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Pilgrim Pulse Volume 9 Issue 7
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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



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

JULY 2017

The Good News...

I'm sending my greetings from the deck of this quaint little house we've rented for our first ever family vacation (well, that was more than just a weekend). I'm surrounded by beautiful trees, flowers, and sunshine while the sounds of birdsong and Lake Michigan's waves floating through the air. It's a beautiful and peaceful place and an excellent spot to recharge and listen for God's still small voice. As I typed this paragraph, a dove wandered up to eat not six feet down from where I am sitting. I am profoundly grateful for you all and the support we have that makes this week possible for us. On behalf of our whole family, we want to say thank you.

It is a stark contrast at times from the struggle and crisis we have been journeying through within our congregation. Some of us are struggling to heal from last year and some of us are struggling with not putting that firmly in the rearview mirror. It's a season of healing, rebuilding, and learning to love with grace on an even deeper level than before. I am grateful for the honest conversations we're having in our board and council meetings. I'm grateful for the team who has put together a kind gesture of love and listening as we reach out to the hurting brothers & sisters from our congregation, especially the ones who have stepped back from the source of their pain. We're committed to listening and learning from the mistakes of the past while walking this pilgrim path together into the future. I truly believe that we have a wonderful congregation with amazing potential for our community and for the Kingdom of Heaven and I am still excited to hear the testimonies of healing and unity that we will tell in the future.

Community Life is going well on Wednesday nights. We're averaging about 30 people a week, including five children. For many, this may be the only church experience they have and it has been a helpful destination for us to point people to when they come in for help from our Deacons Discretionary Fund. Just this last week, I had a beautiful reminder of why we're doing what we're doing in a couple who came in for help and have connected to our community there. I hope that we will all continue to remember and strive to live the words of that beautiful song we sing at the end of our worship services:

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.



*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:

<i>Celeste Faber</i>	<i>Jackie Kocher</i>	<i>Rob Sansom</i>	<i>Sandra Tiffany</i>	<i>Bill Delp</i>
<i>Lucille McLachlan</i>	<i>Marta Lores</i>	<i>Jade Hannah</i>	<i>Roxy Rice</i>	
<i>Ken Thomas</i>	<i>Betty Lincoln</i>	<i>Jerry McPherson</i>	<i>Path Toth</i>	

AT CARE FACILITIES

<i>Eileen Burke</i>	<i>-at Green Acres, Grand Rapids</i>
<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 & Dick Kilfoil</i>	<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #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 #109</i>
<i>Norma Nicholas</i>	<i>-at Green Acres Room #201</i>
<i>Barb Hoy</i>	<i>-at SHUM RNC Room #101</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>Olivia Kunkle</i>	<i>Friends of Al & Gloria Guilfoyle</i>
<i>Pam Main</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>Phil & Mar</i>	<i>Friends of Chris Hubbard</i>
<i>Jenica Tipton</i>	<i>Granddaughter of Chris Hubbard</i>
<i>Phil & Mar</i>	<i>Friends 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>Margaret Monday</i>	<i>Niece of Carolyn Foster</i>
<i>Ruth Hall</i>	<i>Sister of Carolyn Foster</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>Mark Gordon</i>	<i>Son-In-Law of Betty Lincoln</i>
<i>Winston Hasper</i>	<i>Cousin of Michele Kocher</i>

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

~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 <i>Communion</i> 10a Worship Special Music – Deb Baldwin 6p AA	7	8 <i>Calander Meeting 5:30pm</i>	9 10a PURLS 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	10 7:30 AA	11 11:30 AA	12
13 <i>Picnic at the Parsonage!</i> 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	19 Danish Festival
20 10a Worship Special Music – Great Lakes Barbershop Chorus 6p AA	21	22	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 6p AA	28 7p Trustees	29	30 10a PURLS 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study 7p Council	31 7:30 AA		

~ July 2017 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2 Communion 10a Worship Special Music – Claude Johnson 6p AA	3 Church office closed	4  Church office closed	5 10a PURLS 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	6 7:30 AA GAMA	7 	8 Gus Macker
9 10a Worship Special Music -Larry Hodges Gus Macker <i>MCCC Summer Camp from the 9th – 14th</i> 6p AA	10 6:30 Deacons	11 5p HCA Potluck	12 10a PURLS 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	13 7:30 AA	14 11:30 AA	15
16 10a Worship Special Music -Bob & Sally Johnson 6p AA	17	18	19 10a PURLS 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	20 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	21 <i>Danish Festival Comm. Breakfast</i> 11:30 AA	22
23 10a Worship Special Music -Briana VanHouten 6p AA	24 7p Trustees	25	26 10a PURLS 5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	27 7:30 AA	28 11:30 AA	29
30 10a Worship Special Music -Greg VanderMark 6p AA	31					

~ FCC Church News ~

A Letter from the Moderator:

We on the Church Council are writing to let you know that, despite the difficult times our church is experiencing, you, your cares and concerns are vitally important to us and to the overall health of our church. We, as a family, are presented with an opportunity to let each other know that we care, to address and resolve our hurts and to grow in Christ's love for each other. It is important for us, as a church family, to move forward not only here at church, but in our community, as we work together toward our common goal of the building up of the kingdom of God.

The Church Council has been working to respond to the hurt many members have felt following Reverend Ian's departure and the brokenness that was apparent at the Annual Meeting.

The Church Council has voted to accept the following Addendum to the 2016 Moderator's Report:

Let the record of the First Congregational Church of Greenville Show that the opinions expressed in this report by the moderator about the former senior pastor did not reflect the thoughts, feelings, or opinions of the congregation as a whole.

The Church Council is implementing measures to move forward. We will ensure better communication among the church boards and members by posting meeting minutes on the Bulletin Board, as well as making them available by email. Members of our congregation are welcome at any of our council or Board meetings. We ask that if you do plan to attend a meeting that you let the chair know in advance. In addition, the Personnel committee Comprised of Duane Putnam, Tricia Kemp and Kirk Faber, is conducting job reviews and updating job descriptions and would welcome input from the congregation. Also, a suggestion box is being made available near the church office. When posting a suggestion, we encourage you to also share what you like or think is working well. Lastly, we have a group of concerned individuals who are in the process of sending out "thinking of you cards" to those in need. Anyone who has suggested names or would like to help, please contact Lynne Rowland or Suzy Kreeger.

We ask that you keep our church family, it's leaders, and all of our members in your prayers as we move forward seeking, discerning and doing god's will in loving him and our neighbors. We are in the midst of a one-year, renewable contract with Pastor Jason Dillingham. Who, but a very loving God, would see to it that in our time of need, a man who called Jerry Jones his pastor and Ian Macdonald his friend, would be here amongst us, prepared to lead us through this challenging time? We look forward to watching his ministry and abilities grow here at FCCOG. If you would like an individual conversation with Pastor Jason, please

do not hesitate to contact him at the church office or by email. The charge of the Pastoral Relations committee, comprised of Don Gibbs, Dan Eagles, and Lynne Rowland, is to assist Pastor Jason in understanding our needs as a congregation and to help him reach his full potential as our Pastor in Transition. To help facilitate this process, the committee will be conducting reviews in June and December and will be making recommendation to the church Council prior to the Annual Meeting. We ask that any ideas, suggestions, or concerns as to pastoral leadership be directed to one of the pastoral Relations committee members. If you have any other questions, thoughts or ideas, please feel free to contact any Church Council member: Scott Rowland, Suzy Kreeger, Kirk Faber, Duane Putnam, Tom Stephenson, Jane Truesdell, Karen Hulbert, Jim Ritzema, or Bonnie Braman.

In closing we look forward to worshipping our truly great and awesome God together, as a church family, at the First Congregational Church of Greenville.

In Christ, Scott Rowland

Summer Time Service at the Parsonage! The Deacons would like to remind our FCC Family to mark your calendars for our Sunday Picnic Service on August 13th at Parsonage (912 S. Macomber Drive). The service will still be held at 10am followed by a potluck picnic and fellowship. We might expect the activities to last until 1pm or so. In addition to a picnic dish-to-pass, bring your table service and a lawn chair/folding chair. Also, anyone with fun lawn games, please bring those, too! Parking details will be announced later, but the driveway at the Parsonage will definitely be reserved for those needing handicapped parking. Anyone willing to volunteer to shuttle others (from nearby parking areas like the library or Tower Park), please let one of the Deacons know. In case of rain, we'll move the whole thing back to the church and fellowship hall. Please make plans to come join us for this casual Sunday gathering on August 13th!

Community Life Service (CLS): Please continue to join us for our Wednesday night dinner and church service! Dinner is at 5:30, prayer at 6:15, a service in the Sanctuary at 6:30 with live music, and the night concludes with a Men's and Women's bible study groups at 7pm. 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. If you'd like join in on this ministry or help with the evening events in any way, please contact Pastor Jason or Megan Dillingham.



Council Meetings:

Deacons: The next meeting is July 10th at 6:30pm in the upstairs conference room.

Trustees: The next meeting is July 24th at 7pm in the upstairs conference room. All are welcome to attend.

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

Circles: are taking a summer break. The groups will resume their meetings in the fall; date/time TBA.

Volunteers needed: for Greeters, Liturgists, Ushers, and Coffee Hour, now through September. If you are able to volunteer or help bring in cookies for coffee hour, please contact the church office at 754-3445. Thank you!

Neighbor2Neighbor Program: is a community partnership between local organizations and Spectrum Health United and Kelsey Hospitals. NSN connects Spectrum Health resources with community organizations to create a support structure for members within the organization. The program educates and empowers community partner volunteers to provide basic support for fellow organization members who are in need, so they can focus on healing rather than every day duties. N2N also provides health education classes for the community partner organization. By working together we can build a stronger community right here in Montcalm County! For more information, call Norma Sowers at 616-225-7055 or the FCCOG church office at 616-754-3445.

Preschool News: please stop in to pick up your packet for the Fall Preschool Fall Class. Space is limited and packets are going fast! Contact the church office to pick up a packet or for more information. The open house for Preschool will be in August so please get your packet in today!

MUSICAL NEWS

Chancel Choir: We are still looking for soloists and groups to fill our Summer Special Music slots thru Labor Day weekend. If you would like to volunteer, have an idea, or have a request please contact Greg VanderMark at (616) 835-5001.

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

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

- **VBS 2017:** Vacation bible School will be at St. Paul Lutheran Church this year, held August 1-3 with dinner at 5:30-6:00PM and lessons at 6-8PM. Their title is *Maker Fun Factory Created by God! Built for a Purpose*. They are asking for volunteers to help in the kitchen and lead groups from station to station and also for the following donations:



General Supplies: building blocks, bean bags, flashlights, painters tape, egg cartons, butter tubs, measuring spoons and cups, ping pong balls, large sponges/sponge balls. Yarn, googly eyes, tissue paper, paper towel, small paper plates, bubble wrap, clothespins, wax paper, spray bottles, drinking straws.

General donations 60-3-ounce plastic cups, 60 - 9-ounce plastic cups, 90 count sandwich bags, 6-85 count plates, 6 large disposable bowls, 6 boxes for quart size bags.

Snacks:

Tuesday snack donations 6 boxes of Chex cereal, 6 boxes of animal crackers, 6 boxes of gold fish crackers, 12 bags of Gummi Worms - 6.75 Oz.

Wednesday Snack Donations 8 packages 8" Soft Taco Tortilla, 8 packages of Mozzarella String Cheese 12 oz., 8 cans of 14 oz. Pizza Sauce

Thursday Snack Donations 8 Bags of Cinnamon Sugar Tortilla/Pita Chips, 9 boxes of vanilla Yoplait Go-Gurt, 5 pints of fresh Blueberries, 5 pints of fresh raspberries, 5 pints of fresh blackberries, 4 bags of shredded coconut, brownie bites. Dried fruit, Chex.

- **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 office with Angela. Be at church at 9:40 and hang out in the nursery. If no one comes by 10:10, please join us for the service. There has been sporadic use of the nursery so until there is a large need, we will rely on volunteers and not hire staff to provide this service.

Pilgrim Youth Upcoming Activities:

- July 16-22 Annual Mission Trip was canceled due to conflict in schedules. Claude Johnson still attended the trip as a volunteer. Please look in the weekly newsletters for future PF Youth Group activities. Plans are being made for an August adventure and for 'Come Together Sunday' in September.



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! —Ron Kingsbury

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!

WF News: WF is hosting a caravan trip to Cherry Point Farms in Shelby, on Thursday the 20th. They will leave around 8:30am and return around 4pm. Questions? Contact Linda Jones at 231-343-2244.

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! We are also looking for volunteers to help prepare the August Pilgrim Pulse for mailing. If anyone is interested or able, please contact the church office. Thank you!

Special Messages of 'Thanks':

-I want to thank everyone for the cards and prayers for me during my recover from back surgery. I feel blessed. —Jerry McPherson

-Words cannot describe how much your thoughts, prayers and gifts meant in my extended absence from church. I had a full knee replacement end of April. During recovery, we went to see Julie in Aspen, CO. While there, Bob had an extreme medical emergency and was air lifted to Denver. What was going to be a week away turned into a month. We just got back to MI this past Sunday. "Thank you" just doesn't convey my feelings for all you've done. A special thank you to Greg, Cindy, Val, and Deb. I'm so happy to be back at my post! Blessings to you all! —Chris Schut & Bob Bosch

Celebrations: Happy Birthday to Terri Merritt (7/2), Deb Dieckman (7/5), Claude Johnson (7/6), Harry Riddle (7/9), Carla Durdle (7/12), Darlene Petersen (7/18), Chris Hubbard (7/19), Blake Rowland (7/22), and Marta Lores (7/23).

ATTENTION: In an effort to *Go Green*, please stop in the Library and sign up to let us know if you want to receive the monthly newsletter by regular mail or by email. We plan to *Go Green* by September. If you still wish to have the Pilgrim Pulse mailed to you, please let the office know otherwise it will be emailed to you. Thank you!

~ Mutual Ministry July 2017 ~

July 2 – Communion Sunday

Greeters: Dave & Linda Jones and Larry Alman

Children's Message: Dan Eagles

Liturgist: Emily Suchowolec

Ushers: Don & Fran Gibbs and Larry Alman

Coffee Hour: Bonnie Braman and Julie Momber

Nursery: Patrice Fulton-Peacock

July 9

Greeters: Dan & Rosel Eagles

Children's Message: Larry Alman

Liturgist: Fran Gibbs

Ushers: Tom Pridgeon, Larry Alman, & Bonnie Braman

Coffee Hour: Dan & Rosel Eagles and Carol Magoon

Nursery: Linda Jones

Trustees of the Month:

Kirk Faber and Larry Snow

Deacon of the Month:

Emily Suchowolec

July 16

Greeters: Patrice Fulton-Peacock and Candy Outman

Children's Message: Fran Gibbs

Liturgist: Bonnie Wickerham

Ushers: Jack & Ann Corner and Larry Alman

Coffee Hour: Patrice Fulton-Peacock and Candy Outman

Nursery: Suzy Kreeger

July 23

Greeters: Lynne & Bonnie Wickerham

Children's Message: Claude Johnson

Liturgist: Jack Corner

Ushers: Larry Alman

Coffee Hour: Bonnie Braman, Marta Lores, and Karen Carbonelli

Nursery: Patrice Fulton-Peacock

July 30

Greeters: Linda Petersen and Mary Lou Merritt

Children's Message: Duane Putnam

Liturgist: Don Gibbs

Ushers: Linda Petersen and Carolyn Foster

Coffee Hour: Don & Fran Gibbs and Myron & Sandra Tiffany

Nursery: Patrice Fulton-Peacock

