



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

DECEMBER 2017

Pilgrim Pulse Volume 9 Issue 12

## *The Good News...*

As I am writing to you all after our second Thanksgiving service; "Living Bread & Leftover Turkey", I find myself wanting to share with you how very grateful I am for you all here at FCCOG. Next Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent. That means I have been pastoring among you for one full year now, and I feel that my love for you all has only grown over the last months. Today, in particular, as we wrap up our thanksgiving season, I feel an upwelling of profound love for you all. I want to tell you how grateful I am for having taken me into your congregation; to minister to and be ministered to by you. Yes, this last year has seen some pretty serious challenges, but we have come through that journey together, and well because of all of you.

A year into this journey and I have a joyful sense of what a gift from God you all have been to my family and me. As I pause now, bringing each of your families to mind and praying my thankfulness to God for you all, I am filled with peace and hope. I have witnessed you growing and exercising profound and determined Christian love; even when you may not have liked each other, and faith; even when you may not have known how things were going to work out, and I am encouraged. I sincerely cannot think of another place I would rather be serving as pastor. You have my deepest love and gratitude, and I am eager for what's ahead for us this Advent & Christmas season.

We have a busy month launching with musical services, pageants, and Christmas Eve services. It's the perfect time to reach out to those you've been missing. There's something about this season of light and hope that is beautiful for mending fences and bridging distances. It's a perfect time to reach out to those you've thought about inviting. There's something about this season of joy and anticipation that is beautiful for showing hospitality. Let's find new & greater ways to bring people together this Christmas season.

*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. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me... Philippians 1:3-7a*

*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 Schlienzy, 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>Lucille McLachlan</i>	<i>Betty Lincoln</i>	<i>Sandra Tiffany</i>	<i>Roxy Rice</i>
<i>Barb Hoy</i>	<i>Dixie Kingsbury</i>	<i>Greg Gardner</i>	<i>Brian Tiffany</i>
<i>Gloria McPherson</i>	<i>Patricia Butts</i>	<i>Chris Bosch</i>	<i>Jackie Kocher</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 &amp; Dick Kilfoil</i>	<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #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 #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>Penny Curtis</i>	<i>Daughter of Myron Tiffany</i>
<i>Robert Dunn</i>	<i>Brother of Sandra Tiffany and Larry Snow</i>
<i>Coreen Johnston</i>	<i>Mother of Lynne Rowland</i>
<i>Pam Hann</i>	<i>Daughter of Myron Tiffany</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>Mason LaMange</i>	<i>Nephew of Chris Hubbard</i>
<i>Marjoan Wohlfert</i>	<i>Sister of Michele Kocher</i>
<i>Melissa McMullen</i>	<i>Granddaughter of Myron Tiffany</i>
<i>Jim Sayers</i>	<i>Friend of Larry Snow</i>
<i>Mary Hopkins</i>	<i>Friend of Marta Lores</i>
<i>Lucas Hopkins</i>	<i>Grandson of Carolyn Coles</i>
<i>John Ayers</i>	<i>Friend of Betty Lincoln</i>
<i>L. Quinn Lincoln-Keon</i>	<i>Friend of Betty Lincoln</i>
<i>Tonya Addis</i>	<i>Niece of Marian Griffith</i>
<i>Nathan Faling</i>	<i>Grandson of Carol Magoon</i>
<i>Mariaya Bisson</i>	<i>Niece of Joe &amp; Emily Suchowolec</i>
<i>Bill Boyd</i>	<i>Brother of Bonnie Braman</i>
<i>Tom Deal</i>	<i>Brother of Candy Deal-Outman</i>
<i>Ann Hutler</i>	<i>Daughter of Mary Crittenden</i>
<i>Gary Petersen</i>	<i>Son of Darlene Petersen</i>
<i>Jill Williams</i>	<i>Daughter-in-law of Michele Kocher</i>
<i>Scott Jones</i>	<i>Son of Jerry &amp; Marilyn Jones</i>

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>December 2017</b>					<b>1</b> 11:30 AA  6p Santa Parade <b>Venture Crew Lock-in</b> →	<b>2</b> PF Annual Shopping Trip & Start 'Coats for Christ'
<b>3 Communion</b> 9a Cantata Rehearsal 10a Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 3p Venture 6p AA	<b>4</b>     5:30 Cubs	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 6:30 Bethany 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	<b>7</b>  4:15 CC (Sanctuary) 6:30 GS 6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA	<b>8</b> 11:30 AA	<b>9</b> <b>1p Cantata Dress Rehearsal</b>  <b>2p WF Tea</b>
<b>10</b> 9a Cantata Rehearsal 10a Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Service <b>Cantata</b> Preschool Sings 12:15 PF Mtg. 3p Venture 6p AA	<b>11</b>   5:15 Cub Leader Mtg. 5:30 Cubs 6:30 Deacons	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10a PURLS   5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	<b>14</b>  4:15 CC (Sanctuary) 6:30 GS 7:30 AA <b>GS Lock-in</b> →	<b>15</b> 11:30 AA	<b>16</b> <b>10a CC Rehearsal</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship CC Pageant PF Christmas Party 3p Venture 6p AA	<b>18</b>  5:30 Cubs 6p Cubs Pack Mtg. 7p Trustees	<b>19</b> <b>School Christmas Break 12/19 to 1/3</b>  <b>7p Preschool Pageant</b>	<b>20</b> 10a PURLS  5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups	<b>21</b>  7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	<b>22</b> 11:30 AA	<b>23</b> <b>Christmas Break</b> →
<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship PF Assist	<b>25</b>  <b>(no service)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10a PURLS 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups	<b>28</b>  7:30 AA	<b>29</b> 11:30 AA	<b>30</b> <b>Christmas Break</b> →  <b>Pastor on vacation</b> →
<b>31 New Years Eve</b> 10a Bible Study 11a Service Special Music—TBA  <b>Pastor (off)</b> →						

# ~ January 2018 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<b>1</b> <div style="background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Christmas Break</div> 	<b>2</b> <div style="background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Pastor back from vacation</div>	<b>3</b> <b>School Back In Session</b> 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 6:30 Bethany 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	<b>4</b>      6:30 GS 7:30 AA	<b>5</b> 11:30 AA	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Communion</b> 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 12:15 PF Mtg.  3p Venture 6p AA	<b>8</b>   5:15 Cub Leader Mtg. 5:30 Cubs 6:30 Deacons	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10a PURLS   5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	<b>11</b>    4:15 CC 6:30 GS 6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA	<b>12</b> 11:30 AA	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Service  3P Venture 6p AA	<b>15</b> <i>MLK Day</i> <b>*Reports due for Annual Report</b>  5:30 Cubs	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10a PURLS   5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	<b>18</b>    4:15 CC (Sanctuary) 6:30 GS 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	<b>19</b> 11:30 AA	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship Children's Choir 12:15 PF Mtg.  3p Venture 6p AA	<b>22</b>   5:30 Cubs 7p Trustees	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10a PURLS   <b>6p Potluck</b> <b>7p Annual Meeting</b>  7p Boy Scouts	<b>25</b>    4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	<b>26</b> 11:30 AA   <div style="background-color: #90ee90; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">PF Retreat in Wayne, MI</div>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Service <div style="background-color: #90ee90; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">PF Retreat</div> 3p Venture 6p AA	<b>29</b>   5:30 Cubs 6p Cubs Pack Mtg.	<b>30</b>   7p Council	<b>31</b> 10a PURLS  1p WF Board 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts			

## ~ FCC COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

### PASTORAL NEWS



**Community Life Service (CLS):** Please join us for a dinner at 5:30pm, service at 6:15, and Bible study at 7:00 pm. There is childcare for those families wishing to come. If you'd like to join in on this ministry or help with the evening events in any way, please contact Pastor Jason. We are asking for any donations to help with the dinner to help feed the members in our community who are in need.

**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.

### DEACONS NEWS

**Angel Tree for the Homeless** The board of deacons is sponsoring an angel tree this year to benefit Have Mercy. This local agency supports homeless families in crisis. We can assist in this by providing a variety of items for their newly opened family interim housing facility. A tree with tags will be in place in the narthex by December 1 and will remain until Christmas Eve. Unwrapped gifts can be left under the tree or in the church office. You are welcome to take a tag from the tree at any time! The tree is in the library and there are flyers for what is needed available. Any questions, please contact Hollie Stephenson.



**MUTUAL MINISTRY:** Greeters, Ushers, and Coffee Hour volunteers are needed for January through March. If you can 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!

**BECOMING BETTER:** These classes are held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday nights at 7 pm. Both sessions are held in the conference room. This will be our final week for Becoming Better. We will evaluate the class and discuss ways to improve it, as well as brainstorm ideas for other topics we would see as valuable to becoming a better church. Last week's topic was a discussion on how we can move forward at FCC with clear vision and renewed hope. If you have questions, please call Suzy Kreeger (616 794 6055) or Linda Jones (231 343 2244).

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- Terri Lynn Nut products will be available for sale on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and after Church Service on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Questions, contact Chris at 754-7464.
- December 6 will be the Circle Christmas Meetings.
- December 9<sup>th</sup> will be Ye Old Fashioned Christmas Tea with Village Green Singers.
- Please contact the Church office if you would like a ride to attend any of the events listed above!
- Would like to thank everyone who attended and to all who donated for this year's bazaar! There were so many things donated, such as: delicious baked goods, beautifully knitted items, hand carved items, and things to brighten someone's home – just to name a few. ☺ We would also like to thank all the volunteers and crafters that came out to make the bazaar a success! A special thanks to all who helped set up for the event and the volunteers who helped in the kitchen, and with the cleanup – we had the best lunch in town (as always)! Many thanks and blessings! ~ W/F Board

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

This month we encourage our Sunday School children to attend church to enjoy the Advent Season as a family. Communion, A Children's Pageant, Christmas Eve Morning Service and two evening services at 7pm and 11pm, are all special days to attend church. Please mark your calendars and join us!

- With Communion on January 7, 2018, Sunday School will resume January 14, 2018.
- We are looking for more volunteers to teach for the 7-9-year-old class. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Fran Gibbs at 616-754-7714.

### Preschool News

The Preschoolers are back from break and ready to begin the festivities for our Christmas season with the birth of Christ and all that the season brings! The children will be having a Christmas Pageant on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. They will then be off for the Christmas and New Year's holidays beginning the 20<sup>th</sup> of December and will resume the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January. At that time, we will have more openings for enrollment in the preschool. If you or anyone you know is looking to send their child to a fun, Christian based preschool, please contact Ms. Candy for more information. *The fun never stops here at Ms. Candy's Preschool!*



### Celebrations

- *Happy Birthday!* To Taylor McPherson (21/1), Valerie VanderMark (12/2), and Kevin Venema (12/28).
- If you would like your birthday, anniversary, or have any other special event you would like announced, please contact the church office.



### CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

**FCC Church Hours:** Monday through Friday 9am to 3:30pm. Please contact the church office at 616-754-3445 with any questions or requests. Thank you!

**Prayer List REMINDER:** I will be "refreshing" the prayer list in January 2018. If you would like to have yourself or someone put back on the prayer list, please let me know. Thank you!

### MUSICAL NEWS



**The Chancel Choir** meets on Sundays before church 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** will be having a Christmas Pageant on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December! If your child or a child you know would like to participate, please contact Valerie VanderMark. The Children's Choir continues to meet weekly on Thursday's at 4:15-5:15pm. We are still looking for any children wishing to join the group! **If your child has a love of music, please come join us!**



### F.A.N. NEWS

The holidays are often difficult and present challenges for those in, and those seeking, recovery from addiction to drugs. The holidays present challenges for their loved ones as well. The Ionia/Montcalm chapter of Families Against Narcotics, I/M Fan, meets each month in Fellowship Hall on the third Thursday of the month and on the first Thursday of the month at The Right Door in Ionia at 6:30p.m. At its December forum a special celebration will be held honoring recovery coaches and all those supporting people in/or seeking recovery. This month's forum will be combined with the group from Ionia and will be held in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00p.m. All are welcome.

### SPECIAL THANKS



*I cannot thank you enough for my surprise send off. Your generosity, grateful spirit, love and blessings are overwhelming. Of all the changes I've had in my personal life over this past year, leaving my post as organist has been the most difficult. The hour and a half commute one way is just too much every Sunday and it is the only reason I resigned. I want you all to know how much I truly love you and our church family. I was completely surprised with the potluck. The food was fantastic, and the cakes were especially good. The entertainment was truly extraordinary. Extra thank yous to all who worked behind the scenes to set up and take down that Sunday, Pastor, Greg, Bruce, Mary, Rosel, Coleen, Patrice and all the others that I don't know of. The gift of money will be saved for our next moose hunting trip to Alaska in Sept. (The next time I come for a potluck you can expect a dish made with moose.) I am hoping to be a sub organist one of these days when my knee is healed as I had another full knee replacement. My eyes are filled with tears because I miss you so much. ~Blessings to you all, Chris & Bob Bosch (4107 S 88th Ave., New Era, MI 49446)*

## DECEMBER NEWS/EVENTS

### General Fund: Operating Budget Income

October 2016 YTD \$218,487.34

October 2017 YTD \$192,966.66

Shortfall \$25,520.68

### Sunday School

This month we encourage our Sunday School children to attend church to enjoy the Advent Season as a family. Communion, A Children's Pageant, Christmas Eve Morning Service and two evening services at 7pm and 11pm, are all special days to attend church.

Please mark your calendars and join us!

*With Communion on January 7, 2018, Sunday School will resume January 14.*



*Ladies Mark Your Calendars for...*

*Ye Old Fashioned Christmas Tea*

*Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm*

*Dress in your finest vintage clothing*

*or wear a vintage hat provided*

*Come listen to the Greenville High School's*

*Village Green Singers*

*Followed by tea sandwiches and cookies*

*Bring Your Friends!*



The Great Lakes Men's Chorus and  
Grand Rapids Sweet Adelines  
Present  
*A Musical Holiday*  
Saturday, December 9  
Grandville High School Auditorium 2:00pm and 7:00pm

### Tickets:

Adults are \$15, Seniors (60 and over) are \$12, Students (8-18) \$12, and Children (0-7) FREE. If you are interested or would like more information, call (616) 896-8669.

### CHURCH COUNCIL/BOARD MEETINGS:

Deacons: Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Trustees: Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

### Christmas Cookie "Leftovers"

There will be no coffee hour on Sunday, Dec. 24. It's Christmas Eve, of course, and we'll be returning to church later that evening for one or both candle-lighting services. Also, Dec. 31 will be "Leftovers" for coffee hour. Everyone, please bring your leftover Christmas cookies to share with the congregation. The Deacons will make the coffee and juice and lay everything out. Good way to use up extra sweets before the new year and all those resolutions!



---

---

## ~ *Mutual Ministry for December 2017* ~

---

---

Please see the list below. If you able to help in any way, please contact the Deacons. Thank you!

### **December 3 – Communion**

Greeters: Karen Hulbert and Dick Canfield

Liturgist: Blake Rowland

Children's Message: Roxy Rice

Ushers: Jack & Ann Corner and Patrice Fulton-Peacock

Coffee Hour: Carol Magoon, Tami Tefft, and Carla Durdle

Sound Tech: Corey Norman

### **December 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Greeters: Jerry, Gloria, and Taylor McPherson

Liturgist: Jack Corner

Children's Message: Fran Gibbs

Ushers: Kurt & Suzy Kreeger and Don Gibbs

Coffee Hour: Jack & Ann Corner and Terri Merritt

### **December 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Greeters: Patricia Butts and Terri Merritt

Liturgist: Susan Beauvais

Children's Message: Larry Alman

Ushers: Emily & Joe Suchowolec and **1 more needed**

Coffee Hour: Marta Lores, Harry & Rose Riddle, Deb Adair,  
Jerry, Gloria, and Taylor McPherson

### **December 24 – Christmas Eve 11am Service**

Greeters: Chris Hubbard and **1 more needed**

Liturgist: Karen Hulbert

Children's Message: Claude Johnson

Ushers: Jack & Ann Corner and **1 more needed**

Coffee Hour: **No coffee hour**



### **December 24 – Christmas Eve 7pm Service**

Greeters: **NEEDED**

Liturgist: Susan Beauvais

### **December 24 – Christmas Eve 11pm Service**

Greeters: **NEEDED**

Liturgist: Susan Beauvais

### **December 31 – New Year's Eve**

Greeters: Marta Lores and 1 more needed

Liturgist: Linda Jones

Children's Message: Betty Lincoln

Ushers: **NEEDED**

Coffee Hour: Christmas cookie "Leftovers"

~ **Trustees of the Month**: Kurt Kreeger and Duane Putnam ~ **Deacon of the Month**: Tom Stephenson