



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

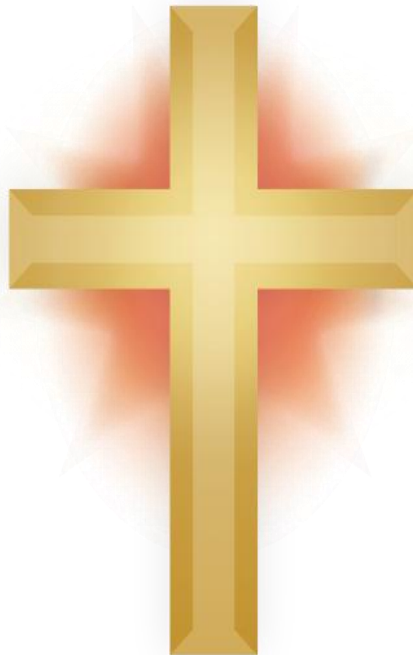
AUGUST 2021

## *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](http://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:

Lucas Hopkins	Jerry Haverdink	Gloria McPherson	Trudy Petersen	Michele Kocher
James Griffith, Jr.	Rob Sansom	Kate Hanson	Theresa Loper	Mar Newkirk
Holly Case	Jerry Garner	Jerry Kiste	Kathy Cristofoli	

#### FCC FAMILY AT CARE FACILITIES:

Lois Hazelwood		-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #31
Bette Houle		-at The Brook Assisted Living, Cedar Springs
Corla Morgan		-at SHUM RNC, Room #103
Norma Nicholas		-at Green Acres, Room #201
Jelane Hamper		-at Green Acres, Room #206
Polly Boatwright		-at Green Acres, Room#204
Barb Hoy		-at Canal View Houghton County Medical Facility
Jackie Kocher		-Homebound
Mable Tate		-at United Rehab and Nursing, Room #108

#### MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Chris Curtice	Nephew of Darlene Petersen
---------------	----------------------------

#### SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- Jerry McPherson (is home recovering)
- Pat Toth

**A Message from Jerry & Robin Kiste:** "Jerry is home and done with his chemo treatments! He is working to get his strength back but is doing well. There is still a long road of recovery for him. Continued prayers and friendships from our church is appreciated!"

**Congratulations!** To Daniel & Trista Hanson on the birth of their son Jackson Daniel Hanson, on July 15th! He was welcomed by his parents, brother David, and grandparents, Cindy & Peter Hanson.

#### Prayer Notes:

**\*Thank you to all for your Prayers! Please feel free to send a card to anyone listed above.**

**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. Thank you!

#### BOARD MEETINGS:

Deacons: Tuesday, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Trustees: Monday, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm

**Trustees of the Month:** Cindy Hanson and Josh Gibbs

**Deacon of the Month:** Fran or Don Gibbs

# ~ FCC COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

## DEACONS NEWS

- The next meeting is August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.
- We are still planning a "new" Fall Start Up that will be the second weekend in September on the 12<sup>th</sup>. More information to be announced soon!
- Coffee Hour: We are still discussing coffee hour options and will probably start with just coffee and lemonade. More information will be announced soon!

## CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon-Thurs from 9-3 with lunch from 11:30-12. The door is locked for staff safety. If you need assistance, please call ahead. \*Make sure to update your contact info with the church office to receive mailings on upcoming events!

## FCC 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).

## MUTUAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

- **Liturgist:** We are taking volunteers for the next rotation of September thru December. If you would like to help with our Sunday Readings, please contact the church office. \*If you are already on the rotation, no need to contact the office, unless you would like specific dates or would like off the rotation.
- **Sound Techs:** We are looking for volunteers to learn our sound booth and help stream our live services. If interested, contact the office.

## WF NEWS

- Our Board Meeting will be Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.
- We will be selling Terri Lynn Nuts this year! More information will be announced soon!
- Fall rummage sale – date TBA!

## CHILDREN'S PRAISE CHOIR NEWS

The group will resume practices the last Wed. of Aug. on the 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-5pm. We invite children of all ages to join us, for games, snacks, and singing! \*Contact Candy Outman or the church office to sign up.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

- Our 'Summer Buzy Bees' program was a great success! The program met two days a week and had over 20 students per day, throughout the 8-week program! The children were able to play, do crafts, and make new friends! Ms. Candy is thankful to all the volunteer staff that was able to help!
- Preschool Classes are full for the fall! Call the office for a registration packet and to be added to our waitlist.

## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE & COUNCIL NEWS

- The Council met after church on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to bring back the tradition of quarterly meetings between now and the next Annual Meeting. This will put Council meetings after church on the following Sundays: October 17, January 16, and April 24. (dates/times are subject to change, of course.)
- Upcoming issues to work on: deal with recommendations from the Pastoral Search Committee as they arise, a few remaining Bylaws revisions to complete, and boosting attendance as health issues stabilize.
- We continue to offer this prayer for guidance for all: *Our Heavenly Father, We lift our hearts to You in praise and gratitude for all You have done in our lives: You have blessed our church and families in countless ways, and have faithfully guided us to this time in our church's history. We come before You as Your sons and daughters to seek Your will and open our hearts to Your leading. We stand amazed at the challenge before us. Yet we feel a growing excitement as we watch Your plans unfold. We are so privileged to be a part of all You are doing. Use us, Lord, to minister in Your name. help us to lift up the name of Jesus in our community, that lives may be transformed by Your love, Your grace, and your saving power. Teach us to trust you in every way and to walk with you daily. Father, we know You are able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think. Nothing is too hard for You. We want to see Your full will be done in our community. And so, in Jesus name, we dedicate ourselves to You and ask that You preapre our hearts and make Your will known to us as we seek, select and install our next Pastor. Amen.*

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

In keeping with the State of Michigan, FCCoG will follow suit and lift ours also. This includes:

- opening up our fellowship hall and kitchen for use
- discontinuing temperature taking at the door
- eliminating social distancing & \*mask-wearing requirements
- Coffee hour will resume per Deacons approval/plan.
- Music Committee will meet to consider choir performance issues.
- The service time will gradually return to its pre-COVID normal length.

It is our hope that it will not become necessary to return to these precautions in the future, but we realize COVID could become a problem again. \*We do request that people who have not had vaccines continue to wear masks for their own safety but will not mandate it.

### PARISH NURSE NEWS

- Thank you to all who have done their part to keep our community safe and church open! All of the vaccines greatly protect you from getting & spreading the Delta variant that is now in our state. This variant is more contagious & less responsive to treatment. Everyone 12 & over is now able to be vaccinated. Please call me if you have any questions!
- The book *"Faith Is A Verb"* by Rev. J.T. Jones is available for purchase. Contact Claude or Patrice for a copy.

### MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

#### Here is our Special Music line-up for August:

- Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> – a performance by Tom & Wendy Van Tassel.
- Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> – a performance by Harrison Witt.
- Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> – a performance by our Chancel Choir. Please join us to share your talent with others! The choir will practice Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am and on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.
- Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> – a performance by Stephanie Clark & Family.
- Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> – a performance by Don Gibbs & Lauren Gibbs.
- Interested in providing special music (singing, playing an instrument, playing piano, etc.)? Please contact Julie Momber.


### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (JUNE & JULY)

- The Altizer Family: Jim, Barb, & 3 daughters (Jessie, Kelly, and Megan) have been members since 2004. Jim is a residential contractor and Barb recently retired after 35 years of teaching at Rockford schools. Jessie (husband Dr. Jeff Brokora and 8 month old son Brooks) lives in Indiana and is a dietitian. Kelly (boyfriend Dr. Joe House) lives in Belding and is a dental hygienist. Megan (boyfriend Colt Harrington) lives in Sparta and is a Physician Assistant. They enjoy riding horses, camping, golfing, hunting, and spending time with Brooks.
- Kay Thomas: a member since 2005. She has 4 children, (2 living), 5 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Hobbies: spending time with family & reading. She loves bringing her great-grandson Kevin to church with her.
- Claude Johnson: a member for 34 years. He started attending FCC to sing in the choir but God had other plans! His entire purpose in life is serving God. He worked 18 years serving our country as an Army Engineer. He has worked with youth for 47 years and has been on 33 mission trips. He has also worked in area schools as a teacher, at MCC, & the prison system. He has one son, one daughter, 15 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (JUNE & JULY – CONT.)

- The Snows: members since 1962. They have both been involved in the Church in various ways. Larry has taught Sunday School, was a Boy Scouts Leader, Trustee, and Deacon. Mary has led the Women's Fellowship, taught Sunday School, managed the kitchen, lead the WF Bazaar, organized the rummage sales, and has been a preschool grandma. They have 3 children, 5 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. Hobbies include woodworking, antique car collecting and car shows
- Debbie (McPherson) Adair: a member since 1990. She is the daughter of Gloria & Jerry McPherson. She is married to Brian Adair and they have 2 daughters and 4 grandsons. Debbie works for Family & Friends Veterinary Clinic, enjoys gardening, & helping others.
- Irene Carper: a member since 2018. She grew up in Lakeview and attended the Baptist Church there. She has 7 siblings ranging from 47 to 72 years old. She has been a member of the gem & mineral club, enjoys rock collecting, embroidery (that helped get her through COVID isolation!), & has a 5 year old cat named Skyy.
- Ron Kingsbury: a member since 1972. He was married to Dixie who passed away a few years ago. He has 2 daughters, 9 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. He is retired from Builder's Glass, enjoys woodworking and volunteering at Church and has served in many roles. He is currently on the pastoral search committee and in the choir.
- Gerald & Gloria (Olsen) McPherson: members since 1979. Jerry worked for Granco-Clark for 43 years. His job required a lot of traveling overseas and to South America. They have 4 children, 9 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. Jerry is currently serving as a deacon and can often be found greeting at the front door on Sundays. They both volunteer at church and in the community.
- Chris & Doug Dodd: Chris has been a member of since 2004 and has served as a deacon several times. She & Doug were married in 2012 by Pastor Jerry. Doug is a teacher who retired from Greenville Public Schools and Chris retired from Spectrum Health. They enjoy camping and spending time near the water.
- The Venema family: Ken & Coleen have been members since 1987. They have 2 children (Kevin and Carrie, also members) as well as 3 grandchildren (Morgan, Ben and Rex). They are both retired but now farm for a living. They have an awesome train set. They love animals, enjoy crafts, and have been involved in leadership all their lives. They have given back to the community by leading scouts, 4H, & volunteering at church. Coleen is currently a deacon and has worked with the preschool.

# ~ August 2021 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> <b>Communion</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Tom &amp; Wendy</i> <i>VanTassel</i> 3p Venture	<b>2</b> 5:30 CS	<b>3</b> 5:30 GS	<b>4</b> 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts	<b>5</b> 6:30 Tp. 125 7:30 AA	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:45 Choir 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Harrison Witt</i>	<b>9</b> 5:30 CS	<b>10</b> 5:30 GS 6:30 Deacons	<b>11</b> 10a PURLS <div style="background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>CALENDAR MEETING 2021-2022</b> </div> 4p Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts	<b>12</b> 6:30 Tp. 125 7:30 AA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir</i> 3p Venture	<b>16</b> 5:30 CS	<b>17</b> 5:30 GS	<b>18</b> 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts	<b>19</b> <b>First Day of Public School</b> 6:30 Tp. 125 7:30 AA	<div style="background-color: #d8bfd8; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <b>Danish Festival Weekend</b> </div>	
<b>22</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Stephanie Clark and Family</i>	<b>23</b> 5:30 CS 6:30p Trustees	<b>24</b> 1p WF Board Mtg. 5:30 GS	<b>25</b> 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts	<b>26</b> 6:30 Tp. 125 7:30 AA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Don Gibbs and Lauren Gibbs</i>	<b>30</b> 5:30 CS	<b>31</b> 5:30 GS	<div style="background-color: #90ee90; padding: 20px; text-align: center;">  </div>			

**Notes:**

# ~ September 2021 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			4p Girl Scouts 6:30 BS	6:30 Tp. 125 7:30 AA		
<b>5 Communion</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA	<b>6</b>  <i>Labor Day</i>  ~Office Closed~	<b>7</b>  <i>First Day of Preschool (3's)</i> 	<b>8</b> 10a PURLS  <i>First Day of Preschool (4's &amp; 5's)</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
3p Venture	5:30 Cub Scouts	5:30 GS	4p Girl Scouts 6:30 BS	6:30 Tp. 125 Leader Mtg. 7:30 AA		
<b>12</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10a PURLS	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
	5:30 Cub Scouts	5:30 GS 6:30 Deacons	4p Girl Scouts 6:30 BS	6p OA Group 6:30 Tp. 125 7:30 AA		
<b>19</b> 10:30 Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10a PURLS	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
3p Venture	5:30 Cub Scouts	5:30 GS	4p Girl Scouts 6:30 BS	6:30 Tp. 125 7:30 AA		
<b>26</b> 10:30 Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10a PURLS	<b>30</b>		
	5:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Trustees	1p WF Board 5:30 GS	4p Girl Scouts 6:30 BS			

**Notes:**