**Logo, company name

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When Natalie Sleeth wrote the song *Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet* based on Psalm 150, she was able to capture the essence of seeing God in everyday stuff. The lyrics reflect the Psalmist’s heart that God can be seen and praised in everything that surrounds us. Here are lyrics to that wonderful and encouraging song.

*“Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet, praise the Lord with the harp and lute; praise the Lord with the gentle sounding flute. Praise the Lord in the field and forest, praise the Lord in the city square, praise the Lord anytime and anywhere. Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine; praise the Lord in the dark of night; praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light. Praise the Lord in the deepest valley; praise the Lord on the highest hill; praise the Lord; never let your voice be still. Praise the Lord with a crashing cymbal; praise the Lord with the pipe and string; praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing. Praise the Lord on a weekday morning; praise the Lord on a Sunday noon; praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon. Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow, praise the Lord in the time of joy; praise the Lord every moment; nothing let your praise destroy. Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet, praise the Lord in your work or play; praise the Lord everywhere in every way!”*

Sometimes in the business of life we all can find it hard to set aside time for meditation and silent reflection. It seems that most of the time we go from one activity to another and at the end of the day there remains a list of tasks that remain undone. Well, if you are anything like me, those undone items end up on tomorrow’s list making tomorrow’s list much more difficult to complete. Where am I going to find time for God during my busy life? I believe we all agree that quiet time and times of silent relaxation are much needed, but we can also find time to pray and praise God in the mundane, boring, sometimes frustrating activities we are involved in. We seem to have much more time invested in the everyday comings and goings of life than we do in spiritual renewal and reflection.

What if while we engage in the everyday duties we have in life, we find spiritual renewal and reflection? What if we could see and feel God’s presence in our lives in everyday stuff? That would be great. This will take a change of focus. Instead of trying to go to a special spot or set aside a certain time to meet with God, I am not saying that time is not important; we focus on God in the everyday moments of life. While we are getting our kids off to school, we see and praise God for the blessing of our children. While we are raking the leaves, we praise God’s for His wonderful creation. While we are driving from place to place, we praise God for the freedom we have in Christ. The list of opportunities is endless. If we begin to shift our focus to seeing God in our everyday stuff, our everyday stuff becomes the means in which we connect with God. By connecting with God on a regular basis throughout our day, I believe we will find that our days will become less stressful, and our live will become more fulfilling.

I encourage you to give it a try. I prayer that we will all get good at seeing God in our everyday stuff and by doing that we can find peace in our spirit and joy in our hearts. If you need a reminder of where look or a place to start looking for God in the everyday stuff; read the lyrics of the song above and go from there. God is all around us even in our everyday stuff. God bless you on your journey with Him.

Your brother in Christ

*~ Pastor Ed*

***A Message from our Pastor…”Everyday Life with God”***

FCC PILGRIM PULSE

**November 2023**

**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*  *Roxy Rice* | *Wilson & Barb Hoy*  *Rose Riddle*  *Alan Kingsbury* | *Dr. Joe & Valerie Mejia*  *Ken & Kathy Reed* | *Jerry McPherson*  *Holly Case* | *Trudy Petersen*  *Darlene Petersen* |
| ***FCC Family At Care Facilities:*** | | | | |
| *Barb & Wilson Hoy*  *Pat Toth*  *Doris Dieckman Marshall*  *Cap (Ray) Tower* | | *-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* | | |
| ***Continue Prayers for Members, Family and Friends:*** | | | | |
| *Friend of Anita Putnam (for lung transplant)*  *Vincent Snow for upcoming testing; he is the great-grandson of Mary & Larry Snow* | | | | |
| ***Special Prayers For:*** | | | | |
| * *Yvonne Elvert (battling cancer); friend of Suzy Kreeger* * *Kody Wood (brain cancer); former preschool student* * *Tom Deal (congestive heart failure); brother of Candy Outman* * *The Family of Bette Houle for her passing on Saturday, October 14.* | | | | |

***\*Thank you to all for your Prayers! Please feel free to send a card to anyone listed above.***

***Prayer Notes:***

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**Pastoral Contact Info:**

**If you are in need of prayers or other assistance, please call the office to make an appointment or email Pastor Ed at pastor.edfccog@gmail.com.**

**BOARD MEETINGS:**

Deacons: Tues., Nov. 14th at 6:30pm.

Trustees: Mon., Nov. 27th at 6:30pm.

**Trustees of the Month:** Jack Corner and Larry Snow

**Deacon of the Month:** Jerry McPherson

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| **Pastoral News** |

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

**~ FCC News And Announcements ~**

* **New Member Induction** will be held in November. If you would like to join or if you would like more info on transferring your membership, please contact the office.
* **Baptisms:** for any member that would like to have their child 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** meets every Sunday at 9:30am. Nursery service is available, and coffee is available.
* **Men’s Group:** Pastor Ed invites all men of the church to join him every Sat. at 9am in the library. The group is discussing a book on Max Lucado’s “In the Grip of Grace.” \*See Pastor Ed for more info.

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| **Celebrations** |

* ***Happy Birthday!*** To Karen Hulbert (11/1), JJ Suchowolec (11/2), Cindy Perry (11/10), Chris Bosch (11/13), John House (11/24), Ann Corner (11/25), Stephanie Hyde (11/25), Lainey Emerson (11/26), Sandra Tiffany (11/26), and Dan Eagles (11/29). ***Happy Anniversary!*** To Brian & Lisa Gardner (11/2), Chris & Doug Dodd (11/24), Jack & Ann Corner (11/28), and Harry & Rose Riddle (11/29).
* ***A purple and pink candles with red flowers and leaves

  Description automatically generatedDiaper Party ‘Thank you!’***  to all who helped with the baby shower for Josh & Emily! It was a wonderful time and an honor to host! Thank you, Stephanie Clark, for helping with the games and decorations. Thank you to all the ladies who brought food and who helped set up and prep for the party! To everyone who brought gifts and came to enjoy the party-thank you for your time and love! *-Jenny Milam*

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| **Advent Season News** |

As we approach Advent, please mark your calendar for **Christmas Eve Services** on Sun., Dec. 24th. There will be a Family Candlelight Service at 7pm and a Communion Candlelight Service at 11pm. (Please note that there will **not** be a morning service.)

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| **Chancel Choir News** |

Special Music Performances for November:

* + November 5: Claude Johnson
  + November 12: Praise Choir
  + November 19 and 26: Chancel Choir
  + **Special Music Volunteers:** If you would like to sing with the choir, or provide special
  + music, please contact Julie Momber or the church office.
  + **Practices:** are at 9:30am in the sanctuary on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month, with performances on the 3rd and 4th Sundays.

We continue to thank all of you who have contributed to our church restoration and preservation project. If you are still interested in contributing to the restoration of our historic church building, please see the giving information below. All contributions are lovingly appreciated. Progress to date:

* The roof work is completed
* HVAC work is ongoing and nearing completion.
* The exterior brick repair done and looks great. It was sealed for lasting protection.
* Painting of all exterior trim will begin in the spring.
* The rose window is partially restored. Additional work on the rose wind and the remaining windows, is scheduled for early spring 2024.

**Qr code

Description automatically generated**Again, thank you for your continued support. May God be with you and Bless you always. ~ *The Restoration and Preservation Project Committee*

Scan our new QR code

or visit <https://tithe.ly/give?c=6959110> to sign up to give today!

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| **Church Office News** |

**Office hours** are Mon. – Thurs. from 9am to 3:30pm with a break from 2-2:30pm. Please call ahead for assistance or leave a message on the office phone.

* **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!

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| **Parish Nurse News** |

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

* **Blood pressure checks** are offered after church on Sunday mornings. See Patrice in the church lobby.
* **Free COVID tests** are available; delivered by mail to your home. To order go to COVIDTest.gov or call 1-800-232-0233. \*There are also free tests and hand sanitizer availabe in the lobby or by the back door.

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| **Children’s Praise Choir News** |

We practice every Tuesday from 4-5pm. Our next performance is Nov. 12th. Children ages pre-k to 6th grade are welcome to join the group! Contact Candy Outman for more info.

* **Donations** of individually wrapped snacks or bags of candy, are needed. Please drop off donations to the preschool or church office. Thank you to those of you who have already donated snacks!

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| **Deacons News** |

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| **Women’s Fellowship News** |

* **Next Meeting:** will be Tues., Nov. 14th at 6:30pm. Please try to attend now that the busy season is upon us.
* Be sure to join the Deacons for the **Halloween potluck and party this Sun., Oct. 29** immediately after church. Costumes optional. There will be games, crafts, pumpkin decorating, cookie decorating and more! Please bring at least one dish to pass and your own table service!
* **Volunteers:** if you would like to help with coffee service or give a childrens message, there are sign up sheets by the church bulletin board. \*Dates are still available!
* **Remembrance Sunday** is Nov. 5th. This is a time to reflect and remember those who have passed this year. We will also be honoring our Funeral Home Directors for the care they give to families in their times of loss.
* **Veterans Sunday** We will observe Veteran’s Day on Nov. 12 with a slide show of those who have served our country. If you have a picture or want to check on a picture that should be in the slide show, please contact the church office. We would love to recognize as many Veterans as we can!
* **Christmas Mission 2023** Deacons are also sponsoring an Angel Tree to help the many Greenville High School students who might not otherwise have Christmas presents. More information will be coming soon on how to participate in this mission project.

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| **Christian Ed News** |

* Sunday School and Bible Study continue this fall. Both are at 9:30 on Sunday Mornings. Please join this if you are able. All materials are provided as well as training. If you would like to join the team serving the youth of our church, contact the office or see Fran Gibbs. There will be no Sunday School Dec. 24 and 31 for a break for our dedicated teachers. Sunday School resumes Jan. 7.
* **Children’s Message:** 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.

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| **Preschool News** |

* This month the children are learning about what it is to be thankful for! We will also be having our Thanksgiving dinner with families on Nov. 21 at 11am.
* **Christmas Wreaths:** Children are taking final orders for christmas wreaths. Cost is $33 each. \*Money is due at time of order and will be delivered Nov. 14th.

A purple and yellow sign

Description automatically generatedA logo for a preschool

Description automatically generatedWe still have some spots left in our program. If you or someone you know would like more information on our Christian based school, please contact the church office!

* **Circle Members:** Circles meet Wed., Nov. 1st. Winslow meets at 1pm (see Rosel Eagles), and Bethany meets at 6:30pm (see Fran Gibbs). We’d love to have you come to either group!
* **Christmas Bazaar:** All work is aimed at having a wonderful Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 11. We need baked goods of any kind, fancy cookies for the cookie walk, and helpers for set up and cooking on Nov. 10, and to work the bazaar on the 11th. Please see Chris Hubbard or any other board member to sign up. We will have the best lunch in town! Be sure to join us.
  + **Calling all bakers of any kind!** Please plan to donate your baked goods and fancy cookies for the cookie walk. We will have vendors, a luncheon, and a great time!
  + **Helpers Needed:** There are many jobs for all committees like set up, luncheon, baked goods, kids’ crafts, etc. To have a successful event, YOUR help is needed! To help with this community event, sign up in the library, call Chris Hubbard, or contact the church office.
  + **Crafters Needed:** If you have high quality crafts and would like to rent a table, see Chris for a reservation form.
* **Hanging of the Greens** is Tues., Nov. 28, at 10am. Come help decorate the church for the Advent Season. There are jobs for all plus refreshments and fellowship! Many hands make light work!
* **Chrismons:** Mark your calendars for this fellowship opportunity: Sat., Dec. 9 at 1pm when women will gather to enjoy a lunch and construct Chrismons to be handed out on Christmas Eve. The work is light and the fellowship is fun!

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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](mailto:claudej2002us@yahoo.com).

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| **Events in the Surronding Area** |

* **GHS FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY!** The Greenville Athletic Boosters are once again, selling apple pies to help fund the various school athletic teams! Pies are $15 each or 3/$40. You may list what team you would like to support and also purchase additional pies for our local food pantry! **Orders are due by Nov. 27th and money is due at time of order.** Pies will be available for pick-up on Dec. 9th. Please see the order form in the lobby to place your order and support our athletes!

**~ November 2023 ~**

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| ***Sun*** | ***Mon*** | ***Tue*** | ***Wed*** | ***Thu*** | ***Fri*** | ***Sat*** |
| **A clock with leaves around it  Description automatically generated** | | | **1**  10a PURLS  1p Winslow  6:30 Bethany | **2**  11a GAMA  5p Scouts (Den)  7:30 AA | **3** | 4 |
| **5 *Remembrance Sunday,* *Communion, and Daylight Savings Ends***  9:30 Sunday School  9:30 Bible Study  10:30 Worship  Special Music –  *Claude Johnson*  3p Venture Crew | **6** | **7**  4p Praise Choir | **8**  10a PURLS | **9**  5p Scouts (Den)  7:30 AA | **10**  \*Bazaar Vendors  set-up | **11**  ***Veteran’s Day***  **9-3**  **Holiday Bazaar** |
| **12**  ***Veterans Sunday***  9:30 Choir Practice  9:30 Sunday School  9:30 Bible Study  10:30 Worship  Special Music –  *Praise Choir* | **13** | **14**  4p Praise Choir  6:30 Deacons | **15**  10a PURLS | **16**  5p Scouts (Pack)  7:30 AA | **17** | **18** |
| **19**  9:30 Choir Practice  9:30 Sunday School  9:30 Bible Study  10:30 Worship  Special Music –  *Chancel Choir*  3p Venture Crew | **20** | **21**  Preschool Meal (½ Day)  ***A group of kids at a table  Description automatically generated***  4p Praise Choir | **22**  10a PURLS | A thanksgiving sign with text  Description automatically generated**23** | **24**  **No School – Thanksgiving Break 22-24** | **25** |
| **26**  9:30 Choir Practice  9:30 Sunday School  9:30 Bible Study  10:30 Worship  Special Music –  *Chancel Choir* | **27**  6:30 Trustees | **28**  10a Hanging of the Greens  4p Praise Choir | **29** | **30**  5p Scouts (Den)  7:30 AA |  | |

***Calendar Notes:***

***\*Don’t Forget to turn your clocks BACK one hour on Saturday, November 4th before you go to bed!***

**~ December 2023 ~**

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| ***Sun*** | ***Mon*** | ***Tue*** | ***Wed*** | ***Thu*** | ***Fri*** | ***Sat*** |
| **A christmas card with holly leaves and berries  Description automatically generated** | | | | | **1** | **2** |
| **3 First Sunday**  **of Advent**  9:30 Sunday School  9:30 Bible Study  10:30 Worship  Special Music –  *Janet Tower & Cindy Perry*  **\*Poinsettia Orders Due**  3p Venture | **4** | **5**  4p Praise Choir | **6**  10a PURLS  1p Winslow  6:30 Bethany | **7**  ***Pearl Harbor***  5p Scouts (Den)  7:30 AA | **8** | **9**  **1:00p Chrismon**  **Making** |
| **10 *Communion***  9:30 Choir Practice  9:30 Sunday School  9:30 Bible Study  10:30 Worship  Special Music –  *Praise Choir* | **11** | **12**  4p Praise Choir | **13**  10a PURLS | **14**  5p Scouts (Den)  7:30 AA | **15**  5p Bartrom Rehearsal Dinner | **16** |
| **17 *Children’s***  ***Christmas Pageant***  9:30 Choir Practice  9:30 Sunday School  9:30 Bible Study  10:30 Worship  Special Music –  *Chancel Choir*  3p Venture | **18**  6:30 Trustees | **19**  11a Preschool Christmas Parties  7p Preschool Christmas Pagent | **20**  10a PURLS  ***Christmas Break begins for Preschool*** | **21**  5p Scouts (Pack)  7:30 AA | **22**  ***Christmas Break Dec. 21, 2023 to Jan. 3, 2024*** | **23** |
| **24**  ***Christmas Eve***  7p Candlelight Worship  11p Candlelight and Communion Worship | ***A red and green text in a wreath  Description automatically generated*25** | **26**  ***Office Closed*** | **27**  10a PURLS  ***Christmas Break – Dec. 20, 2023 to Jan. 3, 2024*** | **28**  7:30 AA | **29** | **30** |
| **31**  **New Year’s Eve**  9:30 Choir Practice  10:30 Worship  Special Music –  *TBA* | ***Calendar Notes:*** | | | | | |

**Christmas Poinsettias 2023**

We invite you to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a friend or loved one. The Deacons are offering you a convenient, affordable and mission-centered way to order your poinsettia through the church office. For the cost of $10.00 per plant, you can help support our Deacon’s Discretionary Fund and celebrate or remember a loved one. You may also choose to have your poinsettia delivered to someone on the friendship list.

**A potted plant with red flowers

Description automatically generatedOrders MUST be turned in by Sunday, December 3rd.** Simply fill out the order form below. You may pick up your poinsettia after the 7:00pm and 11:00pm service on Christmas Eve.

We are offering a 6 ½” potted red poinsettia with 4 to 7 blooms. **Please indicate below the number of plants you would like to order along with who it is in Memory or Honor of.**

**Name** (please print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please indicate number of plants requested below:**

**Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ or Jingle Bells (white flecks on red) \_\_\_\_\_**

**\*Please make checks payable to*:******First Congregational Church*** *or* ***FCC***

**□** In Memory of **□** In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**□** In Memory of **□** In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**□** In Memory of **□** In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**□** In Memory of **□** In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**□ Yes, I would like to pick up my plant(s).**

**□ No, please deliver my plant(s) to someone on the prayer list.**

***\*MAKE SURE TO TURN IN ORDERS***

***BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD!!!***