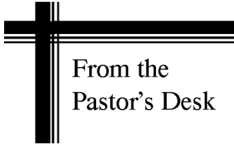


June 2021

"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."



From the
Pastor's Desk

It seems that the chill of Winter was not that long ago and yet we've sailed through a beautiful Spring and will soon begin Summer. A lot is happening this June and here are some of the highlights:

Annual Meeting of the NACCC online this year

The yearly gathering of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches this year will be online, Saturday June 19 and Sunday June 20. The meeting boasts a full slate with the traditional Congregational and Bible Lectures, business meetings as well as workshops both pre-recorded and live. Like much that takes place online, it may not be like being together in one place (look for that next year) but it is still a good opportunity to learn and fellowship.

New Executive Secretary-Ashley Cook Cleere

Several years ago, when Rev. Dr. Thomas Richard, a former pastor of this church, retired from the position of Executive Secretary of the NACCC, I wondered aloud, "who would manage to replace him?" Then Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum stepped in and did a terrific job in Tom's stead. Now that Dr. Chittum has retired, we welcome a new Executive Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Ashley Cook Cleere, who takes over early this month. She comes with a wealth of experience and we are very fortunate to have her in leadership. There's more to celebrate.

New website

www.naccc.org is still the website for our National Association, but the site has been reorganized and rebuilt. The people working on this project did an excellent job making the website is pleasing to the eye, easy to use and full of valuable information. Be sure to explore it sometime soon

New lay ministry program

Another new and very good development in the NACCC is the restructure and update of the Lay Ministry Program. Not everyone even knows that there is an online educational program to help Lay members of the church take positions of leadership, including leadership in the pulpit on Sunday morning. As pastor, I would go beyond just recommending this to anyone interested in church, but openly wishing that people in our church would sign up for this course. It is helpful, thoughtful, thorough. In cases where a church was too small to call a pastor, a dedicated layperson was able to take over that role successfully with this training. Look for more information on this at <https://www.naccc.org/education-programs/ccl/>

Workshop with Charles Packer on Lectio Divina

On Saturday, June 19 during the NACCC Annual Meeting I will have the privilege of joining Rev. Dr. Charles Packer in leading a workshop on Lectio Divina, or "divine reading", a way of studying the Scripture with the heart as well as the mind. Charles will speak about the history of this Spiritual Practice and I will lead the group (this workshop will be live) through a couple of passages in the New Testament.

Parish Renewal-the Mission of God

In conjunction with the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and the Center for Parish Development, the leadership of our church began a discussion about the renewal of the church. A key element, perhaps the key element, is that God is on a mission. He doesn't delegate it to the church and then has no involvement, He is active in the mission Himself. The question for us, and for every church, is how do we discern and get involved in that mission? As this month goes by, spend some time, if you will, and reflect on what is the Lord's mission in Marshalltown?


Yours, Pastor Dan



Sermons: June Theme "Hope When Life is Challenging"

June 6 Hope Because We Have a Great Lord Hebrews 1:1-4
June 13 Pastor Dan is away from the pulpit on this Sunday. Pulpit guests are:
 8am Service: Rev. Charles Fry
 10:30am Service: Rev. Robert Spigler, Chaplin with IA River Hospice
June 20 Hope Because We Have a Great High Priest Hebrews 4:14-16
June 27 Hope Because We Have a Great Destiny Hebrews 12:22-24



 January - April 2021	ACTUAL	BUDGET	NET
GIVING	\$40,862	\$52,000	-21.4%
EXPENSES	\$51,346	\$85,048	-39.6%



So Long and Farewell

Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum, Executive Director



This marks my last column here. Generally, I draw attention to new things that are happening within the life of the NACCC, but now it seems appropriate for me to say goodbye. Since July 2015, I have had the joy to serve as the Executive Director of the NACCC and the Congregational Foundation, but my time in that position draws to a close.

I have been gratified to realize the people within the NACCC who are committed to their local church, to the regional association in their area, and to the NACCC itself. These folks are the ones who help make everything move forward for the benefit of all. It seems appropriate for me to say thank you to all.

In just a few weeks, there will be a new Executive Director in place, Ashley Cleere. There will be a new leadership team leading the NACCC and the Foundation. There will be new challenges and opportunities facing our churches. There will be new ideas proposed to move the church and the association forward. It seems appropriate for me to say that I will continue to pray for God's blessings for you all.



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 **Southridge**: Betty Runner #212

Suites of Ankeny: Don & Romaine Mackaman

The Willows: Valois Brintnall #309, Sanny Thompson #205

Glenwood Place: Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mildred Lathrop #145, Bob Becker #175, Bonnie Pappas #177, Lenora Brown #147.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES!

Tyler & Sarah Nullmeyer	June 9, 2018	Joel & Sharon Greer	June 19, 1982
Eric & Amy Gummert	June 12, 2004	Bob & Jane Bauer	June 20, 1964
Chris & Megan Greenwood	June 12, 2010	Pastor Dan & Jeanne Vellinga	June 20, 1981
Don & Romaine Mackaman	June 13, 1953	Ron & Debi Estabrook	June 21, 1970
Dave & Lynn Hall	June 14, 1974	Wayne & Jonna Wagar	June 22, 1968
David & Katie Peiffer	June 16, 2018	Charles & Joan Fry	June 25, 1983
Gary & Vicki McKibbin	June 17, 1967	Stan & Georgia Thomas	June 27, 1987
		Terry & Julie Paustian	June 29, 1974



June 4	Pat Preece, Dwayne Shultz	June 19	Jan More
June 9	Joel Angle, Arlene Selby	June 22	Shannon Wolcott
June 10	Deb Mettlin	June 23	Matt Schryver
June 15	Natasha Banks, Jane Bauer	June 25	Lynn Hall
June 16	Maxie Shultz	June 26	Don Benbow
		June 30	Layla Wimberly

Diaconate News

The Diaconate met on 5/18 to discuss reopening plans since the Mayor/ CDC have lifted the mask mandate. The reopening will be gradual. Watch for all church emails for future updates. The minister will also report from the pulpit as we go along. People who are fully vaccinated may resume activities without masks. However, all are encouraged to still follow guidelines and recommendations for social distancing, hand washing and mask wearing. We encourage everyone to be considerate of others. Some fully vaccinated people may still want to wear their mask and that's perfectly fine. We will begin opening up on June 6th. At that time, we will pass the offering plate. Bibles and hymnals will return to the pews. We will continue the livestream of our services. Bulletins will be eliminated from the 2nd service; all entry doors will be unlocked. Still to be phased in will be Fellowship Time and Communion with the traditional elements. The church balcony will be closed 5/30 for the summer. Thank you for your patience.

Board of Christian Ed

Adult Bible Study: Pastor Dan continues to lead a zoom study on Romans on Sunday afternoons, 4-5pm.

Ladies' Picnic: July 19 at 6pm at Riverview Park, open shelter, potluck.

Breakthrough Bible Study: There are 8 women participating in the Monday evening study.

DOGS: Summer plans include a picnic at Dreamland in June, VBS in July, and an ice cream party in August.

Jr/Sr High: Summer plans include RiseFest music festival in Sheldon, IA and the NAPF conference in June, youth lock-in and Adventureland in July, and a camp organized through LaMoille Congregational in August.

(Board of Christian Ed con't)

NAPF/HOPE The conference "Miles Apart-Connected with Faith" will take place June 22-27. There will be pre-recorded sessions sent to us from the NA. Shelly and her team will organize the rest of the activities. On Sunday, a live zoom session will be held. The youth group will have a missions project.

Nursery: has reopened

Graduation Sunday: June 6. Shelly will speak and present a slide show during worship. There will be cake downstairs in Fellowship Hall for those who feel comfortable attending.

Hailey Edwards will graduate from high school
Matthew Dickey, Mackenzie Moyer, Hannah Shirar and Jenny Sauer from college.

VBS: Rocky Railway will be held July 25 (Sunday) through July 29 (Thursday) from 5:30 to 8:00pm, ages 4-12.

Life Skills: Patrick Stewart will be leading a "life skills" group, perhaps on Wednesday evenings. This will include things like budgeting.



MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE BOARD **House of Compassion Supply Closet Drive 2021**



Response to the House of Compassion Supply Closet Drive was modest this year. Two grocery sacks filled with hand soaps, toothpaste, deodorant, over-the-counter pain relievers and band aids were delivered to the House of Compassion. COVID restrictions may have negatively impacted this project. The committee will survey the congregation about its interest continuing this annual drive. If interest is poor, we'll probably drop the project.



MEALS ON WHEELS is still "in motion" as volunteers continue to take care of delivering meals to those who need us. Our church volunteers are so willing to participate, and we thank you all!

June delivery volunteer is Doris McCarty & Kolleen Shollenbarger. More dates for 2021 are open and waiting to put your name on the list. If you'd like to sign up for one of the following dates, just call the church office 641-752-4239 and we will get you on the list. Thank you. Kristi Hassler

2021 MOW Dates Open July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27, December 25



Renewal Coordinating Team Update for June 2021

In March 2021, the Cabinet approved the following individuals to serve as the

FCC Renewal Coordinating Team (RCT):

Miriam Bryant, Aaron Dickey, Kristin Meyer, Kim Schryver,
Jacob Shirar, Patrick Stewart
Pastor Dan Vellinga

The RCT has met twice independently from the Cabinet for orientation to the responsibilities of the team and team building exercises. The first meeting was via ZOOM on March 12, 2021, with our facilitators, Ray Schulte (Ex. Dir. Center for Parish Development [CPD]) and Shawn Stapleton (NACCC Center for Congregational Church Leadership Workshop Coordinator [NACCC]). From that initial gathering as a team, the following thoughts were especially impactful.

RCT Initial Priorities:

- 1) Develop norms and guidelines for how we will conduct business and communicate as a committed team.
- 2) Create and commit to a covenant reflecting these norms that will lead to productive outcomes and trusting supportive relationships within and outside the team.
- 3) Begin to cultivate strong team relationships and habits.

Phase I Designing Renewal Expectations

i.e. Donning The Right Pair of Glasses for the Most Meaningful Outcome

- Renewal begins with God
- We are NOT fixing a broken church. Rather, FCC today remains a group of people God has put together with talents and resources to strengthen God's Kingdom. We are renewing this congregation to further our faith and function in today's world under the Holy Spirit.
- We are called to serve one another and the wider world
- Ask God to help us to learn what we are called to BE and do

The second meeting of the RCT took place on Thursday, May 6, 2021; it was our first in-person meeting. Pastor Dan and Kim Schryver developed the agenda around the three priorities our facilitators recommended as starting points. Four questions were key stimuli to our discussion.

- What were special qualities/characteristics of "really great" teams we've experienced?
- How can the RCT create a sense of team belonging throughout the church?
- Gifts, skills, talents identified by various RCT members that might be employed to strengthen the team and its cohesiveness?
- What are elements we might consider as a guide to healthy team norms (brainstorming session)?

Five of the seven RCT members met one additional time via ZOOM with some Cabinet members and our facilitators on Sunday, May 16, 2021. The agenda was an important opportunity for the full Cabinet to meet the facilitators and to ask questions. Developing an effective plan for communication within the RCT, with the Cabinet and with the entire congregation is an important short-term goal – e.g. within the next 3 months. Cabinet leadership will need to participate in developing this plan.

On June 8th and 30th, 2021, the RCT will continue work on team development and preparing ourselves for drafting an initial plan for renewal activities and communication. RCT focus in the next quarter will be:

- Continue team development and organization; chairman and secretary will be identified
- Begin to create with Cabinet leadership a plan for effective communication
- Begin to create a plan for church wide engagement in renewal
- With professionals, hold possible initial activities/exercises to kick off the process

Last word, our facilitators have emphasized we must be patient in our process. The work must be predicated on strengthening relationships with God and with one another throughout the church. It takes time to cultivate a disciple community that corporately shares the desire to discover, discern and eventually embody God's will for this particular church in this time and place. We must allow time for full communication from all who want to participate, for reflection and for feedback. All RCT members are on board for this extended commitment and excited to help find ways to bring as many church members as wish to participate into the process in the next couple years or more. As always, we will keep you posted on progress and opportunities to get involved.



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

WE WRAP UP ANOTHER YEAR!

June 6 is Graduation Sunday during the 10:30am service with a reception to follow in the fellowship hall.

Sunday, June 6th, Shelly and youth leaders will be taking preschool-5th grade students to Conrad, IA for a picnic and fun at Dreamland Park from 4-6pm.

Shelly and youth leaders will be taking a group of students to RiseFest, a Christian music festival in Sheldon, IA on Friday June 11th--Sunday June 13th.

Our national youth mission conference, NAPF/HOPE, is going virtual this year with the theme Miles Apart, Connected by Faith, and every church will be hosting their students at their home churches and connecting online. This year's conference will be at FCC Tuesday, June 22nd-Sunday June 27th where our high school students will experience many of the same aspects of the conference such as worship, large group messages, small group time, and local mission projects to do together, along with having a sleepover at our church. We hope to have a wonderful and unique conference with our students and their leaders.

Our youth groups had awesome end of the year parties at Wayward Social where they had an amazing time bowling and enjoying pizza and fun together! What a great year we had of youth ministry with our awesome kids!

OUR KIDS IN PICTURES!



Our Sunday mornings are so fun with our students during our Power Hour Sunday school time. Here are our Power Hour attendance awards winners for May: Claire Meyer, Isabella Casteel, and Breanna Edwards.



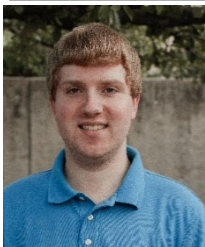
Come join us for VBS!
July 25-29, 5:30-8:00pm
Sunday-Thursday
Ages 4-12

[illegible]

Proud aunt and uncle, Georgia & Stan Thomas, are proud to announce the graduation of their niece, Saige Frost. She will graduate from GMG this May and is planning a career in teaching after obtaining her degree from UNI.



Proud aunt and uncle, Georgia & Stan Thomas, are proud to announce the graduation of their niece, Madison Taylor, of Searcy, Arkansas, is enrolled at Oklahoma State University in the college of veterinary science.



Matthew Ryan Dickey, son of Aaron & Angie, graduated from Iowa State University at the conclusion of the Fall Semester of 2020. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Statistics. Matthew plans to stay in the Midwest and work with Data Analysis/Statistics, but may venture further from home if the right career opportunity comes his way. Matthew hopes to someday work in the field of Sports Data Analysis.



JUNE 2021

FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

*Sunday Worship Services: 8am & 10:30am in-person in Sanctuary
10:30am Service also on YouTube*



Monday-Friday
9am-Noon
641-752-4239

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards		1	2	3	4	5
6 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Graduation Sunday Fellowship follows 4-6pm Picnic/Conrad Pre-5 th gr.	7 Women's Bible Study "Breakthrough" Adult SS room 7-8:30	8 8:30am MBC	9	10 Pastor Dan on Vacation thru 17th	11 Youth Rise-Fest Festival June 11-13th	12
13 Pulpit Guests: 8am: Rev. Charles Fry 10:30am: Rev. Bob Spigler In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube	14 Women's Bible Study "Breakthrough" Adult SS room 7-8:30	15 6:30pm Deacons	16	17 6:30pm Trustees	18 Pastor Dan returns	19
20 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube	21 Women's Bible Study "Breakthrough" Adult SS room 7-8:30	22 Pre-recorded NAPF/HOPE Conf Thru the 27th	23 Pre-recorded NAPF/HOPE Conf	24 Pre-recorded NAPF/HOPE Conf	25 Pre-recorded NAPF/HOPE Conf	26 11am MOW Volunteers: Doris McCarty & Kolleen Shollenbarger Pre-recorded NAPF/HOPE Conf
27 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube NAPF/HOPE Conf ZOOM session 7pm BCE	28 Final: Women's Bible Study "Breakthrough" Adult SS room 7-8:30	29	30			Page 8



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

