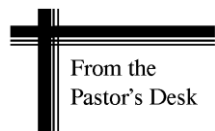


Pilgrim's Progress

July 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."



The Three Weeks

July 23-August 12, 13 The Fall of the Temple and the Exile of Israel

In the Jewish Calendar, this portion of Summer heralds the sad anniversary of the fall of Jerusalem to the empire of Babylon, recorded in 2 Kings 25. It begins on July 23 and goes through August 13 and is remembered with prayer and fasts. This is not to be confused with the fall of Jerusalem predicted by the Lord Jesus, and which took place in 70 AD. Remembering the fall of the Temple and the exile of the nation reminds us to bemoan violence, note that selfishness and sin lead to destruction and death, that the best of human endeavors are frail compared to eternity. But there is a positive note to consider. While the city of Jerusalem has fallen more than once during the course of history, there is a Jerusalem that has not, nor ever will fall. In Christ we have a place in that kingdom, whose citizenship is shared by all who follow Christ. Our plans can be like words written on sand at the seashore, but the plans of God will never fail. Take time to remember the fall, but also take time to ponder and rejoice in the present and future plan of our Savior, which will never fail.

Sermons-

July 7	Hearing the Holy Spirit	Acts 1:15-26; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16
July 14	Access	1 Timothy 2:1-7; 2 Chronicles 7:14
July 21	Victory	Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
July 28	Provision	Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34
August 4	Authority	Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21



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, Lenora Brown #161

Willows of Marshalltown: Evelyn Thompson





Bob & Judy Gaynor	July 1, 2006 (18)
Kirk & Cindy Shirar	July 6, 1991 (33)
John & Lisa Beaty	July 9, 2004 (12)
Nay & Nan Liew	July 12, 2010 (14)
Ken & Darcie Lunsford	July 14, 1984 (40)



July 4	Kaisa Stanley	July 20	Krystal Randall
July 5	Miriam Bryant, Dave Hall, Kim Schryver	July 22	Courtney Mentor
July 6	Bev Swenson	July 24	Max Meyer
July 8	Carlton Kothenbeutel, Mike Woltjer	July 26	Margaret Otte(105)
July 12	David Dickey	July 27	Larry Good, Danielle Propst
July 14	Al Hays	July 28	Mackenzie Moyer, Alicia Storjohann,
July 16	Gary Heggen	July 31	Matthew Dickey, Eleanor Rowden
July 19	Julie Squiers		



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!

August 24	September 28	October 26	November 23	December 28
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News from Diaconate Board

The Ice Cream Social was held from 2-4 P.M. on Sunday, June 30th. Thanks to Dorothy and Bing McHone and family for hosting the event. Next up is the second event for the summer. We will have a hymn sing during the sermon time on July 21st or 28th. We will communicate the exact date later. August 18th we will have the indoor potluck picnic. The Diaconate will furnish the pulled pork, buns and baked beans. We ask members to bring a salad or dessert.



NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION THRU MAY, 2024

After five months of 2024, we are behind budget by 18.2%.

Below is the Actual and Budget numbers for our church through May. The Giving includes tithes and offerings. The Budget Expense values are those that have been budgeted through May for the church. The most important value is out tithes and offerings, which are behind Budget by 18.2% through May.

January thru May 2024	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	56,051	68,540	-18.2%
EXPENSES	116,108	115,225	0.8%

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](#).



Women's Ministry

Monday. July 1 at 5:30 in the library. Join us to plan a casserole/soup making project.

Bible Study

Mondays July 8 and July 22 at 5:30 in the library.

We are continuing to study Spiritual Gifts.

Please join us anytime. Our hearts are open and welcome you.

Always praying for you,

Your First Congregational Women's Ministry



FCC PRIVILEGED TO LEARN FROM VISITING HAPPY LIFE MISSIONAIRES

From: Kim Schryver, Chair of Mission and Benevolence Committee, 7-24

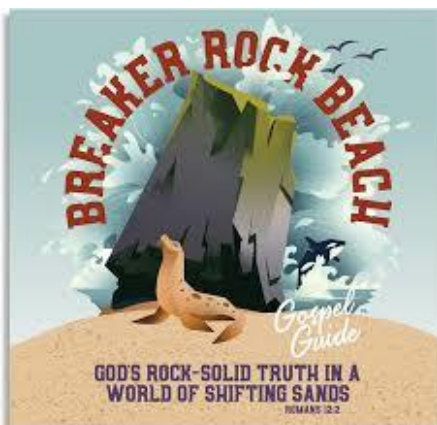
It is an honor to have the Reverends Miller-Todd worship with us regularly. Rev. Richard and wife, Rev. Katherine, have graciously filled our pulpit from time to time. As NACCC Mission and Outreach Representative, Rev. Rich made Pastor Dan aware that co-directors of a long-standing NACCC-partnered international mission were going to be in Iowa in late May. An ad hoc team of Moderator Miriam Bryant, the Board of Deacons (esp. Board Chair. Pat Anderson), Pastor Dan, the Miller-Todds, and the Schryvers scrambled to organize hospitality for the Ndungus over the Memorial Day weekend and coordinate a beautiful service during which the Ndungu's shared an impactful message inspiring faith and compassion among all who attended.



In June we were able to put up flags with our youth for Flag Day.



Our youth and leaders were blessed by our time in Spokane, Washington at the NAPF/HOPE mission conference this year! We were so happy to serve God through the mission work He had for us to do there and we grew in our understanding of what it means to persevere and nurture Godly character in our lives. We can't wait to share more about the experience on a Sunday coming up soon.



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, 5:30-8:15pm for ages 5-12. 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](tel:641-751-9868) or shellzncheese2004@yahoo.com and let her know where you would like to serve this year. We are still in need of helpers! God made us all with special gifts to share and we need your special gifts to make VBS a success!



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read "Pillars of Faith" in June, the person was Aaron Dickey. 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, Aaron, 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 July.

This month's Pillar of Faith came to Marshalltown from Linn County, Iowa where this person attended Eden United Church of Christ. The connection with First Congregational Church in Marshalltown began with a daughter, Lisa, being invited to be a member of Pilgrim Choir at the church. This choir was for young children. The daughter began to attend the Sunday School class for her age group. Not long after that, Al and Stella Storjohann, who lived in their neighborhood and were long time members of the church, invited Lisa's parent to come to an organ concert at church. This parent liked F. C. C. very much, "It felt like home!" and continued to attend, joining the church in April of 1982.

During the early 1980s when Rev. Richard was pastor of F. C. C., there was a "Clown Ministry" which was lead by Rev. Rich Miller Todd. This ministry was for children and adults who dressed up as clowns wearing traditional costumes and exaggerated makeup and carrying balloons. They presented Bible stories through mime at the church, in the community, in Iowa and as far away as Galesburg, Illinois. Our July Pillar of Faith was involved in this ministry and this was only the beginning. This Pillar also served on the Diaconate and the Music Committee. While on the Music Committee the current set of choir robes were purchased and this person was involved in the decision making. This person has been a crafter for the Women's group bazaars, a director for Children's Christmas programs and directed a Bible School play in conjunction with Central Christian Church. When "Heart Warmers" were first published, this person filled the orders by packing and shipping them. Other areas this person is or has been involved with at the church are: the social group, "Come Double", flowers on the altar each Sunday, seasonal decorating of the church, Choir and Bell Choir. She has also been, many times, soloist for "Special Music" at the 10:30 church service.

When asked which activity she enjoyed the most, the reply was: "It is a toss up between bells and singing!"

The advice this person has for the future of our church is: "I don't know how to make it happen, but we need to get younger families in our church, **Because** younger families are the future of our church!"

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 August 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
 <p>Monday-Friday 9am-Noon 641-752-4239</p>						
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards	1 Women's Ministry 5:30PM	2	3 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	4	5	6
7 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc	8 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm	9 BMC meets 8:45 AM	10 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	11	12	13
14 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc	15	16	17 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	18	19	20
21 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc BCE 11:45 AM	22 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm	23	24 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Trustees meet @ 6:30 PM	25	26	27 11am MOW Volunteer: Wager's
28 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Vacation Bible School	29 Vacation Bible School	30 Vacation Bible School	31 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Vacation Bible School	Vacation Bible School		



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

