



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

AUGUST 2022

A Message from our Pastor...

Last fall, my wife and I adopted a cat from the Montcalm County Animal Shelter in Stanton. At that time, River was a 6-pound flame-point Siamese who was half-wild and in need of a stable home. When we brought her home she was nervous and scared. She didn't understand what was going on and what was happening to her. She would bite and scratch when you tried to handle her in any way. She was in need of some genuine love. She needed someone to take care of her. This was something that she was not used to. She didn't know what it was like to have someone genuinely love her and care for her. She did not trust us. She had to learn to be loved. She had to learn to trust us.

We discovered a couple of things as we worked with River to help her realize that she was in a safe and loving place. First, I'd like to point out that cats don't speak or understand words or phrases. Now that might sound silly. Let's take a look at that for a second. We would talk to River all the time and tell her that we love her and that she was going to be ok. We would tell her that she was no longer in danger. We will share with her how happy we are to have her in our family. We would tell her all kinds of things. She was just simply look at us with those wild eyes and have absolutely no idea what we were saying. Just telling her we loved and cared about her was not enough to help calm her or settle her down. She had no frame of reference to understand what those words even meant. She needed something more than words.

We had to help River understand what those words meant. We had to put action behind the words. We had to show her our love in ways she could understand. This is something that you cannot force. We had to be patient and understanding with her. This was going to take time. As we would try to hold her and care for her, she would bite, fight and get aggressive. She drew blood on several occasions. We continued to patiently try and show her that we were safe and caring. Slowly, she began to understand that our touch was not going to hurt her. Eventually, she began to initiate contact and things started to settle down. She was beginning to learn and understand unconditional love through our actions.

Over the next several months, we patiently worked to show her how much we loved her and that we could be trusted to take care of her. She has calmed down and relaxed. She has learned what it is to be genuinely loved. You can see the peace and happiness in her life.

The Bible tells us this about what love is and all of these things require action. Love was never meant to be shared with only words. Love was meant to lived out in action. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 says this " ⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends."

My hope is that as a community of faith, we will apply these actions to our lives. We must continue to take the time to utilize this action in living out our faith. If we take the time to love like this, think of the difference we can make together. We can overwhelm fear and anxiety with love and patience. May God bless us as we strive to love others as he loves us. If you are looking for a place to grow in these actions, you are welcome join us at the First Congregational Church of Greenville. Together, we will Love God and Love Others.

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. Joe & Valerie Mejia</i>	<i>John Koppenol</i>	<i>James Griffith, Jr.</i>
<i>Rob Sansom</i>	<i>Gloria McPherson</i>	<i>Ken & Kathy Reed</i>	<i>Jerry Haverdink</i>	<i>Brian Tiffany</i>
<i>Trudy Petersen</i>	<i>Natalie Wallace</i>	<i>Tom Antor</i>		

FCC FAMILY AT CARE FACILITIES:

<i>Lois Hazelwood</i>		<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living Room #26</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>
<i>Wilson Hoy</i>		<i>-at Garden View Assisted Living, Calumet</i>

MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

<i>Judy Swartz</i>	<i>FCC Member and friend to all</i>
<i>Wilson Hoy</i>	<i>FCC Member and friend to all</i>
<i>Tom & Dawn Deal</i>	<i>Brother & Sister-in-law to Candy Outman</i>

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- *The family of Donald Carey as he passed away July 8, 2022.*

****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: Tuesday, August 9th at 6:30pm
Trustees: Monday, August 22nd at 6:30pm

Trustees of the Month: Kirk Faber and Scott Horn

Deacon of the Month: Jane Truesdell

~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

PASTORAL NEWS

- **Confirmation Classes:** Our Confirmands will be recognized September 11th 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.

- Beginning Aug. 22, the office will go back to its "fall hours". The office will be open 9:00am to 3:30pm with a break from 2:00-2:30pm.
- Please update your contact info (new address, email or phone number) to receive any church mailings, with the church office.

CELEBRATIONS

- **Happy Birthday!** To Adalyn Weber (8/6), Jenny Milam (8/23), Benjamin Venema (8/24), and Brian Gardner (8/25).
- **Happy Anniversary!** To Lynn & Bonnie Wickerham (8/3) and Jeffrey & Cheryl Staffen (8/11).

PARISH NURSE NEWS

Our Nurse is available Mon. and Tues. from 8-4, and on Thurs. from 8-12.

- **Medical Assistance:** If you have medical questions, concerns, or need a ride to any medical appointments, please call or text Patrice at 616-894-7288.
- **Mental Health Emergency Number:** is now available. The number "988" will connect you to 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 EDUCATION NEWS

Sunday School: We have some Sunday School students who have aged into a different curriculum. As we expand that focus, we NEED MORE TEACHERS! You can teach once a month or more and we have a staff that is flexible about trading Sundays to teach. Training is included on the Gospel Light Curriculum and for Grades 6-8, SEEN curriculum. Please call the church office or email Fran Gibbs at gibbsf7714@gmail.com, or leave a message at (616) 754-7714. We have a meeting after church on August 7th to prepare to begin in September!

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 today!
- **Summer Buzy Bees:** was a great success! The program met two days a week and had over 20 students per day, throughout the 8-week program! The children were able to play, do crafts, and make new friends! Ms. Candy is thankful to all the volunteer staff that was able to help!

MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

Special Music Performances for August:

- Aug. 7: Dave & Marie Hodges.
- Aug. 14: Stephanie Clark & Family.
- Aug. 21: Keith & Jean Hudson
- Aug. 28: The Chancel Choir.
- 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.

DEACONS NEWS

- Our next meeting is Aug. 9th at 6:30pm to plan several exciting events in the fall.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with coffee service! There are now dates available for Sept. and Oct. for anyone who would like to host the coffee service hour after church service. *The sign-up sheet is by the church office/bulletin board.
- Set your calendars now for **Come Gather Sunday**, September 11. Plans are underway for an exciting kick-off for the year!
- **WMCCC:** The West Michigan Congregational Church Conference is being held at our church on Sept. 17, at 9am. This is a great opportunity for our church to roll out the red carpet for the west Michigan area churches. If you are interested in attending, please call the church office. We can use some hosts for that day. Contact Fran Gibbs if you would like to help.

CHILDREN'S PRAISE CHOIR

Beginning in Aug., we will once again be meeting for Prsie Choir! **Our first practice** will be Tues., Aug. 16th and will meet every Tuesday after. This group is for children of all ages. We meet from 4-5pm to sing, play games, and have a snack. The group will also sing once a month at our Sunday Services (Dates TBA). Please come join us one and all!

~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.) ~

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:** We are taking volunteers for the next rotation of September thru December. If you would like to help with our Sunday Readings, please contact the church office. *If you are already on the rotation, no need to contact the office, unless you would like specific dates or would like off the rotation.
- **Sound Techs:** We are looking for volunteers to learn our sound booth system and help with streaming our services. If interested, contact the church office (training is available).

PF YOUTH NEWS

Contact Claude Johnson if you would like more info on joining the youth group or upcoming missions, at 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 anniversaries. 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:** If you are interested in meeting with other women from the church for a message and fellowship, helping with a possible fall bazaar, or have an idea for the women of the church, feel free to come to the Aug. 23rd meeting at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall as we reorganize after the pandemic. Your ideas are always welcome.
- **Kitchen Cleanup:** Our board will clean the kitchen on Tues., Aug. 23rd at 10am. If you would like to help for no more than an hour, please contact Chris Hubbard at (616) 754-7464. We will wipe things down and reorganize the items that have drifted off into other cupboards.

CHURCH RENOVATIONS CONTINUE!

Beginning Tues., Aug. 16 through the 18th the front entrance on Cass Street will be closed. The carpet is being replaced in the front lobby. If you need assistance, call ahead, or use the back entrance.



- We have also recently replaced the flooring by the back kitchen door! Please make sure to stop by and see all the wonderful improvements being made! There will be more to come soon! 😊

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.montcalmcountymissiononaging.org or call 989-831-7476 and select an option.

- **Heritage Festival:** held Aug. 4-6 at MCC Sidney Campus. Seniors day Aug. 4 at 10am; Aug. 5 Children's Day; Aug 6 Salute to Veterans Day. Donation of \$3 for lunch. Please join us!
- **Drivers needed:** make extra money by becoming a volunteer driver! Driver uses own vehicle and is reimbursed at .58 ½ 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. 10th 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, Senior Moment Café at 10:30am (3rd 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 (1st 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 for further medical assistance.

~ August 2022 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 6:30 Council	2	3 10a PURLS	4 11a GAMA 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	5	6
7 Communion 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Dave & 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 & Family</i>	15	16 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">New Carpet Installed in front lobby! ~ Front doors closed ~</div>	17 10a PURLS	18 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	19 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Danish Festival Weekend</div>	20
21 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Keith & Jean Hudson</i> 3p Venture Crew	22  First Day of School! (Public) 6:30 Trustees	23 10a WF Mtg. & Kitchen Clean-up	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:

~ September 2022 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 11a GAMA	2	3
				4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA		
4 Communion 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i> 3p Venture	5 Labor Day ~Office Closed~	6 First Day of Preschool 	7 10a PURLS	8 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	9	10
11 Come Gather & Confirmands Recognition 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i> *Sunday School Begins	12	13	14 10a PURLS	15 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	16	17 9am WMCCC hosted here at FCCoG!
18 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i> 3p Venture	19	20	21 10a PURLS	22 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	23	24
25 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i>	26 6:30 Trustees	27	28 10a PURLS	29 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	30	

Calendar Notes: