



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

JANUARY 2020

## *The Good News . . .*

We call it Community Life, in part, because we have learned over the years that it is as much about people coming together as it is about serving a free meal. Much like our families and friends who naturally gather for conversation in our kitchens, there is something special in sharing a meal around a table. Something special comes to life when we break bread together. As Christians, we know how that special something stretches back to Jesus breaking bread with his Disciples in Emmaus after his resurrection; back to his sharing the Passover meal just before his execution. It goes all the way back to Abraham and Sarah sharing a meal with three “strangers” who then shared the Good News of a promise for all the families of the Earth. That “something” is known by psychologists and theologians alike going far back in human history. When we gather together around the table, over a meal, breaking bread with one another, a more profound experience of community grows. Understanding grows. Life grows. Love grows.

It’s something I’ve observed in Jesus’ example and learned in his teaching. It’s something I strive to embody and teach others. Coming together in community embodies that profound love as one people welcoming all people. Although our congregation had yet to begin our Community Life journey, I witnessed that same truth of community in our Lenten supper gatherings and in our fellowship time after service every Sunday. It’s part of what drew me here, to worship and then to serve as pastor. Service, I was told, was a distinct hallmark of our congregation. Loving acceptance, I observed, was a visible part of our character. I believe it is a big part of who we are still becoming. We have a profound potential to embody love and grace and acceptance for all humankind. That’s a big part of why I hope this is not my last Good News letter to you all.

As I walk the halls of this beautiful historic church, there is a palpable sense of tradition. The words and deeds of those who came before echo around us as we navigate a whole new era of the church, and this church, in the world today. It hasn’t been an easy journey, to be sure. Some days have felt downright fatal as grudges and gossip tear at us (Galatians 5:14-15) and we give in to the dark spiritual forces that would use us against one another. But I know a voice of truth and love that is greater than those dark forces. “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37-39) Do we believe that truth from God’s holy word? That belief is an anchor to me when I would rather give up and walk away, shaking the dust from my sandals. But then I pause, and I pray, and I can’t help but see the potential that we embody together.

Whatever this month brings us, I am convinced that the Lord has a great work for us here and in that I thank my God for all of you and the testimony of your faith and love lived out together for the building up here and now of the Kingdom of Heaven that is yet to come. Peace.

*Peace of Christ,*  
Revered Jason Dillingham


## 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 &amp; 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>	

### FCC FAMILY AT CARE FACILITIES

<i>Lois Hazelwood</i> <i>Bette Houle</i> <i>Natalie Kilfoil</i> <i>Corla Morgan</i> <i>Mary Crittenden</i> <i>Norma Nicholas</i> <i>Jelane Hamper</i> <i>Lois Visch</i> <i>Bob Dunn</i> <i>Keith King</i> <i>Polly Boatwright</i>		<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #31</i> <i>-at The Brook Assisted Living, Cedar Springs</i> <i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #20</i> <i>-at SHUM RNC Room #103</i> <i>-at SHUM RNC Room #109</i> <i>-at Green Acres Room #201</i> <i>-at Green Acres Room #206</i> <i>-at Masonic Pathways in Alma Room #282A</i> <i>-at Metron</i> <i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #25</i> <i>-at Green Acres Room #204</i>
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### FAMILY AND FRIENDS

<i>Mark Iverson</i>	<i>Brother-in-law of Deb Dieckman</i>
<i>Kaya Fields</i>	<i>Family member of Rev. Jerry &amp; Marilyn Jones</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.

### Prayers for:



The Family of Pat Flashaar as she passed away December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please also pray for Ken Reed, Don Haist, and Barb Hoy.

# ~ January 2020 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 10a PURLS	<b>2</b> 10a Boxing up day	<b>3</b> 11:30 AA	<b>4</b>
			<div> <div>Christmas Break December 23 to January 5<sup>th</sup></div> <div> <div>New Year's Day!</div> <div>11a GAMA</div> <div>4p Prayer group</div> <div>6:30 Tp. 125G</div> <div>7:30 AA</div> </div> </div>			
<b>5 Communion</b> 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC 3p Venture	<b>6</b> <i>School Back In Session</i> 5:30 CS 6:30 Council		<b>8</b> 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	<b>9</b> 4p Prayer group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	<b>10</b> 11:30 AA	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 11a Service 12:15 PF Youth 12:45 CC <i>*2p CS Arrow of Light Ceremony</i> SHUM Service 3p Venture	<b>13</b> <i>MLK Day</i> <div>*Reports due for Annual Report</div> 6p CS 6:30 Deacons	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	<b>16</b> 4p Prayer group 5:30 F.A.N. 6p OA Group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	<b>17</b> 11:30 AA	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC 3p Venture	<b>20</b> <i>MLK Day</i> 6p CS	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 6p FCC Potluck <div>7p Annual Meeting</div> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>23</b> 4p Prayer group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	<b>24</b> 11:30 AA <div>Cub Scout Sleep-Over 6pm to 12pm</div>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 11a Service 12:45 CC 3p Venture	<b>27</b> 6p CS Pack Mtg. 7p Trustees	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts	<b>30</b> 4p Prayer group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	<b>31</b>	

# ~ February 2020 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 Communion &amp; Scout Sunday</b> 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC  3p Venture	<b>3</b>     5:30 CS 6:30 Council	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10a PURLS  1p Winslow 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 6:30 Bethany 7p Boy Scouts	<b>6</b>  11a GAMA   4p Prayer group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	<b>7</b> 11:30 AA	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth 12:45 CC  3p Venture	<b>10</b>     5:30 CS 6:30 Deacons	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10a PURLS   4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 6:30 BS Court of Honor	<b>13 Valentines Day</b>    4p Prayer group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	<b>14</b> 11:30 AA	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC  3p Venture	<b>17</b>  <i><b>President's Day</b></i>  5:30 CS	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 6:30 Scouts Court of Honor Ceremony	<b>20</b>  4p Prayer group 5:30 F.A.N. 6p OA Group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	<b>21</b> 11:30 AA	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth 12:45 CC  3p Venture	<b>24</b>   5:30 CS Blue & Gold Banquet 7p Trustees	<b>25</b>	<b>26 *Ash Wednesday</b> 10a PURLS 10a Silent Bfast & Imp. of Ashes  1p WF Board Mtg. 4p Girl Scouts <b>6p Lenten Supper (Deacons &amp; BS)</b> 7p Service 7p Boy Scouts	<b>27</b>   4p Prayer group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>   <i><b>Happy Leap Year</b></i>

## ~ FCC COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

### PASTORAL NEWS

- **Community Life:** Dinner is at 5pm with group study at 6pm. Volunteers needed to help cook and serve supper on Wednesday nights. Food prep begins between 2-3pm and cleanup is done by around 6pm. See Megan if you are interested in volunteering.
- **Pastor's Office Hours:** Open office hours are Mon. and Wed. (10am-2pm). Study day on Tuesday. Visits on Thursdays or as needed. Evening visits are available by appointment. To schedule an appointment or visit, please call the parsonage at (616) 835-9032 or email Pastor Jason at [pastor.dillingham@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.dillingham@gmail.com).
- **Thank you!** We would like to offer sincere thanks for all of the lovely holiday cards, gifts and treats! We love you all. Happy Holidays from The Dillinghams.

### TRUSTEE NEWS

There is a shortage of \$13,519.37. The next meeting will be Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the upstairs conference room. 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!

### COUNCIL NEWS

- The Church Council is calling a special meeting in the Fellowship Hall on January 12, 2020, for the purpose of discussing the two ballot issues voted on at the December 8<sup>th</sup> special meeting. Following discussion, during which anyone with comments or questions will be heard (2 minutes per turn), a vote will be taken as to whether or not to accept the results of the December 8<sup>th</sup> vote. Note: this meeting is a revised date from January 5<sup>th</sup> to January 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **The Annual Meeting will be held Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a potluck at 6pm with the meeting held immediately following – in fellowship hall.**
- Please contact the office for a proxy/absentee ballot or for more information.

### CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

- Office hours are Mon-Fri from 9-3 with lunch from 2:00 to 2:30. The door is locked early on Tues. and Fri. If you need assistance, please call ahead.
- The locks to the front and back door have been changed due to recent security issues. If you have not received a new key, please contact Duane Putnam and one may be assigned to you. Note: these keys may not be duplicated.

### 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. 4<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 11:30pm. Contact Tracey at (616) 486-2854 for more info and to register.

### CELEBRATIONS

- **Happy Birthday!** To Pat Toth (1/8), Lynne Rowland (1/18), Carter & Madison Kruger (1/23), Anita Putnam (1/24), Kim Kruger (1/25), Cheryl Flashaar (1/26), Kirk Faber (1/29), Logan Norman (1/29), and Jeff Skinner (1/31).
- If you would like your special occasion or event announced, please contact the church office.

### • CHOIR NEWS

- **Sound Techs NEEDED!** If you can help run the soundboard at Sunday service, please contact Greg.
- **Chancel Choir** practices every Sunday at 9:30am.
- **The Children's Choir** practices every Sunday at 12:45 in Fellowship Hall.

### CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!** If you can help, please contact the church office, or Fran Gibbs. No Sunday School Jan 5<sup>th</sup> as it is Communion Sunday. Classes will resume on January 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Helping Those In Need:** On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month, we encourage everyone to fill our food basket for those in need by bringing in a non-perishable food item or canned good. Thank you!

### PF YOUTH NEWS

- PF Youth meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's of the month. Upcoming events/mission trips:
- Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> will be the first PF Meeting.
  - Jan. 24-26 Senior High and HOPE Retreat at FCC Eaton Rapids, MI. retreat sign up forms will be available in the office. Planning for Super Bowl Subs and Soup at retreat.
  - Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> is Super Bowl Subs and Soup (tentative)
  - Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> meeting after church to plan a Valentine Activity.
  - Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> will be a meeting after church.
  - See Claude for more info on events & mission trips.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

- We welcome back all of our children on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of January. In December, we held a wonderful Christmas Celebration with family, friends, & even a visit from Santa before we left for our Christmas break. Now it is a new year and a new start for all!
- We are accepting packets for children who would like to enroll in our Preschool Program. Stop in or call the church office for more information on the different programs & requirements. An application packet is also available on our church website under "all" News/Events at [www.firstccog.org](http://www.firstccog.org). For additional questions, please contact Ms. Candy on Facebook, or by calling the office at 754-7608 or the preschool at 754-2445.

## DEACONS NEWS

- **POINSETTIA ORDERS:** Thank you to all families who purchased a plant in honor of or in memory of a loved one! We had a total of 72 plants ordered. All proceeds went to our Deacon's Discretionary Fund.
- **COFFEE HOUR:** Sign-up sheets for January through April 2020 are posted on the bulletin board by the church office.
- **Deacon Thank-you!** We wish to thank several members of the congregation who spent countless hours helping the membership committee (Deb House, Jerry McPherson & Greg Gardner) tidy up the church directory. Coleen Venema, Patty Ritzema, Gloria McPherson, Ann Corner, and Bonnie Braman: you ladies have donated such a valuable thing to our church, your love, time and effort. It was a huge task to organize various records, alphabetize the listings, and figure out whose info needed updating in the first place. Coleen was even able to put the whole thing on a disc for easier updating in the future! Deb House, membership chairperson, so appreciates all the excellent help - thank you ladies so very much. We are so blessed by you! In addition, the Deacons greatly appreciate the patience and understanding of any FCCoG members who've been contacted for clarification of their status and contact information. Updating the directory has been a goal of the Deacons for some time; it feels wonderful to have that finish line so much closer!
- **2019 Angel Tree:** Thanks to all who donated items that were requested or by giving a monetary donation, to help those in need.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- **Terri Lynn Nuts:** If you would like to purchase any available products, contact Chris at (616) 754-7464.
- **All Circle Groups:** will not meet until Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Board Meeting will meet on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.**
- **The Christmas Tea event was well attended!** Thank you to everyone who came, and for those who helped set up, clean up, and helped make the event a success!
- **Thank you to everyone who helped Decorate the Halls for the Christmas season!** And to those who came in to help box the items up!

## 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!

## COMMUNITY NEWS & OTHER EVENTS

- **Coughs, Colds & Flu:** with Jacquelynne Featherly, ND. Friday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm in Stanton. Learn how to identify the difference between a cold and the flu, what works and what doesn't, and a natural approach to the discomfort of these winter ailments. Call CoA, ot. 4 by Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> to register.
- **Blood Type and Today's Ailments:** Friday Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> 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. 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Hospice 101:** introduces critical concepts of hospice carepalliation, 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 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. Call CoA opt. 4 by March 9<sup>th</sup> to register.
- **AARP:** will be offering Free Tax Help for low & moderate income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60+. Starting Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup> trained Volunteers will assist taxpayers at the CoA in Stanton, most Tues. & Thurs. from 8:30 to 2:30. Call CoA after Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, opt. 4 for an appointment.
- Check out the **CoA website** or call 989-831-7476 for more important news & upcoming events at: [www.montcalmcountymissioning.org](http://www.montcalmcountymissioning.org)



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

**BOARD MEETINGS:**

Deacons: Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Trustees: Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

**General Fund: Operating Budget Income**

Nov 2018 YTD \$193,964.56 ♦ Nov 2019 YTD \$180,445.19  
Shortage YTD \$13,519.37

## **MUTUAL MINISTRY**

**January 5 – Communion Sunday**

Greeters: Dick Canfield and Karen Hulbert

Liturgist: Linda Jones

Children's Message: Pastor Jason

Ushers: Don Gibbs, Karen Hulbert and Dick Canfield

Coffee Hour: The Dillingham Family and Jim & Holly Case

Sound Techs: Bruce Beauvais

**January 12**

Greeters: Kurt & Suzy Kreeger

Liturgist: Karen Hulbert

Children's Message: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Kurt & Suzy Kreeger and Wilson Hoy

Coffee Hour: John & Deb House Dick Canfield, and Karen Hulbert

Sound Techs: Bruce Beauvais

**January 19**

Greeters: John & Deb House

Liturgist: Roxy Rice

Children's Message: **NEEDED**

Ushers: John & Deb House and Larry Alman

Coffee Hour: Dave & Linda Jones

Sound Techs: Bruce Beauvais

**January 26**

Greeters: Jane Truesdell and Family

Liturgist: Don Gibbs

Children's Message: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Patrick Lake, Jane Truesdell and Family

Coffee Hour: Don & Fran Gibbs

Sound Techs: Greg VanderMark