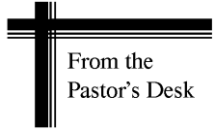


# Pilgrim's Progress

## August 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."



Main: Vacation Bible School is this month!

VBS, a vital outreach to the children of Marshalltown, will be from 5:30 to 8:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, August 1st through 5<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to all those donating, helping, and praying for this project. The theme is "Food Truck Party, on a Roll with God" and promises to be great fun. Every session will include a Bible story focus, music, crafts, a science experiment, recreation, snacks and a missions emphasis. The Bible stories are listed below, and I encourage you to read and meditate on the story for each day and to pray for the growth and enlightenment of everyone involved, particularly that people will grow in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus. Thank you, again to all those helping. The titles and Scriptural locations of every story are listed below:

### Bible Stories:

God Shows His Greatness by Providing Manna and Quail  
Exodus 16

Elijah, the Widow and the Endless Oil  
1Kings 17:8-16 This story emphasizes the goodness of God

Daniel and His Friends Eating the Good Stuff  
Daniel 1 Let's Be Thankful for Our Food

Jesus Feeds the 5,000 Plus  
John 6:1-13 By God's Hands We are Fed

Jesus Cooks the Catch of the Day  
John 21:1-17 Give Us, Lord, Our Daily Bread  
-Pastor Dan

### Sermons

August 7 "Pilgrims" Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:8-9, 13-15  
August 14 "Christ Brings Division" Jeremiah 23:23-29; Luke 12:49-56  
August 21 "A Permanent Kingdom" Exodus 24:16-18; Hebrews 12:25-29  
August 28 "False Spiritual Leaders" Isaiah 57:20-21; Jude 1:12-15

***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





Don & Kayla Bogenrief	August 6, 1977	45 years
Max & Liz Meyer	August 10, 1971	51 years
Mike & Cherryl Woltjer	August 11, 1984	38 years
Matt & Kim Schryver	August 16, 1975	47 years
Sam & Shelly Speas	August 19, 2006	16 years
Tom & Jane Adams	August 24, 1968	54 years
Paul & Julianne Packer	August 29, 1975	47 years



August 2	Lydia Speas	August 16	Tyler Randall
August 3	Bonnie Pappas	August 18	Raelene McGahuey
August 6	Vicki Long	August 20	Lynn Maas
August 7	Carlton Kothenbeutel	August 22	Tom Adams
August 8	Anna Wolvers	August 23	Romaine Mackaman
August 9	Jane Adams	August 24	Jacob Shirar
August 13	Donn Anderson, Dan Propst	August 29	Carol Stanley
August 15	Judy Hays		

## News from Diaconate Board

*Are you up for a picnic?*

On August 21, 2022 the diaconate is featuring a **Fellowship Time Picnic Potluck Lunch** in the cool of the church Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service. Pulled Pork, Buns, Baked Beans, Potato Salad and Lemonade will be provided. Please bring a covered dish of your favorite picnic food to share. Please RSVP to the church office (641-752-4239 office open only from 9 -12 AM) by no later than August 12th or before. Thanks in advance!

Hope to see you there!

## News from Missions and Benevolence



The mission's 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.

### 2022 dates

August 27                      September 24                      October 22                      November 26                      December 24



The 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches was held Saturday, June 25-Tuesday, June 28. Our theme, based on I Corinthians 13:13 was: ...And the Greatest of These Is Love.

Our own Patrick Stewart served on the Planning Committee for this 4-day event. This committee along with the host churches prepared an inspirational and educational program in addition to an interesting location and entertaining special events. Additional congratulations to Patrick, newly elected NACCC Treasurer! We are very proud of you for this most recent honor and for the many years you have spent serving the on the Youth Ministry Council NACCC.

Pastor Dan Vellinga, representing the Congregational Retreat Society, began the Opening Session leading a 30-minute session of Lectio Divina (“divine reading” Bible reflection) based on I Corinthians 13. Speakers for this first afternoon were: Diana Butler Bass – “Love of God”; Valarie Kaur – “Love of Neighbor”; Mihee Kim-Kort – “Love of Self”. Bios of these ladies and synopsis of their presentations are available from Pastor Dan and Miriam Bryant.

We encourage you to view the excellent presentation on Congregationalism by NACCC Executive Secretary, Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, this year’s Congregational Lecturer. (See *other items about Dr. Cleere elsewhere in this newsletter*).

Sunday, we worshiped with fellow attendees at the beautiful Plymouth Congregational Church, featuring the combined choirs of Plymouth Church and University Congregational Church. Again, we urge you to view this wonderful service and experience the fellowship and devotion of the gathering.

Later, one of the workshops discussed youth ministry, with Kasie Brandt representing our youth group on the panel. Overall, this year’s meeting was a resounding success, be sure to mark June 24-27, 2023 on your calendars for next year’s annual meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches in Milwaukee.



(listed above are some pictures of the event and facilities)





# YOUTH GROUP NEWS



The month of August, the youth group will start preparing for the Rally Day Youth Service that will be on a Sunday in September. Shelly will get a schedule out soon of practice times and dates.

In June, 9 youth & 4 adults attended the NAPF/HOPE youth mission conference in Wichita, Kansas where we had an awesome time of fellowship, prayer, Biblical teaching, and serving the community! We are so grateful to all the donations and help with our fundraisers that got us to our conference!! We are looking forward to sharing our trip highlights on Sunday, August 21st during the 10:30am service.



In July, we hosted a baking camp for our elementary students at the church where Georgia prepared ingredients and recipes for our kids to make and bake together and then enjoy together. What a great time it was!

On July 4th the youth group and leaders put up American Flags around Marshalltown. This is a wonderful fundraising opportunity through the Morning Optimist Club.



In July we had a Sleepover Lock-in Night with our youth group. We had great food, games, and a time of Bible study. We also counted and sorted all our pop cans that we had collected which will be turned into the redemption center and the proceeds will support our youth group activities.



Our women's group is meeting Monday, August 15, at 6:00 in the church library. We will be considering what to call our group, when to meet, and choosing our Bible Study. The Bible study will be held at a different time from our large group meeting because not everyone was interested in a Bible study effort at this time. We are excited about our progress and look forward to welcoming anyone interested in joining us.

Prayers and thanksgiving, Julie Paustian



### **"Binding the Graciousness of God to the Community's Urgent Action"**

Submitted by: Kim Schryver, Chair RCT

As Pastor Dan winds down our Bible Study "A People of Salt and Light" we are taking a deeper dive into the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:1-18). We are discussing practical issues in Kingdom living that the prayer addresses. We are also considering: "How does the Lord's Prayer inform what the priorities of church are to be? How does it affirm or challenge our church's priorities?" The narrative of our present Bible study closes with the following thoughts, abridged and slightly paraphrased for this newsletter:

*The Lord's Prayer provides a vision for the life of faith of the Christian community with special focus on: the holiness of God's name, His gracious will in human affairs and in provision of needs for abundant life together. It challenges the community of faith to respond by binding the graciousness of God to the community's urgent action to authentically witness and to ease others' burdens.*



It is a meaningful exercise to pray the prayer not only from our individual perspectives, but also with a *focus on the congregate implications of our prayer* together. It is right in line with the kind of preparation to which we as a congregation need to commit to prepare our hearts and minds to imagine our future together.

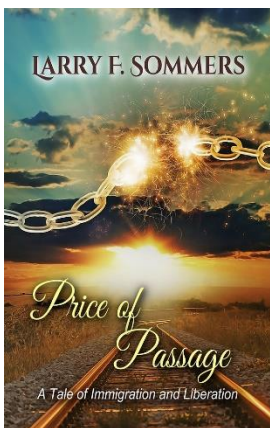
Ray Schulte reminded the RCT at our last meeting that renewal is **FIRST** asking us to consider... In this time and this place, **what is God calling us as a body of believers to BE not just do?** (That primary emphasis is helped along greatly by meditation on the Lord’s Prayer and by focus on the purposes for church highlighted in the June RCT newsletter article.) In answering this big question, we seek to see our role within God’s larger story. What is God doing? What is my role – personally and as an FCC congregant, in the larger divine story of God’s activities in the world?

In our next installment, we’ll share the questions planned for Cycle III Interviews “What Is God Calling Us to Be?” We pray that God will help us to open the eyes of our hearts to discern our roles. Members of the Listening Team will conduct the interviews in September. Tentatively mark you calendars for an all-church renewal celebration the weekend of Oct. 23, 2022, wherein our coaches will help us: prepare our final summary from the Cycle III Interview responses, pray with, unpack, and take ownership of how God’s gift of Vision calls us into the future corporately and personally – “Living into a Faithful Future: Turning Vision into Action.”



### The Listening Tour

As of July 1, 2022, the NACCC comprises 312 congregations and 28,715 church members. Our Executive Director, Ashley Cleere, kicks off a listening tour this month, and will visit every NACCC church in three years.



It’s 1853. **ANDERS**, the law at his heels, sails from Norway to seek a life of honor and respect in America. **MARIA**, a boat builder’s daughter also seeking a new start, knows that she is just what Anders needs.

**DANIEL**, a young plantation runaway, flees northward to “free soil.” Newlyweds Anders and Maria find him in their barnyard, hiding from slave catchers who can legally capture and return him to his master. Daniel’s plight draws Anders, and drags Maria, into the conflict that is tearing the country apart.

Price of Passage is a tale of three pioneers whose lives depend on one another. The coming of civil war puts one in the Navy, one in the Army, and one at home, where she strives to save her farm and herself from a merciless creditor and finds a unique solution.

Their harrowing journeys—filled with death and despair, love and hope—take Anders, Maria, and Daniel from New Orleans up the Mississippi River, into America’s wild heartland.

### About the Author

Larry F. Sommers writes to seek fresh meanings in our common past, to explore what knits us together as human beings and why we are sometimes driven apart. Three of his short stories have been published by the Saturday Evening Post, one winning Honorable Mention in the 2018 Great American Fiction Contest. He lives in Wisconsin with his wife and dog. Larry is the former Editor of the Congregationalist. He & his wife are a wonderful couple who are active in NACCC



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				
<p><b>color code:</b>            youth events            Church mtgs            Special events            Comm. Events            Color copy on            bulletin boards</p>	<p>1            VBS            5:30-8:15pm</p>	<p>2            VBS            5:30-8:15pm</p>	<p>3            Men's Church coffee            8am @ Hy-Vee             VBS            5:30-8:15pm</p>	<p>4            VBS            5:30-8:15pm</p>	<p>5            VBS            5:30-8:15pm</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 <b>Communion</b>            In-Person Worship            8am and 10:30 svcs            10:30 Svc/YouTube            Fellowship follows            10:30am Svc            Cabinet meets            11:45am</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9            BMC meets            8:45am</p>	<p>10            Men's Church coffee            8am @ Hy-Vee</p>	<p>11            RCT meets            6:30pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14            In-Person Worship            8am and 10:30 svcs            10:30 Svc/YouTube            Fellowship follows            10:30am Svc</p>	<p>15            Women's            group meets            6pm</p>	<p>16            Diaconate meets            6:30pm</p>	<p>17            Men's Church coffee            8am @ Hy-Vee             Cabinet meets 630pm</p>	<p>18            Trustees Meet            6:30pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21            In-Person Worship            8am and 10:30 svcs            10:30 Svc/YouTube            Fellowship follows            10:30am Svc            BCE Meets 11:45            Picnic Potluck</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24            Men's Church coffee            8am @ Hy-Vee</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27            11am MOW            Volunteer:</p>
<p>28            In-Person Worship            8am and 10:30 svcs            10:30 Svc/YouTube            Fellowship follows            10:30am Svc</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31            Men's Church coffee            8am @ Hy-Vee</p>			



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

