



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

MARCH 2023

A Message from our Restoration and Preservation Committee

Restoration and Preservation of FCC

The presentation has been made and First Congregational Church is answering the call to restore and preserve our beautiful church at 126 East Cass Street. You will soon receive a letter regarding this restoration and preservation project. Please pray that this effort is successful.

Below is a list of the projects and the distinct areas that need help. Of all the projects, the Rose Window is in a critical condition and will soon see work begin this Spring. Here is a list of the current needs.

The Restoration and Preservation Project is in 3 distinct areas:

Rose Window

- Completely reframe the Rose Window as the wood has deteriorated to unsafe levels.
- Re-lead all stained glass windows in the whole church.
- Install newer, stain resistant, clear plexiglass over all the stained-glass windows to restore their beauty and preserve them for the future.

Exterior

- Repair, point and tuck all the outside bricks and reseal. Many bricks and mortar are crumbling and unsafe.
- Paint edge trim around windows, doors, and gables.
- Repair the roof over the library and offices.

Heating and Cooling System

- Install all new computer controls for the heating and cooling system.
- Replace the Air Conditioning Chiller.
- Add bleeder valves to all piping loops in the system.
- Replace pumps on the heating system.
- Upgrade the boiler.

From this list, it is apparent that professionals with the proper equipment, safety measures, and expertise are critical. This is not a simple job! Stay tuned as we move forward.

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>Wilson & Barb Hoy</i>	<i>Dr. Joe & Valerie Mejia</i>	<i>John Koppenol</i>	<i>Brian Tiffany</i>
<i>Rob Sansom</i>	<i>Roxanne Faber</i>	<i>Ken & Kathy Reed</i>	<i>Dawn Dickinson</i>	<i>Marjoan Wohlfert</i>
<i>Jerry Haverdink</i>	<i>Stacy Garlick</i>	<i>James & Pauline Griffith</i>	<i>Joann Ganzevoort</i>	

FCC FAMILY AT CARE FACILITIES:

<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 & Wilson Hoy</i>		<i>-at Canal View Houghton County Medical Facility</i>
<i>Pat Toth</i>		<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living, Room #15</i>
<i>Doris Dieckman Marshall</i>		<i>-at Boulder Creek Assisted Living, Room #8</i>
<i>Cap (Ray) Tower</i>		<i>-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living, Room #12</i>

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

<i>Diane Jones</i>	<i>Friend of Darlene Petersen</i>
<i>Kim Massengale</i>	<i>Friend of Darlene Petersen</i>

CONGRATULATIONS:

- To Jordan & Justin Zimmer on the birth of their son, Clyde Miles. Born Monday, February 21 at 3:46am at 7lbs 6oz. He is also welcomed by his grandparents John & Deb House.*

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- The Adair & McPherson Families for the passing of Brian Adair on Feb. 3^d.*
- The Cole Family for the passing of Carole Cole on Feb. 8th.*
- Danielle McConnell (daughter of Candy Outman) for recovery from her recent surgery.*
- Angela Jackwicz (sister of Rob Sansom) for cancer treatment and surgery.*
- Sandra Tiffany for severe back pain and stage 4 kidney disease*
- Scott Hanson and son Bennett, born Jan. 5th.*
- Melissa Andrews for recovery from her recent hip surgery.*
- Clifford Herrboldt (uncle of Duane Putnam)*
- John Emerson for recovery from his recent surgery.*
- Ken & Kathy Reed*

****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: Tues., March 14th at 6:30
Trustees: Mon., March 20th at 6:30pm

Trustees of the Month: Dan Eagles and Larry Snow

Deacon of the Month: Coleen Venema

~ 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 information 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.



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!

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 available in the lobby. Please feel free to stop in and grab a kit or two for yourself or for anyone you think may need one. Thank you!

PF YOUTH NEWS

Church youth are encouraged to join us to plan for upcoming events and fellowship trips!

- Join us March 18 at Arbor Grove for a PF Youth outing to Jackson, MI for laser tag and skating. The cost is \$10 (bring money for snacks); pay when you arrive.
- To join the group or for more info on upcoming PF Youth trips, call/text Claude Johnson at 616-894-5595 or email: claudiej2002us@yahoo.com.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Tithing boxes are still available by the church bulletin board. 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!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

- **'Thank you'** for bringing in your coins for our Noisy Coin Offering going to IMKids 3rd Meal. Had the largest collection ever with \$497.14 in change to be given to kids in need! By sharing your coins, you are teaching our young ones about caring for others. Thank you everyone, for these generous donations!
- **Spring Curriculum** has arrived and will be in Sunday School before the end of March. It includes Palm Sunday and Easter in the teachings!
- We are having **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THIS SUMMER!** Watch the April Pilgrim Pulse for exact dates. New this year will be having VBS right after Miss Candy's Busy Bees starting with lunch at 11:30 and VBS at 12:00. More information is coming soon.
- **Nursery Toys:** If you have slightly used toys for children (infant to 2 years old) that you can donate to the nursery, there is a box outside the office for donations. Toys should be clean and in good working order. Thank you!
- **Children's Sermons** If you have a 4 minute or less message for young children and would like to share

MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

that message in church, please see Fran Gibbs. Openings are available for late March and early April.

Special Music Performances for March:

- March 5: Chancel Choir
- March 12: Praise Choir
- March 19: FCC Preschoolers
- March 26: Chancel Choir
- *Chancel Choir practices every Sunday at 9:30am in the sanctuary. Please join us!
- 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

The group practices every Tues. evenings from 4-5pm and sings once a month at our Sunday Services. This group is for children ages pre-k through middle school. Please come join us one and all!

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). 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)
- **Coffee service**
- **Liturgist** (to join the list, contact the church office)
- **Sound Techs:** If interested, contact the church office (training is available).
- Please see the sign-up sheets by the church bulletin board in the lobby. *Many dates are still available!

PRESCHOOL NEWS

As we move into March, we will begin our preparations for our Leprechan day celebration! The children will be making traps to try to catch the Leprechan.

- **Fundraiser:** We are now taking orders for our spring fundraiser from the Goodies Popcorn Company in Holland, MI. There is an order form and brochure located by the church office if you would like to look at the available products and place an order! *Money is due at the time of ordering. Items will be delivered in April.

DEACONS NEWS

- **Meeting:** is Tues., March 14 at 6:30pm to plan for Maundy Thursday Seder Supper, Palm Sunday, and Easter. Please try to attend. Reservations for the Seder Supper will start after the Deacon Meeting. Watch the announcements for more information.
- **DOM:** Coleen Venema is the March Deacon of the Month. She is organizing a tribute to Girl Scouts on March 12. If you have your sash or pins from being a Girl Scout, please wear them that day. March 12 is also when Daylight Savings time begins!
- **Easter Flowers:** Please get your Easter Flower Orders in by March 20. An assortment of spring flowering plants are available to remember or honor a loved one. Flowers will be on the altar at Easter and available to take home right after the service on April 8th. Please see the order form below.
- **Lay Speaker:** Pastor Ed will be away on Sun., March 26. Tim Hyde will be filling in as speaker that day.



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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- **WF Board Meeting:** We will have a board meeting after church on Sun., March 19th.
- **Terri Lynn Nuts** We still have a few items left: walnuts, praline pecans, almonds roasted and salted, dark chocolate almonds, pecan clusters (9oz), dark chocolate sea salt caramels, jumbo chocolate covered raisings, malted milk balls, cranberry granola, and bridge mix. *All bags are 1lb. bags unless indicated otherwise. Please see Chris Hubbard to purchase the last of the Terri Lynn Nuts. This is the last year we are using that company and we have a few items left over.
- Even though it was a storm warning Wednesday and there was no school, we still hosted an Ash Wednesday Service on February 22. Thank you, Chris Hubbard, Pastor Ed Milam, and Janet Tower, for a silent time for reflection and preparation for Lent. Thank you, to the servers, and those who set up for the 16 people in attendance. If you missed the service, see Chris Hubbard for the beautiful Lenten handouts to guide you on your faith journey this year.
- **Circle Meetings:** Circles meet on Wed., March 1 at 1pm with Rosel Eagles and 6:30pm with Fran Gibbs. Any women of the church are most welcome to attend either meeting that works for them!

LOCAL AREA AND OTHER NEWS

- **Daylight Savings Time** Begins March 12th. Please remember to turn you clocks ahead 1 hour Sat. night. This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors!
- **Greenville Community Center:** presents "Peter Pan." Shows are March 3 at 7pm, March 4 at 7pm, and March 5 at 2pm. Visit www.greenvillemi.org for tickets and more information.
- **GHS:** Presents the 'Wizard of Oz'. Shows are March 16, 17, and 18. Visit www.gpac.ludus.com for tickets, show times and more information!
- **United Way Vita Program:** The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is a free tax service provided to households that make less that \$55k. If interested in this service, call 211 to schedule an appointment.
- **AARP Tax Info:** will be offering freee tax help for low and moderate income taxpayers, for those 60+, starting Feb. 6th through April 12th. By appointment only: Mon. and Wed. from 9:30am – 2:30pm. Call CoA option #2.
- **CoA Contact Info:** Office # is 989-831-7476 or visit www.montcalmcountycommissiononaging.org.

Order Your Easter Flowers Today!

We invite you to place an order for a 6" Tulip, Hyacinth, or Daffodil in memory of or in honor of 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 **\$10.00 per plant**, you can help support the Deacon's Discretionary Fund. Orders must be placed **by March 20th**. Simply fill out the form listed below. You may pick up your flowers after the 10:30am service on Easter Sunday, April 9th, or have it delivered to someone on the Friendship list (please indicate below).

Please make checks Payable to: **First Congregational Church or FCCoG*

Name: _____

☐ **Tulip** (Qty) _____ ☐ **Hyacinth** (Qty) _____ ☐ **Daffodil** (Qty) _____

Total number of plants ordered _____ **x \$10.00 = \$** _____

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





~ March 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
"Spring Forward" Sun. March 12th! Daylight Savings Time Begins			1 10a PURLS 1p Winslow 6:30 Bethany	2 11a GAMA 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	3	4
5 Communion & 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir</i> 12p PF Youth Mtg. 3p Venture	6	7 4p Praise Choir	8 10a PURLS	9 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	10 <div>Scout Lock-in</div>	11 12p Pinewood Derby
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins & Girl Scout Sunday 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Praise Choir</i>	13	14 4p Praise Choir 6:30 Deacons	15 10a PURLS	16 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	17 St. Patrick's Day  <div>PF Youth Retreat in Jackson, MI</div>	18
19 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Preschoolers</i> 3p Venture	20 6:30 Trustees	21 4p Praise Choir	22 10a PURLS	23 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30p AA	24	25
26 9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship *Guest Speaker: <i>Tim Hyde</i> Special Music – <i>TBA</i>	27 Office Open 10-2 <div>Spring Break March 27 -31 (all schools)</div>	28 Office Open 10-2	29 10a PURLS Office Open 10-2	30 Office Closed 7:30p AA	31 Office Closed	

Calendar Notes:

~ April 2023 ~

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

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