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Pilgrim Pulse Volume 9 Issue 8
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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
Custodian: Danielle McConnell

Mailing Label

IMPORTANT REMINDER: We are going paperless in an effort to *Go Green!* Please contact the office before September 30th if you would like to continue receiving the Pilgrim Pulse by regular mail. If you wish to begin receiving it by email, please call the church office to update your email address with us. If we do not hear from you by the end of September, you will no longer receive the Pilgrim Pulse by regular mail. Thank you for your time and understanding!



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

AUGUST 2017

The Good News...

It's been an active summer for us here at First Congregational Church. Between vacations and enjoying the beautiful Michigan outdoors as well as home visits and planning events like a prayer retreat and a worship service and picnic at the parsonage, and even our weekly Wednesday Community Life gatherings, we've had plenty to keep us busy here.

Dr. Chittum has come to visit with our combined leadership on a Saturday a few weeks ago, and we've been working on some ongoing healing and growth options. We're reviewing the bylaws and making a few appropriate tweaks to them; including establishing a place for the Pastoral Relations Committee and Church Clerk on the Council. We've been reaching out with personal care visits, gathering people together to talk about how we can do things better, considering an all church campaign, and getting ready to ramp up again at our Come Together Sunday right after Labor Day.

We've been working through a bit of a sermon series, "Child of Love" and growing into being our best selves by realizing just how very much God loves each of us, and all of us together. The message seems to be speaking to many of us as we feel lifted in love for one another by realizing how much we ourselves are loved. I hope you'll take the time to catch up on the sermons on our website (or Facebook) if you've missed any weeks. I hope you will find them encouraging.

I am working toward having an evening study and fellowship at the parsonage so that we can have an opportunity to get to know one another even better. The trick will be settling on an evening because things are so busy in the life of our church – which is a pretty good sign of health, I think. I'm leaning toward Thursday evening, and maybe once or twice a month so that it doesn't become too much of a burden for everyone. I'd love to have you join us.

If you haven't heard about the Neighbor 2 Neighbor program that we're partnering with Spectrum United / Spectrum Lifestyles, I would encourage you to consider it. We'll be re-launching again in September. It seems that the beginning of the summer wasn't the best time to get the word out about this great opportunity, so we hope to share that with you all again in a few weeks.

Don't forget that we're worshipping at the parsonage on August 13th instead of at the church building. It's shaping up to be a wonderful Sunday together and I wouldn't want you to miss out. Maybe you can join me in praying for clear weather as we gather together that morning.

*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 Schlien, Stephanie Roose, Melissa Staffen, Rick Grimes, & Joe Suchowolec
WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

Celeste Faber

Lucille McLachlan

Ken Thomas

Jackie Kocher

Betty Lincoln

Dixie Kingsbury

Rob Sansom

Jade Hannah

Jerry McPherson

Sandra Tiffany

Roxy Rice

Path Toth

Bill Delp

Marta Lores

AT CARE FACILITIES

Millie Crowe

Lois Hazlewood

Bette Houle

Natalie & Dick Kilfoil

Al & Helen Koett

Mary Lou Merritt

Corla Morgan

Kathie Sansom

Mary Crittenden

Norma Nicholas

-at Maple Creek, Grand Rapids

-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #31

-at Lakeview Terrace Assisted Living

-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #20

-at Metron Greenville

-at Green Acres

-at SHUM RNC Room #103

-at Green Acres

-at SHUM RNC Room #109

-at Green Acres Room #201

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Penny Curtis

Robert Dunn

Coreen Johnston

Olivia Kunkle

Pam Hann

Judith Rice-Lesage

Debbie Stevenson

Mike Tuin

Phil & Mar

Jenica Tipton

Phil & Mar

Marjoan Wohlfert

Melissa McMullen

Ruth Hall

Jim Sayers

Mary Hopkins

Lucas Hopkins

John Ayers

L. Quinn Lincoln-Keon

Mark Gordon

Daughter of Myron Tiffany

Brother of Sandra Tiffany and Larry Snow

Mother of Lynne Rowland

Friends of Al & Gloria Guilfoyle

Daughter of Myron Tiffany

Sister of Roxy Rice

Sister of Linda Jones

Son of Janet Tuin

Friends of Chris Hubbard

Granddaughter of Chris Hubbard

Friends of Chris Hubbard

Sister of Michele Kocher

Granddaughter of Myron Tiffany

Sister of Carolyn Foster

Friend of Larry Snow

Friend of Marta Lores

Grandson of Carolyn Coles

Friend of Betty Lincoln

Friend of Betty Lincoln

Son-In-Law of Betty Lincoln



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Special Prayers for:

Brian Tiffany, son-in-law to Larry and Marry Snow; for his recovery and upcoming treatments.

Dixie Kingsbury for her recovery from her recent surgery.

Jerry McPherson for his upcoming hip surgery.

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

~ September 2017 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 11:30 AA	2
3 Communion 10a Service Special Music -Lori Engelbrecht	4	5	6 10a PURLS 1p Piano's will be tuned (downstairs & upstairs) 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	7 7:30 AA	8 11:30 AA	9 4p Setup for Come Together Service
10 Come Together Sunday 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 12:15 PF Mtg.	11 6p Cubs – Signup Night in Library 6:30 GS	12 5p HCA Potluck	13 10a PURLS 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study 7p Boy Scouts	14 4:15 Children's Choir 7:30 AA	15 11:30 AA	16
17 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship	18 6p Cubs 6:30 GS	19	20 10a PURLS 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study 7p Boy Scouts	21 4:15 Children's Choir 7:30 AA	22 11:30 AA	23
24 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 12:15 PF Mtg.	25 6p Cubs 6:30 GS	26	27 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study 7p Boy Scouts	28 4:15 Children's Choir 7:30 AA	29 11:30 AA	30

A Special Birthday Invitation: please come and celebrate Lois Hazelwood's 75th Birthday! Her family is having an open house in her honor on Friday, September 8th from 6-8pm at Hathaway Hills.

If you would like to send her a card, please send all cards to:

*Lois Hazelwood
Hathaway Hills Assisted Living
1515 Meijer Drive
Greenville, MI 48838*

~August 2017~

<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 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	3 7:30 AA	4 11:30 AA	5
6 Communion 10a Worship Special Music – Deb Baldwin 6p AA	7	8 Calander Meeting 5:30pm	9 10a PURLS 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	10 7:30 AA	11 11:30 AA	12
13 Picnic at the Parsonage! 10a Worship Special Music -Val VanderMark & Bergan Bolthouse 6p AA	14 6:30 Deacons	15 5p HCA Potluck	16 10a PURLS 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	17 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	18 11:30 AA 6p Fairy Tale Parade Danish Festival →	19
20 10a Worship Special Music – Great Lakes Barbershop Chorus 6p AA	21 4p CPR Training	22 6p GS Leader Meeting	23 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	24 7:30 AA	25 11:30 AA	26
27 10a Worship Special Music -Val VanderMark & Katrina Nelson 1p Preschool Open House 6p AA	28 5:30 Cubs 7p Trustees	29	30 10a PURLS 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study 7p Council 7p Preschool Parents Mtg.	31 7:30 AA		

~ FCC Church News ~

MODERATOR NEWS

Visit from Dr. Chittum: I want to update you as to a meeting that took place with Dr. Chittum on Saturday, July 15. Fourteen members from the Trustees, Deacons, and Church council met for approximately two hours with Dr. Chittum. Dr. Chittum is the director of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC). Over the course of the last few years, he has served our church as both a liaison preacher as well as a source of input during this difficult time of transition. The purpose of the meeting was to hear Dr. Chittum's views and suggestions concerning various issues and challenges we are experiencing in our church to help us move forward and "grow" our church.

The issues which were discussed are as follows:

- The declining attendance at our services
- The need for our bylaws to be updated (much work needed!)
- The importance of all members to have a copy of the bylaws
- Reverend Ian's returns to Greenville
- The ongoing emotional struggle some members are experiencing
- Involving the congregation members in decisions concerning the church by hearing positives as well as concerns
- The positive steps our church leaders are implementing to address these issues
- The importance for all members to know and follow our church Covenant
- The importance of forgiveness
- The need for open communication among leadership and the congregation

I feel, as do others, that this meeting was extremely helpful as we are at a "crossroads" and that action is needed sooner than later. We can no longer sit back and watch things happen. As members of our church, every person can make a difference as to the direction that our church goes. We must remember our church covenant, as it provides us the very foundation as to what our purpose is as a church as well as what our purpose should be as individuals serving God. Many good conversations came about during the meeting as various members from the committees openly shared concerns, ideas, and experiences. In our challenge to move forward, I believe it is vital that communication lines remain open and that transparency exists between leadership and the congregation. I feel we are moving in the right direction, and am hopeful that through forgiveness, prayer, and love, our church will grow once again and be a place where God's message is heard by many. Blessings to all – Scott Rowland, Moderator.

Church Bylaws Amendment: A proposal to amend Article 3, Section D9 for the church bylaws will be voted on Sunday, August 20th following the service. As the bylaws state, only members of the church will be allowed to cast a vote.

The current bylaw states, "The Church Council shall consist of the present Moderator, who shall be the chairperson, Vice Moderator, immediate Past Moderator, Chairperson of the Diaconate, chairperson of the Trustees, one other Deacon and one other Trustee, and the Senior Pastor."

The proposed amendment seeks to add the church Clerk, and a representative from the Pastoral Relations Committee, to the Church Council. At council meetings, the clerk's role is to take notes. The Pastoral Relations committee representative will serve as a source of information between the congregation and the church leaders as it relates to our pastor. Thank you and God Bless – Scott Rowland, Moderator.

PASTORAL NEWS

Community Life Service (CLS): Please continue to join us for our Wednesday night dinner and church service! Dinner is at 5:30, service at 6:15, and the night concludes with a Men's and Women's bible study groups at 7-8pm. Child care is provided. Please help us and spread the word that Community Life is here at FCCOG. We are in great need of volunteers to help in the kitchen and the nursery, and also asking for donations for the weekly meal. If you'd like join in on this ministry, help with the evening events in any way, or donate for the dinner, please contact Pastor Jason or Megan Dillingham.



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. Pastor Jason, Patrice, and Claude are here for you with a listening ear and a heart for you. Contact them or the church office to arrange a time to get together. Peace, hope, joy, and love to you all!

Mutual Ministry: is looking for volunteers to help with the Children's Message and Liturgy readers for the fall months. Please stop by the library to check for available dates.

Prayer List: please help me update the prayer list. If you would like a loved one or friend added or removed from the list, please contact the church office. Many thanks!

DEACONS NEWS

PICNIC AT THE PARSONAGE! On Sunday, August 13, the Deacons are planning our morning's Worship Service on the lawn of the parsonage (912 S. Macomber Dr.). Service time will still be at 10am and we might expect the activities to last past noon or so. A POTLUCK PICNIC and FELLOWSHIP will follow the outdoor service.



WHAT TO BRING: A picnic dish to share, your table service, a lawn chair/folding chair(s), and lawn games, if you have any.

PARKING: The Parsonage will be reserved for those needing handicapped parking and there is street parking along several adjacent streets for all others who can come. We will shuttle others from nearby parking areas, like the library or Tower Park. **In case of rain**, we will move the whole things back to the church and fellow ship hall. **Please make plans to come join us for this casual worship gathering on August 13th!**

Volunteers needed: Greeters, Ushers, and Coffee Hour volunteers still needed. If you are able to assist in any of the areas listed or want to help bring in cookies for coffee hour, please stop by the library to sign up. Thank you!

Council Meetings:

Deacons: The next meeting is August 14th at 6:30pm in the upstairs conference room.

Trustees: The next meeting is August 28th at 7pm in the upstairs conference room. All are welcome to attend.

Women's Fellowship: the Board meeting will be Wednesday August 23rd.

Circles: The groups will resume meetings in the fall; dates and time TBA.

Neighbor2Neighbor Program: is a partnership between congregations, hospitals, and community; designed to bring health care support directly to community residents, resulting in healthier communities. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please call Norma Sowers at 616-225-7055.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS: PLEASE continue to bring in non-perishable food items to help fill the empty shelves at the Ecumenical Food Pantry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Thank you!



Preschool News: School is starting soon! Please turn in your packet and registration fee - ASAP. Open House is Sunday, August 27th from 1-3pm in the Preschool. The Parents Meeting is Wednesday, August 30th at 7pm in Fellowship Hall.

*A CPR class will be held for all Preschool volunteers, on August 21st at 4pm in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, or would like to be added to the class, please contact Candy Outman.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

We are looking for Sunday School teachers to help in the fall. Here is some information if you are interested in teaching children the ways to live and love by God's word:

Why should I be a Sunday School Teacher? The lessons are planned and laid out for you. The curriculum provide choices for what you feel comfortable doing. The time commitment is one Sunday per month. You will touch the lives of our youth. ☺

How do I become a Sunday school Teacher? Present a Driver's License for a background check. Meet one on one or a small group to learn how to use materials. Call Fran Gibbs at 754-7714 and leave a message.

Nursery Volunteers STILL Needed: Calling all members of the church who have had a background check to work with children on file: We are still in need of volunteers to help in the nursery during church service! There is a sign up in the Library. Be at church at 9:40 and hang out in the nursery. If no one comes by 10:10, please join us for service.

Pilgrim Youth Upcoming Activities: Week of the 14th, we will assist in clean-up for Danish Festival. We will have a brief meeting on the 10th of September and on the 24th after worship service.

WF News: would like to send a special thank you to Linda Jones for coordinating our trip to Cherry Hill Farms. Seventeen people made the trip to the Labyrinth and Farm Market. The Lavender was in full bloom and made for a beautiful view. Walking the inside of the garden labyrinth gave time for peaceful prayer moments, time for friendship, and appreciation for creation in flowers and the amazing scent they leave us. Lunch was left us wanting more, so off to the farm market for pies and other delicious deserts, we went! Thank you to all who make the trip, and to those who drove. We hope the experience enriched your prayer life and created friendships along the way. ☺

MUSICAL NEWS

The Chancel Choir will begin meeting in September, on Sundays before church at 9:30am. The first practice and performance will be September 10th at the *Come Together* service. **The Children's Choir** (for 3-12 yr. olds) will begin on September 7th with weekly practices on Thursdays at 4:15-5:15pm.

A special thanks to those who have signed up to sing/preform at FCCOG!

FCC Church Hours: Monday through Friday 9-3:30. For security reasons, the front door will be locked early. If you need assistance, please knock or call the church office at 616-754-3445. Thank you!

Special Messages of 'Thanks':

-The Board of Trustees and all members of the church would like to thank Lynn Wickerham for his time and energy in refurbishing the wooden doors and metal railings. They look great! It is members like this who help make our church a beautiful part of our community.

Celebrations:

- Happy Birthday to Dick Canfield (8/6), Adalyn Weber (8/6), Holly Norman (8/15), and Brian Gardner (8/25).
- Happy Anniversary to Scott & Lynne Rowland who celebrated their 25th Anniversary on August 1st! And to Mike & Ginger Weber (8/6).

PILGRIM PULSE REMINDER: We are still planning to go paperless by September 30th. Please contact the office if you would like to continue receiving the Pilgrim Pulse by regular mail or by email. If we do not hear from you by the end of September, you will no longer receive the Pilgrim Pulse by regular mail. Thank you for your time & understanding!

~ Mutual Ministry August 2017 ~

August 6 – Communion Sunday

Greeters: Marta Lores, Deb Dieckman

Children's Message: Benjamin Venema

Liturgist: Roxy Rice

Ushers: Claude Johnson, Candy Outman, & Patrice Fulton-Peacock

Coffee Hour: Ken & Kathy Reed

Nursery: **NEEDED**

Deacon: Jane Truesdell

August 20

Greeters: Myron & Sandra Tiffany

Children's Message: Sandra Tiffany

Liturgist: Bonnie Wickerham

Ushers: Larry Alman, **2 more needed**

Coffee Hour: Lynn & Bonnie Wickerham

Nursery: **NEEDED**

Deacon: Emily Suchowolec

August 27

Greeters: Marta Lores and Greg Gardner

Children's Message: Betty Lincoln

Liturgist: Duane Putnam

Ushers: Larry Alman, **2 more needed**

Coffee Hour: Claude Johnson and Patrice Fulton-Peacock

Nursery: **NEEDED**

Deacon: Greg Gardner

Trustees of the Month:
Steve Roose and Larry Snow