

First Congregational Church of  
Greenville  
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Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Greenville, MI 48838  
Permit #202

Pilgrim Pulse Volume 9 Issue 3  
Published monthly by the First Congregational Church  
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



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

MARCH 2017

*A message from our Pastor...*

Well, here we are in Lent already. Can you believe how quickly the year is getting on? Things are in full swing here at First Congregational Church of Greenville. We've had another successful Silent Breakfast and added some Ash Wednesday services in to the mix. It's been a great privilege and joy to get out and visit with those of us who aren't able to make it out and about themselves. I've been listening to so many great stories and memories that are each a beautiful little piece of the larger puzzle of life here. I'm grateful to all of you who have welcomed me and shared such valuable insights into who you are. Thank you.

We're gearing up for baptisms on Palm Sunday and confirmation classes following Easter. Confirmation Sunday will be the same as the Children's Service on May 21<sup>st</sup>. If you'd like to participate in either baptism or confirmation, please get ahold of me or the office. Both are a great way to get more deeply connected with the faith and with this wonderful community of believers we have here.

In the last month, I've been exploring some ideas in hopes that we might continue to grow in the way we meet the needs of those in our community; hoping simply to be the most welcoming and safe place that we can be for the widest diversity of people. This is born from a desire to continue to grow as an open and welcoming place for anyone to come and meet Jesus and become part of a faith family who will love them along their own salvation journey.

This month sees the release of a new movie based on the book "The Shack" by William P. Young. I personally viewed the film twice on its open day and found it to have some beautiful and powerful ideas that are well worth pondering. Maybe you'll choose to view and consider it yourself. If there's a call to gather for a discussion about it, I would be happy to.

Ministry here has been busy and exciting, but also very inspiring and personal as I continue to get to know everyone here. I fall more deeply in love with this congregation through each passing day and I hope to get to spend time with each of you, and your families as we grow and journey together along this pilgrim way.

*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 Schlienz, Stephanie Roose, Melissa Staffen, Rick Grimes, & Joe Suchowolec

### WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

<i>Jim Butts</i>	<i>Jackie Kocher</i>	<i>Rob Sansom</i>	<i>Sandra Tiffany</i>
<i>Celeste Faber</i>	<i>Marta Lores</i>	<i>Pat Toth</i>	<i>Ken Thomas</i>
<i>Barb Hoy</i>	<i>The Wakenhut Family</i>	<i>Bill Delp</i>	<i>Rylie Whitten</i>
<i>Lucille McLachlan</i>	<i>Betty Lincoln</i>	<i>The Beauvais Family</i>	
<i>Darcie Jorgensen</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 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>Robert Dunn</i>	<i>-at Metron</i>
<i>Roxy Rice</i>	<i>-at United Memorial</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>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 &amp; Gordon Johnston</i>	<i>Parents 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>Ken Ploeg</i>	<i>Friend of Bonnie Braman's family</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>Cheryl Williams</i>	<i>Sister 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>Landon Mills</i>	<i>Preschool Student of Ms. Candy's</i>
<i>Ruth Hall</i>	<i>Sister of Carolyn Foster</i>

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

**~ March 2017 ~**

<i><b>Sun</b></i>	<i><b>Mon</b></i>	<i><b>Tue</b></i>	<i><b>Wed</b></i>	<i><b>Thu</b></i>	<i><b>Fri</b></i>	<i><b>Sat</b></i>
			<b>1</b> <b>*Ash</b> <b>Wednesday</b> 64 <sup>th</sup> Silent Breakfast 10a PURLS 6p Lenten Supper (Decons/Cubs) 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts	<b>2</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  4p Jr. Choir 5p Cherub Choir 7:30 AA GAMA	<b>3</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Communion 9a Choir 9:15 Cantata Rehearsal 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 5p Venture 6p AA	<b>6</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6p Cubs 6:30 GS	<b>7</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6:30 Joy Bells	<b>8</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 10a PURLS 6p Lenten Supper (GS) 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 10:30 Senior Coffee  4p Jr. Choir 5p Cherub Choir 7p AA	<b>10</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	<b>11</b> Birthday Party FH
<b>12</b> 9a Choir 9:15 Cantata Rehearsal 10a Bible Study GS Sunday 11a Worship 12:15 PF 6p AA	<b>13</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6p Cubs 6:30 GS 6:30 Deacons	<b>14</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6:30 Joy Bells	<b>15</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 10a PURLS 6p Lenten Supper (Chancel Choir) 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  4p Jr. Choir 5p Cherub Choir 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA  Preschool FH	<b>17</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA BS Lock In	<b>18</b>  Pinewood Derby
<b>19</b> 9a Choir 9:15 Cantata Rehearsal 10a Bible Study 11a Worship Joy Bells 5p Venture 6p AA	<b>20</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 6p Cubs 6:30 GS	<b>21</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Joy Bells	<b>22</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 10a PURLS 6p Lenten Supper (WF) 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  4p Jr. Choir 5p Cherub Choir 7:30 AA	<b>24</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA  State Retreat St. John	<b>25</b> Baby Shower FH
<b>26</b> 9a Choir 9:15 Cantata Rehearsal 10a Bible Study 11a Worship Jr. Choir  6p AA	<b>27</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6p Cubs 6:30 GS 7p Trustees	<b>28</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Joy Bells	<b>29</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 6p Lenten Supper (Trustees) 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts 7p Council ?	<b>30</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  4p Jr. Choir 5p Cherub Choir 7:30 AA	<b>31</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	

**~ April 2017 ~**

<i><b>Sun</b></i>	<i><b>Mon</b></i>	<i><b>Tue</b></i>	<i><b>Wed</b></i>	<i><b>Thu</b></i>	<i><b>Fri</b></i>	<i><b>Sat</b></i>
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Communion 9a Choir 9:15 Cantata Rehearsal 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 6p AA	<b>3</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6p Cubs 6:30 GS	<b>4</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6:30 Joy Bells	<b>5</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 10a PURLS Circles Meet 6p Lenten Supper (CE/PF) 7p Service	<b>6</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 4p Jr. Choir 5p Cherub Choir 7:30 AA GAMA	<b>7</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Palm Sunday 9a Choir 9:15 Cantata Rehearsal 10a Bible Study 11a Worship Preschool 12:15 PF 6p AA	<b>10</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6p Cubs 6:30 GS 6:30 Deacons	<b>11</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6:30 Joy Bells	<b>12</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 10a PURLS 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts  Preschool FH	<b>13</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 10:30 Senior Coffee 4p Jr. Choir 5p Cherub 6p Potluck 7p Maundy Thursday 7:30 AA	<b>14</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:30 Worship Easter Brunch 9a Choir 9:15 Cantata Rehearsal 10a Bible Study 11a Worship Jr. & Cherub Choirs Sing 5p Venture 6p AA	<b>17</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6p Cubs 6:30 GS	<b>18</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6:30 Joy Bells	<b>19</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 10a PURLS 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  4p Jr. Choir 5p Cherub Choir 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	<b>21</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9a Choir 9:15 Cantata Rehearsal 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 12:15 PF 6p AA	<b>24</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer Pack FH  6p Cubs 6:30 GS 7p Trustees	<b>25</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  6:30 Joy Bells	<b>26</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer  4p Jr. Choir 5p Cherub Choir 7:30 AA	<b>28</b> 9:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 AA	<b>29</b> Cantata Dress Rehearsal 10:30 am
<b>30</b> 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship Cantata CE Sunday School Event 6p AA						

# ~ Announcements ~



**Confirmation & Baptism:** Peace and blessings to you all. Anyone 8th grade and up can sign up for a four week class leading to full membership and getting to sign your name in our historic book of the covenant. What an exciting day and what an opportunity to learn and grow in preparation. We're planning to meet the four weeks between Easter and the May 21st Children's Service. Confirmation will be on that Sunday (May 21st). If you would like to sign up, contact the office or Pastor Jason. We'll work out the exact times and location with those who sign up, so let us know soon.

If you haven't baptized yet and the Spirit is leading you in that direction, we would like to celebrate baptisms again on Palm Sunday. If you would like to participate in Confirmation and are not yet baptized, this is your perfect opportunity. Please contact the office or Pastor Jason and we can begin the process of following Jesus through death and into new life by way of the waters of baptism. As always, please contact us or come and see us if you have any questions.

**From the Board of Deacons:** Please check the calendar above for the services and events for Lenten Suppers and the groups that will be hosting the dinners. They are held every Wednesday from March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

**Weekday Prayer Service:** Monday through Friday from 9:30-10am. Midweek service is on Wednesday evenings at 7pm.



**From the Chancel Choir:** Cantata Rehearsals are every Sunday at 9:15 am. The performance date is April 30<sup>th</sup> with a dress rehearsal on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Again, all voices are needed, so please feel free to join the group at any time! A prayer themed cantata was chosen to as the song theme for this year instead of an Easter one because of the way the calendar works out with school vacations coinciding with Palm Sunday and then followed by Easter.



We found the perfect cantata musical to do..."**Our Father**" by Pepper Choplin --It is rare to find a major, non-seasonal musical with such power and meaning. Choplin has taken *The Lord's Prayer* and shaped it as the foundation of this creative worship experience. With original music and thoughtful narration, the most beloved passages are turned into a musical presentation with teaching moments for the choir and congregation. This musical delivers both artistry and ministry. It is a beautifully written work - thoughtful and insightful. Pepper wrote a song around each statement in the Lord's Prayer. We will never say that prayer the same way again. It is a deeply meaningful piece!

**Children's Choir:** Any children wishing to join either the Junior or Cherub Choir groups - this is still a great time! The groups are for kids from ages 3 through middle school. The 3rd-8th graders practice in Fellowship Hall for Junior choir from 4-5 p.m., and ages 3 through 2nd grade rehearse from 5-5:30 p.m. We also have games and snacks every week! Come and join us - we are always open to new members!

**Website Development Team:** We need you! The Website Development Committee is looking for individuals to join our team. We are especially looking for people with experience in photography and videography. Other beneficial skills include Photoshop, WordPress, and social media. If you have experience or an aptitude in these areas and would like to serve, please give your name and contact information to Angela in the office. Thanks!

## ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.) ~

**Parish Nurse News:** A *Moving Through Grief* bereavement support group will begin March 7<sup>th</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup>. The group will meet every Tuesday from 5-6 p.m. in the conference room upstairs. All in need of support are welcome and encouraged to come. You may join at any time and the cost is free. Spectrum Hospice also offers an ongoing Hope and Healing Grief Support Group the third Wednesday of every month from 4-5 p.m. at United Memorial. This group can be joined at any time and is also free. If you are interested in joining or need more information, please contact Patrice at 616-754-3445.



**Women's Fellowship:** A friendly reminder for everyone to stop in and see the new flooring that was recently put in! Thank you to Bo Stephenson for removing and moving back heavy appliances from the kitchen to get the floor installed, Dave McConnell (Danielle's father-in-law) for installing the new kitchen floor, and Women's Fellowship for purchasing the new floor. Thank you all for your patience during this project!

**The 64<sup>th</sup> Silent Breakfast:** was held on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to all who attended! Bonnie Braman organized the breakfast and said there was a small turn out but was thankful to those that were able to come! The Women's Fellowship would like to extend an invite to any and all women of the church to join the Women's Fellowship and the events that are held and celebrated by them. If you would like to join or more information on the group, please contact Angela in the church office at 616-754-3445.

**Christian Education & Sunday School News:** 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 thank you to all who helped donate and collect the loose coins to help feed local children in need through the Third IM Kids Meal program. It was a great success!

**Pilgrim Fellowship (PF) Youth Group:** Congregational Summer Camp forms are available NOW for campers finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade!

- Information for the National (NACCC) Conference at Piedmont College in Demorest Georgia is now also available online or contact Claude Johnson.
- MIPF State Retreat at FCC St. Johns - forms are now available. The dates are March 24 to the 26<sup>th</sup> for grades 6-12.

**Preschool News:** Packets for the Preschool Fall Classes are available. Ms. Candy will start accepting packets for enrollment after the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in April. Contact the office to pick up a packet today!

**Senior Coffee Hour:** Will be held on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March.



- **Reminder from the kitchen** - for all who use the towels, please clean and return them before the next Sunday. Thank you!



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

**Food Pantry Donations:** Please don't forget to bring any non-perishable food items and basic household need items in to help those in need! Thank you for your caring and kindness.

## ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.) ~



**A Word from the Moderator:** There will be a Council Meeting, which has been rescheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. upstairs in the Adult Bible Study room. Please call Scott Rowland at for more information.

**A Note from Your Secretary:** The office hours are 9am until 3:30 pm Monday through Friday. You can contact Angela in the office with any questions by calling 616-754-3445 or by emailing to [office@fccogchurch.org](mailto:office@fccogchurch.org). Please make sure to check the bulletin board by the Church office for important announcements.

- **Scholarship Applications** are now available in the church office. Applications are due back by May 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Birthdays to Celebrate:
    - March – Jane Truesdell, Gavin Outman, Ann Emerson, and Pat Butts
  - Anniversaries:
    - March – Greg and Val VanderMark
  - Please contact the office if you would like to be added to the celebration list. Email to [office@fccogchurch.com](mailto:office@fccogchurch.com) or call 754-3445.
  - **Easter plant order forms will be available soon!**
- 

## ~ Mutual Ministry March 2017 ~

### **March 5**

Greeters: John & Deb House  
Children's Message: Jim Butts  
Liturgist: Linda Jones  
Ushers: Chris Hubbard, Linda Jones, and Carolyn Foster  
Coffee Hour: Karen Hulbert, Dick Canfield, John & Deb House, and Chris & Doug Dodd  
Trustee: Tricia Kemp, Steve Roose  
Deacon: Brian Gardner

### **March 12**

Greeters: Suzy Kreeger, and Jim & Pat Butts  
Children's Message: Morgan Maria Venema  
Liturgist: Coleen Venema  
Ushers: Marian Griffith  
Coffee Hour: Harry & Rose Riddle, Jerry, Gloria & Taylor McPherson, and Debbie Adair  
Trustee: Tricia Kemp, Steve Roose  
Deacon: Brian Gardner

### **March 19**

Greeters: The Rowland Family  
Children's Message: Cindy Hansen  
Liturgist: Duane Putnam  
Ushers: Jim Butts, Chris & Doug Dodd  
Coffee Hour: Ron & Pat Flashaar, and Angela Garvey  
Trustees: Tricia Kemp and Steve Roose  
Deacon: Brian Gardner

### **March 26**

Greeters: The Swanson Family  
Children's Message: Duane Putnam  
Liturgist: Roxy Rice  
Ushers: Marian Griffith  
Coffee Hour: Corey & Holly Norman, and Deb Dieckman  
Trustees: Tricia Kemp and Steve Roose  
Deacon: Brian Gardner