



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

MARCH 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 recovery</i>
<i>Phil & Mar Newkirk</i>	<i>Friends of Chris Hubbard</i>
<i>Scott Horn</i>	<i>For his recovery</i>
<i>Darlene Petersen</i>	<i>For the loss of her son, Gary Petersen</i>

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

Birth Announcement: In February we sent a special message of congratulations to Jason & Mary Daven Ritzema for the birth of their daughter Dylan Jaye, born February 7th. Proud grandparents are Patty & Jim Ritzema.

BOARD MEETINGS:

Deacons: Tuesday, March 9th at 6:30pm
Trustees: Monday, March 22nd at 6:30pm

Trustees of the Month: Dan Eagles and Larry Snow
Deacon of the Month: Don Gibbs

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 ~

FCC ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

The Annual Meeting is postponed until May 2021. Date TBA. *Group Leaders, please submit your Annual Reports to the church office by April 16th.

DEACONS NEWS

- The next meeting is March 9th at 6:30pm.
- The Diaconate Board is looking to fill 3 spots: 2 females and 1 male. Responsibilities include mutual ministry during worship services, coordinating all aspects of worship, overseeing membership and fellowship opportunities at church. Training is provided through shadowing a fellow deacon and meetings are the second Tuesday of the month. If you are interested, please contact the church office or ask a fellow deacon.
- **Lent Season:** Due to the pandemic we are still limited in safe ways to meet, therefore there will be no Lenten suppers, Ash Wednesday, or Maundy Thursday.
- **Missing You Project:** We will be reaching out to people unable to attend church at this time.
- **Church Closures:** We are looking into a new system of how to inform our members and guests when church is closed. *More information to come soon!
- **Spring Giving Project:** Our local food pantry, housed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, has expressed a need for more canned goods, meat products in particular: canned ham, tuna, chicken, salmon, Spam, sausages, etc. In response to this need, the FCCoG Deacons are sponsoring a "Canned Goods Drive" with an emphasis on canned meats and fish. Every Sunday in March, we're hoping to fill up our grocery cart with lots of canned foods. Any canned meats you can provide will be especially welcome; however, canned veggies, fruits, soups, etc. are all excellent donations as well. Please bring whatever you can contribute to our grocery cart this March. We would really love to fill up the food pantry shelves to their fullest! Thank you so very much.
- **Easter Lilies:** we are once again selling flowers for the Easter Season. There is a very short time frame to order flowers for the altar so please get your orders in. All proceeds go to the Deacon's Discretionary Fund.

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

PRESCHOOL NEWS

We want to thank our preschoolers for bringing in all wonderful donations of canned goods last month! We held a Mother & Son/Father & Daughter dance along with a pizza party for the preschoolers to celebrate their kindness and giving to those in need. Here is a line-up of events planned for March:

- The children will be preparing to catch the Leprechaun again by making traps and bringing them in on the 17th.
- The children are also having their annual "pet week" on the 25 & 26th. Children get to bring in their pet to show the class.
- This month we are also having our spring fundraiser, selling popcorn from the Goodies Factory. We will have an order form in the church lobby until the 7th of March. All orders and money are due by the 9th. The company offers over 10 different kinds of popcorn, along with many other treats and snacks! Please consider stopping in the lobby to place your order today and support our Preschool Program! Thank you!
- We will be starting registration for the fall classes, in April. If you or someone you know would like more information or a packet, please contact the church office.

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday! To Ann Emerson (3/1), Kristen Milam (3/10), Libbie Suchowolec (3/10), Emily Suchowolec (3/12), Rachael Milam (3/14), Carrie Venema (3/14), Gavin Outman (3/16), Jane Truesdell (3/21), and Larry Snow (3/24).
Happy 65th Anniversary! To Larry & Mary Snow (3/24).

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 clinic update:** The Mid-Michigan District Health Department has decided not to host weekly clinics here at the church. They will be holding large vaccination clinics at the Montcalm Community College Campus. They hope to host "pop up" clinics at our church in the spring and will give us as much notice as possible, for clinic dates. To sign up to receive the vaccine through the Health Department, please visit <https://www.mmdhd.org>. If you or someone you know does not have computer access or needs help registering, please contact Patrice.
- Other places/locations to sign up for the vaccine: for Spectrum Health visit www.spectrumhealth.org and follow the directions to apply for an appointment or by calling 1(833) 755-0696. You can also call Meijer Pharmacy, Rite Aid Pharmacies (in Rockford, Cedar Springs, and Ionia) to get on their list.

CHILDREN'S PRAISE CHOIR

We practice every Wed. from 4-5pm and are inviting any child interesting in singing! Please join us for practice as we sing, dance, and enjoy games & snacks! We perform the last Sunday of every month. Our next performance will be March 28th.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

- Our Spring Curriculum is here and will start March 14th. The lessons are centered around the church following Jesus. We have a 2-year scope and sequence starting with the Old Testament and now ending year 2.
- We can always use teachers and kids! We all wear masks, sanitize, and social distance but still have fun learning and sometimes having a craft! During the shortened service due to COVID, Sunday School starts as you arrive at church and ends after the service. *Teachers have loved having more students when the Praise Choir sings, and siblings of the Preschool Singers are here. Please join us again-all are welcome!
- Please remember we do not have classes the first Sunday of the month, as the teachers and children are invited to attend our Communion Sunday service.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

We will have a Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 23rd at 1:00 pm for the first time in 2021! We hope to possibly have a Rummage Sale this Spring! *Please watch our mailings and bulletins for more information on the rummage sale date. Our circles are still not meeting at this time. If you would like to join one of our circle groups, please contact Chris Hubbard or Fran Gibbs.

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.

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

Our Committee members continue to meet and discuss the following: updating the Bylaws for the job description for a senior pastor, to solicit needs/wants in a pastor from our congregation, 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 continue to update the congregation periodically on the progress of this search. The next meeting will be in March. Date TBA.

MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

Thanks to all the preschool families for joining us here at church. The children's performance brought smiles and joy to all! We also thank all our other Special Music participants that brought joy to our hearts every Sunday!

Here is our Special Music line-up for March:

- March 7, Deb Dieckman will be performing a solo.
- March 14 the Chancel Choir will be singing "Cradle Me, Lord" and we are always looking for more singers! We have shields to wear & space ourselves as far apart as we can. *Choir members, please remember we practice at 9:30 on the Sunday we sing.
- March 21 will be our choir director, Harrison Witt performing a solo, along with accompanying our Sunday Service.
- And March 28th will be our Children's Praise Choir.
- If you are interested in providing special music like singing, playing an instrument, or playing the piano, please contact Deb Dieckman.

MUTUAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

We are always looking for ways for our congregation to be involved in our Sunday Service! Here are some areas we are looking for volunteers to help:

- **Liturgist:** If you would like to help with our Sunday Liturgical Readings, please contact the church office. Your name will be added to a list of names that we rotate readers.
- **Sound Booth:** We are looking for any volunteers to learn our sound booth system and help with streaming our services every Sunday. If interested, please contact the office, or talk with Tim Schmidt, Sunday after service.

LOOKING FORWARD

Here are some things we are looking forward to in the next couple of months:

- **Daylight Savings Time begins on March 14th!** Don't forget to "spring forward" and turn your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night!
- **Palm Sunday March 28th.** There will be a special children's sermon and palm fronds for all to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior!
- **April 4th is Easter Sunday** and Communion. There will be no Sunday school this day.
- **Spring break for school is March 27th to April 4th.** School resumes on the April 5th.
- **Graduation Sunday will be on May 20th.** *Graduates of 2021 please watch our mailings and bulletins for the FCC Scholarship Application.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3 10a PURLS	4	5	6
	5:30 Cubs 6:30 Council	5:30 GS	4p Praise Choir 7p Boy Scouts	6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA		
7 11a Worship Special Music ~ <i>Deb Dieckman</i> PF Youth Mtg. 3p Venture Crew	8	9	10 10a PURLS	11	12	13
	5:30 Cubs 6:30 Council	5p HCA 5:30 GS 6:30 Deacons	4p Praise Choir 7p Boy Scouts	6p OA Group 6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA		
14 9:30 Choir 11a Worship Special Music ~ <i>Chancel Choir</i>	15 Easter Flower Orders DUE!	16	17 10a PURLS	18	19	20
	5:30 Cubs	5:30 GS	4p Praise Choir 7p Boy Scouts	6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA		
21 11a Worship Special Music ~ <i>Harrison Witt</i> PF Youth Mtg. 3p Venture Crew	22	23	24 10a PURLS	25	26	27
	5:30 Cubs	1p WF Board 5:30 GS	4p Praise Choir 7p Boy Scouts	6:30 Tp. 125G 7:30 AA		
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 11a Worship Special Music ~ <i>Children's Praise Choir</i>						

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE:

***CONGREGATION:** If you have any suggestions for this document, please jot them down and get the note to a member of the Bylaws Committee (Deb, Kirk, John, Claude, Suzy, Duane, Larry, Jane) or drop off to the church office. We'd appreciate all comments by Sunday, March 7th. Thanks so much!

Pastor Job Description - Draft of 1-29-21

(Revised from existing Standard Operating Procedures)

POSITION TITLE: SENIOR PASTOR

REPORTS TO: CHURCH COUNCIL

POSITION FUNCTION: This person acts as a resource person to the various boards and committees; is responsible for the congregation's worship life; and attends to the pastoral care needs of the First Congregational Church of Greenville.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Be a member in good standing of:
 - A. The First Congregational Church of Greenville
 - B. The Greenville Area Ministerial Association (GAMA), representing our church through community outreach opportunities
 - C. The WMACCC*
 - D. The NACCC*
 - 1) *Attend national, state, and local association meetings as time and money permits
2. Lead worship through
 - A. Preaching the gospel
 - B. Coordinating liturgies, Sacraments, music, and the Service of the Word
3. Administer the Sacraments and Holy Rites (i.e. Communion and Baptism)
4. Provide pastoral services to the congregation and the public
 - A. The Senior Pastor shall be the Pastoral Care Team Leader and shall coordinate such services.
 - B. Such services shall include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) Visitations to homebound members and those in various care facilities
 - 2) End of life care
 - 3) Funerals
 - 4) Weddings
 - 5) Care for those in crisis
5. Coordinate with the Christian Education Director, including the teaching of Confirmation Classes and New Member Classes.
6. Participate in the activities of the church and act as a resource person to the various boards and committees as an ex-officio officer.
7. Work positively with the Pastor's Relations Committee.
8. Subject to direction by the Church Council (and the Personnel Committee of the Trustees) through the Pastor's Relations Committee, day-to-day management of the church staff and activities are the responsibility of the Senior Pastor.
9. Be accountable to the entire congregation through representation of the Church Council.



We invite you to place an order for a 6" lily in memory of or in honor of a friend or a loved one. Once again, this year, the Deacons are offering you a convenient, affordable and mission-centered way to order your flowers through the church office. For the cost of **\$8.00 per plant**, you can help support the Deacon's Discretionary Fund and celebrate or remember a loved one.

Orders made through the church office need to be placed **by March 15th**. Simply fill out the form listed below. You may pick up your flowers after the 11:00 AM service on Easter Sunday, April 4th, or have it delivered to someone on the Friendship list (*please indicate below*).

Please make checks Payable to: **First Congregational Church or FCCoG*

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED: _____ x \$8.00 = \$ _____ **TOTAL**

In Memory of:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

In Honor of:

***PLEASE CHECK ONE:**

- ☐ I will pick up my plants
- ☐ Please deliver my plant to someone on the Friendship List.