



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

MARCH 2022

A Message from our Pastor...

What do you see when you look into the eyes of a child? You will see everything from wide-eyed wonder and happiness to deep thought and stress. When I look into their eyes, I am reminded of the responsibility we all have to be a good example for our children. As fellow Christians and followers of Jesus Christ, one of our duties is to lead our children and youth in the right direction. That right direction is one that models a life in relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are the example they are following as they grow and mature. They are watching our every move. The Reverend Claude Wisdom White, Sr. in his poem "A Little Fellow Follows Me" says this:

A careful man I ought to be,
A little fellow follows me.
I dare not go astray,
For fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes,
Whatever he see me do, he tries.
Like me, he says, he's going to be,
The little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,
Believes in every word of mine.
The base in me he must not see,
That little fellow who follows me.

I must remember as I go,
Thru summers' sun and winters' snow.
I am building for the years to be,
In the little chap who follows me.

We need to be careful about the example we give our children. Every move we make is observed and then it is tried. Our children do believe that we know what we are doing. They will go the same way we are going. The question is where are you leading them? Are you giving them the faith base they will need as they grow up? Will the seeds of faith be planted so that in the years to come our children will develop a faith they can call their own? These are the things that we must do as Christian parents, teachers, coaches, friends, and family to guide our children in the right direction. This is not just for our own children, but for every child that crosses our path. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Remember to a child, twenty is old.

I have heard it said that the children and youth are our future. To some extent there is some truth to that. I challenge that the children and youth are not just the future, they and the now. They need our very best right now. There is no time to waste. Take the opportunity to help develop our children into young men and women who live and serve others with grace, mercy and love.

One of the best ways to help guide our children is to get involved with a church community that will help inspire and develop their understanding and belief in Jesus Christ. Gathering together with people who hold the same beliefs strengthens our faith and provides the examples our children need as they grow and mature. If you are in looking for a place to be inspired and encouraged, you are invited to gather with us at the First Congregational Church of Greenville on Sunday at 10:30am.

Blessings to all ~ Pastor Ed Milam

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 McPherson	Dr. Joseph Mejia	Deb Kazmierczak	James Griffith, Jr.
Rob Sansom	Gloria McPherson	Ken & Kathy Reed	John Koppenol	Brian Tiffany
Trudy Petersen	Jeanne Beauvais			

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
Mable Tate		-at United Rehab and Nursing, Room #108
Pat Toth		-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living, Room #15

MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Nicolette Cafmeyer	Daughter of Terri Merritt
Debbie Graham	Daughter-in-law of Judy Graham

CONGRATULATIONS!

- To Nicolette & David Cafmeyer, for the birth of their daughter, Marley Kay. Born February 20, 2022; weighing 8lbs and measuring 21". She is welcomed by her brothers, Mason & Maxwell, and grandparents: Terri Merritt and Dan & Cindy Cafmeyer.

MESSAGES OF "THANKS" FROM:

- Our thanks to all our church friends for the prayers, well wishes and love you have given us during our bouts of the winter ills. We are much improved and so happy to be able to attend church once again. Your cheery cards were appreciated and boosted our spirits so much. Thank you for all your kindness." ~ Jack & Ann Corner
- My family and I would like to thank our many church friends and congregation, for all of their kindness, prayers, donations, and cards for the passing of my dear husband, Carrol Minard. Special thanks to Pastor Ed & Jenny Milam, and as always, Patrice for their visits & prayers. God Bless you all, Vivian Minard & family
- Thank you! These words cannot express the gratitude that I feel and my family feels toward everyone in the church right now. What an awesome tribute you have given in Jerry's name. Once the pavilion is built, many scouts, not only our own units will be able to enjoy the pavilion for many years. And the youth is what brought Jerry so much joy. I am sure he is smiling down on all of us. Thank you for everything that you have done for us. With all our love, Robin Kiste, Jason Kiste, and Josh & Stacy Willson and family.

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

Pastoral Contact Info:

If you are in need of prayers or other assistance, please feel free to email Pastor Ed at pastor.edfccog@gmail.com.

BOARD MEETINGS:

Deacons: *no meeting this month*
Trustees: Monday, March 28th at 6:30pm

Trustees of the Month: TBA

Deacon of the Month: Coleen Venema

~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

CHURCH WIDE CLEAN-UP



The Deacons and Trustees will be rearranging and decluttering the church on **March 7th at 10am**. We are asking all groups and individuals, if you have something stored here at the church, please make sure to remove your items by March 7th. If you do have items here you wish to keep but are unable to stop in to claim them, please call the office to arrange to pick up at your earliest convenience. *All unclaimed or unwanted items will be donated or discarded. Thank you for your help!

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Our Class is now complete! We are so thankful for those who joined us to learn of our Congregational history and learn of their own faith-walk. We will receive our new members on March 20th. We will be holding another member class in the Fall. Watch your newsletter and bulletins for the new date! 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!

TRUSTEE NEWS

Beginning Feb. 28th, we will be installing new tile flooring by the back entrance door! The back door will remain locked for our Sunday Service on March 6th and we are asking everyone to use the front entrance, on Cass Street, ONLY. You may use the back entrance on Sunday, March 13th. *If the project is complete before the 6th, we will put a sign on the back door to let you know that it is open. Thank you for your cooperation!

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

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

- Please update your contact info if you would like to receive the Pilgrim Pulse by mail or email and to receive any of our church mailings!

FCC 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 Anniversary!** To Larry & Mary Snow (3/24).

PRESCHOOL NEWS

This month the children will be making their traps to catch that pesky Leprechaun! Make sure to stop down the preschool hall way to check out the traps!

- The children are also selling popcorn this month from the Goodies Factory. A brochure & order form is available by the bulletin board. *Money is due at time of ordering; money can be left in the Preschool Mailbox (in the church office) or dropped off in the office during normal office hours. Please make checks out to **FCPS**.

PARISH NURSE NEWS

Our Nurse is available Mon. 8-4, Tues. 8-12 and Thurs. from 8-4. If you have medical questions or concerns, call Patrice at 616-894-7288.

- COVID booster shots are available for everyone 12+. These are essential in preventing severe COVID disease. For questions or help please, contact Patrice.
- Free home COVID tests can be ordered to be sent to your home by calling: 1-800-232-0233 or by going online to: COVIDtests.gov. There is a limit of 4 per household.
- Free N95 face masks are now available at Meijer. They are inside the main door by the greeter.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- **Silent Breakfast:** Planning for the Silent Breakfast and opening it up to all is the task we are currently working on. Please come to the Silent Breakfast at 10am on March 2. This event is for anyone and everyone. Participants meet in the front lobby and will be led in silence to Fellowship Hall for a beautiful and sacred scene to prepare our hearts for the Lenten Season. A take home devotion will be provided, and the speaker is our own Pastor Ed.
- Our next board meeting is after church on March 27th.
- If you would like to join one of the circles or help with any of our events, please contact Chris Hubbard or Fran Gibbs; we will gladly welcome you!

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

- **'Thank you'** to all who brought in your coins to help support IM KIDS 3rd MEAL. The amount given this year was very generous. A report will be given once the coins are counted, and a check is sent to IM Kids Program. Thank you for support of this program for our kids. It is important to learn that not everyone has the food they need at home and our kids love collecting coins and making noise!
- **Sunday School:** The winter curriculum is winding down and our spring curriculum has arrived.
- **Children's Sermon:** Children's Sermons are always needed and how we love our growing list of volunteers! See Fran Gibbs to volunteer.

MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

Special Music line-up for March:

- Mar. 6 – performance by Chancel Choir.
- Mar. 13 – a performance by the Praise Choir.
- Mar. 20 – performance Larry Alman.
- Mar. 27 – performance TBA.
- If you would like to sing with the choir, or provide special music, contact Deb Dieckman or the office.
- We would like to welcome our newest Organist, Cindy Perry! Here is a little bit about her: She is married to Glen Perry; they have 2 children and 6 grandchildren. They have lived in Greenville for 53 years. Music has always been a large part of her life; playing piano and organ in several different area churches. After working in several different printing companies in Greenville, she ended up in her dream job, playing the piano for the Greenville High School Choir for over 18 years! She has also accompanied instrumental soloists for the band and orchestra. She is excited about this new opportunity of playing organ here at FCC and we are VERY fortunate to add her talent to our worship service! Please make sure to stop by and welcome her!
- We are still pursuing any interested people to direct choir, accompany choir. This is a paid positions. See Fran Gibbs for more information.

DEACONS NEWS

- Join us for **Coffee Service** on March 13th. Beverages will be provided. If anyone wishes to contribute some cookies to share, feel free to bring some in.
- Now that the New Member Class is finished, **March 20** will be **New Member Sunday**. Please join us to welcome our new members to the family.
- Sunday, March 27 is Baptism Sunday. Pastor Ed will conduct his first baptisms as our pastor. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Pastor Ed directly.
- **Easter Flowers:** Beginning March 6th, we invite you to place an order for a 6" lily in memory of or in honor of a friend or a loved one. 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 (DDF) and celebrate or remember a loved one. Orders need to be placed **by March 27th**. Please fill out the form listed below and mail in payment with your order form, or drop off in the church office during office hours



CHILDREN'S PRAISE CHOIR

Our Practices are every Thurs. from 4-5pm. Our next performance will be March 13th 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!

JERRY KISTE LOVE OFFERING

'Thank you' to everyone who gave to our love offering donated last month Last month, on behalf of Jerry Kiste, a beloved scout leader. Proceeds will be used to build a pavilion at Gerber Scout Reservation for the Scouts campsite. Thank you again for your donation!

PF YOUTH NEWS

The MiPF will have a one-day gathering at the YMCA Storer Camp, in Jackson, MI on March 19th from 9am to 6pm. We are planning a quick spring get together for kids grades 6 through 12. This will be a mini retreat; a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones! Register by March 13th at <https://forms.gle/ikkAvibbT1zjiSk26>. The cost of the event is \$20; this includes lunch, dinner, and activities (some of which will be outside so please dress accordingly). If you would like more info on joining the youth group or upcoming missions, contact Claude Johnson at claudej2002us@yahoo.com.

LOCAL AREA NEWS


- **Medicare Made Easy:** a free course through MCC (registration required). Held on Wed., April 20, from 6-7 at the Greenville location. Learn the ABC's and D of Medicare and how to make the most of your Medicare benefits. Register in person at the Greenville campus or online at www.montcalm.edu.
- **Take-out or Dine-In Wednesday Meals:** Serving starts at noon at the Senior center up in Stanton. Reserve meals by the Monday before by calling CoA option #4. Seniors 60+ is a \$3 donation, under 60 is \$6.50 charge.
- **United Way Vita Program:** The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is a free tax service provided to households that make less than \$55k. If interested in this service, call 211 to schedule an appointment.
- **AARP Tax Info:** will be offering free tax help for low and moderate income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60+, starting Feb. 8th through April 12th. Appointments available, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-2:30; call CoA option #4.
- **CoA Contact Info:** Office # is 989-831-7476 or visit www.montcalmcountymissiononaging.org.

~ March 2022 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Spring Forward Sun., March 14th!		1	2 Ash Wednesday 10a Silent Bfast & Imp. of Ashes 10a PURLS	3 11a GAMA 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	4	5
		5:30 GS	4p Girl Scouts			
6 Communion & 1st Sunday of Lent 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir</i> *FCC By Laws Vote 3p Venture	7 10a Church Wide Clean-up!	8	9 10a PURLS	10 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	11 <div>6p Scout Lock-in</div>	12 Pinewood Derby
13 Girl Scout Sunday and Daylight Savings Time Begins 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Praise Choir</i>	14	15	16 10a PURLS	17 St. Patrick's Day  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	18	19
		5:30 GS	4p Girl Scouts			
20 10:30 Worship *Receive New Members Special Music – <i>Larry Alman</i> 3p Venture	21	22	23 10a PURLS	24 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30p AA	25	26
		5:30 GS	4p Girl Scouts			
27 10:30 Worship *Baptisms Special Music – <i>TBA</i> 11:45 WF Meeting *Final day to order Easter Lilies	28 <div>Spring Break: March 28-April 3</div>	29	30 10a PURLS	31		
	6:30 Trustees	5:30 GS	4p Girl Scouts			

Calendar Notes:

~ April 2022 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					Spring Break →	
3 Communion 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA <div>Spring Break</div> 3p Venture	4 <i>School Resumes</i>	5 5:30 GS	6 10a PURLS	7 11a GAMA 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	8	9
10 Palm Sunday 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA	11	12 5 Venture Crew 5:30 GS 6:30 Preschool 6:30 Deacons	13 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts	14 Maundy Thursday 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 6p Service 7:30 AA	15 Good Friday <i>*Service at Calvary Baptist</i>	16 Holy Saturday
17 Easter Sunday 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA 3p Venture	18	19 5:30 GS	20 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts	21 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	22	23
24 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA	25 6:30 Trustees	26 5:30 GS	27 10a PURLS 4p Girl Scouts	28 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	29	30

Calendar Notes:



Order Your Easter Flowers Today!



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 27th**. Simply fill out the form listed below. You may pick up your flowers after the 10:30am service on Easter Sunday, April 17th, 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.