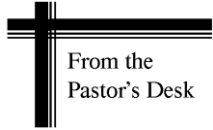


June 2023

"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."



Main: Outreach
Colossians 4:5-6

"Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

A spiritual discipline that is sometimes problematic is that of outreach. In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the most important information that any one could receive, but sharing that can be difficult, awkward and even painful. It is called the "good news" but there seem to be many who would not treat it as good news. We are, nevertheless, commanded to reach out to people in any way that we can to encourage them to consider Christ. A very simple way to discipline ourselves to reach out to people is to offer to pray for them, especially after serving them or helping them with some problem or need. I have, from time to time, volunteered at our local hospital as a spiritual care volunteer, visiting staff and patients to see how they are doing. That visit can include an offer to pray for them, couched in wording that makes it clear that the offer is only if they want someone to pray for them. I am rarely turned down. So take some time to consider how you would explain to someone why you go to church, and why you pray, and when the opportunity comes, offer to pray for a friend or neighbor who is going through troubled times, and then follow through with it. They will know where you stand, and if they ever have any questions about Christ, they will know that they can turn to you.

VBS in July

This year, Vacation Bible School will begin the evening of Sunday, July 23rd, and end the evening of Thursday, July 27. We will use a VBS program produced by Lifeway Publishing called "Twists and Turns" which emphasized the stability of the Lord Jesus in the midst of the constant change in life. Many thanks in advance to all the people who help with this valuable outreach to our community.

Sundays out of pulpit

Pastor Dan will be away from the pulpit on July 16, with Harpist and speaker Janet Collison filling in. Pastor will also be away from the pulpit on August 13 and August 27, with Harlan Nuss filling on those Sundays.

Annual Meeting of the NACCC online

The Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches will take place in Milwaukee from June 24 through June 27. If you want to access any of the proceedings or lectures online, turn to www.naccc.org.

Adult Sunday School starts a study of Revelation

Starting Sunday, June 4, the Adult Sunday School will begin work on the Book of Revelation, using a program by Anne Graham Lotz called "The Vision of His Glory." Other than Sundays where Pastor will be out of town, (see "Sundays out of pulpit") the Adult Sunday School will continue through the Summer.

Christmas hymns in July

Due to the popularity of the Hymns of Christmas, we are going to sing several of them throughout the month of July. Consider it practice for Advent later on this year.

Sermons-

June 4	A Complex God	Genesis 1:1-2; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
June 11	My Father's Business	Exodus 23:15; Luke 3:45-52
June 18	Men's Chorus Leads Worship	
June 25	Guest Pulpit Jean Bower	

Pastor at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches in Milwaukee, Wisconsin



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: Jan More #132, Mildred Lathrop #145, Lenora Brown #147,
 Iva Howard #164, Bonnie Pappas #112, Marian Gerdes #166, Anita Niehouse #116
Willows of Marshalltown: Evelyn Thompson



Dale & Patricia Wiese	June 8, 1957	(66)
Dave & Lynn Hall	June 14, 1974	(49)
Gary & Vicki McKibbin	June 17, 1967	(56)
Robert & Jane Bauer	June 20, 1964	(59)
Pastor Dan & Jeanne Vellinga	June 20, 1981	(42)
Ron & Debi Estabrook	June 21, 1970	(53)
Wayne & Jonna Wagar	June 22, 1968	(55)
Stan & Georgia Thomas	June 27, 1987	(36)
Terry & Julie Paustian	June 29, 1974	(49)



June 4	Pat Preece, Dwayne Shultz	June 22	Shannon Wolcott
June 9	Arlene Selby	June 23	Matt Schryver
June 10	Deb Mettlin	June 25	Lynn Hall
June 15	Jane Bauer	June 26	Don Benbow
June 16	Maxie Shultz	June 30	Layla Wimberly -Kersbergen
June 19	Jan More		



News from Diaconate Board

The last Sunday in June, Jean Bower will fill the pulpit. Pastor Dan will be at the annual NACCC meeting in Milwaukee. Miriam Bryant will also be a delegate. We will be having Christmas in July again. Pastor Dan will be on vacation a Sunday in July. Janet Collison will be the guest speaker. Pastor Dan will have 2 Sundays of vacation in August. Harlan Nuss will fill the pulpit. August 20th we will have our indoor barbeque. The Diaconate will be serving pulled pork and baked beans. We're asking the congregation to bring salads or desserts. The Diaconate does not meet in June nor July. Levsen Organ removed the church console. The organ console is being upgraded to solid state. Approximately June 15th they will be on site to remove the organ pipes. They will be stored in an upstairs Sunday School room and in the library. Once that's done work can begin in the organ chambers. After that, the pipes will be cleaned and put back into the organ chambers.



NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION JANUARY – APRIL 2023

We are approaching the halfway mark of 2023. Our tithes and offerings are trailing 2023 Budget by 38.44%. If you are able and willing to support our church through new or additional Tithes and Offerings, we gratefully thank you.

JANUARY - APRIL	2023 BUDGET UPDATE		
January - April 2023	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	35,601	57,834	-38.44%
EXPENSES	87,765	88,590	-0.93%

ONLINE GIVING

For your information, 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](#).

CAPITAL DONATIONS

Your church has the need to invest significant dollars in several capital projects. The trustees have determined that the projects below are the highest priority. 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 one of the following capital projects.

2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Capital Project	Cost	Dollars raised
Motion sensors in 4 bathrooms	\$3,000	0
New vented system for tip of Sanctuary roof	\$10,000	0
16 Education Wing windows – repair or replace	\$20,000	0
New church van - used primarily by the youth	\$61,300	0
Stain glass windows – Inspect/Repair/Replace	\$100,000	\$40,000
Sanctuary organ project – clean and upgrade	\$140,000	\$118,080

Thank you for your continued support of First Congregational Church.



Women's Ministry Summer Calendar

General Meetings:

June 5 5:30 Goal: Tidy the church yard

If you would like to help trim, pull weeds, and give attention to our church yard, we would enjoy having your help. 5 of us worked together to "tidy" the kitchen in May. We look forward to joining together outside on June 5. Please bring your favorite hand lawn tools.

July 3 No meeting

August 7 5:30 Goal: Origami picture frames with Deborah Nuss

Bible Study with Jane Everyone is welcome anytime.

June 12 5:30 in the library

June 26 No meeting

July 10 5:30 in the library

July 24 No meeting due to Vacation Bible School.

August 14 5:30 Begin new study

August 28 5:30

Please join us whenever you are able. We would enjoy having you!
Prayers, Julie Paustian



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.

Open 2023 Dates

August 26

September 23

October 28

November 25

December 23



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

Adult Bible Study opportunities!

Pastor Dan is leading a Bible study Sunday morning at 9:15am in the Adult Ed. room. Starting in June he plans to lead a Bible study in the book of Revelations.

The Chosen Bible study group is watching season 2 of the tv series called "The Chosen" where they get to experience Jesus and His walk with His disciples. They will also have a time of Bible study that goes along with the series. Please contact Shelly Speas with any questions. They will meet on Sunday, June 11th & 18th at 6pm.

There is a women's Bible Study led by Jane Ver Mulm that meets on Monday nights a couple times a month. They will meet on June 12th at 5:30pm in the library. The study is called "Following Jesus" and we would love to have more join in! It's easy to jump into!

All the women of our church are invited to come to Women's Ministry on Monday, June 5th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. It is so important for us women to meet together to grow in our friendship and faith through fun times, service projects, giving and receiving encouragement from one another, and praying together!

, service projects, giving and receiving encouragement from one another, and praying together!



First Congregational Church Choir Returns!

We are in the process of returning to our heritage! The First Congregational Church Choir has been part of our services for well over 100 years. Thank you, thank you to all who came before us to prepare us for this day. After a three year absence, the choir is reorganizing. We will not look or sound the same as before, but our hearts and voices want to praise and honor God in song as well as speaking voice. Arlene Selby has graciously agreed to accompany us.

**" Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness:
come before his presence with singing."
Psalm 100**

If this is of interest to you, please consider joining us. We sang early in May during the service and are looking forward to continuing our sharing. Our next musical contribution to the Sunday service will be June 2. You may contact Arlene Selby, Julie Paustian, or anyone you see participating to get information about joining the choir. Our practice schedule is currently a work in progress. Please ask us. We welcome you!



YOUTH GROUP NEW

We have had such a wonderful school year with our youth groups!!

Power Hour-



-DOG's



-Jr PY

PY-



The youth groups made May baskets for each other and delivered them.



We had the end of the year parties in our youth groups:
We had breakfast and a Bible scavenger hunt in Power Hour.





We took the DOG's group to Dreamland Park in Conrad, IA and had a picnic.

We took the Jr PY & PY groups bowling and are pizza at Wayward Social.



There is no Power Hour, DOG's, Jr PY or PY for June.

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 spring birthdays.



We are excitedly planning for our summer youth mission conference NAPF/HOPE that will be June 24-29th in Milwaukee, WI this year! Please pray for our group as we prepare and keep your ears open for upcoming fundraisers we are planning!

We have started our flag fundraiser through the Morning Optimist Club on Memorial Day. What an honor it is to help with this! We have been blessed with 2 more routes making a total of 4 routes for our group this year and had a couple more volunteers help with driving the youth around and transporting the flags.



Police Chief Tupper is on one of our new flag routes and he graciously said yes to taking a picture with us on Memorial Day :)

We got to celebrate graduation Sunday with Kaisa Stanley and her family on May 21st.





Vacation Bible School is being planned for Sunday, July 23-Thursday, July 27th 2023, 5:30-8:15pm with a meal each night!

We are excitedly making plans for VBS this summer to reach out to the kids in our church and community and share the truths about the Bible and our Savior Jesus! This year's theme is Twists and Turns where kids will play their way through VBS learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives.

But to make it be a successful VBS we need LOTS of volunteers! We need leaders & helpers for our rotations: Games, Bible Stories, and Crafts, we need music leaders, we need people for our skits in openings and closings, we need a kitchen cooking and clean up crew for meals and snacks, we need group leaders to take kids to their rotations, and we need people to man the registration table at the beginning of the night. Also, if decorating is your thing we could use your help with that before VBS. So please contact Shelly Speas if you are able to help and what area you would like to help with.



Colossians 3:17 – *Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.*

Quoting Cindy Hess Kasper in the May 24 Daily Bread devotional, "We're sometimes tempted to divvy up the things we do in life. Read the Bible. Share our story of coming to faith. Sing a hymn. Sacred stuff. Mow the lawn. Go for a run. Sing a country song. Secular stuff." The passage above emphasizes that as God's children....We do it all for Him!

We here at First Congregational are blessed to worship and work with so many that have taken Colossians to heart.

Again referencing Our Daily Bread – 5/24, "King Solomon... Realized that simply being able to eat, drink, and work each day was a blessing from God" May everyone have a wonderful, happy and safe summer.

MB

The 2023 Leadership Directory "Blue Book" is now available to FCC Church Members. Pick up your copy in the office or contact the Moderator – 515-771-5930.



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	2	3
4 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Adult Sunday School @ 9:15am Cabinet meets 11:45 am	5 Women's Ministry 5:30pm	6	7 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	8	9	10
11 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Adult Sunday School @ 9:15am Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	12 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm	13 8:45am BMC meet	14 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	15 6:30pm Trustees meet	16	17
18 Father's Day In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Adult Sunday School @ 9:15am 11:45am BCE Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Men's Chorus at 10:30 service	19	20	21 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	22	23	24 11am MOW Volunteer: Katie Lundberg NACCC annual meeting in Milwaukee WI
25 Jean Bower- guest pulpit In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Adult Bible Study 6:30pm NACCC annual meeting in Milwaukee WI	26 NACCC annual meeting in Milwaukee WI	27 NACCC annual meeting in Milwaukee WI	28 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	29	30	



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

Churches

