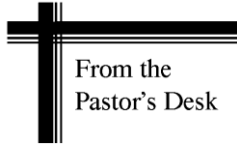


Pilgrim's Progress

July 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."



1 Peter 2:15-16 "For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men-as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God."

With July 4th soon to be upon us, everyone naturally thinks of the importance of freedom. We, as a nation, have the wonderful grace never to have suffered under the rule of a tyrant. We celebrate freedom to pursue the opportunities we all have in our lives. Centuries ago, the Apostle Peter wrote of the value of freedom, even as the world he knew was ruled by the Roman Empire and its evil emperor, Nero. He defines freedom as the unfettered opportunity to do good, not as a cloak for vice, but to silence foolish people and to serve God. Note the irony in the final phrase of the passage. We pursue freedom as bondservants of God. We are slaves by choice-that's the definition of a bondservant-slaves of God and of Christ. Freedom is not simply the power to do what we want. Paradoxically, that is the fast track to slavery. According to this, then, reminding ourselves that we are slaves to the Lord and choosing to act accordingly today is the choice of free people pursuing further freedom. May we experience this freedom now and always.

Cabinet meeting on June 28th

Every month the deacons have reviewed the situation with COVID-19 and made choices about our weekly worship services. On the 28th, Cabinet will review, with the Deacons, how to continue worship services for the month of July. While the meeting has not taken place as of this writing, we anticipate that there will be some changes made. We will continue to monitor the situation on a monthly basis and keep you informed. Pastor Dan

Update: The cabinet approved re-opening FCC on Sunday July 12th with both an 8am and 10:30am service; both services will be held in the Sanctuary. Following are the church guidelines:

Entrance doors: **South doors** (back parking lot); **East front doors** under the Portico for those needing the elevator.

Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrances and we encourage you to use it when entering and exiting.

Face Masks: are required and there will be a supply available at both entrances.

8am Service Seating: The pews on the east side of the sanctuary (rows 1-6) will be available. Please wear masks and social distance; families may sit together.

10:30am Service Seating: Every other pew will be open for seating. Signage will appear on those pews not available. Please wear masks and social distance; families may sit together.

Bulletins/Order of Worship: There will be no paper or books available at the services; all information will appear on the screen in the Sanctuary. Our musicians will play but no singing please, just hum along if you'd like. There will be no ushers, but deacons will be available to answer questions and offer guidance.

While we are all anxious to get back to "normal" as much as possible, we respectfully ask that you abide by these guidelines set out by your Diaconate board and encourage you not to touch, hug or shake hands with each other at this time. We thank you for your cooperation.

Sermons for July Theme-God Builds a House



July 5
July 12
July 19
July 26

"The Nation"
"Gideon"
"People are Interconnected"
"Some are Selected"

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

CHURCH NEWS



Kinsmen Men's Group continues to meet every other Friday at 7:00pm.
Next meeting: July 3.



- Bob & Judy Gaynor July 1, 2006
- JP & Jennifer Howard July 1, 1995
- Kirk & Cindy Shirar July 6, 1991
- John & Lisa Beaty July 9, 2004
- Dave & Trisha Gill July 12, 2008
- Ken & Darcie Lunsford July 14, 1984



- July 4 Kaisa Stanley
- July 5 Miriam Bryant, Dave Hall, Kim Schryver
- July 6 Bev Swenson
- July 8 Carlton Kothenbeutel, Mike Woltjer
- July 12 David Dickey, Marilyn Rhodes
- July 14 Al Hays, Eric Fruin
- July 15 Sanny Thompson
- July 16 Gary Heggen
- July 18 Jane Ragland
- July 19 Julie Squiers
- July 20 Krystal Randall
- July 21 Don Lunsford
- July 22 Susan Ferneau
- July 23 JP Howard
- July 24 Max Meyer
- July 25 Ken Kreykes
- July 26 Margaret Klink, Jonathan Howell, Margaret Otte
- July 27 Larry Good, Danielle Propst
- July 28 Mackenzie Moyer, Alicia Storjohann
- July 29 Amy Gummert
- July 31 Matthew Dickey, Eleanor Rowden, Mildred Rowden



Just got the news today, Chad and Jamie Pinkston are moving to Montana! Chad has recently accepted a job as a Middle School Dean of Students in Glendive, MT. This community is where Jamie's parents and other family members live and they are very excited!

As they prepare to make the move, Chad recently learned through a spinal MRI that he has some spinal problems and needs to see an Orthopedics Doctor soon! So if anyone is available to help them **load the U-Haul on July 9th and 10th**, your help is extremely appreciated! Even if you're not able to help load, they'd love to see their church friends, so please come by and enjoy a bite to eat and say your "goodbyes"! Chad and Jamie live at 1408 South 5th Street. If you'd like to contact them by phone, Chad's number is 641-750-

3222. His phone has been acting up so if you don't reach him or you don't get a return call, try Jamie's number 406-600-1896. We will miss them!



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



Saturday, July 25th, (Note new date) 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.



Our youth director, Shelly Speas and her mighty staff continue to bless the children through surprises such as May baskets to 80 children and great Facebook videos.



Placing flags as a fundraiser continues with the next date being July 4.



YABS (Young Adult Bible Study) hopes to have a cookout soon. Shelly is working out the details on this soon!



June 28: Let's finally get back together! Movie Night this Sunday, June 28th!!! We are inviting 6-12th grade students to come to FCC to watch "I Still Believe", based on the true story of the Christian singer Jeremy Camp. Students need to get their own rides to the church and home. Time will be 7-9:30pm. We are sooo excited to get together again!!!



July 1: We are so excited to announce a fun event planned for our kids in Preschool-5th grade!! Wednesday, July 1st from 6:30-8pm we will have a night of games with some prepackaged snacks at Arnold's Park. Guardians are asked to drop off and pick up their kids at the park.



July 19: Graduation Sunday celebrating Jenny Sauer. Cupcakes will be available outside after the service for any who would like to congratulate her. Please practice social distancing.



July 19: Sunday, July 19th, 8-9:30pm we invite the 6-12th grade students to meet at FCC for campfire fun in the parking lot! S'mores, singing and a message around the fire! Bring your own lawn chair if you have one.



July 22: Wednesday, July 22nd we invite the Preschool-5th grade students to FCC's front lawn for a night of water game fun from 6:30-8pm! Please drop off and pick up your kids for this event.



A Vacation Bible School subcommittee will be meeting to plan for this event and will share the details of this awesome adventure with our church and community soon! Tentative dates are Aug 2-5, 2020.



NAPF/HOPE National continues to work on planning next year's meeting in Spokane, WA.



MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

MKM Update by Karen Boland

As the threat of COVID-19 looms in Sierra Leone, My Kinsmen Ministries is once again adapting and ministering in new ways. While the country has seen marginal infection rates, great caution is being taken in the country on the heels of EBOLA.

There is no travel between districts, no group gathering more than 10, no school. The country is basically on hold. Our staff has sewn and distributed over 200 masks...we never knew 5 years ago that teaching them to sew would be critical in this way. The team has been in all of our villages teaching safety precautions and providing sanitizers. The pastors from the villages have continued to come together monthly for study, prayer and encouragement. Our staff also has the role of leading small group Bible studies in various locations around Kenema.

The biggest challenge has been instituting a traveling school program for our kids. Each of our staff has many MKM children for whom they are responsible. They have been preparing individual lessons and notebooks and going to our children with instruction in reading, writing and mathematics. Praise God for their hard work. We have asked these adults to become teachers, and they have risen to the challenge. This important contact not only helps the kids continue to learn, but gives opportunities to speak JESUS in all these neighborhoods around Kenema!

Finally, we have three new church buildings that are now built with doors, windows and roofs! Jesus is being proclaimed!
Karen



MEALS ON WHEELS is still "in motion" as volunteers continue to take care of feeding those who need us. Our church volunteers are so willing to help deliver these meals, and we thank you all!

In July, Kolleen Shollenbarger and Doris McCarty are our volunteers! August our volunteers are Arch and Julie Allison. Thank you!

We still have open dates available for drivers/deliverers: 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 dates, call the church office and Mary will get you on the sign-up sheet. Thank you again and stay well. Kristi Hassler



VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

June 27, 2020; 2:00pm Central Time

THE GREAT CROSSING

400th Anniversary of the Pilgrims' arrival at Plymouth in New England.

"Jesus said to them, *Let us go across to the other side.*" Mark 4:35

The NACCC Virtual Annual Meeting was held Saturday, June 27, 2020. Delegate Rev. Dan Vellinga and Alternate Miriam Bryant represented FCC Marshalltown.

Our thanks to Aaron Dickey and friends for the expertise and equipment that made our participation with 260+ Congregational friends possible. While we all would have preferred being together in Portland, Maine celebrating 400 years since the Pilgrims arrival, the Zoom event was interesting and productive. The meeting in its entirety can be viewed on Facebook. The various Board and Committee Chairs have videoed their reports and made them available for use to all churches.

Two new churches were welcomed into our Association, one will be in our Iowa/Nebraska Association- FCC Orchard, IA. All items on the agenda were approved by the delegates. (Voting is very efficient on Zoom). A resolution regarding social justice awareness brought by the Cadman Congregation was approved and a task team formed.

Retiring Moderator Jim Waechter and Retiring Secretary Judy Campbell were thanked for their many years of service as Rev. Cindy Bacon Hammer began her two year term as Moderator, NACCC.

To all the staff and leadership- a huge Thank You for a successful meeting that had to be one of the most challenging organizational assignments they have been given. 2021 NACCC Annual Meeting and Conference will be in Spokane, Washington. Please contact Pastor Dan or Miriam if you would like more details about this year's meeting or would like information about 2021 Spokane.

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It was my privilege to represent the NACCC and the IOWA/NEBRASKA Association at the recent Liturgy of Farewell and Thanksgiving of Pastors Tom and Wendy Van Tassel in Spencer, Iowa. After 23+ years at our Spencer Church, Tom and Wendy have retired to Holland, Michigan where they are close to son, Eric and wife and an adorable grandson. As Wendy said, "the countdown was poignant ", the farewell bittersweet but the celebration for their happiness was heartfelt.

They have been wonderful leaders not only to their church and community but to our national, state, and international Congregational organizations.



2020

FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

Sunday Worship Services: 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p style="text-align: center;">Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239</p>						
<p>color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards</p>			<p>1 6:30-8pm Youth night pre-5th@ Arnolds Park</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 7pm Kinsmen for Christ bible study</p>	<p>4 Youth Flag Placements</p>
<p>5 10:30 You TubeService No Communion</p>	6	7	8	<p>9 6:30pm Trustees meet via ZOOM</p>	10	11
<p>12 FCC Reopens for church service 8am & 10:30am svc in Sanctuary</p> <p>10:30 Service also on You Tube</p>	13	<p>14 No MBC meeting this month. next meeting Aug 11 in the FCC Library</p>	15	16	<p>17 7pm Kinsmen for Christ bible study</p>	18
<p>19 Graduation Sunday</p> <p>12:30pm BCE</p> <p>8-9:30pm gr 6-12 Campfire in church prkg lot</p>	20	<p>21 6:30pm Deacons meeting</p>	<p>22 6-8:30pm Water games for pre-school- 5th gr</p>	23	24	<p>25 8am-2pm Youth Yard Sale</p> <p>11am MOW Volunteers: Kolleen & Doris</p>
26	27	28	29	30	<p>31 7pm Kinsmen for Christ bible study</p>	
<p>VBS Aug 2-5 More to follow</p>	<p>The weekly 10:30am Service will also be live on YouTube</p>					Page 6

Our First Congregational Church is

Opening July 12th!

We have missed you!

Let's meet at God's house!





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

