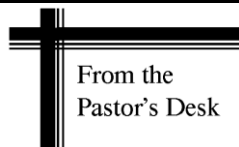


Pilgrim's Progress

May 2020

"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."



May is a frustrating month, in that the best weather of the year takes place but, at present, we have limited opportunity to enjoy it. The Deacons met recently and it looks like we will continue to have worship via the internet at least through mid-May, and that will depend, in large part, on decisions made by

the Governor of our state. In the meantime, for those who don't know how to access the online Sunday worship service, go to www.fccmarshalltown.org and look at the upper right-hand corner of the page. There you should see an icon that looks like the letter "f". That's to reach the church's Facebook page. Just next to that "f" is a small triangle. Click that icon and you will go to the church's YouTube page, where the Sunday services are recorded. Earlier worship services are also on that page. This is one way to keep in touch while we wait.

"Waiting" is a theme for the church calendar of the month of May in that the 21st is the Day of the Ascension of the Lord. After remaining with the disciples for many days after the Resurrection, Jesus ascends to heaven after promising to return (Acts 1:1-11). He tells them to wait for the Holy Spirit to come and help them. And so, they wait for ten days, although I don't think they had any idea how long it would be. On the 31st, the Holy Spirit came in power on the Day of Pentecost, and the church, as we understand it, was born. Sometimes we are made to wait; for it reminds us that God is sovereign and we can do nothing on our own. Waiting reminds us of our need for the Lord, and for each other, but we can wait with confidence because we serve a Lord who keeps promises, and will never forsake us. One way or another, our waiting will come to fruition.

-Pastor Dan

Sermons for May

Sermons



May 3
May 10
May 17
May 24

Theme-Waiting

An Hour in the Garden
The Power of an Answered Prayer
The Holy Sanctuary of Our Hearts
To Comprehend Scripture

Luke 22:39-46
John 14:12-14
1 Peter 3:13-22
Luke 24:44-53



CHURCH NEWS



Aaron & Angie Dickey	May 10, 1997	22 years
Blake & Sarah Latham	May 26, 2007	12 years
Steve & Alicia Storjohann	May 27, 1983	36 years



May 1	Grant Brintnall, Nichole Wimberly		
May 2	Kristi Hassler, Paul Packer		
May 3	Sandy Packer	May 13	Kali Banks, Ken Morrison
May 4	Whitney Storjohann	May 15	Doug Randall
May 5	Avayah Speas	May 19	Levi Storjohann
May 6	Jennifer Allison, Megan Greenwood	May 21	Bob Gaynor, Ken Winkler
May 7	Doris McCarty, Chad Pinkston, Tanya Jordan	May 22	Lee Brintnall
May 8	Ashley Beaty, Lisa Beaty	May 23	Raechel McGahuey, Judy Gaynor
May 9	Madison Swartz, Eleanor Tjossem	May 31	Wendi Stanley
May 10	Cynthia Ragland, Jim Clark, Nicole Vellinga		
May 11	Claire Meyer, Libby Meyer, Patricia Morrison,		



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

Suites of Ankeny: Don & Romaine Mackaman **Southridge:** Betty Runner #212

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

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



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

As we go into May, we find that we are still having to physically distance and not meet at the church. I prefer to call it physically distancing because we are still social. I say this because we may not have been able to meet physically as a church but we have stayed active on our youth group Facebook page!

We have some incredible youth leaders who have helped make some great lessons, videos, and challenges for our families to keep them connected with each other, our church, and God's word.

- Patrick Stewart has made several videos of Bible story readings and led some fun and entertaining Power Hour worship time videos.
- Georgia Thomas has helped create some Bible reading challenges for our families, and has continued to reach out to families, checking in & offering encouragement!
- Tonya Tuttle made a video reading a Christian story to our younger students, talking about who God is and how much he loves us.
- Jenny Sauer made an art tutorial to encourage our youth to be creative and share their creations with all of us.
- Holly Carter put together fun pictures of some of our youth leaders at church with a message to our students about how much we miss them and encourage them to keep reading their Bibles at home.
- Grant Carter, Patrick Stewart, and Shelly Speas have put together some videos of Etiquette lessons, having fun sharing what we should and shouldn't do during this time.
- Shelly has shared a be kind to your parents challenge, encouraging students to help their parents at home, and asking parents to post pictures of their kids doing chores.
- Shelly has also made a Bible verse memorizing challenge and books of the Bible memorizing video for our students. We have also shared Christian music videos to encourage hope at home through God's love and promises to us.
- Shelly has also continued to share youth group messages weekly to our youth and families with videos and pictures.
- Shelly created a Palm Sunday processional video of our youth waving palm leaves in front of their houses and we were able to use it on Palm Sunday during our live stream Sunday service.

- Shelly, Patrick, and Grant will be going around to the homes of our youth and putting up flamingos in their yards. They will be leaving treats and a message for our families to encourage them and let them know they are important and being missed by FCC! We will continue to reach out in these many ways as a FCC youth ministry team to the youth and their families!

BIBLE CHALLENGE

Georgia has a current challenge for the youth of our church that we included here: Hello to all you youth group members and Power Hour students! I am still missing each one of you, and tomorrow will be another Sunday we can't meet together. BUT I have an idea--here is a word puzzle for you to solve, and it will help you get more familiar with the New Testament. You younger kids may want to ask a parent for some help with this project. When we finally get to meet again, I will have a little reward for each person who messages me with the solution to the puzzle. Here is how it will work: I will list Bible verses below with a number attached to each verse. Find the verse, and write down the word in the verse that corresponds with the number. For example, if I gave you Revelation 2:3, and the number is 7, you would write down the 7th word in the third verse in Rev. Chapter 2. Got it? If you find the words in the order given, you should be able to read a message from me! Good luck!

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 1. 1 Cor. 1:10 | #4 | 7. Eph. 1:19 | #11 |
| 2. Phil 2:4 | #15 | 8. Romans 10:9 | #8 |
| 3. 1 Thes. 5:10 | #17 | 9. Acts 10:47 | #16 |
| 4. Matthew 28:5 | #9 | 10. Col. 3:13 | #1 |
| 5. Luke 2:12 | #12 | 11. John 3:16 | #4 |
| 6. Matthew 10:1 | #5 (drop the "s" off this word) | 12. Titus 2:14 | #25
(drop "ted" and add ment" to this word) |

FUN PICTURES TO SHARE!!!!



Sam & Shelly Speas and Patrick Stewart had fun decorating the church sanctuary with a surprise audience for Pastor Dan on Palm Sunday. We wanted to put a smile on his face as he is missing his congregation and as he works hard continuing to lead our church!





Christian Ed News-Adaptation

Even though we are all doing many things differently with the pandemic, there are many things that are still the same. We are still "the church", because "the church" is a group of believers. God is still in control and is not surprised by any of this. We will continue to adapt to bring His love and his Word to those in our church. Here's what's been going on:

Kinsmen in Christ (men's group) continues to meet the first and third Friday of the month on Zoom. If you are a man and want to join, let Pastor Dan know.

The HOPE/NAPF meeting in Maine has been cancelled. The 2021 meeting will be in Spokane, WA.

We will offer a VBS called Breakout. The date will be set when we can safely do so.

Our youth director, Shelly, and her teachers and youth helpers have done a remarkable job offering much online to the children and teens. You may have seen the video of kids waving palms (taken on individual's porches) matched with music that was posted on Facebook. In addition, there have been a plethora of messages, Christian animated videos, song videos, skits, challenges, book readings, etiquette lessons, art lessons and more.

Events on hold are: the youth rummage sale, graduation celebration and Sisters in Christ. Events that may be held virtually are Nooma and YABS.

Blessings to you all, Jeanne Vellinga, Chair



MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

MY KINSMEN MINISTRIES REPORT

Praise God and thank you for all of your prayers for Paul! He recovered VERY quickly from his typhoid and malaria and is feeling well!

Praise God for the work in Komende on the church building! They are ready for their roof! This has been a long time coming, and we are thankful for the encouragement not to give up in this village! God is working, even when we do not see it! Waiting for the community of believers to gather their materials and do their part was SO HARD! I just wanted to jump in and do it for them, but GOD reminds us to wait on Him. I am confident that the people in the village who have done so much work will have real ownership of this great blessing from God.

The ministry continues to adapt and seek ways to serve in this crazy time. Our sewing team made over 200 masks and has distributed them throughout Kenema. The staff is continuing to go out and gather with small groups for Bible studies. Please pray that God would show them just where they are needed.

The country continues to make plans for dealing with Covid19. A lab tech in Kenema was confirmed infected this week. He has worked with the doctor who was initially positive in the country. Unfortunately the lab tech continues to work while symptomatic and sought help through "traditional medicine"....which likely caused even more exposure for those around him. PLEASE PRAY THAT THIS CHAIN STOPS RIGHT HERE. The thought of dealing with meeting food and water needs in a previously discussed 21 day lockdown is quite daunting in a place without a water system or refrigeration. Please pray that God intervenes and STOPS THE SPREAD. Could you also pray for those who are operating small businesses through our loan program. We have between 15 and 20 active loans. The program has recently been going really well....

Blessings to all of you! THANKFUL THAT OUR TEAM REMAINS WELL and FAITHFUL!



MEALS ON WHEELS is still "in motion" as volunteers continue to take care of feeding those who need us. Our church is so willing to help deliver these meals, I just wanted to give a "shout out" to those who have delivered or are signed up to do so this year!

THANK YOU!!! Rod Hassler, Doris McCarty (2x), Bill & Lynn Maas, Shelly Speas, Julie and Arch Allison (2x) and Kolleen Shollenbarger. You are so appreciated! Arch and Julie are signed up for May 23rd

We still have a few open dates available for drivers/deliverers: July 25, Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 28 and Dec 26. Since we are not presently meeting for services on Sundays, if you'd like to sign up for one of these 5 dates, call the church office and Mary will get you on the sign-up sheet. Thank you again and stay well. Kristi Hassler





The prevalence of COVID-19 continues to affect us all...but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. In the meantime, we have a team of sewers making many masks for local medical needs, as well as our own congregation. If you are in need of a mask for you and/or your family, please call the church to request one.

We also have volunteers who are willing to run errands for anyone in our church family if needed...groceries, meds, or other needs. Again, just call the church to request assistance. Blessings.



In spite of COVID-19, we still have graduating seniors. The following students have ties to FCC and it is our honor to celebrate them!

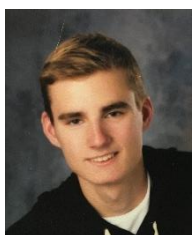


Jenny Sauer is graduating from the Marshalltown High School in May of 2020. Jenny is the daughter of Darin and Jennifer Sauer.

Jenny has been involved in our youth programs the last few years at FCC. She has helped plan and implement pageants, the youth services, and fundraisers at church, and has attended our National Youth Mission Conference the last two years also.

Jenny has served on the Board of Christian Education, and has been a youth leader for our elementary students this last year. She received a “silver chord” through the

high school for her many hours of volunteering for our community, and was part of the National Honor Society. She was also involved with the Mentors in Violence Prevention, the Marshalltown Education Partnership program, volunteered as a runner (for notes and announcements) for the office, and was an ambassador for the “Gear Up” program at the high school. Jenny was also part of the MHS bowling team all four years. Jenny took a college class from MCC offered through the high school this year, to get her started in the nursing program. This summer Jenny plans to work at the Country Club and spend time with friends and youth group. Next year Jenny plans to attend Marshalltown Community College, and will be in a one year paid nursing program.



Conner Allen Beaty, son of John and Lisa Beaty will graduate from MCC this spring. Conner will attend Iowa State University in the fall pursuing a major in Actuarial Science.



Leiah Paustian will graduate from Iowa State University with a degree in Finance. Her parents are Katie Paustian and Tod McDanel. Her grandparents are Terry and Julianne Paustian.

Paul Pacelli, grandson of Jeanie Burt and son of Julie Pacelli. Paul graduated this past weekend from University of Pittsburg with a degree in business. He was baptized at FCC by Pastor Ellcey.





MARSHALLTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEWS

In these ever-changing current times, Marshalltown Christian School is extremely grateful that our Almighty God of creation *never* changes. *He is the same yesterday, today, and forever*, and we're thankful knowing He is in control.

Distance Learning continues through the end of the school year, and students are completing assignments and coursework at home with phone and computer contact with their instructors. Education looks a bit different today, but through it all, the teachers' commitment to the MCS mission of "*providing academic excellence*" continues strong and secure. We love and appreciate our teachers and students and miss them abundantly.

The MCS students miss their teachers and each other too, and are thankful they get to "see" each other through their electronic devices. We're all looking forward to gathering in person, face-to-face, again soon!

Student registration for the 2020-21 school year is now open, with an extended deadline of Friday, May 22. Call the school office @ (641) 753-8824 to register your child.



TESTIMONIAL:

We would add that the Meyer family has never been happier to have our kids at MCS. The teachers have worked hard to provide uninterrupted learning during this uncertain time. Ian will graduate 8th grade this year. We are disappointed that we won't have the typical celebrations, but thankful for his experience at MCS. Greg & Kristin Meyer



You can either have
a nice day or you
can help your child
with their math
homework.
You can't have both.
-Coronations
03:30

**Out of the
mouths of babes
oft times come
gems.**

The Sermon a Mom will never forget....

This particular Sunday sermon... 'Dear Lord,' the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. 'Without you, we are but dust....' He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter who was listening leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four-year-old girl voice, 'Mom, what is butt dust?'



2020

FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

Sunday Worship Services: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Office HOURS Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239						
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards					1 7pm Kinsmen for Christ bible study via ZOOM	2
3 Communion 10:30 You TubeService	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 You TubeService	11	12 8:30am MBC meets via ZOOM	13	14	15 7pm Kinsmen for Christ bible study via ZOOM	16
17 10:30 You TubeService 12:30pm BCE Meets via ZOOM	18	19 6:30pm Deacons meet via ZOOM	20	21 6:30pm Trustees meet via ZOOM	22	23 11am MOW Volunteers: Julie & Arch Allison
24 10:30 You TubeService 31 10:30 You TubeService	25 Church offices closed 	26	27	28	29	30



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

