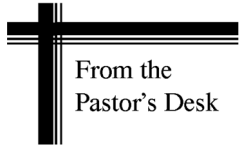


Pilgrim's Progress

September 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

1 Peter 2:9-12

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

We have more than one New Year in our lives. There is, of course, January 1st which begins a new calendar year but there are other days that mark a new year in our calendar of one sort or another. September begins a new school year, and activities with the Youth Groups start up along with it, with Rally Day being on the 26th this year. The church's liturgical calendar, that marks the colors, Scriptures and seasons of grace and worship begins with the First Sunday of Advent, which is November 28th, right after Thanksgiving. Another special beginning of the year is Yom Kippur, the sacred beginning of the New Year in the Jewish calendar. It is a day for fasting and prayer, and Christians do well to remember the wonders of being accepted by God the Father because Jesus made atonement for us by the Cross and His Resurrection. Some of the privileges and responsibilities of acceptance by God through the Atonement (making "one" again) of Christ are in this famous passage in 1 Peter. Read, consider and enjoy. We are accepted by God because of Christ.



Sermons: September

September 5 Jesus Gets Pestered Mark 7:24-30 James 2:17-18

September 12 The Christ Mark 8:27-30 2 Timothy 1:10

September 19 The Third Day Mark 8:30-32 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

September 26 Rally Sunday



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: Sanny Thompson #205

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



Jennifer Allison & Merrill Swartz	September 12, 1998	23 years
Tory & Stacy Moyer	September 16, 2003	18 years
Bob & Linda McGregor	September 16, 1972	49 years
John & Lisa Blabaum	September 28, 1996	25 years
Donn & Pat Anderson	September 29, 1984	37 years
Larry & Sam Good	September 30, 1967	54 years



September 5	Joan Fry	September 17	Kathleen Hale
September 6	Ian Meyer	September 19	Jane Benbow
September 11	Jeanie Burt, Carol Calabrese	September 21	Kolleen Shollenbarger
September 12	Eric Gummert	September 22	Darcie Lunsford, Charles Randall
September 13	Pastor Dan	September 23	Carol Edeker
September 16	Emily Carson, Sarah Latham	September 24	Wayne Wagar
	Christopher McGahuey	September 26	Brian Ferneau
		September 27	Roberta Olson
		September 30	Jeremy Lavendar



CHRISTIAN ED HIGHLIGHTS

The Romans study continues on Sundays, 4pm on Zoom. In the future, there will be bible studies that tie into the Renewal process.

Our youth director, Shelly, and the youth are preparing for Rally Day, with the theme "Truth Be Told". There will be a carnival outside after the service which will include a bounce house, balloon animals, games, popcorn, and a hot dog lunch.

Youth activities for the month of August included an ice cream party and games for the younger kids, with the older groups attending a wonderful concert at Journey church.

Sunday School will resume in early October after Rally Day.

Sisters in Christ are planning on hosting a get together at Legends Restaurant on Monday, October 4 at 6pm.

YABS (Young Adults Bible Study) hopes to start meeting again in the fall.

VBS was a great success! 48 kids enjoyed our Rocky Railway and learned about God's power.

The Unknown Tour, a large women's event is being planned for April 2 in the evening.



LADIES, LET'S ...
 MASTICATE AND MINGLE?
 GATHER AND GOBBLE?
 CHAT AND CHEW?
 GORGE AND GIGGLE?
 DATE: Monday, October 4, 6:00pm
 LOCATION: Legends Restaurant

Some of us got a little silly trying to think of a fun name for our next get-together! Bring your friends; they don't need to be attenders at FCC. The more the merrier! Please let us know you're coming by calling Jeanne (419) 308-1107 or Shelly (641) 751-9868 so we can make the proper reservations. Each will pay their own. Prizes and fun planned!

News from Diaconate Board

- With the deviant strain of Covid ramping up we are concerned with everyone's safety. We urge all who wish to wear a mask to do so, especially those that have not been vaccinated.
- September 12th we will have a special Fellowship Time to honor Mary Curley - retiring from Office Manager, Debi Estabrook-retiring as Church Clerk and Jonna Wagar-retiring as Chancel Choir director. Please join us!



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! Debbie Estabrook will be covering meals on wheels August 28th.

2021 MOW Dates Open 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 News



Please join us at church on Sunday, September 26th for a special service that will have been planned and will be led by our youth! It is going to be a wonderful Rally Day service so be sure not to miss it!! Immediately following the Rally Day service, the Board of Christian Education will be hosting a cookout with food and activities outside the church on the front lawn. Please come join us for food and fellowship.

Every Sunday at 9am & every Wednesday 5:30-7pm, the youth will be practicing for the Rally Day service. Please contact Shelly Speas with any questions about practice or the service.

In July we had 48 kids come to Vacation Bible School, Rocky Railway, where they learned to trust in our Lord Jesus Christ who can pull us through anything! We were so thankful to all who helped make this an amazing year!!



In August, the elementary kids enjoyed an ice cream party at church with games and of course ice cream and a message about how sweet it is to be part of a church and have Jesus!



In August, the youth and some of their leaders attended a Christian concert where they heard the music and testimonies of the bands Cain & Stars Go Dim in Marshalltown. It was awesome!



Who Were and Are and Will We Be?

September 2021 Newsletter Update

Kim Schryver, Chair RCT



Who Were and Are and Will We Be? Our character as a church depends on all of these elements. One stems from the other and defines in part our passions, talents, resources and identity going forward as a church.

The Renewal Coordinating Team (RCT) is interested in your stories. How would you respond to the title questions? We want to learn about how you chose FCC (or FCC chose you), what the greatest draws continue

to be for you, and what you envision FCC might be in the future. The Center for Parish Development has recommended we administer in small group or individual settings a very simple interview we're calling "Telling and Finding Our Story". With approval from the Cabinet, the Renewal Coordinating Team (RCT) hopes to engage all those willing to participate this Fall. We will do this over a 4 – 6 month period of time in three waves of interviews: Who have we been? Who are we now? Who is God calling us to be? It is the job of the RCT to keep you tuned into opportunities to participate and to keep you abreast of all that we are learning throughout the survey process.


As a warm up exercise to these interviews the RCT will conduct some fun and brief surveys and discussions, table by table, during fellowship time and over a few minutes (as time allows) in board or committee meetings in September. The purpose of this "warm up" time is to help us hone our listening skills and to introduce some goals that other churches have found helpful in renewal periods.

Thanks to the Cabinet who met with the Renewal Coordinating Team on August 5, 2021 for an important orientation to the renewal process. We had a great showing and are so grateful for your engagement!

In the meantime, don't forget...WE ARE already CHURCH. We have agreed in our covenant at FCC that Christ is our foundation and that work as a church will be guided and directed by Him. As we learn more about our individual draws to this church, we also look forward to learning more about Jesus Christ and why He deemed church necessary. The sustainability of this house of faith is dependent on strengthening and revitalizing our ties to that foundation.



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

 January - July 2021	ACTUAL	BUDGET	NET
GIVING	\$70,748	\$91,000	-22.3%
EXPENSES	\$149,712	\$148,834	-.6%



Welcome Katie Vogeler to FCC! Katie will be your new office manager/secretary at FCC. She brings a lot of experience to the table and is catching on very quickly! She is married to Adam, who works at IVCCD and also has his own construction business. They are the parents of two beautiful children, McKinley (4) and Logan (2). They live on an acreage south of town. Be sure to introduce yourself to her when you call or stop in! Welcome to FCC, Katie!



Now it's time for me to reminisce... after almost 9 full years of sitting in this office chair! First, I had the pleasure of getting to know Julianne Packer as she spent a month working with me; what a great lady and friend. As I reviewed the membership listing of FCC, I realized I had a lot of friends here...and I've made a lot more during my tenure. Pastor Barry was so fun to get to know the first 6 months, then working with Jean Bower for several months (she still has so much energy!) ...she kept the days fun! Pastor Dan has been a blessing to work with. He is always the same mild manner, soft spoken, funny, informative and has taught me a lot about the Congregationalists. I will miss his sweet smile!

Although I didn't work with Pastor Ellcey often, we got to know each other and I always enjoyed his visits to the church. We always had enlightening conversations! We solved a lot of problems, or at least we thought we did! I have missed your visits and I pray for you daily!

Shelly, I've so enjoyed watching you change the lives of some of our youth. Your babies (Avayah and Lydia) are beautiful girls and you and Sam are great parents! Pat Anderson...we've become good friends and are almost neighbors...we need to keep in touch...Arlene, Georgia, Larry, Lynn, Gramma Purple, Miriam.... we've had some fun gatherings! And then there is Aaron Dickey! My computer savior! He was always available to fix my computer issues....so quickly and efficiently all the while harassing me saying "what did you do?!" Thank you, Aaron, I treasure our friendship! So, to all my church friends, thank you, for your love, friendship, prayers and good times! I will miss you all but I'm not far away! Stop in at Tannin to see us or call me and we will "do lunch"! Thank you for letting me serve you these last 9 years. You've all made a life long impression in my heart. Mary



The LaMoille Congregational Community Church invites you to the musical ministry provided by "The Traveling Messengers". Join them for an afternoon of music followed by fellowship with ice cream and cookies. Date: Saturday, September 12th. Time: 3:00 P.M. Place: LaMoille Congregational Church 2215 Knapp Ave, LaMoille Marshalltown, Iowa



Wishing you and your family a happy and safe Labor Day!



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					
			1	2	3	4
5 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall	6 Labor Day Office Closed	7	8	9	10	11
12 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall	13	14 8:30am MBC meeting	15	16 6:30 Trustees meeting	17 4:30 wedding rehearsal	18 3pm wedding here
19 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall 11:45am BCE	20	21 6:30pm Deacons meet	22	23	24	25 11am MOW Volunteer needed
26 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall RALLY SUNDAY	27	28	29	30		<u>color code:</u> youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards



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

