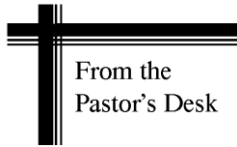


Pilgrim's Progress

March 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

March 10 is the Jewish Feast of Purim, which celebrates courage and devotion to family. You'll find the story behind it in the Old Testament Book of Esther, a young Jewish orphan who, basically, wins a beauty contest and is married to the King of Persia, some fifty years after the fall of the Babylonian Empire. She discovers a plot by a member of the Persian Court, a man named Haman, to murder every Jew in the country. (It's strange and sad that there have been attempts to systematically kill all Jews in a region even in the days of the Old Testament). Her only recourse is to enter the Courtroom and confront the king with the evidence, a risky move because in that culture anyone who entered the Courtroom uninvited could be killed at the king's command. Esther takes the risk and survives. With the king on her side, she helps thwart the plan to destroy the Jewish people. Because of her reverence for God, her concern for others, and her willingness to risk her life for her people, the Feast of Purim takes place annually roughly one month before the Passover. She is enshrined in Scripture as an example of compassion and courage. During this season of Lent, perhaps you can take some time to remember people who invested in your life, whose compassion and courage helped you through a rough season, and then take a moment to give thanks for them. May you enjoy Purim, and continue through March, having a holy Lenten season.

Pastor Dan

Sermons for March

Sermons

Theme: Families



March 1	Of The Knowledge of Good and Evil	Genesis 2:15-17
March 8	All the Families of the World	Genesis 12:1-4
March 15	The Inheritance of the Saints	Colossians 1:12
March 22	The Works of God	John 9:3
March 29	Led by the Spirit of God	Romans 8:6-14

New Men's Group Forming

A new group, called "Kinsmen in Christ" is gathering to partake in the classic Bible Study based on the book "Wild at Heart", working to develop our hearts toward our families and toward the Lord. The first meeting is Friday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. in the Library, probably lasting from 60 to 90 minutes. We'll meet twice a month for twelve sessions, corresponding to each chapter of the book. Come to some or all of the meetings, which will be led by Pastor Dan

Lenten Breakfast Schedule, starting at 6:30 a.m.

March 4	Hope United Methodist Church
March 11	New Hope Church
March 18	St. Francis Church-St. Henry Campus (St. Henry Catholic Church)
March 25	Central Christian Church



Jeremy & Julie Lavender
Bing & Dorothy McHone

March 4, 2010 10 years
March 28, 1998 22 years

March 1	Cliff March	March 14	Dorothy McHone
March 2	Kayla Bogenrief	March 15	Charlie Fry, Julie Paustian
March 3	Leta Lacina	March 19	Gwen Wical
March 4	Barbara Ellcey, Dick Squiers, Erin Stanley	March 21	Dave Dysart
March 6	Dorothy Peterson, Joel Storjohann Barb	March 22	Irene Steward
March 7	Hibbs, Erin Woltjer	March 24	Lenora Brown, Lori March
March 8	Caroline Lavender	March 29	James Allison
March 9	Bob Bauer	March 31	Nick Carson
March 10	Greg Meyer, Reed Swartz		
March 11	Dave Gill		



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, David Maxwell

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



Wednesday Night Activities:

March 4,18,25; PreK-12th grade 9:15am **March**

DOGs 4:30-5:30pm, PreK-5th grade

Jr PY 6-7pm, 6-8th grade

PY 7:30-8:30pm 9-12th grade

March 11 Spring Break **NO ACTIVITIES**



March Power Hour:

1,8,15,22,29

Starting with worship songs in the loft.



Youth Leadership Conference Friday, March 13-Saturday March 14th. Amazing conference in Des Moines at Grace Church that equips students, leaders, and volunteers with Biblical principles that will reach people with the gospel of Jesus. Please contact Shelly Speas if interested! Youth Leaders and students 6-12th grade are encouraged to come!



Saturday, March 21st we will have a Rummage Sale at First Congregational Church in the fellowship hall from 8am-2pm. We will have lots of things for sale plus baked goods, popcorn, and drinks. We are also opening it up to others to come sell their items for just a \$5 table fee. Contact Youth Director Shelly Speas if you want to rent a table. This is a youth fundraiser to help with our youth summer mission conference. **Come check it out!**



There is homework help available **every Thursday in March (none on the 12th)** for any student that needs it. Just contact our Youth Director, Shelly Speas, ahead of time so we are prepared with a helper for your student. The group meets in the downstairs of the church.



YABS (Young Adult Bible Study): Sunday, March 29th @7pm @ FCC in the Loft. Will have snacks & Bible Study.



Nooma is Sunday March 1st at 5pm at the church. We're having a baked potato bar downstairs, then will continue our Beth Moore study on James in the Loft. All are welcome! Child care is provided.

Adult Activities: Sunday School 9:30am every Sunday in the Adult Ed Room.

Sisters in Christ Monday, March 30th @ 6:30pm. Details to be announced soon!

MISSIONS & BENEVOLENCE



Be Bountiful in Showing Fruit of the Spirit

This year the flu and other respiratory viruses have hit Marshalltown hard. House of Compassion (HOC) Supply Closet works diligently to help supply those with very limited resources with paper products, cough medicines, and hygiene products to help stem the symptoms and spread of these bugs and meet the needs of basic hygiene. March is FCC's month to focus on helping to maintain HOC Supply Closet inventories of important toiletries, cleaning supplies and medicines. They desperately need our help to bolster supplies!

HOC SUPPLY CLOSET DRIVE

Here's how to help in 2020

1. Grab a tag (or more!) from the "Fruit of the Spirit Basket" in Fellowship Hall in March 2020
2. Buy just the items described in the amounts/sizes/numbers recommended on the tag.
3. Bring your items to Fellowship Hall at the designated corner up through Sunday, March 29th
4. No need to wrap them or label them.

(If you have items to donate after March 29th, please take them directly to House of Compassion.)

Body Wash – get five bottles liquid bathing soap; each bottle 10 oz. or larger

Sugar Free Cough Drops – Get 4 sacks with at least 25 pieces each

Depends (adult incontinence briefs) – get one package or box with at least 12–16 each, in either L or XL **Diapers** – get one package or box of at least 16-18 diapers, in size 4, 5, or 6

Dish Detergent – get five bottles liquid dish detergent; each bottle 10 oz. or larger

Hand or Body Lotion – get five bottles; each bottle 10 oz. or larger

Facial Tissue (e.g. Kleenex) – get two packages with at least four boxes/package

Liquid Laundry Detergent – get one bottle/jug of at least 100 oz. volume

Paper Towels – get one package with at least 6 rolls per package

Toilet Paper – get one package with at least 12 rolls

Toothpaste – 2 Tubes with at least 4 ounces in each

Karen Boland Heading to Sierra Leone in April SEND LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO MKM

My Kinsman Ministries co-founder, Karen Boland, is asking members of the congregation to send more letters with her on her upcoming trip to Sierra Leone. Knowing we care brings great pleasure and lifts spirits among all those associated with the mission. Address your communications to My Kinsman Ministry Staff or My Kinsman Ministry Members or any individuals you already have established a relationship with in prior letters. **Completed letters should be placed in the basket labeled "MKM Letters" in the narthex of our church. Please, complete your cards and letters no later than March 29, 2020.**

New "pen pals" might be discovered and you can learn more about the extensive work of MKM by reading **the MKM Newsletters**. Mary, our faithful church secretary, forwards the latest editions in an all-church email as they are published. They highlight special prayer requests to support their church and special accomplishments, joys and needs of their several congregations and members. Be sure to take time to read these when they come. January 24, 2020, was the last time a newsletter was forwarded by secretary@fccmarshalltown.org. You can also go directly to the mission website anytime to catch up on their news: mykinsmenministries@mediacombb.net.

Library
News



Library news: by Miriam Bryant

A few weeks ago, all boards and committees of FCC were asked to complete a short questionnaire covering the use of the FCC Library. If yours has not been returned to the BCE Committee, please do so now. You may put it in their mailbox in the central hallway.

Thank you to the trustees for the new chairs in the library! What a surprise!

Are you enjoying the Historical Inserts in the Sunday Bulletins? More of our history is available on line thru curriculum downloads; reference books and the Congregational Library.

Marshalltown Christian School News...



The site team of Christian Schools International (CSI) was on the campus of Marshalltown Christian School recently as a requirement of continued accreditation of the Christian school. As the final step in the process of accreditation, the extensive review of the school was reported to the School Improvement Team, consisting of Bethany Wirin, Kristin Meyer, Elizabeth Harris, Echo Nuese, Robyn Aiken, Lindsey Lawrence, Marilyn Downs, and Matt Johnson.

Marshalltown Christian School participates in a 5-year CSI accreditation cycle, which includes regular reviews and annual reports of student and financial data, standards of quality, and student learning. To prepare for the site visit, SIT members completed a comprehensive self-study and provided documentation necessary in meeting the requirements of the "Measuring the Mission" accreditation. The accreditation site team included Arlyn Scaap, Christian Schools International (CSI) Accreditation Regional Coordinator, Rebecca Johnson, Timothy Christian School, Becky Braafhart, Newton Christian School, Melinda Vos, Peoria Christian School, and Nicki Kuiper, Heartland Christian Schools coordinator (Dordt University), who evaluated the documentation and recommended the status of accreditation. Six major commendations were highlighted at the report decision.



What is a Covenant?

By Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer, Board of Directors

Hopefully, we all know the answer to this question. Each Congregational church has a covenant that binds it to God and one another. Our covenants define who we are as a gathered people of God, centered on Christ and led by the Holy Spirit.

At this year's **Annual Meeting & Conference** in June, the Board of Directors will present the member churches with a covenant that will define how we handle sexual misconduct and abuse in our churches. Each church will be asked to consider signing the covenant, agreeing to abide by the guidelines set out by the NACCC regarding situations of sexual misconduct and abuse. Please consider prayerfully the best way to communicate this covenant to your church.

NACCC and IA/NE News:

Serving these organizations:

Pastor Dan Vellinga-	Moderator IA/NE Association NA Nominating Committee Quiet Day Retreat Presenter @ NA Annual Meeting-Cleveland Secretary, Congregational Retreat Society Spiritual Care Trainer @ Unity Point-Marshalltown
Patrick Stewart-	NA Youth Advisor Annual Meeting Task Team
Miriam Bryant-	Year-Round Delegate NA Board of Directors 2016-2019 Treasurer Congregational Retreat Society Ambassador Task Team
Jan Wilson-Chair	NA Mission & Outreach Ministry Council Past Moderator-IA/NA Association

These boards, councils and committees meet at least monthly via phone calls.



2020

FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

Sunday Worship Services: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study: 9:30am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Office HOURS</p>	<p>Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239</p>					
<p>1 Communion 9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 5pm Nooma in FH/potato bar all invited</p>	2	3	<p>4 Lenten Brkfst Hope United Meth 2203 So 3rd Ave 6:30am Youth Nite DOGs 4:30-5:30 PreK-5th gr Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8th gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12th gr</p>	<p>5 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLP</p>	6	7
<p>8 9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 11:45 cabinet meets</p>	9	<p>10 8:30am MBC meets W.W.</p>	<p>11 Lenten Brkfst New Hope 3901 So Ctr St 6:30am Spring Break! No Youth Activities W.W.</p>	<p>12 No homework help/spring break</p>	<p>13 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets Youth Leadership Conference 6-12th gr Youth Leaders</p>	<p>14 Youth Leadership Conference 6-12th gr Youth Leaders</p>
<p>15 9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 11:45am BCE meets</p>	<p>16 9am-3pm Born an Angel group meets in FH</p>	<p>17 6:30pm Deacons meet W.W. HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY</p>	<p>18 Lenten Brkfst St Henry 211 W Olive St 6:30am Youth Nite DOGs 4:30-5:30 PreK-5th gr Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8th gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12th gr W.W.</p>	<p>19 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLP 6:30pm Trustees meet</p>	20	<p>21 8am-2pm Youth Rummage sale in FH</p>
<p>22 9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 11:45 BCE Meets 7PM YABS Meet</p>	23	<p>24 8:30am MBC meets 6:30pm Deacons Meet W.W.</p>	<p>25 Lenten Brkfst Central Christian 300 W Main 6:30am Youth Nite DOGs 4:30-5:30 PreK-5th gr Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8th gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12th gr W.W.</p>	<p>26 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLP 6:30pm Trustees meet</p>	<p>27 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets</p>	<p>28 11am MOW Volunteers: Bill & Lynn Maas</p>
<p>29 9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr HOC items and MKM Letters due today! 7pm YABS in Loft</p>	<p>30 6:30pm Sister's in Christ meet</p>	<p>31 W.W.</p>				<p>color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards Page 5</p>



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

