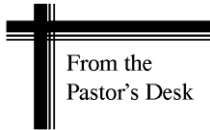


# Pilgrim's Progress

## November 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."



From the  
Pastor's Desk

Theme: Learning 2 Timothy 3:16-17

During the course of my newsletter articles for 2023 I've tried to say on the topic of spiritual disciples that help us grow in the ways of the Holy Spirit. Learning is the discipline I'd like to consider today. We are, fundamentally, disciples of Jesus Christ. That is the simplest and most straight-forward definition of a Christian I can find, and a disciple is basically a student of the master. We serve a God who is our teacher in the person of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord in John 14:26 told His disciples that "the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

As the Holy Spirit is teacher, so we as disciples are to be life-long learners. Years later, the Apostle Paul advised his young disciple Timothy that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17). There are many ways to pursue this, Bible studies of all sorts, Adult Sunday School, and other ways. A good Christian is a life-long learner. We will be learning and growing forever so try to learn something new every month if possible.

-Pastor Dan

### Holiday Stroll Concert

This year's Holiday Stroll Concert will be at Elim Lutheran Church on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00 p.m. and should end right around 4:00. Just in time to enjoy the Holiday Stroll. Everyone is invited to be part of this special gathering.

### Harvest Dinner/60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Al & Judy Hays

One of the highlights of the church calendar is the Harvest Dinner, remembering that belonging and fellowship are vital values of our congregation. This year, the dinner will also take place along with the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Al & Judy Hays. We need reservations for the dinner, which will begin right after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on November 19<sup>th</sup>. You will be able to find reservation forms right by the church office, you can contact the church office by calling 641 752 4239 or via [secretary@fccmarshalltown.org](mailto:secretary@fccmarshalltown.org). We need to know your name; how many people are coming and everyone's choice of turkey or ham as a main entrée. Please have your reservations in by November 14<sup>th</sup>.

### *Sermons*

Common Theme: A Shared King

November 5	Just as He is Pure	Revelation 7:9-17; 1 John 3:1-3
November 12	Watch	Amos 5:18-24; Matthew 25:1-13
November 19	Build a Life	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Worship on November 26 led by Rich & Kay Miller-Todd

### Pledge Drive

Our annual pledge drive letters go out in the month of November, and as the pastor of the church, I would like to thank everyone for all that they invest in the life of this fellowship; in giving, in time served, in the hours working toward ministry, in generosity and kindness. Over and again this congregation has given and served others, and in doing so, served Christ as well. Again, thank you.





**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:** Mildred Lathrop #145, Lenora Brown #147, Iva Howard #164, Bonnie Pappas #112, Marian Gerdes #166, Anita Niehouse #116

**Willows of Marshalltown:** Evelyn Thompson



Al & Judy Hays	11/09/63	60 years
Dave & Jo Dysart	11/10/84	39 years
Don & Jane Benbow	11/15/58	65 years
Craig & Cynthia Ragland	11/29/96	27 years
Rod & Kristi Hassler	11/29/08	15 years



November 1	Molly Lundberg	November 23	Tonya Tuttle
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



## 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.

All Dates for 2023 are full! Thank You! The sign up sheet for 2024 is posted.

On behalf of the Missions & Benevolence Committee, We would like to invite our congregation to help with supplying food items to the mini food pantries throughout our town.

The old "Clifton Store" shopping cart has come out of hiding and will be in the Narthex to put your items in. We prayerfully ask that you consider this little mission when you do your shopping. Examples for the cart would be cereal, dried beans, canned goods, dried soups, and tuna. The need is out there in our community as we can bless as we have been blessed.

Thank you so much,  
Kristi Hassler, Missions & Ben. member



### **Women's Ministry News**

The First Congregational Women's Ministry will meet November 6 at 5:30 in the Fellowship Room. Jane Ver Mulm will lead us in prayer, fellowship, and a decorating activity. We look forward to having you join us.

Bible Study of Ephesians with Jane  
November 13 and November 27 at 5:30 in the church library  
This is an open study. You are welcome any time.

Always praying for you,  
First Congregational Women's Ministry



## News from Diaconate Board

Don't forget to turn your reservation in for the Harvest Dinner on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Dan will be on vacation on November 26<sup>th</sup>. The Revs Miller-Todd's will fill the pulpit that Sunday.

Advent begins Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will decorate the sanctuary and Christmas tree on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Time to be determined and communicated through an all church email.

This year Christmas Eve is on Sunday. The Diaconate has voted to have 3 services that Sunday: the 8 A.M., 10:30 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. candlelight service.



## *Giving Back at Christmas*

Every Christmas FCC generously helps make a family's Christmas special. Parents that pick up your gifts are always so grateful that they will be able to put presents under the tree and a meal on the table for their children. Working with the House of Compassion, FCC has agreed to sponsor three families and 10 children seeking help for this Christmas season.

Watch for the Christmas Angel tree to appear at the south entrance on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Gift tags will give specific items requested by each family. Please keep your tags to be returned with your gift.

Families will also receive a \$50 gift certificate to the grocery store of their choosing and children through high school will each receive 3 gifts. Because of the high cost of groceries this year, our committee agreed to include some grocery items on our Christmas tags. Also, FCC will continue the tradition to gift a Bible for each family. Please return your gifts you purchased for the families, UNWRAPPED WITH THE TAG ON THE GIFTS, to the church no later than Sunday the 17th of December. Please leave gifts in the fellowship hall.

The Mission and Benevolence committee is most thankful for your love, generosity and participation in our mission project for Christmas, but you also make other projects successful throughout the year. YOU ARE TRULY A BLESSING!!



### **Chancel Choir**

Please join us for choir practice **November 3at 5:30** and **November 5 at 10:00** for the 10:30 service.

We will practice **November 10 at 5:30** and **November 12 at 10:00** for the 10:30 service.

We have music and a chair with your name on it!

Praising God with song,  
First Congregational Chancel Choir



# Youth Group News

Power Hour: Sundays 9:15-10:20am for Preschool-12th grade  
November 5, 12, 19 (not 26th, Thanksgiving break)

DOG's (Depend on God): Tuesdays 5-6:30pm with a meal for preschool-4th grade  
November 7, 14, 21, 28

Jr PY (Pilgrim Youth): Wednesdays 4:45-6:15pm with a meal for 5-8th grade  
November 1, 8, 15, 29 (not 22nd, Thanksgiving break)

PY (Pilgrim Youth): Wednesdays 6:30-8pm with a meal for 9-12th grade  
November 1, 8, 15, 29 (not 22nd, Thanksgiving break)



In October the DOG's group went to Appleberry Farm to pick apples and take a hayride through the orchard.

In October the youth group went to see the movie "The Blind" which was based on a true story of Phil and Kay Robertson and their story of love and redemption found through Jesus.



We were honored to present two 3rd graders with Bibles in October during a church service and celebrate with their family with a reception after church.

The youth groups will be putting together gift boxes the first week of November for Operation Christmas Child and praying over the children that will be receiving them. We will be collecting items to put into the boxes for the youth to pack together. We will have a box in the back of the sanctuary in the Narthex labeled Operation Christmas Child the first week of November for anyone who has items they would like to donate for our kids to bless children with. Things we can't pack are lotions, shampoos, conditioners, toothpaste, and candy. Thank you so much! This is an amazing mission through Samaritan's Purse.

Sunday, November 5th, the youth groups 5-12th grade will be having a picnic and scavenger hunt at Grimes Farm.

Saturday, November 11th the youth will be doing their last flag day fundraiser of the year in honor of Veterans Day. It is such a wonderful opportunity that the youth are grateful to be a part of.

We are very excited to have our Children's Christmas Program on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th this year. It will be during the 10:30am worship service. All children preschool-12th grade are welcome and encouraged to be a part of the program. We will be sending out an all church email and sending notes home with the kids at their groups, with our practice times starting in November.



## NACCC News

Connecting Points - Julie Robie, NACCC Missions Coordinator

*NACCC mission statement: "To nurture fellowship among Congregational Christian Churches and to support ministries of the local church in its community and to the world, all in the name of Christ."*

Here we go! The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC) provides churches and donors with:

- Accountability for donated funds by vetting organizations and requiring updates from Global Mission Partners.
- Snapshot Brochures highlighting NACCC Global Mission Partners.
- A monthly E-blast and articles in The Congregationalist describing NACCC mission and church activities.
- A Quarterly News and Needs newsletter.
- Updated information on the NACCC website.
- A PowerPoint presentation with information about each mission, examples of churches reaching into their community, and updates on targeted appeals related to humanitarian needs.
- New opportunities to participate in MOMC-sponsored mission trips.
- Information for churches who wish to plan their own mission trip.
- Opportunities to respond to global disasters.
- Annual Meeting and Conference events to better acquaint attendees with mission activities, such as:
  - Display tables
  - Workshops
  - Mission Presentation times
  - Fellowship activities
  - Missionary Dinner with national and international speaker
  - Music and Missionaries



## Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read “Pillars of Faith” in October, the person was Bonnie Pappas. If you haven’t read this article in the church’s newsletter and you have a computer, you can find it at this web site: <https://www.fccmarshalltown.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Oct-2023-newsletter.pdf> Thanks Bonnie for all you do and have done!

One of the definitions of a pillar is: a person or thing regarded as reliably providing essential support for something. In the New King James Version of the Bible, Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” This gift of God is the reason the receivers of this gift want to be the hands and feet of Jesus on earth. So, with these two things in mind, we would like to present the “Pillar of Faith” for November.

This person, it seems, was destined to be a Congregationalist. The maternal Great Grandfather, who came from England, maternal Grandfather and Grandmother and Mother were all Congregationalists. The Mother grew up and belonged to the Congregational Church in Marshalltown, Iowa. However, this person was born in Marshalltown, Iowa and was baptized by Rev. Trickey at First Congregational Church in 1939. There were no confirmation classes at that time in our church history. So, this person was considered as belonging to the church with baptism, which means she has belonged for 84 years. At the age of 10 or 12 years she attended membership classes and with completion of these classes, “came in as a member of the church”.

She went to Sunday School on a regular basis and on Sunday nights participated in Junior and Senior Pilgrim Fellowship. The latter activity required participants to take turns, with their parents’ help, making sandwiches that were served to the whole group.

She grew up at a time when females were not allowed to participate in sports, for example, basketball. However, there was Church League Girls Basketball. Church attendance was required to participate, and it was held at the Y on Church Street just south of the Courthouse. This person was there playing basketball.

She taught third grade on Wednesday evening Church Night, was on the Board of Christian Education, Diaconate, Search Committee, Moderator twice, Cabinet member. On the national level (NACCCA) Year-Round Delegate and Board of Directors.

When asked what activity did you enjoy the most? She answered, “I really enjoyed being on the Diaconate. I learned a lot about service. I got the most out of it maybe because of where I was in my life. But truthfully, I enjoyed it all.

The advice she gives for the future of our church: “It is very important to remember that many Pillars of Faith before us have, through their generosity, provided what we now enjoy. Get involved! Serve!”

Now if you are wondering why this person’s name was not mentioned, it wasn’t a mistake. Can you guess who this person is? If not be sure and read your December newsletter. The answer will be there under the title “Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.”



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			
<b>color code:</b> youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards			<b>1</b> Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  Jr PY 4:45-6:15pm PY 6:30-8pm	<b>2</b> Bell choir practice 5:30	<b>3</b> Chancel choir practice 5:30	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour @ 9:15	<b>6</b> Women's Ministry 5:30pm	<b>7</b> DOG's 5-6:30 pm	<b>8</b> Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  Jr PY 4:45-6:15pm PY 6:30-8pm	<b>9</b> Bell choir practice 5:30	<b>10</b> Chancel choir practice 5:30	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour @ 9:15	<b>13</b> Women's Bible Study @ 5:30	<b>14</b> 8:45am BMC meet  DOG's 5-6:30 pm	<b>15</b> Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  Jr PY 4:45-6:15pm PY 6:30-8pm	<b>16</b> Bell choir practice 5:30  Trustees meet @ 7:00pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19 Harvest Dinner</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour @ 9:15 11:45am BCE	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Diaconate Meets 6:30 pm  DOG's 5-6:30 pm	<b>22</b> Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	<b>23</b>   Thanksgiving Office Closed	<b>24</b>   Office Closed	<b>25</b> 11am MOW Volunteer: Katie Lundberg
<b>26 Rich &amp; Kay Miller Todd -Guest speaker</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc	<b>27</b> Women's Bible Study @ 5:30	<b>28</b> DOG's 5-6:30 pm	<b>29</b> Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  Jr PY 4:45-6:15pm PY 6:30-8pm	<b>30</b> Bell choir practice 5:30	<b>31</b>	



First Congregational Church  
312 W. Main St.  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

web page: [www.fcmarshalltown.org](http://www.fcmarshalltown.org)  
the LOFT  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. All ages in  
Worship Services: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
641-752-4239  
Office hours 9 a.m. - noon Mon - Fri

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

