

Pilgrim's Progress

February 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.”



If it wasn't for Valentine's Day and my wife's birthday (February 26), February would be my least liked month of the year. It is generally the coldest month in this part of the globe, often with a two or three week stretch in which the temperature never rises above 19 degrees and ice becomes hard as a rock. I probably wouldn't have such a problem with it except I've become tired of winter by the end of January. The Holiday Season is over and I'm ready to move on toward Spring but not until I've bludgeoned my way through February. There is no way around it, as long as I stay in town I have to wait for February and February weather to end, and I know that sometimes February weather does not end until sometime in March.

The Bible speaks frequently of waiting, that the Lord's ways and timing are not the same as ours, and that we are called upon to be patient and wait for God to act. Even the disciples of Jesus were instructed to meet the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem, and they were told that they would have to wait. One of my favorite verses about waiting is Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

"Waiting" refers looking for, hoping for, and expecting someone, as in the arrival of a very important person. But "waiting" has also the connotation of serving. We can wait for someone by being faithful in service during their absence. A good way to wait on the Lord, to hope and expect God to act in our lives, is to serve Him by serving others. The Lord is pleased when we work to meet each other's needs and to support and encourage each other. When you feel your strength or your patience waning, due to the weather or something else, pray and ask for someone to serve, encourage or bless and see what happens. God bless you, and here's to the arrival of a good March. Pastor Dan

Ash Wednesday

March 6 is our annual observance of the beginning of Lent. It's called "Ash Wednesday" because the service traditionally includes the imposition of a small amount of ash placed on the worshipper's forehead or palm to remind us that life on earth is short and eternity stretches out infinitely before us.

This year, we'll locate the Ash Wednesday service in the Fellowship Hall, being joined by the Youth Group and folks from Circle of Friends. Everyone is welcome to being the Season of Lent with this service, which begins at 7:00 p.m.

Sermons for February

Sermons



He Lives and He Returns
The Elements of a True Church
Christians and the Old Testament
How God Opens Peoples' Eyes

Acts 1:9-11
Acts 2:42
Acts 15:8-11
Acts 26:16-18



Ron & Julia Ohrt	February 14, 1987	32 years
Robert & Barbara Hibbs	February 28, 1970	49 years



February 2	Madelyn Latham	February 20	Betty Runner
February 3	Angela Dickey	February 24	Danielle Wical
February 4	Marian Gerdes, Terry Tremain	February 25	Adam Berg, Staci Moyer
February 5	Katie Peiffer	February 26	Joel Greer, Jeanne Vellinga
February 16	Pat Anderson, Brian Mattingly, Beau Ragland	February 27	Jo Dysart
February 17	Jon Weeden	February 28	Mildred Lathrop
		February 29	Terry Paustian (sorry Terry, next year!)



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 #413

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 #317



Youth Director: 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.



February Youth Night Schedule: Wednesday Activities: February 6,13, 20, 27

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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Winter Retreat for 6-12th grade

February 15-17th (leave about 4:30pm on Friday and return about 5pm on Sunday). Location: People's Congregational Church Bayport, MN

Skiing & Snowboarding need \$60; Tubing need \$15; All meals will be provided by the church.

Please contact Shelly Speas if interested in attending!

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Addiction Recovery Group has finished their study and this group will be taking a break from meeting for now. If the need arises, we will be offering this group again in the future.

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25th



YABS (Young Adult Bible Study) Young Adult Bible Study will meet Monday, Feb 11th & at 7pm at FCC in the Loft. Bible study for adults age 18-35. Currently studying from John Bever: Good or God.



Nooma will meet Sunday, February 3rd in the Loft at FCC at 5pm. We will be having a Super Bowl party where we will watch the Super Bowl and everyone is invited to bring their own snack to share!

Last month I asked for feedback on how important the newsletter is to you...I heard from 6 people. Continuing this unscientific poll in February...Do you read it? Is there anything you want to see we are not including? Is it too long? Too much info? Boring? ...email me & let me know your thoughts please! secretary@FCCmarshalltown.org.

NEWS FROM MARSHALLTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



News from Marshalltown Christian School...Winter returned with a fury, and students have missed many days of school due to weather conditions. When the school days are made up in June, it's a certainty that there won't be any snow, ice, or -25 degree temperatures!

On a snowy day, the MCS Board of Directors was able to accomplish its Strategic Planning Session with its team approach. They began "on their knees" in scripture and prayer, then went right to work on the task at hand. In unity, the Mission, Statement of Faith, and the Statement of Purpose were confirmed and esteemed. The School Board seeks God's plan - His vision - for the next few years.

Shadow Day is coming! Students are able to invite a friend to be an MCS student for a half-day or for the entire school day. Any student entering K-8th grade this fall is invited to experience being an MCS student. Call (641)753-8824 for details and to register your child for Friday, February 8 or Wednesday, February 13. Come, check-out Marshalltown Christian School and be blessed!



Circle of Friends Join us on February 6 at 6:00 pm in the Mayflower Room for another enjoyable evening of good food & fellowship. After dinner our own Bob McGregor will present a program on the river cruise, he & Linda enjoyed last fall in France. First time attendees.... bring a dish or not as you wish.



JANUARY - DECEMBER 2018	ACTUAL	BUDGET	NET
GIVING	\$179,023	\$188,000	-\$8,977
EXPENSES	\$246,534	\$239,110	\$7,424

MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

This event was planned for late January, but was postponed due to weather issues. MBC is planning to reschedule, so watch emails with new date information.

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

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. Watch for new date and time.



MEALS ON WHEELS...a new year for meal delivery is upon us and we need volunteers! The signup sheet is in the Narthex awaiting your name! Many months are available for 2019. Your participation is appreciated! Thank you.








FEBRUARY

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>Office HOURS</p>		<p>Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239</p>				
<p>color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards</p>					1	2  Groundhog Day
<p>3 Communion Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT 11:30 FCC Annual Meeting 5:00pm NOOMA/LOFT</p>	4	5 W.W.	6 6pm Circle of Friends Youth Night 4:30-5:30pm- DOGS preschool- 5 th gr /6-7pm 6-8 th gr Jr PY / 7:30- 8:30pm PY 9-12 th grades W.W.	7 7pm Vision mtg	8 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets	9
<p>10 Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT</p>	11 7pm Young Adult Bible Study/LOFT	12 8:30am Missions Meet W.W.	13 6:30 Trustees meet Youth Night 4:30-5:30pm- DOGS preschool- 5 th gr /6-7pm 6-8 th gr Jr PY / 7:30- 8:30pm PY 9-12 th grades W.W.	14 	15  WINTER RETREAT //2019 In Bayport, MN Feb 15-17th Leave at 4:30 Return Sunday @ 5pm	16  WINTER RETREAT //2019
<p>17 11:45 BCE Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT </p>	18 	19 6:30pm Deacons Meet W.W.	20 Youth Night 4:30-5:30pm- DOGS preschool- 5 th gr /6-7pm 6-8 th gr Jr PY / 7:30- 8:30pm PY 9-12 th grades W.W.	21	22 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets	23 11am MOW FCC Vol: K. Schryver
<p>24 Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT</p>	25 7pm Young Adult Bible Study/LOFT	26 W.W.	27 Youth Night 4:30-5:30pm- DOGS preschool- 5 th gr /6-7pm 6-8 th gr Jr PY / 7:30- 8:30pm PY 9-12 th grades W.W.	28		

2019 NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

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

