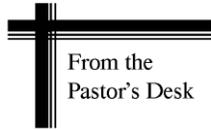


Pilgrim's Progress

May 2023

"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."



The Purpose and Value of Worship

Nearly every Sunday we gather together to do certain things. We pray, first responsively and then later in unison-twice if you include The Lord's Prayer. We sing as well as listen to beautiful music. There is an offering, a children's message and a sermon, followed by a prayer, the second of two hymns and a benediction. All of these elements of our gathering are for the purpose of giving special honor, or "worth-ship" to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. The very fact that we gather on Sunday morning, the day of the Resurrection, is to honor our resurrected Christ and to take time from our busy week to give due reverence and to focus on spiritual matters. The responsive prayer-the Call to Worship-signifies a community gathering together, followed by the unison Invocation as the worship of the community now united as one. The time of prayer recognizes our utter dependence upon God and the children's message and sermon are girded by the belief that the Holy Spirit still speaks through the Scriptures (and in other ways) today. We sing and listen to music because music is the great language of worship, and we close with a benediction because we trust in the grace of God to carry on through the next week. We worship because we believe that we become more like the One we worship, and because we believe that God, and God alone truly deserves to be worshipped. Worship is one of the most valuable of all spiritual disciplines.

-Pastor Dan

Sermons-

May 7	"Ask"	Psalm 31:1-5; John 14:12-14
May 14	"Hearing the Voice of God"	1 Samuel 1:8-18; Luke 1:35-38
May 21	"Lessons of the Ascension"	Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44:53
May 28	"Shared Gifts"	Numbers 11:24-30; 1 Corinthians 12:3-13



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,

Glenwood Place: Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mildred Lathrop #145,

Bob Becker #175, Lenora Brown #147, Iva Howard #164, Bonnie Pappas #112 Marian Gerdes





Aaron & Angie Dickey	May 10, 1997	26 years
Blake & Sarah Latham	May 26, 2007	16 years
Steve & Alicia Storjohann	May 27, 1983	40 years



May 1	Grant Brintnall, Nichole Kersbergen	May 12	Iva Howard
May 2	Kristi Hassler, Paul Packer	May 13	Ken Lunsford
May 3	Sandy Packer	May 15	Doug Randall
May 5	Avayah Speas	May 21	Bob Gaynor, Ken Winkler
May 6	Jennifer Allison	May 22	Judy Gaynor
May 7	Doris McCarty	May 23	Raechel McGahuey
May 8	Lisa Beaty	May 27	Patricia Wiese
May 9	Madison Swartz, Eleanor Tjossem	May 31	Wendi Stanley
May 10	Cynthia Ragland, Jim Clark, Nicole Vellinga		
May 11	Claire Meyer, Libby Meyer		



News from Diaconate Board

Sunday, May 28th is Pentecost Sunday. It's the 50th day or 7th Sunday after Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in Acts 2:1-31. The parament colors that Sunday are red. Red symbolizes the color of fire to represent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

The Diaconate has several events planned for the summer.

June 18th – the Marshalltown Men's Chorus will be at our 10:30 A.M. service

June 25th – Pastor will be at the NACCC annual meeting. Jean Bower will fill the pulpit.

July – back by popular request we will be celebrating Christmas in July.

August – we will be having an indoor potluck picnic. The Diaconate will furnish pulled pork and baked beans. We will be asking for people to bring either a side or a dessert.

We are anticipating Levsen Organ Company to remove the organ and pipes this month. More on that later.



Women's Ministry

May 1 5:30 "General Assembly" meeting then Spring Clean the kitchen.

May 8 5:30 Bible Study Library

May 22 5:30 Bible Study Library

We are planning to continue through the summer. Our next general meeting will be June 5 at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayers,
Julie Paustian



Pastors Discretionary Fund

Kim Schryver, Chairman Benevolence and Missions Committee

A couple of decades ago a few members of our congregation recognized that in an emergency, community members whether attending our church or not might need a helping hand to meet unanticipated financial demands. Tragedies like fires, accidents of any imaginable kind leading to physical or mental incapacitation during treatment or healing, catastrophic medical circumstances, serious home and property damage due to natural disaster or criminal victimization are just a few of the emergency circumstances that create financial hardship that could not be anticipated.

When such circumstances arise, initiators of the fund recognized the necessity to be able to respond quickly and with wisdom and discretion to help allay financial strife. To do so meant that a trusted leader in our church should be able to provide emergency monetary aid without the delay caused by committee presentation and action. The pastor as spiritual leader of the church and one most likely to be contacted in the time of emergency need was designated to be the gatekeeper and distributor of these rapid response resources. Policies have been put into place over the years to provide accountability for the amount and nature of distributions without naming recipients. Over the past two years the pastor provides reports to the Benevolence and Missions Committee at their regular monthly meetings describing income to the fund and disbursements, keeping recipients of benefits anonymous. Furthermore, the Financial Review Committee reviews the fund and Mission and Benevolence Committee's accounting of activity within the fund annually.

The fund is NOT a part of the church budget. It is maintained solely by donors who periodically give expressly to the Pastors Discretionary Fund as an act of compassion and charity. From time to time the Benevolence and Missions Committee also votes to donate to the fund. This happens when the need has been greater than private donors gifts during a period of time and sometimes to assure the fund does not incur financial penalties associated with a balance of less than \$500 in this special account. Again these funds are not part of the church budget and in fact are deposited in an account different than the church's funds.

We are proud of our church members' proactive generosity! They give anonymously. We wanted you ALL to be informed about this special kind of charitable giving through our church.

The balance in the Pastors Discretionary Fund as of the April 11, 2023 regular meeting of the Mission and Benevolence Committee was \$613.56. If this kind of giving is tugging at your heart, please, feel free to donate to "FCC Pastors Discretionary Fund." Your donations can be given directly to Pastor Dan or to our Church Treasurer, Jody Brintnall. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask either Pastor Dan or Kim Schryver or any other member of the committee.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Power Hour Preschool-12th grade in the Loft, 9:15am on Sundays
May 7,14,21
Having an end of the school year party on May 21st!

DOG's (Depend on God) Preschool-5th grade level in the Fellowship Hall, 5-6:30pm with a meal on Tuesdays,
May 2,9,16,23,30
Having an end of the school year party on May 30th!



Jr PY (Pilgrim Youth) 6-8th grade in the Loft, 5-6:45pm with a meal on Wednesdays, May 10,17,24,31
Having an end of the school year party on May 31st!

PY (Pilgrim Youth) 9-12th grade in the Loft, 6:15-8pm with a meal on Wednesdays, May 10,17,24,31
Having an end of the school year party on May 31st!



We are excitedly planning for our summer youth mission conference NAPF/HOPE that will be in June in Milwaukee, WI this year! We are currently getting registrations turned in from our youth and leaders. Please pray for our group as we prepare and keep your ears open for upcoming fundraisers we are planning!

Our DOG's group had fun writing Jesus is alive and Jesus loves you and creating Christian works of art on the side walks around the church for people who walk by. We shared how there are many ways to share Jesus with our community and they can be a part of it!



Our women's ministry had a wonderful time preparing a meal for our Wednesday night youth groups and then had fun playing a game with them and the youth leaders.



We want to celebrate the special youth God has placed in our church and so we are taking them out for birthday treats this year. Here are some of our youth with winter and spring birthdays.



We had a wonderful time picking up trash around our community for an Earth Day project with our youth!



We took our youth to the Colton Dixon, Apollo LTD, and Joran St. Cyr concert in Marshalltown in April! What a wonderful time worshipping God together!



We loved getting to celebrate Palm Sunday with our youth!



High School Graduating Class 2023



Madison Swartz

Madison Swartz is the daughter of Merrill Swartz and Jennifer Allison. She will graduate from the Marshalltown High School in May. Madison plans to attend DMACC and pursue her associates degree in criminal justice. During the summer she plans to work and enjoy spending time with her friends and family. While in high-school Madison participated in volleyball, track, speech, and choir. She was also a football manager and was a Mentor for Violence Prevention.

Kaisa Stanley is the daughter of Todd and Leah Stanley. She will graduate from the Marshalltown High School in May. Kaisa plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa and major in marketing or communications. She achieved Academic-All State and has been on the Honor Roll all four years. Kaisa was involved in Swimming and Diving, Track and Field, National Honor Society, Interact club, the Extended Learning Program, and was a Mentor in Violence Prevention.



Kaisa Stanley

Memorial Day Services
Raymon Veterans Park – Albion, IA
May 29, 2023 8:00 AM

Master of Ceremonies

Larry A. Raymon - Raymon Company

Raising of the Colors

Ceremonial Units

American Legion Post #46

V.F.W. Post #839

Parade Drummer

Billy Wilson

Star-Spangled Banner

Elisabeth Bieber

Invocation

Pastor Matt Bishop

Bangor Liberty Friends Church

Vocal Selections

Men's Chorus Quartet

Stacy Heil, Larry Pfantz, Andy Schwandt

Placing of the Missing in Action Wreath

Wayne Rayman

234th Signal Battalion

Eternal Father Strong to Save – Flute Selection

Krystal Randall

Speaker

Larry Raymon

Vocal Selection

Men's Chorus Quartet

Benediction

Pastor Matt Bishop

Memorial Salute

American Legion Post #46

V.F.W. Post 839

Taps and Echo

Courtesy of the Marshalltown Municipal Band

Directed by Brett Umthun

Program Arranged by Co-Chairs Julie Mann and Larry A. Raymon

Onward & Upward: 2023 NAPF-HOPE Youth Conference, Milwaukee, WI

By Patrick Stewart, NAPF-HOPE Planning Team

NAPF-HOPE will be holding our annual conference in Milwaukee, WI on the campus of Averno College beginning the afternoon of Saturday, June 24th and concluding the morning of Thursday, June 29th.

For those of you not familiar with NAPF-HOPE, let me explain some of the basics. NAPF stands for National Association of Pilgrim Fellowship and is for any youth that have completed the 8th grade through their high school senior year. HOPE stands for Heritage Of Pilgrim Endeavor and is for any individual that has completed their high school senior year through age 26. A person that has completed their high school senior year has the option to either attend NAPF or HOPE. Youth Pastors, directors, and adult leaders are also welcome to attend along with their church youth.

The conference generally runs concurrently with the adult conference and both adult and youth conferences are in the same general vicinity, maybe half an hour or so apart. While the adults are generally staying in a hotel, the youth are staying on a local college campus that is willing to host our conference where we will stay in their dorms, have meals in their cafeteria, and use one of their meeting spaces for our activities.

During the conference, we will have a guest speaker, worship music, possibly by a local musician or band, mission work opportunities, team building, small groups, games, fun outings in the area, and getting together with the adults for Sunday worship and a large group activity.

The individuals that plan this conference, which takes several months and zoom meetings, are all volunteering their time and talents to create a wonderful week of fellowship, worship, mission projects, and activities. We have three adults, two HOPE Officers, and two NAPF Leaders In Training that make up the conference Planning Team.

This year, we decided our theme should be "Onward & Upward" which we used Philippians 3:12 as our verse of focus. We felt that with the past few years and all that has transpired, it was a great opportunity to focus on moving forward while keeping our eyes on Jesus. Our planning team is working diligently to put together another wonderful conference. We will be traveling to the adult conference on Sunday to be with the adults for Sunday worship service and also be doing a combined mission project that afternoon with Habitat For Humanity.

The cost to attend this conference is \$615, which includes all meals, lodging in the dorms, and all activities during the conference. We also have scholarship funds available as well. Both the [registration form](#) and the [scholarship application](#) are available on the NACCC website.

Please pass this information on to your Youth Pastor, Director, and/or volunteer leaders and have them encourage their youth to attend this wonderful conference. They will make some life-long friends, be in a positive atmosphere, and will draw closer to God as we move Onward and Upward!



2023

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 Women's Ministry 5:30pm	2 DOGS 5-6:30pm	3 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	4 Trustees Meet 7:00pm	5	6
7 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15am	8 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm	9 DOGS 5-6:30pm 8:45am BMC	10 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Jr PY 5-6:45pm PY 6:15-8pm	11	12	13
14 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15am Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	15	16 DOGS 5-6:30pm 6:30pm Deacons	17 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Jr PY 5-6:45pm PY 6:15-8pm	18	19	20
21 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15am 11:45am BCE Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	22 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm	23 DOGS 5-6:30pm	24 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Jr PY 5-6:45pm PY 6:15-8pm	25	26	27 11am MOW Volunteer: Doris McCarty & Norma Dannen
28 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15am Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	29  OFFICE CLOSED	30 DOGS 5-6:30pm	31 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Jr PY 5-6:45pm PY 6:15-8pm			



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

