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Pilgrim Pulse Volume 9 Issue 6  
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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

JUNE 2017

## *The Good News...*

It's summer time in Michigan – one of my favorite things! I've traveled a good part of the world; from Northern California to Scotland, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq, and still I love West Michigan in the summertime. Some of you may not yet know that I grew up in Muskegon a mere bicycle ride from the Lake Michigan beach. I cherish all those dunes & rivers & lakes. I'm looking forward to getting my kayak out on Baldwin Lake and the Flat River and I'm already enjoying all the birdsong and green vistas around us here. What's your favorite part of summer in West Michigan? Do you enjoy a different part of the year more? I see the creative artistry of God in all of it. We are so blessed here.

May held a couple of difficult and challenging weeks for us, but I've witnessed our congregation pull together yet again. Not only have we been worshipping and serving together, but I continue to be impressed by our faithfulness exhibited in those stay the course through difficult waters and sit across the table from other members who they may disagree with in order to seek understanding and work out solutions together. Have no doubt that God is training us and shaping us; if only we will continue to be faithful and teachable through it all. This last month we launched both the Neighbor to Neighbor pilot program with Spectrum United as well as Community Life on Wednesday evenings to feed people physically and spiritually.

Some have asked what the safety pin that I often wear is all about. I thought I would share my answer with you all here as well as in the bulletin and on Facebook: During World War II, occupied Dutch & Norwegians took to wearing safety pins or paper clips to communicate solidarity amongst allies. In 2016, Brits & Americans resurrected the practice to identify themselves as safe allies to vulnerable groups like women, foreigners, the bullied, and people of color. I joined in the practice as part of my conviction and call to follow Jesus in caring for "the least of these" and so I wear a visible invitation to those vulnerable people in danger that I am a safe person who will intervene on their behalf.

(Matt. 25, Heb. 13, 1 Pet. 2, Ex. 12, 22, Lev. 19, 25, Deut. 10, 14, 15, 24, 26, 27, 31, Psalm 10, Prov. 15, 23, Jer. 7, 22, Ez. 22, Mal. 3, Zech. 7)

May you and your families all have blessings of peace, hope, love, and joy through this beautiful season. I'm looking forward to all the fun we're going to share in the next few weeks.

*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>Lucille McLachlan</i>	<i>Marta Lores</i>	<i>Pat Toth</i>	<i>Roxy Rice</i>
<i>Rylie Whitten</i>	<i>Betty Lincoln</i>	<i>Bill Delp</i>	<i>Jade Hannah</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 Kilfoil</i>	<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #20</i>
<i>Dick Kilfoil</i>	<i>-at SHUM RNC Room #117</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 RNC Room #117</i>
<i>Barb Hoy</i>	<i>-at Kelsey Rehab Lakeview Room #226</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 &amp; 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 &amp; Mar</i>	<i>Friends of Chris Hubbard</i>
<i>Jenica Tipton</i>	<i>Granddaughter 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>Winston Hasper</i>	<i>Cousin of Michele Kocher</i>


*Prayers and heart-felt condolences to the family of Mr. James Butts. Surrounded by his family, he was welcomed home on June 5, 2017. Funeral will be Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> with visitations from 10-11am, a Memorial Service at 11am, and a luncheon to immediately follow the service down in Fellowship Hall. Anyone wishing to send flowers or food to the family, please bring them to the church office and arrangements will be made to have them delivered.*

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

*~ July 2017 ~*

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> <b>Communion</b> 10a Worship Special Music – Claude Johnson  6p AA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> 10a PURLS  5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	<b>6</b>   7:30 AA GAMA	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Gus Macker (just the parking lots)
<b>9</b> 10a Worship Gus Macker  <i>MCCC Summer Camp from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup></i>  6p AA	<b>10</b>  6:30 Deacons	<b>11</b>  5p HCA Potluck	<b>12</b> 10a PURLS  5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	<b>13</b>  7:30 AA	<b>14</b> 11:30 AA	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10a Worship  6p AA <i>PF Mission Trip from the 16<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup></i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10a PURLS  5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	<b>20</b>  7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	<b>21</b> <i>5a Danish Festival Comm. Breakfast</i> 11:30 AA  → Camp Ends	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10a Worship  6p AA	<b>24</b>  7p Trustees	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10a PURLS  5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	<b>27</b>  7:30 AA	<b>28</b> 11:30 AA	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10a Worship  6p AA	<b>31</b>					

~ June 2017 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				<b>1</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  7:30 AA GAMA	<b>2</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA <i>Preschool 3yr. Old Program in FH</i>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b><i>Communion Pentecost &amp; Graduation Sunday</i></b> 9a Choir 10a Worship <i>Preschool Graduation for 4&amp;5-yr. olds &amp; Reception</i> 6p AA	<b>5</b>  6p Cubs 6:30 GS	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  10a PURLS Circles Meet  5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study 7p Boy Scouts	<b>8</b>  7:30 AA	<b>9</b> 11:30 AA	<b>10</b> 10a Aylsworth Funeral Luncheon FH
<b>11</b> 9a Choir 10a Worship  6p AA	<b>12</b>  6:30 Deacons	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10a PURLS  5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	<b>15</b>  7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	<b>16</b> 11:30 AA	<b>17</b> <b><i>James Butts</i></b> 10-11 Visitation 11 Memorial Service with Luncheon to immediately follow in FH
<b>18</b> 10a Worship Special Music – Julie Momber PF Coffee Hour  6p AA	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10a PURLS  5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	<b>22</b>  7:30 AA	<b>23</b> 11:30 AA	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10a Worship  6p AA <i>NACCC NAPF/Hope Georgia</i>	<b>26</b>  7p Trustees	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10a PURLS  5:30 CLS Dinner 6:30 Service 7p Bible Study	<b>29</b>  7:30 AA	<b>30</b> 11:30 AA  → Camp Ends	

*A special thanks to Ken & Kathy Reed for helping with coffee hour on the 4<sup>th</sup> and for bringing cookies! ☺*

# ~ 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

**SPECIAL INVITATION:** With thanks to God for His leading in our daughter's life and education, we announce the High School Graduation of Brianna Rowland. We are blessed to be the parents of this young lady. Please join us in honoring her at an **Open House from 2-5pm on Saturday, June 17, at the Montcalm Township Hall.** A selection of German food and desserts will be served. Blessings, Scott & Lynne Rowland



## **Congratulations 2017 Graduates!**

Ian Jager (Son of Paul & Kris Jager) – graduated from Greenville HS and will be attending Michigan Tech University in the fall.

Brianna Rowland (Daughter of Scott & Lynne Rowland) – graduated from Greenville HS and will be attending MCC in the fall and Aquinas to follow for World Languages.

Andrew Corner (Grandson of Jack & Ann Corner) – graduated from Allendale HS and will be attending GRCC in the fall studying Construction Management/Architectural Technology.

Jillian Grace Hulbert (Granddaughter of Karen Hulbert) – graduated from Noblesville Indiana HS and will be attending Indiana University studying Nursing and Public Health in the fall.

Hannah Corner-DeVries (Granddaughter of Jack & Ann Corner) – graduated from Calvin College with an Early Elementary degree.

Brian DeVries (Grandson of Jack & Ann Corner) – graduated from Calvin college and working for Gentex Group.

Deb House (FCC member) – graduated from U of M from the Doctoral Nurse Practitioner Program. She is



currently practicing in Lakeview and will be teaching at MSU in the fall.

Dr. Jacob Peacock (Son of Patrice & Bob Peacock) – graduated from New York University of Medicine. He has accepted a Fellowship at the Swedish Neuroscience Institute in Seattle, Washington; for the Interventional Spine Medicine Program.

**Weekday Prayer Service:** is taking a summer vacation as we move Sunday worship services to 10:00 am through the summer months.

**Community Life Service (CLS):** Wednesday nights are our new Community Life Service. Please join us, to visit and be a part of the events of the night! Dinner is at 5:30, prayer at 6:15, a service in the Sanctuary at 6:30 with live music, and the night finishes off 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 need 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.

**FINAL REMINDER - NACCC News:** the NACCC is holding their 63<sup>rd</sup> annual conference on June 24<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> at Piedmont College in Demorest Georgia. If you would like more information, please contact the church office for registration forms or visit:

<http://www.naccc.org/2017-amc-information.html>

#### **Council Meetings:**

**Deacons:** The next meeting is June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the upstairs conference room. If anyone is interested in attending, they are open meetings. Our minutes are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, for those who are not able to attend.

**Trustees:** The next meeting is June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the upstairs conference room. All are welcome to attend.

**Women's Fellowship:** the next Board meeting will be Wednesday August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**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 August. If you are able to volunteer or help bring in cookies for coffee hour, please contact the church office at 754-3445. Thank you!

**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.

- Ms. Candy would like to again, send out a thank-you to all of her Grandma's and Grandpa's that help volunteer in the classroom! You are loved and appreciated by Ms. Candy and the parents for the love and support you give to the children of Ms. Candy's Preschool Class!

#### **MUSICAL NEWS**

**Chancel Choir:** We are looking for soloists and groups to fill our Summer Special Music slots starting June 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Sound Board:** We are looking for volunteers to help with the sound console and computer station. It's easy, fun, and rewarding, too. Please come to one (and only one) of our 3 scheduled training sessions following church in the sanctuary on the following 3 Sundays: June 11, 18, and 25 at 11:15 am (training will last an hour). We are looking for 6-8 people go through the training so we are always covered with 2 people for every Sunday. Once we get this going you might help with Wednesday night services, funerals, and weddings, some of which are paid events. Anyone interested please contact Greg VanderMark or Tom Stephenson.

**Children's Choir:** Thank you to all the Children for a beautiful season of fellowship and singing performances. We hope to see you all back in the fall!

**Neighbor to Neighbor Program:** looking for volunteers to help people of the community by offering their support during and after hospitalization. This is a partnership with Spectrum Health, which encourages congregational members to help care and support the residents of our community by offering fellowship, driving members to doctor appointments, and daily tasks and errands around their home. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Norma Sower at 616-225-7055 or Patrice Peacock at 616-894-7288.

**Christian ED & Sunday School News:** Thank you to our faithful teachers for this school year in Sunday School. A breakfast was held in their honor along with Confirmation, First Grade Bible Presentations, and the highly successful Children Led Church Service.

- A special thank you to the parents and grandparents who made the effort for a dress rehearsal on Saturday and your attendance in church on Sunday. Thank you, Sunday School teachers, for helping with readings and learning The Lord's Prayer. Thank you to the students for doing such a fine job with the whole service. Thank you, Greg, for the fantastic sound system and computer coverage, Val for the Children's Choir that set the wonderful tone for the whole service, Deb Ahrens for playing For the Beauty of the Earth, and Cindy Hanson for the memorable children's music from long ago. Thank you to Coleen Venema for recording the service through pictures and thank you Megan Dillingham for bringing Deb to us to sign the music. Special thanks to Pastor Jason for his comprehensive help in planning and executing this new service and Angela

Grimes for working extra hours on the bulletin and the order of worship.

- St. Paul Lutheran Church will host Vacation Bible School this year. It will be held August 1, 2, and 3 with dinner at 5:30-6PM and lessons at 6-8PM. Their title is *Maker Fun Factory Created by God! Built for a Purpose*. Needs for that will be posted when more needs become available.
- There will be no "Super Sunday School" this summer due to lack of sign ups by volunteers to teach.
- **Calling all members of the church who have had a background check to work with children on file:** You are requested to volunteer for nursery duty on Sundays. 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:**

- Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> Father's day – we will be assisting with coffee hour after church.
- June 25-30 is National Conference at Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia. MIPF group will depart for their pre-trip on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- July 9-14 is Michigan Conference Summer Camp for those finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Forms can be found online at: [www.michigancongregationalsummercamp.org](http://www.michigancongregationalsummercamp.org). It's never too late to register!
- July 16-22 is our annual mission trip. We will be going to East Moline, Illinois; the theme this year is called, "THE ROAD." We will depart on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>. There is still time to sign up and join us!
- Plans are being made for an August adventure and for 'Come Together Sunday' in September. Have a wonderful & blessed summer!

### **~ Mutual Ministry June 2017 ~**

#### **June 4 – Communion, Pentecost & Graduation Sunday**

Greeters: Lynn & Bonnie Wickerham

Children's Message: Betty Lincoln

Liturgist: Don Gibbs

Ushers: John & Deb House and Larry Alman

Coffee Hour: Ken & Kathy Reed, Marta Loes, and Carla Durdle

Nursery: Terri Merritt

#### **June 11**

Greeters: Kurt & Suzy Kreeger and Megan Dillingham

Children's Message: Sandra Tiffany

Liturgist: Blake Rowland

Ushers: Lynn & Bonnie Wickerham and Larry Alman

Coffee Hour: Bruce & Susan Beauvais

Nursery: Patrice Fulton-Peacock

**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!

#### **Celebrations:**

- Happy Birthday to Steve Roose (6/9), Sharla McCoy (6/10), Marian Griffith (6/17), Katrina Nelson (6/17), Pat Flashaar (6/20), and Corey Norman (6/21).
- Happy Anniversary to Jeff & Karen Skinner (6/3), Ken & Coleen Venema (6/9), Steve & Diane Roose (6/11), Paul & Kris Jager (6/17), Duane & Anita Putnam (6/19), Rich & Trudi Cunningham (6/23), Jim & Pat Ritzema (6/28), and Kirk & Celeste Faber (6/29).

**Food Pantry Donations:** Thank you to all who continue to donate. Please continue to bring in any non-perishable food items and basic household items to help those in need!

**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!

**Senior Coffee Hour:** Will resume in the fall. Thanks to those who have prepared & served, and to those who have attended.

**ATTENTION:** Please contact me in the office to update how you wish to receive the Pilgrim Pulse – by mail or by email. We would be most grateful for your feed-back as we are trying to *Go Green!*

**Trustees of the Month:** Kirk Faber and Karen Hulbert  
**Deacon of the Month:** Jane Truesdell

#### **June 18 – Father's Day**

Greeters: Carolyn Foster and Carol Magoon

Children's Message: Suzy Kreeger

Liturgist: Chris Hubbard

Ushers: Bonnie Braman and Linda Petersen

Coffee Hour: McPherson Family, PF Youth Group, and Kurt & Suzy Kreeger

Nursery: **NEEDED**

#### **June 25**

Greeters: Corey & Holly Norman

Children's Message: Morgan Maria Venema

Liturgist: Linda Jones

Ushers: Kurt & Suzy Kreeger and Marian Griffith

Coffee Hour: Jack & Ann Corner and Marta Loes

Nursery: **NEEDED**



