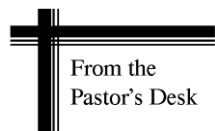


Pilgrim's Progress

September 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."



VBS thanks

Thank you, thank you and thank you to the many volunteers who helped sustain our reputation as having one of the best Vacation Bible Schools in Marshalltown. While many of the children who participated came from families that are involved in another church, there were still plenty who came who were part of a family that has yet to choose a church home. So this was a wonderful opportunity to teach the next generation the truth of Jesus Christ. The amount of effort given for every one of the five days of VBS was terrific, with volunteers cooking, teaching, leading groups, helping with crafts and games was terrific. To get an idea of the effort, I figure roughly thirty volunteers (these are round numbers) devoted at least three hours each during five evenings. That's 450 volunteer hours, not including work done by people before and after the VBS. Not every church is able to do a Vacation Bible School but we had ours and it turned out to be one of the highlights of the year. Again, thank you so much to everyone who helped out this year.

Sermons-

September 1	Lord of the Sabbath	Mark 2:23-28; 1 Samuel 21:1-6
September 8	Treasure in Heaven	Mark 10:1-22; Exodus 20:12-16
September 15	Kingdoms and Mustard Seeds	Mark 4:30-32; Hosea 14:4-7
September 22	Rally Sunday	
September 29	The Cup	Mark 14:32-38; Hebrews 5:7-10



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, Anita Niehouse #116,
Elenor Tjossem #160, Lenora Brown #161

Green Hills in Ames: Evelyn Thompson

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





Jennifer Allison & Merrill Swartz	September 12, 1998	26 years
Bob & Linda McGregor	September 16, 1972	52 years
John & Lisa Blabaum	September 28, 1996	28 years
Donn & Pat Anderson	September 29, 1984	40 years
Larry & Sam Good	September 30, 1967	57 years



September 5	Joan Fry	September 19	Jane Benbow
September 6	Ian Meyer	September 21	Kolleen Shollenbarger
September 11	Jeanie Burt	September 22	Darcie Lunsford
September 13	Pastor Dan	September 23	Carol Edeker
September 16	Emily Carson,	September 24	Wayne Wagar
	Troy McGahuey	September 30	Jeremy Lavender
September 17	Kathaleen Hale		



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.

2024 Is Full. Thank you to all! 2025 list is posted with full opening!



YOUTH GROUP NEWS



We took a few of our youth to the movies in August to see the Sound of Hope. It was an inspiring movie based on a true story of Possum Trot, a town in East Texas. A church there came together to spread God's love and embraced kids in the foster system and 22 families adopted 77 children.

We were blessed to serve about 50 kids at Vacation Bible School at FCC. It takes a lot of people working together using the skills and talents God gave them to be able to have VBS and we had around 30 volunteers. We had an evening VBS for 5 days and served a meal to start each night. We used Lifeway's VBS called Breaker Rock Beach this year with the theme taken from Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."



Our young people are excitedly making plans and working hard to get ready for the Rally Day Youth Service which will be Sunday, September 22nd during the 8am & 10:30am services. You won't want to miss the wonderful service where they will be sharing the gifts that God gave them and His Word with our church!



News from Diaconate Board

The last of the summer special events held by the Diaconate was the indoor potluck BBQ. We had a great time and the food was wonderful. We had the ice cream social in June, the hymn sing in July and the BBQ picnic in August.

We will start forming a sub-committee in September to plan for the Harvest Dinner. Jane VerMulm will chair that activity.

Rally Sunday, led by the youth of our church will be Sunday, September 22nd.



Women' Ministry

Monday September 23 will be an all church yard "tidy up" before the Oktoberfest weekend instead of Bible Study. We will meet at 5:30 and do what can be done by 7:00 p. m. Please bring the tools you like to use. Julie will have bags for refuse.

Goals are similar to previous times:

- Pull errant weeds in all flower beds.
- Trim scraggly bushes.
- Update the crabapple trim.
- Tame unwanted growth in the parking lot, sidewalk cracks, along the west side retaining walls, and the curbs.

General fall trimming is needed.

Thank you to everyone who can help!

~Prayers for you always from your Women's Ministry



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read “Pillars of Faith” in August, the person was Al Hays. 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, Al, 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 September.

A favorite hymn of this month’s Pillar of Faith is “It Is Well With My Soul” which starts like this:

“When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrow like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.”

This person grew up in the First Congregational Church in Mason City, Iowa. This church had a phenomenal heritage of faith and music. It was the home church of Meredith Willson. So it is not surprising that this church had four choirs, Cherub, Elementary, Junior High and Adult. Our Pillar of Faith sang in every one of them and was the accompanist for the Elementary and Junior High choirs.

Next, this person graduated Iowa State with a teaching degree and began teaching 6th grade in Tama County, Iowa in 1972. The initial visit to First Congregational Church of Marshalltown was 50 years ago after the couple’s wedding in 1974. They were drawn to this church by the Pillar of Faith’s Congregational Heritage. They stayed because of Dr. Shelton, Ernie & Alice Groff and Bob & Helen Emick and the music ministry. The couple sang in the choir beginning with director, Elizabeth Bakehouse.

Our Pillar of Faith and her spouse attended the First International Fellowship of Congregational Churches at King’s College in London in 1977. They were in the company of Gary Pierce, Ed and Virginia Adams, Florence Trey, Catherine McGregor, and Vern McGrew. They also became acquainted with Max Strang, John Alexander and David Henry Gray’s son. Their culminating worship service at Westminster Abbey was historic. Their Pilgrim Fathers’ day trip excursions during the fellowship meetings acquainted them with locations significant in our church history including Scrooby, Gainsborough and Lincoln outside of London. Those same places were significant in the lives of several of her ancestors. The fellowship’s point of departure for the entire trip was Leyden, Netherlands from where the Separatists departed eventually on the Mayflower to the New World. She is one of many 10th great granddaughters of William Brewster who was the Spiritual leader for the the Separatists from England to Leyden to the New World. The Congregational Church of the New World begins here.



In the years since that first visit to F. C. C. her children were baptized. She has taught Sunday School, lead Youth Night, directed the Children’s Choir and taught Bible School. She served on the Board of Christian Education, Music Committee (formally known as the Music Board) and the Missions and Benevolence Committee (formally known as the Benevolence Board) . She was also Church Moderator for two years. She is currently a part of the Women’s Ministry group, Bible Study, Chancel Choir, Bell Choir and the Board of Christian Education.





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 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc	2 Labor Day  OFFICE CLOSED	3	4 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	5	6	7
8 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc	9 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm	10 BMC meets 8:45 AM	11 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	12	13	14
15 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc BCE 11:45 AM	16	17 Diaconate meets 6:30 PM	18 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	19	20	21
22 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Rally Sunday	23 Women's group yard cleaning 5:30-7! All invited	24	25 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Trustees meet @ 7 PM	26	27	28 11am MOW Volunteer: Kim Schryver
29 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15AM	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.fccmarshalltown.org

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian
Churches

