



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

DECEMBER 2018

Pilgrim Pulse Volume 10 Issue 12

## *The Good News...*

I'm writing to you tonight with a heart all filled up on love and hope following our Community Life Thanksgiving Dinner. More than one hundred people enjoyed good food and even better fellowship together. We created a place for them full of dignity and acceptance; family even. Our volunteers truly are super heroes to me for all that they contributed and all the hard work they put in over long hours. I am also supremely grateful to the donors who contributed to the meal; our local Meijer, Walmart, Frank Nerychel State Farm, and Klackle Orchards. Their contributions helped make this dinner a possibility. Tonight was a huge success exactly because of everyone who participated. This is a big beautiful family we are building in our community and I am encouraged to celebrate that all are welcome here.

So, I hope that you will not lose hope in humanity or the world today, because I really did just get to witness a group of our people working together and investing huge amounts of time and resources for the good and well-being of others; and they did it out of no gain for themselves. I saw complete strangers jump in and lend a hand. I saw people who aren't normally given love and dignity treated with acceptance and patience and honor. Our little city of Greenville has some amazing human beings in it with huge servant hearts and I am profoundly privileged to walk alongside them. I am profoundly privileged to shepherd a congregation where you don't just speak the Gospel, but you live it out as well. From the bottom of my heart I want you to hear, Thank you.

So, this is the stage we are setting as we close out one church year and open another. Sunday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> is our Thanksgiving and Christ The King Sunday and we're going to celebrate in gratitude for our heritage as we turn our hearts toward Advent and Christmas and a new calendar year. We have just begun a unified walk through the Gospel of Luke leading toward the Christmas season; both in our Bible Studies and our Sunday Good News messages. I warmly and enthusiastically invite you to join in with us. If it's been awhile, we'd love to welcome you again. If you're geographically distant, we hope you'll connect through the website, FaceBook, and YouTube. If you're looking to connect more deeply, we'll help you find a way.

This covenant community; this faith family, of ours is such a blessing and I truly am grateful to be a pilgrim along the path with all of you. Having a wide umbrella where a diversity of people and beliefs exist can be hard, but it is so very worth it. I am looking forward to celebrating more beautiful moments together like tonight's Community Thanksgiving Meal in the weeks, months, and years ahead. Together we can be Christ Jesus in the flesh for a community that so desperately needs to experience his love.

*Peace of Christ,  
Rev. Jason Dillingham*



## IN OUR PRAYERS

**IN OUR MILITARY:** Matthew Crittenden, Jordan Varney, Paul Lepley, TJ Curry, Joshua Roose, Blake Schlien, Stephanie Roose, Melissa Staffen, Rick Grimes, Joe Suchowolec, Griffin Gloeden, and Kyle Durdle.

### WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

<i>Marta Lores</i>	<i>Jackie Kocher</i>	<i>Rob Sansom</i>	<i>Pat Toth</i>	<i>Anne Burgess</i>
<i>Lucille McLachlan</i>	<i>Betty Lincoln</i>	<i>Sandra Tiffany</i>	<i>Roxy Rice</i>	<i>Keith King</i>
<i>Barb Hoy</i>	<i>Brian Adair</i>	<i>Gloria McPherson</i>	<i>Brian Tiffany</i>	<i>Kathy Reed</i>
<i>Nathan Failing</i>	<i>Marjoan Wohlfert</i>	<i>Coreen Johnston</i>	<i>Gary Petersen</i>	<i>Jade Hannah</i>
<i>Lucas Hopkins</i>	<i>Bonnie Hoseth</i>	<i>Bill &amp; Jean Boyd</i>	<i>Mike Tuin</i>	<i>Michael Balars</i>
<i>Harry Riddle</i>	<i>Bonnie Braman</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>Mary Lou Merritt</i>	<i>-at Green Acres Room #118</i>
<i>Corla Morgan</i>	<i>-at SHUM RNC Room #103</i>
<i>Kathie Sansom</i>	<i>-at SHUM RNC Room #108</i>
<i>Mary Crittenden</i>	<i>-at SHUM RNC Room #109</i>
<i>Norma Nicholas</i>	<i>-at Green Acres Room #201</i>
<i>Bob Dunn</i>	<i>-at Metron</i>
<i>Jelane Hamper</i>	<i>-at Green Acres Room #206</i>

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS

<i>Roy Wohlfert</i>	<i>Brother-in-law of Michele Kocher</i>
<i>David Crittenden</i>	<i>Son of Mary Crittenden</i>
<i>Dennis Snow</i>	<i>Brother of Larry Snow and Sandra Tiffany</i>
<i>Jasmine Luce</i>	<i>Friend of Candy Outman</i>
<i>Sarah Brygal</i>	<i>Friend of Candy Outman</i>
<i>Bob Deal, Jr.</i>	<i>Brother of Candy Outman</i>
<i>Tom Deal</i>	<i>Brother of Candy Outman</i>



- **REMINDER** – People that are placed on our prayer list will remain on the list for 3 weeks. Please help us update the prayer list. If your loved one is doing well, or needs to be kept on, please let us know. Please remember when putting a name on the prayer list, **you must have permission to do so** – for privacy issues. Thank you!

**Special Prayers for:** Lois Visch and the Grewe Family, as they lost Diane on November 18, 2018. Also for the Koett family, for the loss of Al Koett on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Finally, please pray for all those who have fallen ill this season: Jerry McPherson and Irene Carper (at United Memorial) and Marta Lores (home).

**Birth Announcement:** Congratulations! to proud Grandparents Greg & Valerie VanderMark on the birth of their granddaughter Monroe Yvonne Schulz. Born Nov. 1st (8lbs) to Parents Brandie & Paul and sister Naomi Schulz.

### FCC Medical Equipment:

If you have borrowed a piece of medical equipment for you or a loved one, please return it to the church, as we are needing our equipment back to lend out to others in need! Thank you!

# ~ December 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">Merry Christmas</p>						<b>1</b>  2pm WF Christmas Tea 
<b>2 Communion &amp; First Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC  3p Venture	<b>3</b>     5:30 CS	<b>4</b>     5p HCA Potluck	<b>5</b> 10a PURLS 1p Winslow at Water Tower Grill (Belding) 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts 7:30 Men's BS	<b>6</b>  11a GAMA   6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA	<b>7</b> 11:30 AA	<b>8</b>     11:30 AA
<b>9</b> 9:30 Choir 11a Service 12:15 PF Youth 12:45 CC  3p Venture	<b>10</b>   5:30 CS 6:30 Deacons	<b>11</b>     5p HCA Potluck	<b>12</b> 10a PURLS  5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 6:30 Bethany at Winter Inn 7p Boy Scouts 7:30 Men's BS	<b>13</b>     7:30 AA	<b>14</b> 11:30 AA	<b>15</b>     11:30 AA
<b>16</b> 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC  3p Venture 4p PF Party <b>5:30 Christmas Caroling</b>	<b>17</b>   5:30 CS Pack Mtg./Christmas Party 7p Trustees	<b>18</b>     7p Beer & Hymns	<b>19</b>   10a PURLS  5:30 Dinner 6p Group Study 7p BS Groups	<b>20</b>  Preschool Christmas Pageant (4 & 5's)  5:45p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	<b>21</b> 11:30 AA  Preschool Christmas Party (3's)	<b>22</b>     11:30 AA
<b>23</b> 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth  3p Venture	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>  7p Worship 11p Worship PF Assist with evening services	<b>25</b>   	<b>26</b> 10a PURLS  5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study	<b>27</b>   7:30 AA	<b>28</b> 11:30 AA	<b>29</b>     11:30 AA
<b>Christmas Break December 24-31</b> →						
<b>30</b> 11a Service <i>No Sunday school</i>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Christmas Break December 24-31</b> →           </div>	<b>31 New Years Eve</b>     					

# ~ January 2019 ~

<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	3 11a GAMA	4 11:30 AA	5
		Christmas Break December 24 to January 6th →				
		New Year's Day	5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	7:30 AA		
6 <b>Communion</b> 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC  3p Venture	7 <b>School Back In Session</b>  5:30 CS 7p CE mtg.	8	9 10a PURLS  5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	10  6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA	11 11:30 AA  BS Lock-in 7p to 11am	12
13 9:30 Choir 11a Service 12:15 PF Youth 12:45 CC  3p Venture	14 <b>MLK Day</b> <b>*Reports due for Annual Report</b>  5:30 CS 6:30 Deacons	15	16 10a PURLS  5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	17  5:45p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	18 11:30 AA	19
20 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC  3p Venture	21  5:30 CS 7p Trustees	22	23 10a PURLS  6p Potluck <b>7p Annual Meeting</b> 7p Boy Scouts	24  7:30 AA	25 11:30 AA  PF Mid-Winter Retreat to Pine Hill →	26
27 9:30 Choir 11a Service 12:45 CC  PF Retreat → 3p Venture	28  5:30 CS Pack Mtg.	29  7p Beer & Hymn	30 10a PURLS  1p WF Board 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	31		

# ~ FCC COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

## PASTORAL NEWS



**Community Life Service (CLS):** Please join us for a free dinner at 5pm & group study at 6pm. Please contact Pastor Jason or Megan Dillingham if you can donate food for the dinners or help in any way!

**Pastor's Office Hours:** Open office hours are Monday & Wednesday (10am-2pm). Study day on Tuesday. Visits on Thursdays or as needed. Evening visits are available by appointment. If you'd like to schedule an appointment or visit, please call the church office or email Pastor Jason at [pastor.dillingham@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.dillingham@gmail.com).

**Pastoral Care:** Our team is here for your spiritual & emotional care! If you'd like to schedule an appointment or visit please call, email, or text Pastor Jason at [pastor.dillingham@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.dillingham@gmail.com), or contact the church office.

**Parish Nurse:** Patrice is off on Mondays. She is in on Tuesday & Thursday from 8am to 4pm, and Friday from 8-11am. If you need assistance Monday or Wednesday, please contact the Pastoral Care Team.

## DEACONS NEWS

Highlights from the November Meeting:

- November 25 potluck was a success.
- Membership committee is doing a great job with visits and cards for members in need of a pick me up.
- Next meeting is Dec. 10 at 6:30pm in the conference room. All are welcome to attend.
- This year, the board of deacons is sponsoring an angel tree to benefit Have Mercy. This local agency supports homeless families in crisis. We can assist in this by providing a variety of items for their newly opened family interim housing facility. A tree with tags will be in place in the narthex by Dec. 2 and will remain until Dec. 23. Unwrapped gifts can be left under the tree or in the church office. You are welcome to take a tag from the tree or simply provide any of the following: Small & large trash bags, Dish soap, Laundry detergent, Hand soap, Pillows (we have pillow cases), Bath towels, hand towels, & washcloths, Plastic totes, Twin size comforters (No mattress covers please), Blankets, Paper towel, Toothpaste, Deodorant (men & women), Shaving cream & razors, New (packaged) underwear (men & women) and bras, Scrubs and/or sweatpants & t-shirts, Coffee grounds, Gift cards for haircuts, gas or food, and Dollar Tree gift cards.

## OFFICE NEWS

Office hours are Mon. – Fri. 9am to 3pm with lunch from 2-2:30pm. The front door will be locked early on Tuesday and Fridays for staff safety; please call ahead. Thank you!

- Please remember to update your info or contact us through the Church Communication box. We would love to hear from you! Thank you!

## TRUSTEE NEWS

We recently received the Virginia Ellingen Memorial Fund annual gift from the Greenville Area Community Foundation. This yearly gift has improved our YTD shortfall. Our Shortage YTD is \$11,613.10. The next meeting will be December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the upstairs conference room.

## CELEBRATIONS

**Happy Birthday!** To Taylor McPherson (12/1), Valerie VanderMark (12/2), Betty Lincoln (12/9), and Kevin Venema (12/28). **Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** To Rev. Jason & Megan Dillingham (12/30).

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEWS

We meet on Sundays, from 12:45 to 1:15 in Fellowship Hall. All children ages 3 and up are welcome to join. Parents are asked to stay at practices if your child is under 8. Contact Katrina at [kat.k.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:kat.k.nelson@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE!

Christmas Poinsettia orders are now being taken! Please call or stop in the church to get an order form, to honor or remember a loved one. Plants are \$10 apiece and all proceeds go to our DDF. **Orders are due by December 10<sup>th</sup>.**



## BEER & BIBLE – MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Men's Bible Study continues to meet at John & Deb's home. If you still wish to join the group or would like to host a meeting, please contact Pastor Jason. The group meets Dec. 5, 12 and 19. Please join us or contact us to host the next meeting at your home!

## CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

A Congregational meeting was held Nov. 18, 2018. There was a vote to move the Annual Meeting to the fourth Wednesday in January. The vote passed unanimously. – Scott Rowland, Past Moderator



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- Mark your calendars and invite your friends for the **Women's Fellowship Christmas Tea on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** at 2pm in Fellowship Hall. The program includes the Preschool Singers, Story Telling by Candy, Katrina Nelson as soloist, and Singing Carols with Janet Tower accompanist. Our ladies will be providing tea sandwiches, cookies, punch, tea, and coffee.
- **Winslow Circle** will meet for their Christmas lunch on Wednesday, Dec. 5th at 1:30pm at Candlestone Water Tower Grill, in Belding. If you need a ride, please call Michele Kocher at 754-6046.
- **Bethany Circle** will meet for their Christmas dinner at the Winter Inn on Dec. 12 at 6pm. Please note the change of date. Plan to order off the menu. Reservations: Call Fran 754-7714 by December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- WF would like to thank everyone who attended and to all who donated for this year's bazaar! There were so many things donated, such as: delicious baked goods, beautifully knitted items, hand carved items, and things to brighten someone's home – just to name a few. ☺ We would also like to thank all the volunteers and crafters that came out to make the bazaar a success! A special thanks to all who helped set up for the event and the volunteers who helped in the kitchen, and with the cleanup – we had the best lunch in town (as always)! Many thanks and blessings! ~ *WF Board*
- Many thanks to Rosel Eagles, Dave Jones, Ron Kingsbury, Duane Putnam, Don & Fran Gibbs, and Chris Hubbard for helping *Deck the Halls!* If you would like to help take down decorations after the holidays, please contact Chris Hubbard or Fran Gibbs.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> to spread some Christmas cheer! Members, Families, and children of all ages – join us! We will meet here at the church at 5:30 and split up into two groups, leaving at 6pm (Lyric sheets provided). The groups will meet back at the church for Hot Cocoa down in Fellowship Hall! \*Caroling families – please bring a dessert or snack for the event. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Greg VanderMark.



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

The preschool children celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday with song and prayer around the table of all their family and friends! It was a great turn-out for the dinners. Thanks to all the people who volunteered to bring food, and set-up and clean-up. We especially want to thank our Grandmas and Grandpas for all their help so far this year! The children are now gearing up for Christmas season! We will learn about the birth of our Savior while singing and making lots of crafts for moms and dads – all month long! We will also be practicing our new songs that we will be performing at the WF Christmas Tea this year! The children are trying their best to stay good in hopes of seeing Santa later this month and telling him all their Christmas wishes! We still have spots left for anyone interested in sending their little one to a wonderful, loving, and Christian based school. Questions? Call 754-7608 or find Ms. Candy on Facebook.

## CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

No Sunday school Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting is Mon., Jan. 7, 2019, at 7pm in the first classroom upstairs. All teachers & parents are welcome to attend!

## BEER & BIBLE – MEN'S STUDY GROUP

Our Men's Bible Study continues to meet at John & Deb's home. If you still wish to join the group or would like to host a meeting, please contact Pastor Jason. The group meets Dec. 5, 12 and 19. Please join us or contact us to host the next meeting at your home!

## COMMUNITY & OTHER NEWS

- **Free Indoor Walking:** Need a place to walk on bad weather days? Please check out the bulletin board for centers where you can walk indoors, and for dates & times.
- **Senior In Need Blessing Bags:** want to help out a senior in Montcalm county for the upcoming holiday season? Blessing bags are a gallon size zip lock bag filled with items of your choice (i.e. hygiene items, socks, towels, hand wipes, etc.) if you are interested in helping you can donate a bag to the CoA by Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. bags will be delivered to seniors before Christmas. Questions? Call CoA option #2.
- **Christmas Dinner:** offered in 5 different locations. Wed., Dec 19<sup>th</sup> (Stanton & Carson City Meal sites) and Thurs., Dec 20<sup>th</sup> (Edmore, Greenville, Howard City meal sites). Call meal site of your choice to sign up or call the CoA option 4 by Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Check out the CoA website or call 989-831-7476 for important news & upcoming events at: [www.montcalmcountycommissiononaging.org](http://www.montcalmcountycommissiononaging.org)

**Trustees of the Month:** Cindy Hanson and Kurt Kreeger  
**Deacons of the Month:** Don Gibbs (Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Deb House

**BOARD MEETINGS:**

Deacons: Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Trustees: Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

**General Fund: Operating Budget Income**

October 2017 YTD \$192,966.66 ♦ October 2018 YTD \$181,353.56  
Shortage YTD \$11,613.10

**Mutual Ministry**

**December 2 – Communion & 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Greeters: The Stek Family  
Liturgist: Sandra Tiffany  
Children's Message: Pastor Jason  
Ushers: Jack & Ann Corner and Steve Roose  
Coffee Hour: Carla Durdle, Carol Magoon, and Myron & Sandra Tiffany  
Sound Techs: Corey Norman

**December 9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Greeters: Jerry & Gloria McPherson  
Liturgist: Don Gibbs  
Children's Message: Roxy Rice  
Ushers: Kurt & Suzy Kreeger and Jim Ritzema  
Coffee Hour: Larry & Karen Carbonelli and Jon & Paula Aylsworth  
Sound Techs: Bruce Beauvais and Blake Rowland

**December 16 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Greeters: Terri Merritt and Marian Griffith  
Liturgist: Karen Hulbert  
Children's Message: **NEEDED**  
Ushers: Jane Truesdell, Linda Jones, and Don Gibbs  
Coffee Hour: Ken & Coleen Venema, Cheryl Flashaar, and Patricia Butts  
Sound Techs: Corey Norman and Joe Suchowolec

**December 23 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Greeters: Ken & Coleen Venema and Family  
Liturgist: Scott Rowland  
Children's Message: **NEEDED**  
Ushers: Jack & Ann Corner and Carla Durdle  
Coffee Hour: Paul & Kris Jager, Chris Hubbard, and Corey Norman  
Sound Techs: Blake Rowland and Joe Suchowolec

**December 24 – Christmas Eve 7pm & 11pm**

Greeters: **TBA**  
Liturgist: Susan Beauvais (7p & 11p)  
Ushers: **TBA**  
Sound Techs: Corey Norman and Joe Suchowolec (7p)  
Bruce Beauvais and Blake Rowland (11p)

**December 30**

Greeters: Steve & Diane Roose  
Liturgist: Linda Jones  
Children's Message: **NEEDED**  
Ushers: Paul & Kris Jager and Corey Norman  
Coffee Hour: Christmas cookie "leftovers"  
Sound Techs: Bruce Beauvais and Blake Rowland

