



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

FEBRUARY 2018

Pilgrim Pulse Volume 10 Issue 2

The Good News...

What an exciting time for us all! I can't express how excited and honored I am over the trust you have expressed in me to be your permanent pastor. I am excited because I can see both the strong foundation that our congregation has and the amazing potential we have here. I am honored because I have studied our heritage and I sense your confidence in me; in our ability to minister together for the good of the church and the community around us. I am profoundly grateful for that trust and confidence and your willingness to continue striving for the Kingdom good building on that rich heritage here in "Green's Village".

The first words I said to my wife Megan as we got in the car after everyone left following the vote was, "Love wins again." I don't think I can summarize this last year any better. Yes, it has been a struggle. Yes, we have been healing. But at the outset of it all I committed to two things. The first was simply to make myself available to whatever came, whatever was needed, and wherever I sensed the Lord leading me to serve here. The second is was simply to love you all and to convince you once more of how much God loves you. It wasn't a grand plan or strategic interim agenda. I have had a strong sense that you all simply needed to be loved. There is certainly healing ahead of us; I think there always will be because Congregationalism isn't the easiest way, but I see a firm foundation and a pregnant potential in our congregation.

It's an exciting time because we've come through one busy season just to launch into another. We may be in the dark months of winter, but we have no shortage of activities going on. By the time you read this, we will have participated in our first "Beer & Hymns" at 57 Pub & Bistro as an effort to engage with our community outside the church walls and show that we are a kind and joyful folk, and that we know how to love one another. We're reviving our Super Bowl Game night together. Lenten Suppers are right around the corner; and that's always a time of beautiful fellowship together. That means Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, and Resurrection Sunday are quickly on their way too. We're gearing up for another year of Confirmation and we're planning a Pentecost Pageant for our Children's Led Service. We've changed the format of Community Life to better fellowship, sticking together around one table for a FREE meal and group study in the informal setting of our Fellowship Hall. I hope that you'll join us and find your place at the table. We would dearly love to have your voice and heart.

Fasten your seatbelts for an exciting 2018! It may be the hard reality of budget cuts today, but we are rising again in love and joy and hope together.


*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:				
Marta Lores	Bill Delp	Rob Sansom	Pat Toth	Jackie Kocher
Lucille McLachlan	Betty Lincoln	Sandra Tiffany	Roxy Rice	
Barb Hoy	Dixie Kingsbury	Patricia Butts	Brian Tiffany	
AT CARE FACILITIES				
Millie Crowe	-at Maple Creek, Grand Rapids			
Lois Hazlewood	-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #31			
Bette Houle	-at Lakeview Terrace Assisted Living			
Natalie & Dick Kilfoil	-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #20			
Al Koett	-at Metron Greenville			
Mary Lou Merritt	-at Green Acres			
Corla Morgan	-at SHUM RNC Room #103			
Kathie Sansom	-at Green Acres			
Mary Crittenden	-at SHUM RNC Room #109			
Norma Nicholas	-at Green Acres Room #201			
Ken Thomas	-at SHUM RM #102			
	-at SHUM RNC Room #118 (rehab)			
FAMILY AND FRIENDS				
Robert Dunn	Brother of Sandra Tiffany and Larry Snow			
Coreen Johnston	Mother of Lynne Rowland			
Judith Rice-Lesage	Sister of Roxy Rice			
Debbie & Bob Stevenson	Family of Linda Jones			
Mike Tuin	Son of Janet Tuin			
Mason LaMange	Nephew of Chris Hubbard			
Marjoan Wohlfert	Sister of Michele Kocher			
Lucas Hopkins	Grandson of Carolyn Coles			
Nathan Faling	Grandson of Carol Magoon			
Ann Hutler	Daughter of Mary Crittenden			
Gary Petersen	Son of Darlene Petersen			
Brian Adair	Husband of Deb Adair			

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

~ February 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Ash Wednesday Activities: 9:30 Prayer & Imposition of Ashes 10a WF 63 rd Silent Breakfast 11a Prayer & Imposition of Ashes 12:10 Service & Imposition of Ashes 7p Service & Imposition of Ashes <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>				1 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	2 11:30 AA	3
4 Communion 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 3p Venture 6p FCC Super Bowl Party 6p AA	5 5:30 Cubs	6	7 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 5:30 Free Dinner 6:30 Group Study 6:30 Bethany 7p Boy Scouts	8 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA	9 11:30 AA	10
11 9:30 Choir 11a Worship -Preschool Sings 3p Venture 6p AA	12 5:15 Cub Leader Mtg. 5:30 Cubs 6:30 Deacons	13 <i>Preschoolers Valentine Party</i>	14 Valentines Day & *Ash Wednesday 9:30 Prayer 10a Silent Breakfast 10a PURLS 11a Prayer 12:10 Service <i>Preschoolers Valentine Party</i> 6p Lenten Supper (Deacons) 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts	15 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	16 11:30 AA 6:30 GS Shut-in →	17
18 1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Mtg. 3p Venture 6p AA	19 <i>President's Day</i> 5:30 Cubs	20	21 10a PURLS 6p Lenten Supper (Girl Scouts) 7p Boy Scouts	22 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	23 11:30 AA	24
25 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 3p Venture 6p AA	26 5:30 Cubs 6p Cubs Pack Banquet 7p Trustees	27 7p Council	28 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 6p Lenten Supper (Trustees & Cubs) 7p boy Scouts	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>		

~ March 2018 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	2 11:30 AA	3
4 Communion 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 12:15 PF Mtg. 3p Venture 6p AA	5 5:30 Cubs	6	7 10a PURLS 6p Lenten Supper (Chancel Choir) 7p Boy Scouts	8 4:15 CC (Sanctuary) 6:30 GS 6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA	9 11:30 AA	10
11 Girl Scout Sunday & Daylight Savings Time 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship -Children's Choir 3p Venture 6p AA	12 5:15 Cub Leader Mtg. 5:30 Cubs 6:30 Deacons	13	14 10a PURLS 6p Lenten Supper (WF) 6:30 Service 7p Boy Scouts	15 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	16 11:30 AA	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>
18 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 12:15 PF Mtg. 3p Venture 6p AA	19 5:30 Cubs	20	21 10a PURLS 6p Lenten Supper (?) 7p Boy Scouts	22 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	23 11:30 AA	24 <i>2p Pinewood Derby</i>
25 Palm Sunday 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 3P Venture 6p AA	26 Holy Week 5:30 Cubs 6p Cubs Pack Mtg. 7p Trustees	27 7p Council	28 10a PURLS 1p WF Board Mtg. 5:30 Free Dinner 6:30 Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	29 Maundy Thursday 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	30 11:30 AA <i>Good Friday</i>	31 Holy Saturday

~ FCC COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

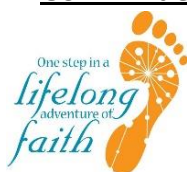
PASTORAL NEWS

Community Life Service (CLS): We're having a great time of fellowship during our weekly free dinner at 5:30pm & group study at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We've been listening and are working up a new format ... all together around one table in the Fellowship Hall for a FREE dinner and group study together. We ate together, prayed together, sang together, and had an engaging discussion around the table. There's a place for you, and we'd love to have your voice and your heart here with us next week! If you'd like to contribute to this ministry, donate food for the dinner, or help in any way, please contact Pastor Jason or Megan.



Pastoral Care: Our Pastoral Care team is here for all of us! If you could use some spiritual or emotional care, we hope you will reach out to our Pastoral Care Team. Contact the church office to arrange a time to get together.

Confirmation & Baptism: Seeking anyone Junior High through High School - interested in taking class leading to full membership and getting to sign your name in our historic book of the covenant. If you would like to participate, let Pastor Jason know today. This is the final call for participants to help work out the details!



CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

AS OF FEBRUARY 1, THE OFFICE HOURS ARE NOW MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9:00am TO 3:00pm with lunch from 2:00 to 2:30pm. For Security reasons, the doors will be locked. Please contact the church office at 616-754-3445 with any questions or requests.

DEACON NEWS

Mutual Ministry: It was decided the mutual ministry volunteer list will return to the more traditional method of assigning volunteers. Those involved for January through April have already been notified; if you didn't receive a notice and list(s) by email or regular mail, you will be contacted to help with one or more tasks at some point later on. If you are assigned a task and unable to fulfill the position, please contact Deb at (616) 754-3687 or dadkdieckman@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- Terri Lynn Nut products are still available and will be for sale on Sunday the 11th after service. Contact Chris Hubbard with any questions.
- February's circle meetings were cancelled due to weather. Please watch your emails and bulletins for the meeting to be rescheduled.

SYMBOLIC LENTEN SILENT BREAKFAST

All people of Faith are invited to set aside time on Ash Wednesday by attending a Silent Breakfast on February 14 at 10:00 AM at First Congregational Church. Attendees will meet in the front of the church off Cass Street to proceed into Fellowship Hall in silence. This event is for personal prayer and reflection while preparing for the Lenten season. You will be inspired while partaking of a symbolic breakfast and a short program with guest speaker Pastor Jason Dillingham. No reservations are required. First Congregational Church is handicap accessible and is located at 126 E. Cass Street in Greenville. For more information, call 754-3445.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



We invite our congregational youth to Sunday school after the children's sermon. We have some new teachers this year but are always looking for anyone interested to help fill-in. **Please remember the first Sunday of every month is communion, so children will be invited to stay and worship with the congregation.*

- If you are would like to volunteer to help with the 7-9-year old class, please contact Fran Gibbs at 616-754-7714.

CHURCH COUNCIL/BOARD MEETINGS:

Deacons: Monday the 12th at 6:30 pm.
Trustees: Monday the 26th at 7:00 pm.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

February is here! The children will be performing in church on the 11th and will have their Valentine parties in fellowship hall on the 13th and 14th. Children are asked to bring their valentine boxes in on Monday and Tuesday the 11th and 12th. The children will have a mid-winter break from the 16th to the 19th. Ms. Candy is *still* accepting applications for anyone interested in sending their little one to a wonderful, loving, and Christian based school. If you or someone you know is interested, please stop in the church office to pick up a packet! Find her on Facebook or call 754-7608. *The fun never stops here at Ms. Candy's Preschool!*

CELEBRATIONS



- **Happy Birthday!** To Dixie Kingsbury (2/1), Pat Ritzema (2/1), Deb Ahrens (2/3), Scott Rowland (2/9), Rex Venema (2/10), Rev. Jerry Jones (2/12), Bud Flashaar (2/14), Greg VanderMark (2/15), Coleen Venema (2/15), Michele Kocher (2/17), Patrick Emerson (2/20), and Celeste Faber (2/24).
- **Happy Anniversary!** To Myron & Sandra Tiffany (2/14).
- If you would like your special occasion or event announced, please contact the church office.

MUSICAL NEWS

- **The Chancel Choir** meets Sundays at 9:30am. We are always looking for new members to join. Please contact Greg VanderMark if you would like to sing in the choir!
- **The Children's Choir:** We are still looking for any children wishing to join the group! We sing songs, play games, and friendships are made – all while spreading the love and joy of Christ through music. If your child or a child you know would like to participate, please contact Valerie VanderMark. Practice is every Thursdays at 4:15-5:15pm.

PARISH NURSE NEWS

IMPORTANT FLU REMINDER: The influenza virus IS STILL affecting people in our community & in our church family. This can be life threatening especially to our very young & people over 65. Symptoms include fever (although not everyone gets a fever), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, chills, fatigue, sometimes diarrhea & vomiting. These symptoms usually start suddenly. If you are at high risk for serious complications (babies, young children, people over 65, pregnant women & anyone with other health issues such as diabetes, lung, heart or kidney issues) it is important to contact your doctor early in your illness. Anyone who has symptoms of the flu & are in a high-risk group or are very sick or worried about your illness should contact your health care provider as soon as possible. Complications of the flu can be life threatening! Emergency warning signs in children & adults are listed in more detail on the church bulletin board. If any of the emergency warning signs occur seek treatment immediately. *If you do come down with the flu the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone (without the use of fever reducing medicine such as Tylenol). Rest, plenty of fluids and over the counter symptom relief medications taken as directed will help. If you are on prescription medications make sure to ask the pharmacist which medications are safe for you to take along with your prescriptions.



- Spectrum Health has issued a memorandum regarding visitor restrictions: All Spectrum Health facilities remain open and are accepting patients. However, visitors will be limited to the following: Only healthy, essential visitors may visit patients in the hospitals or outpatient clinics. Only two visitors or family members are allowed per patient at a time (exceptions can be made when coordinated with the care team). These protocols will help us to protect our patients, employees, and community members against further spread of the CDC-declared influenza epidemic and will remain in effect until further notice. Signage will be placed around the hospitals asking

that visitors check in at hospital lobbies to obtain a "Healthy Visitor" sticker before proceeding to their destination. Please help us protect patients by ensuring all visitors are "Healthy Visitors" and discouraging visitors with symptoms such as: Fever, greater than 100.4 F, Cough, Sore throat, Runny nose or congestion, Vomiting or diarrhea, Rash or draining sores, and Recent exposure to someone with respiratory infection. We appreciate your cooperation. The safety of our patients, families and employees is very important to us. Please contact Infection Control at 616.391.1407 with any questions regarding this initiative.

- **Grief Support & Education Classes** are now being offered January through March by Spectrum Health. There are four different classes offered (please see church bulletin for more details). Please contact Kelly @ Spectrum at 616-486-2833 to sign up or for more information.

General Fund: Operating Budget Income

December 2016 YTD \$250,522.96

December 2017 YTD \$228,675

Shortfall \$21,847.96

NOISY COIN OFFERING

Throughout February, Christian Education will be sponsoring a noisy change drive with donations going to IM Kids 3rd Meal, a local organization that provides sack dinners to kids in Montcalm and Ionia counties including students at Walnut Hills Elementary in Greenville. Bring your change to church for a special offering each Sunday in February or drop off your coins at the church office.



MUTUAL MINISTRY

February 4 – Communion & Boy Scout Sunday

Greeters: The Boy Scouts

Liturgist: Chris Dodd

Children's Message: Benjamin Venema

Ushers: The Boy Scouts

Coffee Hour: Ted & Therese bush, Marian Griffith, and Myron & Sandra Tiffany – assisted by The Boy Scouts

Sound Techs:

February 11 – Transfiguration Sunday

Greeters: Chris Hubbard

Liturgist: Duane Putnam

Children's Message: Marta Lores

Ushers: Doug Stek and Brian & Lisa Gardner

Coffee Hour: The Dillingham Family, and Kurt & Suzy Kreeger

Sound Techs:

February 18

Greeters: Terri Merritt and Bonnie Braman

Liturgist: Roxy Rice

Children's Message: Claude Johnson

Ushers: Don Gibbs, Marian Griffith, and Linda Petersen

Coffee Hour: Duane & Anita Putnam and Mark & Trudy Petersen

Sound Techs: **NEEDED**

February 25

Greeters: The Suchowolec Family

Liturgist: Blake Rowland

Children's Message: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Jon & Paula Aylsworth and Jim Ritzema

Coffee Hour: Bruce & Susan Beauvais and Phil & Tricia Kemp

Sound Techs: **NEEDED**

*Pease see the list above. If you able to help in any way, please contact the Deacons. Thank you!

Trustees of the Month:

Dan Eagles and Steve Roose

Deacon of the Month:

Greg Gardner

