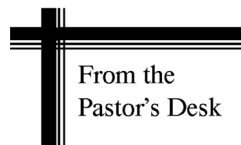


# Pilgrim's Progress

## August 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

### James 1:25

"But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

### Time for quiet reflection and planning

One of the most ambitious projects that we do on a regular basis is Vacation Bible School, which would not be possible without the hard work of many people. Children learn from Scripture that a church is a place where people love each other, and that Christ is well worth following. After that, everybody needs a time to slow down a little bit. August approaches the end of the season, but the events of Youth Group, Rally Sunday have yet to take place. This is the time where we can pause and reflect and make plans for the Fall and coming Winter.

### Law of liberty

With that in mind, I spent some time pondering the advice of James, the brother of the Lord Jesus, about the value of carefully reflecting on Scripture. He called it the "perfect law of liberty" revealing his view that the injunctions of Scripture liberate instead of constricting or imprisoning. Imagine a road with guard rails. The rails aren't there just to limit you, they keep you on the road to your destination and help you avoid all sorts of trouble. Scripture does the same thing in that it keeps us on the path of God when we could wander into all sorts of situations that would be troublesome, painful or even dangerous if left to our own devices. It is another example that freedom is not being able to do what you want, but rather being able to serve God without hindrance.

### Importance of application

But James warns us to "be not hearers of the word only but doers". In fact, this is the main point of his letter to the early church. I've always understood this to mean that we reflect on Scripture until we get to a point of application; either we learn something new about God or about life, or we have a point of action to our life. We need to draw some conclusion, some application to ourselves in order to be a doer of the Word. It takes some time, but it's worth it, and now is a good time to relax, plan and reflect.



### Sermons: August from John 6

August 1 Proverbs 6:1-6; John 6:53-55

August 8 Exodus 16:15-20; John 6:26-27

August 15 1 Kings 19:11-12; John 6:44-45

August 22 Genesis 1:1-5; John 6:60-63

August 29

Some of the Symbolism  
of Holy Communion

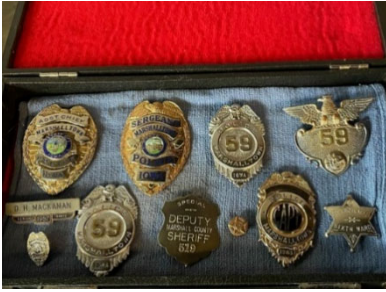
Bread from Heaven

Taught by God

The Power of Words

Pastor Out of Town/Jean Bower pulpit guest





### UPDATE from last month's newsletter!

Don's son brought him to Marshalltown on July 2nd and Don was so happy to be reunited with his badges which brought back so many memories for him. He donated one of his badges to the memorabilia cases in the new Police/Fire House. It was so special to be a part of this day with Don and Craig.



Don & His badges



Don's Son Craig, Don, Chief Tupper, Mary & Tom Curley



### *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.



Don & Kayla Bogenrief	August 5, 1977	44 years
Max & Liz Meyer	August 10, 1971	50 years
Mike & Cherryl Woltjer	August 11, 1984	37 years
Matt & Kim Schryver	August 16, 1975	46 years
Sam & Shelly Speas	August 19, 2006	15 years
Tom & Jane Adams	August 24, 1968	53 years
Paul & Julianne Packer	August 29, 1975	46 years



August 1	Maisie Gummert	August 16	Tyler Randall
August 2	Lydia Speas	August 18	Raelene McGahuey
August 3	Bonnie Pappas	August 20	Lynn Maas
August 6	Vicki Long	August 22	Tom Adams
August 8	Anna Wolvers	August 23	Romaine Mackaman
August 9	Jane Adams	August 24	Cindy Cunningham, Jacob Shirar
August 12	Al Packer	August 26	Joanne Ainley
August 13	Donn Anderson, Dan Propst	August 29	Carol Stanley
August 15	Judy Hays		



## **News from Diaconate Board**

- Pastor Dan will be on vacation August 29th. We are happy to have Jean Bower fill the pulpit that Sunday.
- On Sunday, Sept. 12th we will have a special reception after the service honoring Mary Curley retiring as Office Manager and Debi Estabrook as retiring Church Clerk.
- September 19th begins Fellowship Time with refreshments.
- We urge those who have not been vaccinated for the Covid virus to wear masks for their own safety.



## **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!

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

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



## **YOUTH GROUP SUMMER FUN!**

We had an amazing year of NAPF, our national youth mission conference. This year's conference theme was Miles Apart, connected by faith. This year was unique in the fact that we stayed at our church and served our own community. This provided us an opportunity to serve God and help our own church members and local organizations. It also gave us special time to grow closer together with our youth and leaders but also still able to connect with other leaders through pre-recorded sessions to grow in faith by and a live zoom to finish up our conference together. We were blessed to have two people join us at FCC for the conference, one youth from Berwick Congregational Church, and one leader from Elkader Congregational Church. We had a wonderful week, and we look forward to next year's conference which is planning to be held in Wichita, Kansas.







We took a group of youth to Adventureland in July where we enjoyed the park & the day together



Our Ebenezers group, some of our Marshalltown youth Pastors, planned a great event to connect our youth together through games, worship, and faith in July. We met at the YMCA and had a blast together. Our hope is to connect our youth as a family of believers in Jesus throughout the year.







Our youth and leaders continued with their flag fundraiser by putting up flags around Marshalltown for the Fourth of July. We are blessed by this opportunity through the Morning Optimist Club.



Sunday, August 15th we will be having an ice cream party with games and ice cream for kids preschool-5th grade at First Congregational Church from 1:30-2:30pm.



We are excited to once again be spending time during August & September with our youth and leaders, preparing a special youth led service for Rally Day which will be Sunday, September 26th this year. The schedule for practices will be mailed out to our youth soon.



We had a wonderful lady's picnic in July with around 20 women enjoying food and fellowship together at Riverview Park. It was a potluck and we had an amazing abundance of food and it was sure amazing!! We ended our time together blessed by a message on prayer by Jonna Wagar and singing hymns together.



Thank you to the Shirar Family for the gift of our 400-year Anniversary Medallion, celebrating American Congregationalism since 1620. You can view this thoughtful gift on display in the glass case in our Mayflower Hall.



## **Renewal Coordinating Team (RCT) Looking Forward to An Opportunity to Chat!**

August 2021 Newsletter Update  
Kim Schryver, Chair RCT



The Center for Parish Development (among the professionals in the renewal process) has a beautiful description of church – "The Household of God." They write:

*The word "household" is associated with many images: parenthood, childhood, birth, adoption, brother- and sisterhood, familial love, and domestic service. Describing the church as "household of God" indicates a communal understanding of the Christian Experience. Membership in this new household involves sharing in a common life held together by shared commitments and to the way of life in Christ. It is a way of life that does not make sense if lived apart. The Christian identity is distinctly a communal identity.*

So what's next? We want to know what YOU think church family could be going forward. We're looking forward to some face-to-face time with folks who want to participate, first in small and short discussion groups and eventually in some interviews. The RCT members are learning how to be intentional and unbiased listeners; how to take good notes, and finally ways to make sharing the outcome of dialogue with all of you more interesting. We're hoping to enlist a few others in conducting these listening activities. Let any member of the RCT know if you are interested in learning more about how to participate as interviewers. Watch for more details in announcements from the pulpit, all church emails and at fellowship.

## Profile Series – Diaconate

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....

- Current Deacons listed according to year of term expiration:**

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

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

Below is the Actual and Budget numbers for our church through June. The Giving includes tithes & offerings. The Budget Expense values are those that have been budgeted through June for the church.

Page 6



## from our Leadership

*Dear Friends of the NACCC and Supporters of the Congregational Way,*

In 1645, John Cotton published *The Way of Christ in New England*, in which he described the nature of the relationship between congregational churches. One of the points made by him in this treatise was that, while individual churches had no jurisdiction over other churches, the churches could and must walk and work together in coordination.

This is an apt image of the way the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) functions. The NACCC is made up of self-governing and autonomous local congregations choosing to be in communion with one another. Our individual member churches hold the work and ministry of the NACCC, as a whole, in trust, so that every local congregation can be supported to be as vital and healthy as it can be. Despite the challenges of the past year, this remains true. Within the NACCC, there is the sense that each church is supported by all of the other churches, and we work together in communion with one another and with Christ to do the work of God's Kingdom in our world.

We want to share some of the accomplishments of the past year:

- The partnership with the Center for Parish Development continues and is moving to create a new path forward to help our member churches in their journey to revitalization. Currently, five churches are engaged in this process with plans to include more.
- A 2nd Virtual Annual Meeting is being held and expanded from last year with lectures, workshops and social time added to the business meeting and worship.
- The Racial Justice Task Team is creating and organizing resources for use in our member churches on racism. The goal is to provide a safe and open place to discuss what can be a difficult topic.
- A new Lay Ministry Training Program is set to enroll its first cohort in Fall 2021.
- A new website for all things associated with the NACCC was launched in the Spring.
- After three years of work, the Board of Directors, and the Board of Governors of the Congregational Foundation (CF) worked together to transfer designated endowments to the CF.
- Finally, as Michael Chittum announced his retirement, the Search Committee completed their work in a timely fashion and have named Rev. Dr. Ashley Cook Cleere as the new Executive Director for the NACCC and the CF.

It is our privilege to join with you as we work together to support one another. It is good to come together to serve God and to advance the Congregational Way!



*Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer*  
Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer  
NACCC, Moderator



*Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum*  
Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum  
NACCC and  
Congregational Foundation  
Executive Director





## FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

*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					
<b>1 Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall	2	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Trustees meet	4	5	6	7
<b>8</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall 11:45Cabinet Meets	9	<b>10</b> No MBC meeting	11	12	13	14
<b>15</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall 11:45 BCE meets Ice Cream party 1:30- 2:30pm @ FCC K-5th	16	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Deacons meet	18	19	20	21
<b>22</b> In-Person Wrshp 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall 11:45am BCE	23	24	25	26	27	<b>28</b> 11am MOW Volunteer needed
<b>29</b> In-Person Wrshp 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall Pastor Dan on vacation/Jean Bower will be pulpit quest.	30	32				<b>31</b> <u>color code:</u> youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards
						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](http://www.fccmarshalltown.org)

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

