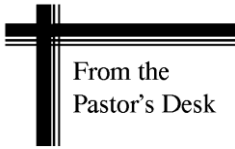


Pilgrim's Progress

December 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."



From the
Pastor's Desk

The Christmas season remembers when Jesus came as a little child, and on some level anticipates the time when He returns, and there is a sense in which we seek to draw closer to God in this time. With that in mind, the Apostle Paul wrote, "and do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed." He would go on to describe this awakening in terms of leaving

away habits that are sinful and destructive and to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ".

"Putting on" someone involves imitating them, embracing their approach to life, thinking and acting the way they did. Putting on Jesus seems to be spelled out in the previous paragraph. A few verses before verse 11, the apostle wrote:

⁸ Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 13:8-10

Loving one's neighbor, when lived perfectly, fulfills the law, and this is the practical outgrowth of "putting on Christ". Mindful that our Savior loves us with a love greater than we can fully understand, we draw close to Him this Christmas season by renewing our opportunities and commitment to love one another, that is, to do what is best for one another as much as is possible. Christ comes near in such churches. May we fulfill this in all that we do this month to honor Christ and remember His coming. Pastor Dan

Sermons



Sermons for December

December 1	Matthew 24:36-44	How to Watch
December 8	No sermon.	special skit for the Christmas season
December 15	Youth Christmas Program	
December 22	Matthew 1:18-25	The Virgin Birth
December 25	Christmas Eve Service	
December 29	Hebrews 2:10-18	The Captain of Their Salvation

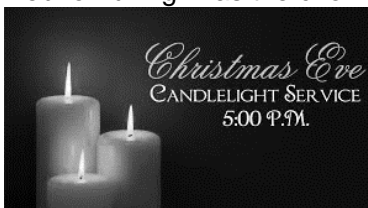
DIACONATE NEWS

Many thanks to Julianne Packer and Judy Gaynor for heading up the delicious Harvest dinner. And many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with set-up, serving and cleanup.

All are welcome to come help decorate the Sanctuary on Saturday, Nov 30th at 10:30 for the Advent/Christmas season.

Thank you Lynn Maas for the beautiful fall decorations and heading up the Sanctuary decorating for Christmas.

Dec 8th Deb Nuss will present a portrayal of Jesus's grandmother during the sermon time with congregation Christmas hymn singing interspersed through the program. Thank you Deb for offering to do this. And many thanks Deb for fulfilling in as the choir accompanist while Arlene is gone.



We will have the candlelight family Christmas Eve service at 5 PM on December 24th.

CHURCH NEWS



Alan & Sandy Packer	12/02/10	9 years
Breana & Luis Alvarado	12/4/15	4 years
Greg & Barbara Ellcey	12/12/60	59 years
John & Roberta Olson	12/22/84	35 years
Foster Hawkins & Nancy Urbanoswki	12/29/89	29 years



December 2	Sarah Paustian
December 3	Sharon Greer
December 8	Don Bogenrief, Lauren March, Craig Ragland
December 12	Shauna Banks
December 17	Jenny Berg
December 19	Phyllis Wyatt
December 20	Anita Niehouse, Nay Liew
December 21	Loretta Stubbe
December 23	Jeb Long
December 25	Norma Dannen
December 27	Valois Brintnall, Nate Speas
December 28	Sarah Nullmeyer
December 30	Todd Stanley
December 31	Cindy Shirar



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

- Southridge:** Betty Runner #212,
- Bickford :** Joanie Smith-Legg #108; Marilyn Rhodes # 123, Dorothy Peterson #105
- Grandview:** Pattye Morrison #107, Ken Niehouse #413 **IVH:** JoAnne Ainley

Suites of Ankeny: Don & Romaine Mackaman

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

Glenwood Place: Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mildred Lathrop #145, Bob Becker #175, Bonnie Pappas # 177, Lenora Brown #147



Your support of our Church is always appreciated. As we end this giving year of 2019 it is important that you know that all donations for 2019 need to be in the office by Dec 27 to be counted towards your 2019 taxes. Thank you.



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



Wednesday Night Activities: December 4, 11 & 18 (no activities on the 25th)
DOGs 4:30-5:30pm, PreK-5th grade
Jr PY 6-7pm, 6-8th grade
PY 7:30-8:30pm 9-12th grade

December Power Hour: PreK-12th grade 9:15am on December 1,8,15,22,29. **Don't miss it!**



Homework help available on Thursdays, from **4-5:30pm** in the Loft. Students can stop by anytime for help. December dates are: 5, 12, & 19. If there are church members who would like to help students with homework, please contact Shelly Speas.



The Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 15th during the 10:30am worship service at FCC. This year's production will be How the Grinch Found Christ at Christmas, a wonderful message about how Jesus makes broken hearts new when we understand our salvation found in Him. Please come join us! Then stay afterward for a soup luncheon following the service.

Final rehearsals 12:30-2:30pm on December 7th and DRESS REHEARSAL 12:30-2:30pm on December 14th.

Following the Christmas Program, the youth of FCC will be having a bake sale in the Mayflower Room as a fundraiser for their Youth Mission Conference. So bring your sweet tooth and plate up some wonderful Christmas cookies and goodies to take home and share with your family!



YABS (Young Adult Bible Study) will be Sunday, December 22nd at 7pm in the Loft.



Nooma Night Bible Study will be Sunday, December 8th at 5pm at church. A meal and child care is provided.



Adult Activities: Sunday School 9:30am every Sunday in the Adult Ed Room.

SISTERS IN CHRIST: will not meet in December.

MISSIONS & BENEVOLENCE



Christmas is right around the corner which means that it's time to give gifts for our Angel Tree.

The FCC 2019 Angel Tree will be set up in the Fellowship Hall after Thanksgiving. You will be able to choose gift(s) you would like to donate. Please go to the Fellowship Hall anytime after Thanksgiving to select a gift(s) from the Angel Tree. Please purchase gifts and return them **unwrapped** on or before Sunday, December 15th. Your gifts may be dropped off at the church office during the week or on

Sunday mornings in a box near the Angel Tree marked "Salvation Army Toy Shop." If you prefer, you can make a designated donation to the Salvation Army for a Christmas food box. Along with the gifts, we ask volunteers to pray that the needs of the children and families be met.



This year the Missions and Benevolence Committee agreed to support the Salvation Army's Christmas "Toy Shop." The committee will take your donation to the Salvation Army where parents will be able to select gifts for their children's Christmas. Families, who meet the income guidelines, may sign up for the program.

Families and individuals may sign up for a food box which contains fixings for a Christmas meal and a gift certificate for meat. Parents who are eligible and sign up for the Toy Shop program will have the opportunity to choose a gift for their child from one of the "Toy Shop" tables. Parents are paired with a volunteer and shop at one of the "Toy Shop" tables that are set up with age appropriate gifts for their child.

There are many ways to get involved. You can volunteer to help set up the "Christmas Toy Shop." Go to Salvation Army's volunteer registration site at www.registertoring.com. When you enter the site, you will see a list of options.

Tap "View Full Site" and scroll down the page where you will see the volunteer opportunities for the "Toy Shop." They are: Toy Shop Set Up, Toy Shop Distributing Food and Toy Shop Tear Down.

(Please mark your calendar and give this Christmas out of the storehouse of what God so generously gives to us, His children.)

Acts 20:35

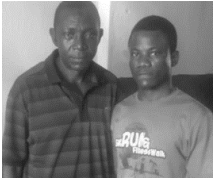
In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'



As a soon to be second year member of the Missions & Benevolence committee. My role has been to help fulfill our church's commitment to Meals on Wheels. Our church is responsible for one route one Saturday a month or two Saturdays when there are 5 Saturdays in the month. I thank all members who have helped our church achieve our mission to this community service. There is a brand new year coming up and a brand new sign up sheet for 2020 in the Narthex. I encourage our members to sign up for the time frame(s) that work into your schedule. It usually takes about an hour and it makes a difference in the life for the recipient. You may be the only visitor to that person

that day! Thank you so much on the behalf of the Missions and Benevolence Committee. You may contact me if you have questions 641-753-3276 if you have questions. Kristi Hassler.

MKM MISSIONS This young man's name is Vandí----also known as Super Vandí. He has lived with the MKM family for the last 3 years. Vandí had been living in less than safe conditions and was heading down a dangerous path when Solomon met him. Solomon invited Vandí to come to live at the compound and join the MKM family. Since that time, Vandí has completed his schooling and has a strong desire to be a policeman. Recently this uncle came to the compound to see Vandí. The uncle is a college graduate and is employed in Freetown. His desire is to take care of Vandí from this point and help him reach his goal of becoming a policeman. He is a believer and has a love for Vandí. So while we are sorry to see Vandí go, we are praising God for this family member stepping in and helping Vandí become independent. This has been a beautiful picture of the body of Christ working together. We are so thankful for all that Vandí has done for the ministry! Please pray for Sammy Boy who shared a room with Vandí! He will miss this big "brother". I am excited to see how God will use Vandí to make a difference for the Kingdom!



Special Request Georgia Thomas has a family member who is unable to work outside her home because of health concerns. She fills her days by clipping coupons which are then sent to military families overseas. She would appreciate having church members save the coupon sections from the Sunday Times Republican or DSM Register for her. Even if some coupons are clipped out, she will take the remaining parts of the coupon booklets. There is a box marked "COUPONS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES" for you to deposit your coupons in located on the table in the Narthex or you can give the booklets to Georgia, and she will make sure they are sent to St. Louis. Thank you!



The Advent Devotional from the NACCC is available on the bookcase in the hallway. The theme for Advent 2019 is "The Bridge." This devotional booklet features submissions from members and ministers of Congregational churches from coast to coast. With scripture, devotional thought, and prayer included for each day of the Advent Season, this resource can be used by all to reflect on the meaning and importance of Advent.



DECEMBER

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
		Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239				
1 Communion Sunday  9:15AM Power Hour PreK- 12gr	2	3	4 Youth Nite DOGs 4:30-5:30 PreK-5 th gr Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8 th gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12 th gr	5 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLp 	6	7 12:30-2:30pm Cmas Pageant rehearsal
8  9:15AM Power Hour PreK- 10:30 "Grandmother of Jesus" Skit 5pm Nooma Loft	9	10 8:30am MBC meets W.W.	11 Youth Nite DOGs 4:30-5:30 PreK-5 th gr Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8 th gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12 th gr W.W. 2:30 pm Dicaonate Cmas Party forFCC members living @ Glenwood & Bickford	12 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLp  6:30 Trustees meet	13 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets	14 12:30-2:30pm Cmas Pageant dress rehearsal
15 Communion  9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 10:30 Children's Cmas Program 11:45 BCE Meets	16	17 6:30pm Deacons W.W.	18 Youth Nite DOGs 4:30-5:30 PreK-5 th gr Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8 th gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12 th gr W.W.	19 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLp 	20	21
22  9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr	23 Weight Watchers Meet at 11am & 6pm Holiday Hours Closed December 24th & 25th 	24  Christmas Candlelight Svc 5pm in sanctuary	25 No Youth Activities tonight 	26	27 2019 church donations due today for credit on 2019 taxes	28 11am MOW Volunteers: Wagars
29 9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 	30 Weight Watchers Meet at 11am & 6pm	31  2020				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

