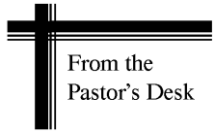


# Pilgrim's Progress

## November 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."



Sunday, November 20th is the first Harvest Dinner that we've had in a couple of years and we have missed it. Fellowship, food and being thankful seem to go together. It is a time to share conversations, review the past year as we come toward its end and be thankful for the grace of God in our lives. It is also a chance to do work together in that the Harvest Dinner requires help for preparation the day before and cleanup after the dinner is over. That's part of the fellowship. Be sure to allow time for work together and for fellowship. It sets the stage for observing Thanksgiving and then getting ready for the Christmas holidays.

-Pastor Dan

### Sermons



- November 6, God of the Nations Daniel 7:13-14; Ephesians 1:15-17  
November 13, A Person with Open eyes Acts 25:15-18; Colossians 1:9-14  
November 20, Harvest Sunday  
Bread From Heaven John 6:26-27; Philippians 4:4-9  
November 27, First Sunday of Advent  
Putting on Christ Romans 13:8-14; Galatians 3:26-29

### Note about the Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The PDF is a checking account that is supported in part by the Missions and Benevolence Budget and in part by donations by concerned members of the church. The pastor uses it to help people, both in and outside of the church, with food or housing needs. In order to maintain privacy and transparency, the pastor submits a report to the Missions Committee every month but keeps private the names of those helped. Many thanks to those who have helped families and people in need through this fund.

Holiday Concert Saturday, November 19th at 3:00 p.m.

The day of the Holiday Stroll has the perfect start with a Holiday Concert in the Sanctuary of this church. Sponsored by Elim Lutheran Church, the concert includes pieces by organ, piano and the Community Handbell Choir with all the favorite selections of the season. The concert will be held here in our Sanctuary on Saturday, November 19, starting at 3:00, ending approximately at 4:00, so everyone can enjoy the Holiday Stroll. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit families relocating from the Ukraine. Contact director Larry Pfantz at (641)753-7275 for more information

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



**Bickford:** Joanie Smith-Legg #108,  
**Mill Pond Care Center:** 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



Al & Judy Hays	11/09/63	59 years
Dave & Jo Dysart	11/10/84	38 years
Don & Jane Benbow	11/15/58	64 years
Craig & Cynthia Ragland	11/29/96	26 years
Rod & Kristi Hassler	11/29/08	14 years



November 2	Jody Brintnall, Adrianna Goken	November 24	Dale Wiese
November 6	Breana Gruver-Alvarado	November 25	Shirley Nott
November 20	Georgia Thomas	November 27	Sharon Propst
November 23	Tonya Tuttle	November 30	Pastor Greg Ellcey



### Organ Repair/Rebuild

Thanks to the very generous Al Packer Memorial we were able to go forward with the organ repair/rebuild project. The contract was signed and a down payment submitted to Levsen Organ Company guaranteeing work will begin sometime in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2023. Pat Anderson and Gary Heggen are managing the rebuild. Mike Woltjer from the Trustees is managing the in-house construction. The rebuild begins with the removal of hundreds of pipes by Levsen personnel and sent to the factory for repair/replace and cleaning. After pipe removal, the organ chambers reconstruction will begin and the organ console sent out for rebuild and updated to solid state. During this time the first service will meet in the Chapel while the 2<sup>nd</sup> service will meet in the Fellowship Hall. The process is expected to take 3-4 months, depending on the in-house construction. When all is complete we plan to have a special service with guest organist to dedicate the organ. As we get closer and can firm up the dates/activities we will give updates in the monthly church newsletter.

### Sanctuary Christmas Decorating

All are welcome to come help decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season. We will meet in the Sanctuary on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 A.M. Many hands make light work.

### Advent/Christmas

Advent begins Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. We will have the 5 P.M. Christmas Eve Service this year. There will be no services on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, allowing people to spend time with their families.



### Inclement Weather Information:

When the weather is questionable, please refer to KCCI, KFJB, or Kix 101.1 for the latest weather updates about cancellations or postponements.



NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION THRU SEPTEMBER 2022

With this November newsletter, we are now in the last two months of 2022. As has been the case for the last several years, 2022 is turning out to be another challenging year in terms of tithes and offerings. Our tithes and offerings are trailing 2022 Budget by -34.9%. If you are able and willing to support our church through new or additional Tithes and Offerings, we gratefully thank you. It would be great if we were able to achieve our giving Budget goal for 2022

Thru September 2022	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	86,216	132,372	-34.9%
EXPENSES	197353	186,579	5.8%

ONLINE GIVING

You may also contribute to First Congregational Church using On-Line giving. Simply click the link below to give to the church using On-Line giving.

[My Tithes and Offering Online Link](#)

Thank you for your continued support of First Congregational Church!

CAPITAL DONATION SUGGESTIONS

Your church has the need to invest significant dollars in several capital projects for the long-term health of the church. The financial plan approved at the 2021 annual meeting included the strategy of funding capital improvements through donations for designated projects. The Trustees have determined that the projects listed below are of the highest priority to be accomplished for the remainder of 2022. By donating to these projects, or to the general capital fund, you can assist your church in maintaining its strength for many years. Please prayerfully consider supplementing your normal giving with gifts directed to the following capital projects.

2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Capital Project	Cost	\$\$ Raised
Two new security cameras – north entrance of church	\$1,000	0
Motion sensors for lights/fans in 4 bathrooms	\$3,000	0
New vented system for tip of Sanctuary roof	\$10,000	0
16 Education Wing windows – Refurbish and Paint	\$10,900	0
Stain glass windows – Inspection/Repair/Replace	\$40,000	0
Sanctuary organ cleaning and upgrade	\$140,000	\$103,000



## 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.

The House of Compassion Supply Closet is in need of supplies, especially laundry detergent, dish soap and shampoo for those that can help!



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS



DOG's (Depend on God)—Tuesdays from 5-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for Preschool-5th grade with a meal provided.

Jr. P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth)—Wednesdays from 5-6:45pm in the Loft for 6-8th grade with a meal provided in the Fellowship Hall.



P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth)—Wednesdays from 6:15-8pm in the Loft for 9-12th grade with a meal provided in the Fellowship Hall.

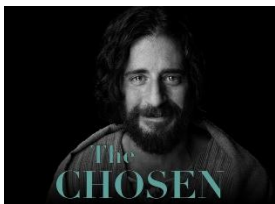
Power Hour—Sundays from 9:15-10:20am in the Loft for preschool-12th grade.





Sunday, October 23rd we had a picnic at Riverside Cemetery with our confirmation class and their mentors. We had to eat between rain clouds and eventually took cover under the gazebo but our time together was so blessed! We were event graced with God’s promise after the rain; a beautiful double rainbow in the sky!!

In November will be getting ready for our Children’s Christmas Program. Practice dates and times will be sent out soon. All kids preschool-12th grade are encouraged to be a part of the program! Please try to be at as many practices as possible. The Program will be Sunday, December 18th during the 10:30am service with a soup luncheon in the fellowship hall following the service.



The Chosen Adult Bible Study Sundays, Nov. 13th and 20th at 6:30pm in the Loft. Contact Shelly Speas for questions.



Women’s Bible Study is November 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the Church Library.

November 7 at 5:30 is the time and date for our next Women's Ministry gathering in the Mayflower room.

We will share a short program about the history of our church relating to our Mayflower heritage. Thank you for joining us.

Prayers,  
Julie Paustian





## Forging A Renewed Identify

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

*There can be no maturity in the spiritual life, no obedience in following Jesus, no wholeness in the Christian life apart from an immersion and embrace of community.*

Eugene H. Peterson, *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005), 226.

Thank you to the many many individuals, families and groups that have invested their time with Listening Team members to share their imaginings in the third and final interviews conducted for renewal efforts. Thirty-seven Interviews were conducted engaging 60 people in September and early October 2022. Your commitment thus far to and input in the process of creating our story - who we were, are, and are called to be, has been a joy. Just meeting together face to face with meaningful conversation has been worth the effort and for many of us, has given us recharged spirit and purpose in this body of believers.

Thank you too to our coaches: Ray Schulte – Director, Center for Parish Development; Pastor Shawn Stapleton – NACCC Liaison to CPD & FCC; Pastor Steve Slagel – Design Group International and Center for Parish Development. The method they have taught us started to really come together at FCC’s Faithful Future Conference. Interview Summaries enabled participants to discover common themes, experiences and aspirations that link treasured characteristics from the past, with valued experiences in the now and hopes for the future. These are elements of a story we are writing together – the story of a hope-filled and heart-for-God future using the “Storyboarding” technique.

And finally, thanks from the bottom of our hearts to the 42 committed people of this congregation who were engaged in our church visioning effort at the Faithful Future Conference Friday, Oct. 21 – Sunday, Oct.23, 2022. After our coaches introduced us to “Storyboarding,” it was so exciting to see the light bulbs ignite with growing understanding of what the 18-mos of renewal is leading to for FCC. Those interview responses in aggregate give us a clear picture of Spirit-filled motive forces we share in common. From this emerging picture of FCC we can make rational decisions on what we might do to pursue moving our vision into action.

Shawn Stapleton said, “God is like a parent taking a child to a playground, everything is permissible at the playground – slide, swings, monkey-bars, as long as you stay in the playground.” We just need to get together on what we as a body of believers see as our identity now, and that will help define our playground of action-oriented priorities for the next few years.

This is what you said about our identify going forward.

### **We believe God is calling FCC to be:**

A **PLACE OF BELONGING** – like family and everyone feels accepted

**VIBRANTLY ACTIVE IN MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE**

**ACTIVELY IN PURSUIT OF BIBLE LITERACY**

**SPIRITUALLY GROWING** –individually and as community

A **DISCIPLING COMMUNITY**

**ENGAGED WITH WIDER FAITH COMMUNITY**

**INSPIRED IN WORSHIP** that honors God and reflects the diverse needs and gifts of the congregation

A **COMMUNITY OF VIBRANT INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTEDNESS**



The Renewal Coordinating Team at the direction of the Cabinet looks forward to forging our Faithful Future in the next steps of renewal. More on those next steps in the December newsletter!



**ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20  
11:30 a.m.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

History has told us that there were just over 50 colonists at the first Thanksgiving in 1620. Most of them were men because many of the women had perished. It was a 3-day feast to celebrate and give thanks for the successful harvest. Join us in celebrating in the return of our annual Harvest Dinner. The Harvest Dinner will be held Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> directly following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. There is no cost for this meal, and you do NOT need to bring anything – all is provided. MENU: choice of meat turkey OR ham, cheesy potatoes, cranberry sauce, dinner roll, pie, beverage. To best plan for the meal, we ask that your reservations for the meal be into the church office no later than Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. There will be reservation forms in Sunday bulletins for you to complete. There is a basket outside of the church office to turn those in, OR you may call the church office (752-4239) during regular office hours Monday – Friday, 9-12 OR via email [secretary@fccmarshalltown.org](mailto:secretary@fccmarshalltown.org).

We invite each of you to come enjoy the food, fellowship, and celebration of our heritage.

Blessings,

Harvest Dinner Prep Committee



# HOLIDAY CONCERT

*(One More Time!)*

Saturday, Nov 19, 2022 – 3:00 pm

First Congregational Church

312 W Main St

You are invited to begin your Holiday Stroll at a Holiday Concert sponsored by Elim Lutheran Church and hosted by First Congregational Church, 312 W Main St, Marshalltown, on Saturday, Nov 19, at 3:00 pm. This free concert of holiday music will feature . . .

Hudson Lourenço, organist – native of São Paulo, Brazil, with a master’s degree in organ performance from the University of Iowa and now a resident of Marshalltown.

Josh Grimes, pianist – local musician best known for his membership in the Seymour Family Gospel Group and as musician at Elim Lutheran Church.

Community Bell Choir, handbells – a gathering of handbell ringers from several area churches including Elim Lutheran, First Congregational, St Francis Catholic, and Trinity Lutheran.

This free concert will take place just prior to the opening of the 2022 Holiday Stroll in downtown Marshalltown. “Strollers” are invited to begin their evening activities at this concert at the First Congregational Church before “strolling” down Main Street.

## HOLIDAY NEWS!!

HOLIDAY NEWS?? Yes, the holidays will be here before we know it. And, to get your holidays off to a fantastic start, Elim Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Holiday Concert (*One More Time!*) at First Congregational Church, 312 W Main St, at 3:00 pm on Saturday, Nov 19! This concert immediately precedes the Holiday Stroll which begins at 4:00 pm on Saturday, Nov 19. The program will feature a professional organist, a local pianist, and a community handbell choir playing holiday favorites to ignite your holiday spirit! Mark your calendar now!!



**Open Chapel ~ Starting the first of October, Open Chapel is available from 1:00-2:00pm every Wednesday. It is a time for Mediation and Quiet Reflection and is open to all.**



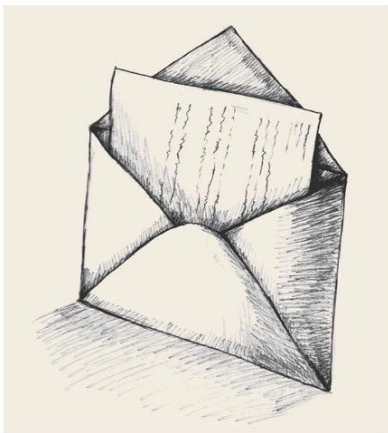


## Central Iowa Choral Society

It is with great Joy that the Central Iowa Choral Society announces its upcoming MESSIAH presentation! We are inviting all interested singers to join the chorus. Group rehearsals and the final presentation will all be at First United Methodist Church 202 W. Main St., Marshalltown. Please use the glass doors on the north or south sides of the building if participating. The schedule will be  
Sun. Nov. 6, 2:00-4:00, (solo auditions to follow)  
Sun. Nov. 13, 2:00-4:00  
Sun. Nov. 20, 2:00-4:00  
Sun. Nov. 27, 5:30-6:30 soloists, (6:30 full choir)  
Sat. Dec. 3, 9:00-11:00 full run-thru, shortened solos  
Sun. Dec. 4, 2:00 Presentation of MESSIAH

MESSIAH scores will be available for a \$15.00 purchase.

If you are interested in practicing and singing with the chorus, please contact Janet Collison at: [janet.collison@gmail.com](mailto:janet.collison@gmail.com) or phone her at 641-750-4408.



## **LETTER WRITING TO ACHIEVERS IN MKM!**

**JOIN MISSION & BENEVOLENCE COMM.**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

**10:30 am – 11:30 am**

**FCC Library**

\*\*\*\*\*

**We'll provide FCC stationary, pens, and ideas on how send congratulations and best wishes to an outstanding group of students in My Kinsmen Ministry.**

**We'll even provide tea and quick bread!**



Thanksgiving Day 2022 is on Thursday, November 24, a time for Americans to give thanks for the harvest and spend time with family and friends





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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Monday-Friday 9am-Noon 641-752-4239				
		<b>1</b> <b>D.O.G.S</b> 5:00 - 6:30	<b>2</b> Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee <b>Open Chapel</b> 1-2 pm <b>Cabinet Meets</b> 6:30pm JR PY 5:00-6:45 PY 6:15-8:00	<b>3</b> Bell choir 5:30- 6:30 pm in library	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows <b>PH 9:15</b> <b>Co missioned Bible</b> <b>Study 9:15</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Women's</b> <b>Ministry meeting</b> <b>@ 5:30</b>	<b>8</b> <b>8:30am BMC</b> <b>meets</b>  <b>D.O.G.S</b> 5:00 - 6:30	<b>9</b> Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  <b>Open Chapel</b> 1-2 pm  JR PY 5:00-6:45 PY 6:15-8:00	<b>10</b> Bell choir 5:30- 6:30 pm in library  <b>6:30 pm RCT</b> <b>meets</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows <b>PH 9:15</b> <b>Co missioned Bible</b> <b>Study 9:15</b> <b>Adult Bible Study @</b> <b>630</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Women's Bible</b> <b>Study @ 5:30 in</b> <b>Library</b>	<b>15</b> <b>6:30pm Deacons</b> <b>meet</b>  <b>D.O.G.S</b> 5:00 - 6:30	<b>16</b> Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  <b>Open Chapel</b> 1-2 pm  JR PY 5:00-6:45 PY 6:15-8:00	<b>17</b> Bell choir 5:30- 6:30 pm in library  <b>6:30 pm Trustees</b> <b>meet</b>	<b>18</b>  Holiday Concert rehearsal 6pm	<b>19</b> <b>11am MOW</b> <b>Pastor Dan</b>  <b>Holiday Concert</b> <b>rehearsal at 1:30</b> <b>pm</b> <b>Concert from 3-4</b> <b>pm</b>
<b>20</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows <b>Harvest Dinner</b> <b>PH 9:15</b> <b>11:45am BCE</b> <b>Co missioned Bible</b> <b>Study 9:15</b> <b>Adult Bible Study @</b> <b>630</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>D.O.G.S</b> 5:00 - 6:30	<b>23</b> Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  <b>Open Chapel</b> 1-2 pm  JR PY 5:00-6:45 PY 6:15-8:00	 <b>Thanksgiving</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Christmas</b> <b>Decorating @</b> <b>10am</b>
<b>27</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows <b>PH 9:15</b> <b>Co missioned Bible</b> <b>Study 9:15</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Women's Bible</b> <b>Study @ 5:30 in</b> <b>Library</b>	<b>29</b> <b>D.O.G.S</b> 5:00 - 6:30	<b>30</b> Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  <b>Open Chapel</b> 1-2 pm  JR PY 5:00-6:45 PY 6:15-8:00			<b>color code:</b> 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](http://www.fcmarshalltown.org)

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

