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Pilgrim Pulse Volume 9 Issue 9
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
Custodian: Danielle McConnell

FINAL REMINDER: We are going paperless to *Go Green!* Please contact the office before September 30th if you would like to continue receiving the Pilgrim Pulse by regular mail. If you wish to begin receiving it by email, please call the church office to update your email address with us. **If we do not hear from you by the end of September, you will no longer receive the Pilgrim Pulse by regular mail.** Thank you for your time and understanding!



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

SEPTEMBER 2017

The Good News...

Our beautiful Michigan summer is drawing slowly to a close and everyone is beginning to return from vacations and enjoying our season of rest in the sun. I am eagerly anticipating our coming together again and our getting into the groove of worship, study, and fellowship together again. This is such a great season in the Church where we have both energy and mass to enjoy ministry together, but before the crazy chaos of the holiday season sets in. It's the perfect time to start up a Bible study or to join one, or to look for opportunities to fellowship together again.

That coming together really kicks off once more at our "Come Together Sunday" on September 10th, right after Labor Day weekend. I trust that you'll enjoy your long holiday weekend; perhaps a last hurrah of summer, and then come together again as our worship service returns to 11:00 am and our Sunday school, Christian ed., and choir activities all kick into gear again. We've got a great study, healing, and fellowship series starting called "Being Better" that is a wonderful opportunity to carry on from our summer sermon series about Being Our Best Selves as Children of Love. I am trying to pick an evening that we can come together in study and fellowship at the parsonage too, so keep an eye out for that. I'm looking forward to a fall series focusing on our Congregational heritage and distinctive; sharing some of our historic stories as well as the beliefs and practices that shape who we are as pilgrim people on this faith journey of ours.

I often compare our memories to the beauty of flowers, each with its own unique color, shape, and fragrance. Each one is beautiful, but together they become a resplendent bouquet; greater again in color, shape, and fragrance than each individual flower. I encourage families to come together and encourage one another with those memories, and our family here at First Congregational Church of Greenville wouldn't be any different. What a summer we've had! We've heard God's wonderful message of our belovedness. We've had opportunities to serve one another and our community. We've had another great Danish Festival. We've worked, played, laughed, and cried; every moment another beautiful flower in the bouquet of our journey together. What stories, testimonies, and memories would you share with us from your summer?

*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>Ken Thomas</i>	<i>Dixie Kingsbury</i>	<i>Jerry McPherson</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>Janet Tuin</i>	<i>-at SHUM Room #2510</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 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>Phil & 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>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>



Special Prayers for:
Charlie Carns
Rex Venema

***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; text-align: center;"> PF Conf. Trip → </div>
8 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> 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 				

~ September 2017 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 11:30 AA	2
3 Communion 10a Worship Special Music – <i>Leigh Engelbrecht</i> 6p AA	4 Labor Day <i>(Office Closed)</i> 5:30 Cubs	5 First Day of Preschool (3's)	6 10a PURLS 10a WF Kitchen Clean-up & Board Mtg. 1p Winslow 1p Piano tuned First Day of Preschool (4/5's) 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 6:30 Bethany 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	7 7:30 AA	8 11:30 AA	9
10 Come Together Sunday 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship PF Assist 12:15 PF Mtg. 3p Venture 6p AA	11 5:15 Cub Leader Mtg. 5:30 Cubs 6:30 Deacons	12 5p HCA Potluck 6:30 Joy Bells	13 10a PURL 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	14 4:15 CC 6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	15 11:30 AA	16
17 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship 3p Venture 6p AA	18 5:30 Cubs	19 6:30 Joy Bells	20 10a PURLS 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	21 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	22 11:30 AA	23 9-11 Flu Shot Clinic 11a Ranney Memorial Service & Luncheon to follow
24 9:30 Choir 10a Bible Study 11a Worship Joy Bells 12:15 PF Mtg. 3p Venture 6p AA	25 5:30 Cubs 7p Trustees	26 6:30 Joy Bells 7p Council	27 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Service 7p BS Groups 7p Boy Scouts	28 4:15 CC 6:30 GS 7:30 AA	29 11:30 AA	30

A Special Birthday Invitation: please come and celebrate Lois Hazelwood's 75th Birthday! Her family is having an open house in her honor on Friday, September 8th from 6-8pm at Hathaway Hills. If you would like to send her a card, please send all cards to: Hathaway Hills Assisted Living c/o Lois Hazelwood 1515 Meijer Drive Greenville, MI 48838

~ FCC MONTHLY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

PASTORAL NEWS

Come Together Sunday! Please join us for Come Together Sunday on the 10th after worship in Fellowship Hall. It will be a (free) Picnic lunch provided by the Board of Deacons & the Christian ED Committee. Come one, come all! as we come back together as a Congregational Family – to reunite our fellowship as friends & family once again! ☺



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!

Mutual Ministry: is still looking for volunteers to help with the Children's Message and Liturgy readers for the fall 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: We are still in need of volunteers to help in the nursery during church service! 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.

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!

Church Council Meetings:

Deacons: The next meeting is September 11th at 6:30pm in the upstairs conference room.

Trustees: The next meeting is September 25th at 7pm in the upstairs conference room.

Women's Fellowship: The Board meeting will be Wednesday September 6th.

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.

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

Flu Shot Clinic: we be held in the Pastor's office on September 23rd from 9am to 11am. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Parish Nurse.

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: The school year has begun!



We have a lot of new little faces and for some they will move on after this year. The theme this year is super heroes and super powers. We are encouraging students their superpower is 'learning' and with their knowledge they can do anything!

Openings: We do have 10 spots left in the Preschool Adventure program for three-year old's and a few spots left in the four-year old Preschool Express (afternoon program). If you or someone you know is looking for a preschool for their little one, please have them call the preschool at 616-754-7608 for more details.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS Can you help? Would you like to teach Sunday School one Sunday per month? All lessons and materials are provided. We currently have 2 openings in our 1-3 Grade Class. Please see or call Fran Gibbs at 754-7714.

New This Year! To better serve our developmental needs of our Sunday School

classes, children will be grouped in Preschool-Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-6, and Grades 7-9. We have a new curriculum for our Middle School Through 9th graders and we are excited to offer Sunday School to these folks. Hollie Stephenson will teach all of Fall Quarter for this class to bond with their teacher.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 10! Please bring a canned good or food for the Food Pantry.

Christen ED is sponsoring a food drive for September. Please bring non-perishable food every Sunday and put it in the shopping cart. The kids will be monitoring your giving!

Pilgrim Youth Upcoming Activities: We will have a brief meeting on the 10th of September & on the 24th after worship service.

WF NEWS: is sponsoring a trip to Meijer Garden on September 16th to see the chrysanthemums and more! This will be a day trip to the gardens and sculpture park. We will leave the church parking lot at 9am and return by 4pm. Prices for the day's events are posted in the library. Please contact Linda Jones with any questions.

- **Terri Lynn Nut Sale!** Order forms for pre-orders will be available September 1st in the library. Questions, please contact Chris Hubbard.
- **Bethany Circle** will meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm starting on September 6th in the middle upstairs classroom. We will be doing a book club/discussion format. If you are interested in joining this group, see Bonnie Braman or Fran Gibbs.
- **Winslow Circle** will meet the first Wednesday of every month at 1pm.

MUSICAL NEWS

The Chancel Choir will begin meeting in September, on Sundays before church at 9:30am. The first practice and performance will be September 10th at the *Come Together* service. **The Children's Choir** (for 3-12 yr. old's) will begin on September 14th with weekly practices on Thursdays at 4:15-5:15pm.

A special thanks to those who performed at FCCOG over the summer months! We have been very blessed by the beautiful music of so many!

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 Ken Venema (9/4), Garrett Emlinger (9/5), Vivian Menard (9/9), Mary Lou Merritt (9/11), Carol Magoon (9/12), Brianna Rowland (9/12), Trudi Cunningham (9/15), Myron Tiffany (9/15), John Emerson (9/19),

Karen Skinner (9/19), Carolyn Foster (9/29), and Paul Jager (9/29).

- Happy Anniversary to Patrick & Ann Emerson (9/8), and Dave & Linda Jones (9/11).

FINAL Pilgrim Pulse Reminder: Please contact the office if you would like to continue receiving the Pilgrim Pulse by regular mail or by email. If we do not hear from you by the end of September, you will no longer receive the Pilgrim Pulse by regular mail. Thank you for your time & understanding!

~ Mutual Ministry for September 2017 ~

September 3 – Communion Sunday

Greeters: Karen Hulbert & Dick Canfield

Children's Message: Brianna Rowland

Liturgist: Roxy Rice

Ushers: Darlene Petersen, Carol Magoon, & Bonnie Braman

Coffee Hour: Dave & Linda Jones & The Dillingham Family

Nursery: Patrice Fulton-Peacock

Sound Tech: Greg VanderMark

September 10 – Come Together Sunday!

Greeters: Anita Putnam and Darlene Petersen

Children's Message: Fran Gibbs

Liturgist: Bonnie Wickerham

Ushers: Greg Gardner, Jane Truesdell, & Anita Putnam

Coffee Hour: DEACONS

Nursery: Carolyn Foster

Sound Techs: **NEEDED**

September 17

Greeters: The Rowland Family

Children's Message: Dan Eagles

Liturgist: Jack Corner

Ushers: Larry Alman, Jim Ritzema, & Jane Truesdell

Coffee Hour: Marta Lores, Jenny Milam, & Terri Merritt

Nursery: **NEEDED**

Sound Tech: **NEEDED**

September 24

Greeters: Jack & Ann corner

Children's Message: Linda Jones

Liturgist: Sue Beauvais

Ushers: Larry Alman, Carolyn Foster, & **1 more needed**

Coffee Hour: Karen Hulbert, Dick Canfield, & Carolyn Foster

Nursery: **NEEDED**

Sound Techs: **NEEDED**

Trustees of the Month:

Kirk Faber and Cindy Hanson

Deacon of the Month:

Bruce Beauvais