

Pilgrim's Progress

August 2019

"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 making His will dominant in the lives of men and women, especially as that will is set forth in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ."

Luke 14:11 "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

When the Lord Jesus made this statement, He was echoing a commonly held belief that was in fact in the Old Testament. Some of what He said after this statement helps clarify what He meant and how to act in a humble fashion.

A. Seek the lowest place in a social gathering

Teachers often met with disciples and taught during a banquet (imagine a Bible Study in a reserved room at a restaurant). Also, seating at a banquet was often according to social standing, so people could tell where everyone stood in rank and prestige.

Taking a seat at a banquet that has a lower social standing is strategic in that you are exalted in front of everyone else, and is actually advised in the Old Testament (Proverbs 25:6-7).

B. Invite people to parties that you throw who cannot repay you

Friends would expect a place of higher status and make things awkward for those invited. In the time of Jesus, people would give banquets for people of a lower status but not those who were destitute. Jesus took this idea to another level when He said to invite people who can't help your social standing in any way. He said to invite people who are really poor, or have health problems. People that society tends to ignore.

The context of the call to humility can give us some insight on the characteristics of humility. Don't seek public praise, but that might get you praise anyway. Seek out those who are suffering, struggling or face health issues and try to help them as best you can. Those are some of the characteristics of humility

Pastor Dan

Sermons for August



August 4	2 Corinthians 4:18
August 11	2 Corinthians 12:9
August 18	out of town
August 25	out of town

The Lord's Prayer, Part Two
My Grace is Sufficient
Pulpit Guest; Rev Charles Fry
Pulpit Guest; Rev Charles Fry



Don & Kayla Bogenrief	August 5, 1977	42 years
Max & Liz Meyer	August 10, 1971	48 years
Mike & Cherryl Woltjer	August 11, 1984	35 years
Dick & Julie Squiers	August 11, 1960	59 years
Matt & Kim Schryver	August 16, 1975	44 years
Sam & Shelly Speas	August 19, 2006	13 years
Tom & Jane Adams	August 24, 1968	51 years
Paul & Julianne Packer	August 29, 1975	44 years



August 1	Maisie Gummert	August 16	Tyler Randall
August 2	Lydia Speas	August 18	Raelene McGahuey
August 3	Bonnie Pappas	August 20	Lynn Maas
August 6	Vicki Long	August 22	Tom Adams
August 8	Cathryn Weeden, Anna Wolvers	August 23	Romaine Mackaman
August 9	Jane Adams	August 24	Cindy Cunningham, Marty Mettlin, Jacob Shirar
August 10	David Maxwell		
August 12	Al Packer	August 25	Richard Byers
August 13	Donn Anderson, Dan Propst	August 26	Joanne Ainley
August 14	Randy Breed	August 29	Carol Stanley
August 15	Judy Hays		

Please keep our Members in Care Facilities in your thoughts & prayers:



Bickford Cottage: Joanie Smith-Legg #108; Marilyn Rhodes # 123
Grandview: Pattye Morrison #107, Ken Niehouse #413 **IVH:** JoAnne Ainley
Southridge: Betty Runner #212, Clarence Balcom
Suites of Ankeny: Don & Romaine Mackaman
Glenwood Place: Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mary Vellinga #117, Mildred Lathrop #145, Bob Becker #175, Bonnie Pappas # 177, Lenora Brown #147
The Willows: Lee & Valois Brintnall #317, Sanny Thompson #205



Marshalltown Christian School Update:

Save the date! On Sunday, September 8, instead of going out to your favorite restaurant after worship, come to the Marshalltown Christian School annual fall picnic fundraiser and support Christian education. Stop by the school anytime between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. (carry-out, to-go orders are available, too). In

addition to a delicious lunch, your family will enjoy new activities added to the event this year – outdoor games and inflatables! With all the energy and liveliness of children, MCS will supply the provisions for lots of running and bouncing. Tickets are available at the MCS office, located at 1408 South Seventh Avenue, or by calling 641-753-8824. Interested in volunteering? Email

mcs@marshalltownchristianschool.com.



January - June 2019	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	\$78,373	\$92,148	-\$13,775
EXPENSES	\$131,055	\$124,043	\$7,012



Annual Meeting Report by Miriam Bryant

The 65th Annual Meeting of the NACCC is over and it is now my turn to share one person's view of a very busy week. Most delegates (elected or appointed by their home church) arrived Friday in order to greet friends, receive packets containing schedules, agendas and badges (which admitted us to meals) and generally get settled before Saturday morning's opening – 7 AM Devotions!

FCC Marshalltown was represented by Pastor Dan Vellinga, Delegate, Miriam Bryant, Alternate and Chad Pinkston, Moderator FCC. The three of us were able to cover many workshops, meetings and events enriching the experience and investment for FCC. Workshops I attended were: The Congregationalist Magazine, Reading Deeply-Lectio Divina, Plymouth Landing 400th Anniversary, Caring for Church Records, Why the Congregational Story Matters, and Crisis Communication. Summaries available from Miriam Bryant.

James Waechter, Moderator reports the following Annual Meeting Highlights in the Year Round Delegate eNews--- Highlights of the remarkably meaningful meeting included the Congregational Lecture by the Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III speaking on what is unique about our Congregational heritage; three Bible Lectures from the Rev. Dr. Brett Younger on the Book of Mark describing how we are all would-be disciples and surprising saints in trying to follow Jesus Christ; and a plenary session workshop led by the Rev. Dr. Charles Warnock on the Promising Future of Small Churches....The Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies held a graduation ceremony for two seminary graduates, Joel Boyd and Joy Matos. Presentations by twelve missionaries sponsored by the NACCC brought the delegates up to date on the work of their missions. Two days prior to the actual conference, the Leadership Team met to review past actions, discuss and plan future business. Main topics of these two-day sessions were "Effective Church Communications" and the "Changing Pastoral Leadership."

On a personal and humbling note, I was asked to present a 5-minute talk on "What the NACCC Means to Me" at the opening of the first business meeting. Each session opened and closed with a different person giving their deepest thoughts and/or memories of our Association. On Sunday I presented Devotions-Gratitude, Practice Giving Thanks, based on the writings of Robert Emmons and Diana Butler Bass. This was either my 11th or 12th Annual Meeting and as always it was my privilege to represent you as your Year-Round Delegate. Thank you for the opportunity to again work with the outstanding folks whose talents and wisdom guide this organization. I encourage each of you to consider attending next year's Annual Meeting in Maine. We are celebrating the Plymouth Landing 400th Anniversary! Please see me for questions and further information.

Annual Meeting Report by Pastor Dan

This year's Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches in Cleveland, Ohio was well organized and thoughtfully prepared. The business meetings were very efficient and cordial and Jim Wachtner of New York City did an excellent job of moderating the meeting. Patrick Stewart was there, involved with the Youth Commission. Miriam Bryant finished her term on the Board of Directors and our Church Moderator, Chad Pinkston, was able to attend.

Quiet Day Retreat

One of the highlights of the meeting took place a day before the official start at a beautiful Catholic Retreat Center not far from the hotel. Led and organized by Rev. Charles Packer, the Quiet Day Retreat runs from approximately 9:00 to 3:00 or 3:30 p.m. Rev. Packer leads in the opening and closing worship sessions, and then there are three reflections on our theme, Jesus-the Heart of It All. I was honored to give the reflections this year. The rest of the time we were free to roam the grounds with one rule; no talking. It was a great time of spiritual refreshment.

Bible and Congregational Lectures

There were three lectures on the Gospel of Mark by Rev. Brett Younger and a lecture on the value of the Congregational tradition by Rev. John Tamilio, both highly educated Congregational ministers. Rev. Younger likes to have everyone read the Scripture text out loud and not together. It has the interesting effect of making us focus on the text. We'll try it during church sometime.

Lectio Divina Workshop

Charles Packer and I took turns leading a workshop in this form of reflective reading of Scripture that dates back to the Third Century AD. It involves reading a passage four times out loud and with each reading focusing on what stands out to you. While one can do this alone, it helps to do this in a group and reflect together. I find it works out well, both at the Annual Meeting and the one time I've tried it here in church on a recent Sunday.

I'm on the Nominating Committee

While I've been involved with State and Regional Associations of Congregational Churches throughout my years as a minister, I've tried to avoid being on any National Board or Committee, except for one short stay on the Youth Commission. This year, after some time in prayer about the issue, I decided that it was time to say "yes" and try to help. So, I determined that, if asked, I would say "yes" to an opportunity to serve the National Association. Shortly after that, Linda Anderson, a retired minister from Michigan, asked me if I would join the NA Nominating Committee. I said, "yes", and I am now Secretary of the Committee. I do not know the length of my term. I guess I should have asked that, but I'll find out soon enough.

That's a brief report about this year's very successful Annual Meeting. Please feel free to ask me questions or inquire about details as there was much more to the meeting than this space allows. Next year's meeting, on the 400th Anniversary Year of the Landing of the Pilgrims in Plymouth (1620-2020), will be in Maine.

Annual Meeting Report by Moderator Chad Pinkston

'Cleveland, the heart of it all', while not an entirely true statement, Cleveland, OH was the location for this year's NACCC annual meeting and conference. The theme for this year's meeting was actually, 'Jesus, the heart of it all' with the accompanying verse 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be' (Matthew 6:21). Generally, I've thought of that verse from the treasure perspective, with treasures most often being money, but it could also be investments of time that I give. At times, when I was younger I'd invest, spend money, and give time to things that, truth be told, had very little, if any, connection to Jesus. It was an immature 'me first' kind of attitude the results of which took my heart and mind on a detour from Jesus. Fortunately, with the right kind of investments, I've made some progress. I hope I'm not alone here with having had that experience. When our treasure is given to Jesus, our heart will follow.

"Set your mind on what is above, not on what is on the earth" Colossians 3:2

"...whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" Colossians 3:17

This year's NACCC meeting was my second to attend, the first being in 2013. Unless you are business trained or have an interest in it you probably can't make much sense of the 'business meetings' (it's kind of like our annual meetings). However, for a fellow like me, at this year's meeting while attending the Bible Lecture series and various workshops, a few of the early morning devotions, AND meeting people from all across the country, I could sense and feel that Jesus really is the heart of it all and HE lives in hearts and minds. The proof of which was obvious as I interacted with and observed the dedication of the many ministry and worship leaders that serve our local churches. This proof is also evident in the connections that you and I have to each other and to our community through our investments of time, fellowship, and service.

Next year will be the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower Plymouth landing and that will give us opportunities to discuss our history and faith. The NACCC is working on resources to help, so stay tuned. Did you know that pilgrims didn't actually wear the 'traditional' black and white costumes that we frequently associate them with?

Thank you all for your support of those of us who attended the NACCC annual meeting. I am especially thankful for Pastor Dan and Miriam Bryant. May God continue to bless our church and may the works of our hands be proof that Jesus is the heart of it all.



Youth Director: Shelly Speas
Contact # 641-751-9868

Summer is here, so there are no more regular Wednesday Youth Activities or Power Hour. Below are listings of special activities planned! Mark your calendars!



Sunday, August 4th: Popcorn, Movie, & a Message in the Loft for pre-12th grade beginning at 9am.



Monday, August 12th: Adventureland trip with the 6-12th graders. Need \$30 for a ticket and swim suit & towel. We will provide a sack lunch. We will leave from the church at 9am. Please contact Shelly Speas if your youth is interested in joining the group.



Wednesday, August 14th for pre-5th grade we will have a Water War fun at FCC from 5-6pm!



Once again, the Youth of FCC will be getting ready to lead a Rally Day Youth Service which will be Sunday September 8th. Please mark this day down in your calendar as a Sunday not to miss!! In addition to a great message, skit, music and more, there will also be a meal after the 10:30am service. Shelly will be getting a letter sent out with practice dates and times for the youth soon.



Nooma (an adult Bible Study) will be Sunday, August 4th at FCC at 5pm. A meal and child care is provided. We will continue our study of Before Amen by Max Lucado. Contact Shelly Speas for more information.



Sisters in Christ will meet Monday, August 26th at 6:30pm, at Glenwood Place to do a project with our resident members. Contact Shelly for more information.

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PICNIC PICTURES FROM NOOMA IN JULY!



TO MARS AND BEYOND VBS

IT'S BLAST-OFF TIME!

JULY 29-AUG 2, 5:00-8:30 p.m.



Miss Galaxy, Lydia Speas

handed out postcards with information about our VBS throughout town.



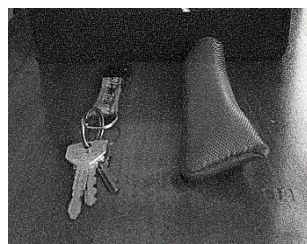
A Work in progress by Jenny Sauer.....it's completed!!!



The Sanctuary is READY for VBS!

FOUND ITEMS: Are these yours?

Ocasionaly, people leave items behind in the pews or around the church. There is a box located in the narthax cloak room that says "FOUND ITEMS"... they're waiting for you!!





2019

FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

Sunday Worship Services: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study: 9:30am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Office HOURS	Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239					
				1 No Vision Mtg	2	3
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards				VBS Nicole Vacation	Final VBS Day Nicole Vacation	Nicole Vacation
4 Communion 9am: Popcorn, Movie& Message Pre-12 th / LOFT 5:00pm NOOMA @ FCC Nicole Vacation	5 Nicole Vacation	6 W.W. Nicole Vacation	7 W.W.	8	9 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets	10 Church Picnic Arnold Park (701 West Linn)@ noon Bring chairs & side or dessert to share
11 11:45am Cabinet	12 9am trip to... ADVENTURELAND Grades 6-12 \$30/ea. Bring swimsuit & towel	13 W.W. Pastor Dan on vacation thru 8/26	14 5-6pm Water Wars at FCC Pre – 5 th grade W.W.	15 8:45am MBC 6:30pm Trustees	16	17
18 11:45am BCE Pastor Dan Vacation	19	20 6:30pm Deacons W.W.	21 W.W.	22	23 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets	24 11am MOW FCC Vol: McCarty & Shollenbarger
25 Pastor Dan Vacation	26 First day of MtownSchool Sisters in Christ meet@ Glenwood	27 W.W. Pastor Dan back in the office	28 W.W.	29	30	31 11am MOW FCC vol:



Mark your calendar! RALLY SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 8TH



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

Office hours 9 a.m. - noon Mon - Fri 641-752-4239
Worship Services: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. All ages in the LOFT
web page: www.fccmarshalltown.org

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

