

THE BELL

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Gathered 1632

Vision Statement

Growing in faith by...worshipping God, loving all, joyfully serving others

Covenant – We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the word and the will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for the truth, justice and peace. As did those who came before, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

Number 320 JULY/ AUGUST 2020

EXPLORING GOD'S CREATION

The summertime comes as a welcome change for many, if not all of us. The pandemic has kept us hunkered down so long that it likely has been a challenge to get much beyond our own yards, let alone explore. But as these summer days keep kicking in, we may more and more have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty and wonder of God's creation outdoors. From the rippling waves of the beach to the hikes in the woods, there is much to explore and appreciate in God's creation. There's wonder in the flower garden just as on the mountain campsite. We give thanks and praise to God for the gift of witnessing the beauty He places in our life. Happy Summer!

In Christ,
Pastor Joel

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

- Sundays at 9:30am

We began holding in-person Worship services outdoors as of Sun., July 5. Worship is being held in the parking lot of the Parish Hall at 9:30am (weather permitting). All who attend are requested to bring a mask and lawn chair with them. In observance of state guidelines for safety amid the COVID-19 pandemic, those attending service will have access to the restrooms on the lower level of the Parish Hall for handwashing. Please bring your own hand sanitizer. All are asked to sign up in advance by either calling the church office or see your weekly email to sign up online. You'll be asked to provide your name and phone number upon arriving for service. We kindly ask that early arrivals park in the Town Hall lot, leaving east side lot open for those who need it. Childcare will not be provided. All over the age of 5 are asked to wear a mask. Order of Worship bulletins will be sent via email on the Friday before each service. You may either print it and bring with you or view it from your mobile device during Worship service. You may also bring your own Bibles. Note that there will be no fellowship time following service. Thank you.

ONLINE LECTIO DIVINA - New Dates to Come!

Thank you to all who participated in our online *lectio divina* on Wed., May 27. *Lectio divina* is a contemplative way of reading the Bible. A centuries-old ecumenical spiritual practice, it dates back to the early church and was a monastic practice in the 6th Century. *Lectio divina* is a way of praying Scripture that leads us deeper into God's Word. Look for more dates to follow soon for our next online *lectio divina*.

FCCM CONTACT INFORMATION

(Note: Staff are working remotely during the COVID-19 crisis)

1981 Ocean St. P.O. Box 826, Marshfield, MA. 02050 - Phone: (781) 834-7664

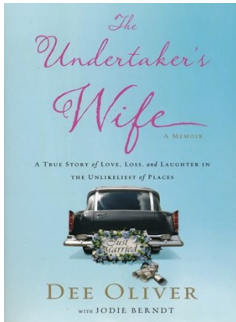
Email: pastorfccm@gmail.com; secretaryfccm@gmail.com; bookkeeperfccm@gmail.com; tfccwebmaster@gmail.com

On the web: FCCMarshfield.org - On facebook: facebook.com/FirstCongregationalMarshfield

Church Office Hours: Monday 9:00am-3:00pm; Tuesday 9:00am-12:00pm; Wednesday 9:00am-3:00pm;
Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm; Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

Pastoral Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9am to noon (Mondays are Pastor's day off).

Cancelations due to storms: Please watch FOX25 and www.myfoxboston.com. Also you can listen on WATD radio.



HEAVENLY BOOKWORMS' JULY 2020 SELECTION

The Undertaker's Wife: A True Story of Love, Loss, and Laughter in the Unlikeliest of Places
By: Dee Oliver, Jodie Berndt

In *The Undertaker's Wife*, Oliver draws from her wealth of experience to provide candid and often hysterically funny advice on dying well and surviving the loss of those who have gone before. Her insights on the common ground of grief, survival, and the ever-present faithfulness of God (to all of us, regardless of our race, religious upbringing, or socio-economic background) will help you prepare for one of life's only certainties-and do it with wisdom, grace, and a healthy dose of joy.

The discussion for July's book will be Friday 7/24 (7p) in person if deemed safe or Zoom otherwise
- If in person, at the Chrisman's, call Georgia for directions or simple Zoom instructions
- 781-361-1290. Book is \$4 (see Georgia) or order from Christianbook.com.

Are You a Couch-Potato who likes to Read?

Then...read Bookworm selections on your couch! If you are not interested in discussing the books, don't! As a Heavenly Couchworm one can read the books and skip the discussions. All books are inspiring, interesting and often informative. We have had no clunkers to date! Bookworm books will take you all over the world, introduce you to amazing people, and broaden your horizons. Earlier books are available on our church library's counter. Borrow some!



FROM YOUR DEACONS

We are saddened to announce that we have lost one of our own. Our dear, beloved sister, Deacon Jayne Bowman, has gone to her eternal rest. Her dedication and devotion to our church was an inspiration to us all. If you have celebrated communion in our church in the past few years, please know that it was Jayne Bowman who likely prepared it for you. Jayne, we love you and miss you. We are comforted knowing that you went willingly and happily into the arms of your loving Savior.

The Deacons are cautiously optimistic that we will still be able to hold the Vicinage and Installation for Pastor Joel as re-scheduled. (Saturday September 19th, 2020 at 10:30 am for the Vicinage and Sunday October 18th at 3:00 pm for the Ordination and Installation.) The Letter Missive will be sent out this month. We will report the responses next month. Our focus of late has been the re-start of in person worship. After much prayer, discernment and planning we made a proposal to the Church Council to safely start in person worship on Sunday July 5th. (Approved unanimously) Please be aware that worship will look quite different for the time being. Worship will be OUTSIDE ONLY (weather permitting) in the Parking lot of the Parish Hall. (The Town has denied us use of the town green.) Masks, 6-foot social distancing, pre-registration and self-temperature checks will be required among other protocols. Please see the guidelines listed here in the Bell, the Pilgrim and on our website. Pre-packaged communion and wafers will be served. This will be different from what we are used to, so we ask for your patience and cooperation. Outside worship will continue through the end of August. We hope to be able to use the meeting house again in September and are working on a plan.

We are acutely aware that the comfort level with returning to in person worship is highly personal. For those who are not ready to return to in person worship we are dedicated to continuing to offer online worship. Please read all our guidelines. If you do not feel safe returning to worship, we urge you to stay at home and join us on Facebook Live.

At this writing there is still much work to be done and many details to be worked out. We are grateful to Pastor Joel for his indefatigable leadership and hard work. We ask for your patience with us and with Joel in this unprecedented time.

To God be the Glory,
Your Deacons, Michael Rydberg, Judy Johnson, Rick Taylor, Lisa Brown, Kathy Doherty, Frank Wilkins,
and Alyssa Titus.

LBS PLANT SALE

Thank you for your support of the LBS plant sale last week. Thanks to everyone who supplied the plants and those who stopped by to purchase and visit. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! - Ladies Benevolent Society

FCCM ONLINE WORSHIP

Each Sunday, during the COVID-19 crisis, we offered a digital Online Worship service accessible through the church website, church Facebook page, and through the weekly *The Pilgrim* email. Online Worship has featured links to announcements, prayers, Scripture readings, Sermons, and Worship Music. In-Person Outdoor Worship services began on Sun., July 5 in Parish Hall parking lot. We will continue to offer Worship in an Online format, moving to a livestream through Facebook Live as of July 5. The 9:30am service will be accessible via the church Facebook page. If we can work out the details, it will also be available later through our website, Facebook page, and weekly email. The Spirit unites God's people wherever they may be. May God bless you and your family in Christ Jesus.

SENDING IN OFFERINGS

- Supporting our Ministries

As we continue to live into this unprecedented time of social distancing, we encourage all members and friends of FCCM to submit offerings to support our ongoing ministries. Offerings may be mailed to the church at First Congregational Church of Marshfield, P.O. Box 826, Marshfield, MA 02050. You may also opt to submit your offering through your bank or financial institution. God's grace is abundant, and He will sustain us through this COVID-19 crisis. Please contact the Church Office or a Trustee with any questions. Thank you for your generous support!

"GOD LOVES, GOD PROVIDES"

- Thank You! Daily Devotionals

Thank you so much for all who contributed to our online Daily Devotionals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic closures. Here at FCC Marshfield we wanted to remind one another that God is always with us, and that we are united by the Holy Spirit, no matter what physical distance there may be between us, no matter what illness may come our way. We began the spiritual practice of offering these devotionals as an intentional effort to remind us of God's loving presence with His people. Our theme for these devotionals was "God's love and provision for His people." As we look to approach resuming in-person ministries, we'd like to thank everyone who participated in these devotionals while announcing that they have been concluded as of June 9th. Thank you and God bless you!

A NOTE FROM YOUR CARING MINISTRY TEAM

The role of the Caring Ministry Team is to assist the minister in meeting the needs of the congregation. The Team consists of 8 members: Lisa Brown, Pam Drouin, Mary Ellingson, Jennifer Fields, Judy Johnson, Donna McCue, Michael Rydberg and Gisele Coville. Each parishioner has been assigned to a Caring Ministry Team member. If you don't know who your Caring Minister is, please contact Michael Rydberg (508-246-3037), Gisele Coville or Jennifer Fields. Our primary mission is to pray for the needs of our assigned parishioners. Please also let us know if a spiritual or practical need should arise.

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES and INDIVIDUALS

The Trustees are offering sponsoring space in The Bell newsletter. This initiative will help bring in additional revenue as well as defray the costs associated with The Bell. In this Bell, we are offering free ads to individuals and businesses affiliated with our church while we test the layout. This could be either a sponsorship or even a personal message. If interested, please contact the church office or speak to/email a Trustee.



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781-536-8384
RON & BARBARA STUTZMAN
7 Spinnaker Circle, Marshfield, MA 02050
Email: rons41@comcast.net

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thanksgiving/Joy: Christ's faithfulness to FCC Marshfield for 388 years, medical professionals, Churches in Marshfield, MACCC, and NACCC, blessings of new life as Rev. John and Edna Robie welcome their new granddaughter, the engagement of Sarah Fuller and Bruno Marcolino, we give thanks to God for the freedom and liberty of all people.

Healing: Those battling COVID-19 including the medical teams and officials working to keep us safe, Kim Callendar, Danny Sheehan, Susan Lizio, Stephanie and Daniel and Baby Noah, Chris Lord, John Ritucci, Daniel Duffy, Edy Jones, Carl Titus, Ann, Daniel Duffy, Jack Pattison, John Belanger, Frank Sylvester, Carol Gesner, Kathleen Krane, Aleshia Ellingson, Walter and Marge Zarnock, Charlie Sylvester, Dave McGrath Sr., Nancy Kiesman (Pastor Joel's Aunt), Gloria Chrisman (Georgia's sister-in-law), Ellen Synakowski, Janet Dabrowski, Jon and Steve and baby Gavin, Katrina, Denise, Janice, Dorraine Porter, Carol Spooner, Karen Campbell, Kendall Smith, John Coombs, Mercedes (Eliana Kimball's mother), Dave Chrisman, Krista Gottschlich, Pat Benson (Christine Murphy's Aunt), Mercedes (Eliana Kimball's mother), Edna Robie, Joan Morrissey

Comfort: families of Jayne Bowman, Elizabeth Gledhill, Linda Woodman, Betty Dubois, Velna Roberts, Jordan Phinney, Dave Martin, Frank McGee, Betty Crowell (grandmother of Darren Segrini), Roger Bousquet (Doreen Taylor's cousin), Pat Vaillancourt (Steve Vaillancourt's mother), Barbara Winokur, Lizzy Blake, Herb Brown (Lisa Brown's father), and Stephan Hochstin

Homebound Church Family: Alberta Bezanson, Roz Novinsky, Marie King, Mary Ellingson, Kathy Bryan

Guidance & Protection: Men and Women in the military and our first responders, families struggling with addictions, stigma of mental illness, unhoused youth in Marshfield, students, teachers, and families at home, unemployed and underemployed, medical teams working to keep us safe, we pray for peace, healing, and justice in our nation during this time of unrest, the people of Kashmir, in the wake of the recent skirmish.



PRAYER PALS

DURING THIS STAY-AT-HOME time, we have become Couch-Potato Prayer Pals, holding prayer via internet (Zoom) Monday evenings 6:30-7:30pm. If interested, please let Georgia (781-361-1290) know and she will help you get connected. New pals always welcome! If you would like the Pals to pray for you or loved ones, drop a prayer request card into the offering plate (when we are in-person worshipping) or call 781-361-1290 with your request.

"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us." 1 John 5:14 | KJV

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT FCCM?

Have you or someone you know been prayerfully considering joining our congregation? Are you interested to learn more about our church and what it means to be a "Congregationalist"? Contact Pastor Joel or a member of the Diaconate to see about participating in our New Member Class and Intro to Congregationalism. This class is open to anyone who wishes to learn more about membership at FCCM. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - *Articles due by Sat., August 15*

Please submit any articles/submissions for the September issue of *The Bell* newsletter to the church office by August 15. You may also submit your article via email to secretaryfccm@gmail.com. Thank you!

NEED TO TALK? HAVING TROUBLE DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS?

We are living through an especially stressful and challenging time amid the COVID-19 crisis. While some may be juggling the obligations of career and home schooling children, others may be experiencing a sudden shift in employment, loss of career, or loneliness and isolation. Of course, there is also the fact that some may contract the virus, making it difficult for loved ones to see them. If you feel like you need to speak with someone about these concerns, please know that you can always contact the Pastor. In the event of an emergency, you should call 911. [Click here](#) or contact your Town Board of Health for available resources.

CELEBRATING CONGREGATIONAL HERITAGE

2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim landing at Plymouth. As a Pilgrim church ourselves, here at FCCM we will be celebrating this momentous occasion in many ways throughout the year. Two Sundays each month we will be featuring a highlighted history of a Congregationalist who has contributed to blessing God's world.

JULY/AUGUST 2020



THE GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND

Contact Us: GNFMmarshfield@gmail.com https://GNFMmarshfield.wix.com/gnf-website or

P.O. Box 826 Marshfield, MA 02050

Donate On-line: https://GNFMmarshfield.wix.com/gnf-website GoodNeighborFund.net

Purchase GL Scrip Gift Cards: GNFMmarshfield@gmail.com or First Congregational Church, 781-864-7664

Good Neighbor Fund Gift Card Order Form

Help our communities PURCHASE YOUR GIFT CARDS TODAY!

Buy gift cards to use at the Grocery stores that you normally shop for all your daily needs!

Contact us at GNFMmarshfield@gmail.com.

VENDOR	DENOMINATIONS	%	# ORDER	AMT DUE
Shaw's Supermarkets	\$25.00/\$100.00	4%		
Roche Bros. Markets	\$25.00/\$100.00	3%		
Stop & Shop	\$25.00/\$50.00/\$100.00	4%		
Whole Foods Markets	\$25.00/\$100.00	3%		

TOTAL CARDS PURCHASED: _____ TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

Please make checks payable to: **The Good Neighbor Fund**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact number: _____ Email: _____

MISSION PROJECTS FOR JULY

Seeing, understanding, showing compassion, and helping all people is part of our responsibility to God. Please continue to share in our mission to give support to everyone here and around the world.

Helping our on-going Marshfield Missions

Food Pantry - Please send a donation to the Food Pantry or to a group that is helping to feed the tremendous number of food-insecure families in the United States at this time.

Sowing Seeds - Please donate new socks, good Summer clothing and sleepwear.

Good Neighbor Fund - Continue to buy your Grocery and Gift Cards through the Good Neighbor Fund. Our neighbors need help year-round.

Helping the Homeless - Please support this on-going project with the Youth Fellowship and donate travel sized toiletries or new clean socks.

Helping our Family and Friends around the World

Please continue to pray for our families and friends around the world. We will be making a donation to Church World Services for tools to honor of our Dads on Father's Day.

Opportunities

The Missions Committee has received a donation to be used for Mission trips through a vetted organization. This is open to anyone in the church who might be interested. Please talk to members of the committee for more information. The NACCC has a list of some opportunities on their website.



FALL PLANT SALE

Heads up to all plant lovers and gardeners. Due to the success of our spring plant sale, we have decided to do a fall one too! Start pursuing your garden and flower beds for those perennials that have become unruly or may benefit from liposuction or plucking. Perennials tend to get a little wild and go rogue, spreading like a rash. A tidy bunch can become a gargantuan clump! Later in the summer or early fall, pluck those "stragglers" and divide those clumps; replot them and bring them to the church at a time to be determined.

Consider also those infant trees, bushes and plants that the squirrels and birds have planted with no design in mind. Those rogue hollies, evergreens, maples and oaks need to go! Our yards our fertile ground for nature's offspring, but they do not all fit in with our desired plan. Instead of putting them in the compost pile, pot them and donate them too. They could fit well in someone else's plan! We would also welcome any garden art or tchotchkes (shot skis). Perhaps you have gone to Zen, and that goofy frog no longer fits in. Don't torture him; give him a new home where he can croak instead of hum. Keep our sale in mind when you care for your beds throughout the summer. We hope some of you have left over vegetables too. We could sponsor our own farm stand! More info to come as official plans are made.

CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF AMERICAN CONGREGATIONALISM

Learn more about our Congregational History at naccc.org

Did you know Isaac Watts...

Our Congregational forebears in England were variously known as Independents, Dissenters, and Non-Conformists. These terms also included Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists. Later, Free Church became a more positive nomenclature.

Isaac Watts (who identified as an Independent) was one of our own. Born on July 17, 1674, in Southhampton, England, Watts wrote approximately 600 hymns, and was known as the "Father of English hymnody."

He showed literary genius even as a boy: Latin at four, Greek at nine, French at ten, and Hebrew at thirteen. Noticing his abilities, a doctor and some friends offered him a university education, figuring that he would be ordained in the Church of England. Watts turned them down, instead attending the Nonconformist Academy under the care of Thomas Rowe, joining the Independent congregation at Girdlers' Hall in 1693.

Watts moved to London to tutor the children of a wealthy family of Dissenters. He joined Mark Lane Independent Chapel, where he was soon asked to be a teacher, then was hired as associate pastor. He preached his first sermon at the age of 24.

In 1702 he was ordained as senior pastor of the congregation, the position he retained to the end of his life. He was a brilliant Bible student and his sermons brought the church to life.

...was a Congregationalist?

Historical story by: Rev. Garry Fisher

Did you know Phyllis Wheatly...

Phyllis Wheatly is the name her slave master gave to her. She was sold into slavery at about age seven in West Africa. She survived the "Middle Passage." The ship she came on was the Phillis, so they called her Phyllis. She was sold in Massachusetts in about 1761. Yes, there was slavery in Massachusetts.

Her master's daughter Mary taught her how to read and write. She took to it so well her master's family were delighted. Then she read Greek and Latin classics. She began to write poetry.

The Wheatlys were so proud of Phyllis they took her with them when they went to England in 1773. There she met the Lord Mayor of London, and the Countess of Huntington helped get a volume of her poems published. Many people had trouble believing she wrote the poems. She was the first African and first African woman to be published. Her writing was acclaimed!

In 1778 she was freed in her master's will. Soon she married John Peters, a free black grocer. Hard times came. All her children died young. Her poetry was about her faith which she learned at Old South Church. It was dear to her. She wrote many elegies about the sun, but little about Africa. She died young at age 31.

...was a Congregationalist?

Historical story by: Rev. Will Lange

Did you know D.L. Moody...

Dwight Lyman Moody was born in 1837 in Northfield, Massachusetts. After his father died, his widowed mother could not afford to keep all her eight children. Dwight went to the workhouse, where he was fed porridge and milk every day, three times a day. At age seventeen, he left Northfield for Boston. There, his uncle gave Dwight a job in his shoe store, but the job came with a condition: he must attend a Congregational church. There, a year later, Edward Kimball—Dwight's Sunday School teacher—led him to the Lord.

Moving to Chicago, Dwight became a very successful shoe salesman. He also established a church school for slum children in that city. During the Civil War, Dwight did not fight in the Army, but he did serve with the YMCA, accompanying the Union troops throughout the war. After the war, he became president of the Chicago YMCA, and he also helped to revive the Sunday School Union.

In about 1870, Moody joined that long line of evangelistic preachers that have blessed the United States. He and his music leader, Ira Sankey, led crusades that reached millions of people in both Great Britain and the United States. Moody's evangelistic headquarters were in his hometown of Northfield, where he established Northfield Seminary for Girls and Mount Hermon School for boys. His Chicago Bible Institute continues today as Moody Bible Institute. At the 1889 meeting of the National Council of Congregational Churches, Moody was heralded as "the most successful evangelist of our time."

...was a Congregationalist?

by: Rev. Robert Hellam

A bit of news we have today.
A "Fairless" fair is on its way.
During these days of Covid and masks,
Who could complete a fair's many tasks?

So, this year's fair is out of the question.
To solve the shortfall, this we mention.
Consider a fair's total cost to you,
in time, in brawn and money too.

Plus, donating things and personal shopping.
All these things could start you sobbing!
You'd be surprised, if you counted the cost
of materials purchased and the time you lost.

So, to the church, please gift that sum.
No fuss or bother, your part is done.
Please help us achieve this victory.
Our Fairless Fair could make history.



Fairless Summer Fair
July 17 – August 2, 2020



Skip the prep; skip the work; and skip the clean-up too! That's what a Fairless Fair will do.

Much like a "Bakeless Bake Sale," where one donates the cost of the ingredients, in lieu of their sweet, wanna-be, fair volunteers would donate the money they would have spent in the course of the fair.

How much money and time would you personally have spent? Consider the various items/supplies you purchased for last year's fair, without requesting reimbursement, AND/OR the cost of the goods (fudge, baked goods, gift certificates, etc.) you donated, AND/OR the money you spent for personal shopping AND/OR the value of your time.

So, if you would have volunteered at, or donated to, this year's fair, calculate your savings; then consider writing a check for at least *some* or *all* of it. *Please write "Fair"* in the lower left-hand corner, so we can track our success! You may mail it or drop it in the offering plate at one of our outdoor services.

Our Fairless Fair Campaign starts the weekend of our "would have been" fair (July 17--18) and ends Sunday, August 2. Of course, we would accept donations after that time, but let's get it done. **We've got this!** While enjoying a totally relaxing summer, we can recover some of our deficit too. That's a beautiful thing!

**Ladies Benevolent Society
*End-of-the-year
Lunch on the Green***



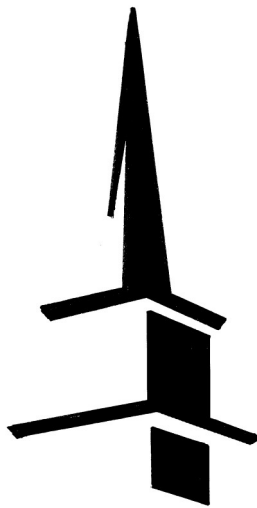
**Outdoor Worship
*July 5***



The First Congregational Church

1981 Ocean Street
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THE BELL

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Senior Minister—Pastor Joel K. Boyd

1981 Ocean Street P.O. Box 826 Marshfield, MA. 02050 Office: 781-834-7664

Church Office Hours: Monday 9:00am-3:00pm; Tuesday 9:00am-12:00pm; Wednesday 9:00am-3:00pm;
Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm; Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

Pastoral Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9am to noon
(Mondays are Pastor's day off).

(Note: Staff are working remotely during the COVID-19 crisis)

Worship Service & Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. (see inside for details)

All Are Welcome — Nursery Care Provided

www.FCCMarshfield.org
Secretaryfccm@gmail.com
Pastorfccm@gmail.com