



Pilgrim's Progress

DECEMBER 2009 Issue



"The purpose of this church shall be to bind together followers of Jesus Christ, for the object of sharing in the worship of God and in seeking His will for our lives, especially as that will is set forth in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ."

INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S PILGRIM'S PROGRESS:

Page 1

Pastor's Letter

Page 2

Church Calendar

Page 3

Upcoming Events
Stats Corner

Page 4

Birthdays & Anniversaries
Adopt-A-Family Info
Poinsettia Memorial
Sabbatical Update

Page 5

Operation Christmas Child
New Members in '09
Our Soldiers

Page 6

Church Contact Info



Message from Pastor Barry

We celebrate the Christmas season not because we believe Jesus was born on December 25, we celebrate the Christmas season because we believe a loving and caring God became one of us. We believe John 3:16...*for God so loved... we believe, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and with our hands have touched, this we proclaim concerning the word of life."* 1 John 1:1
"This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you; God is light and truth; in Him there is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:5.

As Christians, then, let us celebrate the God who gives us Hope, Peace, Joy and above all Love because He cared so much He came to make a difference in our lives.

May this season be one of blessed expectations realized because His presence is revealed to you.

Wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas Season.

Pastor Barry



**WORSHIP SERVICES:
8 & 10:30 A.M.
BELL CHOIR PRACTICE: 8:15 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 A.M.
CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE: 9:30 A.M.**

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| Head Deacon for December: Pat Anderson | | | | | | |
| | | 1 *Girls of Grace II 3:30 pm Cancer Support Groups noon Cmas Potluck | 2 Youth Nite 5:45 p.m. Caroling @ Villa del Sol Cum Double 6:30 pm W.W. | 3 W.W. | 4 Directory Picture Sessions 3-9:30 pm | 5 Directory Picture Sessions 10 - 5 W.W. |
| 6 2 nd Sunday of Advent Cabinet Mtg. 11:30 am 21 st Hymns to Him Concert 3 pm NOOMA Nites 5:30 pm | 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day | 8 * | 9 ** Trustees Mtg. 6:30 pm W.W. | 10 Amity 1 pm BCE Mtg. 6:30 pm W.W. | 11 FCC Stamp Club 10 am | 12 W.W. |
| 13 3 rd Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas Program Soup Luncheon Cookie/Candy Walk | 14 | 15 * Deacons Mtg. 6:30 pm | 16 ** Youth Nite 6 pm W.W. | 17 EFB Cmas Box packing 9:30 am - 2:30 pm Women's Fellowship Noon (no svc project) W.W. | 18 EFB Cmas Box pick-up 11:30 am - 1 pm | 19 W.W. |
| 20 4 th Sunday of Advent Benevolence & Missions Mtg. 11:45 am | 21 Winter Begins | 22 * | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Services 5 pm 11 pm CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED | 25 | 26 Meals-On-Wheels W.W. |
| 27 | 28 | 29 * | 30 W.W. | 31 W.W. | | |

Adopt-A-Family gifts due back at church.

**Marshalltown
Cancer Support
Groups**

**Tuesday, December 1
NOON**



Please note the time change for the December meeting. Please enter through the 4th Street entrance on the west side at the ground level. The program will be a Christmas potluck. All who are planning to attend are reminded to bring a delicious dish to share with the group. The support group will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Emergency Food Box so attendees are asked to bring along a food donation. An afternoon of food, fellowship and fun is planned along with a Christmas message to be delivered by Rev. Gregory Ellcey.

The Marshalltown Cancer Support Group Resource Center has many items available to assist cancer patients, families, and caregivers. For more information or to make an appointment for the resource center, please call and leave a message at 641-752-5931. The support group meetings are free and all are welcome to attend.

Blessed Holidays to all of you!

Reminder:
No January meeting.



CUM DOUBLE

**Wednesday, Dec. 2
6:30 p.m.**

Join us in Fellowship Hall for an evening of good food & fellowship.

Program: Music by Peggy Shenkle & Hershel Brown

**Next "Hymns to Him"
Concert"... article on pg. 5**



**Thursday, Dec. 10
1 pm**

Hostesses: Pat Anderson, Julianne Packer and Pat Joens

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Christmas p r o g r a m</p>  | <p>Annual Cookie/ Candy Walk</p>  <p>Christmas Soup Potluck</p> |
|---|---|

**Children's Christmas
Program &
Christmas Luncheon
Annual Cookie/Candy Walk
Sunday, December 13**

On December 13th following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, the Board of Christian Education will be hosting our 3rd annual "meal of soups" luncheon. Here's what we will need from you wonderful chefs: 15 crockpots of soups. Please e-mail or call the church office with the soup(s) you are willing to bring (fcc@adiis.net or 752-4239).

Hope to see everyone there. Come hungry!

**Rehearsal Schedule for
Christmas Pageant
Participants:**

Sunday Nov 29 - During Sunday School
Saturday Dec 5 - 9:30 to Noon
Sunday Dec 6 - During Sunday School
Saturday Dec 12 - 9:30 to Noon
Sunday Dec 13 - Final Run through during Sunday School for program at 10:30.



Thursday, Dec. 17, Noon

Hostesses: Cheryl Holmes, Terry Tremain and Norma Dannen
Please note: There will NOT be a service project for December.

STATS CORNER

DEATH:

John Preece, 81, Nov. 4



Christmas Eve
SERVICES

**Thursday, December 24
5:00 p.m.
11:00 p.m.
With Christmas music
starting at 10:30 p.m.**



December Birthdays!

- 2 Sarah Paustian
- 3 Sonya Calderon
- Mackenzie Fuller
- Sharon Greer
- 4 Jeni Runner
- 6 Johnny Beaty
- 8 Don Bogenrief
- Craig Ragland
- 10 Kristi Cameron
- 11 Beth Tiggles
- 12 Shauna Banks
- 19 Christopher Bonnette
- Phyllis Wyatt
- 20 Anita Niehouse
- 21 Becky Horn
- Loretta Stubbe
- 23 Jeb Long
- 25 Norma Dannen
- 27 Valois Brintnall
- 28 Levi Byers
- Sarah Shirar
- 29 Barry Holmes
- Zach Woerner
- 30 Todd Stanley
- 31 Cindy Shirar
- Virginia Southard



Anniversary Celebrations

- Greg & Barb Ellcey 12/12/60
- Cody & Dani Wical 12/15/07
- John & Bobby Olson 12/22/84
- John & Doris Oldenkamp 12/24/45
- Tom & Virginia Southard 12/28/48
- Foster Hawkins & Nancy Urbanowski 12/29/89
- Al & Stella Storjohann 12/30/45



Please keep our Members in Care Facilities in your Thoughts and Prayers:

- Mary Wilson
- Helen Berg
- Olive Showalter
- Woody Shives
- Virginia Burris
- Pattye Morrison
- Zora Dysart
- Esther Riley
- Mary Young



POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Poinsettia memorial forms will be accepted through December 15th. Donation for the memorial is a minimum of \$8.



ADOPT-A-FAMILY TREE

The Benevolence and Missions Committee invite you to partner with us, the House of Compassion and the Adopt-A-Family Program 2009. We have

adopted four families. The "Tree of Tags" is set up in Fellowship Hall. To participate, simply choose a tag from the tree, wrap the gift, tape the tag on the wrapped gift and bring the gift to the church no later than December 13th. There are tags with "personal items" on them. These are items the families have chosen from a supplied list from the House of Compassion. There is no need to gift wrap the "personal items".

If you have any questions, please contact any Benevolence and Missions Committee member or the church office.

Christmas Blessings, Benevolence & Missions Comm. Debi Estabrook, Sharon Propst, Julianne Packer, Leta Lacina, Doris McCarty, Bill Maas

✝ Sabbatical Update

We have worked with Pastor Barry and Cheryl to approve their sabbatical plans. Currently we are trying to finalize 2 church rejuvenation/renewal activities during the sabbatical, prepare a budget and draft the grant. When the 2010 grant application forms become available we plan to submit our application in January. We will be sending a letter to our congregation the first part of January outlining all the sabbatical plans followed by a presentation at the Annual Meeting.

Pat Anderson
Diaconate Co-Chair



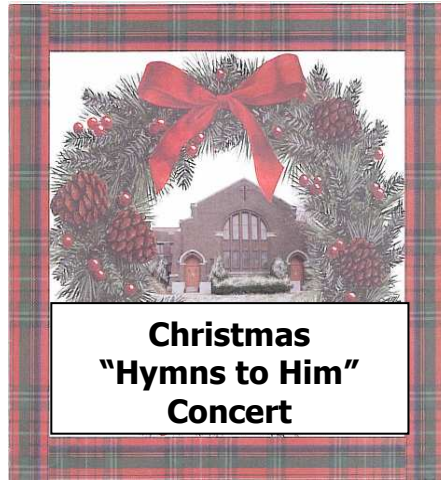
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This was our second year participating in Operation Christmas Child – The Shoebox Ministry.” This is through Samaritan’s Purse International Relief.

We were provided with shoebox size boxes that we filled with items such as school supplies, small toys, tooth brushes & pastes, bar soap, hard candy, ball caps, hair clips, hand crocheted mittens & hats, and many more items. First Congregational Church donated a total of 37 shoeboxes! Evangelical Free Church picked up the shoeboxes and they will go to Minneapolis. From there, the boxes will be distributed to one of the following areas: Dominican Republic, Honduras, Macedonia, Malawi, Mauritius, or Niger. Samaritan’s Purse organization will include a booklet about the story of Jesus in that child’s language.

We wish to thank EVERYONE that helped to make this ministry a beautiful success.

In His Service,
Julianne Packer,
Co-President Women’s Fellowship



**Sunday, December 6
3 p.m.**

NEW MEMBERS IN 2009



Nichole (Swope) Wimberly’s husband:

LCPL Wimberly S.W.
CLC 252 Ds 1 Dwyer
Unit 73662
FPO AE 09510-3662

Bill & Lynn Maas’ nephew:
Major John C. Welch
US NSE
HQ ISAF
APO AE 09356



Historically, the seasons of Advent (Christmas) and Lent (Easter), were represented by the color purple – the color of royalty. Royal blue also is used to represent royalty. That is why today most churches use royal blue to distinguish the season of Advent from Lent.



The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival”. The

focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ, “Prince of Peace” in His first Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in His second Advent.



 *December*

**First Congregational Church
312 W. Main St.
Marshalltown, IA 50158**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 33
Marshalltown, Iowa
50158

- Address Service Requested -

641-752-4239 Office hours 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mon - Thurs
Worship Services: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
fax: 641-844-0370
email: fcc@adlis.net
web page:
www.fccmarshalltown.org

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

