



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

OCTOBER 2017

The Good News...

October brings autumn, crisp air, falling leaves, communities gathered at sporting events, school in full swing, Christian education and Sunday school as well, and this year we also have the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. These were 95 arguments or topics of debate that he wished to bring to the table and is considered the start of the Reformation. It is an act; one of many acts, that set into motion the birth of the Protestant Church in all her forms. Although Congregationalists generally trace their roots back through the Church of England rather than the German church, we are also children of the Reformation and many of its ideals and beliefs. This significant anniversary would be an excellent opportunity to learn some of the attached history and theology. How do you think we're doing 500 years later? Have we grown closer to God? Are we better at embodying Jesus and the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth? In our current age? In our country, and our community? What ways could we engage this discussion together as a congregation?

With the launch of Sunday school and Christian education again, we're launching a series called "Becoming Better" to help us heal, learn to have better conversation, understand one another, and grow in love and knowledge. We've got a great group of ladies bringing this study together and hosting it for us on Sunday mornings (9:30am) and Wednesday evenings (7:00pm) here at the church. The two sessions are the same in content each week, but those in attendance will shape the discussions at each session, of course. I hope that you'll find some time to engage together in this; whether you're joyfully down the path, healing toward loving your church again, or somewhere in between, I sense that this will be a wonderfully healing and unifying effort. Combined with our personal visits, our striving to listen better, and our discipline of love and mercy for one another I have great hopes.

Preparations for Advent and Christmas are under way, as we look forward to a beautiful season of light and hope. Our country may still be struggling through divisions and fears, but it seems that our congregation is enjoying some peace and hope and I am excited for the celebrations ahead. What is your favorite part of the Advent & Christmas seasons here at First Congregational of Greenville? Maybe your heart draws toward the season of thankfulness & gratitude and our Pilgrim heritage we celebrate at Thanksgiving? Perhaps it's the joy and costumes of Halloween that inspires you? Let's celebrate together!

*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>Betty Lincoln</i>	<i>Jade Hannah</i>	<i>Roxy Rice</i>	<i>Marta Lores</i>
<i>Barb Hoy</i>	<i>Dixie Kingsbury</i>	<i>Greg Gardner</i>	<i>Path Toth</i>	<i>Darcie Jorgenson</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 & 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>Ken Thomas</i>	<i>-at Laurels of Cason City</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>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>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>Brian Tiffany</i>	<i>Son-In-Law to Larry & Mary Snow</i>
<i>Phil & Mar</i>	<i>Friends of Chris Hubbard</i>
<i>Mariaya Bisson</i>	<i>Niece of Joe & 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>Charlie Carns</i>	<i>Friend of Many</i>




Special Prayers for:
Jerry McPherson
Jackie Kocher

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

~ October 2017 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 Communion 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 3p Venture 6p AA	2 5:30 Cubs	3 6:30 Joy Bells	4 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 6:30 Bethany 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	5 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	6 11:30 AA WF Fall Rummage Sale	7 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> PF Conf. Trip → </div>
8 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> PF Trip → </div> 3p Venture 6p AA	9 <i>Columbus Day</i> 5:15 Cub Leader Mtg. 5:30 Cubs 6:30 Deacons	10 Terri Lynn Nut Orders Due 5p HCA Potluck 6:30 Joy Bells	11 10a PURLS 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	12 4:15 CC (Sanctuary) 6:30 GS 6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA	13 11:30 AA	14
15 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship Children's Choir 3p Venture 6p AA	16 5:30 Cubs	17 6:30 Joy Bells	18 10a PURLS 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	19 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	20 11:30 AA	21
22 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship Joy Bells 3p Venture 6p AA	23 5:30 Cubs 7p Trustees	24 6:30 Joy Bells	25 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	26 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	27 11:30 AA	28 6p Cubs Pack Mtg.
29 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 3p Venture 6p AA	30 5:30 Cubs	31 				

~ November 2017 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 6:30 Bethany 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	2 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	3 11:30 AA <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <i>PF Retreat @ Lincoln Lake Baptist Youth Camp</i> </div>	4
5 Communion Daylight Savings 9a Cantata Rehersal 10a Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> <i>PF Retreat</i> </div> 3p Venture 6p AA	6 5:30 Cubs	7 6:30 Joy Bells	8 10a PURLS 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	9 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA	10 11:30 AA	11 Veterans Day
12 9a Cantata Rehersal 10a Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 12:15 PF 3P Venture 6p AA	13 5:15 Cub Leader Mtg. 5:30 Cubs 6:30 Deacons	14 5P HCA Potluck 6:30 Joy Bells	15 10a PURLS 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	16 4:15 CC (Sanctuary) 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	17 11:30 AA	18 WF Bazaar in FH from 9-2
19 9a Cantata Rehersal 10a Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship Children's Choir PF Dinner 3p Venture 6p AA	20 <i>Preschool Thanksgiving Feast (3's)</i> 5:30 Cubs	21 <i>Preschool Thanksgiving Feast (4&5's)</i> 6:30 Joy Bells	22 10a PURLS 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> </div>	23 	24 11:30 AA	25
26 9a Cantata Rehersal 10a Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship Joy Bells 3p Venture 6p AA	27 5:30 Cubs 6p Cubs Pack Mtg. 7p Trustees	28 <i>10a WF Deck the Halls</i> 6:30 Joy Bells 7p Council	29 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	30 4:15 CC (Sanctuary) 6:30 GS 7:30 AA		

PASTORAL NEWS



Community Life Service (CLS): Please continue to join us for our Wednesday night dinner and church service! Dinner is at 5:30, service at 6:15, and the night concludes with a Men's and Women's bible study groups at 7-8pm.

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, and asking for donations for the weekly meal. If you'd like to join in on this ministry, help with the evening events in any way, or donate for the dinner, please contact Pastor Jason.

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. Pastor Jason, Patrice, and Claude are here for you with a listening ear and a heart for you. Contact them or the church office to arrange a time to get together. Peace, hope, joy, and love to you all!

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!

DEACONS NEWS: Greeters, Ushers, and Coffee Hour volunteers STILL needed. If you can assist in any of the areas listed or simply want to help bring in cookies for coffee hour, please stop by the library to sign up. Thank you!

BECOMING BETTER: Come to join us for a 10-week class where we will learn more about the process of forgiveness and more about conflict resolution. The objectives are:

- To provide opportunities for our members to get better acquainted.
- To discuss the issues we faced as a church last year.
- To find spiritual solutions to provide a way forward as Christ's church despite our differing opinions.
- To train ourselves to better handle conflicts.

- To become the church our members want to worship and serve in.
- To heal our church.

The hope is that will improve our skill sets to deal more lovingly and more effectively with each other in the church, as well as in our daily lives.

These classes will be held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. starting October 1, 2017, and Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. starting October 4, 2017. Please feel free to join the group at any time!

We will use the book *Searching for Sunday, Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church*, by Rachel Held Evans as a discussion base.

This book details the experiences of a young woman who was raised in the church, left the church as a young adult, searched for the church, started her own church (which failed), and describes what a church should be. Copies are available in the church office for \$11 per book (payable to Linda Jones).

Other source books are: *Changing the Conversation: The 17 Principles of Conflict Resolution*, and *Changing the Conversation: The Third Way for Congregations*, both by Anthony B. Robinson, a Presbyterian minister, and *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* by Patrick Lencioni, and of course, The Bible.

If you have questions, please call Suzy Kreeger (616-794-6055) or Linda Jones (231 343 2244).

PARISH NEWS

Neighbor 2 Neighbor Program: This is a FREE service provided by Spectrum Health and FCCOG! Please consider signing up yourself or a loved one to be a member of the N2N Program. This is a valuable service in the event you or your loved one should be hospitalized. Our parish nurse will be notified (with additional consent by the hospital) to come and support you during your stay, as well as when you return home. Please stop in the office for a registration packet and for more information.

PRESCHOOL NEWS:



We have a lot of new faces! As we settle in to our daily routines, making new friends and building our confidence as little ones, we are also having a lot of fun playing while we learn! The Preschoolers are learning their super hero powers more and more every day with the help of

Ms. Candy and the Grandma's and Grandpa's. we still have a few spots left. Stop in if you would like a packet or for more information.

Pilgrim Youth Upcoming Activities: will be going on a PF Youth Conference Trip Saturday the 7th to Sunday the 8th. Contact Claude if you would like to attend and for more details.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS:

- **FINAL REMINDER - Terri Lynn Nut Sale!** Pre-orders are due by **October 6th** and the products will be delivered in November. Please stop in the library to see the selections available! Questions, please contact Chris Hubbard.
- **Fall Rummage Sale** will be October 6 at 9am in Fellowship Hall. We are looking for any gently used clothes, unique items and electronics (in good working condition). If you have any questions, or are interested in helping to set up or to help the day of the sale, please contact Mary Snow at 754-1533 or Rosel Eagles at 754-8618.

Women's Fellowship Holiday Bazaar will be Saturday November 18 from 9am to 2pm. Things to look for at the bazaar this year: a Luncheon, a raffle, some baked goods for sale, craft booths, and Terri Lynn Nuts will be available! New this year will be kid's crafts, face painting, Cookies By the Box!, and a chance to take a picture with Santa and Mrs. Clause. We are looking for volunteers to help with the set-up and clean-up and for the events throughout the day. If you would like to help in the kitchen, call Carla at 616-302-2382. If you would like to help with the kids' activities, call Holly at 616-232-5419. If you would like to help with Terri Lynn Nuts, call Chris H. at 616-754-7464. If you are a craft person and would like to rent a booth, please call Tami Tefft at 616-794-0973.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS We still need one volunteer to teach once a month for the 1-3 Grade Class. Please contact Fran Gibbs at 754-7714.

- **Friendly Reminder:** Starting October 1, Sunday School classes will not be held on the first Sunday of the month. This will be so the children/youth of our congregation can participate with communion.
- **Christian ED Teachers:** there is a meeting on October 17 at 7pm.

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 (for 3-12 yr. olds) will meet weekly, with practice on Thursdays at 4:15 to 5:15pm. We will sing in church about every month to six weeks. To include a Christmas pageant and Children's Ed day in May! Church choir has a lot to offer kids! In addition to learning and memorizing wonderful songs about the Christian life, children learn a great deal about their singing voices as well and learning to read music. Through singing games, they practice singing skills, and learn cooperation and teamwork. They also develop speaking and presentation skills by performing at the church services. The lessons they learn through music will stay with them and enrich their faith life and their life in general. Contact Valerie VanderMark with any questions.

FCC Church Hours: Monday through Friday 9-3:30. For security reasons, the front door will be locked. If you need assistance, please knock or call the church office at 616-754-3445. Thank you!

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!

Celebrations:

- Happy Birthday to Deb House (10/4), Diane Roose (10/7), Jerry McPherson (10/21), Jim Ritzema (10/27), and Roxy Rice (10/29).
- Happy Anniversary to Rev. Dr. Jerry & Marilyn Jones (10/6) and Jerry & Gloria McPherson (10/12).

General Fund: Operating Budget Income

September 2016 YTD \$184,424.16

September 2017 YTD \$145,246.02

Shortfall \$39,178.14

~ Mutual Ministry for October 2017 ~

October 1

Greeters: Bruce & Susan Beauvais

Liturgist: Karen Hulbert

Children's Message: Betty Lincoln

Ushers: Emily Suchowolec, Chris Hubbard, and Claude Johnson

Coffee Hour: Dan & Rosel Eagles and Bonnie Braman

Nursery: Patrice Fulton-Peacock

Sound Tech: Joe Suchowolec and Blake Rowland

October 8

Greeters: Carol Magoon and Carla Durdle

Liturgist: Bonnie Wickerham

Children's Message: Marta Lores

Ushers: Carolyn Coles, Carolyn Foster, and **1 more needed**

Coffee Hour: Kurt & Suzy Kreeger and Carolyn Coles

Nursery: **NEEDED**

Sound Tech: Blake Rowland and Bruce Beauvais

October 15

Greeters: Patrice Fulton-Peacock and Carolyn Coles

Liturgist: Chris Hubbard

Children's Message: Benjamin Venema

Ushers: Chris & Doug Dodd, and **1 more needed**

Coffee Hour: Chris & Doug Dodd and Chris Hubbard

Nursery: **NEEDED**

Sound Tech: **NEEDED**

October 22

Greeters: Anita Putnam and Carolyn Foster

Liturgist: Scott Rowland

Children's Message: Morgan Maria Venema

Ushers: Darlene Petersen, and PF Youth Group

Coffee Hour: Jack & Ann Corner and Linda Jones

Nursery: **NEEDED**

Sound Tech: **NEEDED**

October 29

Greeters: John & Deb House

Liturgist: Don Gibbs

Children's Message: Betty Lincoln

Ushers: Peter & Roxanne Faber and Carolyn Coles

Coffee Hour: John & Deb and Marian Griffith

Nursery: **NEEDED**

Sound Tech: **NEEDED**

Mutual Ministry: is still looking for volunteers to help with the Children's Message, Sound Techs to help with the sound board and slides during Sunday service, and Liturgist readers for the fall and winter months. Please stop by the library to check for available dates.

Nursery Volunteers STILL Needed: Calling all members of the church who have had a background check to work with children on file. There is a sign up in the Library. Be at church at 9:40 and hang out in the nursery. If no one comes by 10:10, please join us for service.

Church Council/Board Meetings:

Deacons: Monday the 9th at 6:30pm.

Trustees: Monday the 23rd at 7pm.

Women's Fellowship: Wednesday the 25th at 1pm.

Trustees of the Month: Dan Eagles and Karen Hulbert

Deacon of the Month: Corey Norman