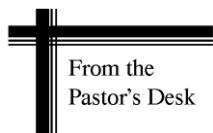


Pilgrim's Progress

October 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 Article-Yom Kippur

October is a busy month for our church. Early in the month we recognize Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, one of the holiest days of the Scriptural calendar. It begins on the evening of Tuesday, October 4 and ends on the evening of Wednesday, October 5. It ends the days of fasting that begins with Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year. Scripture passages explaining the significance of the day include Leviticus 16:1-34 and Numbers 29:7-11. From a Christian perspective, we believe the Atonement for sins was fulfilled forever in the death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. It is a special day to reflect, fast and pray for the coming year, and to give thanks that we have the wonderful privilege to approach God in prayer at any time.

Soon after that, we will have the Fall Meeting of the Iowa Nebraska Association of Congregational Christian Churches in Berwick, beginning on Friday, October 7 through Saturday, October 8. The very next day, Sunday, October 9th, our Executive Secretary of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, the Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, will be our guest at worship and will greet everyone at the beginning of worship. Dr. Cleere is working on visiting every church in the NACCC over the next three years, and October 9 is our day. Be sure to welcome and get to know her.

Our third Renewal Conference will be the weekend of October 21-23 and we anticipate it to be encouraging and insightful, just like the other two. Please note those days on our calendar. God bless you and have a fruitful and fulfilling month.

-Pastor Dan

Sermons

October 2	Unprofitable Servants	Habakkuk 2:1-4; Luke 17:5-10
October 9	The Importance of Presentation	2 Kings 5:7-15; Luke 17:11-19
October 16	Justice from God	Genesis 32:22-31; Luke 18:1-8
October 23	Humility Before God	Joel 2:28-29; Luke 18:9-14
October 30	Pastor Dan out of town. Rev. Bob Spilger will lead worship	

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

Bickford: Joanie Smith-Legg #108,

Suites of Ankeny: Romaine Mackaman

Southridge: Betty Runner #212, Carol Stanley

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





Greg & Kristin Meyer	October 18, 2003	19 years
Tracy & Lori Wildman	October 20, 1979	43 years
Dan & Sharon Propst	October 20, 1980	42 years
Doug & Krystal Randall	October 27, 1984	38 years
Ken & Joy Kreykes	October 28, 2000	22 years
Bob & Shirley Nott	October 29, 1949	73 years
John & Nichole Kersbergen	October 30, 2021	1 year



October 1	Julie Lavender	October 17	Bill Maas
October 6	Julianne Packer	October 20	Joan Smith-Legg
October 8	LaRae McGahuey, Cherryl Woltjer	October 23	Lori Wildman
October 10	Gary McKibbin	October 26	Steve Storjohann
October 12	Bob McGregor	October 27	Hannah Shirar, Leiah Paustian
October 14	Bob Hibbs	October 28	Mason Moyer
October 15	Marilyn Fruin, Lincoln Lavender	October 29	John Blabaum, Bob Nott, Jonathan Tuttle



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 AUGUST 2022

We are fast approaching the last 3 months of 2022

Below is the Actual and Budget numbers for our church through August. The Giving includes tithes and offerings. The Budget Expense values are those that have been budgeted through August for the church.

The most important value is our tithes and offerings, which through August are behind budget by -34.8%.

August, 2022	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	76,738	117,664	-34.8%
EXPENSES	172,558	165,848	4.0%



YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Power Hour will be Sunday mornings starting at 9:15am in the Loft for Preschool-12th grade.
Oct. 2,9,16,23,30



DOG's (Depend on God) will be Tuesday nights 5-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for Preschool-5th grade. A meal will be provided.
Oct. 4,11,18,25



Jr. PY (Pilgrim Youth) will be Wednesday nights 5-6:30pm in the Loft for 6-8th grade.
A meal will be provided.

PY (Pilgrim Youth) will be Wednesday nights 6:30-8pm in the Loft for 9-12th grade.
A meal will be provided.



The Chosen adult Bible study will be Sundays Oct. 9th and 30th at 6:30pm in the Loft.

The youth and leaders had the honor of putting up American Flags around Marshalltown for Labor Day.



The Rally Day Youth Service was so wonderful! We were so thankful to all our youth who shared their musical gifts, dancing abilities, and inspiring messages with our church and their families!





History of Pastor Appreciation Day

For a long time (since 1992, precisely), October has been observed as Clergy Appreciation Month in the U.S. **The call to honor our church leaders' contributions goes back to the time of Apostle Paul.**



An Update on Guzman Family Ministries from Monterrey, Mexico

September 2022



In the early 2000's I was part of an FCC mission "Go Team" that went to Monterrey, Mexico. Many within our church worked with us at our home church to prepare and then enable the Go Team to be fruitful while serving away. In the city of Monterrey and in small squatters villages surrounding Monterrey, we worked with this wonderful family who headed up many mission points throughout Mexico. Since then the ministry grew to include other countries as well.

During the past 5-8 years, several members of the Guzman family have been plagued by different medical issues. The Pandemic and now worldwide recession and drought have further limited their engagement and how they provide hope and support to those desperately in need. There have been many positives the Guzmans are quick to point out, but their needs are many - at times overwhelming. This August (2022) The Mission Society (TMS) Global (international sponsor and accountability agency) shared an update for Guzman Ministries written by Maria Guzman. The Mission and Benevolence Committee thought it was important to share the following abridged update. Cherryl Woltjer

Maria shared that within the last year Johnny Guzman, her son, had had liver surgery and a bone marrow transplant, and continues to deal with changing medications, diabetes and depression from the overwhelming medical bills, house utilities and ministry expenses. Mary, his wife, is battling ongoing anxiety. Florencio Guzman, her husband, was in a car accident in December 2021 that resulted in knee issues. Mobility and financial challenges have motivated Florencio to learn new ways of communicating online with their ministries in Columbia and Peru. Maria is now cancer free, but has been unable to continue legal assistance for those in need due to pandemic restrictions and family needs.

Maria also shared that Zapata is now their main church, and that they had to return the church building in the city of Monterey they had used for 38 years. Johnny does online church services weekly and they are in charge of in person services twice a month at Zapata. Financial resources were not available for VBS this year, so it was not held. To further complicate their ministry, Monterrey has very limited water supply currently and families are desperate. The Mexican Government is trying to help supply extra water by truck.

The Guzmans have a new address: Johnny Guzman, 1211 San Diego Avenue, Apt.#494, Laredo, TX 78040. Please be in prayer continuously for this family and their ministries that are so vital to these people in Mexico.





RENEWAL TOGETHER AT ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE!

Submitted by: Kim Schryver, Chair RCT, Oct. 2022

“The Story of Who God is Calling Us to Be” will be the focus of our all church conference **FAITHFUL FUTURE**, Oct. 21-23, 2022. Kristin Meyer has created a poster with the highlights of our “Faithful Future Conference.” It is posted in this newsletter too. Please, refer to it and mark your calendars.

Each session has a purpose and plan.

Fri/Oct. 21, 5:30 pm The **Listening Team (LT) w/ Coaches** will review all Cycle III interviews and begin to identify *common* themes, strong sentiments, and ideas expressed by participants. Dinner for this work group

Sat/Oct. 22, 9am – noon **Cabinet, LT, and all others who wish to play a role in renewal** actuation will worship together, name the gifts in the room, review FCC Covenant, explore roles as leaders of FCC and participate in creating the “Story of Who God is Calling Us to Be” through *Storyboarding* - a visioning technique we will learn from our coaches. Lunch for attendees. Optional continuation of storyboarding in pm.

Sun/Oct. 23, 10:30am – 2pm **EVERYONE** including Coaches will worship together, enjoy lunch catered by Smokin’ G’s, and afterwards learn about Cycle III Summary with a chance to continue our visioning storyboard activity connecting past, present and future.

We pray that as many of you as can possibly participate in the Saturday and Sunday sessions do so. We particularly want those presently in leadership roles and those who feel called to participate in bringing the church’s vision into action to attend both the Saturday and Sunday sessions. If you cannot attend, we absolutely understand and will give those who miss this weekend an opportunity to interact with our consultants – Ray Schulte, Pastor Shawn Stapleton and Pastor Steve Slagel, through digital means in the future. But as we have learned during and after COVID, there is nothing quite like face to face meetings to strengthen relationships and provide quality conversation.

In preparation for writing this article, I reviewed many notes and prayers that inspired the RCT through the past 2 years. Two scripture passages have been regular orientations to the task. Both speak to God’s desire that we pursue unity and maturity as part of the Body of Christ.

From Ephesians 4: *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, ...one Lord, ...one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (v. 3-6) But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. (v.7) ...to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature attaining to the whole measure of fullness of Christ. (v.12-13)*

From Hebrews 10: *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, ... but encouraging one another ... (v. 23-25)*



A background image showing sunlight filtering through green leaves, creating a starburst effect in the center.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

FAITHFUL FUTURE

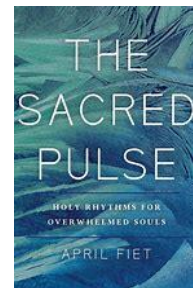
Renewal Conference with our Consultants

Friday, Oct. 21 @ 5:30, Fellowship Hall - Workshop for
Renewal and Listening Teams

Saturday, Oct. 21, 9-noon, Fellowship Hall - "Turning
Vision into Action" for all who want to participate - lunch
included - RSVP to church office

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

10:30 am Worship
Catered Lunch and "The Story of
Our Future" Discussion in
Fellowship Hall



Take a Breath – Take a Pause ***Fall Virtual One-Day Silent Retreat***

It seems cliché to say that we are living in unprecedented times. Yet, at every turn we can find ourselves being pulled between our need for peaceful living and the demands of life while the world is seemingly on the brink of disaster. Just like a video on YouTube, we may find ourselves longing for a pause button that allows us to catch our breath.

You are invited to take that “pause” with others during our annual Fall Silent Retreat, which will be held via Zoom. The Reverend Carrie M. Orlando, M. Div., will be leading the group on All Saints Day –Tuesday, November 1, 2022. The day will begin at 8:00am and end at 5:00pm. We will be primarily using April Fiet’s book, *The Sacred Pulse: Holy Rhythms for Overwhelmed Souls*, as our guide. It is suggested you read her book prior to our time together but it is not necessary.

In addition to serving churches as a pastor, senior minister, and other roles for 30 years, Carrie has many years of serving as a trained spiritual director – or guide – and will bring scripture and other authors into our time of resting in the embrace of God’s holy presence. She is also a wife and mom who knows the struggle of finding space in the midst of our need to care for family and friends.

It is suggested that you prepare yourself a place where you can “pause” without distractions during this day. We ask that you have paper and pen in which to journal, a Bible, and some sort of creative outlet (drawing, knitting, coloring, writing poetry, etc.). You may choose to find a retreat center near where you live in order to more fully immerse yourself in an atmosphere of silence.

This experience is sponsored by the Congregational Retreat Society. Our organization has promoted spiritual work in the quiet for over 30 years among churches of the Congregational Way. We host an annual fall Silent Retreat and a Quiet Day at a site conducive to silence on a day before or after the start of the Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches somewhere near where that gathering is held each year. Our offerings are available to all clergy and non-clergy supportive of Congregationalism who wish to enter into the silence.

To register for this event, please email drcapacker@gmail.com by Thursday, October 20, 2022. There is no charge for this experience, but preregistration is required. Email this form to drcapacker@gmail.com or send it by postal mail to the Congregational Retreat Society, c/o Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Chaplain-Director, 1343 Sherwood Forest Court, Waterford, Michigan 48327. A link will be sent to everyone registered on the week of the retreat.

Name _____

Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State/Zip Code _____

Email _____

The Tuesday Musical Club
proudly presents
"An Evening with Madeline Rose"
granddaughter of Harlan and Deborah Nuss

Tuesday evening
October 11, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Enjoy classical to music theater!
Hope United Methodist Church
Free and open to the public!



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 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows PH 9:15 Co missioned Bible Study 9:15	3 Women's ministry meeting 5:30 pm in FH	4 D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	5 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Open Chapel 1-2 pm JR PY 5:00-6:45 PY 6:15-8:00	6 Bell choir 5:30- 6:30 pm in library	7	8
9 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Adult Bible Study @ 630 PH 9:15 Co missioned Bible Study 9:15	10 Women's Fellowship @ 5:30 in Library	11 8:30am BMC meets D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	12 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Open Chapel 1-2 pm JR PY 5:00-6:45 PY 6:15-8:00	13 Bell choir 5:30- 6:30 pm in library 6:30 pm RCT meets	14	15
16 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 11:45am BCE PH 9:15 Co missioned Bible Study 9:15	17	18 6:30pm Deacons meet D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	19 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee JR PY 5:00-6:45 PY 6:15-8:00	20 Bell choir 5:30- 6:30 pm in library 6:30 pm Trustees meet	21	22 11am MOW Doris McCarty & Kolleen Schollenbarger
					Renewal Conference	Renewal Conference
23 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows PH 9:15 Co missioned Bible Study 9:15 Renewal Conference	24 Women's Fellowship @ 5:30 in Library	25 D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	26 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee JR PY 5:00-6:45 PY 6:15-8:00	27 Bell choir 5:30- 6:30 pm in library	28	29
30 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows PH 9:15 Adult Bible Study @ 630 Co missioned Bible Study 9:15 Guest Pulpit Bob Spilger	31 					<u>color code:</u> 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.fccmarshalltown.org

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian
Churches

