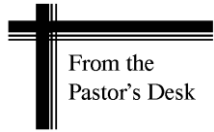


Pilgrim's Progress

July 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."



1 Corinthians 13:11-13

"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Next month is "Christmas in July" month and the hymns, songs, Scriptures and sermons will reflect themes of Christmas. What this holiday offers in terms of songs and insight, is so special that we couldn't have it for just a few weeks a year. We'll still have it all again starting at the end of November, but for the next few weeks we are going to unpack some Christmas hymns and Scriptures to enjoy. The major theological theme of the season is the Incarnation, that the eternal Son of God joined the human race. The Creator chose to become part of Creation. It is a special and profound truth in many ways, some of which we'll explore in the Sermons for the month.

One promise of the Incarnation is that we will be with Him forever and will see Him as He is. In doing so we become, finally, truly like Him. We retain our own distinct identity, but become like Him in character and so become fully who we were meant to be. So much from the story of a little baby born in Bethlehem. Have a wonderful month. See you soon.

-Pastor Dan

Sermons



July 3	Sermon: The Word Made Flesh	John 1;14; Revelation 21:1-3
July 10	Sermon: The Missionary Savior	Galatians 4:4; Romans 8:3
July 17	Sermon: He Emptied Himself	Philippians 2:6; Isaiah 42:1-4
July 24	Sermon: He Partook of Flesh and Blood	Hebrews 2:14; 1 Corinthians 9:10
July 31	Sermon: He Kept the Scars	John 20:24-29; Genesis 2:7

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



Bob & Judy Gaynor	July 1, 2006 (16)
JP & Jennifer Howard	July 1, 1995 (27)
Kirk & Cindy Shirar	July 6, 1991 (31)
John & Lisa Beaty	July 9, 2004 (18)
Nay & Nan Liew	July 12, 2010 (12)
Ken & Darcie Lunsford	July 14, 1984 (38)



July 4 Kaisa Stanley
 July 5 Miriam Bryant, Dave Hall, Kim Schryver
 July 6 Bev Swenson
 July 8 Carlton Kothenbeutel, Mike Woltjer
 July 12 David Dickey
 July 14 Al Hays, Eric Fruin
 July 16 Gary Heggen
 July 19 Julie Squiers

July 20 Krystal Randall
 July 23 JP Howard
 July 24 Max Meyer
 July 25 Ken Kreykes
 July 26 Jonathan Howell, Margaret Otte
 July 27 Larry Good, Danielle Propst
 July 28 Mackenzie Moyer, Alicia Storjohann
 July 31 Matthew Dickey, Eleanor Rowden

News from Diaconate Board

We are excited to share Christmas in July all month at FCC. Come join us. Our Youth Group sends Operation Christmas Child boxes each year for Christmas through Samaritan's Purse. Over 157 million boxes have been delivered worldwide to help make a child's life brighter at Christmas. In conjunction with our Christmas in July please help by donating items for the youth's Operation Christmas child boxes. A box will be placed on the Good Shepherd's Table in the Narthex during the month. Please place your items in the box.

Donation suggestions:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Comb or brush | Tote bag or purse or string bag |
| Toothbrush | Hair bows or hair accessories |
| Washcloth | Bracelets |
| Band-Aids | Pencils, pens, colored pencils |
| Reusable plastic containers | Markers, crayons |
| Small blanket | Pencil sharpener |
| Shirts or pants | Pencil case |
| Sundresses | Small notebooks |
| Underwear | Small picture books |
| Socks | Glue sticks (not liquid glue) |
| Small shoes or flip flops | Tape |
| Hat | Play dough |
| Scarf | Stickers |
| Mittens | Jump rope |
| Sunglasses | Small toys (include extra batteries if it takes batteries) |
| Sewing kit for an older child | |

Items NOT to include:

- Candy or food of any kind
- Toothpaste
- Gum
- Used or damaged items
- Liquids or lotions
- Medications or vitamins
- Breakable glass items like snow globes
- Aerosol cans

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR MAY 2022

Below are the Actual and Budget numbers for our church through May. The Giving includes tithes and offerings. The Budget Expense values are those that have been budgeted through MAY for the church. The most important value is our tithes and offerings, which are behind budget by 33.5% through MAY.

May 2022	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	48,926	73,540	-33.5%
EXPENSES	111,747	103,655	7.8%



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.

August 27 September 24 2022 dates
October 22 November 26 December 24



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

- In June we took the some of our elementary kids on a fun picnic and outing to Grimes Farm.



- In June we took some of our Middle School and High School kids to Perfect Games for some bowling and laser tag fun!



- We have had so much fun putting up American Flags with our youth group for Memorial Day and Flag Day!



- In July, we are planning a Baking Camp with Preschool-5th grade kids where we will have fun making and baking some yummy goodies together. We will meet on Tuesday, July 5th in the fellowship hall 5-6:30pm.

- In July we are planning an overnight for the 6-12th grade youth at the church. We will meet for a meal and fun at 6pm on Saturday, July 23rd and will be done after church on Sunday, July 24th.





- We are so excited for Vacation Bible School coming up August 1-5th, 5:30-8:15pm for kids ages 4-12!! This year's theme is Food Truck Party and we will be exploring how God provides for our daily needs. Please contact Shelly Speas if you haven't already to let her know if you would like to help!!



FCC Renewal Coordinating Team (RCT) Recharging!

Submitted by: Kim Schryver, Chair RCT

We hope you are too! After an intense year of learning and listening and leading, we were so pleased with the inspired worship and dialogue during our PLANTing for Our Future Conference in May. Again, we thank those of you who provided important input leading up to the conference through interviews 1 and 2 and those who were able to actually attend the conference. As I do a cursory review of the notes I took during the conference and the ideas floated there, my excitement continues to build.

We ask you all to take time in the next month to look at some of the most popular brainstormed imaginings shared at the conference. They appear on the huge Post-It Notes in the Fellowship Hall. Just let your creativity be stirred as you interpret the brief descriptions and bullet points listed. These are launching points for further discussion this Fall. They may provoke other ideas that excite you. Jot them down. We will want to hear everything about them!

For all of June 2022, the RCT is taking a breather to recharge, to allow reflection on how far we have come and to continue to learn about ways to engage all who want in refining our vision and mission and plans for the next five years. Our next meeting as a committee will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2022. We look forward to applying new insights with reinforced vigor into our next steps in renewal efforts with all of you! Watch for more meaty news in the August Newsletter. Our final interviews are planned for early this Fall.

Enjoy the summer!



FCC Proudly Continues Support of Marshalltown Christian Schools (MCS)

Submitted by: Kim Schryver, Chair of Missions and Benevolence Committee



MCS Mission: To glorify God through biblical, Christ-centered education, providing academic excellence and preparing students for service and leadership.

Founded in 2006 the school was housed in borrowed church facilities during the week until 2020 when MCS moved into its own facility – a building financed through contributions from many individuals and churches across the area. All the debt from that capital investment has been paid off. It is a fully accredited private school.

To date, 202 students have been served. About 50 – 60 students have attended MCS during each term of recent school years. It is MCS leadership’s goal to move that annual attendance in the next few years to the maximum capacity of 96 students per school year.

Students are served from “Beginnergarten” through 8th grade. Beginnergarten is a transitional option for youngsters who need a bit more time after pre-school preparations and before kindergarten to mature in their focus, discipline, physical coordination and socialization. Parents can elect either full or half-day Beginnergarten; the same is true for kindergarten. There is also certified before and after school care for enrollees.

Children who attend are from at least 15 different church backgrounds and have included Hispanic/Latino and Southeast Asian students. Extracurricular activities provided at the school include piano lessons and enrichment science experiences. Fifth to eighth grade students can dually enroll in Marshalltown Community School District which affords them access to all extracurricular and enrichment opportunities available through the public schools.

One of the great advantages of MCS is the small class sizes. Average student to teacher ratio is 10: 1. Typically, two grade levels meet in the same room at the same time. This enables great flexibility in provision of remedial and/or enriched curriculums in any subject as students can easily join older or younger students within the classroom or next door.

One of the great challenges for parents who would like to consider MCS is the financial cost. Tuition per child per year is \$5,400. Scholarships are available on a sliding scale of need and can be a make-or-break factor in deciding whether or not to send a child (or especially children in one family) to this private school. It is here where the FCC Missions and Benevolence Committee has decided to earmark our church’s donation of \$5000 to MCS as of June 2022. Special scholarship funds are set aside for children of Pastors, Associate Pastors and Youth Leaders.

MCS has an informative website: mcsiowa.org. Bethany Wirin is the School Administrator. She can be reached through the website or by calling (641) 753-8824. We are grateful to Bethany and MCS Board Member, Matt Hoven, for attending the regular Missions and Benevolence Meeting in May 2022 to update us on MCS achievements and aspirations. They have offered to update the entire congregation sometime soon in a brief address during a regular 10:30 am Worship Service sometime soon.





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	2
3 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc	4  Office Closed	5	6 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	7	8	9
10 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc	11	12	13 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Women's group @ 6pm in library	14 RCT meets 6:30pm	15	16
17 Christmas In July In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc BCE Meets 11:45	18	19	20 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	21	22	23 11am MOW Volunteer: Kim Schryver
24 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc	25	26	27 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Trustees meet 6:30pm	28	29	30
31 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc						



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

