



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

JANUARY 2022

## ***A Message from our Pastor...***

Greetings,

With 2021 in our rearview mirrors, we can look back at a year that has been filled with joy and sorrow, healing and pain, birth and death. This past year we have experienced life together in many different ways. We have been on a journey together and we have been shown that God has and always will be our source of guidance and strength. Where have you seen God moving in your life in the past year?

We have flipped the calendar to 2022. We have spent time reflecting on the past year and wondering what happened to 2021. It went by so fast. Some of us will look back and second guess decisions, ponder poor choices and lament mistakes made. Some of us will look back and celebrate exciting opportunities, smile about blessings received and laugh about all the good times this past year has provided. Most of us will do a combination of both. We will look back. We will celebrate successes and mourn losses. There is however one question that needs to be answered. What have I learned in the past year about myself, about God, about people?

From the country of Ghana the "Sankofa" bird principle teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, forgone or been stripped of, can be reclaimed, revived, preserved and perpetuated. Visually and symbolically "Sankofa" is expressed as a mythic bird that flies forward while looking backward with an egg (symbolizing the future) in its mouth.



In the year to come, how can we apply the lessons of the past into our future endeavors as we continue to journey with Christ in the year to come? I believe that this next year will be a great year for the First Congregational Church of Greenville. We have much to celebrate from this past year. I am excited about the upcoming year and I know that God has great things in store for us.

Thank you all for your dedication to God and each other. I appreciate all you do to serve God and this community. I am honored and privileged to be a part of such a caring and wonderful family of faith. Let us move together into the future with Christ as our guide and learning from our past may we grow in our service to the communities in which we serve.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Ed

**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	Rob Sansom	Gloria McPherson	Trudy Petersen	Michele Kocher
James Griffith, Jr.	Brian Adair	Brian Adair	Theresa Loper	Tom Deal
Holly Case	Owen Crouch	Lynne Rowland	Deb Kazmierczak	Brian Tiffany

#### 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

#### MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Dr. Joe Mejia	Brother-in-law to Don & Julie Momber
Darcie Jorgensen	Daughter of Candy Outman
Gordon & Coreen Johnston	Parents of Lynne Rowland

#### SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- The family of Shirley Kalbfliesh, as she passed away December 10, 2021.
- The Family of Jerry Kiste, as he passed away December 23, 2021.
- Carol Minard
- Joe & Emily Suchowolec
- Jackie Kocher

#### Prayer Notes:

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

### PASTOR'S NEW EMAIL!

**Pastor Ed has a new email address. If you are in need of prayers or other assistance, please feel free to email him at [pastor.edfccog@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.edfccog@gmail.com)**

#### BOARD MEETINGS:

Deacons: (No Meeting in January)  
Trustees: Monday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Trustees of the Month:** Dan Eagles and Duane Putnam

**Deacon of the Month:** Dave Welsch

# ~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

## NEW MEMBER CLASS!

We are so blessed to have an exciting and active church family. We have all come together to form the Body of Christ. Every one of us plays an important role in the service of God through the ministries of His church. There will be an opportunity for anyone who feels led by the Spirit to learn more about the history, ministries, organization, and beliefs of this Congregational church. Starting in mid-January, we will be holding a series of New Members Classes. Contact the church office or Pastor Ed for more info if you are feeling led to join this community of faith by becoming a member!

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Tithing boxes for 2022 are available in the library. If you do not see your box, please contact the office and one will be assigned to you. If you did not receive a stewardship letter and would like to pledge your faith, please contact the church office. Thank you all for your continued support!

## CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

The church office hours are Mon. through Thurs. from 9:00 to 3:00 with a break from 2:00-2:30pm. Please call ahead if you need assistance.

- Make sure to update your contact info with the office to ensure you are getting our Pilgrim Pulse and church mailings!

## FCC CELEBRATIONS

*Happy Birthday!* To Pastor Ed (1/5), Pat Toth (1/8 – birthday cards would be greatly appreciated!), Lynne Rowland (1/18), Carter & Madison Kruger (1/23), Anita Putnam (1/24), Kim Kruger (1/25), Cheryl Flashaar (1/26), Kirk Faber (1/29), Logan Norman (1/29), and Jeff Skinner (1/31).

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Last month we celebrated the Christmas season and the birth of Jesus! We had our annual Christmas Concert for families and friends, with a visit from Santa!

- We are now on Christmas Break until Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## PARISH NURSE NEWS

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

- Greenville now has a mobile unit at the hospital to provide antibody treatment for those 12+ older who have COVID. For more info call Spectrum at 616-391-0351.
- Vaccine boosters are available for those age 16+ and are very important in prevention of severe COVID disease.

## CHILDREN'S PRAISE CHOIR NEWS

The group is on break until Jan 6<sup>th</sup>. Our Practices will again be every Thurs. from 4-5pm. Our next performance will be Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>. We invite children of all ages to join us! We are also asking for donations of individually wrapped treats for the children. If you would like to donate treats, please drop them off to Candy. Thank you!

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- **Taking Down the Greens:** BOXING UP DAY will be Jan. 11 at 10am. YOUR help is needed! Join us for hard work but some great fellowship time, too! Coffee & snacks provided.
- **Holiday Bake Sale "Plus":** 'Thank you' to everyone who donated baked goods and beautiful hand-crafted items for the sale! We also thank those that came to help setup, work, and clean up after the event.
- **Terri Lynn Nuts:** Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraiser with Terri Lynn products! We have just a few items left: Cranberry Granola, Chocolate Peanuts, Bridge mix, Peanut Clusters, Almonds, Lt. Walnuts. If you would like to purchase any of these items, please see or call Chris Hubbard.
- We still are not meeting regularly but we are planning on the Silent Breakfast on March 2 so mark your calendars now.

## CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

- **Sunday School Classes:** Our teachers are taking a very well-deserved break over the holidays. Sunday School resumes January 9! We have added Rachel Milam to our teaching staff as a helper with our little ones. Welcome, Rachel!
- **Children's Sermon:** Children's Sermons are always needed and how we love our growing list of volunteers! We are now reserving dates in February. Thank you all, for sharing your talents with our youth. You demonstrate a true caring for our youth and they get to know you better.

## MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

**Here is our Special Music line-up for January:**

- Jan. 2 – is a performance by the Deb Dieckman.
- Jan. 9 – is a performance by the Praise Choir.
- Jan. 16 – performance TBA.
- Jan. 23 – performance by Jamee & Dannah Gunn.
- Jan. 30 – performance TBA.
- If you would like to sing with the choir, or if you would like to provide special music when none of the choirs are singing, please contact Deb Dieckman or the office.
- We are pursuing any interested people to direct choir, accompany choir, and play the organ. These are paid positions. See Fran Gibbs for more information.

## PF YOUTH NEWS

Thank you to everyone who donated coats to children in need! We collected over 40 coats to distribute to children in our community!

- We will be meeting on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11:45 to 12:45 for our first PF Meeting of the new year! If you would like more info on joining the youth group or upcoming missions, please contact Claude Johnson!

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (DECEMBER 2021)

- Linda Stafford: Linda has attended FCCoG all her life and has been a member since 1973. She attended Greenville Public Schools K-12 and attended U of M to receive her training as a dental hygienist and continued to work in that field for 20+ years. She has 3 children: Rob (Grand Rapids), Michael (Clarkston), and Julie (Greenville). She has 12 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild with another one on the way! She loves cooking, entertaining, gardening, walking, fishing, & just enjoying the outdoors.
- Duane & Anita Putnam: joined in 1980. They have 3 children: Anna (Jim) lives in Oregon with children Aneka & Forrest. Matthew (Kelly) lives in Grand Rapids with children: Gracie, Gibson, & Graham. Ethan (Brandie) lives in Lowell with children: Wyatt, Emma, & Zoe. They were each very active in the PF group and continue with friendships they made. Duane has served as moderator (twice), deacon, trustee, preschool grandparent, choir member, mission trip and work camp participant, and the person to call with a maintenance issue. He retired after 32 years of teaching at Greenville High School and now enjoys working his farm, carpentry, and rides on his Harley. Anita has served as Women's Fellowship president, choir & bell choir, and financial secretary for 10 years. She worked as a chiropractic assistant for 20 years and now spends her time quilting. They both enjoy following the grandkids in all their school activities. They are so thankful for the relationships they have maintained through their Church family and feel truly blessed to be a part of this faith community.
- Dudley Schadeberg recently wrote to us here and sent the following message: "I am thankful to First Congregational Church for continuing to send me the Pilgrim Pulse. It has allowed me to keep up to date on FCC's actions to maintain service to the church members and the Greenville Community during the challenges forced upon it by the coronavirus epidemic. With the hiring of a new pastor, hopefully much better times are ahead. I especially have enjoyed reading the personal notes in the FCC Member Spotlight portion of the Pilgrim Pulse. I fondly remember my personal connection to FCC during the time that I was a member from 1973-1976. During that period, my father, Rev. Henry C. Schadeberg, was the pastor, and he, along with my mother Ruth, lived in Greenville. At that time, I was working in downtown Chicago and lived in the western suburb of Downers Grove, Illinois. I made the five-hour trek to visit my parents as often as I was able to and sang in the FCC church choir on Sundays. My youngest sister, Ramona, was married to her husband, Chip, on July 23, 1974 at FCC – Rev. Henry Schadeberg presiding."

## SPECIAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

Sgt. Joseph Suchowolec was deployed to Iraq from 2019-2020 and was present at al-Assad air base when Iran attacked with missiles in Jan. 2020. He was injured in the attack but successfully completed his deployment and arrived home safely in Oct. 2020. For his actions, including aiding with emergency evacuation of the base resulting in zero casualties, he and other members of his unit were awarded the Combat Action Badge. Sgt. Suchowolec just received word this week that he was also submitted for a Purple Heart, which has been approved. In 2022, he will be awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained at al-Assad.

## DEACONS NEWS

- **FCC Holiday Mission 2021:** Thank you to everyone who donated items or gave a monetary donation to help our Have Mercy organization, help those in need!
- **Coffee Service:** The next coffee service is scheduled for Jan. 9 with beverages only in a self-serve format, hosted by the Deacons. The goal is to increase fellowship in a safe manner during the pandemic by providing beverages once a month.
- **Christmas Poinsettias:** Thank you to all for purchasing poinsettias in memory or honor of friends & family. They were so beautiful on the altar at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service! All proceeds were applied towards our Deacons Discretionary Fund (DDF).
- **\*Please see the insert (below) for a list of those we have placed a plant in honor or in memory of.**

## PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY REMINDER

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has announced that Michigan is presently experiencing another wave of infection driven by the Delta variant. The Delta variant has driven sharp increases in COVID-19 infections among both adults and children. In addition, Michigan is seeing an uptick in cases of other respiratory illnesses, including influenza. MDHHS is advising the following mitigation strategies:

1. Wear a mask in all indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status.
2. Get vaccinated against COVID-19. If vaccinated, get a booster shot – everyone 18 and older is eligible.
3. Get a flu shot. Everyone ages six months and older are recommended to get a flu shot.
4. Get tested for COVID-19 if exposed or symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status.
5. Avoid holiday travel if not fully vaccinated.

\* The info above is intended as an aid to our congregation in determining best practices for yourself and your family. It is not any sort of requirement or mandate.

# *Christmas Poinsettias 2021*



Patty Barber	In Memory of Ted Barber In Memory of Kenneth & Ethel Wilson In Memory of Don & Bea Barber In Memory of Dean & Edith Wiesen
Bruce & Sue Beauvais	In Memory of Carl & Evelyn Berg In Memory of Bob & Ruth Beauvais
Bonnie Braman	In Memory of Russell & Alice Braman and Fred & Kathryn Boyd In Memory of Hal Braman In Memory of Bill & Jean Boyd In Honor of J.R. Braman, Jamie & Sarah (Braman) Smith, Andrew & Sarah Braman In Honor of Ellie, Alanah, & Sophia Braman In Honor of Dan & Rosel Eagles In Honor of Bruce & Sue Beauvais In Honor of The Sunday Lunch Group
Bart Brown	In Memory of Marilyn Brown nee Fries In Memory of Prudence Bower Tower
Larry & Karen Carbonelli	In Memory of Kevin Carbonelli In Memory of Elisa Nelson In Memory of Muriel Carbonelli In Memory of Bob & Elizabeth Waldo
The Christensen Family (Sara, Susan, & Becky)	In Memory of Bruce Christensen In Memory of Grace Christensen In Memory of Jeffrey Copp In Memory of Ronald Waldorf
Dan & Rosel Eagles	In Memory of Dotti & Dave Rackliffe In Honor of my loving wife, Rosel Eagles In Honor of Eric Eagles In Honor of Stephanie Eagles In Honor of Pastor Ed & Jenny Milam
Virginia Evans	In Memory of Marvin Evans
Marilyn Ferguson	In Memory of Roy Ferguson In Memory Julie Ferguson
Fran & Don Gibbs	In Memory of Donald Gibbs In Memory of Bill & Phyllis Ham In Honor of Shirley Gibbs In Honor of Megan Leece Family In Honor of Josh Gibbs Family In Honor of Abby Waterfall Family
Judy Graham	In Memory of my loving husband, Dale Graham In Memory of H.D. & Bettye Graham In Memory of Bob & Ann Snyder
Karen Hulbert	In Memory of David Hulbert In Memory of Richard Canfield In Memory of Kathy Cristofoli
Claude Johnson	In Memory of Clarence & Gwendolyn Y. Johnson, parents In Memory of Great Grandparents, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles
Claude Johnson	In Memory of Clarence H. Johnson (brother) and & Gwendolyn C. Waymer (sister) In Honor of Children, Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren




	In Honor of Local, State, and National Pilgrim Fellowship Youth
Ronald Kingsbury	In Memory of my loving wife, Dixie Kingsbury In Honor of the Debbie and Lisa
Kurt & Suzy Kreeger	In Memory of Roma Dart In Memory of Norma Nicholas
Carol Magoon	In Memory of my husband Ray Magoon
Gerald & Gloria McPherson	In Memory of Our Parents: Burt & Julie McPherson and Jay & Elouise Olsen In Memory of Our children and Grandchildren
Pastor Ed & Jenny Milam	In Memory of Charlie & Peggy Milam (Ed's parents) In Honor of Betty Pettit (Jenny's mom) In Honor of John Pettit & Bridget Jeffery (Jenny's parents)
Don & Julie Momber	In Memory of Dalyn & Nancy Ling and David Ling In Memory of June Momber In Honor of our grandchildren: Christian and Raegan, Ada and Logan Momber
Patrice Fulton-Peacock	In Honor of Elise & Ellia Devitt In Honor of Grant & Eli Kuenzer
Darlene Petersen	In Memory of Gary Petersen In Memory of Darwin (Buzz) Petersen
Joseph & Emily Suchowolec	In Memory of Kathie Suchowolec (Joe's mom) In Honor of our kids: Elizabeth Jane, Katherine Rose, and Joseph Allen, Jr.
Linda Stafford	In Memory of John Stafford In Memory of Leslie Stafford In Memory of Dale & Vivian Stafford In Memory of Robert & Hazel O'Connor In Memory of Margie Scheid In Memory of Kitty Armel In Memory of Jack Harris In Memory of Albert Vining In Honor of Jerry & Marilyn Jones In Honor of The Macdonald Family
Judy Leslie-Swartz	In Memory of Jon Leslie In Memory of Dale & Jean Hubbs
Carrie Venema	In Honor of Morgan Venema In Honor of Benjamin Venema In Honor of Rex Venema In Honor of Ken & Coleen Venema
Kenneth & Coleen Venema	In Memory of Herman & Betty Venema (Ken's parents) In Memory of Rex & Marion Braginton (Coleen's parents) In Honor of Our Grandkids In Honor of Our Children
Lynn & Bonnie Wickerham	In Memory of Joe & Ruth Wickerham and Waldo & Marguerite Fisher In Honor of Brent, Karen, Brett Wickerham and Denise Webb and Greta Schultz In Honor of Nicholas, Blake, Colleen, and Holden Wickerham In Honor of Our Lord and Savior & Church Family




*Thank you and Christmas Blessings to all!*

# ~ January 2022 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>  <i>Happy New Year!</i>
<b>2 Communion</b> 10:30 Service Special Music <i>Deb Dieckman</i>  3p Venture	<b>3</b>  <i>School Back In Session</i>	<b>4</b>  5:30 Girl Scouts	<b>5</b> 10a PURLS  4p Girls Scouts	<b>6</b>  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10:30 Service Special Music <i>Praise Choir</i> *Coffee Service 11:45 PF Mtg.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  5:30 Girl Scouts	<b>12</b> 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	<b>13</b>  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10:30 Service Special Music <i>TBA</i>  3p Venture	<b>17</b>  <i>MLK Day</i>	<b>18</b>  5:30 Girl Scouts	<b>19</b> 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	<b>20</b>  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10:30 Service Special Music <i>Jamee &amp; Dannah Gunn</i> 11:45 PF Mtg. *Council Mtg.	<b>24</b>  6:30 Trustees	<b>25</b>  5:30 Girl Scouts 1p WF Board	<b>26</b> 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	<b>27</b>  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10:30 Service Special Music <i>TBA</i>	<b>31</b>	<b>*No Deacons Meeting this month.</b>				

## Calendar Notes:

# ~ February 2022 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b>  5:30 GS	<b>2</b> 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	<b>3</b> 11a GAMA  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>6 Communion &amp; Scout Sunday</b> 10:30 Worship *Noisy Coin Special Music – <i>Stephanie Clark &amp; Family</i>  3p Venture	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  5:30 GS	<b>9</b> 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	<b>10</b>  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>11</b>
	<b>13</b> 10:30 Worship *Noisy Coin Special Music – <i>Praise Choir</i>  3p Venture	<b>14</b>  <i>Valentines Day</i>	<b>15</b>  5:30 GS	<b>16</b>  4p Girl Scouts	<b>17</b>  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>18</b>
	<b>20</b> 10:30 Worship *Noisy Coin Special Music – <i>TBA</i>  3p Venture	<b>21</b>  <i>President's Day</i>	<b>22</b>  5:30 GS 1p WF Board Mtg.	<b>23</b> 10a PURLS  4p Girl Scouts	<b>24</b>  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>25</b>
	<b>27</b> 10:30 Worship *Noisy Coin Special Music – <i>TBA</i>	<b>28</b>  6:30 Trustees	<b>*Noisy Coin will be collected every Sunday this month!</b>			

## Calendar Notes: