



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

JULY 2022

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

You have heard the saying "Birds of a feather, flock together!" This long-standing proverb has a simple meaning. People who have similar beliefs, likes, goals, tastes and interests will naturally form groups together. These groups are formed when like-minded people do similar activities and spend time together. They gather together and share stories and experiences, set goals and challenge each other. All of which are completely understandable to the group. The group accepts them and they feel like they belong. These groups become committed to taking care of each other and helping each member succeed in life. These groups form at all different levels and some even organize and become service organizations, clubs, athletic teams and churches in the community. People are drawn to the groups that connect with them and their individual beliefs. One such group that I am a part of is the Greenville Lion's Club. My wife Jenny and I both joined the Lion's club last year. We were invited by our friend from church Larry Alman. His simple invitation and explanation of what the group stands for got our interest. We found that the mission of the Lion's Club and the people involved in the club have the same desire to serve the community as we do. The mission of the Lion's Club is to empower Lions clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding. We have found a great group to be a part of that share similar beliefs and passions about community service. We had both heard of the Lion's Club. We found out way more about this group because someone took the time to invite us to check it out. That is just one example of "Birds of a feather, flocking together"

Another such group is the Church. As people of similar Christian beliefs gather, they form a Christian fellowship. The early church fellowship is described in the Bible in Acts 2:42-47. It says, <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds<sup>[a]</sup> to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home<sup>[b]</sup> and ate their food with glad and generous<sup>[c]</sup> hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The early church formed based on their belief in Jesus Christ and modelled their lives in a way that reflected his teachings. They supported each other in times of need. They kept each other accountable in living a Christ-like life. They encouraged each other to move forward toward their personal and community goals. The scripture says, they devoted themselves to learning about Christ, caring for each other as well as worshipping and praying together.

Church is more than just a once a week gathering place. Church is meant to be a place where we connect and share life together. This goes far beyond the walls of the church. Our church, which is the body of believers, extends into the everyday lives of the fellowship. We care about each other every day. The connection we make with our church family can become one of the strongest connections we have in our lives.

Our church fellowship chooses to "flock together" and live life together this way. My family has felt the love and connection with our church throughout the years but most recently with the passing of my mother. Knowing people truly care about you make a huge difference in life. It is the love for Christ that moves us to love one another the way we do. Our doors are open and we look forward to meeting you soon. You are always welcome!

Blessings in Christ,  
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:

<i>Lucas Hopkins</i>	<i>Jerry McPherson</i>	<i>Dr. Joseph Mejia</i>	<i>John Koppenol</i>	<i>James Griffith, Jr.</i>
<i>Rob Sansom</i>	<i>Gloria McPherson</i>	<i>Ken &amp; Kathy Reed</i>	<i>Jerry Haverdink</i>	<i>Brian Tiffany</i>
<i>Trudy Petersen</i>				

#### FCC FAMILY AT CARE FACILITIES:

<i>Lois Hazelwood</i>		<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #31</i>
<i>Bette Houle</i>		<i>-at The Brook Assisted Living, Cedar Springs</i>
<i>Corla Morgan</i>		<i>-at SHUM RNC, Room #103</i>
<i>Barb Hoy</i>		<i>-at Canal View Houghton County Medical Facility</i>
<i>Mable Tate</i>		<i>-at United Rehab and Nursing, Room #108</i>
<i>Pat Toth</i>		<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living, Room #15</i>
<i>Doris Dieckman Marshall</i>		<i>-at Green Acres, Apt. #207</i>

#### MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

<i>Natalie Grace Wallace</i>	<i>Granddaughter of Chris &amp; Doug Dodd</i>
<i>Valerie Mejia</i>	<i>Sister of Don Momber</i>
<i>Tom Antor</i>	<i>Brother of Anita Putnam</i>
<i>Judy Swartz</i>	<i>FCC Member and friend to all</i>

#### SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- *The family of Jelane Hamper as she passed away June 6, 2022, surrounded by her children. Her funeral will be held here at FCCoG, on August 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am. \*More information to follow.*

**\*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](mailto:pastor.edfccog@gmail.com).**

#### **BOARD MEETINGS:**

Deacons: Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Trustees: Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Trustees of the Month:** Dan Eagles and Cindy Hanson

**Deacon of the Month:** Don & Fran Gibbs

# ~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

## PASTORAL NEWS

- **Confirmation Classes:** Pastor Ed is still holding classes for youth, in grades 8 and above. Our Confirmands will be recognized September 11<sup>th</sup> at our "Come Gather" Sunday Service.
- **Member Class:** If you or someone you know is interested in joining our faith family, please contact the church office or Pastor Ed if you are feeling led to join this community of faith by becoming a member.

## CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

The summer church office hours are Mon. through Thurs. from 9:00-3:30 with a break from 12:00-12:30pm. Please call ahead if you need assistance.

- The office will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup> in recognition of Independence Day.
- Please update your contact info (new address, email or phone number) to receive any church mailings, with the church office.

## CELEBRATIONS

- **Happy Birthday!** Terri Merritt (7/2), Betty Houle (100! on 7/4), Deb Dieckman (7/5), Claude Johnson (7/6), Cindy Hanson (7/7), Harry Riddle (7/9), Carla Durdle (7/12), Darlene Petersen (7/18), Chris Hubbard (7/19), Cap Tower (7/19), Blake Rowland (7/22), Zachary Norman (7/22), Marta Lores (7/23), and Sarah Milam (7/28).
- **Happy Anniversary!** To Jerry & Gloria McPherson (7/12) and Josh & Kim Kruger (7/14).
- **Card Party!** Women's Fellowship is hosting a card shower for Bette Houle who turns 100 on July 4<sup>th</sup>! Please bring your cards to the office ASAP or to church service. \*The cards will be delivered to her to help her celebrate her big day!



## PARISH NURSE NEWS

Our Nurse is available Mon. and Tues. from 8-4, and on Thurs. from 8-12. If you have medical questions, concerns, or need a ride to any medical appointments, please call/text Patrice at 616-894-7288.

- Mental Health Emergency Number will be available starting July 16<sup>th</sup>. The number "988" will connect you to a mental health crisis help (like 911 does for emergencies).
- COVID vaccines are now available for anyone 6 months and older. Contact your doctor or Health Department with any questions.

## CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

- **Sunday School:** Recruitment is underway for teachers. We have flexible options teaching once a month, a quarter, or a month at a time. All teachers have a set grade levels and lessons are sent to you in advance. The Gospel Light curriculum is colorful and has plenty of options and most everything is prepared and provided in advance. We have kids who have aged out of grade 5 and need the SEEN curriculum that has been popular in the past. We really would like to expand Sunday School for the Middle School kids. If you can find it in your heart to help our youth, please call Fran Gibbs at 754-7714 and leave a message. I will get back to you!
- Mark your calendars for September 11 for Sunday School to resume.
- **Vacation Bible School:** Plan on attending VBS at St. Paul Lutheran July 26, 27, and 28. Next year it will be FCC's turn to host VBS! Join Mark for dinner and 2 hours of fun. To register, call St. Paul Lutheran Church at (616) 754-6676.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

- **FCPS Enrollment** packets for fall classes are still available! \*We only have a few spots left! If you or someone you know would like more information on our wonderful, fun & loving, Christian based school, contact the office or Ms. Candy.
- **Summer Buzy Bees:** We still have spots open for children ages 3-6 years old. The program is held every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30- 11:30am. The program will end on July 27<sup>th</sup> (no class on July 4<sup>th</sup>). The cost is \$20 per day (this includes snacks and learning materials). If you are interested, please contact Candy Outman or the church office to sign up or for more information.

## MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

### Special Music Line-up for July:

- July 3 – a performance by Deb Dieckman and special musical organ piece by Chris Bosch.
- July 10 – music video selected by Pastor Ed. By Katy Nichole "In Jesus' Name."
- July 17 – performance by Claude Johnson
- July 26 – a performance by the Chancel Choir.
- July 31 – a performance by Morgan Venema.
- If you would like to sing with the choir, or provide special music, please contact Julie Momber 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.

# ~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.) ~

## DEACONS NEWS

- Our next meeting is Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm to plan for the fall. \*
- Thank you to all who have signed up and hosted Coffee Service this summer. August dates are now available outside the office.
- Unfortunately, due to health reasons, Suzy Kreeger has resigned from the deacons. We thank her for years of service to FCC and her expertise in deacon matters. Deb Dieckman is willing to fill in Suzy's term. She too, has years of service and expertise to help us moving ahead. Officers elected are Don Gibbs, Chairman; Jane Truesdell, Vice Chair, who also comes with much expertise; and Fran Gibbs, Secretary.
- Claude Johnson received a very generous donation for his Coats for Kids Program. That donation is in the Deacon Discretionary Fund until fall.

## MUTUAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

We are always looking for ways for our congregation to be involved in our Sunday Service! Here are some areas we are looking for volunteers to help:

- Liturgist: If you would like to help with our Sunday Readings, please contact the church office.
- Sound Techs: We are looking for volunteers to learn our sound booth system and help with streaming our services. If interested, contact the office.

## PF YOUTH NEWS

- **Summer Camp:** The Michigan Congregational Camp for 3<sup>rd</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> graders, held July 10-15<sup>th</sup> at the YMCA Camp Ohiyesa in Holly, MI. Register at: [www.michigancongregationalsummercamp.org](http://www.michigancongregationalsummercamp.org).
- Contact Claude Johnson if you would like more info on joining the youth group or upcoming missions, at [claudiej2002us@yahoo.com](mailto:claudiej2002us@yahoo.com).

## UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION!

**Attention FCC Family:** Please update your contact information! We want to make sure everyone is included in our contact roster! This roster is used when we are sending out general mailings, monthly newsletter, emails, and to list any birthdays and anniversarys. Please feel free to contact our office with your email(s), addresses, and phone number(s), so that we may contact you!

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- Board Meeting: to plan for the fall, will be in August. We hope to resume some favorite activities from the past and maybe try some new ones. Stay tuned!
- Thank you all who contributed cards to honor Bette Houle on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!!! She is thrilled that her church family keeps her close in our hearts!

## COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS THROUGH THE COMMISSION ON AGING

**The Commission on Aging** is the Senior Newspaper for our county. For upcoming events and services, visit: [www.montcalmcountycormissiononaging.org](http://www.montcalmcountycormissiononaging.org) or call 989-831-7476 and select an option.



- **Drivers needed:** make extra money by becoming a volunteer driver! Driver uses own vehicle and is reimbured at .58 1/2 cents per mile. If interested please call the CoA, option #4.
- **WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S:** There will be a walking event on Sat., Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at Frugthaven Farms here in Greenville. If you are interested in registering for our team, or to start your own, contact Pam Shock at 989-831-7476 option #3.
- **PROJECT FRESH:** this program provides coupons for fresh produce that can be purchased from local farmers at farmers markets. Requirements are 60+, live in montcalm County, meet income guidelines (will be verified with you call). \*Due to limited number of coupons available, you **MUST** call to register at 989-831-7476, option #4.
- **TAKE-OUT OR DINE IN SOUP & SALAD BAR:** provided by CoA in Stanton. Please reserve your meal by Monday at noon at 989-831-7476, option #1. \*Meals are every Tues. and Thurs. Seniors 60+ is a \$3 donation, under 60 is \$6.50 charge.
- **Greenville Area Senior Citizens Center:** Food with Friends Meals are served on Wed & thurs at noon. Call 616-894-2255 to reserve your lunch.
- **Other events at the GR Senior Citizens Center:** Tuesdays has Zumba at 9am, Senor Moment Café at 10:30am (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. of month) , and euchre at 6pm. Wednesdays has penny bingo at 10am, food w/friends at 12pm. Thursdays has Quilting at 9am, Stamping class at 10am (1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. of the month), Food w/friends at 12pm, and cards at 1pm. Fridays has penny bingo at 12:30pm and cards at 1pm. For more information, call 616-754-1658.
- **CoA Transportation:** is a transportation program where volunteer drivers take you to medical appointments, wait until you are done, and bring you home. \*A Wheelchair van is available. This program is for seniors 60+ who meet the guidelines (call to see if you qualify). This program can help you get to cities like Grand Rapids, Lansing, etc. Call for a ride today! \*See also PARISH NURSE NEWS.
- **Flat River Commuity Players Presents:** "The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe." July 1, 2, 8, 9 at 7:30pm and July 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Greenville Community Center. Purchase tickets at the GR Community Center (only).

# ~ July 2022 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>Communion</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Deb Dieckman</i>  3p Venture Crew	<b>4</b>   ~Office <b>Closed~</b>	<b>5</b> 8:30 Buzy Bees	<b>6</b> 8:30 Buzy Bees 10a PURLS	<b>7</b> 11a GAMA   7:30 AA	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Music Video</i>	<b>11</b> 8:30 Buzy Bees	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:30 Buzy Bees 10a PURLS  <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>CALENDAR MEETING 2022-2023</b> </div>	<b>14</b>   7:30 AA	<b>15</b>  4a Danish Festival Breakfast	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Claude Johnson</i>  3p Venture Crew	<b>18</b> 8:30 Buzy Bees	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:30 Buzy Bees 10a PURLS	<b>21</b>   7:30 AA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir</i>	<b>25</b> 8:30 Buzy Bees   6:30 Trustees	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30 Buzy Bees 10a PURLS	<b>28</b>   7:30 AA	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Morgan Venema</i>	<div style="background-color: #a0c0ff; padding: 20px; text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Happy Independence Day to All!</h2> </div>					

**Calendar Notes:**

# ~ August 2022 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 Council	2	3 10a PURLS	4 11a GAMA  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	5	6
7 <b>Communion</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Dave &amp; Marie Hodges</i>  3p Venture Crew	8	9 6:30 Deacons	10 10a PURLS	11  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	12	13  11a Jelane Hamper Memorial Service
14 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Stephanie Clark &amp; Family</i>	15	16	17 10a PURLS	18  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	19 <div>Danish Festival Weekend</div>	20
21 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Keith &amp; Jean Hudson</i>  3p Venture Crew	22  <b>First Day of School! (Public)</b> 6:30 Trustees	23	24 10a PURLS	25  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	26	27
28 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir</i>	29	30	31			

**Calendar Notes:**