



PILGRIM JOURNAL

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Pastor's Post

Greetings Church Family,

It is hard to know where to begin. Although we have not met physically for two months now, we are proving that

ministry can stay active in every situation we are given. When I look back on the first few weeks of March, it is like a blur. All of a sudden, I was thrown into a virtual world of ministry. Now I will let you all in on a little secret... Back in the fall, I began speaking with Ministry Council about recording and publishing the weekly sermons. We had even discussed Facebook Live. But I was terrified. I was worried that someone would make fun of me or bully me by writing comments about my sermons. I was afraid no one would watch or maybe people would watch once and never want to hear my voice again. I know, I know, but these are the insecurities that exist in this pastor's head. But God has a way of helping us to reevaluate. The choice was gone. In order to continue spreading God's message of hope and love, I would have to make myself completely vulnerable.

The first sermon I gave from home, live on Facebook, I cried. I had to fight the urge to erase it, knowing it was not about me. It was about being together in a new way. It was about providing a message from God to everyone watching. It was ministry.

The second week was not as traumatic. Then the third week came and went. Now, I have been interrupted by a dog and a cat and still keep recording. It is because of each of you and your kind words that I have found the confidence to adjust. Many of you have offered me encouragement and I truly cannot thank you enough.

As I was becoming comfortable with Facebook Live, I began learning the computer software known as “Zoom.” In order to continue the inner workings of the church, we had to have a way to continue meeting. “Zoom” is being used by the Michigan Conference for information and training, for my weekly clergy meetings, and our own Ministry Council is meeting bi-weekly using “Zoom.” Although the software was originally set-up for meetings, we decided to use it as a way to continue fellowshiping with one another. On Tuesday mornings and Wednesday nights, anyone can join our “meeting” where we spend time catching up, telling stories, and offering prayer requests. I look forward to it each week!

One of my favorite attributes of our church is our love of outreach. I want to let you know that despite the Covid-19 virus, we are still finding ways to impact our community. First, despite my fears over presenting the sermons live on Facebook, we are reaching far more people than on a typical Sunday morning in our sanctuary. Some of the messages have been heard by over three hundred people.

Praise God! Second, as you will read later in this newsletter, we are still providing help with MCREST, caring for the homeless community. **Praise God!** Third, we have members and friends making masks to help the most vulnerable populations and our health care workers. We are continuing to send cards to the sick and those in need. We are calling and checking on one another. **Praise God!** I couldn’t be more filled with joy at the work we continue to accomplish for God’s kingdom even during the most difficult of times.

On a personal note, I am doing well. Erin, Bryce, and I have remained healthy and stay quite busy. If you think it’s hard doing this new technology for the church, you should see what virtual kindergarten is like... I am looking forward to warmer weather and have all of my fishing poles ready. This is going to be my year! I can already feel the big one ready to jump on my hook.

Please keep me in your prayers as we navigate this journey. I know many of you have questions about when we will meet again and what that will be like when we do. I can assure you that your safety is the most important



thing to me and our leadership. When the time is right, we will let everyone know the details.

For now, continue to BE THE CHURCH!

Blessings,

Rev. Kim



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to those that will be celebrating their birthday soon. Since Terry is not going into the church office, she doesn't have access to the information needed to publish your name and birthdate! Birthday blessings to all!

JUST A QUICK NOTE FROM THE MINISTRY of OUTREACH and MISSION

As most of you know we have been helping to support the Armada Congregational Church's mission to house the Macomb County homeless population. The dates of their commitment are May 10th through 17th. This year will be

no different; although the clients are not being housed at the Armada Church, they are still committed to supplying all meals and supplies to MCREST.

The group is being housed in a local hotel instead of churches during the pandemic. They are adhering to all guidelines currently in place to keep everyone safe. We are providing a dinner for Saturday, May 16th. We are not allowed to serve the meal in our customary way, but we will deliver the full meal to the lobby of the Armada church and they will in turn deliver it to the MCREST volunteers at the designated hotel. Our dinner menu is Sloppy Jo's, coleslaw, relishes, chips and cookies. The MOM committee has the funds from all your generous donations throughout the year, so we are not asking for any donations this time. We want all our members to shelter in place and not risk going out to the stores for items.



PRAYER LIST FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Following is the prayer list that we always see in our worship bulletins and newsletters. I have not had the opportunity to update this lately, so please accept my apologies if it is out-of-date. Rev. Kim and Terry would like you to continue to send in your prayer requests. You can send them via email at firstcongromeo@gmail.com or you can call Rev. Kim at 248-514-8103 or Terry at 248-701-8161. We can send them out via email if that is your choice and will continue to update the list as needed. Also, please let us know if anyone should be removed.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

Lou Jaros – friend of Kay and Mike Maniscalco
Brian Ibbotson – son of Sally Hess
Geoffrey Lopus – Dale and Judy’s son
Karyl Lyn Dietz – Lois McGinley’s sister
Kay Maniscalco
Lisa Shibley – Joyce Couch’s cousin
Bob Warner – Joyce Couch’s brother
Mary Lou Coker
Joe Grippe – friend of Marnie and Bill Adams
Harrison Gourlay – Dale and Judy Lopus’s grandson
Jenny – daughter of Suzanne, friend of Maniscalco’s
Elyse Peters – friend of Lois McGinley
Marianne Abate – relative of Vita Green
Etsuko Ryutani – friend of Glen and Lynelle Novak
Bob Whitman – friend of Lois McGinley
Olivia Velicevic – granddaughter of Maniscalco’s
Dale Lopus
Paul Walters – Stuart and Mary’s son
Marty Pellerito – Vita Green’s brother
Naomi McCracken – Kim Newport’s grandmother
Ned and Ellyn Youatt
Jackie Noyes
Gus Dietz – Lois McGinley’s brother
Norma and Bruce Curry---friends of Maniscalcos
Lynn Zimmerman
Rod Lowes – Rev. Penny’s brother
Diane Siedzik – Glen Novak’s sister
Josh Butz – son of Rob and Terry
Michelle Leitch – friend of Lois McGinley

Those serving in the military:

Caleb Cornock – brother of Lois McGinley’s
daughter-in-law
Natalie Cornock – wife of Caleb Cornock
Jason Dean – relative of Vita and Dennis Green

