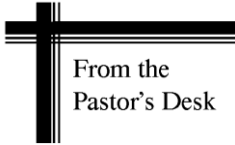


Pilgrim's Progress

June 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."



From the
Pastor's Desk

STAY THE COURSE

As June approaches, the Deacons have decided that we need to "stay the course" we have for the time being because of the ongoing challenge presented by COVID-19. I agree with other pastors and church leaders in that this disease has caused us to temporarily change how we go about our duties, but it has not closed the church. The church is the people and the people are still active. The Youth and Children's Ministry crew has been hard at work preparing educational, inspirational and very funny messages on Facebook. Thanks to some tech savvy volunteers, we still have worship on Sunday via YouTube. The different ministry groups of the church, such as Missions, Christian Education, Deacons and Trustees are still meeting via the Zoom online platform. Pastoral care is done mainly via the phone. It is not as good as visiting and meeting face to face, but it is better than nothing, and I am convinced that it will not be forever. It is how we are working for now, and may be something to which we return if a second wave of this virus reaches our country. The Deacons are still working on plans for the future, but here are some tentative ideas...

TENTATIVE PLANS FOR JULY

We plan to continue our current way of action for the month of June. We won't be the first church to return to open worship services, but that's ok. We don't want anyone risking infection by going to church. If all goes well, we hope to have our first attended worship service on July 5th, but without Communion. That may have to wait until August, and the same goes for Sunday School and Fellowship Hour. When we do meet, we ask that everyone stay at least six feet apart (unless you come as a married couple or family), and wear a mask. If you don't have one, we hope to have some available for you but we really want everyone wearing masks. The Deacons are still working on a plan for Sunday worship with people present, so this is an incomplete and tentative list. We'll keep you in touch as the month progresses.

Pastor Dan

Sermons for June



July 5
July 12
July 19
July 26

The Nation
Gideon
People Are Interconnected
Some Are Selected

Theme-God Builds a House

Zechariah 9:9-12
Judges 6:11-16
Matthew 13:24-30
Matthew 13:47-52



CHURCH NEWS



Eric & Amy Gummert	June 12, 2004	
Chris & Megan Greenwood	June 12, 2010	
Don & Romaine Mackaman	June 13, 1953	67 YEARS!
Dave & Lynn Hall	June 14, 1974	
Gary & Vicki McKibbin	June 17, 1967	
Joel & Sharon Greer	June 19, 1982	
Bob & Jane Bauer	June 20, 1964	
Pastor Dan & Jeanne Vellinga	June 20, 1981	
Ron & Debi Estabrook	June 21, 1970	
Wayne & Jonna Wagar	June 22, 1968	
Charles & Joan Fry	June 25, 1983	
Stan & Georgia Thomas	June 27, 1987	



June 4	Pat Preece	June 19	Jan More
June 9	Joel Angle, Arlene Selby	June 22	Shannon Wolcott
June 10	Deb Mettlin	June 23	Matt Schryver
June 15	Natasha Banks, Jane Bauer	June 25	Lynn Hall
June 16	Maxie Shultz	June 26	Don Benbow
June 18	Luke Schryver	June 30	Layla Wimberly



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



A few youth and leaders got together to put up flags on Memorial Day, to honor the men and women who gave their lives for our freedom and our country! The Morning Optimist Club offers us this opportunity as a youth fundraiser 5 times during the year and we are blessed to be a part of it!



Saturday, July 18th, there will be a Yard Sale at First Congregational Church in the parking lot from 8am-2pm. The proceeds will go towards the Youth Mission Conference in 2021. The tables will be spaced out to help with physical distancing during this time, along with other safety precautions that will be put in place.



Thank you for the many cards, notes, calls, prayers and offers of assistance during my time in the hospital and illness. Thanks to Pastor Dan for his calls to us. It is a comfort to know you are all thinking of us and remembering us. I am moving slowly but grateful to be on the move. Praying for you that you are all safe and well. Blessings, Grateful, Pastor Elcey & Barbara



HIGHLIGHTS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Outreach to the children/youth: The Youth Leaders have been working hard to reach the youth through Social Media. They have been posting messages often and trying to spread the love of Jesus to our youth. They have been working together to do a virtual power hour and etiquette lessons. Shelly along with others like Anna Wolvers have been posting encouraging and educational videos on the Youth Group Facebook page.

Nooma: We will have a Zoom Nooma on Sunday, June 7 at 5:00pm.

NAPF/HOPE has been cancelled for 2020. 2021 will meet in Spokane, WA.

Jeanne Vellinga, chair



MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

HOC Supply Closet Drive Was Fruitful THANK YOU, CONGREGATION!!!



Who at the beginning of the March drive would have thought the cleaning, toiletry and personal hygiene supplies we donated to House of Compassion in our 2020 effort would be SOOO needed. COVID19 restrictions and job losses occurred after our drive began, and the capacity of many Marshalltown citizens to purchase these items shrank further. It was a trying time for all of us, but so many of you generously contributed to this valuable resource for the community. Benevolence and Missions Committee thanks you! And special thanks to Pastor Dan who volunteered to deliver FCC's many sacks of items to the HOC during the strictest period of social distancing.



FCC Benevolence and Mission During COVID19 Mask Making and Distribution

We all owe a deep debt of gratitude to healthcare providers and allied professionals in our community during the COVID19 pandemic. It pleased the following FCC mask making volunteers greatly to support those who labored to serve hospitalized patients during this crisis. Debi Estabrook, Doris McCarty, Linda McGregor, Kim Schryver, Cindy Shirar & family, Jeanne Vellinga, and Cheryl Woltjer. This group of gals cumulatively produced and delivered more than 600 masks to UnityPoint Health – Marshalltown, between March 20 – May 31, 2020. Some in this group also made and distributed many masks to nursing homes, including the Veterans Home. Additionally, more than 40 masks have been delivered to FCC for members of the congregation.

Benevolence and Missions Committee is grateful for the hundreds of dollars and hundreds of hours committed to making protective masks. Many thanks to the spouses of those who worked on this project as well; household schedules and tidiness occasionally suffered to get as many masks done when masks were not readily available to the healthcare workers, let alone the general public. Thanks as well to all those who donated supplies like ribbon and elastic (while it lasted!)

The following is an excerpt from one of many thank you letters from UnityPoint Health – Marshalltown to FCC.

We have been able to give every member of the UnityPoint Health – Marshalltown team two Olson masks. For team members who aren't in direct patient care (like me), that means I have masks to wear at work each day. For our team members who do provide direct patient care, we've also provided them with two Olson masks to wear when their shift is over and they are going back home to their families. Your work is a blessing on the lives of so many. Our gratitude is heartfelt and abundant.

Deirdre Gruendler, Exec. Director
UnityPoint Health – M-town Foundation

As the opportunity to actually attend church hopefully moves from potential to promise, our seamstresses have shifted gears to making masks for church members who do not have them yet and for all guests to our church. Benevolence and Missions Committee's goal is to have at least 100 masks stockpiled at the church by June 21 and another 100 available by July 1. Members of the congregation who have personal masks already are urged to wear them when on-site worship resumes at the church. Those who do not yet have masks by then and any guests to the church can pick up a mask in the church narthex as they enter the sanctuary. These masks will be theirs to keep.

Thank you ALL for your support of this project. Be safe, social distance, wear your masks and stay well! If you need a mask now, several are available at the church. Mary Curley can direct you to them.



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, and we thank you all!

In June and July, Kolleen Shollenbarger and Doris McCarty are our volunteers! Thank you!

We still have open dates available for drivers/deliverers: 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





Justice See is the daughter of April and Jeff McKibbin and Luke and Raelynn See. Gary and Vicki McKibbin are her grandparents. She is a 2020 graduate of Marshalltown High School. Her passion and dedication to dance has earned her several national and regional titles as a soloist. Over the last 7 years, she has performed in the Iowa State Nutcracker Ballet, featured in several roles. She participated in the MHS Dance Team serving as Senior Captain. While on the dance team she was an All Iowa Dancer and proudly placed in the top 12 (2nd place this last year) as soloist. Justice has danced as a competitive dancer with The Dance Konnection since she was 8 years old, earning scholarships to workshops and recently assisting as a dancer on a cruise ship. Over the last 4 years she earned her silver cords student teaching at the studio that she loves. In the fall Justice will be attending the University of Arizona to continue her dance training and studying business.



MARSHALLTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEWS



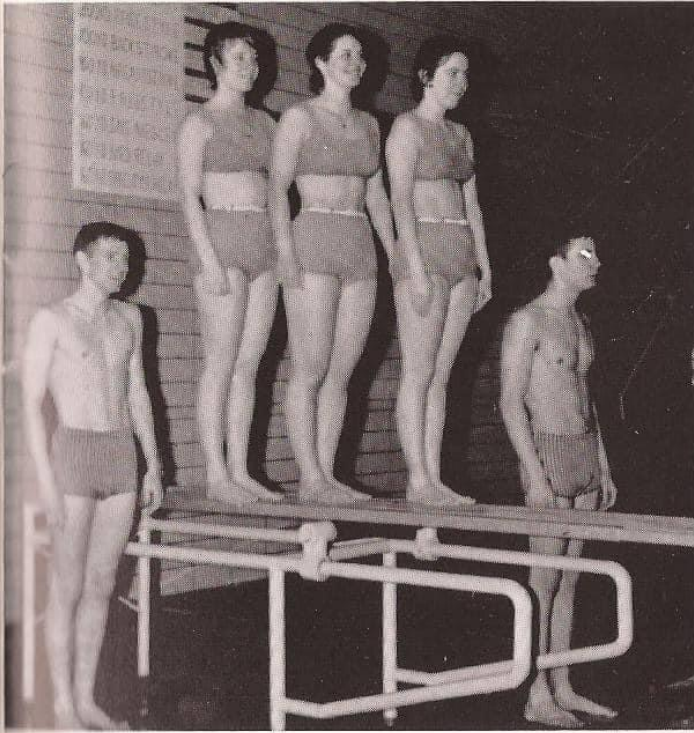
Congratulations to the 8th grade graduates of Marshalltown Christian School! Hats off to Lydia Blevins (Lynn & Bill Maas' granddaughter) , Lydia Colwell, Ian Meyer (Son of Greg & Kristin Meyer), Hannah Norton, Savannah Piper, and Jace Rosekopf for their completion of the 8th grade course of study prescribed by MCS for admission to high school. Well done, graduates! As you look to the future, *“ASK, and it shall be given to you; SEEK, and you shall find; KNOCK, and it shall be opened unto you.”* God’s word is a lamp to your feet, and a light to your path.

Showered with cards, gifts, honks, and their eighth-grade diploma, the graduates were celebrated and honored with a graduation parade at the front driveway of Marshalltown Christian School. The 2019-2020 school year ended with 12 weeks of “distance learning,” the new term meaning off-campus learning. Teachers prepared and assigned lessons, students and their instructors connected online, and coursework was completed and graded.

Tremendous applause is bestowed upon the teachers, administration, and students of Marshalltown Christian School for their unwavering devotion to glorifying God through continued Christ-centered education.

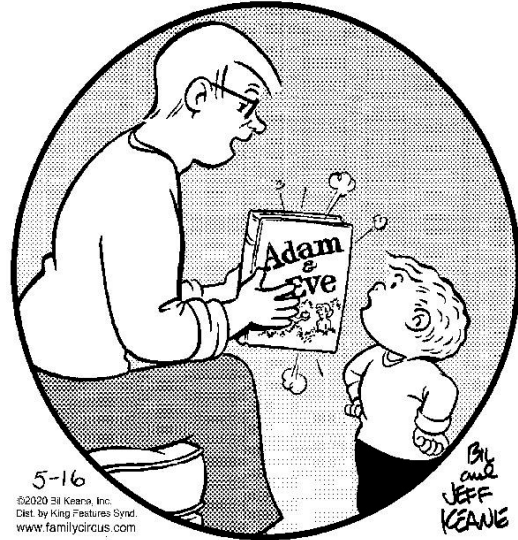


FUN PICTURES TO SHARE!!!!



SWIM TEAM members Paul Mahnke (left) and Bob McGregor joined Mermaids Martha Grimes, Jo Hobbs and Arlene Espe in a number.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bill Keane



5-16
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By
and
JEFF
KEANE

“What does that story of Adam and Eve teach us?”
“Not to eat fruit.”



2020

FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239					
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards	1	2	3	4	5 7pm Kinsmen for Christ bible study via ZOOM	6
7 Communion 10:30 You TubeService 5pm Nooma on Zoom	8	9 8:30am MBC meets via ZOOM	10	11	12	13
14 10:30 You TubeService 	15	16 No Deacons meeting	17	18 6:30pm Trustees meet via ZOOM	19 7pm Kinsmen for Christ bible study via ZOOM	20
21 10:30 You TubeService 12:30pm BCE Meets via ZOOM 	22 Cabinet reports due to church office by 9am	23	24	25	26	27 11am MOW Volunteers: Kolleen & Doris
28 10:30 You TubeService 11:45am Cabinet meets via Zoom	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

