

Pilgrim's Progress

September 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."

What Makes Each Congregation Unique?

1 Peter 4:10

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

The New Testament is known for declaring as a church not individual congregations, but all the Christians in a given area. The "church of Ephesus" probably meant tell the Christians living in that great city, even though they very well may have worshipped in different congregations, then gathered in peoples' homes. The same would be true of the church of Colossae, or Thessalonika or any of the seven churches addressed at the beginning of the Book of Revelation. They were made up of several, if not many, congregations.

But I believe that every congregation has a purpose, has a unique role to play in what God is doing in a community. Yes, congregations have life cycles, but no one is redundant, and all are valuable. There are other congregations to do projects and outreaches as we do (though I think our VBS is one of the best in town) and there are many congregations across the nation with the name of "First Congregational Church". But the people of every congregation, and the gifts they bring, are all unique for every congregation.

The Apostle Peter wrote that everyone had a gift, something given to them by the Holy Spirit that they could share to help each other, and in doing so they serve as good stewards of the grace of God. I believe that a person's gift is something that gives them joy, something "they can sink their teeth into". Sometimes it can be time consuming or labor intensive, but it is something that is valuable and has meaning for you. Someone whose gift is ministering to children in the nursery may find it to be a lot of work sometimes, but they will have a love for the children. Someone who teaches the Bible will not always find it easy to keep everyone's attention all the time, but they will be passionate about people knowing the Bible well. What service interests you? What brings you joy? That may be your gift, and it is your gift that helps make this congregation unique. Pastor Dan

Sermons for September



September 1
September 8
September 15
September 22
September 29

Your Work Matters
Crucified with Christ
Pastor Dan out of town
Rally Sunday
The Curse of the Law

Hebrews 13:1-8
Galatians 2:20

Galatians 3:13



Terry & Jack Tremain	September 9, 1961	58 years
Jennifer Allison & Merrill Swartz	September 12, 1998	21 years
Tory & Stacy Moyer	September 16, 2003	16 years
Bob & Linda McGregor	September 16, 1972	47 years
John & Lisa Blabaum	September 28, 1996	23 years
Donn & Pat Anderson	September 29, 1984	35 years
Larry & Sam Good	September 30, 1967	52 years



September 5	Joan Fry	September 17	Kathleen Hale
September 6	Ian Meyer	September 19	Jane Benbow
September 8	Doris Oldenkamp	September 20	Matt Dammen
September 11	Jeanie Burt, Carol Calabrese, Haley Storjohann	September 21	Kolleen Shollenbarger
September 12	Eric Gummert	September 22	Darcie Lunsford, Charles Randall
September 13	Pastor Dan	September 23	Carol Edeker
September 16	Emily Carson, Sarah Latham Christopher McGahuey	September 24	Wayne Wagar
		September 26	Brian Fernea
		September 27	Roberta Olson
		September 30	Jeremy Lavendar

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

Bickford Cottage: 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 #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:

Back-to-school began with the middle school seventh and eighth grade students and MCS staff/faculty participating in a leadership retreat held at Pilgrim Heights Camp & Retreat Center. Canoeing, challenge course, leadership skills, togetherness and good-fellowship was the best way to start the school year.

The MCS Board of Directors traveled to Des Moines for a professional development seminar presented by Simon Jeynes, CSM Executive Director and Bill Simmer, CSM Senior Consultant (Christian School Management), held at Des Moines Christian School. The information presented was inspiring and enlightened.

Support Christian education, invest in children, and join us for the MCS Fall Picnic fundraiser, Sunday, September 8, 11:30-2 p.m. BBQ lunch, raffle items, fun games, and inflatables are all part of the "friend-raiser" Sunday. Tickets are available from the Greg Meyer family, at the MCS office (641-753-8824) or at the door, day of the picnic. If you cannot join, consider sending a donation to MCS at 1408 South 7th Avenue.



January - July 2019	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	\$88,581	\$107,506	-\$18,925
EXPENSES	\$150,199	\$145,040	\$5,159



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

Kickoff your Fall with Jesus!!



Once again the Youth of FCC will be getting ready to lead **Rally Day Youth Service** which has been set for **Sunday September 22nd at both 8am & 10:30am**. You will be experiencing a time of worship where you will begin to understand how "God's Not Done With You". 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.



Rally Day Practice dates:

Sunday Sept 1st: 6-12th grade, 9:15am

Wednesday Sept. 4th: 6-12th grade, 6-7:30pm

Sunday Sept. 8th: preschool-5th grade, 9:15am

No practice Wednesday Sept 11th

Sunday Sept. 15th: preschool-12th grade, 9:15am

Wednesday Sept. 18th: 6-12th grade, 6-7:30pm

Final run through: **Saturday, Sept. 21st** 5-7pm

Preschool-5th grade 5-6pm only & 6-12th grade the whole time slot.



Wednesday Night Activities will kick off on **Wednesday, Sept. 25th from 6-7:30pm** with all groups together, preschool-12th grade in the fellowship hall! It will be a night that will dazzle your senses with wonderful worship and great games, with one being a blind pizza taste test (who thinks they know their pizza restaurants?)



September 29th Power Hour will kick off with a football "tailgating" party in the Loft for preschool-12th grade at 9:15am with game food faves, fun games, & a surprise guest. Don't miss it!

HoMework HeLp



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.



Our youth have had a great time this summer putting up Flags for our community with the Morning Optimist Club! We are so appreciative of the wonderful fundraising opportunity it provides! *****



Our Youth Group 6-12th grade will be joining other youth groups for a **Come Together at Lamoille Church in Lamoille, IA on Wednesday Sept 11th starting at 6pm**. But this night is not limited to youth groups! Anyone from the church is invited to come!! This night will not only have awesome worship

but will also have a wonderful message from David Zach, singer/musician from the Christian Rock Band: Remedy Drive, who will be sharing about his current mission and time serving with the organization, Exodus Road, that fights Human Trafficking. Don't miss this incredible event!



Saturday, Sept. 14th, the Youth 6-12th grade are invited to a Campout at Lamoille Church in Lamoille, IA. We will meet up at FCC at **4:45pm** & head to Lamoille for some games, food, and worship around a campfire! We will sleep in their "outback" in tents. If you have one, you can bring your own. Also need flashlights & a Bible. Shelly has a few tents she will bring. We will end on Sunday morning after church.



The 2019 NAPF-HOPE youth mission conference was at the Mohican Outdoor School camp in Butler, OH, and had a great summer camp feel with the usual worship, teaching, small groups, mission work, and fellowship. The theme this year was "Be Still and Know That I Am God" from Psalm 46:10. Our wonderful speaker was Mark Horner. We had mission work with Habitat for Humanity and urban outreach organizations like Friendly House, Red Cross, and labor tasks like painting and outdoor projects around the campsite. Next year's conference will be in New England as close to the adult NA conference as possible. Please join us on

Sept. 15th during the 10:30am service as the group shares pictures and memories from the mission conference with the church.



We had a wonderful summer of special activities with the youth of our church!

For our preschool-5th grade group we had a blast having a picnic at Dreamland Park in Conrad, IA, then a Drive-in movie in the portico at church, and finally a Water War/ Fruit of the Spirit Splash in the front lawn at church! So much fun!

For our 6-12th grade group we had a Cosmic Bowling/Sardines/Pizza night at Wayward Social and the church, then a lock-in at church, and finally fun time at

Adventureland with the Lamoille Congregational Church youth group! Love all our opportunities to grow as a church family!!



YABS: Young Adult Bible Study in the Loft at FCC. **Sunday, Sept 15th** at 7pm. Any questions contact Shelly Speas.



Once a month Adult Bible Study at FCC in the Loft. Will be **Sunday, Sept. 22nd at 5pm**. Continuing the "Before Amen" Bible Study by Max Lucado. A meal & child care is included. Any questions please contact Shelly Speas or Kristin Meyer.

2019 VBS IS A SUCCESS AND IN THE HISTORY BOOKS!



So many people to thank for their outstanding efforts this year at our "To Mars and Beyond" VBS. Your contributions, whether it was financial, prayer, time or skills made a huge difference to 75 children that were part of our VBS this year! Thank you so much! Take a look at these fun photos!

THE SANCTUARY TRANSFORMED!

ROBOTS



AWESOME FOOD! ACTIVITIES IN THE SANCTUARY DIRECTOR SHELLY INSTRUCTING



MORE FUN PICTURES!





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A GREAT TIME AT THE AUGUST PICNIC!!!

Our August Picnic at Arnold's Park went well, with Pastor Dan and Darin Sauer manning the grill, cooking up burgers and dogs. The cornhole game was popular with both adults and children. There were balls, frisbee golf, hula hoops, basketball and playground equipment to entertain as well. The weather was perfect for our day!





SISTER'S IN CHRIST EVENT!

"SISTERS IN CHRIST" INVITES YOU TO

**IT'S
UNIQUE:
FLORAL
WORKSHOP
9/23, 6:30**

APRIL MCKIBBIN OF IT'S UNIQUE FLORAL BOUTIQUE WILL TEACH US HOW
TO ARRANGE FRESH FLOWERS, INCLUDING SOME DESIGNER SECRETS!
\$25 REGISTRATION INCLUDES VASE, FLOWERS, FILLER, INSTRUCTION AND
DESSERT. CALL JEANNE (419-308-1107) OR SHELLY (641-751-9868) TO
RESERVE YOUR SPOT. SISTERS IN CHRIST IS THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 312 W. MAIN, MARSHALLTOWN.

BEST QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE TIME WHEN THE POWER OF LOVE WILL REPLACE
THE LOVE OF POWER. THEN WILL OUR WORLD KNOW THE BLESSINGS OF PEACE."**

**WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER (1809 - 1898) .**









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
 <div>Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239</div>						
1 Communion No Fellowship 9:15am Rally practice gr 6-12 grades	2 Church offices closed 	3 W.W.	4 6-7:30pm Rally practice 6-12 grades W.W.	5 4-5:30pm HoMework HeIp 	6	7
8 9:15am Rally Practice pre-5th grades MCS picnic 11:30-2/contact Meyer family for tickets	9	10 8:45am MBC meets W.W.	11 No Rally Practice 6pm Youth Group Come Together in LaMoille W.W.	12 4-5:30pm HoMework HeIp 	13 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets	14 4:45pm Youth Group 6-12gr Campout @ Lamoille Church/end Sunday am after church
15 9:15am Rally practice pre-5th grades Pastor Dan Gone 10:30 svc: Youth presents on Annual Trip. 11:45 BCE Meets 7pm YABS/LOFT	16	17 6:30pm Deacons W.W.	18 6-7:30pm Rally practice6-12 grades W.W.	19 4-5:30pm HoMework HeIp  6:30pm Trustees	20	21 Final Rally Practice 5-6pm - Pre-5th 5-7pm - 6-12 gr
22 8am & 10:30am services RALLY SUNDAY 5pm Nooma Loft	23 6:30pm Sisters in Christ meet for Flower arranging event with "It's Unique Boutique Florals"	24 W.W.	25 6-7:30pm Youth Night Activities begin! 6-7:30 all grades in Loft W.W.	26 4-5:50pm HoMework HeIp 	27 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets	28 11am MOW FCC Vol: Rod Hassler
29 9:15am Power Hour Kick off!	30					color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards



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

