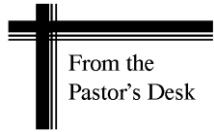


Pilgrim's Progress

September 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."



New Bible Study Starts September 11

Through part of the Summer we've enjoyed a Bible Study called "People of Salt and Light" that explores what the Lord Jesus meant when He called His disciples the "salt of the earth." We're taking a brief break, having finished that Bible Study and will be starting a new one on September 11th, starting at 9:15 a.m. The new Bible Study is called "Co Missioned" and looks at the four Gospels with the eyes of a missionary. Both have been provided by the good people at the Center for Parish Development, our consultants in our Renewal Project. The learning, discussion and fellowship around these Bible Studies have been wonderful and all are welcome to join. The new study comes with a small workbook that is available at the church office.

Third Renewal Phase Interviews are This Month

The Renewal Project that we've pursued for over a year now begins its Third Phase this month. With information and insight compiled from two sets of interviews followed by two church gatherings to reflect and consider, we've gained a view of what was best of the church in the past and the strengths and challenges of the church in the present. This third phase considers what God is calling us to be in the future. Everyone is invited to participate in these interviews, in fact, the more the better and we will have our third gathering to reflect and look forward to the future in October.



Sermons

September 4	Building a Life	Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 14:25-33
September 11	Lost Sheep, Lost Coin	Exodus 32:7-14; Luke 15:1-10
September 18	Rally Sunday	
8:00 a.m. worship-	Knocking at the Door	Revelation 3:20
September 25	The Affliction of Joseph	1 Timothy 6:6-10; Amos 6:1-7

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





Jennifer Allison & Merrill Swartz	September 12, 1998	24 years
Bob & Linda McGregor	September 16, 1972	50 years
John & Lisa Blabaum	September 28, 1996	26 years
Donn & Pat Anderson	September 29, 1984	38 years
Larry & Sam Good	September 30, 1967	55 years



September 5	Joan Fry	September 19	Jane Benbow
September 6	Ian Meyer	September 21	Kolleen Shollenbarger
September 11	Jeanie Burt, Carol Calabrese	September 22	Darcie Lunsford
September 13	Pastor Dan	September 23	Carol Edeker
September 16	Emily Carson, Sarah Latham, Troy McGahuey	September 24	Wayne Wagar
September 17	Kathaleen Hale	September 27	Roberta Olson
		September 30	Jeremy Lavendar



News from Diaconate Board

Beginning September we will have a couple of changes to the 10:30 A.M. service. The offertory plates will be brought forward by the Worship Hosts. Offering will continue to be collected at the doors. Bulletins will return. That means the screen won't be used as much. Through the magic of electronics, the people viewing our service online will still see a screen.



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.



CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION THRU JULY 2022

Below is 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 JULY for the church

The most important value is our tithes and offerings, which are behind budget by 33.9% through JULY.

July 2022	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	68,047.51	102,956.00	-33.9%
EXPENSES	151,287.73	145,117.00	4.3%



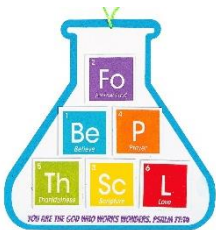
YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Sunday, September 18th will be the Rally Day Youth Service where our youth will be planning and leading every part of the service. It's going to be an awesome morning full of fun and inspiring messages! The youth have been praying and planning so please be sure to come and experience the Word of God through the hearts of our youth!

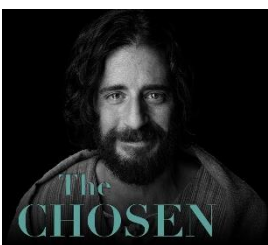
Also, Sunday, September 18th immediately following the 10:30am Rally Day Youth Service, the Board of Christian Ed. will host a pot luck lunch in the fellowship hall. They will provide grilled hamburgers and condiments and buns, so if church members could bring a side dish or dessert to share, we will have a wonderful meal together.

We will kickoff, Sunday morning Power Hour on Sunday, September 25th at 9:15am in the Loft of FCC with a Luau for our preschool-12th grade students! Will have some themed treats and wonderful message together! Come dressed in your favorite Hawaiian shirt and win a prize!



We will kick off, Tuesday night D.O.G.'s (Depend on God) on Tuesday, September 27th at 5pm (ends at 6:30pm) in the Fellowship Hall of FCC for preschool-5th grade students. This year we will be having a blast growing in our faith in Jesus while doing hands on science experiments, sharing how Faith and Science go hand in hand. This year a meal will also be provided each Tuesday night during DOG's!

We will kick off, Wednesday night Jr. P.Y. and P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) on Wednesday, September 28th in the Loft of FCC. Jr P.Y. will be 5-6:45pm for 6-8th grade students, and P.Y. will be 6:15-8pm for 9-12th grade students. Between groups 6:15-6:45pm each Wednesday night will be a combined time with a meal in the Fellowship Hall.



An Adult Bible Study opportunity will begin Sunday, September 11th in the Loft of FCC at 6:30pm. We will be going through the TV series The Chosen season 1 & 2 and having a Bible lesson and discussion after each episode. The Chosen is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus and the people who met and followed Him. We will meet most 2nd and 4th Sundays, unless it falls on a holiday weekend. Contact Shelly Speas with any questions.

In August we had a great time with our middle school and high school students at Adventureland in Des Moines!



In August we hosted Vacation Bible School and were able to serve and share God's Word with 58 wonderful kids!! We had the most incredible crew of volunteers help make our Food Truck Party VBS one of the best!! The first night we were even blessed to be able to have the Appleberry Farm food truck come and serve a meal. The theme "Give is this day our daily bread" was a wonderful reminder of how God gives us our daily needs yesterday, today, and forever. We are so grateful to everyone who donated food, supplies, and finances to make this a great event that will stick with the kids and adults forever! Thank you for sharing Jesus with our community and our kids!







Women's Ministry at First Congregational Church

The Women's Ministry at First Congregational Church is ready to resume. As announced in July, our August 15 meeting included choosing a name and a meeting time. "Women's Ministry" was chosen to identify the group. The name defines the purpose.

Meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of the month. Our first large group meeting is **October 3 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. There will be prayer, light refreshments, fellowship time, and a short business meeting to answer questions and establish direction for future meetings. We will be adding a program chair and prayer leader to our planning team.

Jane Vermulm has graciously agreed to lead our Women's Ministry Bible study opportunity which will be offered the second and fourth Mondays of the month beginning **Monday September 12 at 5:30 p.m.** in the library. Our first study will be Women of God: Character Studies of Women in the Bible. It is a Lifeway study. Jane has ordered materials which will be available on the 12th. Thank you, Jane!

Discussions about restarting a women's ministry in our church have carried on for about 8+ months. Our efforts began with sharing a meal together... which led to replanning the Fellowship Hall table decorations... which led to cleaning out the big closet downstairs...and...here we are! We arrived at the conclusion that we believe a healthy church includes an active women's ministry where friends gather to pray, fellowship, serve, and grow in ways that strengthen our family of God.

Researching the way others cover women's ministry led us to Cyndee Ownbey who says, "A profitable ministry is grounded in God's Word and grows in the context of God's people aiming for the glory of Christ." She shared four "pillars" supporting the need for a women's ministry in a healthy church.

1. Study -- God's Word.
2 Timothy 3:16
2. Service -- to others and use of special gifts endowed by the Lord.
1Peter 4:10
3. Need for a safe place to find Biblically sound support.
Ecclesiastes 4:10
4. Social -- regular meetings with other believers.
Hebrews 10:25

We don't have to model after anyone else, but we DO need to meet the needs of those we want to serve. Our quest to define needs continued.

Our team conducted a survey to determine the needs and the support for a women's ministry within the congregation. Each potential group participant has unique needs and thoughts. God's direction helps us meet those needs and build/maintain precious bonds with each other.

The questions were:

1. Are you interested in participating in a women's group? Why or why not?
2. What purpose for the group would you support?
3. When would you like the meetings scheduled? How often?
4. What activities would you enjoy?
5. Additional thought/comments....

The results were tallied and seemed to fall in line with the "pillars" outlined above. If you would like to share your thoughts on the above questions, please do so! It has been challenging to secure input from the very people we want to serve.

Our Women's Ministry possibilities are endless! One person pointed out that our women's group needs to look and proceed differently from the other secular groups in which we participate.

We would like to explore ways to include our friends who do not have access to joining us at 5:30 at the church.

We are eager to move beyond the planning stage to be a functioning women's ministry determined to continue to worship and honor God as we move forward in a new format. Our goal is to use this opportunity to grow together. This is NOT only our group. It is God's group. We lift our purpose and growth to the Lord for His blessing and guidance. Without the Lord's direction, we cannot be effective in our ministry.

Thank you, Lord.

Please prayerfully consider joining us. Invite a friend!

Monday September 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the library for Bible Study with Jane
September 26 " "

Monday October 3 at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for the inaugural meeting of
 The 2022 Women's Ministry of First Congregational Church

Prayers and thanksgiving for YOU,

Julianne Paustian

Give God the Glory, glory!





“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 congregational 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 your 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.”



Labor Day **pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers** and is traditionally observed on the first Monday in September. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894.







Whatever you do, work
at it with all your
heart! Good luck at
school this year!





FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!
Sunday Worship Services:
 8am & 10:30am in person
 10:30am Service is also on You Tube

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Monday-Friday 9am-Noon 641-752-4239				
				1	2	3
4 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall	 Labor Day Office Closed	6	7 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hyvee	8 6:30pm RCT meets	9	10
11 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall Adult Bible Study @ 630	12 Women's Fellowship @ 5:30 in Library	13 8:30am BMC meets	14 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hyvee	15 6:30 Trustees meets	16	17
18 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall Rally Sunday	19	20 6:30pm Deacons meet	21 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hyvee	22	23	24 11am MOW Kim Schryver
25 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc in Fellowship Hall 11:45am BCE PH 9:15 Adult Bible Study @ 630	26 Women's Fellowship @ 5:30 in Library	27 D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	28 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hyvee JR PY 5:00-6:45 PY 6:15-8:00	29	30	color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards



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

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

