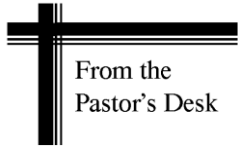


Pilgrim's Progress

February 2022

"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

Presentation of the Lord Luke 2:22-40

Luke 2:32 "A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."

The Presentation of the Lord: Jesus' first trip to the Temple

Wednesday, February 2 marks the day in the church calendar in which the baby Jesus, now roughly forty days old, arrives in Jerusalem for the first time. Joseph and Mary, following the instructions of the Law, undergo a ceremony of purification (Leviticus 12:2-8) and offer the appropriate sacrifice for people of limited means. I would imagine that they planned to take care of this in the Temple, perhaps do some personal business or visit relatives and friends and then go home, but a couple of unusual conversations took place.

Jesus had a welcoming committee waiting at the Temple

First, there was Anna, a devout woman of 84 years, a widow for most of her life, who spent all of her time in prayer and fasting at the Temple and had grown, no doubt, very sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in her elder years. She joined a conversation already in progress with Simeon, a man filled with the Holy Spirit who knew that he would live to see the Messiah, and both of them knew that Jesus was the one. Anna told everyone she met that day, and probably for many days hence. Simeon prayed, giving thanks that in meeting this little child the purpose of his life on earth had been fulfilled. After all this, Mary and Joseph left with the baby, and we don't hear from them again, or Jesus until He is twelve. But Simeon said something I'd like to note: He said that Jesus would be the glory of His people Israel and would be a light of revelation to the world.

Insight from the Cabin of God

What kind of revelation? The word for "revelation" here is the root word for "apocalypse" or disclosure. It is a combination of the prefix translated "away from" and the verb "to cover". The verb is similar to the word for "cabin" or "hut" in the language of the New Testament. So, Jesus being a light of revelation to the Gentiles refers to that which is "from the covering". What we learn about Jesus is not as much a matter of our discovering but what has been revealed to us. Insight from Scripture, if it is true to the text and the leading of the Holy Spirit, is revealed from God. We do well to learn eagerly but with humility, for I have no doubt that the Lord has much more to teach us.

Phase 2 Interviews this month

Thank you to everyone for the good results from the first phase of interviews in our renewal process, giving us a good understanding of the work of God in the history and context of our fellowship. This month, we are going to be asking for help with the second phase of interviews, to be collected, considered and summarized for future reference this month. Again, the questions will be just two or three, and the interviews should not take very long. This time we're going to focus on what our fellowship is like now and consider what God is doing in the present. Again, thanks so much for your help. I think this has enriched the fellowship of our community.

Mark Your Calendars

Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 6, 2022, starting at 11:45 a.m.

Ash Wednesday is March 2

Sermons

February 6

February 13

February 20

February 27

Of Wineskins and Old Clothes

The Beatitudes

Children of the Most High

What is Yet to Come

Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:36-39

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26

Genesis 45:3-11; Luke 6:27-38

Exodus 23:29-35; Luke 9:28-36



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

Suites of Ankeny: Romaine Mackaman

Southridge: Betty Runner #212, Carmalee Kothenbeutel

Glenwood Place: Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mildred Lathrop #145, Bob Becker #175, Bonnie Pappas #177, Lenora Brown #147, Joan Carter #116, Iva Howard #164



Robert & Barbara Hibbs

February 28, 1970

52 years



February 2
February 3
February 4
February 5
February 10
February 16
February 20

Madelyn Latham
Angela Dickey
Marian Gerdes
Katie Peiffer
Katie Vogeler
Pat Anderson, Brian Mattingly
Betty Runner

February 23 Robert Gaynor
February 25 Staci Moyer
February 26 Jeanne Vellinga
February 27 Jo Dysart
February 28 Mildred Lathrop
February 29 Terry Paustian



News from Diaconate Board

We will be having the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd in the sanctuary. Time will be announced at a later date.



News from Christian Ed

Christian Ed Highlights

- Confirmation class plans are being finalized, potential participants are being contacted, and Pastor Dan is excited for the classes to begin soon (hoping for February)
- "Behold, a New Creation" is the Bible Study being offered on Zoom at 4pm Sunday afternoons, led by Pastor Dan.
- Sisters in Christ meeting took place on January 29 at 9:30am to start evaluating the centerpieces and making plans for updates.
- Youth Group attended a concert in December at Journey Church, as well as Winter Jam on January 22. They are planning a ski retreat for February.
- NAPF/Hope has decided on a location for the June meeting in Wichita: Newman University.
- The Christmas program and soup luncheon received much positive feedback.



News from Missions and Benevolence



MEALS ON WHEELS is still “in motion” as volunteers continue to take care of delivering meals those who need us. Our church volunteers are so willing to participate, and we thank you all!

A February volunteer is needed. Dates for 2022 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

2022 dates

February 26	May 28	August 27	November 26
March 26	June 25	September 24	December 24
April 23	July 23	October 22	

Thank You from Benevolence and Missions Committee!

Kim Schryver, Chairman, 1-22-22

FCC wrapped up the year with a really fine response to The Giving Tree. Benevolence and Missions Committee thanks you, congregation, for fulfilling every wish expressed by 10 households (total of 20 people) recommended by the House of Compassion for adoption Christmas 2021. This is a winning project embraced by our church and truly appreciated by those we serve. We thank Jonna Wagar for leading the effort on behalf of FCC.

Also, very successful in the past year were faithful responses to MOW by Congregationalists who delivered meals to elderly and disabled on the south side of Marshalltown every fourth Saturday of the month. Special kudos to those who served in November (Thanksgiving weekend) and December 25!!!! And a hearty shout out to Kristi Hassler who has kept FCC reliable as delivery volunteers by organizing and publicizing our roles in MOW.

Thanks to Cheryl Woltjer for her accurate and always very timely minute taking in 2021 and to Pastor Dan for inspirational devotions and input. We are a small committee, but very dedicated. Our investment in time is earnest.

COVID has once again limited hands-on activities with large groups within and outside the congregation and face-to-face projects in the past year. Going forward, we understand that we will be LIVING WITH COVID. And public health officials are showing us how to resume more normal life even while conscientiously applying preventive measures to minimize the risk of spreading infections. We as a committee truly hope to add more direct ways for church members to work together to serve people in the coming year.

We are thankful to God that this church has supported some really worthwhile organizations and projects financially. In the Benevolence and Missions segment of FCC's Annual Report for 2021 you will find a brief description of all recipients of our church's charitable dollars. It makes us ever so grateful to be able to meaningfully give to such entities as Marshalltown Christian Schools; My Kinsman Ministries; Guzman Family Ministries in Monterey, Mexico; Samaritans Purse; our local Salvation Army, and others.

Finally, we thank you in advance! Our first opportunity to serve and generously give in 2022 will occur throughout the month of March when we will again promote support of the **House of Compassion Supply Closet Drive**. Please, take note of our submission to the upcoming **March** issue of the FCC newsletter. Therein and on posters will be details concerning the project this year. We are hoping to knock the socks off of our performance in the last two Supply Closet Drives during COVID-plagued March of 2020 and 2021 when FCC was not even holding in-person services!



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Power Hour:

Sundays at 9:15am in the Loft for PreK-12th grade.

February 6,13,20,27

D.O.G.'s (Depend on God):

Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall for PreK-5th grade.

February 1,8,15,22

Jr. P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth):

Wednesdays 5:15-6:30pm in the Loft for 6-8th grade.

February 2,9,16,23

P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth):

Wednesdays 6:45-8pm in the Loft for 9-12th grade.

February 2,9,16,23

NAPF/HOPE informational meeting will be held in the fellowship hall at FCC on Saturday, February 5th at 2:30pm. This will be an informational meeting for parents/guardians and their child(ren) (graduating 8th graders-12th graders) and young adults (18-26 years old) who are interested in our national summer youth mission conference called NAPF/HOPE. This year's conference will be held in Wichita, Kansas at the end of June. Please come to this meeting to learn more about this awesome opportunity and experience.



We had the privilege of taking a group of youth and adults to the Christian Winter Jam concert in Des Moines on January 22nd. The amazing bands use their lives and the stages they get to play on to share God's truth and love with the world! We had a blessed time together!





"Who Are We Now?" Cycle II Interviews Coming Up!

January 2022 Newsletter Update
Kim Schryver, Chair RCT

Cycle II Interviews are being scheduled starting now and will wrap up by March 17, 2022. In this round of 30-minute *conversations with a purpose* we hope to discern "Who Are We Now?" Three questions will be asked during the interview:

- 1) How would you describe our congregation today?
- 2) What is keeping you connected with FCC?
- 3) How has the pandemic influenced your experience with FCC?

Our professional guides helped us identify how best to gain insights from you on which to build. Insights that reveal present strengths, possible springboards to our future - in today's world, in this town and with the membership we believe God purposefully brought together to further his kingdom. The emphasis will be on our present.

This summer, in our final phase of interviews we will focus on "Who Do You Think God is Calling Us to Be?" We are excited about the process! As LT members we have thoroughly enjoyed our one-on-one time with all of you and sense a reciprocal enthusiasm for the renewal occurring in fellowship! If you participated in Cycle I interviews, you will automatically be invited by the same interviewer to chat again. But we are extending an ENTHUSIASTIC ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL to schedule a 30 min. conversation for this second wave of interviews. Contact Miriam Bryant by phoning or texting (515) 771-5930 to request an interview. Miriam will make certain a Listening Team member is assigned to contact any volunteers who want to participate. Be assured we respect your confidentiality. Notes will be taken by the LT member during your conversation, but in such a way as to make them anonymous.

There will be members of the LT at most regular board and committee meetings in February. Don't hesitate to express your interest in an interview from them or some other LT member. And finally, by mid- February, look for the postcard invitation to participate. We would so appreciate spending time with you in this next wave of *conversations with a purpose!*



*Thank
you* 

Thank you for the many cards, notes, calls and offers of prayer as we bid farewell to our daughter, Pastor Amy Ann Holman who passed away January 8, 2022. The service of Life – Death – and Resurrection was held at Elmwood United Methodist Church with two pastor friends leading the eulogy and prayers.

~ Thank you, Pastor Greg & Barbara Ellcey.

A Special Thank you to Bob Hibbs who took us to see Amy in hospice in Peoria, Illinois.



**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022**

The members of First Congregational Church of Marshalltown, Iowa are hereby notified that the annual meeting of the church will be held at 11:45AM on Sunday, February 6th, 2022 in the sanctuary at 312 West Main Street, Marshalltown, Iowa and via Zoom on line.

Reports will be reviewed from various church officers and boards, new officers and board members will be elected, and a budget for the new year (2022) will be adopted.

Attention, also, will be given to any other business that may be brought before the meeting.

Dated this 17thth day of January, 2022.

**Sharon Propst
Sharon Propst, Church Clerk**

February



February 2022

FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!
 Sunday Worship Services:
 8:00am & 10:30am

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 DOGS 6:15pm	2 Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy- Vee	3	4	5
6 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 4pm Power Hour 9:15am Annual Meeting In person / Zoom @ 11:45	7	8 8:45am MBC DOGS 6:15pm	9 Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy- Vee	10	11	12
13 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 4pm Power Hour 9:15am	14 	15 6:30pm Deacons DOGS 6:15pm	16 Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy- Vee	17 6:30pm Trustees	18	19
20 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 4pm Power Hour 9:15am 11:45am BCE	21 	22 DOGS 6:15pm	23 Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy- Vee	24	25	26 11am MOW Volunteers:
27 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 4pm Power Hour 9:15am	28					

February

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.fcmarshaltown.org

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

