



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

MAY 2018

Pilgrim Pulse Volume 10 Issue 5

The Good News...

Welcome to spring in West Michigan, beloved. I know I said that last month but considering we just had to cancel worship service for dangerous icy weather on April 15th, I feel like I need to say it again. Thankfully, we seem to be back on track with sunshine and green grass all around. What's your favorite sign of spring? I know many will mention their first robin sighting, but for me it's when I get to see the first crocus flowers sprouting out of the ground. Whatever your favorite is, I hope that you're finally enjoying real spring weather!

Is it just me, or is this year flying by us? We're already rehearsing for our Children's Service on Pentecost Sunday, and we're planning for our Graduation Sunday. Which reminds me, if you have a graduate this year, can you please contact the office with their vital information, so we can get them into our slide show to honor our graduates. It's coming up quick on time to celebrate our kids, graduates, and teachers again. Next thing you know, and we'll be back to our 10:00 am summer service times. And don't let our annual Rummage Sale sneak by you!

I want to thank you all for making the time and funds available to allow me to rejoin the other Congregationalist pastors at the beautiful Weber Retreat Center in Adrian for our annual Ministers' Convocation. It was a blessed time of getting better connected and educated. I thoroughly enjoyed our classes on *Biblical, Organizational, and Innovative Approaches to the Mission of the Church* presented by the Rev. Dr. Kyle Small of Western Theological Seminary. Also, I hope you'll join us on the last Tuesday of May for Beer & Hymns where we've been making new friends through song and fellowship.

We are still planning for a big ordination & installation ceremony in the near future. Our hope is that this celebration will bring in pastors from our sister Congregationalist churches as well as leaders of our local community here in Greenville. Our first step in the process is to arrange a Vicinage Council; inviting the blessings and partnership of the NACCC and then to plan a date to come together for a ceremony and reception. We'll be sure to update everyone once we have a council date and our leaders can begin planning the celebration day. What an exciting time!

I would love to spend some time with you all as we journey daily along this pilgrim path. Regular office hours are Mon/Wed/Thurs 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and by appointment on Monday and Tuesday evenings (Friday Sabbath). Just contact me and we can set aside some time to visit together.



*Peace of Christ,
Rev. Jason Dillingham*

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN OUR MILITARY... Ben Crittenden, Jacob Crittenden, Matthew Crittenden, Jordan Varney, Paul Lepley, TJ Curry, Joshua Roose, Blake Schlien, Stephanie Roose, Melissa Staffen, Rick Grimes, & Joe Suchowolec

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

<i>Marta Lores</i>	<i>Bill Delp</i>	<i>Rob Sansom</i>	<i>Pat Toth</i>	<i>Jackie Kocher</i>
<i>Lucille McLachlan</i>	<i>Betty Lincoln</i>	<i>Sandra Tiffany</i>	<i>Roxy Rice</i>	<i>Dan Eagles</i>
<i>Barb Hoy</i>	<i>Dixie Kingsbury</i>	<i>Gloria McPherson</i>	<i>Brian Tiffany</i>	

AT CARE FACILITIES

<i>Millie Crowe</i>	<i>-at Maple Creek, Grand Rapids</i>
<i>Lois Hazlewood</i>	<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #31</i>
<i>Bette Houle</i>	<i>-at Lakeview Terrace Assisted Living</i>
<i>Natalie Kilfoil</i>	<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #20</i>
<i>Al Koett</i>	<i>-at Metron Greenville</i>
<i>Mary Lou Merritt</i>	<i>-at Green Acres Room #118</i>
<i>Corla Morgan</i>	<i>-at SHUM RNC Room #103</i>
<i>Kathie Sansom</i>	<i>-at Green Acres Room #106</i>
<i>Mary Crittenden</i>	<i>-at SHUM RNC Room #109</i>
<i>Norma Nicholas</i>	<i>-at Green Acres Room #201</i>
<i>Ken Thomas</i>	<i>-at SHUM RM #102</i>

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

<i>Debbie & Bob Stevenson</i>	<i>Family of Linda Jones</i>
<i>Mike Tuin</i>	<i>Son of Janet Tuin</i>
<i>Marjoan Wohlfert</i>	<i>Sister of Michele Kocher</i>
<i>Lucas Hopkins</i>	<i>Grandson of Carolyn Coles</i>
<i>Nathan Faling</i>	<i>Grandson of Carol Magoon</i>
<i>Ann Hutler</i>	<i>Daughter of Mary Crittenden</i>
<i>Jacob Baumgardner</i>	<i>Friend of Dave & Linda Jones</i>
<i>David Crittenden</i>	<i>Son of Mary Crittenden</i>
<i>Bill & Jean Boyd</i>	<i>Brother & Sister-in-law of Bonnie Braman</i>
<i>Kathy Cristofoli</i>	<i>Sister of Karen Hulbert</i>
<i>Kathie Suchowolec</i>	<i>Mother of Joe Suchowolec</i>
<i>Ben Bloomquist</i>	<i>Nephew of Betty Lincoln</i>
<i>Coreen Johnston</i>	<i>Mother of Lynne Rowland</i>
<i>Maynard McPherson</i>	<i>Brother of Rose Riddle and Jerry McPherson</i>

- Special Prayers for the passing of Robert (Bob) Barker, who passed on April 10, 2018 at Masonic Pathways in Alma. Funeral arrangements are pending.
- **REMINDER** – Changes for our "Please Pray for List": People that are placed on our prayer list will remain on the list for 3 weeks. If you would like a person to remain on the list after 3 weeks, you will need to call the church office to make your prayer request again. Thank you!
- **Welcome Home!** Janet and Cap Tower. You have been missed.



Special Message of Thanks:



To My Church Family, I want to thank you for your prayers, cards, and especially Patrice for her many visits and encouragement. I am finally on the mend and hope to be well soon.

~Love to all, Darlene Petersen

~ May 2018 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 6:30 Bethany 7p Boy Scouts	3 <i>9a Setup for Rummage Sale</i> 4:15 CC (sanctuary) 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	4 9a WF Rummage Sale 11:30 AA	5
6 Communion 9:30 Choir 11a Worship <i>-All Church Potluck</i> 3p Venture 6p AA	7 5:30 Cubs	8	9 10a PURLS 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	10 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	11 11:30 AA	12 <i>Dick Kilfoil Memorial Service</i>
13 Mother's Day 9:30 Choir 11a Worship PF Assist w/coffee hour 3p Venture 6p AA	14 5:15 Cub Leader Mtg. 5:30 Cubs 6:30 Deacons	15 5p HCA Potluck	16 10a PURLS 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	17 4:15 CC (Sanctuary) 6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 6:30 GS 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	18 11:30 AA	19 FH Setup & Bfast 1p CC Rehearsal
20 Children's Sunday <i>-Teacher Appreciation</i> <i>-Last Day for Sunday School</i> 11a Worship <i>-Children's Choir</i> 12:15 PF Mtg. 3p Venture 6p AA	21 5:30 Cubs 6p Cub Pack Mtg./Grad.	22	23 10a PURLS 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	24 4:15 CC Party 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	25 11:30 AA	26
27 Worship Service <i>Moves to 10am</i> 3p Venture 6p AA	28 <i>Memorial Day (office closed)</i> 5:30 Cubs 7p Trustees	29 7p Council	30 10a PURLS 1p WF Board Mtg. 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	31 6:30 GS 7:30 AA		

~ June 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 <p style="text-align: center;">Graduation and Summer Break!</p>				1 11:30 AA -Registration money due for MCSC (in July)	2
3 Communion & Graduation Sunday 9a Choir 10a Worship -PF Assist w/coffee hour 3p Venture 6p AA	4 5:30 Cubs	5 Last Day of Preschool 11a 3-Year-Old Graduation 7p Preschool Graduation	6 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 6:30 Bethany 7p Boy Scouts	7 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	8 11:30 AA	9
10 10a Service Special Music – TBA 6p AA	11 5:15 Cub Leader Mtg. 5:30 Cubs 6:30 Deacons	12 5p HCA Potluck	13 10a PURLS 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	14 Flag Day 6p Wedding Rehearsal & Dinner 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	15 11:30 AA	16 *Deacons/ Miller Wedding
17 Father’s Day 10a Service Special Music – TBA -PF Assist w/coffee hour 6p AA	18 5:30 Cubs	19	20 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	21 6:30 GS 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	22 11:30 AA	23 <div>PF Annual NAPF-HOPE Conference in San →</div>
24 10a Service Special Music – TBA Chruch Potluck (sponsored by Deacons) — <div>PF Annual NAPF-HOPE Conference in San Diego, CA →</div> 6p AA	25 7p Trustees	26	27 10a PURLS 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	28 7:30 AA	29 11:30 AA	30

~ FCC COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

PASTORAL NEWS



Community Life Service (CLS): Please join us for our Community Life Dinner that is at 5pm and group study at 6pm. If you are interested in helping with set-up/clean-up or donations towards the dinner, please contact Pastor Jason or Megan Dillingham.

Pastor's Office Hours: Pastor Jason has open office hours Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10am-2pm and visits members on Tuesdays (or as needed). Evening appointments are available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday when there aren't board & committee meetings to attend. There is an appointment schedule on the bulletin board if it's convenient to arrange a meeting time that way. Fridays are Pastor's Sabbath Day. Tuesday and Saturday's are study & writing days & event days. Call in the case of emergencies.

Pastoral Care: Our team is here for your spiritual & emotional care! If you'd like to schedule an appointment or visit please call, email, or text Pastor Jason at pastor.dillingham@gmail.com, or contact the church office. Pastor has open office hours Mon., Wed., & Thurs. (10am-2pm) and visits members on Tuesdays (& as needed). Evening meetings can also be scheduled. Patrice is available Tuesday and Thursday from 8am-4pm & Fridays from 8am-11pm.

GRADUATION SUNDAY – JUNE 3RD



Attention ANY & ALL Graduates! Please fill out the *Graduate Information form* and turn into the church office before May 21st. We want to celebrate you at Graduation Sunday! ☺ We also have scholarship applications available in the office. Applications must be submitted for review before May 14th.

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday! To Kris Jager (5/10), Candy Outman (5/12), Kaydie Weber (5/12), Linda Petersen (5/16), Hailey Dines (5/20), and Ron Kingsbury (5/22). *Happy Anniversary!* To John & Deb House (5/2), Joe & Emily Suchowolec (5/5), and Dan & Rosel (5/7). *Congratulations!* to Jim & Holly Case on the birth of their granddaughter, Sophia Marie, born April 19th to Sarah Headley and Ryan Leech.

TRUSTEE NEWS

The Trustees recently voted to invest some of our own endowment funds in a brokerage account with Edward Jones. With DC rates so low the endowment funds will likely grow at a much greater rate. There are many keys to the church that should be turned in to the office if no longer being used. Belk Roofing recently completed repairs to a valley that was leaking in to the sanctuary. The maintenance budget for the year is nearing 100% with 8 months left in 2018. Claude Johnson will be attending the NACCC Annual Convention in San Diego as a delegate of FCCOGT. The next meeting will be May 21, at 7pm. all members are invited to attend.

DEACON NEWS

Here are the highlights from the April meeting:

- Deb House will be joining the diaconate. She will replace Ann Corner.
- A new membership directory is being considered.
- A new fellowship committee is organizing upcoming social events for the congregation.
- Strategies for making families feel welcome when our preschoolers sing for the congregation were discussed.
- The diaconate reflected on activities during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter and talked about way to serve the congregation in 2019.
- All meetings are open to the congregation Next meeting is May 15 at 6:30pm.
- The new lists of Mutual Ministry assignments for May through August are out. Please let Deb Dieckman know if there's a problem: (616) 754-3687 -or- dadieckman@gmail.com.
- We are still short one Deacon (male), having only 11 at the moment. Please let any Deacon know if you are willing to serve. Thank you!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ms. Candy is now accepting registration/application packets, for children who will be attending Preschool in the fall. 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. Space is limited so get your packet today!!!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The annual rummage sale will be May 4th from 8-1. Please bring in your gently used items! We are looking for good, clean clothing, kitchen goods, electronics, books, etc. – in good working order *PLEASE!* Workers are needed on Thursday, May 3rd at 9am to help sort & set up, on sale day to help check people out, and volunteers to help box up & bring the boxes of left-over items to Arms of Love. Please call Mary Snow at 225-1533 or Rosel Eagles at 754-8618 if you can help, or if you need help getting your rummage to the church. We are also looking for volunteers to help Fellowship Hall, after the sale. Please contact Mary or Rosel if you can help in any way!

- The Circles meet at on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Winslow meets at 1pm in Fellowship Hall and Bethany meets at 6:30pm in the upstairs conference room. The last meetings will be this month. The groups will not meet in June or July, they will meet again in the fall – dates TBA.
- Bethany Circle – please finish *Life of the Beloved*. Join us even if you haven't read the book!
- The Board will meet on the 30th and will not meet again until the end of August.
- WF Will be sponsoring an "All Church" potluck to honor our 80 years plus members on May 6th, immediately following church service. If you are turning 80 this year, please contact the church office to be added to list of "honorees". Members please bring table service and a dish to pass. Table service and food will be provided for honorees.
- WF are trying to raise funds to help refurbish our Kitchen Cupboards. Please watch the mailings for our Terri Lynn nut sales – all proceeds go towards this project!

BIBLE STUDY CLASS

The New Bible Study group began meeting on April 22nd. The group will meet every Sunday before service (for 5 weeks), from 9:30-10:30. They are to studying video segments based on the book entitled, *You'll Get Through This*, by Max Lucado. If you would still like to join, please contact the church office to ensure we have enough materials for everyone.

PILGRIM YOUTH NEWS

- PF will assist with coffee hour on May 13th, June 3rd, and June 17th.
- May 20th will be a PF meeting after service.
- MCSC registration deadline is June 30th. Packets are on the bulletin board. Questions, contact Claude Johnson.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Are you interested in spreading the love and word of God with are Congregational Youth? We need you! If you would like to give a message, please contact Megan at dillingham.megan@gmail.com today if you can help!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

REMINDER – PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS! Please come Worship on Children's Sunday May 20. Our Youth will be leading worship Pentecost Sunday. You won't want to miss Children's Choir, A Play, Readings, Teacher Recognition, and Bible Presentations to 1st Graders!

- **REMINDER** – the first Sunday of every month is Communion, so children will be invited to stay and worship with the congregation.

MUSICAL NEWS

The Chancel Choir meets Sunday at 9:30am for practice. We are looking for volunteers to sing in the summer months! If you are interested in joining the choir or volunteering to sing in the summer, please contact Greg VanderMark at 616-835-5001.

The Children's Choir: Will sing on May 20th. We continue to invite any children wishing to join! We sing songs, play games, have snacks, 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 Thursday at 4:15pm.

EASTER FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who purchased flowers and/or donated to the Deacons Discretionary Fund!

Heartfelt Apologies. The following names were missed in the listing for the 2018 Easter flowers: (Patty Barber) In Memory of Ted Barber, Ken & Ethel Wilson, and Dean & Edith Wiesen. (Michele Kocher) In Memory of Lynn Kocher and in honor of Jackie Kocher and my family: Andy, Nate, Jill, Kyle & Rylie. (Marta Lores) In memory of my Mother Marjorie Lores, and in honor of my family. (Nyma Newkirk-Davis) In memory of Cynthia Newkirk, Douglas Newkirk, and Mildred & Ira Reed. In honor of my daughters and grandchildren.



CHURCH COUNCIL/BOARD MEETINGS:

Deacons: Monday the 14th at 6:30 pm.
 Trustees: Monday the 28th at 7:00 pm.

General Fund: Operating Budget Income

March 2017 YTD \$82,473.65 ♦ March 2017 YTD \$79,197.00
 Shortage YTD \$3,276.65

Trustees of the Month: Jack Corner and Cindy Hanson
Deacon of the Month: Terri Merritt

MUTUAL MINISTRY**May 6 – Communion**

Greeters: The Venema Family
Liturgist: Jack Corner
Children's Message: Chris Hubbard
Ushers: Doug & Chris Dodd and Karen Hulbert
Coffee Hour: All Church Potluck (*sponsored by WF*)
Sound Techs: Corey Norman and Blake Rowland

May 13 – Mother's Day

Greeters: Corey Norman and children
Liturgist: Roxy Rice
Children's Message: **NEEDED**
Ushers: Larry Alman, Chris Hubbard, and Anita Putnam
Coffee Hour: Dave & Linda Jones and Ed & Jenny Milam
Sound Techs: Bruce Beauvais and Joe Suchowolec

May 20 – Pentecost & Children's Sunday Service

Greeters: Marta Lores and Patricia Butts
Ushers: Steve & Diane Roose and Corey Norman
Coffee Hour: Stephanie & Jerry Garner, Chris Hubbard, and Deb Dieckman
Sound Techs: Blake Rowland and Joe Suchowolec

May 27 – Trinity Sunday

Greeters: Larry Snow and Friend
Liturgist: Megan Dillingham
Children's Message: **NEEDED**
Ushers: Jack & Ann Corner and Larry Alman
Coffee Hour: Carolyn Foster, Deb Dickman, Carla Durdle, and Marta Lores
Sound Techs: Corey Norman and Joe Suchowolec

June 3 – Communion & Graduation Sunday

Greeters: Peter & Roxanne Faber & Family
Liturgist: Sandra Tiffany
Children's Message: **NEEDED**
Ushers: John & Deb House and Larry Alman
Coffee Hour: Bonnie Braman, Patricia Butts, Darlene Petersen, and Carolyn Coles
Sound Techs: **NEEDED**

June 10

Greeters: Carol Magoon and Betty Lincoln
Liturgist: Ed Milam
Children's Message: **NEEDED**
Ushers: The Rowland Family
Coffee Hour: Dan & Rosel Eagles, Roxy Rice, and Marian Griffith
Sound Techs: **NEEDED**

June 17 – Father's Day

Greeters: Kirk & Celeste Faber
Liturgist: Roxy Rice
Children's Message: **NEEDED**
Ushers: Bonnie Braman, Terri Merritt, and Deb Dieckman
Coffee Hour: Joe & Emily Suchowolec, Jane Truesdell, and Corey Norman
Sound Techs: **NEEDED**

June 24

Greeters: Megan Dillingham and children
Liturgist: Blake Rowland
Children's Message: **NEEDED**
Ushers: Kurt & Suzy Kreeger and Marian Griffith
Coffee Hour: Church Potluck (*sponsored by the Deacons*)
Sound Techs: **NEEDED**

GRADUATION SUNDAY IS JUNE 3rd

Name of Graduate: _____

Graduating From: _____

Parents or Grandparents of Graduate: _____

Church & Other Activities: _____

School or college will they be attending? _____

Program of Study: _____

**Please submit a photograph with this form. Thank you!*