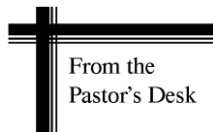


Pilgrim's Progress

October 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

Devotional

There are three sacred Biblical events in October, Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and Sukkot.

Rosh Hashana (the Feast of Trumpets) Adam & Eve

Rosh Hashana is also known as the Feast of Trumpets, emphasizes Creation, the fact that we have a Creator and Adam and Eve. You can read about it in Leviticus 23:23-25 and in Numbers 29:1-6. It serves as the beginning of the New Year for the Hebrew Calendar and is a time to review the past, consider the future and for the people of God to present themselves for His inspection and favor. It begins the evening of Wednesday, October 2nd and ends at the evening of Friday, October 4. It leads right into the next sacred day.

Yom Kippur-the Day of Atonement

This extremely important day begins the evening of Friday, October 11 and ends at sundown of the next day. It starts one week after Rosh Hashana ends and is the day in which the ancient Hebrew priests gave sacrifices to atone for their sins and for the sins of the nation. This year, it also happens to fall on the Fall Meeting of the Iowa Nebraska Association of Congregational Christian Churches in Lamoille. The Bible speaks of Yom Kippur in several places, including Leviticus 16;23-26;Numbers 29:7-11; Romans 3:24-26; Hebrews 9:7, 10:3, 19,22.

Sukkot (the Feast of Booths)

People also know this feast as the Feast of Tabernacles, and observant Jews still camp on their apartment balconies and turn off their phones and dedicate this time for prayer and to fellowship with family. It reminds us of the temporary nature of the physical world. You can read of it in several places in the Bible, including Exodus 23:16, 24:22; Leviticus 23:33-43; Numbers 29:12-34; Deuteronomy 16:13-15; Zechariah 14:16-19; John 7:2, 37. This feast begins at Sunset on Wednesday, October 17, and ends at Sunset on Wednesday, October 23.

Events of October

October looks to be a busy month at our church. Now that we have another wonderful Rally Sunday behind us, Sunday School, children's ministry and Youth Groups will begin in earnest. The Adult Bible Study continues with our study of the Book of Galatians, the book that is all about what it means to be "crucified with Christ." Women's Ministry and Bible Study will continue on designated Monday evenings. Cabinet will meet right after church on October 7. A few days later, the Fall Meeting of the Iowa Nebraska Association of Congregational Christian Churches will meet starting on Friday, October 11 for a time of fellowship and then continuing with light refreshments on Saturday, October 12, following with worship, the business of the state association, possible mission projects, lunch and Holy Communion. We meet twice a year, usually with a modest registration fee of \$10 or so. Here's why it is important. Congregational churches have much freedom from overbearing governmental

structures that trouble congregations of other denominations, but there is a challenge in that. Congregational churches can be tempted to be completely independent, with no fellowship with like-minded congregations elsewhere. This can lead to a myopic vision that revolves around our fellowship and no one else. This fellowship allows us insight and contacts with Christians in Congregational Churches scattered though Iowa and Nebraska and when we bind together, we can pursue projects that would be too much for a single congregation. We also get good ideas about what is working in other churches. This Fall the meeting is just a few miles away and this would be a great opportunity to come and see what is happening.

Sermons-

October 7	"When God is not Approachable"	Leviticus 10:1-7; Acts 5:1-11
October 13	"The Day of Atonement"	Leviticus 16:17-20; Hebrews 9:23-28
October 20	"Love Your Neighbor as Yourself"	Leviticus 19:16-19; Mark 12:28-31
October 27	"A Better Covenant"	Jeremiah 31:7-9; Hebrews 7:23-28



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



Arch & Julie Allison	October 10, 1998	26 years
James & Katie Lundberg	October 17, 2009	15 years
Greg & Kristin Meyer	October 18, 2003	21 years
Tracy & Lori Wildman	October 20, 1979	45 years
Dan & Sharon Propst	October 20, 1980	44 years
Doug & Krystal Randall	October 27, 1984	40 years
Bob & Shirley Nott	October 29, 1949	75 years
John & Nichole Kersbergen	October 30, 2021	3 years



October 1	Julie Lavender	October 18	Melanie Brandt
October 6	Julianne Packer	October 20	Joan Smith-Legg
October 8	LaRae McGahuey, Cheryl Woltjer	October 22	Destiny Gepford
October 10	Gary McKibbin	October 23	Lori Wildman
October 12	Bob McGregor, Mallory Fowler	October 26	Steve Storjohann
October 13	Nan Tha Zin Win	October 27	Hannah Shirar, Leiah Paustian
October 14	Bob Hibbs	October 28	Mason Moyer
October 15	Lincoln Lavender	October 29	John Blabaum, Bob Nott, Jonathan Tuttle
October 17	Bill Maas		



CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION THRU AUGUST, 2024

After eight months of 2024, we are behind budget by 18.7%.

Below is the Actual and Budget numbers for our church through August. The Giving includes tithes and offerings. The Budget Expense values are those that have been budgeted through August for the church

The most important value is our tithes and offerings, which are behind budget by 18.7% through August.

January thru August 2024	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	88,574	108,964	-18.7%
EXPENSES	193,360	154,360	25.3%



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 are very excited for our weekly youth activities to begin again for this school year where we will be growing in our understanding of God's Word and our Savior Jesus.

D.O.G.'s (Depend on God) is a group for K-4th grade kids on Tuesday nights from 5-6:30pm with a meal.

Jr. P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) is a group for 5-8th grade youth on Wednesday nights from 5-6:30pm with a meal.

P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) is a group for 9-12th grade youth on Wednesday nights from 6:15-8pm with a meal.

Power Hour is a group for K-12th grade youth on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:20am.

Part of our weekly youth ministry is providing transportation for some of our students to and from youth groups in our church van and we are in need of members who can pick up and drop off our students in between groups on Wednesday nights. If you are able to help in this way please contact Shelly Speas: shellzncheese2004@yahoo.com or 641-751-9868.

Another part of our weekly youth ministry is providing meals on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. We are in need meals. If you would like to help by providing a meal please contact Shelly Speas. There are many ways this can be done either by cooking and serving a meal, dropping off a meal for our youth leaders to be able to serve, or someone could even give a monetary donation for a meal. We are so grateful to our wonderful church family and their encouragement and support of the youth ministry!

October:

Power Hour – 6th, Kickoff morning with a breakfast provided, 13th, 20th, 27th

DOG's – 1st -Kickoff Night, 8th, 15th, 22nd, No group the 29th

Jr PY & PY – 2nd –Kickoff Night, 9th, 16th, 23th, No group the 30th

Sunday, October 13th we will have a trip to Appleberry Farm with K-4th grade kids. Details TBA.

Sunday, October 27th we will have a trip to Center Grove Orchard with 5-8th grade kids. Details TBA.

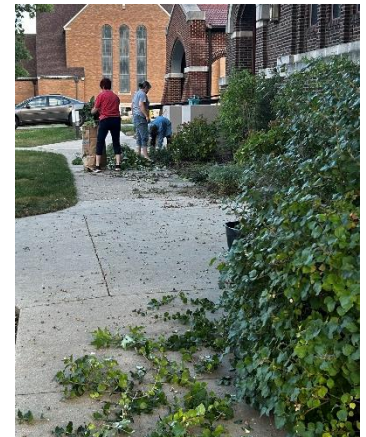
We had a bleach tie dye night where the youth leading the Youth Service made t-shirts to wear for Rally Day.



What a special Rally Day youth service we had on Sunday, September 22nd where our kids shared many musical talents, skits, dances, and messages that gave glory to God and strengthened our faith in Jesus.



The Women's Ministry hosted a yard clean up night and were so happy to get some much needed yard work done around the church.



The youth group was honored to put up American flags on Labor Day around our community. They are grateful to the Morning Optimist Club to provide this fundraiser for our youth.

We had a fun trip to Adventureland with our youth groups!



News from Diaconate Board

The last of the summer special events held by the Diaconate was the indoor potluck We held a successful indoor BBQ picnic in August. We welcome suggestions as to summer activities. We welcomed Diane Speas as a new member. Diane has been active with the youth activities of our church. She's the mother of Sam Speas. We have begun the planning stages for the Harvest Dinner in November. It doesn't seem possible that is right around the corner.



Moderator News

The October meeting of your Cabinet is Sunday, October 6. Reports from our Boards & Committees will be presented and discussed. Please refer to your Blue Books listing to contact any committee member or chair for comments or questions.

The By-Laws Committee will report progress on its review of the current version of the by-law. The entire set of By-Laws is being looked at during the meetings held weekly (as much as possible) in the church library. The members of the committee are: Pastor Dan, Miriam Bryant – moderator, Lisa Blabaum – cabinet at large, Deb Estabrook – member at large, Aaron Dickey- Endowment Committee & sight and sound manager.

We urge everyone to read the By-Laws and add your insights/ comments to a member of the By-Law committee as your board or committee chair. Our plan is to be as thorough as possible over the next semester months. A report will be given monthly in the newsletter. At this time, we are not expecting to be finished by the Annual Meeting but will be able to give a report of our work to the congregation.

The next Cabinet meeting is November 2.

- Miriam Bryant, Moderator



Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry will meet October 7 at 5:30 in the Fellowship Room.

Bible Study with Jane will be October 14 and October 28 at 5:30 in the library. We are starting a new topic: The Twelve Disciples. We have a book and a chair waiting just for you.

Your Women's Ministry always holds you in prayer. See you soon!

Benevolence and Missions Committee

Pastor's Discretionary Fund – Putting Our Faith Into Action

Your committee has been actively supporting needs within our church membership and within our community during August and September. One important decision we wanted to share with you is our decision to donate \$1000 to FCC Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

What is the Pastor's Discretionary Fund?

When disasters beset people within our community – e.g. fire, catastrophic illness, natural disasters, it is not unusual that they experience extreme financial hardship in trying to meet immediate needs for food, shelter, clothing, and transportation. Decades ago, members of the congregation suggested a fund be established to enable an expedited emergency response to needs within the community of Marshalltown, whether or not they are members of the congregation. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund was established and through the years fellow FCC Marshalltown congregants have continued to donate intermittently to this fund. Missions and Benevolence Committee has also helped support the fund through occasional donations from our committee budget. The advantages of this system include:

Prompt action – eliminates the time needed to a committee meet, research and approve such emergency responses.

Flexibility – every emergency creates its own wake of needs affecting each person or family uniquely; our pastor acts as a committee of one to quickly assess and complete the most cogent response.

Confidentiality – recipients of this charitable support are not identified by name; our pastor is the only person who interfaces with the person or people in need.

Accountability – while names are not reported, Pastor Dan does maintain a checkbook for this account and all activity is reported regularly to the Missions and Benevolence Committee. A report of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund contributions, disbursements and the nature of these disbursements is a routine item on Benevolence and Missions Committee monthly meeting agendas. There is a written church policy regarding accountability for this fund, and our Financial Review Committee double checks the transaction records and reports annually.

While the help provided is not large, the \$50 or \$100 gift cards from local groceries or gas stations and other support financed through the Pastor's Discretionary Fund can make a real difference to those with immediate need for help. We wanted to remind all of you that FCC is making a difference in the lives of those with unanticipated hardship. If you would like to participate in helping your community in this way, we encourage you to consider making a donation to "FCC Pastor's Discretionary Fund."



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read "Pillars of Faith" in September, the person was Julie Paustian. 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, Julie, 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 October.

It all began in Marshalltown, Iowa. This month's Pillar of Faith had Grand Parents who were members of the First Congregational Church and were married in the church. Also this person's parents were members of this church and were married in the church. So this person, it seems, was born to be a Congregationalist.

Growing up in the church this person went to Sunday School and sang in the children's choir under the direction of Virginia Adams. Youth group was also attended by this person and she went on many of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches annual meetings, in different parts of the country with the youth group. This Pillar of Faith went through Confirmation Class with Pastor Sheldon in 1976 and has belonged to the church for 66 years. She has played in bell choir since Junior High School. The only time she didn't live in Marshalltown was when she was in college at Iowa State.

When asked what activity she enjoyed the most? The reply was, "I truly enjoy being treasurer. She has been Church Treasurer since 1994. I am able to know church members on a more personal level. When they don't understand something about their giving they ask me for help. I enjoy helping them." She also added, "I like playing music too! It is fun to play the saxophone with my grandchildren and encourage them in their playing."

When asked what advice do you have for the Church? The reply was, "I want the church to grow! We need to encourage, lift up each other and become a family in the eyes of God. We need to take the time to check in on each other."

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





Pastor Appreciation Month is celebrated in October, with the second Sunday of the month designated as Pastor Appreciation Day. The month was established in 1992 to recognize and show appreciation for the work of pastors, missionaries, and other religious workers.



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 DOGS 5-6:30pm	2 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Jr PY 5-6:30pm PY 6:15-8pm	3 Bell Choir practice 5:30pm	4	5
6 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15-10:20am Cabinet meeting 11:45am	7 Women's Ministry 5:30pm	8 DOGS 5-6:30pm BMC meets 8:45am	9 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Jr PY 5-6:30pm PY 6:15-8pm	10 Bell Choir practice 5:30pm	11 IA/Neb Fall meeting in Lamoille, IA	12 IA/Neb Fall meeting in Lamoille, IA
13 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15-10:20am	14 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm	15 DOGS 5-6:30pm Diaconate meets 6:30 PM	16 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Jr PY 5-6:30pm PY 6:15-8pm	17 Bell Choir practice 5:30pm Trustees meet 6:30 PM	18	19
20 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15-10:20am BCE 11:45am	21	22 DOGS 5-6:30pm	23 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Jr PY 5-6:30pm PY 6:15-8pm	24 Bell Choir practice 5:30pm	25	26 11am MOW Volunteer: Jullie Allison
27 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15-10:20am	28 Women's Bible Study 5:30pm	29	30 Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	31 Happy Halloween! 		



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

