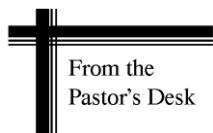


Pilgrim's Progress

August 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."



From the
Pastor's Desk

A Sabbath, according to Judaism, is a sacred time between sundown on Friday and sundown on Saturday. It is a day of worship and rest, enshrined in the Ten Commandments. The first set of the Ten

Commandments, in Exodus 20, says this about the Sabbath:

Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work; you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

God didn't rest on the seventh day because He was tired, He did so to enshrine that we took time to rest for ourselves and that we respected rest for others as well. It reminds us that we are created, and accountable to a Creator, and that there is much more to life than doing a job. There must be time to reflect, relax and pray.

But the Ten Commandments were reviewed by Moses in Deuteronomy 5, with a slight change regarding Sabbaths. Verses 13 & 14 are similar to what was written in Exodus, but then there is verse 15:

Deuteronomy 5:15 "And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day."

Here the motivation for Sabbath is to remember our freedom and cherish it. Our slavery, according to the Bible, is more/spiritual. Before Christ we were slaves to sin and bound by it. But Sabbath reminds us all that there are people still in slavery, and we must never be complacent about it. Sabbath is about rest, certainly, and for Christian it is Sunday, the day of Resurrection. But Sabbath is also about rest, for us and for others and that no one should live a life with no rest, freedom or joy.

Sermons-

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| August 4 | Authority | Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21 |
| August 11 | Setting the Mind | Colossians 3:2-4; Matthew 6:19-21 |
| August 18 | Bread from Heaven | Exodus 16:14-35; John 6:51-58 |
| August 25 | To Be Announced | |



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

Cross Creek in Lee's Summit, MO: Vicki Long



| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Don & Kayla Bogenrief | August 6, 1977 | 45 years |
| Max & Liz Meyer | August 10, 1971 | 51 years |
| Mike & Cherryl Woltjer | August 11, 1984 | 38 years |
| Matt & Kim Schryver | August 16, 1975 | 47 years |
| Sam & Shelly Speas | August 19, 2006 | 16 years |
| Tom & Jane Adams | August 24, 1968 | 54 years |
| Paul & Julianne Packer | August 29, 1975 | 47 years |



| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| August 2 | Lydia Speas | August 16 | Tyler Randall |
| August 3 | Bonnie Pappas | August 20 | Lynn Maas |
| August 6 | Vicki Long | August 22 | Tom Adams |
| August 8 | Anna Wolvers | August 23 | Romaine Mackaman |
| August 9 | Jane Adams | August 24 | Jacob Shirar |
| August 13 | Donn Anderson, Dan Propst | August 29 | Carol Stanley |
| August 15 | Judy Hays | | |



Meals On Wheels



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!

October 26

November 23

December 28

**SPENCER, IA AREA FLOOD VICTIM BLITZ RELIEF
EFFORT - THANK YOU, FCC!!!!**



Among the most remarkable donations came from an anonymous donor. A plastic bin filled with handmade Afghans (about 10 in number) was left in the car port breezeway last month. The Mission and Benevolence Committee was given authority to pass these on to people who need them. Imagine the appreciation of those whose entire collection of bedding has been saturated by dirty, microbe infected flood waters. This surely was a Godsend.

The fund drive was adopted not just by our church but by our national and regional associations as well. A One Great Hour of Sharing initiative was launched by the NACCC across the nation earlier this month. Our contribution will be added to the NACCC initiative total. You all have made such a difference.

Hebrews 13:16



**Greenfield, IA Tornado
Victims
Receive Relief in \$2000
Donation from FCC Mission
and
Benevolence Committee and
A Private Donation**

Hudson Vanatta, 6, is seated on the steps of a home that has been destroyed in Greenfield, while his father assists with firefighting duties.



Images from <https://www.foxweather.com/weather-news/greenfield-iowa-tornado-damage>

We just want you to know...Recognizing the challenge in Greenfield, IA, as well as Clay County (Spencer, IA), FCC Missions and Benevolence Committee voted unanimously to donate \$1000 to tornado damage clean up and restoration of Greenfield. Others in the congregation voluntarily kicked in additional funds.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS



The youth had the honor and privilege to be able to do flags on the 4th of July around Marshalltown. We are blessed to have this opportunity as a youth fundraiser by the Morning Optimist Club. We are so grateful for our drivers, Greg Meyer, James Swope, and Patrick Stewart who make it possible to have more routes!

Sunday, August 11th at 9:30am in the Loft there will be a meeting with the youth 11-12th grade to discuss the Youth Rally Day Service to decide the theme and make plans for the September service. All our youth K-12th grades are invited to be a part of the youth service and we will have practice dates TBD in August and September to get ready for the service. The Youth Rally Day Service will be on a Sunday in September to be decided soon.



The ice cream social was a wonderful time of fellowship with our church family on June 30th!





Benevolence and Mission's



Just when I think it's time to put away the 'ole Clifton's Cart, we were blessed with enough food items to put in 3 "mini pantries". Thank you! Thank you! This is the time of year when school is out and there are more mouths to feed at home and the food dollar is stretched thin. Every little bit helps! My granddaughter, Naomi, helped in June to distribute the donated goods while visiting. God is good! Thank you for your blessings.

– Kristi Hassler and Doris MCCarty
Members of Benevolence and Missions Committee



News from Diaconate Board

The Diaconate holds an activity each month during the summer to keep people connected. This summer we had/have some activities we think people will like. If you have ideas for next year, please let a Deacon know.

The Diaconate held an outside Ice Cream Social in June. Thanks to Dorothy and Bing McHone for organizing that. People were urged to invite a friend. According to a survey, 86% of the people that joined a church were because a friend had invited them. We had about 85 people attend for the whole 2 hours of the Ice Cream Social in perfect summer weather.

We held a hymn sing on July 28th. By all accounts that went very well. The Music Committee picked out the hymns and Pastor Dan gave a little history about each one. Next up is our activity for August. We will have an indoor barbecue potluck lunch following church on the 18th. Kristi and Rod Hassler are chairing this event. The Diaconate will furnish the pulled pork, buns, baked beans and condiments. We are asking the individuals to bring a salad or dessert.

The Diaconate has June and July off. We begin meeting the 3rd Tuesday of August to prepare for the fall season.



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read “Pillars of Faith” in July, the person was Lynn Maas. 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, Lynn, 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 August.

This Pillar of Faith was born in Oregon, lived in South West Iowa and graduated from college. In the summer of 1963, this person secured a job in South Bend, Indiana. After a couple of years, this job did not meet expectations and so the search for a different job began. A favorite verse of this Pillar of Faith’s is: Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (NKJV) A job that turned out to be a good fit was in Marshalltown, Iowa at Fisher Controls.

After moving to Marshalltown, this young family began looking for a church to attend. They attended several churches and the First Congregational Church was one of them. They liked the setting at F. C. C., the people, they were friendly and the order of the service. They became regular attenders and joined the church in 1965. Belonging to a church leads to service in different capacities and that is what happened next.

This person’s wife got involved in teaching Sunday School because this couple’s children were attending each Sunday. The Pillar of Faith for this month helped his wife sometimes as she taught the class. He is grateful for the opportunity that God gave him to develop the skills and ability to serve Him in the following situations. He was a member of the diaconate and remembers calling people to help with ushering and fellowship time. Next he was on the Board of Trustees and served from 2005 - 2018. He was on the Endowment Committee through 2020 and served as the chairman after Rachel Mason retired from that duty. He served on the Cabinet as a Member at Large. He also helped to update the By-Laws of the Church. They also attended Cum Double, which was a social group that met once a month.

When asked which activity he enjoyed most the reply was, “The Trustees with the project management, long range planning and finance. As a project manager, some memorable projects were the Loft remodel, air conditioning of the lower level and exterior tuckpointing.”

When asked what advice do you have for the future of our church the reply was, "A quarterly report to the congregation, would be helpful, of what is occurring as a result of our Vision to Mission work and what is planned in the near future. Also more utilization of the Loft to bring in young families."

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 September newsletter. The answer will be there under the title "Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C."



Nichole and John Kersbergen are happy to announce the birth of their son and new addition to the family, Reginald James born on June 18th. Reggie's siblings Layla and Raymond are so happy to have a little brother. Grandparents Jody Brintnall and James Swope along with all of Reggie's aunts, uncles, and cousins are so excited to have this little blessing from God!





Mon, Sep 2, 2024

Labor Day marks the day in 1894 that Congress declared the first Monday in September a national holiday to honor the nation's workers and their contributions to the well-being of the country.



We will have an indoor barbecue potluck lunch following church on the 18th. Kristi and Rod Hassler are chairing this event. The Diaconate will furnish the pulled pork, buns, baked beans and condiments. We are asking the individuals to bring a salad or dessert.



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 Vacation Bible School | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Cabinet Meeting 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 | 12 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm | 13 BMC meets 8:45 AM | 14 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc BCE 11:45 AM Potluck Picnic | 19 | 20 Diaconate meets 6:30 PM | 21 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee | 22 | 23 | 24 11am MOW Volunteer: Doris McCarty |
| 25 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc | 26 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm | 27 | 28 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Trustees meet @ 7 PM | 29 | 30 | 31 |



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

