



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

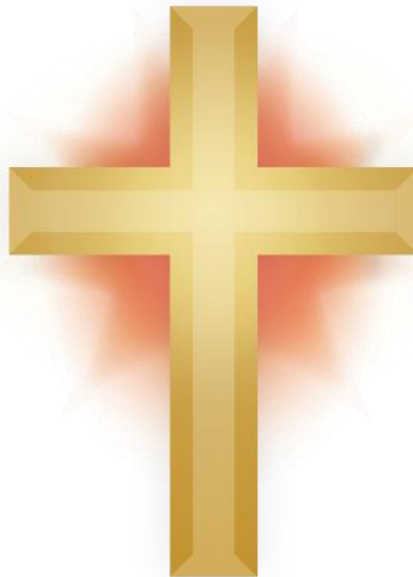
AUGUST 2020

All Are Welcome!

At First Congregational Church we believe all our members are ministers, called to serve God and our neighbors with the love and grace given to us through Christ Jesus.

We are a church that desires to love God and each individual made in God's image. Whether you are grounded in your faith or still questioning your faith or somewhere in-between, we invite you to come as you are, and as you are able.

All are welcome.



We are still meeting for Sunday Services in our Sanctuary at 10:00am! Come join us! For those of you who still wish to view the service from your home, please join as we now stream our services online LIVE! You can view the live videos by visiting our Church website at www.firstccog.org, or on our YouTube Channel and Facebook page; find us by searching for 'First Congregational Church of Greenville Michigan.'

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.

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>Jackie Kocher</i> | <i>Gary Petersen</i> | <i>Mike Tuin</i> |
| <i>Rob Sansom</i> | <i>Lucille McLachlan</i> | <i>Bill & Jean Boyd</i> | <i>Roxy Rice</i> | <i>Holly Case</i> |
| <i>Marjoan Wohlfert</i> | <i>Coreen Johnston</i> | <i>Gloria McPherson</i> | <i>Pat Toth</i> | <i>Tom Deal</i> |
| <i>Lucas Hopkins</i> | <i>Judith Rice-Lesage</i> | <i>Ken Reed</i> | <i>Carrol Minard</i> | <i>Jasmine Luce</i> |
| <i>Barb Hoy</i> | <i>Don Haist</i> | <i>Emily Zukin</i> | <i>Mary Haskins</i> | <i>James Griffith, Jr.</i> |
| <i>Keith King</i> | <i>Norma Nicholas</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> |
| <i>Barb Hoy</i> | <i>-at SHUM RNC Room #117</i> |



FAMILY AND FRIENDS

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Jerry Haverdink</i> | <i>Father of Cindy Hanson</i> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|

A Message of "Thanks": "Thank you for the cards and prayers as I go through my "Job" time of life trying to recover from my "dog hitting bike" accident, then subsequent infections, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, eczema and constant itching. But like Job, I know the good Lord has a reason and hopefully soon a cure. While waiting I've also been praying about the calling of our next pastor; after a vaccine is found for COVID 19 so he/she can have safe face time with all at church and especially while doing regular visitations to "homebound" who wish it. We would do well to study 1 Cor. 9:20b-23, finding a person who puts his/her flock first with true Christian love and zeal. Love in Christ ~ Bonnie Wickerham!"

Special Prayers for: Lynne Rowland, Maria Gallo, Trudy Petersen, and Bonnie Wickerham.

BOARD MEETINGS:

Council: Monday the 3rd at 6:30pm
Deacons: Tuesday the 11th at 6:30pm
Trustees: Monday the 24th at 6:30pm

General Fund: Operating Budget Income

June 2019 YTD \$127,669.51 ♦ June 2020 YTD \$11,779.50
Shortage YTD \$16,890.51

Trustees of the Month: Josh Gibbs and Cindy Hanson
Deacon of the Month: Fran Gibbs

~ FCC COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

For Pastoral Care, contact Ed Milam at 517-930-3007 or Claude Johnson at (616) 894-5595.

TRUSTEE NEWS

- The June 2020 shortage is \$25,516.67
- **The next meeting is August 24th at 6:30 pm.**

DEACON NEWS

Our next meeting is Aug. 11th at 6:30. We look forward to seeing you in church! While things may look a bit different, our sanctuary is ready to worship the Lord! Please remember there is no coffee hour and we have shortened the service to limit the time of exposure to each other. We are all growing together to be safe as a community of worship.

- Sound system improvement "thanks" to Larry Alman, Bruce Beauvais and Tim Schmidt.
- Re-establishment of the Music Committee.
- Liturgist readers needed! Call the office to help!
- We are all growing together to be safe as a community of worship.
- **If you have not done so, please contact the office regarding the Church Directory (how you would like to be contacted and receive the directory). We hope to publish it by the end of the year!**
- Special Thanks to those who donated items to be sent overseas to Joe Suchowolec. A 29lb. box was mailed out to him last month! Please keep The Suchowolec Family in your prayers – until he is home safe!

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thurs from 9-3. The door is locked; if you need assistance, please call ahead.

*Please make sure to update your contact info with the church office to receive mailings on upcoming events!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Packets for fall classes are available! Call the office for a packet or print one from our church website under "All News/Events" at www.firstccog.org. For additional questions, find Ms. Candy on Facebook.

CELEBRATIONS

- **Happy Birthday!** To Adalyn Weber (8/6), Benjamin Venema (8/24), and Brian Gardner (8/25).
- **Happy Anniversary!** To Lynn & Bonnie Wickerham (8/3) and Jeffrey & Cheryl Staffen (8/11).

PARISH NURSE NEWS

Patrice is available on Tues and Thurs from 8-4 and from 8-11 on Fridays. Call 616-894-7288 for questions, concerns, or for an appointment.

MID-MICHIGAN HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

Is offering FREE COVID-19 Testing on Aug. 4th from 3-7pm at Baldwin Heights Elementary. This is available to the community free-of-charge. Here is some additional information:

- Available for anyone over the age of 18 who wants a test, even if you have no symptoms.
- No appointment is needed.
- No screening is needed.
- No doctor's order is needed.
- Please bring a form of ID.
- Bring your insurance card(s).
- There is a drive-through clinic (stay in your cars).
- Antibody testing will not be available.
- People with high-risk jobs are encouraged to attend.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

Sunday School Classes are on break until Fall. St. Paul Lutheran is not reaching out for Vacation Bible School this year, therefore we won't be having VBS either. We MAY hold a one-day event in August. Keeping social distances doesn't work well with kids but we will try to have some fun! Get more info in the next Pilgrim Pulse.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The board meeting is on Aug. 26th; kitchen cleaning board members only, at 10am. There will not be a Rummage Sale or Terri Lynn Nut Sale this fall. Here is a list of what is still available: walnut pieces/halves, choc. cashews, choc. peanut clusters, dk. choc. almonds, choc. bridge mix, harvest medley, malted milk balls, mixed yogurt raisins, choc. raisins, gummi bears, and choc. peanuts. Contact Chris Hubbard at (616) 754-7464 to purchase a bag.

CHURCH SERVICES GUIDELINES

- Greeters at front & back doors (wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, have your temp taken).
- Ushers will seat you in the sanctuary.
- Ushers will wear gloves to hand out bulletins.
- The Service has been streamlined and there is less singing and speaking by the congregation.
- The offering will be collected by the ushers at the end of the service as you exit the sanctuary.
- There is no nursery, Sunday School, or coffee hour.
- If you borrow a washable mask or use a disposable mask for services, leave it at the door as you leave.
- Take everything with you when you leave – bulletin, other papers, trash, etc. & either deposit in a waste can or take home with you.
- **If you come down with COVID-19 within a couple of weeks of attending services here at the church, call the church office and let us know.**

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

We want to assure you that your council has not been sitting idly by during this pandemic. We have met several times, (while socially distancing), contemplating the future of Our Church. There are a number of items we have been discussing. One of the items is concerning a Church Survey; therefore we have put in place a survey committee. They have been tasked with developing questions that may include how you would like to see our Sunday service formatted (adding contemporary and/or traditional components) and views on what you would like for a new Pastor. The committee hopes to have this questionnaire ready sometime in the fall.

Deb Dieckman, our Diaconate Chair, continues to head up the By-law committee. This committee will once again take up the items that were left on the table back in January. Some issues that will be discussed: a meeting quorum, absentee voting, and moving our annual meeting to accommodate 'snowbirds'.

If you haven't been listening to our Sunday Service on the internet, either from our web page, YouTube channel or Facebook page, or by attending our CDC approved live Church services, then you have been missing out on some fantastic special music performances and awesome messages. Please make the effort to check out our services online or visit in person – we are getting better all the time.

As your leadership continues to work for you, we also want you to know, your Church misses you and we hope to see you soon in the pews. Love to you All, In Jesus' name

~ Your Church Council - Duane Putnam, Moderator

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

~ August 2020 ~

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---|--|------------|------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Communion 10a Worship Special Music – <i>Bob & Salle Johnson</i> 3p Venture | 3 6:30 CS 6:30 Council | 4 | 5 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 7p Boy Scouts | 6 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 7 | 8 |
| 9 10a Worship Special Music – <i>Hollie Stephenson</i> 3p Venture | 10 | 11 6:30 Deacons | 12 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 7p Boy Scouts | 13 6p OA Group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 14 | 15 |
| 16 10a Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i> 3p Venture | 17 | 18 | 19 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 7p Boy Scouts | 20 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 21 | 22 |
| 23 10a Worship Special Music – <i>Claude Johnson</i> 3p Venture | 24 6:30 Trustees | 25 | 26 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 7p Boy Scouts | 27 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA | 28 | 29 |
| 30 10a Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i> 3p Venture | | | | | | |