

First Congregational Church of
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Pilgrim Pulse Volume 9 Issue I
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Staff

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



PILGRIM PULSE

January 2017

Reflections of a Pilgrim Shepherd:

This has been one of the most beautiful and uplifting Advent & Christmas seasons that I can remember. You all have made my family and I feel the welcome warmth of joy these last several weeks. The beautifully decorated sanctuary, the talented & inspiring music, and the heartfelt worship have all contributed but it has genuinely been the loving spirit in which you have embraced us that has made all the difference. It's my prayer that you have felt the same hope and joy this wonderful season of light, and I look forward to connecting and hearing each of your stories.

I hope that you had a chance to enjoy one of our Christmas Eve services. We had an amazing lineup of musical talent and a great many people contributed to a beautiful service for everyone. The seven o'clock service was amazingly well attended and I had great fun recounting my story of the "ugly crooked wall" to the kids. Just like the real Berlin Wall, there were a few adorable little escapees crossing back and forth during that children's message. I hope we all learned from the parable to build tables instead of walls. Our eleven o'clock service had excitement of its own as we nearly jumped right from a peaceful Christmas Eve to the flames of Pentecost. Ask someone who was there to tell you that story.

One of my most cherished memories, however, would have to be joining with our carolers to sing joy to our shut-ins and seniors around town. The warm fellowship of our fellow carolers was only surpassed by the expressions of joy on those many faces as they joined in on those familiar holiday songs. I think you can ask anyone who participated and they'll tell you that the brief cold didn't bother anyone in the presence of that loving warmth.

These are just a few of the joyful stories from our last month together and my family and I want to express our profound gratitude to all of you for so many wonderful memories. I think it's a great promise of hope to come.

Peace to you,
Pastor Jason Dillingham



~ 2016 Christmas Poinsettias ~

Name

Karen Aylsworth
 Karen Aylsworth
 Patty Barber
 Patty Barber
 Patty Barber
 Bonnie Braman
 Bonnie Braman

Richard H. Canfield
 Karen & Larry Carbonelli
 Karen & Larry Carbonelli
 Karen & Larry Carbonelli
 Karen & Larry Carbonelli
 Karen & Larry Carbonelli
 Karen & Larry Carbonelli
 Karen & Larry Carbonelli
 Karen & Larry Carbonelli
 Karen & Larry Carbonelli
 Karen & Larry Carbonelli
 Karen & Larry Carbonelli
 Christiansen Family
 Christiansen Family
 Christiansen Family
 Christiansen Family
 Theresa Cory
 Theresa Cory
 Doug & Chris Dodd
 Doug & Chris Dodd
 Doug & Chris Dodd
 Doug & Chris Dodd
 Carla Durdle
 Carla Durdle
 Carla Durdle
 Carla Durdle

Placed in tribute....

In memory of Jackie Aylsworth
 In memory of Hazel Purdy
 In memory of Ted Barber
 In memory of Kenneth & Ethel Wilson
 In memory of Dean & Edith Wiesen
 In memory of Hal Braman
 In honor of my children & grandchildren: Jr. Braman, Jamie & Sarah
 Smith and Andrew, Sarah, Ellie, Alanah, Sophia Braman
 In memory of Donna Canfield
 In memory of Robert & Elizabeth Waldo
 In memory of Muriel Carbonelli
 In memory of Guido Carbonelli
 In memory of Kevin Carbonelli
 In memory of Lisa Nelson
 In memory of Bill Braman
 In memory of Rev. Kermit Dancy
 In honor of Judy Dancy
 In honor of Rev. Jerry Jones
 In honor of Marilyn Jones
 In honor of Rev. Ian Macdonald
 In honor of Kathleen Macdonald
 In memory of Bruce Christensen
 In memory of Jeff Copp
 In memory of Grace Christensen
 In memory of Ron Waldorf
 In memory of Tracy Hanes
 In memory of Betty Hanes
 In memory of In memory of Pamela Dodd
 In memory of Darrell Hodge
 In memory of Helen Hodge
 In memory of Robert Dodd
 In memory of My husband Michael L Durdle
 In memory of In-Laws Max & Barb Durdle
 In memory of Parents William & Joan Thompson
 In honor of Grandchildren: Alexandria, Kyle, Zachary, Adrian,
 Madison, Emma

Name

Peter & Roxanne Faber
Peter & Roxanne Faber
Peter & Roxanne Faber
Peter & Roxanne Faber
Ron & Pat Flashaar
Ron & Pat Flashaar
Ron & Pat Flashaar
Ron & Pat Flashaar
Cheryl Flashaar
Patrice Fulton-Peacock
Patrice Fulton-Peacock
Jeri Gardner
Angela & Bryan Garvey
Angela & Bryan Garvey
Don & Fran Gibbs
Don & Fran Gibbs
Don & Fran Gibbs
Don & Fran Gibbs
Dale & Judy Graham
Dale & Judy Graham
Louis Hamper
Louis Hamper
Susan & John Hoppough
Susan & John Hoppough
Susan & John Hoppough
Susan & John Hoppough
Susan & John Hoppough
Susan & John Hoppough
Chris Hubbard
Chris Hubbard
Karen Hulbert
Marta Lores
Marta Lores
Carol Magoon
June Mc Meeken
June Mc Meeken
Gloria & Jerry McPherson
Gloria & JerryMcPherson
Mary Lou Merritt
Mary Lou Merritt
Carrol & Vivian Minard
Don & Julie Momber
Don & Julie Momber
Susan Moss
Candy Outman and the family
Linda Petersen

Placed in tribute....

In memory of Raymond & Marian Randels
In honor of Ormand & Janet Staines
In honor of Kirk & Celeste Faber
In memory of Earl & Kirky Faber
In memory of Bertie Cory
In memory of Luella Flashaar
In memory of Chad Saladin
In memory of Scott Flashaar
In memory of Arnold Batchendler (dad) & Scott Flashaar (husband)
In honor of Elise & Ellia Devitt
In honor of Eli & Grant Kuenzer
In memory of Charlie Garner
In memory of Keyana Rose Garvey
In honor of Ian Macdonald & family
In memory of Bill & Phyl Ham
In honor of Don & Shirley Gibbs
In honor of our children
In honor of our grandchildren
In memory of H. Dale & Bettye Graham
In memory of Bob & Ann Snyder
In memory of Louis Hamper Jr.
In memory of Maggie Jones
In memory of Tom & Anna Mae Dunlap & Don Johnson
In memory of Betty Hoppough-King & Mark
In memory of our Grandparents
In honor of our children & grandchildren
In honor of Keith King
In honor of Mary Johnson
In memory of Russ Hubbard
In honor of family & friends
In memory of David C. Hulbert
In memory of Marjorie Lores
In honor of my family
In memory of Ray, Trudi, Chel, Kris Magoon
In memory of Dr. Earl Faber
In memory of Kirky Faber
In memory of our parents Bert & Julia McPherson
In memory of Jay & Elouise Olsen
In memory of Chuck Wolverton
In memory of Red Merritt
In memory of Mr. & Mr. Paul Marshall & Mr. & Mrs. Vern Minard
In memory of Dalyn & Nancy Ling, David Ling
In honor of Christian & Raegan Momber
In honor of the FCC, you will always be in my heart
In memory of Dave
In memory of Victora Ward

Name

Linda Petersen
Sharron & Tom Pridgeon
Sharron & Tom Pridgeon
Roxy Rice
Roxy Rice
Roxy Rice
Lyla Jeanne Sharpe
Staffen Family
Staffen Family
Staffen Family
Staffen Family
Linda Stafford
Linda Stafford
Linda Stafford
Linda Stafford
Linda Stafford
Linda Stafford
Linda Stafford
Linda Stafford
John Svendsen & Sally Farabee
John Svendsen & Sally Farabee
Judy Swartz
Judy Swartz
Judy Swartz
Kay Thomas
Kay Thomas
Kay Thomas
Ken Thomas
Ken Thomas
Ken & Coleen Venema
Ken & Coleen Venema
Ken & Coleen Venema
Ken & Coleen Venema
Susan Woudenberg
Susan Woudenberg

Placed in tribute....

In memory of Gordon Ward
In honor of Jeff Pridgeon Family
In honor of Andy Pridgeon Family
In memory of my mother, Gerry Rice
In memory of Peter, Richard, Jeremy & Jack
In honor of the Macdonald Family
In memory of Edward H. Sharpe
In memory of Arnold, Barbara & Larry Staffen
In memory of A.G. & Ann Carpenter
In memory of Allen & Lynda Staffen
In honor of Ian, Kathleen Macdonald & Family
In memory of Dale Stafford
In memory of Vivian Stafford
In memory of Bob O'Connor
In memory of Hazel O'Connor
In memory of Margie O'Connor Scheidt
In memory of Kitty O'Connor Armel
In memory of John Stafford
In memory of Leslie Stafford
In memory of Jack Harris
In memory of Allie Svendsen
In memory of Agnes Svendsen
In memory of Dale Hubbs
In memory of Jean Hubbs
In memory of Jon Leslie
In memory of Ashley Tiffany
In memory of Gavin, Jeramy Train
In memory of Allison Sanborn
In memory of Vonnie Thomas
In memory of Peggy Tower
In memory of Rex & Marion Braginton parents of Coleen
In memory of Herman & Betty Venema parents of Ken
In honor of Kevin & Carrie
In honor of Morgan Maria, Benjamin, & Rex Herman
In memory of Howard & Reva Petersen
In memory of Robert & Marguerite Thompson



IN OUR PRAYERS January 2017

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.

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>	<i>Jodi Petersen</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 & Dick Kilfoil</i>	<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Rm. 20</i>
<i>Al & 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>Alan Cazier</i>	<i>Father of Jessica Cazier</i>
<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 & Gordon Johnston</i>	<i>Parents of Lynne Rowland</i>
<i>Olivia Kunkle</i>	<i>Friends of Al & 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 & 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>Mary Joan Wohlfert</i>	<i>Sister of Michele Kocher</i>

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

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church is scheduled for January 25, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Preceding the meeting, there will be a church potluck beginning at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

All are invited to attend!

*Groups, Boards and Organizations who meet at the church are encouraged to submit a report to be included in the Annual Reports of the First Congregational Church. These reports can be attached to an email for ease in attaching to the document.

Please send reports to: churchoffice@firstccog.com

From the Trustees:

As we have just come through the season of giving and Christmas, let us reflect on the gifts that we have been given by the God we worship. I found this little poem by Henry Brown about the special gift of our todays. Very appropriate for all of us!

*Since we were tiny, we always wanted a present given to every one of us,
We would grab it with both hands and open it without a fuss.
Some were clothes, food, or even a little toy,
Some would make us sad while others brought us joy.
This reminds me of the gift the Lord gives us each and every day,
Some make us sad and others make us glad in a very special way,
The gift He gives us is called the present,
We have it with us always because that is what he sent.*

*It's so sad to see that most of us live in the future or the past,
Take this as a wake-up call—it is only the present that will last.
Why worry about tomorrow when you can enjoy yourself right now,
No matter how hard you try, you cannot change what happened anyhow.
But, if you look after the present, the now, that God has given you,
It will become tomorrow and be a good day too.
And then, tomorrow will become yesterday in a wink,
Which almost always will be good as it makes you really think.*

*Stop living for tomorrow and forget about yesterday,
Just live this very moment as God will make a way.
For your future and our past to be what He wants it to be,
Live in the present so your past and your future will turn out for the best, you'll see.*

From the Board of Deacons:

A new Mutual Ministry Sign-Up Sheet will be available for the January through April. Please be sure to check your calendars and sign up to serve. We need volunteers for the liturgist readings, children's message, and greeters. Thank you!



An Invitation to join in prayer & midweek worship ...

Beginning Monday January 9th, Pastor Jason would like to invite any and all for the morning Prayer from 9:30 - 10 am. Please join us Monday through Friday as we gather in the Sanctuary.

On Wednesday evenings, we offer a Midweek Service at 5:30 pm.

All are welcome!

A Note from Women's Fellowship

A note of special thanks to all who helped take down the Christmas decorations!

We still do have a few Terri Lynn products left for your baking needs and tasty enjoyment. Posted below is the inventory as of January 5, 2017. If you are interested in purchasing any of the products below, please call Christ Hubbard at 754-7464.

(3) Gummi Bears, (1) Milk Chocolate Raisins, (2) Milk Choc. Bridge Mix, (1) Malted Milk Balls, (4) Almonds Rstd/Salted, (9) Milk choc. Peanuts, (8) Praline Pecans, (2) Honey Rst. Cashews, (5) Walnut Pieces & halves, (1) Pistachios, and (6) Heart Healthy Mix.

The Women's Fellowship would also like to announce there will be new flooring put in the Kitchen.! The kitchen and Fellowship Hall will be unavailable for use as renovations will begin on the 6th of February and are to be completed by the 11th.



Children's Message: Candy Outman is the new coordinator for 2017. Please see her before or after worship to pick your date you wish to help with the children's message.

Christian Education News:

Our Sunday School Teachers will resume teaching on January 8. If you haven't tried Sunday School, we encourage students from Preschool Age through 8th Grade. Students are dismissed after the Children's Sermon and finish at the end of church services.

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!

A special Pajama Party will be held on January 29th this year. Wear your warmest pajamas to church and we will enjoy a short movie, snack, and craft. Bring a friend for this fun event!

Christian Education Meeting is Monday, January 9 at 6:00 PM. All Sunday school teachers, parents, and interested members are welcome to attend. On the agenda is planning for the Pajama Party on January 29. Wear your warmest pajamas to church and we will enjoy a short movie, snack, and craft. Bring a friend for this fun event!

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES! Thank you to our teachers this week: Patrice-Fulton Peacock, Lisa Gardner, Terri Merritt, Brianna Rowland, and Brian Gardner.



Pilgrim Fellowship News:

A special thank you from Terri Merritt and Family. Her daughter Nicolette joined with David Cafmeyer in marriage on New Year's Day! Terri and her family wish to thank all who helped prepare the sanctuary for the ceremony and a special thank you to Claude for officiating.

2017 PLEDGE ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK UP IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY.

Mutual Ministry January 2017

January 1

Greeters: Bonnie Braman
Children's Message: Megan Dillingham
Liturgist: Roxy Rice
Ushers: Don Gibbs, Bonnie Braman
Coffee Hour: Al & Gloria Guilfoyle, Patrice
Fulton-Peacock
Trustees: Don Gibbs, Cindy Hanson
Deacon: Bruce Beauvais

January 8

Greeters: Karen Hulbert and Dick Canfield
Children's Message: Linda Jones
Liturgist: Suzy Kreeger
Ushers: Don Gibbs, Fran Gibbs, Carol Magoon
Coffee Hour: Tami Tefft, Scott & Lynne
Rowland
Trustees: Don Gibbs, Cindy Hanson
Deacon: Bruce Beauvais

January 15

Greeters: Carrol and Vivian Minard
Children's Message: NEEDED
Liturgist: John House
Ushers: Anita Putnam, Terri Merritt, Jim Butts

January 15 cont.

Coffee Hour: Jack & Ann Corner, Duane &
Anita Putnam, Tom & Sharron Pridgeon
Trustees: Don Gibbs, Cindy Hanson
Deacon: Bruce Beauvais

January 22

Greeters: Tom & Sharon Pridgeon
Children's Message: Chris Hubbard
Liturgist: Bo Stephenson
Ushers: John & Deb House, Chris Hubbard
Coffee Hour: Pastor Jason & Megan
Dillingham, Dave & Linda Jones
Trustees: Don Gibbs, Cindy Hanson
Deacon: Bruce Beauvais

January 29

Greeters: Jerry & Gloria McPherson, Taylor
McPherson
Children's Message: NEEDED
Liturgist: Roxy Rice
Ushers: Linda Petersen, Don Gibbs, Maran
Griffith
Coffee Hour: Dan & Rosel Eagles, Chris & Doug
Dodd
Trustees: Don Gibbs, Cindy Hanson
Deacon: Bruce Beauvais

January 2017

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 Communion 10:15 Choir 10 Bible Study 11:00 Worship 6:00 AA	2 No School	3 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Joy Bells	4 9:30 Morning Prayer 7:00 Service 7:00 Boy Scouts	5 9:30 Morning Prayer 7 AA GAMA	6 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	7
8 10:15 Choir 10 Bible Study 11:00 Worship 12:15 PF 5:00 Venture 6:00 AA	9 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:00 Cubs 6:30 GS 6:30 Deacons	10 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Joy Bells	11 9:30 Morning Prayer 7:00 Service 7:00 Boy Scouts	12 9:30 Morning Prayer 10:30 Senior Coffee 4:00 Jr. Choir 5:00 Cherub Choir 7 AA	13 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	14
15 10:15 Choir 10 Bible Study 11:00 Worship Joy Bells Preschool 6:00 AA	16 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:00 Cubs 6:30 GS Reports due for Annual Report	17 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Joy Bells	18 9:30 Morning Prayer 7:00 Service 7:00 Boy Scouts	19 9:30 Morning Prayer 4:00 Jr. Choir 5:00 Cherub Choir 7 AA 7 F.A.N.	20 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	21
22 9:30 Choir 10 Bible Study 11:00 Worship 12:15 PF 3:00 Crossover 5:00 Venture 6:00 AA	23 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:00 Cubs 6:30 GS 7:00 Trustees	24 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Joy Bells	25 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Potluck 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Annual Meeting	26 9:30 Morning Prayer 4:00 Jr. Choir 5:00 Cherub Choir 7 AA	27 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA State Retreat Lainesburg	28
29 9:30 Choir 10 Bible Study 11:00 Worship CE Sunday School Event 3 & 4 Green Acres & Ext. Care 6:00 AA	30 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:00 Cubs 6:30 GS	31 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Joy Bells				

February 2017

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 9:30 Morning Prayer Circles Meet 7:00 Service 7:00 Boy Scouts	2 9:30 Morning Prayer 4:00 Jr. Choir 5:00 Cherub Choir 7 AA GAMA	3 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	4
5 Communion 8:30 Choir 10 Bible Study 11:00 Worship Jr. Choir Super Bowl subs 5:00 Venture 6:00 AA	6 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:00 Cubs 6:30 GS	7 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Joy Bells	8 9:30 Morning Prayer Boy Scout Pot Luck 7:00 Service	9 9:30 Morning Prayer	10 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	11
12 8:30 Choir 10 Bible Study 11:00 Worship Cherubs 6:00 AA	13 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:00 Cubs 6:30 GS 6:30 Deacons	14 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Joy Bells	15 9:30 Morning Prayer 7:00 Service 7:00 Boy Scouts	16 9:30 Morning Prayer 4:00 Jr. Choir 5:00 Cherub Choir 7 AA 7 F.A.N.	17 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA Wedding Rehearsal	18 Wedding
19 8:30 Choir 10 Bible Study 11:00 Worship Joy Bells 5:00 Venture 6:00 AA	20 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:00 Cubs 6:30 GS	21 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Joy Bells	22 9:30 Morning Prayer 1:00 WF Board 7:00 Service 7:00 Boy Scouts	23 9:30 Morning Prayer 4:00 Jr. Choir 5:00 Cherub Choir 7 AA	24 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	25
26 8:30 Choir 10 Bible Study 11:00 Worship 12:15 PF 6:00 AA	27 9:30 Morning Prayer Blue & Gold Pack FH 6:00 Cubs 6:30 GS 7:00 Trustees	28 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Joy Bells				