

Pilgrim's Progress

October 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."

Every Sunday We Boldly Enter the Presence of God

Every Sunday we gather together and, during part of our time of worship, bow our heads and pray, expecting to have the attention and presence of God with us. In fact, we believe that about the entire worship service, from the prelude through the benediction; that the Holy Spirit, the presence of God, has joined and is in the Sanctuary with us. Sunday morning, therefore, is a time in which we corporately meet with God.

Originally, This Was a Dangerous Thing to Do

To understand this happy condition, we consider a sacred day on the Hebrew Calendar, the day of Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement which takes place on October 9 this year. You can read about it in Leviticus (16; 23:26-32) and in Numbers (29:7-11). If you go back to the beginning of Leviticus 16, you will notice an important detail. The Lord God gave instructions how to enter the presence of God, once a year in the Holy of Holies within the Tabernacle, and survive. Aaron's two sons, priests like their father, had attempted to enter the presence of God improperly and were struck dead. This is a side to the holiness of God that we tend to forget in these days in which we can presume to approach the Almighty simply by offering a prayer and any time or any place, and particularly when we gather together on Sunday morning.

We Can Do This Because of Jesus our High Priest

All of this serves to help us understand the wonder of the promise of the grace of God, not that God is no longer holy, or that we can enter His presence without any concern about wrath or sin, but because this grace has been secured for us. Instead of a high priest, careful to follow instructions, entering the presence for us once a year, Jesus, our great high priest, has entered for us, giving us the opportunity to all meet with God at any time. Hebrews 6:19-20 says this: "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entered the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered, for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. The idea behind Yom Kippur is not irrelevant, it is still in force, but has been fulfilled for all time by Jesus Himself. Because of that we can boldly approach a holy and mighty God, but, knowing this, we can approach with awe and gratitude.

-Pastor Dan

Sermons



Sermons for October

October 6	Faithfulness in Challenging Times	Habakkuk 2:3-4; Luke 17:5-10
October 13	A Time to Review Our Perspective	Leviticus 23:39-49; John 7:37
October 20	The Blessing of God	Numbers 6:24-26; 2 Corinthians 3:17-4:2
October 27	For All People	Numbers 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 13:12-13

Habitat for Humanity Presentation October 20

Cassie Nemmers, local representative of Habitat for Humanity, will grace us with her presence during the Sunday gathering at 10:30 a.m. to give us an update on the organization's activity in Marshalltown since the tornado of 2018. Habitat has, and is doing wonderful work helping our community and we are privileged to be a part of it. Be sure to mark this date on your calendars. You won't want to miss it.



Tracy & Lori Wildman	October 20, 1979	40 years
Doug & Krystal Randall	October 27, 1984	35 years
Ken & Joy Kreykes	October 28, 2000	19 years
Dan & Sharon Propst	October 20, 1980	39 years
Greg & Kristin Meyer	October 18, 2003	16 years
Tod & Katie McDanel	October 06, 2006	13 years



October 1	Julie Lavendar	October 17	Bill Maas
October 6	Julianne Packer	October 20	Joan Smith-Legg
October 8	LaRae McGahuey, Cheryl Woltjer	October 22	Trixie Cantrell
October 10	Gary McKibbin	October 23	Lori Wildman
October 12	Bob McGregor, Orlin Joens	October 26	Steve Storjohann
October 13	Paulette Berg	October 27	Hannah Shirar, Leah Paustian
October 14	Bob Hibbs	October 29	Mason Moyer
October 15	Marilyn Fruin	October 29	John Blabaum, Nancy Harris, Bob Nutt



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

Bickford : Joanie Smith-Legg #108; Marilyn Rhodes # 123, Dorothy Peterson #105

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 #132, Mildred Lathrop #145, Bob Becker #175, Bonnie Pappas # 177, Lenora Brown #147, Bill Block #127

The Willows: Lee & Valois Brintnall #317, Sanny Thompson #205

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MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE REPORT

Habitat for Humanity to Address the Congregation

At the Sunday, October 20, 2019, FCC services, Habitat for Humanity is excited to present a formal thank you to FCC and provide an update of restoration work to date. Cassie Nemmers, Community Outreach Coordinator for Marshalltown Habitat for Humanity, will share pictures and provide a progress report. After the 10:30 a.m. service Cassie will stay for coffee and conversation with the congregation and answer any questions we may have.

Work is ongoing. To date greater than 70 projects have been completed including at least 15 since the Building Blitz in April 2019. Volunteers continue to sign up in ongoing efforts to restore homes. If this interests you, contact Cassie Nemmers at through her email address – cnemmers@iowahabitat.org. Volunteers can enlist individually or in groups. There is a place for anyone who wants to do this good work.

Kristin Skaar, Special Events and Communication Manager for the Minneapolis Habitat for Humanity, pictured below, was raised in Marshalltown, IA. She volunteered as part of the leadership team during the Marshalltown Blitz and stayed at FCC for one night. She sends the following thanks.



*Pastor Dan,
Thank you so much for opening your church to me The generosity of your church was apparent through the hospitality that was shown to me. I'm so grateful for the many other ways your church is supporting tornado recovery. THANKS!
Kristin Skaar*

FCC Benevolence and Missions Committee is looking forward to seeing you all who can possibly attend church on Oct. 20th! We applaud the generosity of this church body in their response to our community's needs after the devastation of July 19, 2018, tornado.



Our Annual Harvest Dinner will be held November 24th after the 10:30 Service. Julianne Packer will head the committee and will need volunteers to help set up and clean up. If you are interested in helping, please contact Julianne or call the church office.

Bi-Annual Meeting of the Iowa-Nebraska Association of Congregational Churches

Any member of the Congregational Church is invited to attend these meetings. Our own Pastor Dan is the Moderator of these meetings. Following is the agenda for the meeting on October 12th in Burlington, Iowa.

Iowa-Nebraska Association of Congregational Christian Churches

Dan Vellinga, Moderator

Tonna Parsons, Secretary

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord to all in the churches of our Association. This letter comes as an official call to the Fall Annual Meeting of the Iowa-Nebraska Association of Congregational Christian Churches. It will be good to be together again in faith, freedom and fellowship.

When: October 12, 2019.

Where: First Congregational Church, 313 North Fourth Street, Burlington, Iowa 52601
www.fccburlington.org

Tentative Schedule:

8:15 Coffee hour and Registration

9:00 Our worship hour

10:00 Business Meeting

11:30 Break for fellowship before lunch

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Program - Strategic Planning by Michael Chittum

3:00 Departure for home

Sincerely,

Dan Vellinga, Moderator

Hotels and overnight accommodations near Burlington (prices may vary)

Hampton Inn 3001 Winegard Drive Suite 130 Burlington, Iowa 52601
319 237 0700 www.hampton3.hilton.com \$138.00

Fairfield Inn and Suites 1213 North Roosevelt Avenue Burlington, Iowa 52601
319 754 0000 www.marriott.com \$119.00

Holiday Inn Express 1605 North Roosevelt Avenue Burlington, Iowa 52601
319 752 0000 www.ihg.com \$99.00

Comfort Suites 1780 Stonegate Center Drive Burlington, Iowa 52601
319 753 0000 www.choicehotels.com \$87.00

Quality Inn 3051 Kirkwood Street Burlington, Iowa 52601
319 753 0000 www.choicehotels.com \$80.00

AmericInn by Wyndham 638 South Gear Avenue West Burlington, Iowa 52655
319 576 0137 www.wyndhamhotels.com \$71.00

The Pilgrim Curriculum is here!

We're happy to announce that our four-part historical introduction and discussion guide, "Plymouth's Pilgrims: Their Church, Their World, and Ours" is now available, right in time for your 2020 planning. Elegantly written by Library board member Linda Smith Rhoads, it provides short, pithy historical information and thoughtful discussion questions about the Pilgrim legacy and what it means today.

The Library is providing it all free of charge from [our website](#), along with a variety of other online resources- suggestions for further study, some key historical documents to pair with each lesson, a list of helpful websites, and an "ask the experts" feature. We are also putting the finishing touches on a version of our discussion guide specifically geared for youth groups and confirmation classes. We're confident it will be an invaluable resource for congregations, and really adult study groups of all kinds, during the upcoming 400th anniversary year. Page 3



SENIORS CITIZENS: YOU CAN MAKE YOUR GIFTS TO FCC TAX DEDUCTABLE IN ADDITION TO THE STANDARD DEDUCTION FOR 2019

Those of you who have reached age 70 ½ can take the new standard deduction which is double what it was for 2017 and contribute directly to a charity tax free. This contribution to the charity will become part of your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA. The financial institution that holds your IRA must do a direct transfer to First Congregational Church for this transaction to meet tax code requirements. Also please follow these steps in order to ensure the contribution is coded correctly: Make sure the financial institution includes your name somewhere on the check stub. You should also be able to designate the frequency of donation for that fiscal year. Notify the church treasurer of your intentions and if possible, add a designation along with your name such as "tithes", "Endowment", a "project name" or "program name".

Please note this is to be used for informational purposes only. This is not tax advice and it should not be viewed as such. Please consult with your tax advisor for any questions on using RMD as a tax strategy.



January - August 2019	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	\$97,088	\$123,044	-\$25,956
EXPENSES	\$169,654	\$166,037	\$3,617

Floral Workshop Pics



Sisters in Christ hosted a Floral Workshop on September 23 with 24 in attendance. April McKibbin of It's Unique Floral Boutique taught us how to create a fresh flower arrangement. Dessert was served afterwards. Everyone had a great time!



Thank you for your prayers, notes and expressions of concern for our daughter, Pastor Amy Holman. Amy had surgery at the Mayo Clinic on September 10 and is now recovering at her daughters' home in Illinois. All is going well; she will be back to her church by the end of October. Each of you have been a comfort and support for our family. Greg & Barb Ellcey



BOY SCOUT TROOP #324 CORDIALLY
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

EAGLE SCOUT
COURT OF HONOR

FOR
David James Dickey

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019 AT 2:00 P.M.
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
312 W. MAIN ST.
MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA
RSVP to adickey75@gmail.com or 641-485-0369

Reception Following the Ceremony



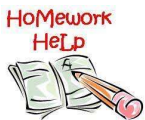
Youth Director: Shelly Speas
Contact # 641-751-9868



Wednesday Night Activities: Oct 2,9,16,23,30
DOGs 4:30-5:30pm, PreK-5th grade
Jr PY 6-7pm, 6-8th grade
PY 7:30-8:30pm 9-12th grade



October Power Hour: PreK-12th grade 9:15am on Oct 6, 13, 20, 27. **Don't miss it!**



There is a new opportunity coming up! On Thursdays, there will be an **after-school homework help** time available to students from **4-5:30pm** in the Loft. Students can stop by anytime for help. We will begin **Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26th**. If there are church members who would like to help students with homework, please contact Shelly Speas.



YABS: Young Adult Bible Study in the Loft at FCC. Sunday, Oct 27th at 7pm.
Any questions contact Shelly Speas.



Nooma Bible Study will be Sunday, Oct 13th, at 5pm at FCC. We will begin a new study by Beth More called James Mercy Triumphs. We will have a meal and childcare provided.



Let's go to the Pumpkin Patch!! Saturday, Oct 26th we will be taking a group to Geisler Farms in Bondurant, IA! Offered to youth PreK-12th grade, but parents are welcome to come for \$8 admission. Lots of activities to do plus a corn maze! We will meet up at church at 12:30pm. Please eat lunch before coming. We will be home about 6:30pm. If the kids want snacks or souvenirs, they will need to bring their own money. Please contact Shelly Speas.



Families of FCC: Do you have to work on trick or treat night and aren't sure what to do with your kids or do you wish you had a wonderful group to go trick or treating with? Well our Youth Director and some of our youth leaders would like to offer to take a group around town on Oct 31st. We will meet at church at 5:15pm and will be done at 7pm. Teens may contact Shelly Speas to be helpers. Please contact Shelly Speas.

SISTERS IN CHRIST: Monday, Oct 21st at 6:30pm, the Sisters in Christ group will be getting together at FCC to have a support MY Kinsman Ministries night. Let's meet to serve this wonderful mission together!



Marshalltown Christian School Update: Our gratefulness is expressed to you for your kindhearted patronage of the recent Marshalltown Christian School Fall Picnic fundraiser. \$17,297 was raised and then matched by a generous donor, totaling \$34,594 in support of the building fund. Many thanks also to all of the volunteers.

In collaboration with MCSD, several MCS students recently selected their own personal instrument and began participation in band and orchestra. They are joining Miller Middle School and Lenihan Intermediate School students for lessons twice a week.

By charting their own progress with their individualized math goals, all students, at their grade level, are practicing and learning math facts. Mastering them by the end of the school year is their achievable goal.

An upcoming good time of community and fellowship will be experienced by families and friends of Christian education on Monday, **October 7 at Pizza Ranch from 5 – 8 p.m.** Come and enjoy a delicious meal, as we give financial support to the MCS operating fund.

What??



Yes, the Holidays will be here before we know it. And, to get your Holidays off to a fantastic start, we are hosting a **Holiday Concert at Elim Lutheran at 3:00 pm on Saturday, Nov 23!** This Concert immediately precedes the Holiday Stroll which begins at 4:00 pm on Saturday, Nov 23. Mark your calendar now!! More details to follow in future bulletins and newsletters!!



Your Church Library is going to get a "facelift". Our much-used meeting room, practice room, dressing room, etc., etc., has been neglected and unused for its original purpose for many years. By reorganizing the resources on the shelves and refurbishing the overall appearance of the room, the Board of Christian Education plans to reintroduce the congregation to some historical gems as well as current DVD Bible studies and publications.

As the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrims Landing at Plymouth Rock approaches, several new books and articles have been published. Look for titles, synopsis and reviews of some of these in the coming months. We will also keep folks updated as the NACCC announces celebration plans

Suggestions are always invited as we undertake this new challenge. We hope to soon have a comfortable spot for research, meditation and study as well as the variety of activities it now houses. Miriam Bryant



"Missionaries are just like real people!"

Julie Robie, Missions Administrator

Every year at the NACCC Annual Meeting and Conference, the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC) sponsors a Missionary Reception. It is an informal evening gathering where the missionaries and those attending the meeting have a chance to meet face to face. It is also a time for the missionaries to thank and spend time with their donors.

All of the recent receptions had one thing in common – chocolate! M&M's were used to mark on a table map where NACCC missions are located around the world and how many folks had visited that mission. Some M&M's never made it to the map of course. Greg Jurewicz, chair of the Alumni Association, has made wraps for over 70 chocolate bars each year with the MOMC theme for the reception. Those candy bars are handed out at the reception and made available on the MOMC display table for those who pass by.

What comes of this fun, factual and fattening time together? MOMC hears over-and-over again - "Missionaries are just like real people!" Most of them speak fluent English. Some of them speak 5 languages. They use the internet for their work (when there is power or connectivity), have Facebook pages and email. Many have advanced degrees. Several have retired from corporate jobs to spend their time running a mission or pastoring a church. They struggle to provide for and raise families in areas of deep need, financial crisis and limited medical care. Real life struggles for real people, just like us, who dedicate their lives spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you have a chance to attend the 2020 meeting in Portland, Maine, please consider attending the Missionary Reception – there will be chocolate!





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
 <p>Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239</p>						
		1 W.W.	2 <u>Youth Nite</u> DOGs 4:30-5:30 <u>PreK-5th gr</u> Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8 th gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12 th gr W.W.	3 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLp 	4	5
6 World-wide Communion Sunday  9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 2-5pm David Dickey Eagle Scout Court of Honor event	7	8 8:30am MBC meets W.W.	9 <u>Youth Nite</u> DOGs 4:30-5:30 <u>PreK-5th gr</u> Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8 th gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12 th gr W.W.	10 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLp 	11 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets Pastor Dan gone IA-NE Meeting in Burlington thru Sat	12 Pastor Dan in Burlington
13 3 rd grade bible presentation  9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 5pm Nooma Loft	14	15 6:30pm Deacons W.W.	16 <u>Youth Nite</u> DOGs 4:30-5:30 <u>PreK-5th gr</u> Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8 th gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12 th gr W.W.	17 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLp  6:30pm Trustees	18 9-2 FH&MF rooms revd for Estabrook event	19
20  9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 10:30 Svc: Habitat update 11:45am BCE Meets	21 6:30 pm Sisters in Christ meet MKM Ministries	22 W.W.	23 <u>Youth Nite</u> DOGs 4:30-5:30 <u>PreK-5th gr</u> Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8 th gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12 th gr W.W.	24 4-5:50pm HoMework HeLp 	25 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets	26 11am MOW FCC Vol: McCarty & Shollenbarger 12:30 Pumpkin Patch trip Pre-K thru 12 th grades 
27  9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 7pm YABS/LOFT	28	29 W.W.	30 <u>Youth Nite</u> DOGs 4:30-5:30 <u>PreK-5th gr</u> Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8 th gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12 th gr W.W.	31 No Homework help  5: 15- 7pm Trick or treat night transport Meet @ FCC		<u>color code:</u> youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards P.9



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

web page: www.fccmarshalltown.org

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. All ages in the LOFT

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

Office hours 9 a.m. - noon Mon - Fri 641-752-4239

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

