



FCC PILGRIM PULSE

JUNE 2023



A Message from our Pastor... "Hope and a Future"

Spring has finally arrived and with the warmer weather comes new life and new beginnings. We have all waited for what seems like forever for the gray winter cold to be replaced with the sun and warmth of the spring season. With the spring renewal, we find ourselves quickly approaching the end of the school year. There are celebrations planned at every school, with the biggest events being the graduation of our local high seniors.

All around the area, schools have been planning and preparing to send off their graduates with awesome events and ceremonies. There will be speeches given and advice shared as we send off this year's seniors with encouragement, hope, and excitement. They have worked hard and deserve to be recognized for their efforts.

I remember when my two older daughters graduated. It seemed like this day would never arrive. It was like graduation was something far off in the distance and then like a flash we were in early May and graduation was just around the corner. Once we turned the calendar to May, the speed of life increased tremendously. I am sure most families with senior graduates can relate to that feeling.

One of the big questions asked of our seniors during this time is "What are your plans for the future?" It is a question that has been asked for generations. This year's seniors will have to answer that question. The Bible tells us that God has plans for our seniors as well. The Bible tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* God also has great plans for these graduating seniors. Our hope as parents is that our seniors will look to God for guidance and direction when it comes to what path they will choose. God has a unique and wonderful plan for each graduate.

I have coached high school athletics at several different schools throughout my coaching career that started in 1994 in Memphis, Michigan. For nearly 30 years, I have enjoyed building relationships with the players that I coach. Some of those players I am still in contact with today. Currently, I am blessed to be coaching at Greenville High School where I started in 2017. In my role as a baseball coach at GHS, I have been able to be around some of the finest young men Greenville has to offer. This year's group of seniors is one of those groups. They have worked hard during their high school careers and have reached this important time of transition in their lives. These six seniors have shown that even though COVID may have disrupted their high school years when they were Freshmen, life still goes on.

I continue to pray for these young men. My prayer for them is that they will discover a relationship with God and allow Him to help guide and direct their path in life. Each one of these young men has the capacity to do great things. My hope is that when all is said and done, they will embrace a life with Christ in the center.

As all our senior graduates prepare to embark on their new adventures, every parent, coach, teacher, friend, and family member wants what is best for them. We all want them to live life to the fullest. My belief is that God's guidance is the pathway to a future filled with many successes. This belief holds true for all of us. As we follow God's lead, we will find that He truly has plans for all of us. God is counting on this group of graduating seniors to be the Godly leaders this community and world needs.

May God bless all our graduating seniors with clarity of mind, strength of spirit and a joy for life that comes from knowing that God is with you every step of the way. May every senior know that as they transition from high school student to the adult world, they are not alone. God loves you, and so do we! Be blessed Class of 2023!

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:

<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>Stacy Garlick</i>	<i>Ken & Kathy Reed</i>	<i>Joann Ganzevoort</i>	<i>Clifford Herrbodt</i>
<i>Jerry Haverdink</i>	<i>Melissa Andrews</i>	<i>James & Pauline Griffith</i>	<i>Kim Massengale</i>	
<i>Angela Jackwicz</i>	<i>John Emerson</i>	<i>Diane Jones</i>	<i>Claude Johnson</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 #10</i>

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

<i>Scott and Bennett Hanson</i>	<i>Son of Cindy & Peter Hanson</i>
<i>Bonnie Wickerham</i>	<i>FCC Member and Friend to all</i>

A MESSAGE OF 'THANKS'

- *A special Message to all our FCC Family: Thank you to everyone for all your thoughts, prayers and support throughout this journey, I couldn't have done it without you! ~Stacy Petersen*
- *Thank you to Judi Snyder for the large donation of art and craft supplies for our Christian Ed and Preschool programs.*

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR:

- *For the family of Dawn Dickinson (friend of Candy Outman) who passed away May 7th from her battle with cancer.*
- *Trudy Petersen*
- *Darlene Petersen*

****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: Weds., June 13th at 6:30pm.
Trustees: Mon., June 26th at 6:30pm.

Trustees of the Month: Duane Putnam and Larry Snow

Deacon of the Month: Deb Dieckman

~ FCC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

PASTORAL NEWS

- **New Member Class:** 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. We will hold a class in September (after Labor Day).
- **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. Please contact the office and we can schedule your baptism on an individual basis.

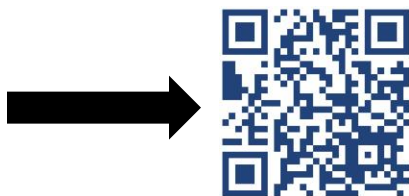
PARISH NURSE NEWS

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** will again be offered prior to church on Sunday mornings. Please see Patrice in the church lobby if you'd like to get yours checked.
- **988** is a suicide and crisis hotline that is free and available 24/7. If you or someone you love is in distress or crisis, is struggling with drug or alcohol abuse or suicidal thoughts call/text 988 for immediate assistance at any time. If you'd like to live chat go to 988ifeline.org.

RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION FOR OUR CHURCH

- **RESTORATION & PRESERVATION PROJECT NEWS:** Work on the Rose Window is still underway. Work on the roof over the library and church office has been started and is nearly complete!
- If you know of someone who might be interested in helping restore the former beauty of the building, please contact the office. 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 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!

TRUSTEE NEWS

Our Annual Meeting was a success! We thank Kurt Kreeger for his years of service on the Board of Trustees and we welcome Joshua Franklin onto our Board!

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!

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!
- **Summer Office Hours:** Beginning June 12th the office will be open for normal business hours with a break from 12:00-12:30.

DEACONS NEWS

- **Meeting:** Our first organizational meeting will be Tues., June 13 at 6:30pm.
- Thank you to Coleen Venema for her service to the Deacons. The board welcomes new members: Terri Merritt, Tim Hyde, and Jim Case.
- **CALLING ALL MEN:** Pastor Ed is still wanting to start a new Men's Bible Group (possibly on Saturday mornings). This group will study the book "In the Grip of Grace" by Max Lucado. To pre-order the book, see Don Gibbs or sign up in the office. Start date and more information to be announced soon!

CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS

Special Music Performances for June:

- June 4: Julie Momber
- June 11: Chancel Choir
- June 18: Claude Johnson
- June 25: Deb Dieckman and Julie Momber
- **Special Music Volunteers:** If you would like to sing with the choir, or provide special music, please contact Julie Momber or the church office.
- **Summer Practices** (June through August): are the first and second Sundays each month at (9:30am in the sanctuary; The group then sings the second Sunday each 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 final performance was May 21st. We are now on break for summer! We would like to thank all of our young choir members for their hard work and for their families who brought them to all their practices and supported them throughout the year! Practices will resume in September.

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

- **Sunday School Classes** are now on break until the fall. Classes will begin again on Come Gather Sunday, September 10th.
- **Children's Sunday:** We had a great Children's Sunday with giving out 7 Bibles, 10 Acolyte Crosses, and gifts to 15 of the staff who are devoted to our younger church family. Please consider teaching one Sunday a month in the Fall. Training and good materials are provided! See Fran Gibbs or contact the office if you would like to teach in the next school year.
- **ROCKY RAILWAY VBS STARTS SOON!** Pre-registration is available outside the church office but is not mandatory. Lunch is 11:30 and VBS starts promptly at 12 Noon to 2:00pm. If you would like to help in any way, see the easel in the library to supply items or be a helper on the days above. Sign up today!!
- **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.

CELEBRATION NEWS

- **Happy Birthday!** To Larry Carbonelli (6/5), Kathy Reed (6/6), Steve Roose (6/9), Rose Riddle (6/11), Morgan M. Venema (6/15), Marian Griffith (6/17), Tim Hyde (6/18), Janet Tower (6/20).
- **Happy Anniversary!** To Bruce & Sue Beauvais (6/6), Steve & Diane Roose (6/11), Paul & Kris Jager (6/17), Ken & Kathy Reed (6/17), Duane & Anita Putnam (6/19), Janet & Cap Tower (6/20), Pastor Ed & Jenny Milam (6/20), Rich & Trudi Cunningham (6/26), Jim & Patti Ritzema (6/28), Kirk & Celeste Faber (6/29), and Ken & Coleen Venema (6/29).

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 have a full time helper in the Nursery but 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 June. We ask for at least 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

- **Registration packets** for fall classes are still available. If you or someone you know would like more information on our to a wonderful, fun & loving Christian based school, contact the office. Space is limited so please call the church office if you would like more information or to make arrangements to pick up a packet or one can be mailed or emailed to you.
- **Preschool Graduation** is Sunday, June 4th at 1pm.
- **Preschool End of Year Celebration** will be held at Ms. Candy's farm on Mon., June 5 at 10:30am. Preschoolers and families will come out for a picnic, pony-cart rides, water slides.
- ***NEW* Dunk Tank:** To all FCC Family and Friends: For \$2 per ball, you can have a chance to "dunk the pastor!" *All proceeds will go towards the preschool picnic fund.
- **Summer Buzy Bee Program:** Ms. Candy will be holding a summer program for children 3-7 years old. The class will be three days a week: Mon. through Wed. from 9-11:30am beginning June 12th. There will be no classes the week of July 4th. Due to the restoration project, the last day of classes will be July 27th. *Please call the church office for more information.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- All are invited to the **Annual Birthday Potluck** after church on June 5th. We will honor those who have turned 80 years old during the year with a birthday cake and lunch. If you are not 80, please bring a dish or two to pass and your table service.
- **Spring Rummage Sale:** we thank all of our workers who helped set-up, work the day of the sale, and box up items on Friday. We also thank everyone who donated their gently used items to help support our event. We raised over \$700 dollars!
- **Winslow Circle:** We will meet on June 7 at Winter Inn and then be on "break" until September 6. See Rosel Eagles questions or more information on the group.
- **Bethany Circle:** We are having a potluck at Fran Gibbs's house, June 7, at 6:30pm. Carpool from the back of the church at 6:15. Please RSVP if you can attend, to Fran at 616-754-7714, and leave a message. No table service needed.
- **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.
- **WF Board Meeting:** Mark your calendar for Wed., Aug. 30 at 10am if you can help clean the kitchen! Bring your rags and favorite cleaning supplies. The next Women's Fellowship Board meeting will follow the kitchen cleaning.

~ June 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11a GAMA <div>Preschool Bike Rodeo</div> 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	2 <i>*Last day of school for GPS and Preschool Students</i>	3
4 Communion Sunday 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – Julie Momber <div>~ 80th Bday Celebration</div> <div>~ Preschool Grad @1pm</div> 3pm Venture Crew	5 <div>End of Year Picnic for Preschool at 10am</div>	6	7 10a PURLS	8 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	9	10
11 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – Chancel Choir	12 <div>*Buzy Bees Begins 9-11:30</div> <div>Flag Day</div>	13 6:30 Deacons	14 10a PURLS	15 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	16	17
18 Father's Day 10:30 Worship Special Music – Claude Johnson 3p Venture Crew	19 <div>Buzy Bees</div> <div>VBS 11:30-2:00</div>	20	21 10a PURLS	22 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	23	24 <div>NACCC Annual Meeting June 24-27 Milwaukee, WI</div>
25 10:30 Worship Special Music – Deb Dieckman and Julie Momber <div>NACCC Annual Meeting June 24-27 Milwaukee, WI</div> 2-4 Baby Shower	26 <div>Buzy Bees</div> 6:30 Trustees	27	28	29 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	30	

Calendar Notes:

~ July 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i> 3p Venture Crew	3	4  Office Closed	5 10a PURLS	6 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	7	8
9 9:30 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>Chancel Choir</i>	10 Buzy Bees	11	1 10a PURLS	13 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	14	15
16 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i> 3p Venture Crew	17 Buzy Bees	18	19 10a PURLS	20 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	21 4a Danish Festival Air Breakfast	22
23 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i>	24 Buzy Bees	25	26 10a PURLS	27 4:30 Scouts (all) 7:30 AA	28	29
30 10:30 Worship Special Music – <i>TBA</i>	31	Happy Independence Day to all!				

Calendar Notes: