



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

APRIL 2023



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

Freedom is something that every living being desires. No living creature wants to be locked up, captured, or enslaved in any way. When our physical or mental freedom is feeling boxed in, we naturally fight for freedom. We as humans will resist anything that obstructs our freedom. This passion for freedom that resides deep within us all will drive us to do almost anything in our pursuit of liberation. We long to live as free people. We want to have the ability to choose our own path. The Bible gives us some clear directions on how we are to use our freedom. In Galatians 5:13-14 it says, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

The great freedom we long for comes with responsibility. That responsibility is to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. What does loving our neighbors really look like? How are we to love those around us? There are many ways that come to mind. For example, we can feed those in our community that are hungry, provide shelter for people who are homeless or provide physical relief in many other ways as we strive to meet the needs of those around us. I believe our Christian calling includes all those things and many more.

We are also called to help people find spiritual freedom. We are to be people who take the strength, comfort, and love of Jesus Christ to the world. Marianne Williamson, in her work, *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of a Course in Miracles* writes this "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us." We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. You're playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we subconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we're liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

It is time for the Christian community to shine their God given light brighter than ever. Our world has become focused on enslaving our minds and spirits to serving ourselves. It is up to God's people to love their neighbors in such a way that they also see that God's light resides in them and that they are truly free.

We must let our light shine and bring the Light of Christ wherever we go. The Light of Christ will guide people to the spiritual freedom everyone desires and the inner peace that calms all fears. Have a blessed week.

Easter 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	Wilson & Barb Hoy	Dr. Joe & Valerie Mejia	John Koppenol	Brian Tiffany
Rob Sansom	Stacy Garlick	Ken & Kathy Reed	Dawn Dickinson	Marjoan Wohlfert
Jerry Haverdink	Melissa Andrews	James & Pauline Griffith	Joann Ganzevoort	Clifford Herrbodt
Angela Jackwicz	John Emerson	Diane Jones	Kim Massengale	

#### FCC FAMILY AT CARE FACILITIES:

Bette Houle		-at The Brook Assisted Living, Cedar Springs
Corla Morgan		-at SHUM RNC, Room #103
Barb & Wilson Hoy		-at Canal View Houghton County Medical Facility
Pat Toth		-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living, Room #15
Doris Dieckman Marshall		-at Boulder Creek Assisted Living, Room #8
Cap (Ray) Tower		-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living, Room #10

#### PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Claude Johnson	FCC Member and Friend to all
John Emerson	FCC Member and Friend to all
Scott and Bennett Hanson	Son of Cindy & Peter Hanson

#### CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Jake Peacock and Rosemary Douglas on the birth of their daughter, Juno Harper Peacock born March 31st! She is also welcomed by her grandparents: Phillip and Bronwyn Douglas and Bob and Patrice Fulton-Peacock.

#### A MESSAGE OF 'THANKS'

- A special Message to all our FCC Family: Pastor Jerry Jones would like everyone to know he is doing fine and has made a complete recovery! He would like to thank everyone for their cards, calls, prayers and support during this time. ~ Love and Blessings to all, Pastor Jerry

#### SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- Bonnie Wickerham

**\*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: Weds., May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30  
Trustees: Mon., April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Trustees of the Month:** Judy Swartz and Scott Horn

**Deacon of the Month:** Jerry McPherson

# ~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

## PASTORAL NEWS

- **New Member Class:** This class gives anyone (current member or interested persons) the opportunity to learn more about the history, ministries, organization, and beliefs of this Congregational church. Please 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 or would like more info on transferring your membership.
- **Baptisms:** We are also looking for any member that would like to have their child baptized or would themselves like to be rebaptized to "refresh" your faith in the Holy Spirit.

## PARISH NURSE NEWS

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

- **Free COVID tests** are still available in the lobby!
- Patrice will be in NY this Easter welcoming her new grand daughter! If you have a question call/text her and she will get back to you as quickly as possible.

## RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION FOR OUR CHURCH

- You should have received a letter asking you to help with many large projects that our church needs. The Rose Window is first on the list and work should begin soon. If you know of someone who might be interested in helping restore the former beauty of the building, please ask the office for another letter, or give that name to Pastor Ed or Larry Snow so we can follow up with them. Because of the extensive work needed, the Trustees sought out experts in these areas so the results will last for the next 40 years.
- A new option is to scan the QR code with your phone. It will link you directly to Thithely, a Christian based website that is available to you. From there, you will set up your own account and be able to give electronically via your phone or computer. Our Financial Secretary has used this safe link for another local church to much success.



*Scan our new QR code to sign up today!*

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

2023 Tithing boxes are still available by the church bulletin board and in the narthex (see a Deacon for assistance in finding your box). If you would like a box assigned to you, please contact the church office and we can provide you with a card or box. Thank you for your continued support!

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

**The Annual Meeting is Scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> after service. We will not be having a meal. Leaders must get their reports into the office ASAP!**

## 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.

- **Contact Info:** Please update your contact info (new address, email or phone number) to receive church mailings, with the church office. \*You need not be a member to receive all the latest news and updates!

## DEACONS NEWS

- **Meeting:** our next meeting is Wed., May 10 at 6:30pm. \*Please note the change of date due to scheduling conflicts.
- **DoM:** Jerry McPherson
- **Easter Flowers:** Thank you for the generous amounts of fresh plants to celebrate Easter. Be sure to come up and get your flowers after the service on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **CALLING ALL MEN:** A new Men's Bible Group is starting on Saturday Mornings at 9:30am beginning April 8<sup>th</sup>. This group will study the books "In the Grip of Grace" by Max Lucado. To pre-order the book, see Don Gibbs or sign up in the office. Orders will go in on April 3 and as needed.
- **Maundy Thursday Dinner:** The Seder Supper was held on Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 6:30. The Deacons and Women's Fellowship hosted a simple supper of beef stew and biscuits followed by the Seder that Pastor Ed guided us through. Last year, he did a demonstration due to Covid restrictions. This year, all participants could take part at their table.

## CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS

**Special Music Performances for April:**

- April 2: Praise Choir
- April 9: Chancel Choir
- April 16: Kathy Jeppesen
- April 23: Chancel Choir
- April 30: Claude Johnson
- Practices are every Sunday at 9:30am in the sanctuary. If you are of high school age or older and interested in singing with the Chancel Choir, contact Deb Dieckman, the office or come to a rehearsal. No audition is necessary!

## CHILDREN'S PRAISE CHOIR NEWS

Our next performance will be May 21<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to join our group, contact Candy Outman or come to our practices that are every Tues. from 4-5pm. All children pre-k to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome!

- Donation of snacks are still needed! If you are able to donate, please see Ms. Candy.

### PF YOUTH NEWS

To join the group or for more info on upcoming PF Youth trips, call/text Claude Johnson at 616-894-5595 or email: claudej2002us@yahoo.com.

### CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

- There will not be Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume the following Sunday.
- We are studying about Jesus and Paul with the spring curriculum.
- **Children's Sunday:** Please give the office the names of any children in First Grade and up to receive their first Bible from Christian Education. The last day of Sunday School and Teacher Recognition is May 21 along with Graduation Sunday and the Praise Choir. It will be quite a youth-oriented day!
- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** This summer! More information about VBS will be coming soon!

### CELEBRATION NEWS

- **Children's Sermons** If you have a 4 minute or less message for young children and would like to share that message in church, see Fran Gibbs or the call the office.
- **Happy Birthday!** To Bonnie Braman (4/8), Rosel Eagles (4/8), Duane Putnam (4/10), Rob Sansom (4/14), Joe Suchowolec (4/17), Gloria McPherson (4/23), and Marilyn Jones (4/25).
- **Happy Anniversary!** To Bryan & Angela Garvey (4/28).
- **Congratulations!** To Jake Peacock and Rosemary Douglas on the birth of their daughter, Juno Harper Peacock born March 31st! She is also welcomed by her grandparents: Phillip and Bronwyn Douglas and Bob and Patrice Fulton-Peacock!
- **Birthday Celebration!** The Franklin Family would like to invite the church family and friends to Elizabeth's first birthday party on April 15th from 2-4pm for cake and ice cream in Fellowship Hall! All are welcome
- If you would like your special event listed, please contact the church office!

### MUTUAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

- **Nursery Helper** (background check required). We now have a full time helper in the Nursery! We are still looking for a volunteer every Sunday (background check required) to help the full time staff – if and when needed. \*Contact the office or Pastor Ed for more info.
- **Coffee service:** a new list is posted for May and June! We ask for atleast 2 helpers per Sunday.
- **Liturgist** (to join the list, contact the church office).
- **Sound Techs:** If interested, contact the church office (training is available).
- Please see the signup sheets by the church bulletin board in the lobby. \*Many dates are still available!

### PRESCHOOL NEWS

- The children brought in their homemade easter baskets and had their annual Easter Egg hunt this month with a visit from the Easter Bunny!
- **Fundraiser:** A special thanks to those who ordered popcorn to help support our Preschool Program! Orders are now available for pick-up in the church office. \*If you placed an order, please call or stop into the office to arrange payment. Call the office to schedule pick-up.
- **Registration packets** for fall classes are available. Open enrollment will begin April 17th. If you or someone you know would like more information on our to a wonderful, fun & loving Christian based school, contact the office.
- **Summer Buzy Bee Program:** Ms. Candy will be holding a summer program for children 3-5 years old. The class will be three days a week: Mon. through Wed. from 9-11:30am. Sign-up will begin May 1<sup>st</sup>. Classes will begin June 12<sup>th</sup>. \*Please call the church office for more information.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- **WF Board Meeting:** We will have a board meeting after church on Sun., April 23<sup>rd</sup>. All women are welcome to attend!
- **Terri Lynn Nuts** We still have a few items left: walnuts, almonds (roasted and salted), dark chocolate almonds, pecan clusters (9oz), jumbo chocolate covered raisings, \*All bags are 1lb. bags unless indicated otherwise and \$10 per item! Please see Chris Hubbard to purchase any of these items.
- **Spring Rummage Sale:** Start cleaning your closets! The Annual Rummage Sale is Fri., May 12 from 8:00-3:00 and Sat., May 13 from 8:00 to Noon. You may drop off your donations starting May 8. Donations can be any items in working order that you no longer need, clothing of all sizes, toys, puzzles, books, household items. If you would like to work a shift for set up or the sale, please see Rosel Eagles! If you can take a shift on either of these days, please see Rosel Eagles or call her at 616-754-8618.
- Our next meeting is after church on April 26 at 1pm to plan our rummage sale.
- **Circle Meetings:** Circles meet the first Wednesday of the month through June. Winslow meets at 1:00 with Rosel Eagles and Bethany meets at 6:30 with Fran Gibbs. Any women who would like to come are welcome to attend so come try us out!

### GRADUATION SUNDAY NEWS

**Graduation Sunday will be May 21<sup>st</sup>.** Graduation Scholarship Applications are now available! Contact the office for an application (certain guidelines apply). We also have the applications on our bulletin board. All completed applications are due back by May 14<sup>th</sup>!



## ***Easter Flowers ~ 2023***



*The Easter flowers adorning our chancel this Easter were placed by the following families and friends.*



<b>Donor</b>	<b>Placed for....</b>
Patty Barber Bruce & Sue Beauvais	In Memory of Ted Barber, Kenneth & Ethel Wilson, Dean & Edith Wiesen, & Donald & Bea Barber In Memory of Carl & Evelyn Berg and Robert & Ruth Beauvais In Honor of Lyn Zilch and Jeanne Beauvais
Bonnie Braman	In Memory of Bill & Jean Boyd In Honor of Dianne Skiver and Rosel Eagles – Happy Birthday!
Larry & Karen	In Memory of Kevin Carbonelli, Elisa Nelson, Muriel Carbonelli, Guido Carbonelli, Doug Shaw, Robert & Elizabeth Waldo, and John Stafford
Carla Durdle	In Memory of Michael Durdle, and William & Joan Thompson In Honor of Max & Barbara Durdle
Virginia Evans Marilyn Ferguson	In Memory of Marvin Evans, my loving husband In Memory of Roy John Ferguson and Julie Christine Ferguson In Honor of Roger Japinga
Joshua & Emily Franklin Patrice Fulton-Peacock	In Memory of Elise Dick and Michael Garcia In Honor of Jess & Kyle, Jacque & Jason, Jake & Rose, Elise & Ellia Devitt, Eli & Grant Kuenzer, and Baby Girl Peacock
Don & Fran Gibbs	In Memory of Phyllis & Bill Ham, and Don Gibbs, Sr. In Honor of Shirley Gibbs, Our Children: Megan, Josh, and Abby, and Our 8 Grandchildren
Judy Graham Scott Horn John & Deb House	In Memory of Dale Graham, H. Dale & Bettye Graham, and Bob & Ann Snyder In Memory of Jim & Sue Briggs, Ed Horn, and Kyle Boss In Memory of our Parents In Honor of our Grandchildren: Mason, Beau, Sawyer, Layla, & Clyde
Chris Hubbard	In Memory of Russell Hubbard (husband), Sandy, Rose, Janet, Craig, Tim, and Brian In Honor of my Children, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren
Stephanie & Tim Hyde Claude Johnson	In Honor of our family In Memory of My Parents, Grandparents, and Great-grandparents, Clarence H. Johnson, and Gwendolyn C. Wagner (siblings) In Honor of my children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, Local, State & National PF
Ron Kingsbury	In Memory of my loving wife, Dixie In Honor of my daughters, Debbie & Lisa
Michele Kocher	In Memory of L. Lynn Kocher and Jaquelyn Kocher In Honor of Kyle & Rylie (grandchildren) and Women's Fellowship
Pam & Jim Koski Kurt & Suzy Kreeger	In Memory of Pam's parents: Ray & Ardella Payton and Jim's parents: Henry & Charlotte Koski In Memory of Roma Dart, Norma Nicholas and Robert Hoseth In Honor of our granddaughter, Zaniyah Williams
Carol Magoon	In Memory of Raymond Magoon (husband), Trudi, Chelsea, Kristina and Nathan Magoon, and Kevin & Mildred Petersen (parents of Carol)
Jerry & Gloria McPherson	In Memory of Bert & Julia McPherson (Jerry's parents) and Jay & Elouise Olsen (Gloria's parents) In Honor of Our Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren
Vivian Minard, Mary Ellen, And Melissa Don & Julie Momber	In Memory of Carrol Minard, loving husband and Scott Minard In Memory of parents & grandparents In Memory of June Momber, Dalyn & Nancy Ling, and David Ling In Honor of Our grandchildren: Christian, Reagan, Ada, and Logan
Darlene Petersen Duane Putnam Larry & Mary Snow Linda Stafford	In Memory of Darwin (Buzz) Petersen, loving husband and Gary Petersen (son) In Memory of my mother Viola Putnam and Grandson Levi Putnam In Memory of Peggy & Floyd Snow and Lela & Harry Johnson In Memory of John Stafford, Leslie Stafford, Vivian & Dale Stafford, Hazel & Bob O'Connor, Kitty Armel, Margie Scheid, Al Vining, & Jack Harris In Honor of Marilyn & Jerry Jones and the Ian Macdonald family
Carrie Venema The Whispering Pine Farm Ken & Coleen Venema	In Honor of Morgan Venema and the classes of 2023, Benjamin Venema, and Rex Venema In Memory of Rex & Marion Braginton (Coleen's parents), Herman & Betty Venema (Ken's parents) In Honor of (Children) Kevin and Carrie Venema, and (Grandchildren) Morgan Maria, Benjamin, and Rex Venema
Lynn & Bonnie Wickerham	In Memory of Joe & Ruth Wickerham and Waldo & Marguerite Fisher In Honor of Brent, Karen, Brett Wickerham, Lannie Fischer, Denise Webb, Greta Schultz, Nicholas, Blake, Colleen, and Holden Wickerham, Our Lord and Savior & Church Family

***Thank you and Happy Easter to All!***

# ~ April 2023 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
<b>2 Communion &amp; Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Praise Choir</i> 3p Venture	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b>   4p Praise Choir	<b>5</b> 10a PURLS	<b>6</b> 11a GAMA  <b><i>Maundy Thursday</i></b>  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>7</b> Office Open  <b><i>Good Friday</i></b>	<b>8</b>   <b><i>Holy Saturday</i></b>
<b>9 Easter Sunday</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  4p Praise Choir	<b>12</b> 10a PURLS	<b>13</b>   4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>2-4p Elizabeth Franklins 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Party!</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Kathy Jeppesen</i> 3p Venture	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  4p Praise Choir	<b>19</b> 10a PURLS	<b>20</b>   4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 
<b>23 Transfiguration Sunday</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir</i> WF Board Mtg.	<b>24</b> 6:30 Trustees	<b>25</b>  4p Praise Choir	<b>26</b> 10a PURLS	<b>27</b>   4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Claude Johnson</i>						

## Calendar Notes:

# ~ May 2023 ~

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2  4p Praise Choir 5:30 GS	3 10a PURLS	4 11a GAMA  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	5	6
<b>7 Communion</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA 3p Venture	8	9  4p Praise Choir	10 10a PURLS  6:30 Deacons	11  <b>Rummage Sale Set-up</b>  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	12  <b>8-3 WF Rummage Sale</b>	13  <b>8-12 WF Rummage Sale</b>
<b>14 Mother's Day</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – Chancel Choir	15	16  4p Praise Choir	17 10a PURLS	18  <b>Ascension of the Lord</b>  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	19	20
<b>21 Graduation &amp; Children's Sunday</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – Praise Choir <b>*12p Annual Mtg.</b> 3p Venture	22  6:30 Trustees	23  4p Praise Choir	24 10a PURLS	25  <b>GHS Commencement</b>  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	26	27
<b>28</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – TBA	<b>29</b>  ~office closed~	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

**Calendar Notes:**