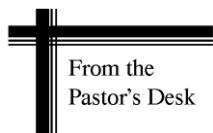


Pilgrim's Progress

June 2024

"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."



Happy Life

There is an orphanage in Kenya that provides medical care, food and housing, and education to children, many of them abandoned by parents that either do not care or cannot care for them. Led by Bishop Peter Ndungu and his wife, Faith, the mission enjoys an excellent reputation with the churches of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Peter and Faith will be our special guest speakers on Sunday, June 2nd at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Although it will be a busy weekend for many in the church, please be sure to give them a warm welcome and blessing as they travel back to Africa soon after visiting us. For more information, take a look at these websites.

<https://bishopeterndungu.org/>

<https://happylifemission.org/>

Shavot

Now that we've entered Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Calendar, we look at some of the sacred holidays to Judaism that speak to our faith as Christians. One of them is this month. It is "Shavot," and it begins at sunset on Tuesday, June 11 and ends at sunset on Thursday, June 13. The sacred season commemorates the Torah, the "books of Moses" that are the first five books of our Old Testament. It also calls us to reflect on the giving of the Ten Commandments. Much of the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament are, according to Christianity, are fulfilled in the perfect life of Jesus and no longer obligated for Christians, though they are still an option and have much to teach us. The Ten Commandments, however, are still in force and serve as a good template for Spirit filled living today. Do the Commandments give you joy or are they a burden. If the latter, it is time for prayer and careful introspection. If they are the former to you, congratulations, you are making progress. Take some time to reflect on these things during this sacred season and enjoy the Summer.

Annual Meeting of the Congregational Christian Churches

This year's annual meeting is in Spokane, Washington and you can watch it online. The registration page for the online attendance to the conference is as follows...

<https://www.naccc.org/events/2024-virtual-annual-meeting-conference/>

While donations are accepted, there is no cost to attend online.

Sermons-

June 2 The Ministry of Peter and Faith Happy Life Mission and Orphanage

June 9 The Weight of Glory 1 Chronicles 16:8-12; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1

June 16 Father's Day

Earthen Vessels Psalm 116:10-15; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

June 23rd Sermon by Rev. Harlan Nuss

June 30th TBA



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



Bickford: Joanie Smith-Legg #108,
Mill Pond Care Center: Romaine Mackaman
Veterans Home: Marian Gerdes
Southridge: Betty Runner #212,
Glenwood Place: Mildred Lathrop #145, Bonnie Pappas #112,
 Anita Niehouse #116, Elenor Tjossem #160
Willows of Marshalltown: Evelyn Thompson
Story County Medical Center: Lenora Brown



Dale & Patricia Wiese	June 8, 1957	(67)
Dave & Lynn Hall	June 14, 1974	(50)
Gary & Vicki McKibbin	June 17, 1967	(57)
David & Katie Peiffer	June 16, 2018	(6)
Robert & Jane Bauer	June 20, 1964	(60)
Pastor Dan & Jeanne Vellinga	June 20, 1981	(43)
Ron & Debi Estabrook	June 21, 1970	(54)
Wayne & Jonna Wagar	June 22, 1968	(56)
Stan & Georgia Thomas	June 27, 1987	(37)
Terry & Julie Paustian	June 29, 1974	(50)



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 28	Arch Allison
		June 30	Layla Wimberly -Kersbergen



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. We will now pick up and drop off the coolers and tubs for meal delivery at the hospital under the canopy by the entrance to the emergency room. The hospital has asked drivers not to park directly in front of the ER doors, and for no longer than 10 minutes. There should be enough room for two cars to fit under the canopy. This will be helpful during inclement weather, and it will allow the kitchen staff to keep an eye out for our arrival and return directly from their window. 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. Any questions please call me Kristi Hassler 641-753-3276 or Doris McCarty 641-752-7604.

The following Dates for 2024 are available! Thank You!

July 27	August 24	September 28
October 26	November 23	December 28



NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION JANUARY – APRIL 2023

We are approaching the halfway mark of 2024. 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.

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION THRU APRIL, 2024

After four months of 2024, we are behind budget by 18.5%
Below is the Actual and Budget numbers for our church through April. The Giving includes tithes and offerings. The Budget Expense values are those that have been budgeted through April for the church
The most important value is our tithes and offerings, which are behind budget by 18.5% through April.

January thru April 2024	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	44,704	54,832	-18.5%
EXPENSES	91,178	92,180	-1.1%

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](#).

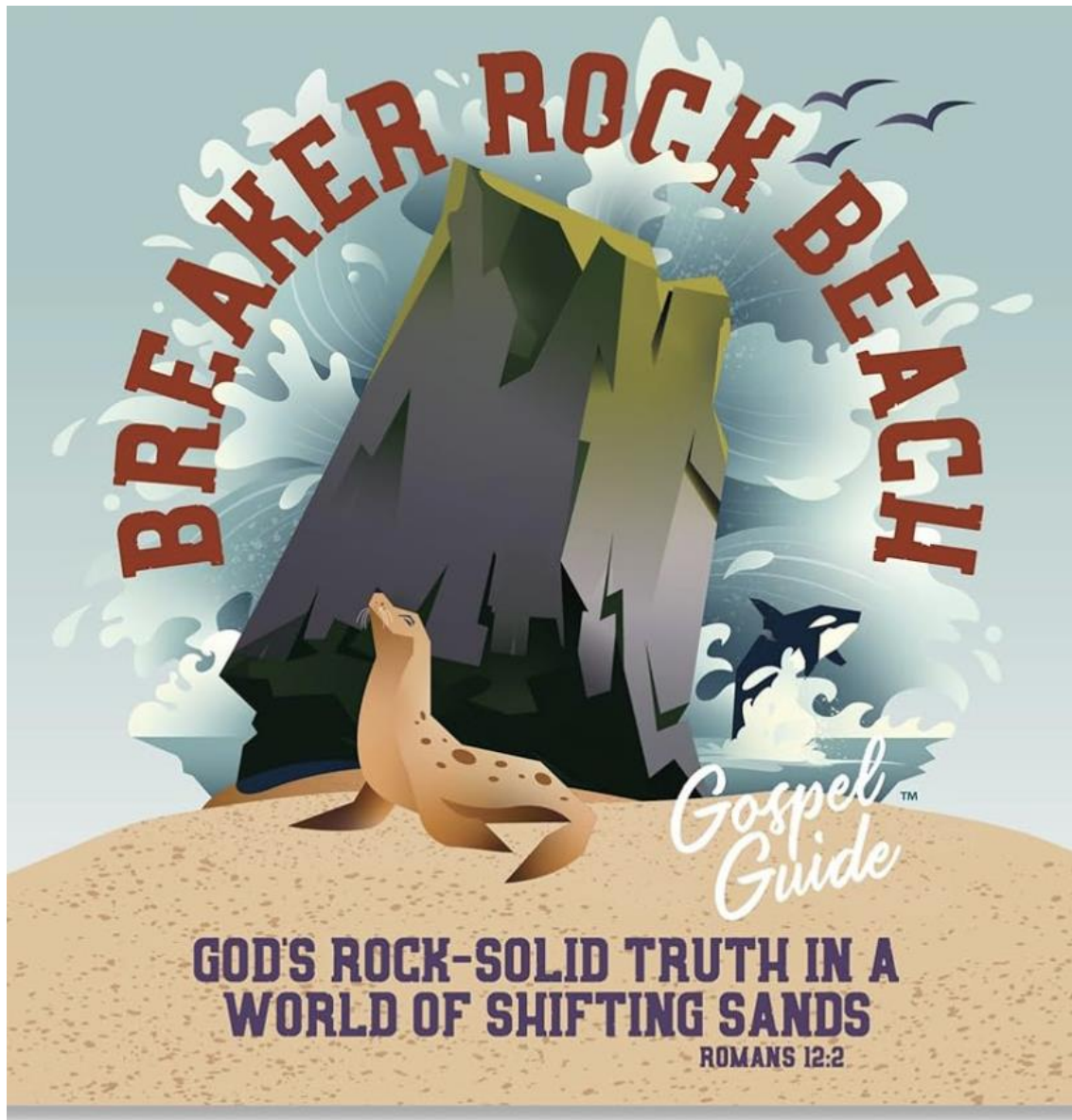
CAPITAL DONATIONS

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.

2024 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.



Get ready for a fun adventure at Breaker Rock Beach this summer at Vacation Bible School! First Congregational Church will be having VBS Sunday, July 28th-Thursday, August 1st. Kids at VBS will discover that God's truth never changes, everyone needs Jesus, and learn to speak the truth in love. We need lots of help to have VBS! Please contact Shelly Speas at 641-751-9868 or shellzncheese2004@yahoo.com and let her know where you would like to serve this year. We need craft leaders, Bible story leaders, games leaders, group leaders, music leaders, snack leaders, meal leaders, worship rally leaders, and people to help with registration and a decorating crew. God made us all with special gifts to share and we need your special gifts to make VBS a success!

Romans 12:2—"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."



News from Diaconate Board

We have some exciting events this summer to share with you.

June 23rd – Pastor Dan will be at the NACCC Annual Meeting in Spokane. Harlan Nuss will fill the pulpit that Sunday. Pastor Dan will also be gone June 30th. We are in the process of finding a pulpit replacement.

June 30th – We will have an ice cream social from 2-4 P.M. Lillie Mae will provide the ice cream. There will be other desserts there as well. Please, bring a friend. No charge.

July – date to be determined. We will have a hymn sing during the sermon time.

August 18th we will have our indoor potluck picnic BBQ. The Diaconate will furnish the pulled pork and baked beans. Please bring a salad or a dessert to share.

We continue to work on the church computer database membership. We have identified some members who are inactive and will be sending letter to them welcoming the back to church. The database is almost complete, we just need to follow up on a few members.

The Stamp Club has changed their parameters and are now sending birthday cards to all those over 20 as well as get well and sympathy as needed. We are also sending anniversary cards to all. We have expanded our monthly distribution to include our members at the Embers. We have 4 people that visit monthly to the assisted living and nursing home members as well as members who live away from the area but are in facilities.



Thank you, First Congregational Church members, for the donations to provide food for the many food pantries throughout Marshalltown. Also, a big thank you to Shelly and Avaya Speas, Mallory Fowler, Claire Meyer, and Savannah Piper for helping to deliver to several pantries on April 28th. Doing God's work was fun, and we hope we can do it again. The old Clifton's food cart will still be available in the Narthex to place any nonperishable food donations in. God id good!



OUR CHURCH HAS BEEN A BLESSING IN DEED!

The House of Compassions Supply Closet Drive 2024 officially ended Sunday, May 26, 2024.
WHAT A GREAT RESPONSE!

Thank you FCC congregation from the bottom of your Missions and Benevolence Committee members' hearts! HOC staff were very grateful and our neighbors in need will be even more so. If you made a financial contribution, we will be certain to report on that as soon as we receive word from our Church Treasurer.

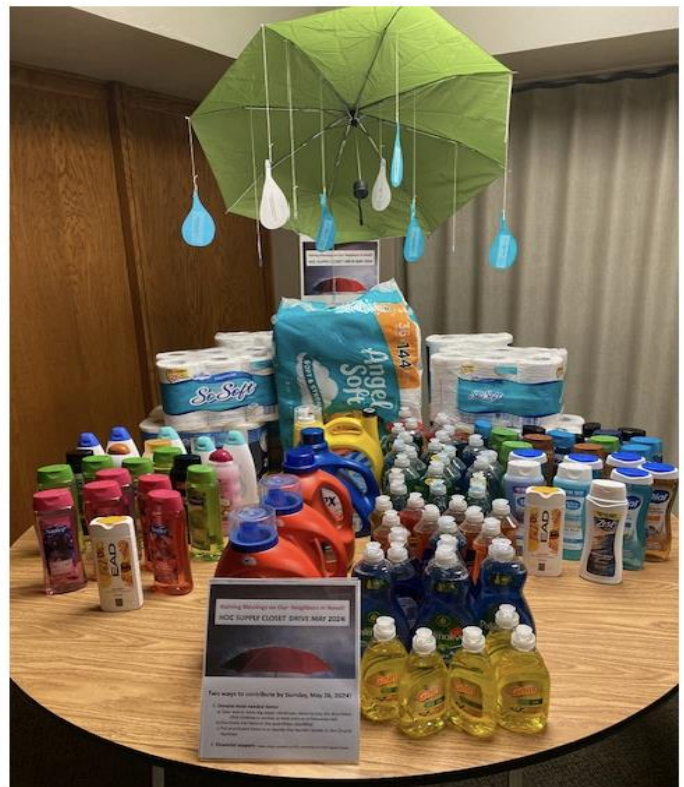
TOTAL DONATIONS FROM ALL OF YOU!!!

45 ten oz or bigger bottles of
BODY WASH

533 oz in 5 big bottles
LIQ. CLOTHES DETERGENT

45 ten oz or bigger bottles of
LIQUID DISH DETERGENT

104 rolls
TOILET PAPER



YOUTH GROUP NEWS



We took a group of youth to see "Unsung Hero" which is a movie based on the true story of the Smallbone family, two of which are the Christian singers of "For King and Country". It was a wonderful movie about faith and family.

At the beginning of May, the youth groups delivered May baskets to some of our church members.



On Mother's Day some of our youth made paper flowers during Power Hour and had a chocolate surprise they were able to give to their moms.



We had a great end of the school year party for Power Hour in May.

Graduation Sunday was a special time celebrating our high school and college graduates, Ian Meyer and Mackenzie Moyer.



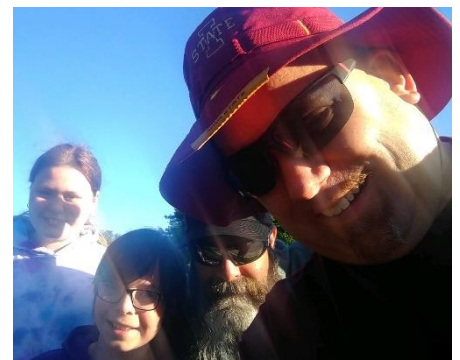
We had a wonderful time bowling at Wayward Social for our end of the school year party for PY & Jr PY.



We had a great time at Dreamland Park in Conrad, IA playing and having a picnic for our end of the school year party for DOG's.



Our youth group was honored to be able to put up American flags around Marshalltown for Memorial Day. We are thankful to have this fundraising opportunity through the Morning Optimist Club.



We have so much fun in our weekly youth activities growing in our faith with our awesome kids!



Our group of youth and leaders are preparing for an awesome national youth mission conference, NAPF/HOPE, in Spokane, Washington. One of our adult leaders, one of our college students and one of our high school students from our church are part of the planning team this year, and they have been prayerfully planning the conference all year with the Holy Spirit's guidance. They will be leaving early to the conference to get all the things ready for the rest of the youth and leaders coming from across the US. The rest of our church's six youth and leaders will be leaving on Friday, June 21st to head to the conference. We will be studying God's Word and doing mission work that will help people in the community. We are so grateful to our church's financial support and encouragement and we are so excited to go do the things God has for us in Spokane! Please pray with us as we continue to prepare to serve and grow.



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read "Pillars of Faith" in May, the person was Shelly Speas. 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/newsletter> Thanks, Shelly, for all you have done, do, and will do!

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 June.

This month's Pillar of Faith was born in Burlington, IA, which is on the Mississippi River and the county seat of Des Moines County. However, early in this person's life the family moved over 350 miles west, to the town called Lincoln in Nebraska. This happened because of a change of employment for the father. So most all of this person's education was received in Nebraska. Also, the family began regularly attending St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Lincoln.

After receiving his degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in December 1997, he and his wife found themselves in Iowa. He had landed a job at Emerson in Marshalltown. As this young family settled into Marshalltown living, his wife became a Girl Scout leader and their older child became a member of one of Miriam Bryant's classes at Elim Lutheran Daycare/Preschool. Some time in 2003 Sharon Propst, who was a Girl Scout leader with his wife, invited the family to The First Congregational Church. In November of 2003 they became members of the church.

Ron Ohrt, who was a member of F. C. C., found out somehow that this month's Pillar of Faith read music and had played in bell choir in Lincoln. This was the first activity of many he became involved in at F. C. C.. He was on the Board of Christian Education two terms and chairman for one of those terms. He was on the Diaconate for two terms and was chairman for one of those terms. He was on the Board of Trustees for two terms and chairman for one of those terms. He taught Primary Grade Sunday School with Julianne Packer, taught High School Sunday School with Nancy Grabe, and he helped Georgia Thomas teach Junior High Sunday School. He always helps with Vacation Bible School every summer too. He has served as a Confirmation Mentor four different times. He is on the Endowment Committee, which is a committee under the Trustees. He does "Sound Stuff" for church services and he was a part of the team for the Renewal Process at F. C. C..

When asked which one of all these important activities did you enjoyed most? He replied, "I enjoyed teaching children in Sunday School most! I enjoyed seeing the look on their faces when they finally GOT the concept that was presented to them."

When asked, "What advice do you have for the future of our church?" The conversation alluded to Matthew 22:36 - 39 (NKJV) 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Then the Pillar Faith for June replied, "We are all in this together! Treat everyone with love and compassion. Embrace them for who they are and then let God do the rest."

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 July news letter. The answer will be there under the title "Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C."



2024

FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

Sunday Worship Services:

8:00am & 10:30am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <div>Monday-Friday 9am-Noon 641-752-4239</div>						
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards						1
2 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Cabinet meets 12:00pm	3 Women's Ministry 5:30pm	4 May & June BCE meets @ 7 PM	5 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	6	7	8
9 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc	10 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm	11 8:45am BMC meet	12 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	13	14	15
16 Father's Day In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc	17	18	19 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Trustees meet @ 6:30 PM	20	21	22 11am MOW Volunteer: Katie Lundberg NACCC annual meeting in Spokane, WA
23 Guest Pulpit Harlan Nuss In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc NACCC annual meeting in Spokane, WA	24 NACCC annual meeting in Spokane, WA	25 NACCC annual meeting in Spokane, WA	26 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee NACCC annual meeting in Spokane, WA	27	28	29
30 Guest Speaker Jason Fath In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Ice Cream Social 2-4						



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

