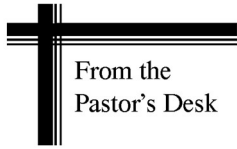


Pilgrim's Progress

October 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

A couple of thoughts about October, including the Sacrament of Holy Communion again taking place on Facebook at 2:00 p.m. on October 4. While I look forward to the day when we will have Communion all together again in person, this is probably the safest way to continue the tradition of having Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

October's sermons will focus on the Gospel of Matthew, the most Jewish of the Gospels. Matthew emphasizes Jesus as the one who has fulfilled the Law and the Gospel is heavily influenced (one could argue that the whole New Testament is heavily influenced by the Old Testament) by the Old Testament. One example is the image of the church being a vine, or that Jesus is like a vine and the church make up the branches, and the Father is the vinedresser (this is overtly used in John 15) but it also undergirds the passage in Matthew 21:33-46. Isaiah 5:1-7 uses the image of a vine and a vineyard is a telling symbol of Israel, and it's taken to apply to the whole people of God. In the days of Jesus, He, His disciples and the religious leaders of the day would have known immediately that when Jesus told a story about a vineyard, that it applied to Israel and God's people. It's a great image of how we are connected together, and dependent upon the Lord. As Fall continues, may you be blessed and encouraged even as we come to the last few months of this challenging year.

Sermons



October 4	The Chief Cornerstone	Matthew 21:33-46
October 11	The Wedding Feast People Tried to Avoid	Matthew 22:1-14
October 18	The Things That Are God's	Matthew 22:15-22
October 25	The Greatest Commandment	Matthew 22:34-46



Men's Overnight



Off and on during the Summer, a group of men got together for mutual support and encouragement, reflecting on the insights of the Christian video series called "Wild at Heart". Now that we have come to the end of that series, we're hoping to have a men's overnight on Friday, October 23, ending on the next day. More details to come, please contact Pastor Dan at the church office for more information. 641 752 4239!



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

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 AUGUST

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

January - August

2020	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	71,100	105,336	-32.5%
EXPENSES	156,275	169,550	-7.8%

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 your Diaconate: The 8am and 10:30am Sunday services continue to have a nice turnout each Sunday. Overall, we are seeing between 40-50 members at these two services weekly. As our membership gets more comfortable getting out, we know our numbers will increase. The 10:30am service is also widely viewed on YouTube.

For safety reasons, your Diaconate board has decided to cancel the annual Harvest Dinner usually held the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving. We will all look forward to this event in 2021.

Should any member have questions concerning our Sunday service, 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 BCE: Weekday children's/youth activities have resumed, with time changes. DOGS (preschool to 5th grade) now meets on Tuesdays. 5:30-6:30pm. Junior Pilgrim Youth (middle school) meets on Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm, with Senior Pilgrim Youth (high school) meeting from 7:00-8:00pm. Shelly would like to get a prayer team started for the youth. Contact her if you are interested. Youth are being temperature screened upon entering the church. Power Hour for kids of all ages meets in the Loft at 9:45am on Sunday mornings. Adult Sunday School hopes to begin soon.

October 3: DOGS to Geisler Farms

October 12: Sisters in Christ present a Ladies' Night - see separate article

October 23: Tentative date for Men's Overnight

October 24: Middle and Senior High to Geisler Farms

October 25: Bible Presentation

November 14: Tentative date for a Quiet Date

NAPF and HOPE will meet next year in the Spokane area. Nearby Idaho is also being considered. Discussion was held about possibly offering some practical financial classes to teens.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

When: October 12, 7:00pm

Where: First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Barbara Heil

Worship leaders: Crystal Gassman and Cindy Soderberg

Please RSVP to Jeanne Vellinga at 419-308-1107 so we can appropriately prepare.



Barbara's bio

Barbara grew up on the West Coast, and as a student, had a life changing encounter with the love of Christ. She crossed the country to Ashland, Virginia where she learned a life of prayer, worship, and devotion at an international ministry community. Her hands-on training included kid's camps, inner city ministry, missions, ministry to the poor, and crusades around the world.

Barbara was part of the staff at the Calvary Campground in Ashland, Virginia for over 20 years. Her ministry experience is wide and varied, from living in Hong Kong to minister in Asia, to living in Jerusalem, to being on staff at a street mission in San Diego, Ca to minister to the needs of the homeless during the beginning of the AIDS outbreak.

She has ministered in 55 nations, has been a missionary, an evangelist, and pastor. She has spent the last few years traveling the U.S. and the world over conducting worship seminars, retreats, and conferences, leading missions trips, offering prayer and counseling, and seeing thousands healed and set free inside and out, equipping lives for the Glory of God.

A widow for 8 years, Barbara remarried! She lives in Iowa with her husband, Jeff. She is the joyful mother of 4 and grandmother of 2! Together she and Jeff have 8 children and 10 grandkids!



News from Missions and Benevolence:

FCC Mission and Benevolence Committee Responds to Local and International Needs

Kim Schryver, Chair

COVID-19 has created havoc across the world. Challenges in meeting public health and basic needs when shelter-in-place or quarantines are imposed is hard enough in the United States, let alone third world countries. My Kinsman Ministries was “in the trenches” in Sierra Leone amping up their community health engagements, helping indigent citizens to develop skills and acquire basic needs to foster financial independence while also sharing the Word of God – seeding hope for better times. FCC Missions and Benevolence Committee was grateful to be able to continue supporting this industrious mission with a \$5000 gift in May 2020.

Close at home, the committee has issued two checks to our local Salvation Army. One - \$2165, was sent in April 2020 to assist them in their efforts to fill financial gaps feeding families and maintaining utilities in many Marshalltown homes created by work layoffs associated with COVID-19 and the derecho. A follow up check for \$500 was sent in September 2020 expressly to help them resupply Sals Cupboard – a food distribution service for those in deep financial straits. Marshalltown Emergency Food received the same amount to resupply their also depleted inventory.

You all should know that at least two NACCC churches contacted Pastor Dan and/or Kim Schryver about how best to help after the derecho. Pastor Dan is managing a donation from the National Assoc. to support local victims of the derecho in conjunction with Salvation Army and MICA. We are not alone; our association cares about our welfare here in Marshalltown!

Guzman Family Ministries received an annual donation of \$3000 (3/2020) to help meet the needs of ongoing efforts to reach children in VBS and weekly Bible Schools shantytowns and inner-city Monterrey. In support of their valuable work, Marshalltown Christian School received a \$5000 gift in May 2020.

Again, the committee thanks those who donated their personal resources – time, talent, material, and dollars, to the FCC Mask Project. It pleases us greatly to see faces we love in our church pews, socially distancing, with masks on (many of which we recognize as FCC “homemade”) and sharing in worship with us. Because masks are so readily accessible in the public, we kindly ask that you resupply yourselves with new masks, if new ones are needed. A few of us will continue to make masks available as we access new material and find the time to sew.

The committee is in the process of researching MANY extremely important ways to help others in the U.S. and the world following multiple hurricanes and devastating fires, among other catastrophes. We appreciate the breadth and depth of needs and pray for discernment on how best this church can provide loving relief through Christian hands.

Finally, Jonna Wagar is again in charge of our Christmas outreach. Our intention was to again support the Salvation Army Toys for Tots program, but what this will look like in 2020 under COVID restrictions is still unclear. Please, watch the newsletter for more information about how our church might be physical, emotional and financial supports to others this Christmas.

Know that we are praying for your personal health and safety and our church as well!



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; October is Rod & Kristi Hassler! Thanks!

We still have open dates available for drivers/deliverers: 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



Tracy & Lori Wildman	October 20, 1979	41 years
Dan & Sharon Propst	October 20, 1980	40 years
Doug & Krystal Randall	October 27, 1984	36 years
Ken & Joy Kreykes	October 28, 2000	20 years
Greg & Kristin Meyer	October 18, 2003	17 years
Tod & Katie McDanel	October 06, 2006	14 years



October 1	Julie Lavendar	October 17	Bill Maas
October 6	Julianne Packer	October 20	Joan Smith-Legg
October 8	LaRae McGahuey, Cheryl Woltjer	October 23	Lori Wildman
October 10	Gary McKibbin	October 26	Steve Storjohann
October 12	Bob McGregor	October 27	Hannah Shirar, Leah Paustian
October 14	Bob Hibbs	October 29	Mason Moyer
October 15	Marilyn Fruin	October 29	John Blabaum, Nancy Harris, Bob Nutt



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.





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

OCTOBER 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.
October 6,13,20,27**

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.
October 7,14,21,28**

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.
October 7,14,21,28**

**Sunday morning program is called Power Hour for Preschool-12th grade in the Loft from 9:45-10:20am.
October 4,11,18,25**



We are taking 2 trips to Geisler Farms in October for some fun with our youth exploring a corn maze, giant slide, hay ride, and much more! Saturday, October 3rd, we will be taking preschool-5th graders and Saturday, October 24th we will be taking 6-12th graders. Contact Shelly Speas if your youth wants to join the fun!



Marshalltown Christian School Update

Serving as many or more pork loin BBQ lunches as in past years, the first-time ever curbside MCS Fall Drive-Thru Picnic was a tremendous success. Cars lined the front MCS driveway where drivers stopped at the front door for delivery of a bagged lunch to their car door. Thank you for stopping by in support of the fundraiser for Christian education, and much appreciation to Chairman Kristin Meyer and her team for organizing the accomplished event.

Thank you for partnering with and praying for Marshalltown Christian School for the 2020-21 school year. We are grateful for the prayer support of our *friends of biblical education*. Please pray for the MCS board of directors, teachers, and staff as they prepare for the upcoming strategic planning sessions with its mission to "*Glorify God through biblical, Christ-centered education.*"





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 Pastor vacation	2 Pastor vacation Mary out today Miriam covers office	3 Pre-5 th Visit to Pumpkin Patch
4 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. 10:30 Svc/YouTube Power Hour 9:45-10:20am all grades in Loft 2pm Communion Svc on Facebook	5	6 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	7 5:30-6:30 Jr PY In Loft 7-8pm PY in Loft	8	9	10
11 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. 10:30 Svc/YouTube Power Hour 9:45-10:20am all grades in Loft	12 7pm Ladies Night FH Barbara Heil speaker	13 8:30am MBC meeting in the FCC Library 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall Mary vacation	14 5:30-6:30 Jr PY In Loft 7-8pm PY in Loft Mary vacation	15 6:30 Trustees meeting Mary vacation	16	17
18 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. Power Hour 9:45-10:20am all grades in Loft 10:30 Svc/YouTube 11:45am BCE	19	20 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Deacons meeting	21 5:30-6:30 Jr PY In Loft 7-8pm PY in Loft	22	23 Men's Overnight	24 11am MOW Volunteers: Hassler's 6-12th gr Visit to Pumpkin Patch
25 Sanctuary Service @8am & 10:30am. Bible presentation Power Hour 9:45-10:20am all grades in Loft 10:30 Svc/YouTube	26	27 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	28 5:30-6:30 Jr PY In Loft 7-8pm PY in Loft	29	30	31
						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

