



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

FEBRUARY 2021

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.



For those of you who still wish to view the service from your home, please join as we stream our services online LIVE! You can view the live videos by visiting our Church website at www.firstccoq.org, or on our YouTube Channel and Facebook page; find us by searching for 'First Congregational Church of Greenville Michigan.'

If you wish to have your name or your loved one to be placed on our prayer list, please contact the church office. *Please remember you must have permission to do so. Thank you!

IN OUR PRAYERS

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.

ONGOING PRAYERS FOR:

<i>Lucas Hopkins</i>	<i>Judith Rice-Lesage</i>	<i>Gloria McPherson</i>	<i>Trudy Petersen</i>	<i>Michele Kocher</i>
<i>James Griffith, Jr.</i>	<i>Jerry Haverdink</i>	<i>Bonnie Wickerham</i>	<i>Theresa Loper</i>	<i>Jackie Kocher</i>
<i>Rylie Whitten</i>	<i>Rob Sansom</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>Polly Boatwright</i>	<i>-at Green Acres Room #204</i>
<i>Barb Hoy</i>	<i>-at Canal View, Houghton County Medical Facility</i>



FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

<i>Holly Case</i>	<i>For her upcoming surgery this month</i>
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Are you in need of prayers? Are you in need of a visit or call?

Please contact any one of our Care Team Members with any of your needs:

Pastor Ed Milam (517) 930-3007, Claude Johnson (616) 894-5595, or

Patrice Fulton-Peacock (616) 894-7288

Special Thanks: We are so blessed with our families; both home and church, who have helped us through the last year and a half with prayers., cards, and support. As we traveled a long medical road to recovery Patrice, Pastor Ed, and Claude were always there for us checking, calling and caring, as were so many church friends. Thank you seems so little to say but we love you all and feel the love you have given us. Prayer and love does work! 2020 was a very hard year for all of us, but we are most pleased it ended on a very sweet note for us. In addition to our first great grandson Diedrick James DeVries who is now 2 1/2 , we added two new babies: Rhett Thomas DeVries born 9/15/20 and Theadora (Thea) Joye Corner born 12/24/20. They fill our hearts with such joy and promise. Thank you friends, once again, for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers all these months. ~Jack & Ann Corner

BOARD MEETINGS:

Council: Monday, Feb. 1st at 6:30pm
Deacons: Tuesday, Feb. 9th at 6:30pm
Trustees: Monday, Feb. 22nd at 6:30pm

Trustees of the Month: Cindy Hanson and Kurt Kreeger
Deacon of the Month: Deb House

Due to guidelines set forth by the CDC, the events in our newsletter are subject to change. Please watch our Facebook page, church emails, and church website for updates! Thank you!

~ FCC COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

This is the results of the vote that was held after service on January 17th:

- 1) 53 total voters.
 - 2) 44 ballots all in favor of all 3 proposals.
 - 3) 1 ballot against all 3 proposals.
 - 4) 3 ballots in favor of the first 2 proposals and opposing the last proposed amendment.
 - 5) 5 ballots had random votes between the 3 proposals.
 - 6) 2 comments indicating the quorum needs to provide the actual number required to conduct business.
- The next Council meeting is February 1st at 6:30pm.

DEACONS NEWS

- The next Deacons meeting is February 9th at 6:30pm.
- The Deacons are working hard to assure the safety of our congregation by asking that all members wear masks and keep them on unless speaking or singing from up front and by having attendees sit in pews that are not marked. Part of worship is fellowship and when you feel safe, we hope to have you fellowship with us!
- A huge debt of gratitude goes to Pastor Ed for handling the funeral and visitation along with Simpson Funeral Home for Destini DeAnn Cunliffe at our church. They took many safety measures for sure, but most importantly provided comfort to many young people and family at a very difficult time.
- Thank you to Al Guilfoyle for filling in on 1/24 so that Pastor Ed and Jenny could have a short weekend away. Al was the former Youth Pastor at our church in the 70's before going on to Chicago and serving in a mega-church there. You might know him from the Club Fitness Center!
- Please join us for Communion on February 7. Deacons serve each member so that there is no passing or touching of the elements.

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thurs from 9-3. The door is locked early on Tuesday and Friday; 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

It's February! The month of love and showing love to others! The children will be bringing in their homemade valentine boxes! We still have room in our 3-year-old program. If you would like more information on how to enroll your little one, please call the church office.

FCC ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

The Annual Meeting is postponed until May 2021. A specific date will be determined and announced sometime in the new year.

PARISH NURSE NEWS

Our Nurse is available Mon. 8-4, Tues. 8-12 and Thurs. from 8-4. Questions? Please call 616-894-7288.

- COVID vaccine information: We are still waiting to see when our church will be a site to administer the vaccine. For now, please sign up with Spectrum Health by visiting spectrumhealth.org and follow the directions to apply for an appointment or by calling 1(833) 755-0696. *Other options: call your Meijer Pharmacy to get on their list, or visit the Health Department site at mmdhd.org as they occasionally have appointments in Stanton. If you have any questions call Patrice at 616-894-7288 and please share this information with family/friends that need it.

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday! To Patty Ritzema (2/1), Ken Reed (2/4), Ellia Devitt (2/5), Rex Venema (2/10), Jerry Jones (2/12), Nancy Staffen (2/14), Coleen Venema (2/15), Michele Kocher (2/17), Patrick Emerson (2/20), and Celeste Faber (2/24). **Happy Anniversary!** To Myron & Sandra Tiffany (2/14).

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

We have Sunday School during the shortened church service every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month. Our teachers work hard to prepare great lessons and love to see your shiny faces, behind masks of course.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- Thank you! to Lynn Wickerham, Jerry McPherson, Larry Alman, Jane Truesdell, Duane Putnam, Chris Hubbard, and Don & Fran Gibbs for helping take the Advent Season decorations down.
- Circles and the Board will not be meeting until possibly March. Please watch our mailings for more information.

FCC BOOK STUDY GROUP

Adult Book Study: We continue to discuss *Twelve Ordinary Men*. Meetings are after worship on Sundays in Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to get your own book and join us. See Pastor Ed for worksheet.

CHILDREN'S PRAISE CHOIR

We practice every Wed. from 4-5pm. Please join us as we sing, dance, and enjoy games & snacks! We perform the last Sunday of every month and our next performance will be February 28th.

FCC SERVICE GUIDELINES

We continue to meet in person in a modified format. If you have symptoms of illness, please stay home and enjoy watching the livestream service! Please remember that we Screen at the front and back doors, wear masks throughout the service, sit where pews are not marked, maintain a social distance of six feet, and all doors are locked when the service begins.

MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

- Be sure to attend church January 31 to hear our own Children's Praise Choir that has grown to almost 30 participants! We have a special short version of Sunday School for our children that day.
- February 7, the Preschool Children performs, and you won't want to miss the fun!
- February 14 the Chancel Choir will be singing "*Blessed Be Your Name*" and we are always looking for more singers. We have shields to wear & space ourselves as far apart as we can.
- If you are interested in providing special music like singing, playing an instrument, or playing the piano, please contact Deb Dieckman.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

Our Committee members met on Jan. 12th to organize and talk over a few thoughts. The group decided that John House and Suzy Kreeger will be Co-chairpersons of this committee and Deb Dieckman will be the secretary. Here are the highlights of the meeting: The Bylaws Committee will need to update the job description for a senior pastor, to solicit needs/wants in a pastor, to research past search committee efforts and archive the info, to create a new survey for the congregations ideals of a new pastor and to look at past surveys, and finally, to contact the NACCC to obtain advice and suggestions for this process. The committee will also need to update the congregation periodically on the progress of this search. The next meeting will be in February. Date TBA.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

~ February 2021 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 5:30 Cubs 6:30 Council	2 5:30 GS	3 10a PURLS 4p Praise Choir 7p Boy Scouts	4 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	5	6
7 Communion Sunday 11a Worship Special Music ~ Preschoolers Book Study 3p Venture Crew	8 5:30 Cubs 6:30 Council	9 5p HCA 5:30 GS 6:30 Deacons	10 10a PURLS 4p Praise Choir 7p Boy Scouts	11 6p OA Group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	12	13
14 Transition Sunday and Valentines Day 9:30 Choir 11a Worship Special Music ~ Chancel Choir Book Study	15 5:30 Cubs	16 5:30 GS	17 10a PURLS 4p Praise Choir 7p Boy Scouts	18 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	19	20
21 First Sunday of Lent 11a Worship Special Music – ~ Harrison Witt Book Study 3p Venture Crew	22 5:30 Cubs	23 5:30 GS	24 10a PURLS 4p Praise Choir 7p Boy Scouts	25 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA	26	27
28 11a Worship Special Music ~ Praise Choir Book Study	Happy Valentines Day!					