



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

OCTOBER 2019

Pilgrim Pulse Volume 11 Issue 10

The Good News . . .

It's Labor Day already! School has already begun, but I know everyone is grabbing one final summer hurrah before we really dive into the normal swing of things again. I hope you're having a blessed and enjoyable holiday weekend. What was your favorite moment from this beautiful Michigan Summer of ours? Did you travel far? Maybe you took full advantage of this beautiful vacation destination we have right here in West Michigan? Was there music? Water? Maybe you just laid low and took in a good book? Whatever it was, I hope it was filled with joy for you.

We're only a week away from Come Together Sunday, so don't forget that we return to our 11:00 am worship service time. You don't want to miss our Potluck after. Bring a dish to pass, if you can, and invite a friend to come and join us. Of course you don't have to bring food to join in the feast, but what a joy it would be if you brought someone who's never worshipped with us before for the first time.

Keep an eye on your calendar as we have two Deacons' fellowship activities in September. If you have some suggestions for fellowship activities in the future, let us know. I hope you'll join us at one of our prayer meetings, or our group studies, or one of the many fellowship opportunities we're scheming up around here. I'm excited about the future for us as we grow again and embrace Greenville in love and faith. There is plenty of Kingdom work to be done!

Our Community Life dinners and group studies are continuing to trend upwards in participation. If you've been praying about a place to serve in love, we've got a great place for you here. If you have ideas about events and activities happening out in the community that we can partner with, let's have a conversation and see where and how we might engage in the Kingdom outside our church building. Maybe you've got a great story of community ministry connection that you'd like to share with everyone? What do think of a Sunday evening service and agape meal; something casual & contemporary & conversational?

It seems that it's becoming an annual favor for me to ask of everyone. This year again has been rough on our Deacons' Discretionary Fund. Resources are running low again while the need in our community continues to rise. We've navigated the tension of generosity and wisdom throughout the year, but there is so much need out there. If you have been thinking about contributing, now would be a great time to do so. We genuinely want to be able to help those who come to us for help.

Thank you.



*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 Gloden, 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>Mike Tuin</i> |
| <i>Lucille McLachlan</i> | <i>Betty Lincoln</i> | <i>Sandra Tiffany</i> | <i>Roxy Rice</i> | <i>Michael Balars</i> |
| <i>Barb Hoy</i> | <i>Brian Adair</i> | <i>Gloria McPherson</i> | <i>Keith King</i> | <i>Carrol Minard</i> |
| <i>Lucas Hopkins</i> | <i>Marjoan Wohlfert</i> | <i>Coreen Johnston</i> | <i>Gary Petersen</i> | <i>Dennis Snow</i> |
| <i>Larry Moss</i> | <i>Bonnie Hoseth</i> | <i>Bill & Jean Boyd</i> | <i>Jade Hannah</i> | <i>Brian Tiffany</i> |
| <i>Holly Case</i> | <i>Bonnie Braman</i> | <i>Pat Flashaar</i> | <i>Jerry McPherson</i> | <i>Kathy Reed</i> |
| <i>Darlene Petersen</i> | <i>David Crittenden</i> | <i>Ken Reed</i> | <i>Judith Rice-Lesage</i> | <i>Tom Deal</i> |

FCC FAMILY AT CARE FACILITIES

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Millie Crowe</i> |  | <i>-at Maple Creek, Grand Rapids</i> |
| <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>Mary Crittenden</i> | | <i>-at SHUM RNC Room #109</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> |

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Jasmine Luce</i> | <i>Friend of Candy Outman</i> |
| <i>Sarah Brygal</i> | <i>Friend of Candy Outman</i> |
| <i>Sarah Hanson</i> | <i>Mother of Peter Hanson</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!

Congratulations:

To Claude Johnson on the birth of his 7th Great-Grandchild, Chance Morgan Johnson, born on August 20th.

Continue Prayers for:

Larry Moss, Susan Beauvais, Bonnie Braman, Bill Visch, and the Dykstra Family.

~ September 2019 ~

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|---|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| 1 Communion 10a Worship Special Music – <i>Deb Dieckman</i> 3p Venture | 2 Labor Day <i>~Office Closed~</i> | 3 First Day of Preschool (3's)  | 4 First Day of Preschool (4's & 5's) 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 6:30 Bethany 7p Boy Scouts | 5 11a GAMA 7:30 AA | 6 11:30 AA | 7 |
| 8 Come Together Sunday 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth 12:45 CC 3p Venture | 9 5:30 CS 6:30 Deacons | 10 | 11 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts | 12 6:30 GS Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA | 13 11:30 AA | 14 |
| 15 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:45 CC 3p Venture | 16 5:30 CS | 17 | 18 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts | 19 6:30 F.A.N. 7:30 AA | 20 11:30 AA | 21 9a WMACCC Annual Meeting here at FCC |
| 22 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth 12:45 CC 3p Venture | 23 5:30 CS 7p Trustees | 24 7p Beer & Hymns | 25 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 7p Boy Scouts | 26 7:30 AA | 27 11:30 AA | 28 12p WF Recipe exchange & Crismon making |
| 29 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12p Flu Shot Clinic 12:45 CC 3p Venture | 30 5:30 CS Pack Mtg. | -SERVICE TIME CHANGE SEPT. 8TH – BACK TO 11am -Potluck on Sept. 8th. Please bring a dish to pass! -FLU shot clinic sponsored by Specturm Health is Sunday the 29th from 12-1:30pm. | | | | |

~ October 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 1p Winslow 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Group Study 6:30 Bethany 7p Boy Scouts | 3 9a set-up for rummage sale 11a GAMA 4p Prayer Group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 4 11:30 AA 8-1 WF Fall Rummage Sale | 5 |
| 6 Communion 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 9:30 Bible Study 11a Worship *Congregational Mtg. for Bylaws 12:45 CC 3p Venture | 7 5:30 CS 6:30 Council | 8 5p HCA Potluck | 9 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Study Group 7p Boy Scouts | 10 *Deadline to turn in nut pre-orders 4p Prayer Group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 11 11:30 AA | 12 |
| 13 Pastor Appreciation Day 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 11a Worship 12:15 PF Youth 12:45 CC 3p Venture | 14 Columbus Day 5:30 CS 6:30 Deacons | 15 | 16 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Study Group 7p Boy Scouts | 17 4p Prayer Group 6:30 Tp. 125G 6:30 F.A.N. 7:30 AA | 18 11:30 AA | 19 |
| 20 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 11a Worship Special Music – Children's Choir 3p Venture 7:30 Men's BS | 21 5:30 CS 7p Trustees | 22 | 23 10a PURLS 1p WF Board 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Study Group 7p Boy Scouts | 24 4p Prayer Group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 25 11:30 AA | 26 |
| 27 9:30 Prayer Group 9:30 Choir 11a Worship PF Youth Mtg. 12:45 CC 3p Venture | 28 6p CS Pack Mtg. | 29 Preschool Trunk-or-Treat 7p Beer & Hymns | 30 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 5p Free Dinner 6p Study Group 7p Boy Scouts | 31 Preschool Trunk-or-treat  *3p Trick or treat (here) | | |

~ FCC COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

PASTORAL NEWS

Community Life (CL): 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. Please see Megan Dillingham if you can help!

- **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. To schedule an appointment or visit, please call the church office, email Pastor Jason or call the Parsonage.
- **Pastoral Care:** Our team is here for your spiritual & emotional care! To schedule an appointment or visit, call the office, the parsonage (835-9032) or email pastor.dillingham@gmail.com.
- **Beer & Hymns** will resume again at 7pm on Tuesday September 24th. Location TBA.

DEACONS NEWS

- We have decided on using gluten-free bread at communions, unless we plan to use intinction, as gluten-free will fall apart.
- Every 3rd Sunday we will be reading the covenant.
- The Ecumenical food pantry has made a schedule of item suggestions they need in a month's time. We will announce for the month in the bulletin & Pilgrim Pulse what the item requests are for the month (i.e., paper goods, pastas, peanut butter or jams, etc.). Our groceries are still in the lobby; maybe when the children's sermon is about to begin the kids can roll the cart up to show everybody. We will do this on the same Sunday as the Covenant reading.
- The Goff series is really well accepted and received. Good call on Pastor's part.
- The church picnic was nice. Count was 62. More than last year. A couple new faces in the crowd.

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

The office hours are Monday thru Friday from 9-3 with lunch from 2:00 to 2:30. The door will be locked early on Tuesday and Friday for staff safety. If you need assistance, please call ahead. Thank you!

PARISH NURSE NEWS

Our Parish Nurse is off on Monday and Wednesday. She is in on Tuesday and Thursday from 8-9 and on Friday from 8-11. She is available for questions or concerns by calling (616) 894-7288.

MCCCC ANNUAL MEETING

"Why aren't people coming to MY church?" The annual meeting and fellowship Oct. 18-19, 2019. Hosted by Central Lake Congregational Church; with Guest speakers Rev. Dean Sinclair and Rev. Gary Bekkering. We encourage all lay persons and ministers to attend this fellowship and business meeting opportunity. Registration info will be announced mid-August. See the bulletin board for the flyer with more information!

WMACCC ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held here at FCC on the 21st of September from 9-4. This is the West Michigan Association of Congregational Christian Churches, 2019 Conference. We have some volunteers to help with snacks and registration but are looking for volunteers to help with the luncheon. If you are able to help or donate, please contact Pastor Jason.

TRUSTEE NEWS & PLEDGING INFORMATION

Our Shortage YTD is \$8,343.78. The next meeting will be Sept. 23rd at 7pm in the upstairs conference room. Tithing boxes still are available in the library; if you do not see your box, 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 church!

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday! To Ken Venema (9/4), Vivian Menard (9/9), Carol Magoon (9/12), Brianna Rowland (9/12), 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

CHOIR NEWS

- Emerson (9/8), and Dave & Linda Jones (9/11).
- The Chancel Choir will resume their 9:30 practices on Sept. 8th.
- The Children's Choir will resume 12:45 practice on Sept. 15th
- We are still looking for volunteers for our *Special Music* program, contact Greg VanderMark.

PF YOUTH NEWS

PF Youth will continue meetings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. The State Fall Retreat is November 8-10, 2019; for 6th thru 12th grades, in Lansing. More details to come mid-Sept. Please see Claude Johnson for more detail or questions.

FELLOWSHIP OUTING

- Join us at the Irish Music Festival at Heritage Landing in Downtown Muskegon on Sat., Sept. 14. There will be several bands, food booths, and activities. We will carpool from the church at 10am, have lunch at the festival (bring money for lunch) and return around 3pm. Tickets are \$25 or \$20 online at michiganirish.org – if purchased by Aug. 28th. Questions? Call Terri Merritt at 616-894-7760.
- We are planning another bike trip! Sunday Sept. 22nd at 2pm. We will leave from Candy's house and take the bike trail to Stanton and back. We have extra bikes if you need one! Call Terri Merritt at

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

616-894-7760 with any questions.

- Terri Lynn Nut order forms are available in the library! Preorders are due by October 10th – Delivery in November. Questions? Please contact Chris Hubbard for more information
- Plan to be in church on ***Come Together Sunday, September 8th*** for a potluck and a special dedication of the improved kitchen!
- **The Fall Luncheon** for all women of the church will be Saturday, September 28 at Noon. The theme is Favorite Fall Recipes! Please bring your recipe to the office or email Fran Gibbs at gibbsf@hotmail.com by Wednesday, September 25. All participants will receive the recipes and get to taste the dishes. Program: Making Chrismons! Years ago, we passed out Chrismons to each family in attendance at Christmas Eve. We want to renew that tradition! Come for fun and fellowship, even if you are not a cook or crafty.
- **Bethany Circle** will meet **Wed., Oct. 2 at 6:30pm.**
- **Winslow Circle** will meet **Wed., Oct. 2 at 1pm.**

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

Sunday School will resume Sept. 8th at *Come Together Sunday*. Anyone in Preschool through 9th grade, are welcome to attend! Our groups will be: Preschool and Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-6, and Grades 7-9. Students will be dismissed after the Children's Sermon to join their teachers in learning more about God and the Bible! Be sure to stay for a potluck lunch after church.

*If you can be a teacher once a month or substitute teach if needed, please leave a message in the church office. Thank you!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

- We recently got new flooring installed in the snack room and the art area of the preschool. And we got a fresh coat of paint on the walls to highlight the new theme for the 2019-2020 School Year...the Wizard of Oz! The children will be "following the yellow brick road" to a year full of preschool educational learning and fun! Ms. Candy and the Preschool Grandparents cannot wait for another school year to begin and help make memories with your little one! ☺
- We already have many packets turned in for the new school year! Ms. Candy is still accepting registration packets for children who will be attending Preschool in the fall. If you or someone you know, would like to send your little one to a loving and Christian based preschool, please stop in the church office to pick up a packet! More info is on the Church website, Facebook, or call 754-7608.
- **REGISTRATION FEE must be paid when you submit your packet; to secure your spot for the fall classes!** More info is on the Church website, Facebook or call 754-7608. **Space is limited - Get your packet today!**

OTHER NEWS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Kids Against Hunger:** Join us November 2nd at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, to pack meals for local children.
- **Walk to End Alzheimers:** Sat. Sept. 7th. Register at 9am, ceremony at 10; walk begins at 10:30 at the Greenville Area Community Center. This is a 2mile walk (free lunch and refreshments provided). Call Pam at CoA option 1, for more information.
- **Alzheimer's Assoc. Presents: 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's.** Call CoA, option 4 – by Sept. 9th to register. Join us for lunch afterwards for Soup & Salad Bar (\$2.50 donation 60 & up, and \$6 for under 60).
- **Lifelong Learners Club:** on Fri., Sept. 13th from 10-12 at the MCC Stanley & Blanch Ash Tech. Center, there is a "*Good Grief, Charlie Brown*". This will focus on how to help with the grief all around us. This group meets 8 times per year. Call MCC 989-328-1276 to register (\$2) & for more info.
- **Check out the CoA website** or call 989-831-7476 for important news & upcoming events at: www.montcalmcountymissiononaging.org.

BOARD MEETINGS:Deacons: Monday the 14th at 6:30pmTrustees: Monday the 28th at 7:00pm**General Fund: Operating Budget Income**

Aug 2018 YTD \$131,705.72 ♦ Aug 2019 YTD \$123,361.94

Shortage YTD \$8,343.78

Trustees of the Month: Dan Eagles and Kirk Faber**Deacon of the Month:** Jane Truesdell**MUTUAL MINISTRY****October 6 – Communion Sunday**Greeters: Carla Durdle and Nyama Newkirk-DavisLiturgist: Linda JonesChildren's Message: Pastor JasonUshers: Don Gibbs, Carla Durdle, and
Nyama Newkirk-DavisCoffee Hour: Carolyn Coles and Carolyn Foster
(2 more needed)Sound Techs: **TBA****October 13**Greeters: Bruce & Susan BeauvaisLiturgist: Karen HulbertChildren's Message: **NEEDED**Ushers: Bruce & Susan Beauvais and Wilson HoyCoffee Hour: Steve & Diane Roose, Cindy Hanson, and
Larry AlmanSound Techs: **TBA****October 20**Greeters: PF YouthLiturgist: Jack CornerChildren's Message: **NEEDED**Ushers: Larry Alman and PF YouthCoffee Hour: Ed & Jenny Milam and
Myron & Sandra TiffanySound Techs: **TBA****October 27**Greeters: Carolyn Coles and Marian GriffithLiturgist: Roxy RiceChildren's Message: **NEEDED**Ushers: Carolyn Coles and Marian Griffith, and
Scott RowlandCoffee Hour: Jack & Ann Corner and
Jim & Patti RitzemaSound Techs: **TBA****November 3 – Communion Sunday & Daylight Savings Begins**Greeters:Liturgist:Children's Message: Pastor JasonUshers:Coffee Hour:Sound Techs:**November 10 – Volunteer & Veterans Sunday**Greeters:Liturgist:Children's Message: **NEEDED**Ushers:Coffee Hour:Sound Techs:**November 17**Greeters:Liturgist:Children's Message: **NEEDED**Ushers:Coffee Hour:Sound Techs:**November 24**Greeters:Liturgist:Children's Message: **NEEDED**Ushers:Coffee Hour:Sound Techs:



Come Together Sunday

First Congregational Church is hosting a Come Together Sunday on September 8, 2019. Church service will begin at 11:00am including the Chancel Choir, Sunday School, and tasty luncheon where all are welcome. Chancel Choir Practice starts at 9:30 am.

You'll experience a worship service that is both rich with liturgical traditions and is shaped by inclusive love and hope. All are welcome here. We are blessed with a beautiful setting as well as beautiful musicians and singers. We celebrate human diversity and creativity in our worship, our service, and our community.

Our Sunday School uses age appropriate curriculum called Heart Shaper that teaches about Jesus and famous people from the Bible. Grade level materials start in Preschool through Grade 9 taught by a dedicated and experienced teaching staff. Children join their parents in the worship service until the Children's Sermon when they go together to attend Sunday School.

There is a potluck luncheon after church in Fellowship Hall with meat provided by our Christian Education Committee. You're welcome to bring a dish to pass and your own table service if you are able.

If you have been away, we miss you and welcome you. If you are regularly attending, we are grateful for you. If you are searching for a place of worship, we'd love to meet you!

First Congregational Church is handicapped accessible on all floors. A nursery is available during worship. For more information, call the church at (616) 754-3445.