

First Congregational Church of  
Greenville  
126 E. Cass Street  
Greenville, MI 48838

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Greenville, MI 48838  
Permit #202

Office: 616-754-3445

[churchoffice@firstccog.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstccog.org)

[www.firstccog.org](http://www.firstccog.org)

Pilgrim Pulse Volume 9 Issue 1

Published monthly by the First Congregational Church

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Church Staff**

Pastor: Jason Dillingham

Director of Youth & Lay Ministries: Claude Johnson

Parish Nurse: Patrice Fulton-Peacock, RN

Music Director: Greg VanderMark

Organist: Chris Schut

Preschool Director: Candy Outman

Business Manager: Kim Burden

Secretary: Angela Grimes



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

**February 2017**

One month into our new ministry journey here among you and I am even more optimistic and hopeful about the road ahead for all of us. I continue to be impressed by your kindness, generosity, and heart for service. Our building continues to be a meeting place for several groups from the community as well as within our own congregation. We continue to meet for morning contemplative prayer and Wednesday evening services as well as our regular Sunday worship services. *"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."* (Phil. 1:3-5)

Our single trial this month was a contentious annual meeting, but a rise in passions, emotions, and convictions was to be expected. We came together to review the last year and project into the year ahead. In the end, I sense that the Spirit had his way and I am confident in the good work of healing and growing that is our journey ahead. Remember, we are currently in an age of fear and division; locally, nationally, and globally. Now is the perfect time for the church; our church, to stand as an example of love, forgiveness, and unity. *"Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose."* (1 Cor. 1:10)

I have been finding joy and encouragement as our daily and weekly readings have been speaking directly into our current congregational and national life. In this week's morning contemplative prayer readings we have been exploring the story of Ruth & Naomi; first century refugees in tenuous and vulnerable circumstances, and Boaz; who's kind and generous heart is both an example and foreshadow of Christ Jesus' redemptive work. *"At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, 'Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?'"*

(Ruth 2:10)

My prayer is that we will continue to grow together as an embodiment of hospitality, forgiveness, and redemption to each other and to our community. The Good News is that I am already seeing this spirit at work.

*Pax Christi,*

*Rev. Jason Dillingham*



## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

**In our Military...** Ben Crittenden, Jacob Crittenden, Matthew Crittenden, Jordan Varney, Paul Lepley, TJ Curry, Joshua Roose, Blake Schlienz, Stephanie Roose, Melissa Staffen, Rick Grimes, & Joe Suchowolec

### **WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:**

|                          |                          |                         |                       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Jim Butts</i>         | <i>Jackie Kocher</i>     | <i>Patricia Ritzema</i> | <i>Sandra Tiffany</i> |
| <i>Jessica Cazier</i>    | <i>Marta Lores</i>       | <i>Rob Sansom</i>       | <i>Ken Thomas</i>     |
| <i>Celeste Faber</i>     | <i>Lucille McLachlan</i> | <i>Pat Toth</i>         | <i>Rylie Whitten</i>  |
| <i>Barb Hoy</i>          | <i>Roxy Rice</i>         | <i>Bill Delp</i>        | <i>Betty Lincoln</i>  |
| <i>Lucille McLachlan</i> |                          |                         |                       |

### **AT CARE FACILITIES**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Eileen Burke</i>               | <i>-at Sunrise Care, Grand Rapids</i>            |
| <i>Millie Crowe</i>               | <i>-at Maple Creek, Grand Rapids</i>             |
| <i>Lois Hazlewood</i>             | <i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Rm. 31</i> |
| <i>Bette Houle</i>                | <i>-at Lakeview Terrace Assisted Living</i>      |
| <i>Natalie &amp; Dick Kilfoil</i> | <i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Rm. 20</i> |
| <i>Al &amp; Helen Koett</i>       | <i>-at Metron Greenville</i>                     |
| <i>Mary Lou Merritt</i>           | <i>-at Green Acres</i>                           |
| <i>Corla Morgan</i>               | <i>-at SHUM RNC Room #103</i>                    |
| <i>Kathie Sansom</i>              | <i>-at Green Acres</i>                           |
| <i>Mary Crittenden</i>            | <i>-at SHUM RNC Room #118</i>                    |
| <i>Robert Dunn</i>                | <i>-at Metron</i>                                |

### **FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Penny Curtis</i>                 | <i>Daughter of Myron Tiffany</i>                |
| <i>Robert Dunn</i>                  | <i>Brother of Sandra Tiffany and Larry Snow</i> |
| <i>Katie Edick</i>                  | <i>Friend of Tara Allen</i>                     |
| <i>Sandy Frisbie</i>                | <i>Sister of Chris Hubbard</i>                  |
| <i>Jerry Heydenberk</i>             | <i>Friend of many</i>                           |
| <i>Kirsten Johnson</i>              | <i>Friend of Tara Allen</i>                     |
| <i>Coreen &amp; Gordon Johnston</i> | <i>Parents of Lynne Rowland</i>                 |
| <i>Olivia Kunkle</i>                | <i>Friends of Al &amp; Gloria Guilfoyle</i>     |
| <i>Pam Main</i>                     | <i>Daughter of Myron Tiffany</i>                |
| <i>Edith Marshall</i>               | <i>Aunt of Janet Tuin</i>                       |
| <i>Jack McKindley</i>               | <i>Father of Ann Mulcahy</i>                    |
| <i>Josh Paulsen</i>                 | <i>Friend of the Venema family</i>              |
| <i>Ken Ploeg</i>                    | <i>Friend of Bonnie Braman's family</i>         |
| <i>Ethan Burden</i>                 | <i>Son of Jody &amp; Kim Burden</i>             |
| <i>Judith Rice-Lesage</i>           | <i>Sister of Roxy Rice</i>                      |
| <i>Debbie Stevenson</i>             | <i>Sister of Linda Jones</i>                    |
| <i>Mike Tuin</i>                    | <i>Son of Janet Tuin</i>                        |
| <i>Gary Wakenhut</i>                | <i>Friend of many</i>                           |
| <i>Cheryl Williams</i>              | <i>Sister of Chris Hubbard</i>                  |
| <i>Mar joan Wohlfert</i>            | <i>Sister of Michele Kocher</i>                 |
| <i>Margaret Monday</i>              | <i>Niece of Carolyn Foster</i>                  |

**\*Please help to keep our prayer list current. Let us know if there are any changes to the prayer list.**

## ~ February 2017 ~

*Sun*

*Mon*

*Tue*

*Wed*

*Thu*

*Fri*

*Sat*

|  |  |  |  |   |   |                            |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|----------------------------|
|  |  |  | <b>1</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br>Circles Meet<br><br>7p Service<br>7p Boy Scouts | <b>2</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br>4p Jr. Choir<br>5p Cherub Choir<br>7p AA<br>GAMA           | <b>3</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br>11:30 AA                       | <b>4</b>                   |
| <b>5</b><br>Communion<br>8:30 Choir<br>9:15 Cantata Rehearsal<br>10a Bible Study<br>11a Worship<br>5p Venture<br>6p AA   | <b>6</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>6p Cubs<br>6:30 GS  | <b>7</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>6:30 Joy Bells  | <b>8</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>7p Service                                  | <b>9</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>4p Jr. Choir<br>5p Cherub Choir<br>7p AA               | <b>10</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br>11:30 AA                      | <b>11</b>                  |
| <b>12</b><br>8:30 Choir<br>9:15 Cantata Rehearsal<br>10a Bible Study<br>11a Worship<br>Jr. & Cherub Choirs Sing<br>6p AA | <b>13</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>6p Cubs<br>6:30 GS<br>6:30 Deacons                       | <b>14</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>6:30 Joy Bells | <b>15</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>7p Service<br>7p Boy Scouts                | <b>16</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>4p Jr. Choir<br>5p Cherub Choir<br>7p AA<br>7p F.A.N. | <b>17</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br>11:30 AA<br>Wedding Rehearsal | <b>18</b><br>Wedding       |
| <b>19</b><br>8:30 Choir<br>9:15 Cantata Rehearsal<br>10a Bible Study<br>11a Worship<br>Joy Bells<br>5p Venture<br>6p AA  | <b>20</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>6p Cubs<br>6:30 GS                                       | <b>21</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>6:30 Joy Bells | <b>22</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>1p WF Board<br>7p Service<br>7p Boy Scouts | <b>23</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>4p Jr. Choir<br>5p Cherub Choir<br>7p AA              | <b>24</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br>11:30 AA                      | <b>25</b><br>Bridal Shower |
| <b>26</b><br>8:30 Choir<br>9:15 Cantata Rehearsal<br>10a Bible Study<br>11a Worship<br>12:15 PF<br>6p AA                 | <b>27</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br>Blue & Gold Pack FH<br><br>6p Cubs<br>6:30 GS<br>7p Trustees | <b>28</b><br>9:30 Morning Prayer<br><br>6:30 Joy Bells |  |   |   |                            |

~ **March 2017** ~

*Sun*

*Mon*


*Tue*

*Wed*

*Thu*

*Fri*

*Sat*

|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>*Ash Wednesday Activities:</b><br/>           9:30 Prayer &amp; Imposition of Ashes<br/>           10a WF 63<sup>rd</sup> Silent Breakfast<br/>           11a Prayer &amp; Imposition of Ashes<br/>           12:10 Service &amp; Imposition of Ashes<br/>           7p Service &amp; Imposition of Ashes</p>  |   | <p><b>1</b><br/> <b>*Ash Wednesday</b><br/>           Circles Meet</p> <p>6p Lenten Supper (Cubs)<br/>           7p Service<br/>           7p Boy Scouts</p> | <p><b>2</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>4p Jr. Choir<br/>           5p Cherub Choir<br/>           7:30 AA<br/>           GAMA</p>   | <p><b>3</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer<br/>           11:30 AA</p>   | <p><b>4</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>5</b><br/>           Communion<br/>           9:15 Cantata Rehearsal<br/>           9:30 Choir<br/>           10a Bible Study<br/>           11a Worship<br/>           Jr. Choir Sing<br/>           5p Venture<br/>           6p AA</p>   | <p><b>6</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>6p Cubs<br/>           6:30 GS</p>                              | <p><b>7</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>6:30 Joy Bells</p>   | <p><b>8</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>6p Lenten Supper (GS)<br/>           7p Service<br/>           7p Boy Scouts</p>   | <p><b>9</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer<br/>           10:30 Senior Coffee</p> <p>4p Jr. Choir<br/>           5p Cherub Choir<br/>           7p AA</p>              | <p><b>10</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer<br/>           11:30 AA</p>  | <p><b>11</b></p>                               |
| <p><b>12</b><br/>           GS Sunday<br/>           8:30 Choir<br/>           9:15 Cantata Rehearsal<br/>           10a Bible Study<br/>           11a Worship<br/>           Preschool Sing<br/>           12:15 PF<br/>           6p AA</p>  | <p><b>13</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>6p Cubs<br/>           6:30 GS<br/>           6:30 Deacons</p> | <p><b>14</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>6:30 Joy Bells</p>  | <p><b>15</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>6p Lenten<br/>           7p Service<br/>           7p Boy Scouts</p>  | <p><b>16</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>4p Jr. Choir<br/>           5p Cherub Choir<br/>           7p F.A.N.<br/>           7:30 AA</p> <p>Preschool FH</p> | <p><b>17</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer<br/>           11:30 AA<br/>           BS Lock In</p>                    | <p><b>18</b><br/>           Pinewood Derby</p> |
| <p><b>19</b><br/>           8:30 Choir<br/>           9:15 Cantata Rehearsal<br/>           10a Bible Study<br/>           11a Worship<br/>           Joy Bells<br/>           5p Venture<br/>           6p AA</p>  | <p><b>20</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer<br/>           6p Cubs<br/>           6:30 GS</p>                     | <p><b>21</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer<br/>           6:30 Joy Bells</p>  | <p><b>22</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>6p Lenten Supper (Preschool)<br/>           7p Service<br/>           7p Boy Scouts</p>   | <p><b>23</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>4p Jr. Choir<br/>           5p Cherub Choir<br/>           7:30 AA</p>  | <p><b>24</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer<br/>           11:30 AA</p> <p>State Retreat<br/>           St. John</p> | <p><b>25</b></p>                               |
| <p><b>26</b><br/>           8:30 Choir<br/>           10a Bible Study<br/>           11a Worship<br/>           Cantata</p> <p>6p AA</p>  | <p><b>27</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>6p Cubs<br/>           6:30 GS<br/>           7p Trustees</p>  | <p><b>28</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer<br/>           6:30 Joy Bells</p>  | <p><b>29</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer<br/>           1:00 WF Board<br/>           6p Lenten Supper (PF)<br/>           7p Service<br/>           7p Boy Scouts<br/>           7p Council ?</p> | <p><b>30</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer</p> <p>4p Jr. Choir<br/>           5p Cherub Choir<br/>           7:30 AA</p>  | <p><b>31</b><br/>           9:30 Morning Prayer<br/>           11:30 AA</p>  |  |

# ~ Announcements ~

**From the Board of Deacons:** The Mutual Ministry Sign-Up Sheet is available for May through August. Please stop in the church office to review the calendar for available dates and sign up to serve. We need volunteers for Greeters, Ushers, and Coffee Hour Thank you!

**Morning Prayer:** is held Monday through Friday from 9:30-10:00 a.m. Please join us as we gather in the Sanctuary. We also offer a midweek service at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. All are welcome!

- Please check the calendar above for the services and events for Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Confirmation & Baptism:** Peace and blessings to you all. It's time for confirmation again. Anyone 8th grade and up can sign up for a four week class leading to full membership and getting to sign your name in our historic book of the covenant. What an exciting day and what an opportunity to learn and grow in preparation. We're planning to meet the four weeks between Easter and the May 21st Children's Service. Confirmation will be on that Sunday (May 21st). If you would like to sign up, contact the office or Pastor Jason. We'll work out the exact times and location with those who sign up, so let us know soon.



If you haven't baptized yet and the Spirit is leading you in that direction, we would like to celebrate baptisms again on Palm Sunday. If you would like to participate in Confirmation and are not yet baptized, this is your perfect opportunity. Please contact the office or Pastor Jason and we can begin the process of following Jesus through death and into new life by way of the waters of baptism. As always, please contact us or come and see us if you have any questions.

**From the Chancel Choir:** The Chancel Choir announces it is time to start rehearsals on our newest cantata. Many, many voices are needed, young and older, high and lower. The music isn't hard but it is going to be a powerful and fun one to sing! Rehearsals begin this Sunday at 9:15 a.m. following the regular choir rehearsal that starts at 8:30 a.m. The performance date is Sunday, March 26 at the 11 a.m. worship service. So, put 9:15 a.m. on all your Sundays for rehearsals if you would like to join us. Again, all voices are needed!



**Join the Choir...**  
**You'll Be Glad**  
**You Did!**

We have chosen to do a prayer themed cantata this year instead of an Easter one because of the way the calendar works out with school vacations coinciding with Palm Sunday and then followed by Easter. We found the perfect cantata musical to do!

**"Our Father"** by Pepper Choplin --It is rare to find a major, non-seasonal musical with such power and meaning. Choplin has taken *The Lord's Prayer* and shaped it as the foundation of this creative worship experience. With original music and thoughtful narration, the most beloved passages are turned into a musical presentation with teaching moments for the choir and congregation. This musical delivers both artistry and ministry.

It is a beautifully written work - thoughtful and insightful. Pepper wrote a song around each statement in the Lord's Prayer. We will never say that prayer the same way again. It is a deeply meaningful piece!

Ask any church or choir member what anthem or hymn they sang on a particular Sunday a year ago and they're likely to scratch their head and draw a blank. But ask them what musical they did when they were in the adult choir last year and they'll rattle off the title immediately. Again, I'm not saying the weekly anthem isn't the choir's bread and butter, but this is further evidence cantatas are worth it, so COME JOIN US!

## ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.) ~



**Children's Choir:** Any children wishing to join either the Junior or Cherub Choir groups - this is a great time! The groups are for kids from ages 3 through middle school. The 3rd-8th graders practice in Fellowship Hall for Junior choir from 4-5 p.m., and ages 3 through 2nd grade rehearse from 5-5:30 p.m. We also have games and snacks every week! Come and join us - we are always open to new members!

**Women's Fellowship:** The Women's Fellowship would like to remind everyone there will be new flooring put in the Kitchen! Renovations will begin on Sunday (night) the 6<sup>th</sup> of February and hoping to be completed by Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup>. The kitchen and Fellowship Hall will be unavailable for use during those dates. If there are questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the church office.

- The Women's Fellowship would like to invite all women of the church to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Silent Breakfast held on Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Parish Nurse News:** A *Moving Through Grief* bereavement support group will begin March 7<sup>th</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup>. The group will meet every Tuesday from 5-6 p.m. in the conference room upstairs. All in need of support are welcome and encouraged to come. You may join at any time and the cost is free. Spectrum Hospice also offers an ongoing Hope and Healing Grief Support Group the third Wednesday of every month from 4-5 p.m. at United Memorial. This group can be joined at any time and is also free. If you are interested in joining or need more information, please contact Patrice in the office at 754-3445.

**Christian Education & Sunday School News:** Sunday School Teachers are encouraged to sign up for available Sundays through April. Even if you don't have your schedule, go as far as you can and trade with others as needed. Schedules are in the library on the brown shelves. Thank You!

- The Coin Drive starts on the 5<sup>th</sup> and will be held every Sunday in February. Did you know that 1 out of 4 kids go without a dinner every night? The IM Kids Third Meal Program provides sacks of food for children who need it. Our Sunday School students are collecting coins to donate to the no-profit program. Please put your coins in the bread pans and make a noise to help others! Thank you from your Christian Education Committee.



**Pilgrim Fellowship (PF) Youth Group:** Due to schedule conflicts, the Soup and Subs scheduled for Super Bowl Sunday was canceled. Sorry! The youth group is planning to provide "Soup and Subs" in the near future.

- Congregational Summer Camp forms will be available soon for campers finishing 3rd grade through 8th.
- Information for the National (NACCC) Conference at Piedmont College in Demorest Georgia is now available on line or by contacting Claude Johnson at 754-3445.

**Preschool News:** Please don't forget about the Pop Bottle & Can drive to raise money for school supplies! Whoever donates the most will win movie passes! The drive will go from now until the 15<sup>th</sup> of February. Please bring in bottle SLIPS only, and drop them off in the envelope by the Preschool door.



The Children in Ms. Candy's preschool have been learning about kindness and helping others. Throughout the month of February, the children will be putting hearts on the tree by performing random acts of kindness. Please stop by the back hallway to see the "Kindness Tree". Let us all help spread Kindness!



## ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.) ~

**Special Invitation:** all our invited to attend a message from the Former Vicar at Settlement Lutheran Church, Pastor Karen Ressel. She currently lives and works on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota as Pastor and Director of Native American Ministries for the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA. Pastor Karen is coming to visit and share her message about working with Native Americans at the Pine Ridge Retreat Center and the challenges facing the Lakota people who live there. It will be Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. and Friday, February 10 at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Karen will be speaking at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 9844 S. Greenville Road. All are welcome!

**A Word from the Moderator:** I would like to welcome Suzy Kreeger to the church Council as Vice Moderator. She brings with her much knowledge and insight as she has served in many areas of our church. Suzy will be a great asset to our group. Thank you Suzy, for accepting the call to serve our church. ~Scott Rowland, Moderator

**Senior Coffee Hour:** Will still be held on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. Coffee will be served up in the conference room on the second floor.

**The Church Office:** The office hours are 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office phone number is 616-754-3445 or by emailing Angela at office@fccogchurch.org.

**A Note from Your Secretary:** it has been a very busy first month! I just wanted to send out a warm and special thank you to all whom I have met and for those of you I hope to meet in the very near future. I cannot express enough, my gratitude for all the help from the many who have been in and whom I have emailed almost daily to get the Annual Report prepared and completed. ☺ I also thank all the people who help me with the bulletin, every week. Thank you First Congregational Church Members for you kindness, understanding, and patience!

### ~ Mutual Ministry February 2017 ~

#### **February 5**

Greeters: Boy Scouts  
Children's Message: Benjamin Venema  
Liturgist: Karen Hulbert  
Ushers; Boy Scouts  
Coffee Hour: Ted & Therese Bush, Terri Merritt, Marian Griffith  
Trustees: Duane Putnam, Bo Stephenson  
Deacon: Chris Dodd

#### **February 12**

Greeters: Chris Hubbard, Betty Lincoln  
Children's Message: Larry Alman  
Liturgist: Don Gibbs  
Ushers: Brian, Lisa, & Greg Gardner  
Coffee Hour: Pastor Jason & Megan Dillingham, Suzy Kreeger, Jim & Pat Butts  
Trustees: Duane Putnam, Bo Stephenson  
Deacon: Chris Dodd

#### **February 19**

Greeters: Linda Jones, Terri Merritt  
Children's Message: Fran Gibbs  
Liturgist: Blake Rowland  
Ushers: Don Gibbs,  
Coffee Hour: Corey & Holly Norman, Deb Dieckman  
Trustees: Duane Putnam, Bo Stephenson  
Deacon: Chris Dodd

#### **February 26**

Greeters: The Suchowolec Family  
Children's Message: Claude Johnson  
Liturgist: Chris Hubbard  
Ushers: Jon & Paula Aylsworth, Jim Ritzema  
Coffee Hour: Bruce & Sue Beauvais, & Gloria Guilfoyle  
Trustees: Duane Putnam, Bo Stephenson  
Deacon: Chris Dodd



