

# Pilgrim's Progress

## January 2019

“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 New Year greets three special days for the church; Epiphany Sunday, the Baptism of Our Lord, and the day honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The third day is not part of the church liturgical calendar, it does remind us that justice for all peoples is a cause worthy of life-long devotion. Baptism Sunday reminds us of how fully Jesus identified with humanity, and Epiphany reminds us that wise people still seek Christ.

January 21 remembers Dr. King, who echoed the words of sacred Scripture, especially in the Hebrew prophets, that the cause of Christ includes pursuing justice for people. People who are poor, oppressed and are different from the majority have rights as human beings and those rights are to be respected. At the basis of this, I believe, is the fundamental conviction that rights are given by God, and no individual, group in power, or government has the right to take those rights away. But corresponding to this is the sobering idea that while people do not have the right to take rights away from people, some will try anyway, and against such we must be vigilant. Dr. King's life reminds us of that.

January 13 is the Sunday remembering the Baptism of our Lord Jesus, who, while sinless, submitted to baptism in order to fulfill all righteousness. When He was baptized, He began a course that led to ministry, to the cross, to resurrection and ultimately to the seat at the right hand of God the Father. When a person is baptized, or chooses to follow Christ, they commit to a course in life in pursuit of Jesus and in service to Him, come what may.

January 6 is the day we remember the wise men, the mysterious scholars from the East, who visited Jesus, Mary and Joseph sometime after His birth. They came and brought gifts that recognized Him as the prophesied Messiah and they worshipped Him as God. Soon after that, God warned them in a dream not to confer any further with Herod, and so they returned home, never to be heard from again. Soon after that, Joseph had a dream warning him that Jesus was not safe in Bethlehem anymore and so they packed all their bags and left for Egypt. Even as an infant, Jesus was persecuted, yet the wise still seek Him today. The holiday season has ended and Winter is in full force, but January gives us much to consider. God bless you. Have a good month. Pastor Dan

### Sermons for January

Sermons



Sermons from Genesis: A Book of Destiny

6  
13  
20  
27

Genesis 2:1-7  
Genesis 15:12-17  
Genesis 25:16-20  
Genesis 47:20-25

A Story of Eden  
God Makes a Covenant  
The Departure of the Soul  
The March to Slavery



Todd & Leah Stanley	January 4, 2003	16 years
Carlton & Carmalee Kothenbeutel	January 14, 1967	52 years

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January 1	Bing McHone, Quinton Norman	January 19	Kristin Meyer
January 3	Janice Jordan	January 21	Mary Curley
January 6	John Beaty	January 22	Harriet Arklie
January 7	Aubrey Greenwood	January 23	Joan Carter, Branden Goken
January 8	Rod Hassler	January 24	David Berg
January 9	Carolyn "Sue" Horn	January 25	LeAnn Fuller, John Olson, Jonna Wagar
January 11	Jennifer Howard	January 26	Debi Estabrook, Davis Ragland
January 13	Larry Koepnick, Jennie O'Conner	January 29	Blake Latham
January 15	Janet Breed, Carmalee Kothenbeutel		

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***Please keep our Members in Care Facilities in your thoughts & prayers:***

**Bickford Cottage:** Joanie Smith-Legg #108; Marilyn Rhodes # 123

**Grandview:** Pattye Morrison #107, Dr. Rachel Mason #306, Ken Niehouse

**IVH:** JoAnne Ainley      **Southridge:** Betty Runner #212

**Glenwood Place:** Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mary Vellinga #117, Mildred Lathrop #145, Bob Becker #175, Bonnie Pappas # 177, Lenora Brown #147

**Northridge Village-Ames:** Willis Fiscus #211

**The Willows:** Al Storjohann #410, Lee & Valois Brintnall

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Directed by Shelly Speas  
Contact # 641-751-9868



"Power Hour" Power Hour every Sunday at 9:15am

Preschool-4th grade class; 5-8th grade class; 9-12th grade class. We begin together with some worship & then split into classes.

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**January Youth Night Schedule:**

**Wednesday Activities: Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30**

DOG's 4:30-5:30pm (preschool-5th grade); Jr. PY 6-7pm (6-8th grade);

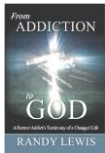
PY 7:30-8:30pm (9-12th grade)

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**WinterJam 2019!!** Friday, Jan. 25th Christian Concert at Wells Fargo Arena. Leaving from FCC Parking lot at 4pm. Sack supper provided. Need \$7 for a ticket. Extra \$ if want souvenirs. Contact Shelly Speas for more details.

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**Addiction Recovery Group** meets every Tuesday at 6:30pm. This is a support group for anyone struggling with any kind of addiction. We meet in The Loft at First Congregational Church. We are going through the book "From Addiction to God" by Randy Lewis. Please contact Shelly Speas for more information.

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**YABS (Young Adult Bible Study)** Young Adult Bible Study will meet Monday, Jan. 14th & 28th at 7pm at FCC in the Loft. Bible study for adults age 18-35. Currently studying from John Bevere: Good or God.



Nooma Nights: Adult Bible Study currently studying from Francis Chan: The Forgotten God. Next meeting is **Sunday, Jan 6th at 5pm at FCC in the Loft.** Meal and child care provided.



Curiosity gets the best of me...each month several members of FCC put a lot of time and effort into the development of each monthly newsletter...does it benefit you? Do you read it? Is there anything you want to see we are not including? Is it too long? Too much info? I just gotta know...email me & let me know your thoughts please!  
[secretary@FCCmarshalltown.org](mailto:secretary@FCCmarshalltown.org) or text 641-751-4725!

## NEWS FROM MARSHALLTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



MCS ended the year 2018 on a high note with a blessed and stunning performance by the MCS students in celebration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And we couldn't be more excited for what's to come in 2019. January marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the MCS move into our new building, and with freshly cleaned carpets over Christmas break, the students will return bright and ready to learn.

National School Choice Week will be observed the week of the 20th through the 26th. With hearts of appreciation to God for providing an educational learning environment from the biblical, Christ-centered worldview, parents and students will proclaim their praise for the MCS option available in our community.

A Strategic Planning Retreat is scheduled for later in January by the MCS Board of Directors, as a time of planning, decision making, and growing forward in our passion for excellence in Christian education. It is an honor, responsibility, and joy to inspire the minds of young people with the love of Christ.



**Circle of Friends** will not meet in January. Next meeting February 5, 2019.



JANUARY - NOVEMBER 2018	ACTUAL	BUDGET	NET
GIVING	\$149,801	\$172,150	-\$22,349
EXPENSES	\$225,411	\$219,219	\$6,192

## MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

COME YE, COME ALL to FCC MISSION FAIR IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!

**Wednesday, January 23, 2019 from 6 -7:30 pm** all members of the congregation are invited to poster presentations describing missions supported or endorsed by FCC. Included in the fair will be displays from FCC Youth, Guzman Ministries (Mission Monterrey), Habitat for Humanity of IA, Marshalltown Christian School, My Kinsman Ministries, NACCC Missions, and Salvation Army. Workers from most of the missions will be on hand to learn from in a leisurely way. And for your added pleasure, we will have foods to sample reflecting the various target populations served by each mission.

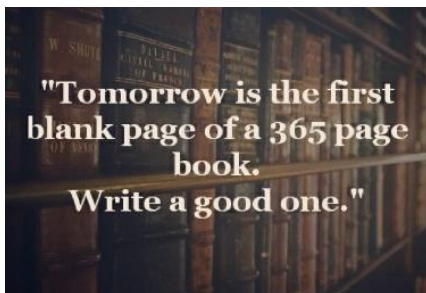
**Don't leave these mission workers in the lurch. Come the evening of Jan. 23 to our church!!!**



Your help is needed on Saturday, Jan 12th at 10 am to take down the Christmas decorations. Come and help...won't take long with many hands. Thank you!



The 2018 Annual Church Meeting will be held on February 3, 2019 at 12:15pm following lunch in the fellowship hall. All committee chairs need to prepare their final reports and submit to the church office by 9am on January 21, 2019 for preparation of the Annual Manual for distribution on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. This publication takes time to prepare and your cooperation is greatly appreciated.






# JANUARY

## 2019

### FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

Sunday Worship Services: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Power Hour Sundays at 9:15am - Preschool - 12th grade in the LOFT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239</p>						
<p><b>color code:</b> youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards</p>		<p>1 Church office closed</p> 	<p>2 NO CIRCLE OF FRIENDS</p> <p>No Youth Night</p> <p>WW 11:30AM</p>	<p>3</p> <p>WW 5PM</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 Communion Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT</p> <p>5pm NOOMA/LOFT</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 8:30am Missions Meet 6:30pm Addiction Recovery grp/LOFT</p> <p>W.W.</p>	<p>9 Youth Night 4:30-5:30pm- DOGS preschool- 5th gr /6-7pm 6-8th gr Jr PY / 7:30- 8:30pm PY 9-12th grades W.W.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets</p>	<p>12 10am Remove Cmas decorations from church</p>
<p>13 Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT</p>	<p>14 7pm Young Adult Bible Study/LOFT</p>	<p>15 6:30pm Deacons Meet</p> <p>6:30pm Addiction Recovery grp/LOFT</p> <p>W.W.</p>	<p>16 Youth Night 4:30-5:30pm- DOGS preschool- 5th gr /6-7pm 6-8th gr Jr PY / 7:30- 8:30pm PY 9-12th grades W.W.</p>	<p>17 6:45pm Trustees meet</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 11:45 BCE Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT</p>	<p>21 Annual Reports Due from committee chairs</p>	<p>22 6:30pm Addiction Recovery grp/LOFT W.W.</p>	<p>23 Missions Night 6-7:30 Fellowship Hall Youth Night 4:30-5:30pm- DOGS preschool- 5th gr /6-7pm 6-8th gr Jr PY / 7:30- 8:30pm PY 9-12th grades W.W.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets</p>  <p>Youth Event Arrive @ FCC So parking Lot by 4pm. \$7 per ticket.</p>	<p>26 11am MOW FCC Vol: Hassler's</p>
<p>27 Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT</p>	<p>28 7pm Young Adult Bible Study/LOFT</p>	<p>29 W.W.</p>	<p>30 Youth Night 4:30-5:30pm- DOGS preschool- 5th gr /6-7pm 6-8th gr Jr PY / 7:30- 8:30pm PY 9-12th grades W.W.</p>	<p>31</p>		

# JANUARY

2019 NEWSLETTER

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](http://www.fccmarshalltown.org)

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

