



# FCC PILGRIM PULSE

AUGUST 2023



## ***A Message from our Pastor... "Love God's Way"***

Ephesians 3:16-19 <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge —that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Many of us remember the popular TV show "The Love Boat". This popular television series had a successful nine year run from 1977 until 1986. If you remember, every week people from every walk of life would arrive on the ship looking to find the love of their life. Once on the ship, every silly, strange and crazy situation that you could imagine would take place as these fictional characters worked and schemed to discover the true love of their life. How many times in our own lives have we searched for love in every way possible? Every person has a longing to be loved. We all want to be filled with love and want to be able to give our love to others.

The English language only has one word for love and that is love. We use love to describe our feelings toward many different things and the love for them is not the same in every case. We "love" pizza, but we also "love" our children. I would hope that our love for pizza is different than our love for our children. We love our "children", but we have special people in our lives like a spouse that we "love" also. These are two different types of love. Love has many different emotions attached to it. In the scripture today we see "love" as a major theme. It is important that we understand that love comes in several forms. There are several different types of love used in the New Testament. Paul's letters were written in Greek. The Greek language has several different words that characterize love. Let's look and discover what these different types of love are and how they relate to the full love of God.

The first love we have is called, "Storge". This love is the natural affection that one has for those who are dependent on you. Our kids are in this category. For most of us, we do not have to learn to love a baby when it is born. It doesn't matter what they look like or act like we love them. We have a natural affection for the little baby.

This brings us to another form of love used in the Greek language. This love is the second type I would like us to look at. This love is called "Philia". This love is the brotherly we feel for friends and family. This love is built on friendship and equality. This type of love is common to us. This love has its foundation in common enjoyed activities and a deep connected relationship.

The third type of love that we have is "Eros". This love involves passion. A passion or sensual desire that is deeper than the Philia love already discussed. This passionate type of love is not based on a physical attraction, but on a deep emotional connection. This is the love used to describe the feeling between spouses where they are connected by a deeper and more intimate level. This type of love opens one's heart to connect with the heart of someone else.

The last type of love used in the New Testament is "Agape". Agape love is perfect love. Agape love is love that is given to someone without any payment or response required by the giver. Even when there is no response, the giver of the agape love continues to love anyway. This is how God loves us. He continues to show us his love and will continue to show us his love regardless of our response. This love contains all the previous characteristics of love already mentioned and combines them with the prefect grace of God that says he will always love us.

When we look at scripture, it is important that we recognize the type of love that is being used. When Jesus was asked "What is the greatest commandment?" he answered, "love the Lord your God with all you heart, soul mind and strength", and he added "love your neighbor as yourself". There is a lot of love being talked about here. If we are to love God's way, we need to as the scripture we read earlier states, "be filled with the Spirit of God in our inner being". This will motivate us to action in response to the great love God has for us. We respond by obeying the great commandments that Jesus gave. We will, when filled with the Spirit, be able to love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul (Eros - passion), mind (Philia – connected relationship) and strength (Storge – natural affection), and to love (Agape – all loves combined without looking for a response) our neighbors as ourselves. This is how you love God's way.

God bless you all in the weeks to come, and I encourage you to find a place where can worship God on a regular basis. God loves you and so do I.

Your brother in Christ – Pastor Ed.

**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 &amp; Barb Hoy</i>	<i>Dr. Joe &amp; Valerie Mejia</i>	<i>John Koppenol</i>	<i>Clifford Herrbodt</i>
<i>Rob Sansom</i>	<i>Rose Riddle</i>	<i>Ken &amp; Kathy Reed</i>	<i>Joann Ganzevoort</i>	<i>Trudy Petersen</i>
<i>Brian Tiffany</i>	<i>Darlene Petersen</i>	<i>James &amp; Pauline Griffith</i>	<i>Kim Massengale</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 &amp; 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 #10</i>

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

<i>Jerry McPherson (home recovering)</i>	<i>FCC Member and Friend to all</i>
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#### SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- *Friend of the Tipton family; who is having treatments for leukemia.*
- *The family of Jim Sansom (Rob Sansom's father) who passed away, July 16<sup>th</sup>.*

#### SPECIAL WISHES FOR:

- *Lyla Sharpe will turn 103 years old on August 11<sup>th</sup>!*

**\*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: Tues., Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm.  
Trustees: Mon., Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**Trustees of the Month:** Kirk Faber and Scott Horn

**Deacon of the Month:** Joe Suchowolec

# ~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

## PASTORAL NEWS

- **New Member Class:** Will be in Sept. (after Labor Day). 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:** 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, contact the office and we can schedule your baptism on an individual basis!
- **Adult Bible Study** begins on Come Gather Sunday, Sept. 10. Nursery service is available, and coffee will be available.
- **You are invited!** The Michigan PF Youth Program is sponsoring a trip to watch the West Michigan Whitecaps vs. South Bend Cubs. The game is on Sat., Aug. 19 at 7pm (gates open at 5:45pm). Tickets are \$16 and food vouchers are \$6 (for a hot dog & drink). Vouchers are handed out at the stadium. \*Fireworks will be on display after the game! Please scan the QR code for more info:



## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS!

**NEW** this year and for years to come, start out the school year right with getting your backpack blessed. This is open to all ages who carry a backpack regularly. Backpacks will be blessed, and tags handed out on:



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20  
DURING WORSHIP**

**Start out your school year right!**

## RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION FOR OUR CHURCH

- Renovation on the Rose Window is ongoing. Work on the remaining stained-glass windows around the building, will begin soon!
- Updates to our HVAC system are still being completed.
- Brick work to the exterior of the church will begin in soon.
- Painting to the exterior of the church will begin after the brick work is completed.
- A new option to donate and tithe, is to scan the QR code with your phone. It will link you directly to [www.tithe.ly.com](http://www.tithe.ly.com) 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.

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



## CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

**The church office hours** are Mon. – Thurs. from 9am to 3:30pm with a break from 12-12:30pm. Please call ahead for assistance.

- **Fall Church Hours:** Beginning August 21<sup>st</sup>, the office hours will remain the same days but breaks will be from 2-2:30pm.
- **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 still available in the lobby!
- **Blood pressure checks** are offered prior to church on Sunday mornings. See Patrice in the church lobby.
- **Free hand sanitizer** is available in the lobby.

## DEACONS NEWS

- **Meeting:** our next meeting will be Tues., Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm to plan for fall activities.
- Mark your calendar for ***Come Gather Sunday***, that will be on Sept. 10, to kick off your year right! There will be a potluck following worship with meat provided. Please bring a dish to pass and join in fellowship for this special Sunday.
- **'Thank you'** Deacons; Jane Truesdell, for taking on the project of replacing the broken-down rocking chairs in the nursery and the AWE room, and Joe Suchowolec for assembling the chairs after they were delivered.
- **Coffee Service:** we still have signup sheets with a few dates left in Aug. and Sept. for volunteers to help with coffee service. Please sign up by the church office.
- **Notice to Coffee Service Volunteers:** Less people are signing up because coffee hour hosting has become too elaborate and expensive. Please keep it simple with a few cookies, coffee, tea, and Kool Aide. When coffee service resumed after COVID, it was named service to be just that. It is an opportunity for a drink and a small something with that, so the emphasis is on fellowship, not filling a plate with goodies in place of lunch. \*If you need supplies, the first thing is to check the white board on the side of the cupboard. The back hall has a closet with cups, coffee, and Kool Aide. We have folks who stop in and re-supply the kitchen but if there is something missing, also seek out a Women's Fellowship member who can help you look. If you use up something, please write that the on white board and it will be ordered only by authorization of WF. Thanks. \*Please remember to keep this service simple and self serve!

### 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](mailto:claudej2002us@yahoo.com).

### CELEBRATIONS

**Happy Birthday!** To Adalyn Weber (8/6), Jenny Milam (8/23), Benjamin Venema (8/24), and Brian Gardner (8/25). **Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** To Lynn & Bonnie Wickerham (8/3) and Anniversary wishes to Jeffrey & Cheryl Staffen (8/11).

### CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS

#### Special Music Performances for August:

- August 6: Stephanie Clark & Family
- August 13: Chancel Choir
- August 20: Dave & Marie Hodges
- August 27: Larry Snow
- **Special Music Volunteers:** If you would like to sing with the choir, or provide special music, please contact Julie Momber or the church office.
- **Practice** is the first and second Sunday of the month at 9:30am in the sanctuary. The group then sings the second Sunday of the month. If you are of high school age or older and interested in singing with the Chancel Choir, contact Julie Momber, or come to a rehearsal. No audition is necessary!

### CHILDREN'S PRAISE CHOIR NEWS

Our practices will resume Tues., Aug. 15th. Practices are every Tuesday from 4-5pm. Children ages pre-k to 6th grade are welcome to join the group! Contact Candy Outman for more info.

### PRESCHOOL NEWS

- **Registration packets** for fall classes are still available. If you or someone you know would like more information on our fun & loving Christian based school, contact the office. Space is limited so please call the church office if you would like more information!
- **Preschool Open House** will be Aug. 30 from 4-6pm.
- **Summer Buzy Bees:** was a great success with almost 15 kids per day! This program was a great "ice-breaker" for new students who will attend in the fall. The last day for class will be on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>.

### FLOAT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Join us for the annual gathering to decorate the float for the Danish Festival! We are also asking for volunteers to ride on the float! The Danish Festival Parade will be Saturday at 11am and we need volunteers ride and be the face of our wonderful church! If you would like to help build the float or ride in the parade, contact Pastor Ed! \*Dates/Times will be announced soon!



### CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

#### Kids: Sunday School begins on

**September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am!**

**For Grades:** Preschool through Middle School

**Bring Your Friends!**

- **Sunday School** begins on Sept. 10 at 9:30am and **WE NEED TEACHERS!** Training of the materials is provided, and lessons are planned through Gospel Light Curriculum. All materials for lessons are provided, plus snacks, crafts, and games. The schedule can be flexible to meet your needs. Currently, 2-4 teachers are needed in the First and Second Grade classes. Please search your heart and see if you can find time to teach Sunday School once a month or more. Contact the office or Fran Gibbs at 616-754-7714 to volunteer.
- **Children's Sermons** One treasured way of showing our families that we embrace them is to have a Children's Message. If you have a personal story, or a message that you would like to share, please sign up outside the office. If you need help to come up with ideas, ask Fran Gibbs for sources. Please limit your message to no more than 4 minutes.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- **Circle Members:** will have their first meetings on Wed., Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Winslow will meet at 1pm and Bethany at 6:30pm. If you would like more information on joining these groups, contact Rosel Eagles at 616-754-8618 (Winslow Circle) and Fran Gibbs at 616-754-7714 (Bethany Circle).
- **WF Kitchen Clean Up:** Mark your calendar for Wed., Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am if you can help clean the kitchen! Bring your rags and favorite cleaning supplies. \*The WF Board Meeting will be held immediately following the kitchen cleaning.



### IN OTHER NEWS...

- **Compassion Cures-Part 2:** is inviting you to attend this FREE event on Sept. 22, 9am – 1pm at MCC Beatrice E. Doser building on MCC's Sidney campus. With keynote speaker, former pastor of the First Congregational Church in Greenville, Jerrold Jones. Anyone interested in being part of the Compassion Cures movement to end the stigma related to mental health and substance misuse should attend. Seating will be limited to the first 100 respondents. The event will provide a complimentary continental breakfast and box lunch.
- **Registration** is required by Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>! You register by clicking on this link: [tinyurl.com/compassioncures2](https://tinyurl.com/compassioncures2) or by scanning the QR code:
- Email questions to [coordinator@montcalmprevention.org](mailto:coordinator@montcalmprevention.org).





# ~ August 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10a PURLS	3 11a GAMA  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	4	5
	6 <b>Communion</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Stephanie Clark and Family</i>  3p Venture Crew	7	8	9 10a PURLS  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	10	11
12	13 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir</i>	14	15  *First 4p Praise Choir Practice	16 10a PURLS  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	17	18  <b>Danish Festival Weekend</b>
19 11a Danish Parade  7p Whitecaps Game	20 <b>Blessing of the Backpacks!</b> 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Dave &amp; Marie Hodges</i>  3p Venture Crew	21  <b>First Day of School! (Public)</b>  6:30p Trustees	22  4p Praise Choir	23 10a PURLS  4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	24	25
26	27 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Larry Snow</i>	28	29  4p Praise Choir	30  10a Kitchen Cleaning w/Board Mtg. to follow	31	

## Calendar Notes:

# ~ September 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Come Gather Sunday!</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">September 10<sup>th</sup></h3>					1	2
<b>3 Communion</b> 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i>  3p Venture Crew	<b>4</b>  <b>Labor Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>5</b> <i>First Day of Preschool</i>  4p Praise Choir	<b>6</b> 10a PURLS	<b>7</b>     4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Come Gather Sunday</b> 9:30 Sunday School Kick off! 9:30 Bible Study Begins 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir and Praise Choir</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>     4p Praise Choir	<b>13</b> 10a PURLS	<b>14</b>     4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i>  3p Venture Crew	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>     4p Praise Choir	<b>20</b> 10a PURLS	<b>21</b>     4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i>	<b>25</b>    6:30 Trustees	<b>26</b>    4p Praise Choir	<b>27</b> 10a PURLS	<b>28</b>     4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

### Calendar Notes: