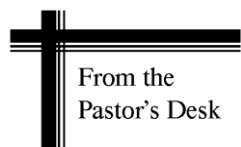


Pilgrim's Progress

November 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."



Thanksgiving is Coming

Deuteronomy 8:3 "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord."

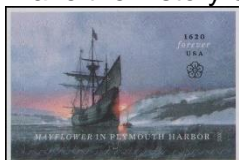
2020 may not be the same experience as wandering through a desert, but it's what came to mind as I read this passage about the importance of thanksgiving and having a humble heart before the Lord. For some people, this is one of the worst years of their lives and, I'm sure, one that about which the historians will discuss and write for some time. Our dependence upon the Lord, and His reliability remain the same. In fact, it is more evident than ever. So being thankful on this Thanksgiving may be even more appropriate than ever, because He is still with us in the midst of all that is happening. For all that has gone wrong, we still have life, and new life in Jesus Christ. That alone is grounds for thanksgiving.

November 11 is Veterans' Day

Wednesday, November 11, is Veterans' Day, and even in the face of history, we should still pause and thank all those who have served our nation in the Armed Forces. I think it says much about the health of a nation when the citizens honor and respect those who have served as soldiers. Thank you for your service.

November 11 marks the Signing of the Mayflower Compact

This date, this year, marks the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower Compact, that civil agreement drafted by the Pilgrims at Plymouth that marked the first attempt at self-government by any of the European settlers of what is now the United States. Historians have noted this document's influence on the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Many celebrations had been planned for this event but all were cancelled due to COVID-19. The Compact still is a major accomplishment, one of several which make the history of the Congregational Church a very rich one.



Our Postal Service has created a stamp to commemorate the Mayflower...if you receive a mailed newsletter you will find one on the mailing label!

Prayer Vigil

When those pilgrims wrote and signed the Mayflower Compact 400 years ago, they were trusting in the Lord, very aware that they were ultimately dependent upon Him for everything. This year, a few days after that anniversary, I would like to invite everyone to participate in a prayer vigil for our church and for Marshalltown. It will start at Noon on Friday, November 13 and end at Noon on Saturday, November 14. **Participants can sign up for one-hour time slots by calling the church office at 641 752 4239.** More than one person can sign up for the same time slot, and while arrangements can be made to meet in the church building, people are welcome to observe their part of the vigil at home. Pastor Dan will prepare a prayer guide for everyone who is participating. This is a great way to discern what the Lord is saying and doing in Marshalltown.

Sermons



November 1 All Saints' Day
November 8
November 15
November 22
November 29 1st Sunday of Advent

Revelation 7:9-17
2 Timothy 2:7-13
Matthew 25:14-30
Matthew 25:31-46
Isaiah 64:1-9

From Every Nation
From Every Generation
The King's Provision
The King's Priorities
Beyond Our Understanding



Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1st.

Your support of our Church is always appreciated. As we end this giving year of 2020 it is important that you know that all donations for 2020 need to be in the office by Dec 27 to be counted towards your 2020 taxes. Thank you.



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

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

Grandview: Pattye Morrison #107 **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.



Al & Judy Hays	11/09/63	57 years	Tom & Mary Curley	11/15/86	34 years
Dave & Jo Dysart	11/10/84	36 years	Craig & Cynthia Ragland	11/29/96	24 years
Cliff & Lori March	11/10/84	36 years	Rod & Kristi Hassler	11/29/08	12 years
Don & Jane Benbow	11/15/58	62 years	Lee & Valois Brintnall	11/30/52	68 years



November 2	Jody Brintnall, Adrianna Goken	November 24	Nancy Urbanowski
November 6	Breana Gruver-Alvarado	November 25	Shirley Nott
November 7	Olivia Hawkins	November 27	Sharon Propst, Jeannette Atchison
November 20	Georgia Thomas	November 30	Pastor Greg Ellcey



NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF 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

Add new railing by steps just East of pulpit	\$500
Install security camera system - north entrance to church	\$600
Security camera control system replacement for SE, South & SW entrances	\$760
Make <u>removable</u> guard rails on East side of Narthex	\$1,000
Automatic notification of fire alarm - to Trustees	\$1,000
Replace Sanctuary A/V control system inc. camera	\$1,000
New flooring on landing going up to Loft	\$1,400
Motion sensors for lights/fans in 4 bathrooms	\$3,000
Replace broken railing at South entrance	\$3,000
Elevator compliance upgrade - required by regulations	\$3,036
Tornado repairs - Insurance is only paying for 80% of tornado costs	\$21,200
Organ upgrade - it is time for us to do a necessary organ upgrade	\$60,000

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Below is the Actual and Budget numbers for our church through September. The Giving includes tithes and offerings. The Budget Expense values are those that have been budgeted through September for the church. The most important value is our tithes and offerings, which continue to be behind by 29% through September.

January - September

2020	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	83,284	118,503	-29.7%
EXPENSES	173,839	190,744	-8.9%

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!



NEWS FROM THE DIACONATE BOARD



With the holidays on the horizon, your Diaconate Board has discussed Christmas Services at FCC. The decision is to hold two services on Christmas Eve this year. The first one at 5 pm and the second service at 7 pm. A "Service of Lessons and Carols" will be the theme for both services.

We want everyone to be safe and ensure social distancing, so we are suggesting that each family or individual make a reservation for the service of your choice. Please call Mary at the church office and record your reservation and number of people worshipping with you. Should you forget to make a reservation, we still encourage you to attend and we will provide seating for you or your group. We want everyone to have the opportunity to worship during this special holiday. The church office number is 641-752-4239; office hours are 9am-noon.

Should any member have questions concerning our Christmas Services or Sunday services, need spiritual guidance or just a call to visit, please let us know by contacting the church office and a diaconate member or Pastor Dan will contact you. We fully understand that this COVID epidemic has made it a lonely time for many. We are always here for you.



News from Missions and Benevolence

Salvation Army Christmas Toy Shop

The Missions and Benevolence committee has agreed to support the Salvation Army's Christmas "Toy Shop" and even though circumstances look a bit different this year, the Christmas spirit is still strong, and we are ready to help.

Last year there was a glaring shortage of gift items available for boys 13-16. So, our focus for FCC this year is to make sure parents of this age group have a good selection of gifts to choose from. Gifts ideas for teen boys: gift cards from Wal-Mart, Theisen's, Menards, dart board, remote control car, wallets, cologne set, baseball glove, football, electronics, volleyball, games, fishing gear, dop kit, sweatshirts.

Another option is to write a check to FCC for your desired amount and the FCC Mission and Benevolence team will be your personal shoppers. We ask that you please make sure you earmark your check "Toy Town" for Jody's records. Your donations will be accepted at the church office during the week and must be at the church no later than Sunday December 13th. All gifts must be unwrapped

Salvation Army guidelines:

Any family is eligible to sign up for the program but must meet the income guidelines.

Other ways you can actively be involved:

Volunteers are needed in other capacities such as:

- Setting up the Toy Shop on December 16 & 17 from 9am to 4pm
- Personal Shoppers for Distribution Day on Dec 16 & 17 from 9am to 4pm

To sign up, please call the Salvation Army

Captain Pam Kasten at 107 W State Street. 641-753-5236

Remember, Sunday December 13 will be the last day you can bring your gifts to the church. Please. Do not wrap your gifts.



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!

We still have **one open date available** for drivers/deliverers: **Dec 26**, if you'd like to sign up for this date, call the church office and Mary will get you on the sign-up sheet or you may sign up on the clip board in the Narthex. Thank you again and stay well. Kristi Hassler



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



Thanksgiving Dinner
Drive Thru!
Sunday, November 22

IT'S THANKSGIVING TIME!!! JOIN US!

Rather than the usual Thanksgiving Feast we have in our youth groups every year, we are having an alternative that will include the whole family! Sunday, November 22nd the youth leaders will be serving a yummy Thanksgiving meal through our church portico for our youth and their families. If your child is involved in our youth programs, please contact Shelly Speas with the number of meals your family will need, and then just come anytime between 5pm and 6pm to pick them up. You will just drive through the portico coming from South to North (start at our back drive way, and drive to the East door under the portico, pick up the meals, say hi to the youth leaders, and then exit going out to Main St.) Then you can go home and enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with your family made with love from your church family! Please contact Shelly Speas with any questions. 641-751-9868

NOVEMBER ACTIVIES & YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES



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.**

November 3,10,17



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.**

November 4,11,18

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.**

November 4,11,18



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

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

No Youth Activities November 24th or 25th.



We had three excited ladies who received their very own Bibles on Sunday, October 25th.



We had a wonderful trip to Geisler Farm in Bondurant, IA with our youth groups in October!!





The Youth Groups thanked our amazing Pastor Dan and his wife Jeanne for their leadership and service to the church by delivering a gift basket and leaving flamingos in costume in their yard.



CHRISTIAN ED NEWS:

In addition to all of the wonderful news and events shared by Shelly, there are a few other notes:

* Pastor Dan will reconvene Adult Sunday School beginning December 6, meeting in the same location at 9:30 am. Attendees are asked to wear masks and physically distance.

*Harlan and Deb Nuss are continuing with their study on **The Harbinger**.

*The Ladies' Night went well with approximately 30 in attendance. Barbara Heil gave the message, with Crystal Gassman and Cindy Soderberg leading worship.



Nominating Committee

It's time to consider how you might use your interests and God-given talents for the NACCC. We are presently seeking nominations for our leadership team, so if you are interested in helping put on

the Annual Meeting, or have a heart for Missions and a head for details, or perhaps you have some ideas of where you think the NACCC might be heading in the future, then consider joining the team. If this sparks your interest, or if you think of someone in your church that would have these interests, then send in your name to the Office and nominate yourself or someone you believe in. Nomination forms are found on the NACCC website: Click on "Get Involved," then "Nominate Someone." We are looking forward to hearing from You! Nominations must be received no later than January 15, 2021.

Both Pastor Dan and Miriam Bryant have served or are currently serving on NACCC committees. So, if you're interested but have questions, seek them out! They are willing to spend time with you and give you some inside information. All ages are encouraged to participate!



To Julie Paustian for the donation of Max Lucado Books to our library!



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					
1 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. 10:30 Svc/YouTube Power Hour 9:45-10:20am all grades in Loft	2	3 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	4 5:30-6:30 Jr PY In Loft 7-8pm PY in Loft 6:30 Trustees meet	5	6	7
8 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. 10:30 Svc/YouTube Power Hour 9:45-10:20am all grades in Loft 11am Cabinet meets 2pm Communion Svc on Facebook	9	10 8:30am MBC meeting in the FCC Library 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	11 5:30-6:30 Jr PY In Loft 7-8pm PY in Loft Veteran's Day 	12	13 Prayer Vigil starts at Noon today thru noon the 14th.	14 Prayer vigil continues thru noon today.
15 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. 10:30 Svc/YouTube Power Hour 9:45-10:20am all grades in Loft 11:45am BCE meets	16	17 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Deacons meeting	18 5:30-6:30 Jr PY In Loft 7-8pm PY in Loft	19	20	21
22 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. Power Hour 9:45-10:20am all grades in Loft 10:30 Svc/YouTube No Harvest Dinner 5-6pm youth program drive thru dinner pickup	23	24 No Youth Activities Thanksgiving Break	25 No Youth Activities Thanksgiving Break	26 Happy Thanksgiving 	27	28 11am MOW Volunteers: Jonna & Wayne Wagar
29 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. Power Hour 9:45-10:20am all grades in Loft 10:30 Svc/YouTube	30					color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards
						Page 7



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

