



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

NOVEMBER 2018

Pilgrim Pulse Volume 10 Issue 11

The Good News...

Are you ready for Daylight Savings Time to end? It's already that time of year again; time for our clocks to "fall back." I've never been a fan of DST, but it's a fact of life, much like paying bills and the weather turning grayer and colder. It's no reason to lose heart though. October has been a busy month of ministry and community here at First Congregational Church, and we have the exciting season of Advent & Christmas ahead for us! This is one of my favorite times in the annual life of the church. Don't you agree?

I wish I could have taken you all with me to the annual meeting of the Michigan Conference of Congregational Christian Churches. This year's special guests were Pardeep Singh Kaleka (a Sikh first generation American from Punjab, India) and Arno Arr Michaelis IV (a former white supremacist who rejected those ways and is now a Buddhist). They are co-authors of the book, "The Gift Of Our Wounds" which gives the account of the 2012 massacre at the Sikh temple in Oak Creek, WI. Pardeep's father was one of the slain and Arno had past connections to the white supremacist community that helped to create the shooter. In an act of unity and hope, Pardeep and Arno came together and have been traveling & speaking together ever since. Arno manages "Serve 2 Unite", and organization whose mission is "To make the practice of peace an attractive and valuable way of life to students, transforming school environments via fearless creativity & compassion, in interdependent partnership with local & global peace efforts." We enjoyed a powerful presentation on the Sikh faith & Arno's transformation. The weekend culminated in a bunch of Congregationalists celebrating communion together in unity with a Sikh and a Buddhist.

I am hoping to bring Pardeep and Arno to Greenville so that I can share their message with all of you. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to joining together for our Remembrance (Nov. 4) and Volunteer Appreciation (Nov. 11) Sundays, as well as our Community Life Thanksgiving Dinner (Nov. 21) before we launch into the joyful season of light that is Advent.

If you missed Sunday morning worship on October 28th, I hope you'll look up the message online (<https://youtu.be/qNzoqYmoPHA>). I had the privilege of thanking many of our staff and congregational leaders. I truly appreciate all that they do and especially who they are. We have a beautiful congregation with a strong ministry in our community. Unfortunately, finances have been getting tighter and we're looking at potentially more budget cuts for 2019. We're not talking crisis, but it would break my heart if we were unable to continue some of these ministries to people who very much need them (we need them too). I'd prefer pushing forward to reach out and help in new ways. I pray that we will all strive to invite and contribute to the FCCoG Kingdom mission as best we can. Peace.



*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 & 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>Al Koett</i>	<i>-at Metron Greenville</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>David Crittenden</i> <i>Dennis Snow</i> <i>Frank McLachlan</i> <i>Jasmine Luce</i> <i>Sarah Brygal</i> <i>Julie Spohn</i> <i>Debbie Bolthouse</i> <i>Janet & Jim Enbody</i>		<i>Brother-in-law of Michele Kocher</i> <i>Son of Mary Crittenden</i> <i>Brother of Larry Snow and Sandra Tiffany</i> <i>Father of Jenny and Ann McLachlan</i> <i>Friend of Candy Outman</i> <i>Friend of Candy Outman</i> <i>Daughter of Kay Thomas</i> <i>Friend of Jason & Megan Dillingham</i> <i>Cousins to Kathy Palmer</i>
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- **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: Michael Balars and Carrol Minard.

Baptisms: we welcomed Mason William Cafmeyer, Shepherd Garnett Warren, and Hayley Adele Ritzema, into our FCC family and the life of Christ on November 4, 2018.

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!

~ November 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Daylight savings ends Nov. 4th – move clocks BACK one hour. 				1 11a GAMA 7:30 AA	2 11:30 AA <div>PF Fall Retreat at FCC →</div>	3
4 Remembrance Sunday & Daylight Savings Ends 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC <div>→ PF Retreat →</div> 3p Venture	5 5:30 CS	6	7 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 6:30 Bethany 7p Boy Scouts 7:30 Men's BS	8 6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA	9 11:30 AA	10
11 Communion, Volunteer Appreciation & Veterans Day 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth 12:45 CC 3p Venture	12 5:30 CS 6:30 Deacons	13 5P HCA Potluck	14 10a PURLS 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p BS (help set up Bazaar)	15 5:45p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	16 11:30 AA	17 9a WF Holiday Bazaar
18 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC 3p Venture	19 Preschool Thanksgiving Feast  5:30 CS	20 Preschool Thanksgiving Feast	21 10a PURLS 5p Thanksgiving Dinner 7p Boy Scouts <div>→ Thanksgiving Break →</div>	22  ~OFFICE CLOSED~	23 11:30 AA	24
25 9:30 Choir 11a Worship Church Potluck (hosted by Deacons) 12:15 PF Youth 12:45 CC 3p Venture	26 5:30 CS Pack Mtg. 7p Trustees	27 10a WF Deck the Halls & Board Mtg. to follow 7p Beer & Hymns	28 10a PURLS 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts 7:30 Men's BS	29 7:30 AA	30	

~ December 2018 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
 <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">Merry Christmas</p>						1 2pm WF Christmas Tea 
2 Communion 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC 3p Venture	3 5:30 CS	4 5:30 CS	5 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 6:30 Bethany 7p Boy Scouts 7:30 Men's BS	6 11a GAMA 6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA	7 11:30 AA	8 11:30 AA
9 9:30 Choir 11a Service 12:15 PF Youth 12:45 CC 3p Venture	10 5:30 CS 6:30 Deacons	11 5p HCA Potluck	12 10a PURLS 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts 7:30 Men's BS	13 7:30 AA	14 11:30 AA	15 11:30 AA
16 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC 3p Venture 4p PF Party 5:30 Christmas Caroling	17 5:30 CS Pack Mtg./Christmas Party 7p Trustees	18 7p Beer & Hymns	19 10a PURLS 5:30 Dinner 6p Group Study 7p BS Groups	20 Preschool Christmas Pageant (4 & 5's) 5:45p F.A.N. 7:30 AA	21 11:30 AA Preschool Christmas Party (3's)	22 11:30 AA
23 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth 3p Venture	24 Christmas Eve 7p Worship 11p Worship PF Assist with evening services	25 	26 10a PURLS 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study	27 7:30 AA	28 11:30 AA	29 11:30 AA
Christmas Break December 24-31 →						
30 11a Service Special Music— TBA <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Christmas Break December 24-31 → </div>	31 New Years Eve 					

~ FCC COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL NEWS



Community Life Service (CLS): Please join us for a free dinner at 5pm & group study at 6pm. We will also be having a **Thanksgiving Dinner** on November 21st at 5pm. We are asking for volunteer to help with set-up, clean-up, and donations towards the dinner. Please contact Pastor Jason or Megan Dillingham if you can 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.

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, 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 October Meeting:

- Plans made for Memorial/Remembrance Sunday on November 4.
- Rides are available to the polls on Nov. 6th. Please call the office if you need a ride or can be a driver.
- Information on our Christmas Angel Tree coming in November.
- Plans are in the works for a S'more fellowship bonfire event.
- We enjoyed having our pre-school family's worship with us on October 14 and made sure to have extra deacons on hand to make them feel welcome.
- Deacons are hosting a potluck for coffee hour on the 25th of November.
- The next meeting will be November 12th at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend!

VETERAN SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11TH

Forms are available on the Church Bulletin Board. If you wish to honor a Veteran in your family, please submit the form with a photo by November 1st.

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!

- We now have a Church Communication box set outside of the church office. We encourage members who wish to add or remove someone from our prayer list, update your contact information, or give a suggestion to our FCC Staff – to please leave a note in the box. We would love to hear from you! If you would like to have an event or news posted in the bulletin or newsletters, the information must be submitted as a written document or emailed to the church office – per the Trustees. 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 \$20,585.46. The Trustees will begin our annual FCC Stewardship campaign in November. The next meeting will be November 26th at 7pm in the upstairs conference room.

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday! To Karen Hulbert (11/1), Carrol Menard (11/1), Chris Bosch (11/13), Skylar Kruger (11/13), John House (11/24), Ann Corner (11/25), Lainey Emerson (11/26), Sandra Tiffany (11/26), Bill Ahrens (11/28), and Dan Eagles (11/29).



Happy Anniversary! To Brian & Lisa Gardner (11/2), Chris & Doug Dodd (11/24), Jack & Ann Corner (11/28), and Harry & Rose Riddle (11/29).

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 if you have any questions.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Please remember those food challenged in our county by donating non-perishable food items for the Ecumenical Food Pantry and continue to give to those in need as you can! Food Pantry Hours are Tues. and Thurs. from 10-12 and Wed. from 6-7:30 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (616) 754-6675.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Women's Fellowship is entering the busiest season of all. PLEASE JOIN US for any of these events. Who is Women's Fellowship? ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH!

- Winslow Circle will meet Nov. 7 at 1pm. Hostesses are Rose Riddle and Janet Tuin. Please bring cups for the lesson from the book *The Cup of Life*. All ladies Welcome! Call Michele if you need a ride 754-6046.
- Bethany Circle will meet Nov. 7 at 6:30pm. We continue to hold discussions from our book.
- The Terri Lynn Nut orders will be delivered in November. Questions? Contact Chris Hubbard.
- The fall rummage sale in October was a great success! With the help from so many volunteers who came in to help set up the day before, work the day of, and clean-up and box up items to be taken to Arms of Love at the end of the day.
- Nov. 17th HOLIDAY BAZAAR 9-2 with the BEST LUNCH IN TOWN from 11-1. Donations are needed! Baked goodies of all kinds, face painting, raffle items, used Christmas cards (fronts only), desserts for the luncheon and YOU! If the luncheon is your thing, please contact Mary Snow. If a crafter table is your thing or you want to work at the bazaar in many capacities, see Chris Hubbard. If you want to help with kids face painting or craft, see Fran Gibbs. If you have something to donate to the raffle, see Nyama Newkirk-Davis.
- PLEASE HAVE BAKED GOODS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL by FRIDAY, NOV. 16th from 10-4.
- Tues., Nov. 27 DECORATE THE CHURCH! 10am Until Done. Bring in the Advent Season by helping to decorate our beautiful 130-year-old Sanctuary! There are plenty of easy jobs and we need a few adventurous men to bring ladders and help hang the high wreaths & garland in the balcony. Volunteers will have coffee & treats! Many hands make light work for all!
- CHRISTMAS TEA Sat., Dec 1st at 2pm. Please join us for tea, coffee, tea sandwiches, delicious cookies, and fellowship. Bring your friends for an old-fashioned tea and we're sure you will enjoy all the music. Our Program this year includes our FCC Preschool Singers, (Soloist) Katrina Nelson, and (Pianist) Janet Tower.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS!

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 a piece and all proceeds go to our DDF. **Orders are due by December 10th.**



PRESCHOOL NEWS

The children preformed at church in October – and what fun we had! We are now having fall craft fun! We went trunk-or-treating and also went on a ghost hunt but found out it was only Grandma Chris! We are now getting ready for Thanksgiving and learning the story of the pilgrims, and all that we can be thankful for! We still have spots left for anyone interested in sending their little one to a wonderful, loving, and Christian based school. Stop in for a packet! Questions? Call 754-7608 or find Ms. Candy on Facebook.

BEER & BIBLE – MEN'S STUDY GROUP

Our Men's Bible Study met three times in October. We have had a good turn out! If you still wish to join the group or would like to host a meeting, please contact Pastor Jason. The schedule for Nov. and Dec. meetings is: Nov. 7 and 28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19. We continue to meet at John & Deb House's home until the end of the year, then we'll rotate to a new home location. Please join us!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

We are very grateful to Linda & Dave Jones and Klackle Orchards for donating pumpkins for our Sunday School to decorate! How nice of you to think of us. Since Communion Sunday is on Nov. 11th, Sunday School will be held as usual. What a great time to be thankful for your church family and Sunday School teachers who work hard to bring meaningful lessons to you. Please make the effort to attend class with your teacher! Your attendance means a lot to them! CHRISTIAN ED meets Mon., Nov. 5th at 7pm IN THE FIRST CLASSROOM UPSTAIRS. All teachers & parents are welcome to attend. Come to the Bazaar on the 17th to see Santa and Mrs. Claus, do a craft, and get your face painted!

COMMUNITY & OTHER NEWS

- Dairy Queen of Greenville is hosting a fundraiser for the Ecumenical Food Kitchen on November 7th.
- **GRIEF SUPPORT AND EDUCATION:** (*sponsored by Spectrum Health*) is still being offering. Please call Kelly at 616-486-2833 for more information and to register. For more details on the classes, please see the flyer on the church bulletin board.
- **Check out the CoA website for important news & upcoming events at:**
www.montcalmcountymissioning.org

BOARD MEETINGS:

Deacons: Monday the 12th at 6:30pm
 Trustees: Monday the 26th at 7:00pm

General Fund: Operating Budget Income

September 2017 YTD \$175,896.02 ♦ September 2018 YTD \$155,310.56
 Shortage YTD \$20,585.46

Trustees of the Month: Jack Corner and Steve Roose

Deacons of the Month: Bruce Beauvais

November 4 – Remembrance Sunday and Daylight Savings (fall back 1 hour)

Greeters: Larry & Karen Carbonelli

Liturgist: Ed Milam

Children's Message: State PF Youth

Ushers: Bonnie Braman, Carolyn Coles, and Darlene Petersen

Coffee Hour: Peter & Roxanne Faber, Hollie Stephenson, and Nyma Newkirk-Davis

Sound Techs: Bruce Beauvais and Blake Rowland

November 11 – Communion, Veterans Day, & Volunteer Appreciation Day

Greeters: Ed & Jenny Milam

Liturgist: Katie Dillingham

Children's Message: Pastor Jason

Ushers: Doug & Chris Dodd and Karen Hulbert

Coffee Hour: Harry & Rose Riddle and

Jerry & Gloria McPherson

Sound Techs: Corey Norman and Blake Rowland

November 18

Greeters: Doug & Chris Dodd

Liturgist: Chris Hubbard

Children's Message: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Anita Putnam, Terri Merritt, and Don Gibbs

Coffee Hour: Jack & Ann Corner, Roxy Rice, and Mary Snow

Sound Techs: Corey Norman and Joe Suchowolec

November 25

Greeters: Cap & Janet Tower

Liturgist: Blake Rowland

Children's Message: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Jerry McPherson, Larry Alman, and Bonnie Braman

Coffee Hour: Potluck hosted by Deacons

Sound Techs: Blake Rowland and Joe Suchowolec

December 2 – Communion

Greeters: Dou & Lisa Stek and 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: **TBD**

December 9

Greeters: Jerry & Gloria McPherson

Liturgist: Don Gibbs

Children's Message: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Kurt & Suzy Kreeger and Jim Ritzema

Coffee Hour: Larry & Karen Carbonelli and Jon & Paula Aylsworth

Sound Techs: **TBD**

December 16

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: **TBD**

December 23

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: **TBD**

December 24 – Christmas Eve 7pm & 11pm

Greeters: **TBA**

Liturgist: Susan Beauvais

Children's Message: **TBA**

Ushers: **TBA**

Sound Techs: **TBD**

December 30

Greeters: Steve & Diane Roose

Liturgist: Linda Jones

Children's Message: **NEEDED**

Ushers: Paul & Kris Jager and Corey Norman

Coffee Hour: leftover Christmas goodies

Sound Techs: **TBD**