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***A Message from our Pastor…” Our Kids are Watching”***

FCC PILGRIM PULSE

**July 2023**

 School is out and all around us kids are enjoying the beginning of summer vacation. When summer break comes, we hope that our young ones will remember the lessons they have learned during this past school year.

Seeing all kids, I am reminded of the responsibility that we have to be a good example for our children. As fellow Christians and followers of Jesus Christ one of our duties is to lead our children and youth in the right direction. That right direction is one that models a life in relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are the example they are following as they grow and mature. They are watching our every move. The Reverend Claude Wisdom White, Sr. in his poem “A Little Fellow Follows Me” says this:

A careful man I ought to be,

A little fellow follows me.

I dare not go astray,

For fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes,

Whatever he sees me do, he tries.

Like me, he says, he's going to be,

The little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,

Believes in every word of mine.

The base in me he must not see,

That little fellow who follows me.

I must remember as I go,

Thru summers' sun and winters' snow.

I am building for the years to be,

In the little chap who follows me.

We need to be careful about the example we give our children. Every move we make is observed and then it is tried. Our children do believe that we know what we are doing. They will go the same way we are going. The question is where are you leading them? Are you giving them the faith base they will need as they grow up? Will the seeds of faith be planted so that in the years to come they will develop a faith they can call their own? These are the things that we must do as Christian parents, teachers, coaches, friends, and family to guide our children in the right direction. This is not just for our own children, but for every child that crosses our path. Proverbs 22:6 says, “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.”

We have heard it said that children and youth are our future. To some extent there is some truth to that. I challenge that the children and youth are not just the future; they are the now. They need our very best right now. There is no time to waste. Take the opportunity to help develop our children into young men and women who live and serve others with grace, mercy, and love.

Remember, that the little ones follow us. Let’s lead them in the right direction.

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!**

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| **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**Rob Sansom**Jerry Haverdink**Angela Jackwicz* | *Wilson & Barb Hoy**Stacy Garlick**Melissa Andrews**John Emerson* | *Dr. Joe & Valerie Mejia**Ken & Kathy Reed**James & Pauline Griffith**Diane Jones* | *John Koppenol**Joann Ganzevoort**Kim Massengale**Claude Johnson* | *Brian Tiffany* *Clifford Herrbodt**Trudy Petersen**Darlene Petersen* |
| ***FCC Family At Care Facilities:*** |
| A picture containing dark, night sky  Description automatically generated*Bette Houle**Corla Morgan**Barb & Wilson Hoy**Pat Toth**Doris Dieckman Marshall**Cap (Ray) Tower* | *-at The Brook Assisted Living, Cedar Springs* *-at SHUM RNC, Room #103**-at Canal View Houghton County Medical Facility**-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living, Room #15**-at Boulder Creek Assisted Living, Room #8**-at Hathaway Hills Assisted Living, Room #10* |
| ***Prayers for Members, Family and Friends:*** |
| *Bonnie Wickerham**Rose Riddle* | *FCC Member and Friend to all**FCC Member and Friend to all* |
| ***Special Prayers For:*** |
| * *Cindy & Peter Hanson for the passing of her father, Jerry Haverdink, on June 27.*
* *Friend of the Tipton family who is having treatments for leukemia.*
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| ***Special Wishes For:*** |
| * *Bette Houle will turn 101 years old on July 4th!*
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***\*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., Aug. 8th at 6:30pm.

Trustees: Mon., July 24th at 6:30pm.

**Trustees of the Month:** Dan Eagles and Cindy Hanson

**Deacon of the Month:** Don Gibbs

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| **Pastoral News** |

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| **Stewardship News** |

**~ FCC News And Announcements ~**

* **New Member Class:** We will hold a class in September (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:** Any 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!

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| **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 98ifeline.org.

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| **Restoration and Preservation for Our Church** |

**RESTORATION & PRESERVATION PROJECT NEWS:**

* Renovation on the Rose Window is almost complete. 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 be the final area to restore & will begin after the brick work is completed.
* 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 to donate and tithe, 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.

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

2023 Tithing boxes are still available by the church bulletin board and in the narthex (see a Deacon for assistance in finiding 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!

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| **Church Office News** |

**The church SUMMER 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.

* **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!
* **The office will be closed the week of July 3-8.**

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| **Deacons News** |

* **Meeting:** our next meeting will be Tues., Aug. 8 at 6:30pm with the goal of planning for the fall.
* **Welcome** to our new members Jim Case, Tim Hyde, and Terri Merritt who all came to our organizational meeting in June. They have already stepped up and accepted jobs that help with worship.
* **Coffee Service:** we now have signup sheets for Aug. and Sept. for volunteers to help! Please sign up to help, by the church office.

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| **Chancel Choir News** |

**Special Music Performances for July:**

* July 2: Janet Tower and Cindy Perry
* July 9: Chancel Choir
* July 16: Don Gibbs
* July 23: *TBA*
* July 30:*TBA*
* **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** (July and 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!

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| **Children’s Praise Choir News** |

We are on break for summer! Practices will resume in September. All children ages pre-kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to join us! Contact Candy Outman for more information.

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| **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.

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| **Christian ED News** |

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| **Mutual Ministry Opportunities** |

* **Sunday School Classes** are on break until the fall. Classes will begin again on Come Gather Sunday, September 10th. We are looking for new teachers for the fall! Please see Fran Gibbs if you would like to teach one Sunday a month, or fill in when needed.
* **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..
* **VBS:** We just finished a very successful Vacation Bible School reaching about 30 kids from preschool through 5th grade. It “takes a village” to pull off such an event. First, thank you to everyone who made an “egg donation” as the proceeds were overwhelming! We would not have had the success that we had had it not been for Candy Outman and the Buzy Bees Program. She helped get the kids ready and delivered them to lunch with lots of help and enthusiasm. The publicity was fantastic thanks to the support of Angela in the office. She created everything we needed to make things fun and for the kids to have a keepsake, play games, and learn about characters, plus she put together the PowerPoint that Rachel Milam ran for us daily. Jack Grimes was our ‘go to man’ to be the official timekeeper, ticket taker, water distributor, and any errand needed before and during VBS. The kitchen crew was so well organized that we fed kids and adults in less than a half hour with not only lunch, but a railroad themed snack in the afternoon. Many of you donated food, water bottles, and time to keep us ‘on track’. Our group leaders were fantastic in making sure the kids had fun, fed, and occupied if there was left over time. I thank Mary Snow, Terri Merritt, Holly Case, and Rachel Milam for their dedication and NOT loosing anyone! Station Leaders that met each group with enthusiasm were Pastor Ed at Bible Adventures, Chris Hubbard at Imagination Station, Kathy Jeppesen and Olivia at games, and Fran Gibbs at KidVid showing a short video about kids following Jesus. YOU CAN’T IMAGINE HOW LUCKY WE ARE TO HAVE A PASTOR AND HIS WIFE give up their work schedules and give so much to our program. Thank you to all who made a great, loving adventure for the youth attending this program!

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| **Celebration News** |

* ***Happy Birthday!*** To Terri Merritt (7/2), **Betty Houle (turns 101! on 7/4),** Jim Koski (7/4), Deb Dieckman (7/5), Claude Johnson (7/6), Cindy Hanson (7/7), Harry Riddle (7/9), Martin Boon (7/9), Carla Durdle (7/12), Darlene Petersen (7/18), Chris Hubbard (7/19), Cap Tower (7/19), Blake Rowland (7/22), Emily Franklin (7/27), and Sarah Milam (7/28).
* ***Happy Anniversary!*** To Jerry & Gloria McPherson (7/12).

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!

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| **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 have a packet emailed, mailed or pick one up in the office!
* **Thank you!** to everyone who came out and supported our preschool program and helped ‘Dunk the Pastor!’ It was a wonderful day filled with love and fun!
* **Summer Buzy Bee Program:** is once again, a great success with almost 15 kids per day! This program is a great “ice-breaker” for new students who will attend in the fall. And is fun for current students to continue coming to class. This summer program is for children 3-7 years old. The class is three days a week: Mon. through Wed. from 9-11:30am begining 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 or to register your child today.

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| **Women’s Fellowship News** |

* **Circle Members** are on break until the fall. Our groups will meet again on Sept. 6th. If you would like more information on joining these groups, contact Rosel Eagles at 616-754-8618 (for Winslow Circle) and Fran Gibbs at 616-754-7714 (for Bethany Circle).
* **Terri Lynn Nuts** We still have a few items left. \*Please see Chris Hubbard to purchase any reamining items.
* **WF Kitchen Clean Up:** Mark your calendar for Wed., Aug. 30 at 10:00am if you can help clean the kitchen! Bring your rags and favorite cleaning supplies.
* **WF Board Meeting:** The WF Board Meeting will be held immediately following the kitchen cleaning.

**~ July 2023 ~**

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| ***Sun*** | ***Mon*** | ***Tue*** | ***Wed*** | ***Thu*** | ***Fri*** | ***Sat*** |
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| **2 *Communion &******Independence Day Recognition***9:30 Choir Practice10:30 WorshipSpecial Music – *Janet Tower and Cindy Perry*3p Venture Crew | **3****No Buzy Bees 7/3 to 7/5** | *C:\Users\temp\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\STT3FI0I\4th_of_July[1].jpg***4** | **5**10a PURLS***Office closed July 3 through July 8*** | **6**11a GAMA4:30 Scouts (all)7:30 AA | **7** | **8** |
| **9**9:30 Choir Practice10:30 WorshipSpecial Music – *Chancel Choir* | **10****Buzy Bees****9-11:30am** | **11** | **1**10a PURLS | **13**4:30 Scouts (all)7:30 AA | **14** | **15** |
| **16**10:30 WorshipSpecial Music – *Don Gibbs*3p Venture Crew | **17****Buzy Bees****9-11:30am** | **18** | **19**10a PURLS | **20**4:30 Scouts (all)7:30 AA | **21***4a Danish Festival Air Breakfast* | **22** |
| **23**10:30 WorshipSpecial Music – *Larry Alman* | **24****\*Last Week of Buzy Bees****9-11:30am**6:30 Trustees | **25** | **26**10a PURLS | **27**4:30 Scouts (all)7:30 AA | **28** | **29** |
| **30**10:30 WorshipSpecial Music – *TBA* | **31** | ***Happy Independence Day to all!*** |

***Calendar Notes:***

**~ August 2023 ~**

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| ***Sun*** | ***Mon*** | ***Tue*** | ***Wed*** | ***Thu*** | ***Fri*** | ***Sat*** |
| A group of children standing in front of a banner  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | **1** | **2**10a PURLS | **3**11a GAMA4:30 Scouts (all)7:30 AA | **4** | **5** |
| **6*****Communion***9:30 Choir Practice10:30 WorshipSpecial Music – *Stephanie Clark and Family*3p Venture Crew | **7** | **8**6:30 Deacons | **9**10a PURLS | **10**4:30 Scouts (all)7:30 AA | **11** | **12** |
| **13**9:30 Choir Practice10:30 WorshipSpecial Music – *Chancel Choir* | **14** | **15** | **16**10a PURLS | **17**4:30 Scouts (all)7:30 AA | **18*****Danish Festival Weekend*** | **19** |
| **20** ***Back to School Blessing***10:30 WorshipSpecial Music – *Dave & Marie Hodges*3p Venture Crew | ***A picture containing clipart  Description automatically generated*21****First Day of School! (Public)**6:30p Trustees | **22** | **23**10a PURLS | **24**4:30 Scouts (all)7:30 AA | **25** | **26** |
| **27**10:30 WorshipSpecial Music – *TBA* | **28** | **29** | **30**10a Kitchen Cleaning w/Board Mtg. to follow | **31** |  |

***Calendar Notes:***