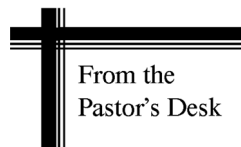


Pilgrim's Progress

July 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

Hello, everyone. I've got a few thoughts on several topics for this month.

a. The Three Weeks

I've often complained, in a "tongue in cheek" manner, to the Deacons about the lop-sided shape of the liturgical calendar. Starting in November, the calendar is full through Easter, then all is quiet until next November. Because of that, I've occasionally reviewed some of the Biblical feasts and that of Judaism. On June 27 began what is known as the "Three Weeks", remembering the siege against Jerusalem that resulted in the destruction of the Temple many centuries ago. It is still a time of remembering and mourning for Jewish people today. All that remains is the Wailing Wall, symbolic of the hopes and dreams yet to be fulfilled. This month would be a good time to pray especially for people whose lives are filled with such dreams.

b. The Renewal Coordinating Team

The team will meet on July 22 as part of their monthly endeavor to explore God's best purpose for this church. The plan is to explore and prepare a series of events that, over time, help everyone to be heard and to be on the same page going forward. We're looking for the best way to be a blessing to our community and to be a beautiful reflection of the Kingdom of God.

c. Vacation Bible School

This is one of the main means of outreach to our community. This year's theme is "Rocky Railway" and the emphasis is on the power of the Lord to help us face the challenges of life. Last year we were one of the few churches in town to have a VBS and this year I wouldn't be surprised to have a good turnout for this one. It runs from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., from Sunday, July 25 through Thursday, July 29. We'll need volunteers, people to donate or loan necessary items such as food or props, etc. and especially we'll need people to pray for the children involved. Many thanks to those who work hard to make VBS a success.

Yours, Pastor Dan



Sermons: July

July 4	Ezekiel 2:1-5; March 6:1-13	A Mission Mindset
July 11	Amos 7:7-15; Mark 6:14-29	The Cost of Discipleship
July 18	Jeremiah 23:1-6; Mark 6:30-34	Jesus Walks on the Sea
July 25	2 Kings 4:42-44; John 6:1-21	Compassion and Power



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.





JULY ANNIVERSARIES!

Bob & Judy Gaynor	July 1, 2006
JP & Jennifer Howard	July 1, 1995
Kirk & Cindy Shirar	July 6, 1991
John & Lisa Beaty	July 9, 2004
Dave & Trisha Gill	July 12, 2008
Ken & Darcie Lunsford	July 14, 1984



July 5	Miriam Bryant, Dave Hall, Kim Schryver	July 21	Don Lunsford
July 6	Bev Swenson	July 22	Susan Ferneau
July 8	Carlton Kothentbeutel, Mike Woltjer	July 23	JP Howard
July 12	David Dickey, Marilyn Rhodes	July 24	Max Meyer
July 14	Al Hays, Eric Fruin	July 25	Ken Kreykes
July 15	Sanny Thompson	July 26	Margaret Klink, Jonathan Howell, Margaret Otte
July 16	Gary Heggen	July 27	Larry Good, Danielle Propst
July 18	Jane Ragland	July 28	Mackenzie Moyer, Alicia Storjohann
July 19	Julie Squiers	July 29	Amy Gummert
July 20	Krystal Randall	July 31	Matthew Dickey, Eleanor Rowden

News from Diaconate Board

Beginning July 4th, we will begin Fellowship Time with coffee and lemonade available. Please serve yourself. Beginning mid-September, we will add a Fellowship Host and treats. Thank you for your patience as we return to normal.

Board of Christian Ed **VBS DECOR WISHLIST**

If you have any of these items to share, please call
Jeanne Vellinga at 419-308-1107.

- *Christmas trees (green) prefer no lights to borrow (Double points if you put it together, lol!)
- *An old hard plastic baby swimming pool that you don't need back
- *poly fiberfill (the stuff you use when making pillows)
- *5 gallon bucket that you don't need back
- *old suitcases to borrow
- *signs or paraphernalia with or about trains to borrow



ALL ABOARD FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!
JULY 25-29 (SUN-THURS), 5:30-8:00PM
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 312 W. Main St.
For ages 4-12 Meal included No charge
Register: myvbs.org/fccmtown Info: 641-751-9868

News from Missions and Benevolence

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!

July delivery volunteers are Shelly and the Youth Group. 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 August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27, December 25

Ladies' Picnic: Monday, July 19, 6pm



Riverview Park, open shelter (make a left at the log cabin and go til you see us on right) there will be signs. This is a Potluck meal; Bring your own chair if you wish. This will be a time of fellowship with each other with one lady sharing. All ladies (including teens) are invited. You can invite friends who don't go to church too! Please rsvp to Jeanne Vellinga 419-308-1107



YOUTH GROUP SUMMER FUN!

Some of our youth and leaders took a trip to Sheldon IA for a Christian music festival called RiseFest June 11-13 where we had an incredible adventure and time of worship with thousands of other Christians! (photos 1 & 2)



We had a wonderful time celebrating the amazing accomplishments of our high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 6th! (Photo 3)

The youth and leaders have been able to put up American flags as a fundraising opportunity by the Morning Optimist Club. This is a favorite activity as we get to encourage our community and honor our country when they see the beautiful display of flags waving in the wind.



Some of our kids and leaders got to go on an awesome trip to Dreamland Park in Conrad, IA for a picnic and fun on Sunday, June 6th!



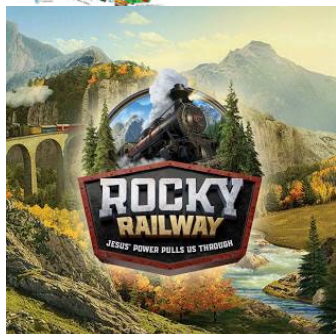
These are our Power Hour attendance winners for June. Breanna Edwards, Kasie Brandt, Claire Meyer, Amber Brindle, Avayah Speas, Isabella Casteel. (Photo 1)

We had an awesome end of the year party for Sunday morning Power Hour. (Photo 2)



We are taking a group of 6-12th grade students to Adventureland in Des Moines in July. Date TBD soon and Shelly will send out the rest of the info.

**AND DON'T FORGET!!!
VBS FCC STYLE!**



Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School. On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. We will begin Sunday, July 25 and run through Thursday July 29th, and it's for kids ages 4-12. It will be from 5:30-8pm and we will have meals every night.



GUIDING STAR
PROJECT

Guiding Star Marshalltown, located at 2501 South Center Street in the Nicholas Center, is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing compassionate care to women and their families. Our vision is a society where life is supported at every stage and the family is the foundation for future generations.

Guiding Star Marshalltown partners with professionals in the community who are Birth Doulas, Lactation Specialists, Fertility Care Practitioners, and many more to provide a wholistic approach for mind, body, and soul. We support teens, women with unplanned pregnancies, couples working through infertility, and those seeking health care on other stages along the journey. For more information visit our website: www.guidingstarmarshalltown.org

Calling all men (ages 18-108) to attend our **1st Annual Men's Night** at Guiding Star Marshalltown, 2501 South Center Street, in the Nicholas Center, **Thursday, July 8, 6:30-8:30pm** Stop in and find out what Guiding Star Marshalltown is all about and meet our partners.

In closing, please keep Guiding Star Marshalltown in your prayers.

Thank you,

Mary Mauk, Director
2501 South Center St, Ste Q
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Phone: 641-351-4041



Renewal Coordinating Team (RCT) Update for July 2021 Newsletter

Kim Schryver, Chair RCT

We're learning a lot and looking forward to the next few months when the RCT will continue to be coached by our professionals on how to effectively serve as key links between the full congregation and our leadership in designing processes for church renewal. Some "housekeeping" for the RCT has been completed.

First, roles and minute taking procedures provided by Center for Parish Development (CPD) for guiding the renewal process were reviewed. Included among these were job descriptions of the Coordinating Team, Chairperson of RCT, Pastor and Cabinet. The following committee leadership slate was unanimously approved:

Chairperson – Kim Schryver

Secretary – Jacob Shirar

Co-Treasurers – Patrick Stewart and Aaron Dickey

Three additional roles garnered expressed interest by these volunteers:

Co-Communication Chairs – Miriam Bryant and Aaron Dickey

Event Planner Lead – Kristin Meyer

Spiritual Guide – Pastor Vellinga

There will be much more to come in the future about these functions. If anyone is interested in viewing the "job descriptions" provided by CPD, please reach out to Kim Schryver by email or text:


kimschryver@gmail.com or 641-844-3844.

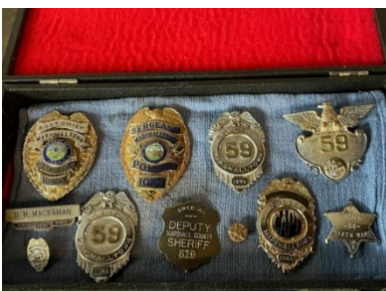
Second, a RCT Covenant identifying how we plan to interact as a team on behalf of FCC was finalized at our June 8, 2021 meeting. If there are no further amendments suggested, all committee members will sign this RCT Covenant at our June 30th, 2021 meeting. Among the important clauses in the proposed covenant is the following: ***We acknowledge our role as guides in FCC's renewal process. We recognize our responsibility to the church body - namely, to engage all who want to explore and define directions of this church going forward.*** The church as a whole will receive a copy of the Covenant after it is signed.

Next up on our priority list for this summer is to draft a proposed Renewal Communication Plan for the Cabinet to consider. Also, we will begin to look at possible processes – e.g. projects, events, studies, surveys, and/or interviews, to build interest and participation in creating Marshalltown FCC's future. Remember, the RCT is earning along with you about how best to discern God's will as a body of believers in this modern era and in this place. Stay tuned and don't hesitate to ask questions, if you have them.



Below is the Actual and Budget numbers for our church through May. The Giving includes tithes & offerings. The Budget Expense values are those that have been budgeted through May for the church. The most important value is our Tithes and offerings, which are behind budget by 25% through May.

 January - May 2021	ACTUAL	BUDGET	NET
GIVING	\$48,197	\$65,000	-25.9%
EXPENSES	\$75,437	\$106,310	-29.0%



This is so exciting to share! Most of you know, that my husband, Tom and I own Tannin Wine bar downtown Marshalltown. On June 24th we hosted "Coffee with a Cop" which had a great turnout and we had 6-8 MPD officers with us for 2 hours. While there, a gentleman came in with this box and said years ago someone left this in his truck and he just had never gotten around to turning it in. This event was his opportunity to get it to the right people! These badges belong to our own Don Mackaman! The PD has contacted Don's son who will bring Don and Romaine to M'town next week to reunite Don with these precious badges! Tom and I have been invited to be present so I will take photos to put in the next FCC newsletter! Just wanted to share.

Profile Series – Diaconate

The profile below of the FCC Diaconate is the first of our summer series, “Those Who Serve Our Church”

Our Board of Diaconate, according to the March 2021 update of Church By-laws, “shall consist of twelve Deacons, so elected for three-year terms....” This Board shall....

- a. Have supervision over the worship services and assist Pastor in the administration of the sacraments. [Communion Preparation ~ Packers, Decorations ~Lynn Maas]
- b. Arrange for greeters, ushers and lay readers at worship services. [Rotating]
- c. Work with the Pastor to develop a vital fellowship and to promote the spiritual interests of the congregation. [Harvest Dinner]
- d. Have supervision over parish visitation. [Gaynors, Hasslers, Donn]
- e. Review the membership of the Church periodically.....
- f. Secure a pulpit replacement for the Pastor.....[Julianne, Pastor Dan]
- g. Name delegates to Association meetings and to other religious gatherings to which the church should have official delegates. [Board]
- h. Provide a representative to serve as a member of the Personnel Committee. [Chair]
- i. Each expense item incurred by this Board shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for payment.
- j. Have supervision over the Music Committee. [Krystal, Julianne, Pat, Pastor Dan]

Current Deacons listed according to year of term expiration:

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Pat Anderson	Julianne Packer	Donn Anderson
Sam Good	Paul Packer	Bob Gaynor
Rod Hassler	Krystal Randall	Judy Gaynor

Kristi Hassler

Kristin Meyer

Dorothy McHone

Chair: Pat Anderson Secretary: Gaynors Cabinet Representative: Rod Hassler

The Board meets each month (except June & July) on the 3rd Tuesday @6:30 p.m.

If you have an interest/desire to serve on this or any of our Boards and Committees please

Contact the Nominating Committee: Don Benbow, Lisa Blabaum, Miriam Bryant, Jeanie Burt





*Sunday Worship Services: 8am & 10:30am in person
10:30am Service is also 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	2	3
4 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube No-Host Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall 	5 Church office closed in observance of Independence Day 	6	7	8	9	10
11 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube No-Host Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall	12	13 8:30am MBC	14	15 6:30pm Trustees	16	17
18 In-Person Wrshp 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube No-Host Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall 11:45am BCE	19 Ladies Picnic at Riverview 6PM Potluck rsvp to Jeanne Vellinga 419-308-1107	20 NO Deacons Meeting this month	21	22	23	24 11am MOW Volunteers: Shelly Speas
25 In-Person Wrshp 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube No-Host Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall VBS Begins today thru the 29th	VBS	VBS	VBS	VBS	30	31
						Page 5



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

