



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

NOVEMBER 2021

*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.*



**NOTICE:** A special meeting of the membership of First Congregational Church of Greenville will be held after church Sunday, November 14, 2021, for the purpose of voting on extending a call to Pastor Ed Milam, to become our Senior Pastor.

If you are unable to attend the special meeting, absentee ballots are available in the church office. \*Absentee Ballots must be returned to the office by Thurs., Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**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
Brian Adair	Joe Mejia	Brian Adair	Deb Kazmierczak	

### 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
Barb Hoy		-at Canal View Houghton County Medical Facility
Jackie Kocher		-Homebound
Mable Tate		-at United Rehab and Nursing, Room #108
Pat Toth		-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living, Room #15
Shirley Kalbfleisch		-at Lakeview Rehab Center, Room #220

### MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Brian Tiffany	Son-in-law of Mary & Larry Snow
Tom Deal	Brother of Candy Outman

### SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- The Milam Family the passing of their mother, Peggy Milam.
- Lynne Rowland for recovery from her recent surgery.

### 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, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Trustees: Monday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm

**Trustees of the Month:** Jack Corner and Larry Snow

**Deacon of the Month:** Jerry McPherson

# ~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Pastoral Search Committee (Ron Kingsbury, Jane Truesdell, Deb Dieckman, Patrice Peacock, Suzy Kreeger and John House) would like to thank you for your prayers and patience during this pastoral search process.

We would like to thank Revs. Wendy & Tom Van Tassell and Pastor Case Van Kempen for leading us through the Intentional Interim Process. It gave us the needed opportunity to refocus on our Church Covenant and provided us with an opportunity to take a look back and look within as to who we are and a look ahead to the future.

Having completed this process and thorough pastoral search, we are excited to announce we are unanimously recommending to you, that we are extending a call to Ed Milam as our next pastor! Since being commissioned at the annual meeting, we conducted a nationwide search with the assistance of the NACCC, it was evident to all of us that Ed is the standout candidate! What sets Ed apart is his love for God, his passion for preaching and worship and his care and concern for all of us. He exudes enthusiasm and is excited to lead us here at First Congregational Church in Greenville. With his leadership we pray that the Lord will inspire and make us a powerful force for the building up of his Kingdom!

## CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

The church office hours are Mon. - Thurs. from 9-3 with lunch from 2:00-2:30pm. Please call ahead if you need assistance. \*Please update your contact info with the office so you don't miss any updates and/or mailings!

## FCC CELEBRATIONS

**Happy Birthday!** To Karen Hulbert (11/1), Carrol Minard (11/1), JJ Suchowolec (11/2), Chris Bosch (11/13), John House (11/24), Ann Corner (11/25), Lainey Emerson (11/26), Sandra Tiffany (11/26), and Dan Eagles (11/29).

**Happy Anniversary!** To Brian & Lisa Gardner (11/2), Chris & Doug Dodd (11/24), Jack & Ann Corner (11/28), and Harry & Rose Riddle (11/29).

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Last month we celebrated 'Fire Safety Month' with a visit from our Local Fire Department. We also had our annual Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot. This month we continue to learn about the fall season, the pilgrims, and the meaning of Thanksgiving. We do hope to have our annual Thanksgiving dinner with the Preschool families – more info TBA at a later date. \*The preschoolers will also be performing in church on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> – mark your calendars!

## PARISH NURSE NEWS

**COVID vaccine boosters** are now available for J&J (2 months after your last one), Pfizer, and Moderna (6 months after your last vaccine) for those with risk factors or 65 and older). If you need help getting an appointment or have questions please call Patrice 616-894-7288.

## CHILDREN'S PRAISE CHOIR

Practices are every Thurs. from 4-5pm and we perform the last Sunday of every month. We invite children of all ages to join us!

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- **Hanging of the Greens:** Please gather with us Tues., Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am, as the Christmas Greens are hung around the church, the symbolic trees are decorated, and candles are placed to bring the Advent Season to FCC. There are many jobs of varying difficulty available. We need YOU for this fun time of fellowship and service to the church. \*Coffee and refreshments provided!
- **Terri Lynn Nuts** orders are in! Call Fran Gibbs to arrange pick-up, at 616-754-7714.
- **Holiday Bake Sale** Sat., Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> from 9-1 with set-up on Fri., Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am. We hope to have a "Cookie Walk". Bakers: start making your treats and please make fancy cookies and other baked goods. If you need your goodies picked up, please call the church office and we will arrange to pick them up for you.

## CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

- After we celebrate Halloween, we have a week off from Sunday School for Communion on November 7.
- Sunday School resumes Nov. 14 and for all the remaining Sundays in November. Kids: Be thinking about what you are thankful for and let your teacher know in November!
- Praise Choir can always use a pre-packaged pass out treat for their practices. Leave your donation in the office for Candy with a note for Praise Choir! They use about 24 treats per week!

## DIACONATE NEWS

- Sun., Nov. 7: **Daylight Savings Time ends** so roll your clocks **back** an hour before going to be Saturday night!
- Time will be set aside for Remembrance Sunday when we honor those who have passed away in the past year and acknowledge the partnership with local funeral homes. Join us in remembrance, communion, and fellowship.
- **Sun., Nov. 14:** will be a very brief message from Have Mercy, the recipient of our local mission this season. You can participate by providing the following items or by making a monetary donation: disinfectant spray (Lysol etc.), toilet paper, 39-gal. and/or 13-gal. trash bags, bottled water. \*If you chose to make a monetary donation, make checks out to *Have Mercy* or cash in an envelope marked "Have Mercy".
- **Christmas Pointsettias** will be offered this year! All proceeds will go towards our Deacons Discretionary Fund. More information to come!
- Plan for Christ the King Sunday on November 21 and the First Sunday of Advent on November 28.

## FCC COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Mask-wearing will be required when entering the building. Mask should be worn by anyone that is not vaccinated. \*All are advised to social distance as much as possible while inside the building.

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (OCTOBER)

- **Patty & Jim Ritzema:** Patty started attending our church in 1974 and became a member in 2013. Jim has been a longtime member, as were his parents & grandparents. He was baptized here as an infant and confirmed in 1963. Patty & Jim were married here by Rev. Henry Schadeberg in 1975. They have four grown children (Tara, Jennifer, Jason and Jeffrey) all of whom went through confirmation and three of whom were married here, making them the third generation of Ritzemas to have done so. They also have 6 grandchildren. Patty has been active in the circles and Christian Ed Committee, taught Sunday School and is currently the church clerk. Jim has been Moderator and is now a deacon. Patty & Jim were P.F. advisors in 1975 and 1976.
- **Patrice & Bob Peacock:** Patrice has been a member since 1998 and Parish nurse since 1999; as well as Sunday school teacher for over 25 years. She is married to Bob and they have three children: Jessica (Kyle) lives in Interlochen with their sons Eli & Grant; Jacque (Jason) lives in Grand Rapids with their daughters Elise & Ellia; Jake (Rose) lives in Brooklyn, NY. Patrice says it has been a joy and a privilege to be a part of our Church family's health journey through all these years.
- **Judy Graham:** Judy & Dale were married in 1967 at Calvary Reformed Church in Grand Rapids. While living in the Grandville/Wyoming area they raised 3 children: Todd (Laura) living in Grandville, Brett (Debbi) living in Florida, and Lindsey (Anees) living in Nevada. In 2009, they moved to the Trufant area and fulfilled a dream of living on a lake. In 2011, they joined FCCoG, and found a wonderful and caring Church home. Dale passed away in March, 2020. Before retirement, Judy taught preschool for 23 years through Grandville Public Schools. She now enjoys reading, attending a book club, visiting her children, scrapbooking (when there's time), and volunteering at St. Paul's Food Mission.
- **Kurt & Suzy Kreeger:** have been attending FCCoG since before they were married here by Rev. Hall in 1990. It's hard for them to believe they've been members for over 31 years! They have many fond memories of attending Church here with their three delights, Seth, Jake, and Samantha, who God gifted into our family and are now all grown up, starting families and careers of their own. Their fond memories include their baptisms, having one of the Kreeger kids in the nursery or Sunday School for what seemed like forever, watching them acolyte for the first times, scouts, confirmations, and many, many mission trips where Claude always ensured they came home safely with a greater appreciation of how great their God is. And then, too, they have had some embarrassing moments like when Jake, who was sitting at the end of the pew, waived off the collection plate telling the deacon we were too broke that week or the time one of them was supposed to be the Liturgist but showed up an hour late having failed to "Spring" clocks ahead. But most importantly, they love the people with whom they have had, and continue to have, the honor of doing life, worshipping together an amazing God. When Suzy's Mom was injured three years ago, they were

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (OCTOBER CONT.)

overwhelmed by the outpouring of prayers, meals, calls, and cards from their Church Family. God is great and they are thankful He has given them all of you with whom they get to share this life journey.

- **Swanson family-Sarah** has been a member since 1997. She lives in Cedar Springs. She has two children: Carter, age 20, graduated in June from Universal Technical Institute and recently started working at Car Center; Avery, age 16, is a junior at GHS and is goalie for the GR Griffins U19 Girls team. Sarah is celebrating 25 years at REHAU Furniture Solutions, currently working as Customer Service Manager for US/Canada. Her hobbies include camping, being outdoors, and attending concerts.

### MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

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

- Nov. 7 – is a performance by the Preschoolers
- Nov. 14 – is a performance by the Chancel Choir
- Nov. 21 – is a performance by the Chancel Choir
- Nov. 28 – is a performance by the Praise Choir
- If you would like to sing with the choir, please join us during our rehearsals at 9:30 on the Sundays that we sing. If you would like to provide special music when none of the choirs are singing, please contact Julie Momber, 616 754-4531.

### PF YOUTH NEWS

The MiPF fall retreat is Sat., Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> for grades 6 through 12 in Howell, MI at the Howell Nature Center (100 Triangel Lake Rd.). Our Youth will focus on the "tools" God has given us to deal with times of trouble and stress, over the last 2 years. Cost is \$20 per person if registered by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> (\$30 after). Please register your youth at <https://bit.ly/2XiWfZe>, <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/RegistrationMiPf> or by calling Sharon at 734-397-8628.

### LOVE OFFERING

Dear Church Family: As we have reflected Our Church Covenant over the last six weeks, in preparation of moving forward, and caring for one another, our very own Pastor Ed has also been preparing and caring for his mother during that time. We recently learned of the great loss The Milam Family has endured, with the passing of his mother Peggy Milam on Fri., Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The family is very grateful for all the cards, messages, and prayers. A funeral service will be Thurs., Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> at 12pm, with visitation beginning at 11am at Cross Current Church in Port Huron. In lieu of flowers, we are asking to consider the family at this time and we will be taking a love donation for the Milam Family to help with funeral costs on Sun., Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. Any offering would be greatly appreciated. Members who wish to donate, may also bring in offerings to the church office, for the family. If you would like to send a card to the family, please contact the church office. Condolences can also be sent to [pollockrandall.com](mailto:pollockrandall.com). Thank you and God Bless you all!



# ~ November 2021 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 10a PURLS	4  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	5	6
7 Communion, Remembrance Sunday, and Daylight Savings Ends 10:30a Worship Special Music Preschoolers 12:15 PF Mtg. 3p Venture	8	9  5:30 Girl Scouts 6:30 Deacons	10 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	11  Veteran's Day  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	12	13
14 Congregational Vote 10:30a Worship Special Music Chancel Choir	15	16  5:30 Girl Scouts	17 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	18  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	19  Set-up for Bake Sale	20  9-1 Bake Sale!
21 Christ the King Sunday 10:30a Worship Special Music Chancel Choir 12:15 PF Mtg.  3p Venture	22  6:30 Trustees	23  5:30 Girl Scouts 1p WF Board	24 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	25 Office Closed 	26	27
28 First Sunday of Advent 10:30a Worship Special Music Praise Choir	29	30				

**Calendar Notes:**

# ~ December 2021 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Merry Christmas</i></p>			<b>1</b>       4p Girl Scouts	<b>2</b> 11a GAMA   4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>3</b>      <b>Santa Parade</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Communion</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music <i>TBA</i> 12:15 PF Mtg.   3p Venture	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>      <b>Pearl Harbor Day</b>   5:30 Girl Scouts	<b>8</b> 10a PURLS   4p Girl Scouts	<b>9</b>   4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music <i>TBA</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>   5:30 Girl Scouts 6:30 Deacons	<b>15</b> 10a PURLS   4p Girl Scouts	<b>16</b>   4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music <i>TBA</i> 12:15 PF Mtg.  3p Venture	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>   5:30 Girl Scouts	<b>22</b> 10a PURLS   4p Girl Scouts	<b>23</b>   7:30 AA	<b>24</b>   <b>Christmas Eve</b>  <b>7p Service</b> <b>11p Service</b>	
<b>26</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music <i>TBA</i>	<b>27</b>   6:30 Trustees	<b>28</b>   5:30 Girl Scouts	<b>29</b> 10a PURLS   4p Girl Scouts	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>   <b>New Year's Eve</b>	

## **Calendar Notes:**