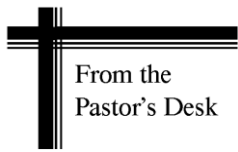


# Pilgrim's Progress

## November 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 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I exhort *that* supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For God *is* one, and *there is* one Mediator of God and of men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. To this I am ordained a preacher and an apostle (I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie), a teacher of *the* nations, in faith and truth.

November is the season for giving thanks. It begins with All Saints Day, a good time to remember those who have gone before us and left an example of faithfulness and devotion to Christ. Their influence is a good heritage for us and helps us to set a good example for those generations that will come later. We spend our time well when we pause to ponder people who encouraged us when we were new to the church and to faith in Christ.

The month ends with a holiday literally designed for giving thanks for all the blessings and enjoyments of life. Anything that is positive is something for which we can give thanks. In the passage listed above from 1 Timothy, the Bible specifically tells us to pray, with thanksgiving, for everyone in positions of government. It encourages peace and stability. It implies also that we should give thanks for Christ, who is the Mediator between God and humanity; the One who is the "go-between" or the "contact person" between the two. That contact with the Almighty by prayer and worship is available is only by this Mediator. So, take some time to give thanks this month for the many blessings of life, for those who have gone before us, and for our Mediator who secures access to Almighty God for us.



### Sermons: November

- November 7** The Journey Home Genesis 28:10-17 Hebrews 11:14-19  
**November 14** Going to Church 1 Samuel 4:19-22; Hebrews 10:19-25  
**November 21** Christ the King Sunday Partakers of the Divine Nature  
Deuteronomy 30:15-16; 2 Peter 1:3-4  
**November 28** First Sunday of Advent Seeking God and God Seeking Us  
Matthew 6: 31-34 Luke 21: 25-36



Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans, who are people who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

**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, Sanny Thompson  
**Suites of Ankeny:** Romaine Mackaman  
**Glenwood Place:** Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mildred Lathrop #145,  
Bob Becker #175, Bonnie Pappas #177, Lenora Brown #147, Joan Carter



Al & Judy Hays	11/09/63	58 years
Dave & Jo Dysart	11/10/84	37 years
Don & Jane Benbow	11/15/58	63 years
Craig & Cynthia Ragland	11/29/96	25 years
Rod & Kristi Hassler	11/29/08	13 years



November 2	Jody Brintnall, Adrianna Goken	November 23	Tonya Tuttle
November 6	Breana Gruver-Alvarado	November 25	Shirley Nott
November 20	Georgia Thomas	November 27	Sharon Propst
		November 30	Pastor Greg Ellcey



Daylight Savings Time in 2021 ends at 2 a.m. on **Sunday, Nov. 7**. We "fall back" by turning our clocks back one hour the night before.

### News from Diaconate Board

The Diaconate will begin resuming light refreshments during Fellowship Time. Regretfully, due to the current Covid conditions, we will not have a Harvest Dinner this year but we plan something special for Fellowship on November 21st. On this Sunday we honor our members who have achieved 50 years of membership. This year we will honor our newest 50 year member Vicki Long. Hopefully she can join us via Zoom from Lees Summit, MO for this milestone.

Advent begins Sunday, November 28th. We will decorate the Christmas tree and sanctuary on Saturday, November 27th at 10 A.M. We need volunteers to make this happen. If you can help please let Katie in the church office know.

We will have an in person Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 5:30 P.M. consisting of Lessons and Carols. The service will conclude with the traditional candlelighting.

### 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** - 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



# NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION THROUGH SEPTEMBER

As was the case last year, 2021 continues to be a challenging time for our church and church members. Our tithes and offerings are trailing the Budget by 18.7%. If you are able and willing to support our church through new or additional Titles & Offerings, we gratefully thank you. It would be great if we are able to achieve our Budget goal for 2021.

January –

September 2021	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	95,132	117,000	-18.7%
EXPENSES	194,307	191,358	1.5%

### ONLINE GIVING

You may also contribute to First Congregational Church using On-Line giving. Simply click the link below to give to the church using On-Line giving.

[My Tithes and Offering Online Link](#)

Thank you for your continued support of First Congregational Church!

### CAPITAL DONATION SUGGESTIONS

Your church has the need to invest significant dollars in several capital projects for the long-term health of the church. The financial plan approved at the 2020 annual meeting included the strategy of funding capital improvements through donations for designated projects. The Trustees have determined that the projects listed below are of the highest priority to be accomplished for the remainder of 2021. By donating to these projects, or to the general capital fund, you can assist your church in maintaining its strength for many years. Please prayerfully consider supplementing your normal giving with gifts directed to the following capital projects.

### **2021 Capital Improvements**

Make <u>removable</u> guard rails on East side of Narthex	\$1,000
New Sanctuary A/V control system and a new camera	\$1,000
New flooring for the landing going up to Loft	\$2,000
Motion sensors for lights/fans in 4 bathrooms	\$3,000
New vented system for tip of Sanctuary roof	\$7,000
16 Education Wing windows – Maintenance/Paint/Replace	\$15,000
Stain glass windows – Inspection/Repair/Replace	\$40,000
Organ cleaning – Cleaning of the organ prior to an organ upgrade	\$125,000



### **2018 MARSHALLTOWN TORONADO FINANCIAL RESULTS**

Your Trustees are very proud of the membership of our church. After the significant costs of the 2018 Tornado that affected our church, the church only had to absorb \$112.10 in cost. Most of the tornado costs that were not covered by our insurance were donated by members of First Congregational Church. This is an accomplishment of which our membership can be very proud.



# Youth Group News

Power Hour: Sundays for Preschool-12th grade at 9:15am in the Loft. November 7,14,21 No Power Hour on the 28th—Thanksgiving Break

DOG's (Depend on God): Tuesdays for Preschool-5th grade, 6:15-7:15pm in the fellowship hall. November 2,9,16,30 No DOG's on the 23rd—Thanksgiving Break

Jr PY (Pilgrim Youth): Wednesdays for 6-8th grade, 5:15-6:30pm in the Loft. November 3,10,17 No Jr PY on the 24th—Thanksgiving Break

PY (Pilgrim Youth): Wednesdays for 9-12th grade, 6:45-8pm in the Loft. November 3,10,17 No PY on the 24th—Thanksgiving Break



Saturday, Oct. 16th we took a group of youth to Geisler Pumpkin Farm where we had a great time together!

Our 3rd grade Bible presentation will be Sunday, November 14th during the 10:30am service where our 3rd graders will receive their very own Bibles. There will be a reception in their honor in the fellowship hall after the service.

FCC will have a Children's Christmas Program in December and Shelly will be meeting with the kids in November to practice the program. All kids, preschool-12th grade, are invited to be a part of it, just let Shelly know if you would like your child to be a part of the program. Dates and times of practices & the program in December will be announced soon.



## Who We Were.... Cycle I Survey Highlights

Summary as of Oct. 24, 2021

Kim Schryver, Chair RCT

The FCC Renewal Listening Team thanks all of you for being involved in this process of developing a narration of us, First Congregational Church. With your presence and willingness to share your hearts as well as your memories, all our voices will be blended into the song of this fellowship in the coming years. This is our first "installment" of "Who We Were...." We recognize it as a living document – one open for improvement. The Listening Team looks forward to meeting with any who are interested in sharing their impressions of this summary of our first interviews. We will keep you informed of opportunities over the next month to meet together and identify what resonates with you from this summary, and what should be high-lighted, but presently is not. Watch for gatherings in which you can share YOUR thoughts.

After the first of the new year, let's move on to Cycle II interviews, "Who Are We Now...."

**What We Heard You Say About Who We Were...**

We heard you say that when you first came to First Congregational Church, it felt like **home**, it felt familiar. The people were sincerely **welcoming**. There is a special community within this church. We heard you say that you feel you are **valued** for what is in your heart. You highlighted the importance of **intergenerational involvement** and a sense of being **"knit together" like a family**.

We heard too that you value FCC for the **care, empathy, and nurture of our souls and of our minds**; you value many in our church community because of the good and spiritual ways they have influenced you and helped you be people of healthy and holy influence.

We heard you say that through the generations our **youth programs** have been and remain critical to providing a shared purpose, continually provided social and spiritual growth, a sense of belonging, fun and even delight.

We heard frequently and clearly: **Music** drew you into worship here. It was and is esteemed as one of the best qualities at FCC. You said it inspires, it is foundational in celebrations and important church traditions, reorients and grounds us in prayerful attitudes. And for those who share their musical talents it provides purpose, a sense of belonging, fellowship, and personal growth - both spiritually and musically.

We heard you say that our church is at its best when we have **unity in purpose in service** to others. As we work on projects and events together, sharing the Gospel and our gifts, we gain a sense of identity as a community of faith working together in love, actively answering God's call. This is what we heard you say: having **programs for all members of all ages** is important. These programs have included Bible Studies, Fellowship Groups, Youth Group, Sunday School, Choirs, Interpretive Dance, Boy Scouts, Summer Camp, and Vacation Bible School.

You repeated many times that **fellowship** at FCC cultivates joy and meaning in your lives, and what we do together at and through church builds relationships that enrich us beyond our church doors.

We again wish to thank you in advance for your prayers as we continue in this process of discovering of what God has in store for us all as we move forward from this day.



### HOLIDAY CONCERT

(Déjà vu)

Saturday, Nov 20, 2021 3:00pm

First Congregational Church 312 W Main St

You are invited to begin your Holiday Stroll at a Holiday Concert sponsored by Elim Lutheran Church and hosted by First Congregational Church, 312 W Main St, Marshalltown, on Saturday, Nov 20, at 3:00 pm. This free concert of holiday music will feature,

- Hudson Lourençot organist — native of São Paulo, Brazil, with a master's degree in organ performance from the University of Iowa and now a resident of Marshalltown.

- Josh Grimest pianist — local musician best known for his membership in the Seymour Family Gospel Group and as musician at Elim Lutheran Church.
- Community Bell Choir, handbells — a gathering of handbell ringers from several area churches including Elim Lutheran, First Congregational, St Francis Catholic, and Trinity Lutheran.

This free concert will take place just prior to the opening of the 2021 Holiday Stroll in downtown Marshalltown. "Strollers" are invited to begin their evening activities at this concert at the First Congregational Church before "strolling" down Main Street.



**Everyone is invited for Bible Time with Pastor Dan every Sunday!**

**When?** Every Sunday at 4 PM

**Where?** In the comfort of your home (wherever your PC or cellphone is)

**How?** Via ZOOM. Text or email Pastor Dan for an invite. 419-699-2910  
or [pastor@fccmarshalltown.org](mailto:pastor@fccmarshalltown.org)

**Length?** 1 Hour Maximum



**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</b>	<b>2</b> DOGS 6:15-7:15p	<b>3</b> Jr PY 5:15-6:30p PY 6:45-8p  Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hyvee	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Daylight savings ends</b> <b>Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc <b>Cabinet meeting</b> 11:45am <b>Bible w /Dan 4pm</b> <b>Power Hour 9:15am</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> DOGS 6:15-7:15p  8:30am MBC meeting	<b>10</b> Jr PY 5:15-6:30p PY 6:45-8p  Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hyvee	<b>11</b>          <i>Veteran's Day</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in <b>Bible w /Dan 4pm</b> <b>Power Hour 9:15am</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> DOGS 6:15-7:15p  6:30pm Deacons meeting	<b>17</b> Jr PY 5:15-6:30p PY 6:45-8p  Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hyvee	<b>18</b> 6:30 Trustees meeting	<b>19</b> Pre holiday stroll practice 6:30	<b>20</b> Pre Holiday stroll Choir performance in Sanctuary Déjà Vu 3-4pm
<b>21</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in <b>Bible w /Dan 4pm</b> 11:45am BCE <b>Power Hour 9:15am</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hyvee	 <b>Thanksgiving</b> Church office closed	<b>26</b>          Church office closed	<b>27</b> 11am MOW Volunteer needed   <b>Christmas Tree decorating @ 10</b>
<b>28 ADVENT BEGINS</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in <b>Bible w /Dan 4pm</b> <b>Power Hour 9:15am</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> DOGS 6:15-7:15p				<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.fcmarshalltown.org](http://www.fcmarshalltown.org)

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

