UW-Milwaukee next semester as a Human Services major and hoping to continue to work for the Hope Center through school and after she graduates.

Jaime gave me the grand tour including introducing me to the Center's general manager, Becky Arnold. They have a store that is a little smaller than the one at the Mukwonago Women's Center. Everything is free of charge as opposed to using education classes credits to purchase items which is how they do it at the Mukwonago Center. However, the Hope Center has the same shortages of clothes and diapers for

toddlers (size 3T and up). We will see what we can do to help with that.

Jaime said their most immediate need is for small household appliances. Many of their clients are single mothers who have a place to live, but they don't have the money to purchase common appliances like microwaves and toasters. They also need men's tennis shoes and backpacks that are used by the homeless. Winter clothing is also always a need. We will see what we can do to help with these items also.

In terms of service, they are looking for people to help with the sorting of donated clothing on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. They are also looking for groups to take more dinner serving dates in 2027. We will ask our congregation to help with these service opportunities as well.

The next event we have planned is the Teacher Appreciation Day on May 7 th. We will be asking our congregation to supply treats for the teachers. Joanne is leading this effort.

Property & Grounds - Rae-Ellen Preuss

This month I have a few things to report.

I received a call from Don Ready Jr., our lawn care service. Don informed me that our costs will go up approximately \$20/ time. They mow weekly, usually on Fridays or Saturdays. The initial spring mowing will cost a bit more as they clean up the lawn from leaves and sticks. I notified him that we are selling the parsonage. Once it's sold, they will no longer need to mow there. So our costs might be less eventually.

I contacted two concrete masons about the repair of the carillon base. I'm meeting with one of them Wednesday morning and hope to have a report for our meeting. The second contractor will contact me this week to set up a time. This should be the final repair for the lightning strike and these two bids can be forwarded to the insurance company. One of the contractors is local that Joanne knows. The second, is a recommendation from our Master electrician, Matt Carini.

Good news! Our elevator permit is being approved by the state. Bad news, we won't receive the permit until 4/23/26. More good news, the elevator has been built and is ready to be installed. I spoke with Jillian Langer this morning. I mentioned that we have a conditional use permit for Triskill to have a working elevator accessible to the participants. She thought that might convince the state to release the permit sooner.

I met with Nick Beilfuss, our Johnson controls technician and his supervisor a couple months ago. They asked if I wanted an estimate for the replacement of our boiler for future reference. I agreed. Please note: there is nothing wrong with our boilers right now. But they are over 25 years old. They work off a timer for turning on and off that is from 1962, however. That being said, eventually that will fail. It has already gotten stuck in the on position. And it cannot be fixed. They don't make parts for it anymore. A new system will have a sensor that will monitor the temperature outside. It will turn the system on when it's cold and turn off the system when it's not needed. It is totally automatic; no one will need to physically turn on or off the system anymore in spring and fall. It is also programmable by an app on a cell phone! The total cost for a new boiler system is: \$75,210.00 They offer payment plans:

36 month: \$2399.02

48 months: \$1862.22

60 months: \$1541.24

Again, this is only informational at this time. I am simply presenting this to the council as something to consider or file away for the future This proposal was sent to me on March 16, 2026 and is good for 30 days. Nick Beilfuss has offered to come to one of our meetings to answer any questions we might have. One more piece of information..... we have 4 auxiliary heating units and 3 A/C units from around 2000. The fourth A/C unit was replaced a couple of years ago. Two of the heating units were repaired after the lightning strike.

Treasurer's Report - Jean Bocker

The \$100,000 7-month CD came due 3/20/26 and was not renewed. Value at maturity was \$102,417.66. It is in the Reserve Fund in the 02 Account.

Two of the three church credit cards were terminated. One was in Karen Jones' name and one in Beth Petersen's name. A new one in Janine Coley's name was opened and a second in Jean Bocker's name continues. Judi usually took care of the credit cards, but I handled it.

Citizen's Bank gave FCC a \$250 donation in Connie Mitchel's name. It is in the Memorial Fund in the 02 Account.

Parsonage expenses thus far are \$10,805 as it is being prepared to go on the market. The allowance of \$15,000 is from the Reserve Fund in the 02 Account.

- o Marten's Plumbing for water lateral, etc. \$7993.00

- o Fireplace repair 1200.00

- o Village Surveyor 1612.00

We are still waiting for an invoice from Carini Electric. Their repairs from lightning strike damage came to \$10,462.50. Brotherhood Mutual Insurance paid us \$66,913.27. It is in the Reserve Fund in the 02 Account.