



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

FEBRUARY 2020

The Church Covenant . . .

We are banded together as a Christian Church to maintain the worship of God, to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to develop in people a consciousness of their relations and duties to God and their fellow souls, and to inspire them with love for truth, passion for righteousness, and enthusiasm for service.

To this end we pledge our loyalty to Christ and covenant with each other to strive to express His spirit in our individual and corporate life: to live together as Christian brethren, and to submit ourselves to the government of this church, working, giving, praying for its increase, its purity, its peace, and seeking in every way to make it a power for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

Amen.



IN OUR PRAYERS

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

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Sandra Tiffany</i> | <i>Marta Lores</i> | <i>Larry Moss</i> | <i>Gary Petersen</i> | <i>Mike Tuin</i> |
| <i>Rob Sansom</i> | <i>Lucille McLachlan</i> | <i>Jackie Kocher</i> | <i>Roxy Rice</i> | <i>Holly Case</i> |
| <i>Marjoan Wohlfert</i> | <i>David Crittenden</i> | <i>Bill & Jean Boyd</i> | <i>Pat Toth</i> | <i>Tom Deal</i> |
| <i>Bonnie Braman</i> | <i>Coreen Johnston</i> | <i>Gloria McPherson</i> | <i>Carrol Minard</i> | <i>Jasmine Luce</i> |
| <i>Lucas Hopkins</i> | <i>Judith Rice-Lesage</i> | <i>Michael Balars</i> | <i>Mary Haskins</i> | <i>Mark Iverson</i> |

FCC FAMILY AT CARE FACILITIES

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Lois Hazelwood</i> | <i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #31</i> |
| <i>Bette Houle</i> | <i>-at The Brook Assisted Living, Cedar Springs</i> |
| <i>Natalie Kilfoil</i> | <i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #20</i> |
| <i>Corla Morgan</i> | <i>-at SHUM RNC Room #103</i> |
| <i>Norma Nicholas</i> | <i>-at Green Acres Room #201</i> |
| <i>Jelane Hamper</i> | <i>-at Green Acres Room #206</i> |
| <i>Lois Visch</i> | <i>-at Masonic Pathways in Alma Room #282A</i> |
| <i>Bob Dunn</i> | <i>-at Metron</i> |
| <i>Keith King</i> | <i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #25</i> |
| <i>Polly Boatwright</i> | <i>-at Green Acres Room #204</i> |



FAMILY AND FRIENDS

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>James Griffith, Jr.</i> | <i>Nephew of Marian Griffith</i> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|

Prayer List Reminder: 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.



Special Prayers for the Crittenden Family, for the passing of Mary Crittenden on January 29th. Her family will have private services at a later date.

Continue Prayers for:

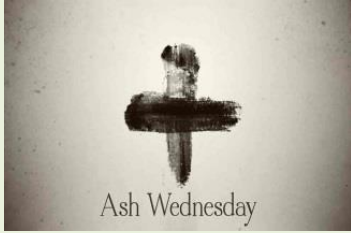

Please also pray for Ken Reed, Don Haist, and Barb Hoy... and our FCC family and friends!

Congratulations! To Sarah and Ryan Kent on the birth baby boy #2! Hudson Sawyer Kent 8lbs. 9oz. Born January 31, 2020. Sarah is the daughter of Debbie Adair and granddaughter of Jerry & Gloria McPherson. Congratulations to the proud parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents!

~ February 2020 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----------|---|--|-----------------------|---|
|  | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Communion & Scout Sunday 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 3p Venture | 3 5:30 CS 6:30 Council | 4 | 5 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 4p Girl Scouts 6:30 Bethany 7p Boy Scouts | 6 11a GAMA 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 7 11:30 AA | 8 |
| 9 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth 3p Venture | 10 5:30 CS 6:30 Deacons | 11 | 12 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 6:30 BS Court of Honor | 13 Valentines Day  6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 14 11:30 AA | 15 |
| 16 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 3p Venture | 17 <i>President's Day</i> 5:30 CS | 18 | 19 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 6:30 Scouts Court of Honor Ceremony | 20 5:30 F.A.N. 6p OA Group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 21 11:30 AA | 22 |
| 23 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth 3p Venture | 24 5:30 CS Blue & Gold Banquet 6:30p Trustees | 25 | 26 *Ash Wednesday 10a PURLS 10a Silent Bfast & Imp. of Ashes 1p WF Board Mtg. 4p Girl Scouts 6p Lenten Supper 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts | 27 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 28 | 29 <i>Happy Leap Year</i> |

~ March 2020 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| <div> <div> *Ash Wednesday Activities: 10a WF 64th Silent Breakfast 11a Prayer & Imposition of Ashes 7p Service & Imposition of Ashes </div> <div>  </div> </div> | | | | | | |
| 1 Communion & 1st Sunday of Lent 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 3p Court of Honor 3p Venture | 2 5:30 CS 6:30 Council | 3 | 4 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 4p Girl Scouts 6p Lenten Supper 6:30 Bethany 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts | 5 11a GAMA 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 6 11:30 AA | 7 |
| 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth 3p Venture | 9 5:30 CS 6:30 Deacons | 10 | 11 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 6p Lenten Supper 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts | 12 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 13 11:30 AA <div> Troop 125G Lock in from 6p on the 13th to 12p on the 14th. </div> | 14 12p Pine Wood Derby |
| 15 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 3p Venture | 16 5:30 CS Pack Mtg. | 17 St. Patrick's Day  | 18 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 6p Lenten Supper 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts | 19 5:30 F.A.N. 6p OA Group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 20 11:30 AA | 21 |
| 22 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth 3p Venture | 23 6:30p Trustees | 24 | 25 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 1p WF Board Mtg. 6p Lenten Supper 7p Service | 26 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30p AA | 27 11:30 AA | 28 |
| 29 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 3p Venture | 30 | 31 | <div> Spring Forward is Sunday March 8th! *All Lenten dinners start at 6:00 pm. </div> | | | |

~ FCC COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

PASTORAL NEWS

- **Community Dinners:** the community dinners are on hold for the time being. We are looking for volunteers to help cook and organize the meals. Contact the Deacons if you are interested in helping!
- **Pastoral Care:** Our team is here for your spiritual & emotional care! To schedule an appointment or visit, please call the church office at 754-3445.

TRUSTEE NEWS

- The December 2019 shortage is \$27,423.83. The next meeting will be Feb. 24th at 6:30pm.
- 2020 Tithing boxes are now available! If you do not see your box in the library, please leave a note for the office and one will be issued to you. Pledge cards are still available in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support and care for this wonderful church!

FCC CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Dear Church Family: As many of you already know, the congregation voted to dismiss Pastor Jason Dillingham at the Annual Meeting on Wed. evening, Jan. 22, 2020. The vote was 127 to 46, a 3-to-1 margin. Additional decisions made include:

- Trustees re-elected: Kirk Faber, Duane Putnam, and Larry Snow
- New Deacons elected: Eric Day, Katrina Nelson*, Jim Ritzema, and Coleen Venema
- Church Clerk elected: Katrina Nelson*
- Vice Moderator elected: Deb Dieckman
- Church budget for 2020 passed

**Katrina has subsequently resigned from these positions.*

Although we now embark on a painful and difficult period in our church's life, we look to the future determined to bring hope and joy back to our fellowship. Isaiah 55:8-9 relates, *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,"* says the Lord. We all know He works in mysterious ways and pray for the grace and wisdom to discover what they are. Efforts to move forward from this sad time are beginning. You will be informed of various steps all along the way. Peace, love, & many blessings to you all. ~Duane Putnam, Moderator & Debra Dieckman, Vice Moderator

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

NEW OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thurs from 9-3 with lunch from 2 to 2:30. The door is locked early on Tues. & Fri. If you need assistance, please call ahead. *Please update your contact info with the church office to receive mailings on upcoming events!

PARISH NURSE NEWS

- Patrice is in on Tues. & Thurs. from 8-4pm and on Fridays from 8-11. To make an appointment or have questions, please call (616) 894-7288.
- A new grief class being held through Spectrum Health. *Moving Through Grief* will be held every Tues. starting Feb. 4th through March 10th from 10am to 11:30pm. Contact Tracey at (616) 486-2854 for more info and to register.

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday! To Pat Ritzema (2/1), Ken Reed (2/4), Ellia Devitt (2/5), Scott Rowland (2/9), Rex Venema (2/10), Lois Visch (2/10), Rev. Jerry Jones (2/12), Nancy Staffen (2/14), Greg VanderMark (2/15), Coleen Venema (2/15), Michele Kocher (2/17), Katie Dillingham (2/18), Patrick Emerson (2/20), Johnathon Dillingham (2/24), and Celeste Faber (2/24). **Happy Anniversary!** To Myron & Sandra Tiffany (2/14).

CHOIR NEWS

- **Sound Techs NEEDED!** If you can help run the soundboard at Sunday service, please contact the church office or a Deacon.
- **Chancel Choir** practices every Sunday at 9:30am.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

Noisy Coin: Will be collected the whole month of February. Please remember to bring your spare change! Did you know that 1 out of 4 kids go without a dinner every night? IM Kids Third Meal Program provide sacks of food for children who need it. During the month of February, our Sunday School students are collecting coins to donate to the non-profit program. Please put your coins in the bread pans and make a noise to help others! Thank you from your Christian Education Committee.

PF YOUTH NEWS

We had a great trip last month! We will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. We will have some new youth confirming their faith to God and the Holy Spirit – date TBA. Please watch the calendar for upcoming events or contact Claude Johnson.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE NEWS

Donations of salt are still needed to help keep the sidewalks clear this winter! If can donate a bag, please drop the bag(s) off in the coat closet (in the lobby) or back by the custodial closet. Thank you!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

- We are now into the second month of the year and are still waiting for some snow to play in!
- The Children are getting ready for their valentine parties, which will include treats, popcorn and a movie, and wearing jammies to school!
- The children have been working on writing their names and learning about themes that are learned every week. This month the children learn about animals in the winter and hibernation and adapting and migrating. And of course we have our weekly letter day where children bring in an object to learn about the letter (based on Zoo phonics). Needless to say we are staying very busy inside from the cold & learning new things every day! The preschoolers will be making an appearing one Sunday this month! Date TBA!!
- The preschool is holding a **Pop Can Drive!** Please consider bringing in your cans to help purchase school supplies for the preschool! A drop-off box is in the lobby and by the back door.
- Application packets are available on our church website under "all" News/Events at www.firstccog.org. For additional questions, find Ms. Candy on Facebook, or by call the office at 754-7608 or preschool at 754-2445.

DEACONS NEWS

- **COFFEE HOUR:** Sign-up sheets for February through April 2020 are posted on the bulletin board by the church office. Please consider signing up to help serve coffee and/or cookies! Help us continue our wonderful time set aside for our faith family, friends and fellowship!
- Plans are underway for Lenten soup suppers. We're going to try very hard to restructure a bit so that no individual is obligated to provide & work for more than one supper.
- The Deacon-of-the-Month will handle coffee on the Sundays in his/her month when no one has volunteered to cover Coffee Hour.
- **Care packages** for Joe Suchowolec are also in the works!
- We are looking into the options involved in putting adding a webcam to our sanctuary's technology so we can carry our services live online.
- Stepping down from the Diaconate are Greg Gardner, Terri Merritt, Corey Norman, and Hollie Stephenson. Many thanks to them all for their years of dedicated service to FCCoG!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- **Terri Lynn Nuts:** to purchase any available products, contact Chris at (616) 754-7464.
- We are looking for officers to continue the women's studies, fellowship in an afternoon and early evening circle, and hosting events at church. If you are willing to help re-organize this group of dedicated women, please contact Fran Gibbs at 754-7714 or by email at gibbsf@hotmail.com. Winslow Circle meets on the first Wednesday at 1:00 PM. Contact Rosel Eagles if interested. Bethany Circle meets the first Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Contact Fran Gibbs if you would like to attend.
- **Urgently needed:** WF is looking for people to help out with the Silent Breakfast for program, set up, and serving. This event is open to all who would like to prepare their heart for Lent in silent reflection with a symbolic breakfast/communion.

COMMUNITY NEWS & OTHER EVENTS

- **Blood Type and Today's Ailments:** Friday Feb. 21st at 10:30pm in Stanton. Learn what your blood type has to do with medical conditions, helpful tips to reduce these issues, and minimize the damage they do. Call CoA , opt. 4 to sign up by Jan. 8th.
- **Hospice 101:** introduces critical concepts of hospice care/palliation, core service, quality of life & the approach of total care to the patient & family. Learn how current views of dying and death have shaped by American history, differentiation between the terms hospice care and palliative care, the relationship between quality of life and suffering, and how collaboration among all members of the care team can improve quality of life. Please join us at one of the meal sites around the county. CoA will host on Wed., March 18th at 10:30am. Call CoA opt. 4 by March 9th to register.
- **AARP:** will be offering Free Tax Help for low & moderate income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60+. Starting Feb. 4th through April 9th trained Volunteers will assist taxpayers at the CoA in Stanton, most Tues. & Thurs. from 8:30 to 2:30. Call CoA after Jan. 21st, opt. 4 for an appointment.
- Check out the **CoA website** or call 989-831-7476 for more important news & upcoming events at: www.montcalmcountymissiononaging.org

Trustees of the Month: Kurt Kreeger and Duane Putnam
Deacon of the Month: Hollie Stephenson

BOARD MEETINGS:

Deacons: Monday the 10th at 6:30pm
Trustees: Monday the 24th at 6:30pm

General Fund: Operating Budget Income

Dec 2018 YTD \$224,034.48 ♦ Dec 2019 YTD \$196,610.65
Shortage YTD \$27,423.83

MUTUAL MINISTRY

February 2 – *Communion and Scout Sunday*

Greeters: The Scouts

Liturgist: Benjamin Venema

Children's Message: Morgan Venema

Ushers: The Scouts

Coffee Hour: Jim & Holly Case and Dan & Rosel Eagles

February 9

Greeters: Terri Merritt and Bonnie Braman

Liturgist: **TBA**

Children's Message: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Don Gibbs, Terri Merritt, and Bonnie Braman

Coffee Hour: Bruce & Susan Beauvais and Bonnie Braman

February 16

Greeters: Chris Hubbard and Betty Lincoln

Liturgist: **TBA**

Children's Message: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Wilson Hoy, Chris Hubbard and Betty Lincoln

Coffee Hour: Ken & Coleen Venema and Anita Putnam

February 23

Greeters: **NEEDED**

Liturgist: **TBA**

Children's Message: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Larry Alman and 2 more needed

Coffee Hour: Jim and Patty Ritzema