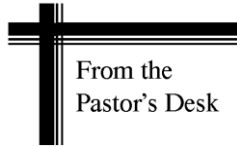


# Pilgrim's Progress

## October 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

### Genesis 12:1-3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

### Romans 4:16-18 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Therefore *it is* of faith that *it might be* according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all <sup>17</sup> (as it is written, "*I have made you a father of many nations*") in the presence of Him whom he believed--God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; <sup>18</sup> who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "*So shall your descendants be.*"

I've read recently that the early Christians often took Abram's journey as a template for their life of faith, that there were themes in Abram's life that would arise in their own as they followed the Christ as part of a church. Abram had to leave, eventually, everything that he knew and go on a journey to a new and different life. Many Christians leave behind practices, habits, attitudes plans and worldviews when they follow Christ. For many, everything changes. There was a time when I would have never dreamed of becoming a pastor.

Abram, during the course of this journey, had his name changed to Abraham, significant because the people of that day took the meaning of names very seriously. A name change meant that the person had changed. Abram went from "mighty father" to "father of nations" as God began a process that established Israel as a nation and fulfilled in the life, ministry and person of Jesus. Also, Abram, once he arrived in (what would become) Israel, lived there as a sojourner for the rest of his life, and the Book of Hebrews records that he understood that there was more to the Promised Land than the land. The ultimate Promised Land is heaven. It is our Promised Land as well. We'll be considering Abram's journey and how it mirrors our own during the month of October.



### Sermons: October

October 3	When It's All About Trusting Someone	Genesis 12:1-3; Romans 4:16-18
October 10	What's Impossible is Not Impossible	Genesis 12:1-3; Romans 4:19-25
October 17	Sometimes You Can't Go Back Home	Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:1-9
October 24	The Journey Christ Took	Genesis 12:1-2; Galatians 3:10-14
October 31	The Journey Home	Genesis 12:1-3; Hebrews 11:14-19



**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, Carmalee Kothenbeutel  
**Suites of Ankeny:** 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, Joan Carter



Tod & Katie McDanel	October 06, 2006	15 years
Greg & Kristin Meyer	October 18, 2003	18 years
Tracy & Lori Wildman	October 20, 1979	42 years
Dan & Sharon Propst	October 20, 1980	41 years
Doug & Krystal Randall	October 27, 1984	37 years
Ken & Joy Kreykes	October 28, 2000	21 years
Bob & Shirley Nott	October 29, 1949	72 years

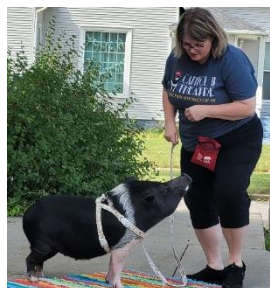


October 1	Julie Lavender	October 17	Bill Maas
October 6	Julianne Packer	October 20	Joan Smith-Legg
October 8	LaRae McGahuey, Cheryl Woltjer	October 23	Lori Wildman
October 10	Gary McKibbin	October 26	Steve Storjohann
October 12	Bob McGregor	October 27	Hannah Shirar, Leah Paustian
October 14	Bob Hibbs	October 28	Mason Moyer
October 15	Marilyn Fruin	October 29	John Blabaum, Bob Nott, Jonathan Tuttle



### CHRISTIAN ED HIGHLIGHTS

**Rally Day** was held on September 26 with many positive responses. The youth did an amazing job being in charge of the service. Afterwards we offered a lunch, bounce house, balloon animals, games, and a visit by Joy the Pig (with owner Dawn Bleeker) who did tricks for us.



**Youth:** Power Hour will start the first week in October with new curriculum. Start time is 9:15. Youth groups will also resume meeting in early October. DOGS will meet on Tuesdays 6:15-7:15. The older groups will meet at 5:15-6:30 and 7:15-8:30. We are looking for drivers and people to provide snacks for these groups.

**Ladies:** We will meet on October 4, 6:00pm at Legends Restaurant for fellowship. RSVP to Jeanne 419-308-1107.

**Trunk or Treat** will be offered on Sunday, October 31 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**Third Grade Bibles** will be handed out on Sunday, November 14 with cake afterwards.

### 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.



### 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!

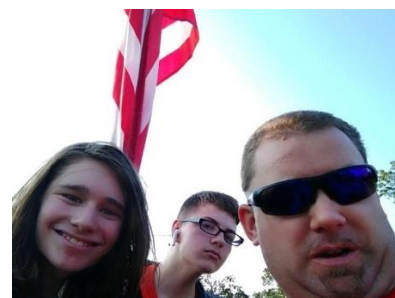
**2021 MOW Dates Open** October 23, November 27, December 25

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

Our youth and leaders were once again blessed to be a part of putting up American Flags for Labor Day in our community as a youth group fundraiser.



We are excited about our Fall kick offs for Weekly Youth Groups where we will have Bible lessons, games, snacks and much more!! These groups are a great way for our youth to grow in their faith and understanding of God and have a place to be encouraged. Rides are available by contacting the Youth Director Shelly Speas ahead of time.

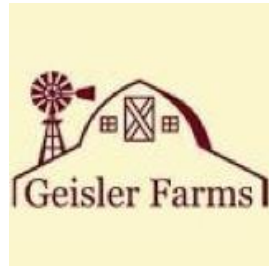
Power Hour is our Sunday morning time with preschool-12th grade in the Loft at FCC beginning at 9:15am. Our kickoff morning will be Sunday, October 10th.

DOG's (Depend on God) is our Tuesday night group with preschool-5th grade in the fellowship hall at FCC from 6:15-7:15pm. Our kickoff night will be Tuesday, October 12th.

Jr PY (Pilgrim Youth) is our Wednesday night group with 6-8th grade in the Loft at FCC from 5:15-6:30pm. Our kickoff night will be Wednesday, October 13th.

PY (Pilgrim Youth) is our Wednesday night group with 9-12th grade in the Loft at FCC from 6:45-8pm. Our kickoff night will be Wednesday, October 13th.

Saturday, October 16th we will be taking 6-12th grade students on a trip to Geisler Farms in Bondurant, IA where we will enjoy great treats, a corn maze, and games. Their corn maze is extra special this year with the theme being Romans 6:23 as you can see in the picture of the maze. We will leave from FCC at 11am and will eat lunch at the Farm.



Sunday, October 24th we will be taking preschool-5th grade students on a trip to Appleberry Farm in Marshalltown where we will have fun on the farm and enjoy tasty treats! We will leave from FCC at 3pm.



Sunday, October 31st from 5-7pm we will have Trunk or Treat at FCC during Marshalltown's trick or treat night. You would just bring your car and bags of candy to the back parking lot of FCC at 5pm. We encourage you to decorate your car trunk with a family friendly theme and pass out candy to all the kids that come through the parking lot that night. If you would like to help but can't bring your car, you may donate candy to the church to be passed out. Please contact Shelly Speas to let her know you want to participate.



# We Want to Hear Your Story So That We Can We Can Tell Our Story

October 2021 Newsletter Update

Kim Schryver, Chair RCT



The RCT is excited! Norma Dannen, Harlan Nuss, Shelly Speas, and Georgia Thomas joined all of the RCT in training on how to LISTEN. This group of 10 is dubbed "The Listening Team." Our purpose is to learn about your ties with and aspirations for FCC. We want to hear your stories so that we can tell our story as a church. Doing so will help us discern how our story is woven into God's plan for all to know him, walk with him, and share the abundance of life eternal

with one another and those with whom we associate. Toward this end, we will conduct three phases of interviews.

In October, everyone will be invited to participate in the first of three interviews; each interview has only two questions. The focus Interview #1 will be to characterize Who We Have Been. In November, we will have a second wave of interviews. Our focus then will be to gain a snapshot of Who We Are Now. In the final phase of interviews with the Holy Spirit as inspiration our endeavor will be to dream with you and to draw a composite picture of the primary aspirations of our whole membership.

The interviews are entirely voluntary. They will be one on one, one couple or household with one interviewer or in a few instances may be small group interviews. Each interview will last about 30 minutes. Pastor Dan will be sharing an invitation to participate from the pulpit, but members of the Listening Team will also be contacting many of you personally. We value your input greatly. We also value your confidentiality greatly. Interviewers will be taking notes, but all information will be shared in a way that shields the contributors' identities.


And we will be sharing results. After each phase of interviews, a summary of the themes, the common values and hopes we learned from our conversations with you will be presented to the church. A variety of means will be used to share these summaries with you. Keep posted!

In other news, Moderator Pat Anderson convened a special meeting of the Cabinet on Monday, September 27, 2021. The sole agenda was to review the proposed process and plan for CPD Support in pursuit of FCC Renewal. A timeline for activities and visits to FCC by our professionals was presented to the Cabinet. A description was given of how the \$10,000 authorized in our 2021 Annual Budget to support renewal will be applied. The Cabinet approved the work and the budget proposed. The RCT will gladly make it available to any FCC member who wants to read it.

Thanks to members of FCC cabinet, boards and committees who began engaging in our renewal discovery process in August. Thanks also to RCT members who led the "What Are We Looking to Achieve" exercises. They enabled us to start talking about goals that have been helpful in renewal for other churches. Goals that lead to sustained commitment and encourage unity in purpose. The intent was NOT to identify a goal for this church, rather to encourage dialogue and practice thinking and communicating in a positive way about objectives that will make our church stronger. Future newsletter articles from the RCT will highlight some of the meaningful discussions generated in these exercises.



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

 <b>January-August 2021</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>NET</b>
<b>GIVING</b>	\$83,250	\$104,000	-20.0%
<b>EXPENSES</b>	\$174,516	\$170,096	-2.6%



**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
<b>3</b> <b>Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall	<b>4</b> <b>Ladies Night Out</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall <b>Power Hour</b> <b>9:15am</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>Columbus Day</b>	<b>12</b> <b>8:30am MBC meeting</b>  <b>DOGS 6:15-7:15p</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Jr PY 5:15-6:30p</b> <b>PY 6:45-8p</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall <b>11:45am BCE</b> <b>Power Hour</b> <b>9:15am</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>6:30pm Deacons meeting</b>  <b>DOGS 6:15-7:15p</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Jr PY 5:15-6:30p</b> <b>PY 6:45-8p</b>	<b>21</b> <b>6:30 Trustees meeting</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>11am MOW</b> <b>Volunteer needed</b>
<b>24</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall <b>Power Hour</b> <b>9:15am</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>DOGS 6:15-7:15p</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Jr PY 5:15-6:30p</b> <b>PY 6:45-8p</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Wedding Rehearsal</b>	<b>30</b> <b>John Kersbergen &amp; Nichole Wimberly Wedding</b>
<b>31</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall <b>Power Hour</b> <b>9:15am</b> <b>Trunk or Treat 5-7p</b> <b>Halloween</b>						<b>color code:</b> 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](http://www.fccmarshalltown.org)

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

