



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

MAY 2022

A Message from our Pastor...3 John 1:2-4

3 John 1:2-4 says, "2 Dear friends, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. 3 It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

I share the same joy as the Apostle John in the reaction to seeing people "walking in the truth." Our Lenten journey has led us to an amazing Easter celebration. Throughout Lent, we have been "walking" the road that leads us to Easter. We began the journey on Ash Wednesday with our focus being on repentance and the realization of our own sin. Some of us have given things up during this time to help us focus more on God and the relationship we have with Him. Others have added spiritual disciplines into their daily routines. Many are praying more, giving more to the ministries of the church and serving other people. All of these things are great, but the real test is to make sure we are not doing these things so others see us doing them so we get credit for our great sacrifice or our great devotion. The things we add and take away were never meant to be opportunities to show how holy we are. They were meant to fan an inner flame lit by the Holy Spirit that will set us ablaze so we can truly "walk in the truth."

The main focus for our Lenten journey is not to see if we can make it without this or that. The main goal should be, that when we get to Easter is our soul in a better place. Are we able to say that "walking in the truth" has made it so I can proclaim, "It is well with my soul"? When all the Easter celebrations are over are we able to continue on with the rest of the year "walking in the truth"? We don't want to go back to the way things were. We remain on the path we are on that started on Ash Wednesday. There will be no better celebration than the sense of peace that comes from the confident assurance that "It is well with my soul." No matter what life brings, the good, the bad and the ugly, we will be able to stand tall in the peace that comes from Jesus Christ.

There was a man named Horatio Spafford who wrote a hymn in 1873 after losing his four daughters in an accident at sea as they were on their way to England. Only his wife survived and made it safely to England. This was a trip he had planned to make with them, but was detained with other business. While still in the United States he receives a telegram from his wife stating, "Saved Alone." Horatio left immediately for England to help his grieving wife. As they crossed the Atlantic, passing the very spot where his daughters had drowned, he wrote the hymn "It is Well With My Soul." In the midst of this great loss and the pain of losing his four precious daughters, he was able to stand firm in the love and peace of Jesus Christ. My Prayer for us this Lent and for the rest of our lives is that we will come to place where our "walking in the truth" will bring us the calm assurance that "It is Well With My Soul." At the end of the day there is no better assurance to have.

Blessings,
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	John Koppenol	James Griffith, Jr.
Rob Sansom	Gloria McPherson	Ken & Kathy Reed	Jerry Haverdink	Brian Tiffany
Trudy Petersen	Robin Hartway	Debbie Graham		

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
Doris Dieckman Marshall		-at Green Acres, Apt. #207

MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Chris & Loraine	Friends of Jane Truesdell
Axton Stearns	Preschooler
Gloria McPherson	FCC Member and Friend to all
Bonnie Braman	FCC Member and Friend to all

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- The family of Deb Kazmierczak, daughter of Rev. Jerry & Marilyn Jones. *Please see 'Special Message of Thanks'.
- The family of Jeanne Beauvais, sister of Bruce Beauvais.

***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 in May*
Trustees: Monday, May 23rd at 6:30pm

Trustees of the Month: Kurt Kreeger and Duane Putnam

Deacon of the Month: Jim Ritzema

~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

PASTORAL NEWS

- Pastor Ed will be holding confirmation classes beginning on Sun., May 1. Classes are for youth in grades 8 and older. If you or someone you know would like to attend these classes or more information, please contact Pastor Ed or the church office. Thank you!
- If you or someone you know is interested in joining our faith family, 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.

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

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

- Please update your contact info (new address, email or phone number) to receive any church mailings, with the church office.

FCC COUNCIL NEWS

- **Council Meeting:** will be May 1st after the church service.
- **Annual Meeting:** will be May 22nd. We will have a potluck after the meeting and a cake to celebrate everyone who is or is turning 80+.
- **FCC Leaders:** If you have not done so, please submit your annual report for the 2021 FY to the office ASAP!

CELEBRATIONS

- **Happy Birthday!** To Don & Julie Momber (5/9), Kris Jager (5/10), Kim Burden (5/12), Candy Outman (5/12), Kaydie Weber (5/12), Rich Cunningham (5/13), Jackie Kocher (5/13), Linda Petersen (5/16), Doug Dodd (5/19), and Ron Kingsbury (5/22).
- **Happy Anniversary!** To John & Deb House (5/2), Joe & Emily Suchowolec (5/5), and Dan & Rosel Eagles (5/7).
- If you would like your special event announced, please contact the church office!

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF THANKS

"There are times when the caring, the support, and the thoughtfulness of others begs for more than a mere "Thank you". The outpouring of comfort offered to our family from the FCCoG community is one such time. No words can ever fully convey how appreciative we are by the selfless caring of so many. Please know how much we treasure your comfort and support in the death of our daughter, Deb Kazmierczak.

~ In Christ, Maryilynn and Jerry Jones"

PF YOUTH NEWS

- The Michigan Congregational Summer Camp will be for 3rd-8th graders. It will be July 10-15th at the YMCA Camp Ohiyesa in Holly, MI. Camper Registration packets are now available at: www.michigancongregationalsummercamp.org.
- The NAPF and HOPE 2022 Conference will be in Wichita, Kansas at Newman University on June 25-29. Registration fee is \$425 and is now open! Any questions, email naphope@gmail.com.
- Contact Claude Johnson if you would like more info on joining the youth group or upcoming missions, at claudej2002us@yahoo.com.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

- We are winding down our school year in Sunday School. Be sure to attend church for Children's Sunday on May 15, when we honor our teaching staff and award Bibles to children in first grade. (*Please let Fran Gibbs or the office know if you have a first grader). Our teaching staff this year includes Pastor Ed Milam, who is using the preschool curriculum with the preschool staff, Candy Outman, Patrice Fulton-Peacock, Patty Ritzema, Mary Snow, Chris Hubbard, Suzy Kreeger, Terri Merritt, and new this year, helpers Morgan Venema and Rachel Milam. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated staff to instruct our youth on their faith journey.
- Children's Sermons were incorporated back into the service in September this past year and 13 people volunteered multiple times to do a children's message. Thank you to all who participated and willingly volunteered to help with this ministry.
- We will have more information on Vacation Bible School in the June newsletter so be sure to make note of dates and needs that we can help with. We share this ministry with St. Paul Lutheran and Settlement Lutheran churches.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

We are moving in to our last month of School! We will have a trip to the Dairy Barn, a picnic at Grandpa Duane's farm, a bike rodeo and ending the year with a graduation on June 5th at 1pm and the Annual End-of-year picnic at Ms. Candy's farm!

- A special thanks to those who ordered popcorn to help support our Preschool Program.
- Registration packets for fall classes are now available! Spots are filling up fast! If you or someone you know would like more information on our wonderful, fun & loving, Christian based school, contact the office ASAP!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- **Spring Rummage Sale:** is Fri., May 6. You can drop off your gently used items beginning Mon., May 2. Set up is Thurs., May 5. *WE NEED WORKERS!* If you can take a shift on either of these days, contact Rosel Eagles at 616-754-8618.
- Thank you to everyone who provided beef stew and biscuits for the Passover Supper. It was a very educational and inspiring event.
- Our biggest project recently was to have the carpeting in the sanctuary cleaned by Zerorez in Grand Rapids. They removed the stains and previous soap from prior cleanings as much as they can and had the sanctuary ready for Easter.
- Please call the office to let us know if you are turning 80 this year so we can celebrate you on May 22.

MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

Special Music line-up for May:

- May 1 – performance will be a music video.
- May 8 – a performance by the Chancel Choir.
- May 15 – performance Praise Choir.
- May 22 – performance by Kathy Jeppesen.
- May 29 – performance by the Chancel Choir.
- If you would like to sing with the choir, or provide special music, contact Julie Momber, Deb Dieckman, or the church office.
- We are still pursuing any interested people to direct choir. This is a paid position! See Fran Gibbs for more information.
- The Chancel Choir is singing twice in May and hopes to continue into the summer like last year. We are still looking for a director, which is a paid position. Cindy Perry is doing a great job both as organist and choir accompanist. Janet Tower and Cindy Hanson have been rotating along with Cindy Perry in providing our wonderful organ music on Sundays
- The Praise Choir and Preschool Choirs have also provided wonderful music and boosted our attendance in church and in Sunday School. Candy and her helpers continue to do a marvelous job with them. We will celebrate the Praise Choir on May 15!

CHILDREN'S PRAISE CHOIR

Our final performance is May 15th! We want to thank all the children for their hard work, families for attending, and everyone who donated treats to the group throughout the year! We will be on summer break after our final performance but hope to see you all back in the fall!

- The Board of Deacons will meet again on June 14th at 6:30 in the Conference Room upstairs.

DEACONS NEWS

- The Deacons worked with Women's Fellowship on the Passover Supper hosting 47 people! They will jointly work on the Sunday Potluck after the Annual Meeting on May 22. Women's Fellowship will celebrate all members who are 80 and older at the potluck with cake!
- Coffee Service is now on a sign-up basis. Pastor Ed will circulate a sign-up sheet for hosts to sign up for coffee service. If you wish to bring in a few store-bought cookies that is optional but not expected. Women's Fellowship provides coffee, tea, cups, condiments, and napkins. Everything is labeled and should be easy for anyone to host. Beverages are self-serve once they are made
- **Easter Flowers:** *Thank you* to everyone for purchasing a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one, and for your continued support of our DDF! Over 70 plants were ordered!

Our Nurse is available Mon. and Tues. from 8-4, and on Thurs. from 8-12. If you have medical questions or

PARISH NURSE NEWS

concerns, please call Patrice at 616-894-7288.

- Second COVID booster vaccines are available for anyone 50 years old and older and also for immunocompromised people. You must have received your first booster at least four months ago. COVID Test to Treat Program is a free program to give everyone who qualifies free oral treatment medications if they test positive for COVID. These medications may also be obtained from your doctor. They need to be started within 5 days of first COVID symptoms. We have COVID test kits in the Parish Nurse office; if you'd like one please contact Patrice.

ATTENTION 2022 GRADUATES!

Graduation Sunday is May 22nd! If you are graduating or have a loved one who will be graduating from High School, College, etc., please contact the office! We want to honor all graduates for all their hard work!

- FCC Members who are graduating: please contact the office for a scholarship application! All applications must be turned in by May 15th!

MESSAGE FOR SCOUTS


FCCoG thanks the Venture Crew for wiping down the entire sanctuary for Easter. We appreciate your hard work to spruce up all wooden surfaces!

~ May 2022 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 Communion 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Music Video</i> 3p Venture	2	3	4 10a PURLS	5 11a GAMA 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	6 8a-3p WF Rummage Sale	7
8 Mother's Day 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir</i>	9	10 5:30 GS	11 10a PURLS	12 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	13	14
15 Children's Sunday & Teacher Recognition 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Praise Choir</i> 3p Venture	16	17 5:30 GS	18 10a PURLS	19  4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	20	21
22 Graduation Sunday 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Kathy Jeppesen</i>	23 6:30 Trustees	24 5:30 GS	25 10a PURLS	26 Ascension of the Lord 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	27	28
29 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir</i>	30  <i>~office closed~</i>	31				

Calendar Notes:

~ June 2022 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 10a PURLS Preschool Bike Rodeo	2 11a GAMA 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	3	4
5 Communion Sunday 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA Preschool Graduation @1pm	6 Picnic @ Ms. Candy's Farm!	7	8 10a PURLS	9 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	10	11
12 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA	13 <i>Flag Day</i>	14 6:30 Deacons	15 10a PURLS	16 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	17	18 VanMolsten Wedding
19 Father's Day 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA	20	21	22 10a PURLS	23 4p Praise Choir 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	24	25 1:30p Shirley Kalbfleisch Memorial
26 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA	27 6:30 Trustees	28	29			

Calendar Notes: