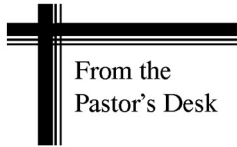


Pilgrim's Progress

September 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

September has a couple of days on the calendar that are worth some consideration. The first is Labor Day, and the second is the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur.

Labor Day-September 7

The seventh of September is Labor Day and many, including me, view it as the end of Summer and the beginning of Fall. It's not scientific but it seems to work. Created by the Labor movement, Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894 and it honors the working people of the country. On that day, please take some time to relax and enjoy the day as much as possible, but as Memorial Day at the beginning of the Summer and has meaning and purpose, so also Labor Day is more than an extra day off. Labor Day stands for the dignity of the working class of our country, and the struggle for their rights. Labor Day began in a time that lacked child labor laws. It was a time in which workers suffered poor wages, long hours, seven-day workweeks, and very unsafe conditions. Children often worked along with adults. Labor Day is a good day to reflect on workers, their rights, the struggle to secure such rights and their value to society. Our country is a better country because of workers and workers' rights.

Yom Kippur-September 28

Also known as the Day of Atonement, you can read about Yom Kippur in Leviticus 23:26-32, as the very holiest of the holy days. It is the day that is all about the forgiveness of sins and restoration with God, an "at-one-ment" with the Almighty. It celebrates our covenant of salvation and the inexpressibly sacred. In Leviticus we learn that the Day of Atonement is a day to "afflict our souls". It means to fast, which I confess a lack of experience with this because I really like food, but it is a valuable spiritual exercise when done carefully with much prayer. The people acknowledged the sacred nature of the Day of Atonement with a "sacrifice by fire" and animal was killed and then burnt. We, as Christians, remember that Jesus put an end to such sacrifice by His death and Resurrection, thus there is no need for any further sacrifice. We can learn much by studying the sacrifices of the Old Testament, because they teach us the significance and meaning of the cross of Jesus. In Leviticus, we learn that this day is a "statute forever", which I think is true because its purpose was fully completed by the Lord Jesus, and it is enshrined in the Covenant we have with God the Father through Him. Yom Kippur is a day of great holiness and well worth taking the time to pause and consider the immense value of our life with God and Christ.

Sermons



Theme for September-Accountability

September 6

September 13

September 20

September 27

2 Thessalonians 1

Matthew 18:21-35

Matthew 20:1-16

out of town

Taking Vengeance

How to Forgive

Chosen



Kinsmen Men's Group continues to meet every other Friday at 7:00pm.
September meetings are Sept 4 & 18th.



News from your Trustees: CAPITAL DONATION SUGGESTIONS

Your church has the need to invest significant dollars in several capital projects for the long-term health of the church. The financial plan approved at the annual meeting included the strategy of funding capital through donations.

Please prayerfully consider supplementing your normal giving with gifts directed to the following capital projects. The Trustees have determined that these projects are of the highest priority to be working on for the balance of 2020. By donating to these projects or to the general capital fund, you can assist your church in maintaining its strength for many years.

2020 Capital Improvements	Est. Cost
Sanctuary water damage repair - Insurance has paid their share (60%)	\$21,200
Elevator compliance upgrade - required by regulations	\$3,036
Security camera control system replacement for SE, South & SW entrances	\$760
Sanctuary A/V recording system for services - Replace borrowed camera	\$1,500
Replace broken railing at South entrance	\$3,000
Replace Sanctuary A/V control center computer	\$1,000

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION THROUGH JULY

Below is the Actual and Budget numbers for our church through July. The Giving includes tithes and offerings. The Budget Expense values are those that have been budgeted through July for the church. The most important value is our tithes and offerings, which are behind by 32% through July.

January-July 2020	Actual	Budget	Net
Giving	62,267	92,169	-32.4%
Expenses	137,709	148,356	-7.2%

ONLINE GIVING

There is a new way to give Tithes and Offering to First Congregational Church – Marshalltown. The Trustees have partnered with the company VANCO to support online giving as another option to allow our church members to give their tithes and offerings to the church. With the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become a challenging time for our church and our church members. This partnership gives our members and those that are viewing our worship online from afar a way to support our church.

Please click the link below if you choose to give to the church through online giving.

[My Tithes and Offering Online Link](#)

Thank you for your continued support of First Congregational Church!





Jennifer Allison & Merrill Swartz	September 12, 1998	22 years
Tory & Stacy Moyer	September 16, 2003	17 years
Bob & Linda McGregor	September 16, 1972	48 years
John & Lisa Blabaum	September 28, 1996	24 years
Donn & Pat Anderson	September 29, 1984	36 years
Larry & Sam Good	September 30, 1967	53 years



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



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

Bickford : Joanie Smith-Legg #108; Marilyn Rhodes # 123

Grandview: Pattye Morrison #107, Ken Niehouse #413 **IVH**: JoAnne Ainley

Suites of Ankeny: Don & Romaine Mackaman

Southridge: Betty Runner #212, Nancy Harris

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

IT'S A NEW YEAR AND AN EXCITING NEW PROGRAM!

We are so excited to announce the startup of our fall Youth Activities coming this September!! Our schedule will be a little different this year. Here is the outline:

Preschool-5th grade, this program is called D.O.G.'s (Depend on God) will meet at First Congregational Church on **TUESDAY nights from 5:30-6:30pm in the fellowship hall.**

6-8th grade, this program is called Jr. P.Y. (Jr. Pilgrim Youth) will meet at First Congregational Church on **Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30pm in the Loft.**

9-12th grade, this program is called P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) will meet at First Congregational Church on **Wednesday nights from 7-8pm in the Loft.**

Sunday morning program is called Power Hour for Preschool-12th grade in the Loft from 9:45-10:20am.

There will be a few new safety measures put in place this year due to Covid-19 that will be explained in a calendar being mailed out to our families along with a participation permission form. If there are any questions please contact our Youth Director, Shelly Speas, 641-751-9868 or email shellzncheese2004@yahoo.com. We are very much looking forward to meeting with our students again and growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ and our knowledge of God's Word!!

Kickoff Schedule!

D.O.G.'s start Tuesday, September 15th, 5:30-6:30pm meeting in Fellowship Hall
Jr. P.Y. will be Wednesday, September 16th, 5:30-6:30pm meeting in Loft
P.Y. will be Wednesday, September 16th, 7-8pm meeting in Loft
Power Hour will be Sunday, September 20th, 9:45-10:20am meeting in Loft

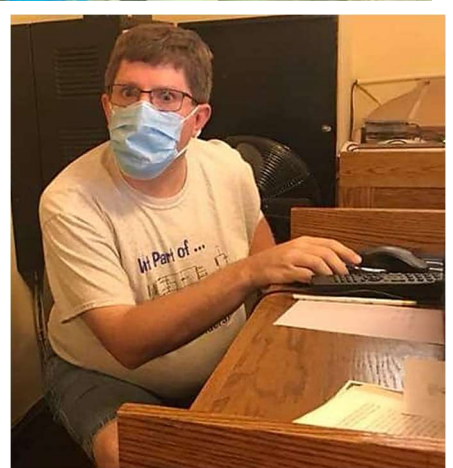


VBS WAS AWESOME!

We had such a blessed time at Vacation Bible School August 2-5th, 2020!! Thirty students participated in our Breakout Room VBS, where we discovered that Jesus is the key to true freedom! We are so grateful to our wonderful team of volunteers who helped make this a spectacular year and forever impacted the lives of kids in our church and community in the name of Jesus!

CHECK OUT THESE FUN PICTURES FROM VBS!!!!







THE FINALE'!



MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

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! September volunteer is Shelly Speas. Thank you!

We still have open dates available for drivers/deliverers: Oct 24, Nov 28 and Dec 26, 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 or sign up on the clip board in the Narthex. Thank you again and stay well. Kristi Hassler



Marshalltown Christian School Update

Marshalltown Christian School gives thanks to God for the minimal property damage during August’s 100-mph derecho windstorm. The staff, who were on the premises when the storm hit, were also very appreciative of the rolling steel window cover, installed for such an event, in the safe room. Put into action and

gathered behind the metal protective shield, the MCS staff was gratefully kept safe. With the push of a button, teacher Miss Harris demonstrates the efficiency of the steel covering.

Due to nominal building damage, school was able to begin on time. The students were excited to return to the classroom, from their long absence, since last March’s classroom disruption due to COVID-19. Modifications, levels, and emphasis on cleanliness and a virus-free environment were all effectively put in place.

Join us for the MCS Fall Drive-Thru Picnic to be held Sunday, September 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at MCS. Pick up your curb-side BBQ lunch, and remember to check-out the online OneCause auction. Tickets are available at the door, online, or by contacting the MCS office at (641)753-8824. Thank you for your support!

SEPTEMBER

2020

FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

Sunday Worship Services: 8am & 10:30am

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 7pm Kinsmen for Christ bible study	5
6 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. 10:30 Svc/YouTube 2pm Communion Svc on Facebook	7 	8 8:30am MBC meeting in the FCC Library	9	10	11	12
13 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. 10:30 Svc/YouTube	14	15 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Deacons meeting 6-9pm meeting in adult SS room (non member event)	16 5:30-6:30 Jr PY In Loft 7-8pm PY in Loft	17 6:30 Trustees meeting	18 7pm Kinsmen for Christ bible study	19
20 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. <u>Power Hour 9:45- 10:20am</u> all grades in Loft 10:30 Svc/YouTube 11:45am BCE	21	22 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	23 5:30-6:30 Jr PY In Loft 7-8pm PY in Loft	24	25	26 11am MOW Volunteers: Shelly Speas
27 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. <u>Power Hour 9:45- 10:20am</u> all grades in Loft 10:30 Svc/YouTube	28	29 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	30 5:30-6:30 Jr PY In Loft 7-8pm PY in Loft	31		Page 8

SEPTEMBER

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

