



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

SEPTEMBER 2021

## **COME GATHER SUNDAY**

*September 12 at 10:30am.*

*Featuring Guests: Tom and Wendy Van Tassell*

*Come learn about the Congregational Faith, the Church Covenant,  
be a part of the 6-week Intentional Ministry, and learn about Congregationalism  
Sunday School is available during worship. And we will have a small beverage social after  
service in fellowship hall, with treats for all children!*



*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.*

**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	Chris Curtice

#### 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
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:

Peggy Milam	Mother of Ed Milam
-------------	--------------------

#### SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- Holly Case for recovery from surgery.
- The Venema Family; for the passing of Ken's aunt, Beverly Ferweda.
- The Family of Norma Nicholas for her passing, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**A Message of Thanks!** For all the prayers for Sue Schmidt (niece of Judy Graham). She is doing much better!

#### Prayer Notes:

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

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday thru Thursday from 9am to 3pm (break from 2:00-2:30).

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!**

#### BOARD MEETINGS:

Deacons: Tuesday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Trustees: Monday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Trustees of the Month:** Kurt Kreeger and Judy Swartz

**Deacon of the Month:** Joseph Suchowolec

## ~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

### DEACONS NEWS

- The next meeting is Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.
- **COME GATHER SUNDAY** is Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. Featuring Guests: Tom & Wendy Van Tassell. Sunday School will be available during worship and we will be serving coffee, juice, and tea after service.

### CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

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

- Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> – a performance by Claude Johnson.
- Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> are performances by Chancel Choir
- Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> – a performance by Children's Praise Choir.

If you are interested in providing special music, please contact Julie Momber.

### FCC 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 Don & Julie Momber (9/8).

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- Our Board Meeting will be Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.
- We are taking pre-orders for the Terri Lynn Nuts. Order Forms are available on our church website or on the bulletin board.
- The Fall Rummage Sale will be Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> from 8-3pm. We are looking for all your gently used items you no longer want! Donations may be brought in the week of the Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help set-up, work, or clean up for this event, contact Chris Hubbard.

### CHILDREN'S PRAISE CHOIR NEWS

Practices begin Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> and are every Thursday from 4-5pm. We invite children of all ages to join us! \*Contact Candy Outman or the church office to sign up or if you would like to donate snacks for the group.

### PRESCHOOL NEWS

Classes begin on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, with a new All-Day program and Grandma Carolyn Foster coming back to help! The Preschool Staff, as well as the children, are ready for a new year of learning and fun to begin!

### PARISH NURSE NEWS

**Flu vaccine** clinic on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1pm in the lobby. COVID booster vaccines are now available to those receiving chemo or high dose steroid treatments, please contact your doctor for info. Vaccine boosters for those who received the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines will be offered 8 months after they completed their series starting Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> through Spectrum. More information on this and boosters for the J&J vaccine will be coming out soon.

### PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE & COUNCIL NEWS

The FCC Pastoral Search Committee along with Church Council is excited to announce that we will be embarking on a short but Intentional Interim Process. A letter recently went out explaining this process. If you have not received it, contact our Church Office.

- Rev. Wendy & Rev. Tom Van Tassell, who were our youth pastors in the late 70s, will be presenting a sermon series beginning Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> through Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> on our Church Covenant. In addition, Pastor Case Van Kempen will be facilitating "Holy Conversations" with us on the evenings of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, to explore in small groups "the who, the what and the where" we are going at FCCoG.
- Please mark your calendars and plan to **COME GATHER** with us! We also ask that you continue to pray the Prayer for Guidance that we distributed earlier this year seeking God's will and direction for our Church Family. As Pastor Ed indicated in his accompanying letter to the Congregation, we are on the threshold of a new and exciting chapter in our Church's history!!

### CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

- Our Fall Classes start on **COME GATHER SUNDAY**, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. Parents may drop children off for Sunday School before the service starts and pick them up afterwards. \*We do not have Sunday school on the first Sunday of the month for communion.
- We are looking for people over 16 years old willing to teach Sunday School once a month or more during the church service this fall. Grades 1-2 and 3-5 have openings waiting for you! There is a colorful, exciting, engaging new curriculum and mentor teachers on hand to help you! We are flexible with Sundays to accommodate vacations and illness. For more info, please contact Fran Gibbs at (616) 754-7714.

### UPDATE TO FCC COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

At First Congregational Church, we're going to follow the science, as we have done from the beginning of this pandemic. Beginning Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, mask-wearing will be required when entering the building. Once seated in the sanctuary or elsewhere in the building for a meeting, you may remove your mask for the service/meeting if you choose to do so. Then, when leaving the sanctuary and the building, please put the mask back on for the safety of everyone. Visitors to FCC should also mask-up as well as parents dropping their kiddos off for preschool. For the well-being of all, FCCoG will continue this masking protocol until Montcalm County goes to "moderate risk" transmission. Please hang in there. We CAN do this!

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (AUGUST)

- Dan & Rosel Eagles: members since 1968. They both have been actively involved in Church activities and leadership roles. Dan currently is serving as a trustee. In their spare time, they enjoy playing cards. They figure they have played over 23,000 games of cribbage with Rosel winning 11,503 of them!! They play 3 games a day after meals. They have a daughter Stephanie who lives in Detroit and a son Eric who lives in Greenville. Dan recently received the Daily News Volunteer Award.
- Jane Truesdell: a member since 1986. She is retired from Penney's after 37 years. She has been very active in Church leadership, most recently serving as deacon & is currently on the pastoral search committee. She has a son Sam, daughter and son in law, Emily and Joe Suchowolec, and 3 grandchildren, Libby, Kate, and JJ. She is thrilled to watch them grow in their roles in church leadership. Jane can often be found greeting at the back door where her friendliness & welcoming smile is always appreciated. Her hobbies include jigsaw puzzles, diamond art, and walking.
- Carol Magoon: a member since 1996. She first attended FCCoG on Easter Sunday 1967 after hearing the church bells from across the street calling her in. She is widow of Ray. They have 2 sons, Broc (Mary) and Bron (Karen) and daughter Trudi (deceased). She has 5 grandchildren, 2 of whom are deceased. She also has 2 great grandchildren that she can't keep up with although she keeps trying! She is a member of Winslow Circle and served for several years with boy scouting. She & Ray traveled with the National Guard. Her hobbies include bird watching and working with flowers.
- Terri Merritt: has attended FCCoG since high school, joining at that time and recommitting in 2019. She has 3 grown children (Molly, Andrew, and Nicolette). She also has 5 grandsons and one granddaughter. She loves being a grandma! She works for Greenville Public Schools at Lincoln Heights Elementary with Children's Corner. Terri has been active in leadership most recently serving as deacon. She loves her Church!
- Marian Griffith: a member since 2012. Soon after visiting she knew FCCoG was a great fit for her; however, she feels like she has been a member since 1976 when she & Jean Fordyce moved back to Greenville. Marian cared for Jean for 41 years. After she passed, Jerry Jones convinced her to volunteer for Miss Candy's preschool; she continues in that role as well as with Busy Bees and as a praise choir volunteer. She enjoys watching the children and hopes by getting them active and coming to Church they will develop a lifelong relationship with God & FCCoG. With Patrice's help & encouragement, she also cares for some of the elderly members of the Church and community.
- Carrol & Vivian Minard: members since 1990. Carrol was born in Sidney, MI and Vivian was born in Kendaville, IN. They met while working at McClellan's Dime Store in Greenville. They have 5 children (3 boys and 2 girls) but son Scott passed away from a heart attack 3 years ago. They have 9 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (AUGUST CONT.)

- great-granddaughters. Hobbies include golfing, bowling, dancing and singing in the choir at St. John's UCC in Grand Rapids as well as FCCoG for many years. They both remember the ending of World War II. Carrol retired from General Motors and Vivian retired from Meijer. They now enjoy Church on Sundays and a casino trip on Wednesdays. After they retired, they worked at the Grand Rapids Public Museum and drove cars for various dealerships. They used to own the Tivoli Gallery Art and Framing Shop on Lafayette Street in Greenville. They have had a busy life! In June they celebrated 69 years of marriage.
- Carolyn Foster: a member since 2006. She is a past deacon and member of Bethany Circle. She has 3 children and 8 grandchildren, whom she loves to spend time with. She is a die-hard Tigers fan and enjoys reading. She has worked in the preschool for 5 years and looks forward to joining them again this fall.
- Janet & Cap Tower: As a youth, Cap was confirmed in FCCoG. He and Janet have been members since 2006 upon moving back to Greenville from Virginia. Cap retired from the Commonwealth of Virginia as an auditor for the Dept. Medical Assistance Services. At FCCoG, he has served as a trustee. He enjoys coin collecting, jigsaw puzzles, and walking. Janet taught elementary education prior to becoming an RN. She's been active in choir, serves as a substitute organist, and has led Women's Fellowship. She enjoys music, walking, reading, and baking. They have 2 children and 5 grandchildren, all of whom are Californians!
- Debra Dieckman: Deb first started singing in the choir in 2008. A couple of years later, she had her membership transferred from the Congregational Church in her hometown of Benzonia, MI. Deb is a retired English teacher and theatre director (Central Montcalm) and has been very active over the years in the Flat River Community Players. She has two kitties, Meriadoc Brandybuck and Peregrin Took (Merry & Pippin). Over the last couple of years, she has become a part-time caregiver for her mom, Doris, in Benzonia. Currently the Moderator, Deb was a Deacon for the past several years.
- The Suchowolec family: Emily was baptized in the church in 1987 and has had a lifetime worshiping God with her Church family. She is currently a deacon and works with the praise choir. Joe has been a member since 2009 and helps with sound board and is also a deacon. They have three children--Libbie, Kate, and JJ--who have participated in the church preschool and in junior choir. Libbie is excited to bring the light into the sanctuary as an acolyte! Joe is an E5 (Sergeant) with the Michigan National Guard and has been deployed a total of three times, this latest time in 2019-20 to Iraq, where he was stationed at Al-Assad air base during the Iranian missile strike. Emily works as a school librarian and has had several short stories published. The Suchowolec's enjoy travelling, discovering fossils, and just simply having adventures around the state.



## ~ **FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.** ~

### **A Message from Our Lay Pastor Ed Milam**



Greetings Church Family!

For the past 18 months or more we have journeyed together through a time of change. Together, we have done our best to continue to serve God and each other during one of the most trying times in recent history. We have all worked extremely hard to hold each other together as a community of faith. The time has come for us to continue the journey into new chapters. I am excited to see what these next new chapters in the life of the church will hold.

I thank God for all of you. It has been an honor and a privilege to be able to serve you during this time as lay pastor. I have been blessed by the kindness and love that you have shown me and my family as well as each other during this time. No it hasn't been perfect, but we have all done the best that we can to get through these challenging times. That being said, we are on the threshold of a new and exciting chapter in our church's history.

Beginning September 12 and ending October 17, our church will embark on a six-week journey through the First Congregational Church of Greenville's covenant. This six-week series will help us to better understand the covenant of our church as well as help us understand who we are and how we are called to serve God today. The six-week session will be led by Tom and Wendy Van Tassell along with their friend Pastor Case Van Kempen. During this time Jenny and I will be continuing to be an active part of this congregation. We love you and look forward to worshipping and serving God with you for many years.

During that time, we will also be completing the process of finding our full-time pastor. I will continue to hold our leaders and the congregation in my prayers as we move through this time. This will be a good and healthy process for our church. I believe that as we move through this process, we will come out on the other side, stronger and better equipped to fulfill our mission to build the Kingdom of God here in Greenville.

May God continue to bless us as we strive to do his will.

In Christ,

Ed & Jenny Milam



## ~ **FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.** ~

### **FCCoG Welcomes our Guest Speakers Tom and Wendy Van Tassell!**



The church will be kicking off its worship calendar with the help of some old friends, Tom and Wendy Van Tassell. Proof of “what goes around comes around,” Tom Van Tassell, with his guitar, originally began a career in ministry as the Youth and Education Director at the church in 1977. After seminary on both the east and west coasts and Wendy deciding that the ministry was her calling as well (after two children), the Van Tassells ministered to congregations in Lansing, MI and Spencer, IA. It was from Spencer that they recently retired as co-pastors after a 23-year run and moved back to Holland, MI where they had met as undergrads at Hope College and where their son is now on the faculty.

Tom and Wendy are planning a six-week extended study of the church’s Covenant, the document central to the church’s purpose and governance. Unlike most mainline faiths, in the Congregational Way each church is governed and worships on an individual basis and the Covenant Statement is central to its mission and beliefs. As such, it can be described as the original concept of the community church. The church is very much looking forward to their perspectives and wishes to invite parishioners and guests to this series!

# ~ 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	4:30 Scouts 7:30 AA		
<b>5 Communion</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Claude Johnson</i>  3p Venture	<b>6</b>  <b>Labor Day</b>  <i>~Office Closed~</i>	<b>7</b> <b>First Day of Preschool</b>   5:30 GS	<b>8</b> 10a PURLS  <b>First Day of Preschool</b>  4p Girl Scouts	<b>9</b>  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts 7:30 AA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12 Come Gather Sunday &amp; Covenant Sermon Series</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Guest Speaker <i>Wendy Van Tassell</i> Special Music <i>Chancel Choir</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  5:30 GS 6:30 Deacons	<b>15</b> 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	<b>16</b>  4:30 Scouts 7:30 AA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19 Covenant Sermon Series</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Guest Speaker <i>Tom Van Tassell</i> Special Music <i>Chancel Choir</i>  3p Venture	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  5:30 GS	<b>22</b> 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	<b>23</b>  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts 7:30 AA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26 Covenant Sermon Series</b> 10:30 Worship Guest Speaker <i>Wendy Van Tassell</i> Special Music <i>Praise Choir</i>	<b>27</b>  6:30 Trustees	<b>28</b>  1p WF Board 5:30 GS	<b>29</b> 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	<b>30</b>  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts 7:30 AA		

**Notes:**

# ~ October 2021 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3 Communion &amp; Covenant Sermon Series</b> 10:30 Worship Guest Speaker <i>Wendy Van Tassell</i> Special Music <i>TBA</i> 3p Venture 6p Holy Mtgs.	4	5	6 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	7 *Set-up for Sale  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts 7:30 AA	8  <b>WF Rummage Sale 8-3</b>	9
<b>10 Covenant Sermon Series</b> 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship Guest Speaker <i>Wendy Van Tassell</i> Special Music <i>Chancel Choir</i> 6p Holy Mtgs.	11  <b>Columbus Day</b>  6p Cub Scouts	12  6:30 Deacons	13 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	14  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts 7:30 AA	15	16
<b>17 Covenant Sermon Series</b> 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship Guest Speaker <i>Tom Van Tassell</i> Special Music <i>Chancel Choir</i> 3p Venture 6p Holy Mtgs.	18	19	20 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts 7p Boy Scouts	21  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts 7:30 AA	22	23
<b>24</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music <i>Praise Choir</i>	25  7p Trustees	26  1p WF Board	27 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	28 <b>Preschool Trunk-or-treat</b>  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts 7:30 AA	29	30
<b>31</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music <i>Julie Momber</i>						