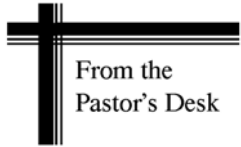


January 2021

"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."



Epiphany January 6 marks the Day of Epiphany and the end of the Christmas Season. Epiphany remains until February 17, Ash Wednesday. We recognize the day because it helps us remember the Three Wise Men, who came from another country (or countries) to worship Jesus with gifts. They probably did not

arrive immediately after the birth of our Savior, but sometime later, considering how far they had to travel. We think they might have come from Iran, but we really don't know for sure. Some scholars suspect that they had access to the prophecies of Daniel and so looked for the arrival of the eternal King of Israel.

We remember Epiphany to acknowledge the divinity of Christ and the awesome truth that God, the Son, actually entered Creation as a harmless, defenseless little baby and be part of the Human race. Isaiah prophecies of them centuries earlier in chapter 60 (verses 1-6):

"Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD."

Such a glowing description of what must have been a humble reception, as Joseph and Mary were not wealthy. God has a way of showing up in the most modest of circumstances and prefers to be near the humble and lowly of heart. We serve a big God, who is willing to be with humble and modest people. That is just one of the lessons of Epiphany. Pastor Dan

Sermons

January 3	The Great Blessing	Numbers 6:22-27
January 10	Some Thoughts on Baptism	Mark 1:4-11
January 17	David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17:45-47
January 24	David and the showbread	1 Samuel 21:6-9
January 31	Saul at En Dor	1 Samuel 28:13-15



Bible Study on Romans

Adult Sunday School is starting up again, except that it will be on Zoom and not on Sunday morning. Pastor Dan will begin a study on the Book of Romans shortly after the turn of the year. Meeting times are under consideration. We may possibly meet on Sunday afternoon, or Tuesday night, or perhaps another time that is convenient for all interested. If you have a suggestion, please email the pastor at "pastor@fccmarshalltown.org."

Missions & Benevolence Committee Shares Invitation from AA

What is AA?

Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. It is nonprofessional, self-supporting, multiracial, apolitical, and available almost everywhere. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem.

Dear Doctor, Clergy, Counselor or other Professional, We'd like to make sure you're aware of the active AA groups in the area. There are several meetings every week in Marshalltown.

Mon 12 pm and 6 pm
Tues 12 pm and 6 pm and 8 pm
Wed 12 pm and 8 pm
Thurs 12 pm and 8 pm
Fri 12 pm and 7 pm
Sat 12 pm
Sun. 8 am and 6 pm

Customarily all meetings are held at **1311 E. Nevada St.**, but because of the pandemic, many online meetings with local connections have been created. There are also at least weekly meeting options in nearby communities: Ames, Boone, Eldora, Iowa Falls, Jewell, Madrid, Nevada, Ogden and Stratford.

We invite you to explore the website at www.aacentraliowa.org for the latest information about meetings and more information. AA members are available to answer any questions by email or phone (*#below*) or to connect with potential alcoholics.

Thank you!

Carol L., Cooperation with Professional Community
(515-291-8671 text or message)

Cpc@aacentraliowa.org



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

JANUARY 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.

January 5, 12, 19, 26

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.

January 6, 13, 20, 27

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.

January 6, 3, 20, 27

Sunday morning Power Hour for Preschool-12th grade continues to be on hold for now. We will resume when our Sunday morning worship services go back to in person.

OUR KIDS IN PICTURES....



Our Power Hour attendance winners enjoyed their sweet prizes as a group. Congratulations!



We had a wonderful time this December with our youth spreading Christmas joy to some of our church members by caroling at their doors.



Our youth and leaders got to have some awesome Christmas fun together this December at their Christmas Parties!

Christmas brings joy and hope for everyone! No matter the circumstances, there is always hope through Jesus! A wonderful Children's Christmas Program was put together to share this hope through the Christmas Story told by our youth and families. Please check out the program on our church YouTube or Facebook pages.



Here are the names of the kids involved in the Children's Christmas Program (listed in the order as seen in the video)



Ian & Libby Meyer
Lydia Speas
Claire Meyer
Hailey Hovey
Royvaughn, Lusiano, Jace, Daisy, and Ella Alvarado
Troy Honn
Caroline and Lincoln Lavender
Kaedyn Arredondo

Savannah Piper
Reagan Riang
Nora, Briget, Skyler Stackhouse
Kasie and Melanie Brandt, and Ian Fikes
Hendrix Cambridge
Frejya Mills
Layla Wimberly
Avayah Speas
Izriel Reese
Keianna Kibbee
Jasmine & Lizzy Gepford
Taylor & Amber Brindle
Kirah Ragsdale
Caitlynn Schmidt
Zoey Woodard
Thomas & Kaisa Stanley
Kaleb, Liam, Elias, and Hollynn Carter





January 2021
FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!
Sunday Worship Services: 10:30am on You Tube

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 office closed 	2
3 10:30 Svc/YouTube 2pm Communion Svc on Facebook	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 Svc/YouTube	11	12 8:30am Zoom MBC meeting	13	14	15	16
17 10:30 Svc/YouTube	18	19 6:30pm Deacons meeting	20	21 6:30 Trustees meet	22	23 11am MOW Volunteers: Hassler's
24 10:30 Svc/YouTube 11:45am BCE meets Notice: Annual Meeting Feb 7	25 Annual Reports from all Committee chairs due to church office today.	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:30 Svc/YouTube Notice: Annual Meeting Feb 7						
						Page 6

**Laughing
Matters**

"Thoughts and prayers going out to all the men who have spent months telling their partners...I'll do that when I have time!"

Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine I would go to a bank teller with a mask on asking for money!

*We all pray we will be back
"together" in 2021!!!*





First Congregational Church
312 W. Main St.
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Worship Services: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. All ages in the LOFT
web page: www.fcmarshaltown.org

