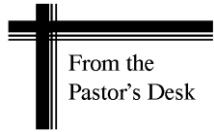


Pilgrim's Progress

May 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

Ascension of the Lord on May 26

Acts 1:9-11

"Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'"

After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent some time with His disciples and then ascended into heaven. As recorded in Acts above, Jesus promised the presence of the Holy Spirit just before He left and gave them the strongest missionary statement short of the Great Commission in Matthew 28 when He told them that they would be His witnesses locally and "to the ends of the earth". In the meantime, they had to wait. Sometimes we must wait and be patient, for God has a timing that is different than our expectations. Waiting is not wasting, however, and those times where we wait to grow or to experience God in a new and profound way can be helpful times of preparation. Be patient if you are in a season in which you must wait for God to answer prayer. He will, in His own time.

Sermons



May 1	Hurry Up and Wait	Acts 9:1-6; John 21:15-19
May 8	Not Yet Time to Go	Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-12
May 15	Breaking Some Rules	Acts 11:4-9; Revelation 21:1-6
May 22	How the World Will Know	1 Corinthians 14:24-25; John 13:31-35
May 2	Jesus Prays	2 Corinthians 3:17-18; John 17:20-26

Please keep our Members in Care Facilities in your thoughts & prayers:



Bickford: Joanie Smith-Legg #108,
Grandview: Pattye Morrison #107
Suites of Ankeny: Romaine Mackaman
Southridge: Betty Runner #212,
Acurra Health: Marilyn Rhodes

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



Aaron & Angie Dickey	May 10, 1997	25 years
Blake & Sarah Latham	May 26, 2007	15 years
Steve & Alicia Storjohann	May 27, 1983	38 years





- May 1 Grant Brintnall, Nichole Kersbergen
- May 2 Kristi Hassler, Paul Packer
- May 3 Sandy Packer
- May 5 Avayah Speas
- May 6 Jennifer Allison
- May 7 Doris McCarty
- May 8 Lisa Beaty
- May 9 Madison Swartz, Eleanor Tjossem
- May 10 Cynthia Ragland, Jim Clark, Nicole Vellinga
- May 11 Claire Meyer, Libby Meyer, Patricia Morrison
- May 12 Iva Howard
- May 13 Ken Lunsford
- May 15 Doug Randall
- May 21 Bob Gaynor, Ken Winkler
- May 22 Judy Gaynor
- May 23 Raechel McGahuey
- May 27 Dale Wiese
- May 31 Wendi Stanley



News from Diaconate Board

The Diaconate has some fun activities planned for the summer. We will give you just a little teaser. Watch for more details in future newsletters.

- June 5th – Pastor Dan will be gone for his daughter’s wedding.. Jean Bower will fill the pulpit
- June 12th – the Marshalltown Men’s Chorus will conduct the 10:30 service
- June 26th – Pastor Dan will be attending the NACCC Annual Meeting. Harlan Nuss will fill the pulpit
- July 17th – Christmas in July!
- August 21st – Picnic Potluck



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!

A volunteer for May is still 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

- | | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | | <u>2022 dates</u> | | |
| May 28 | June 25 | July 23 | August 27 | September 24 |
| October 22 | November 26 | December 24 | | |



News from Christian Ed



HARPIST JANET COLLISON

We were blessed to have Janet come on Palm Sunday to share both in her beautiful, spirit-filled harp music and her words that soothed and encouraged us!

SAVE THE DATE!
FOOD TRUCK PARTY VBS
AUGUST 1 - 5
5:30-8:00PM



THE UNKNOWN TOUR A SUCCESS!

We had a full house for our women's event that took place on April 2. Tickets were sold out to The Unknown Tour three weeks before the event, with us adding rows of chairs to the front and back. The four women came from Texas and Illinois to bring us a wonderful evening of comedy, worship and encouragement. Thank you to those who helped, especially Aaron Dickey who spent many hours making sure the AV was top notch.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Power Hour on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Loft for Preschool-12th grade.

May 1,8,15,22

The 22nd we will have an end of the year party with pancakes and sausage served in the fellowship hall to start off the fun.

DOG's (Depend on God) on Tuesday nights at 6:15-7:15pm in the fellowship hall for preschool-5th grade.

May 3,10,17

The 17th we will have an end of the year party.

Jr P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) on Wednesday nights at 5:25-6:30pm in the Loft for 6-8th grade.

May 11,18, No Youth Group May 4th

The 18th we will have an end of the year party.

P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) on Wednesday 6:45-8pm in the Loft for 9-12th grade.

May 11,18, No Youth Group May 4th

The 18th we will have an end of the year party.

The Youth Group is very excited to announce that a flock of flamingos is about to migrate to Marshalltown! You may be seeing them move around Marshalltown during the month of May. They may even make a stop on your lawn. The flock is raising money for our NAPF/HOPE national Youth Mission Conference this summer. Please contact Shelly Speas if you would like to support the fundraiser. You may do this by donating \$25 and giving Shelly the address of someone you would like to have visited by the flamingos. Thank you and we look forward to seeing all those pink feathers fly around the town!



Thank you so much to everyone who supported our butterbraid fundraiser for our summer youth mission conference NAPF/HOPE! It was a huge success!! Here are pictures of our youth on sorting night.

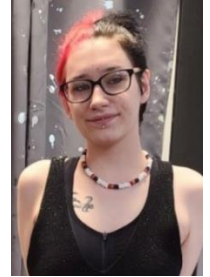


Please join us for a special celebration on Sunday, May 15th as we honor our senior class of 2022 during the 10:30am service. There will be a reception following the service in the fellowship hall.



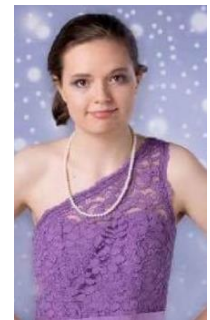
Kasie Brandt is the daughter of Judy Mutton, the granddaughter of Paul Tremain and Kathy Benington and the great granddaughter of Jack and Terry Tremain. Kasie will graduate from MHS in May 2022.

Destiny Gepford is the daughter of April Gepford the granddaughter of Paul Tremain and Kathy Benington and the great granddaughter of Jack and Terry Tremain. Destiny will graduate from MHS in May 2022.



Breanna Edwards is the daughter of Crystal Edwards. She will graduate from MHS in May 2022.

Reba Sauer is the daughter of Darin and Jennifer Sauer. She will graduate from MHS in May 2022.



Erin Stanley is the daughter of Todd and Leah Stanley and granddaughter of Dorothy and Bing McHone and Doug and LuAnne Swenson and great granddaughter of Bev Swenson. She will graduate from MHS in May 2022.

Reagan Riang is the daughter of Heather Reefer. She will graduate from MHS in May 2022.





A Most Sincere Thank You and Invitation from the Renewal Listening Team

May 2022 Newsletter Update

Kim Schryver, Chair Renewal Coordinating Committee

April 2020 worship services were ripe with the Holy Spirit. Our celebrations during Holy Week were especially touching. The Renewal Listening Team (RLT) felt privileged to share *The Story of Who We Are* draft for the first time during the Easter Morning Services. Thank you for being there.

Over 40 interviews were conducted in February and March of 2022 by the RLT. We are so grateful to the individuals, couples and small groups who took the time to share their perceptions of who we are as a community of faith today in the second of three phases of interviews in our church renewal process. If you have not participated in this phase, we would welcome you to do so. Contact Miriam Bryant by phoning or texting (515) 771-5930 to request an interview. She will arrange for a member of the Listening Team to set up a 30-minute visit to conduct the interview at a time and place convenient to you.

In this newsletter is our draft of *The Story of Who We Are...* It is a living document – one open for improvement. We invite each of you to reread the summary and consider the following questions:

- What strikes you in our narrative? What rings true? What is missing?
- Do you see your own story and the story of your family as a part of FCC Marshalltown in this summary?
- Where do we see God active in our story?
- How does this summary help you prepare to see our future connected with God's story?

The RLT looks forward to hearing if and how this summary resonates with you. During regular board and committee meetings, we suggest you establish some reflection time as a part of the May agenda. Identify what strikes you in this summary, and what should be high-lighted, but presently is not. Someone from the RLT will take notes and use them to improve the narrative. Watch for other gatherings in which you can share YOUR thoughts. Everyone should also feel free to provide constructive response to the all church e-mail that presented the summary.

The last gathering at which we will consider how to improve *The Story of Who We Are* will be on Saturday, May 21, 2022 during the **Planting For The Future Conference**. A poster for the conference is also in this newsletter. Others are displayed throughout the church. All who want to participate in the future visioning for First Congregational Church are invited between 9:30 am – 2:00 pm to the church. Coffee and muffins will be available in the morning and lunch will be provided. In addition to reflection time on our Cycle II Summary, we will worship together and begin to dream together under the guidance of our professional consultants. The exercises planned to encourage our mutual dreaming will be fun and fruitful! Call or email the church office before May 16th to let us know you'll join us!

YOU ARE INVITED: PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

Saturday, May 21st
10 am - 2 pm (starting with coffee at 9:30 am)
lunch provided

We will:

- Continue our journey of exploring God's vision for FCC
- Imagine our church faithfully and dynamically living out God's vision
- Provide input into the planning and dreaming for the future of FCC

Sounds exciting, doesn't it? Call or email the church office before May 16th to let us know you'll join us!



The Story of Who We Are...

Cycle II Interview Highlights and Summary as of Easter, April 17, 2022

The stories of who we are as a congregation are full of challenge, hope, and rich glimpses of God's movement among us.

As a People: We are a congregation of mostly 50+ year olds with a few younger members and families. Many attest to this congregation as a loving, warm and welcoming congregation. We are grateful for the talents, engagement, and commitment from members in our community of faith.

What We've Come to Value:

Our Relationships...

with God - We are becoming a household deeper grounded in God. We value sermons, teaching and music that are biblically-based. We are learning that our personal differences, doubts, and joys are gifts that broaden our understandings as we seek to understand God's will.

with One Another – We are growing into an even more loving church *family* that welcomes new people. Whenever possible, face-to-face gatherings to worship, learn, do benevolent works and socialize together are much preferred over digital ways to strengthen our ties with one another.

with Our Community and the World – We are discovering the importance of being a missional church.

Growing as Disciples

Many of us said, "We feel called" to worship and engage at FCC. We feel called to strengthen: 1) ourselves as students and modelers of Christ at church and in everyday life; 2) others through joy-filled benevolence and works in God's name and by sharing God's word as the Holy spirit empowers us to do so. We are hungry for more opportunities to learn together, worship together, fellowship together and endeavor to practice the ways of Kingdom Living described in scripture.

Participating in Decision-Making

We recognize the importance of the "Congregational Way" of church governance.

Communicating with Each Other

Both digital and in print media have strengthened our engagement with one another. We have discovered face-to-face interaction to be the most effective way for us to connect. When face-to-face is not possible, we have learned due to the pandemic, that technology can be an effective way to maintain contact with each other.

What God is Doing: We are excited about the impact and missional potential of our youth ministry. It has a significant influence on many un-churched children providing a lifetime of affirmation of their worth to God and to us. God is using our youth ministry to model positive family interaction for children who do not experience such relations in their own homes. It is so good to see the continued commitment among us as people generously sharing their talents, time, and financial support. We are stimulated by scripturally focused sermons with meaningful understandable applications. We believe in God's capacity to transform us individually and as a congregation making us more like Christ. The pandemic has taught us that challenges and change can strengthen us as a congregation.

What Draws Us Together: God has blessed us. We appreciate one another and our shared values; family ties - sometimes generations-long; the history of Congregationalism, and opportunities for engagement in church life and work that bring purpose, joy and fellowship.

We Wonder: How do we make God and our church more relevant to the people of this time, and especially this community? How do we make worship personally meaningful to a diverse congregation? How do we balance the positive potential of "digital church" with the identified advantage of face-to-face engagement to strengthen relationships and communication?


★ Memorial Day for the year 2022 is celebrated/ observed on **Monday, May 30th**. Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed every year on the last Monday in May. It honors those who died serving in the United States military. ★



Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.



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 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 9:30am Power Hour 9:15am	2	3 DOGS 6:15pm	4 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 9:30am Power Hour 9:15am	9	10 DOGS 6:15pm BMC meet 8:45am	11 Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	12 RCT @ 6:30 in Loft	13	14
15 Graduation Sunday In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 9:30am Power Hour 9:15am	16	17 DOGS 6:15pm Deacons meet 6:30pm	18 Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	19 Trustees meet 6:30pm	20	21 Planting for the Future Conference 9:30-2
22 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc BCE Meets 11:45 Bible w /Dan 9:30am Power Hour 9:15am	23	24	25 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	26	27	28 11am MOW Volunteer:
29 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 9:30am	 Office Closed	31				



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

