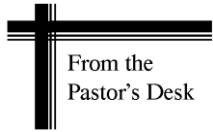


Pilgrim's Progress

June 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."



A Matter of Debt
Romans 8:12-17

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors-not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

I've read that the passage above implies that we are indebted to the Holy Spirit to follow His lead, contrary to the often impulse and always selfish deeds of the flesh. Of course, the questions that follows is "how am I led by the Spirit?" In many cases being led by the Holy Spirit is a matter of following your conscience. Do what you know to be the next right thing to do. In matters in which that is not so clear, or when faced with decisions that are not a clear "right vs. wrong" matter, then pray and make the best decision you can make, trusting that the Holy Spirit will lead you. A favorite passage on this subject is Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths." God will guide the person who trusts and acknowledges Him. It's a great passage to consider when you need to make a decision in your life.

Back to the passage in Romans; it gives us a couple of important clues about being led by the Spirit. It tells us that that people who are led by the Holy Spirit feel a closeness to God similar to the feelings of a child with a good and trusted parent. We think of God as "Father" or "Abba" (daddy). We also feel a sense of destiny and of hope for the future because we are heirs, joint heirs with Christ. This engenders a hope for the future. People being led by the Holy Spirit feel close to God and encouraged by a sense of destiny as a follower of Christ.

Sermons

- June 5 Worship led by Jean Bower
- June 12 Marshalltown Men's Chorus participates in the 10:30 a.m. worship service. No sermon
- June 19 Job 1:1-5 It's All About Family
- June 26 Harlan Nuss leads worship

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,

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





Dale & Patricia Wiese	June 8, 1957	(65)
Dave & Lynn Hall	June 14, 1974	(48)
Gary & Vicki McKibbin	June 17, 1967	(55)
Robert & Jane Bauer	June 20, 1964	(58)
Pastor Dan & Jeanne Vellinga	June 20, 1981	(41)
Ron & Debi Estabrook	June 21, 1970	(52)
Wayne & Jonna Wagar	June 22, 1968	(54)
Stan & Georgia Thomas	June 27, 1987	(35)
Terry & Julie Paustian	June 29, 1974	(48)



June 4	Pat Preece, Dwayne Shultz	June 22	Shannon Wolcott
June 9	Arlene Selby	June 23	Matt Schryver
June 10	Deb Mettlin	June 25	Lynn Hall
June 15	Jane Bauer	June 26	Don Benbow
June 16	Maxie Shultz	June 30	Layla Wimberly
June 19	Jan More		



News from Diaconate Board

- Sunday, June 5th, Pastor Dan will be gone to his daughter's wedding. We are pleased to welcome Jean Bower to the pulpit that Sunday. Her sermon will be on Prayer.
- June 26th Harlan Nuss will fill the pulpit. Pastor Dan will be at the Annual NACCC Conference in Wichita.
- Coming up we will be having Christmas in July on July 17th and a picnic potluck on August 21st. The Diaconate will furnish the meat and baked beans.



News from Missions and Benevolence



The missions team is still committed to doing our part for Meals on Wheels in Marshalltown! Our part is; one Saturday a month (the fourth Saturday) and we do the east route. What's new and exciting is that we now go to the new hospital and pick up and our old blue route has become the east route. Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office (641-752-4239) to volunteer. You will be making a difference for someone that day and it feels good to help out. Any questions please call me Kristi Hassler 641-753-3276 or Doris McCarty 641-752-7604.

		<u>2022 dates</u>		
June 25	August 27	September 24	October 22	November 26
December 24				



News from Christian Ed

SAVE THE DATE!
 FOOD TRUCK PARTY VBS
 AUGUST 1 - 5
 5:30-8:15PM





YOUTH GROUP NEWS

We will have a summer of fun & faith planned for our youth! A summer schedule of special events will be shared with families soon!



Some of the teen Youth had a great time helping deliver May Baskets on May Day to all of our little kids from church.

We had amazing end of the year Youth Activity parties in May!

Bowling with our DOG's group



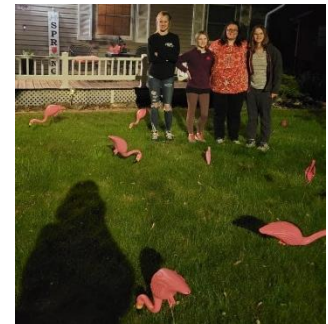
Dinner & a movie with Jr PY & PY groups

Pancake breakfast with Power Hour group



Graduation Sunday on May 15th was such a special time with some of graduates, honoring and celebrating all they have accomplished and praying over the futures God has set before them!

We have had an amazing and successful fundraiser so far with our flamingo migration around Marshalltown! We are so grateful for all of the fun and support from church members and residents from the community!!



Please be praying for our group of 13, youth and adult leaders, as they continue to prepare for our summer youth mission conference NAPF/HOPE 2022 in Wichita, Kansas at the end of June!



“PLANTing for Our Future” Conference Initial Impressions
Submitted by: Kim Schryver, Chair Renewal Coordinating Team

When we say we aspire to learn God's will for this church, we can take encouragement in recalling *who called for church*. Christ! Did he leave clues indicating *why*? Yes! *What was he was looking for from church*? Center for Parish Development has researched the Bible, theological and ecclesiastical teachings from many Protestant and Catholic organizations since 1968. In FCC's "PLANTing for Our Future Conference" held Saturday, May 21, we learned how to view church from a Biblical perspective.

- 1. Worshipping community: To become a community that is shaping people to worship in all aspects of life.**
- 2. Disciple community: To develop a community of disciples who are learning with one another to live as a sign, foretaste, and instrument of the reign of God.**
- 3. Missionary community: To form a community that understands itself to be called and sent into its own neighborhood as a missionary outpost of the reign of God**
- 4. Witnessing community: To form a community that is a striking demonstration of the way of life within the reign of God.**
- 5. Equipping community: To form a community whose leaders and members are cultivating and utilizing their diverse gifts in service to the ministry of God's people.**

There is a whole lot more describing these attributes. Readers are encouraged to go to <https://www.fccmarshalltown.org/> under the Renewal Tab to dive deeper into their meanings.

Ray Schulte plus Pastors Shawn Stapleton and Steve Slagel lead the thirty-one attendees from our congregation through a series of exercises in imagining together. THANK YOU ATTENDEES! We were asked to consider each one of the five attributes above as a lens through which to view our future. What might FCC look like in five years to become a more spirit-filled worshipping community; a more committed and mature disciple community; a more positively impactful community in our town and state; a more distinctively faithful community compared to the secular world, and a more supportive community for one another? Over 175 ideas were imagined in our first round of exercises, and these were sifted in a group process to 5-6 favorite ideas of the day for each of the five ways to look at church. All ideas have been saved by the Renewal Coordinating Team on 3X5" cards. All are valuable ideas for further consideration, and we're anxious to gain more. The leading ideas of the day are on huge post-a-notes in Fellowship Hall. They will remain there for a few weeks to encourage discussion and more dreaming.

It is so important for you all to understand that these are not part of a strategic plan. We did not intend to strategically plan on that Saturday, nor did we. I believe the most important point of our day together can be distilled as follows:

- We began thinking as a congregation differently --- about the purpose of church generally and our church in particular. We used biblically based lenses through which we dreamed.
- We practiced imagining, sifting and prioritizing ideas together. The process provided us with an inclusive and creative method we might employ for further discussion and decision-making regarding our future hopes and plans.
- And most excitingly, we began to identify trends, themes, common yearnings, corporate vehicles to foster spiritual growth and renewed vigor of our church.
- Finally, it provides a great launching point from which to begin planning for the third and final questionnaire "Who Do You Think God Is Calling Us to Be." It will be administered in late summer or early fall 2022.

There will be many more ways the RCT will share learnings from the conference over the summer. Please, take time to read the materials regarding Renewal on the website; ask questions about the conference from those who attended; contact any member of the RCT for information about the process, and have a blessed and safe summer!

PLANTING FOR OUR FUTURE CONFERENCE, MAY 2022



Above and to the left are four of the six small group tables during the Imagining and Future Through the Lens of Faith exercises at the Saturday, May 21, 2022 sessions of the Conference.

Friday, May 20, 2022, Table Leadership Orientation and Dinner



Our women's group is meeting **Thursday, June 2, in the church library at 6 p.m.** as decided at our supper meeting at Legends last Monday evening.

Our goal is to share ideas as the Holy Spirit leads us in laying the Lord's foundation for our women's ministry at First Congregational Church.

Thank you for joining us. We welcome you!



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 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Cabinet Meets 6:30 pm	2 Women's Group 6:00 pm	3	4
5 Communion Jean Bower Guest Pulpit In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc	6	7	8 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	9	10	11
12 Men's Chorus In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 9:15am	13	14 BMC meet 8:45am	15 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	16 Trustees meet 6:30pm	17	18
19 Father's Day 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	20	21	22 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	23	24	25 11am MOW Volunteer: NACCC Conference
26 Harlan Nuss Guest Pulpit In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc NACCC Conference	27 NACCC Conference	28 NACCC Conference	29 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	30		



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

