

Pilgrim's Progress

March 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."

Seeking God in the Eyes of the Broken Isaiah 58:1-11 (NKJV)

"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? *Is it* not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I *am*.'" If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, *If* you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall *be* as the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

It is possible to be devout and displeasing to the Lord. The difference is in how we treat other people. It is valuable to be spiritual and growing in the ways of Christ, but that must include what we do to help other people. Without that, something is terribly wrong.

I think a good theme for Lent this year is "seeking God in the eyes of the broken". A good prayer to offer during this season (and any other, for that matter) is that we are sensitive to those who are suffering. Isaiah, the great prophet, listed helping others as an acceptable "fast" to the Lord, a spiritual discipline that usually involves refraining from food for a time, but here involves seeking justice and aid for those who carry heavy burdens in life. We can't do everything for everybody, but the Spirit of God will reveal to you people you can help and encourage this season. God bless you and may you grow in compassion and wisdom during this period. -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, their families and our congregation and their friends. Everyone is welcome to begin the Season of Lent with this service at 7:00 p.m.

Sermons for March

Sermons



March 3
March 10
March 17
March 24
March 31

Christians and the Old Testament
Can You See God?
A Hope That Does Not Disappoint
Overcome Evil with Good
Bear One Another's Burdens

Acts 15:8-11
Romans 1:20
Romans 5:1-5
Romans 12:9-21
Romans 15:1-6



Jeremy & Julie Lavender
Bing & Dorothy McHone

March 4, 2010 9 years
March 28, 1998 21 years



March 1	Cliff March	March 14	Dorothy McHone
March 2	Kayla Bogenrief	March 15	Charlie Fry, Julie Paustian
March 3	Leta Lacina	March 19	Kate Greer, Gwen Wical
March 4	Barbara Ellcey, Dick Squiers	March 21	Dave Dysart
March 5	Jack Tremain	March 22	Irene Steward
March 6	Dorothy Peterson, Joel Storjohann	March 24	Lenora Brown, Lori March
March 7	Barb Hibbs, Erin Woltjer	March 25	Marilyn Egleston
March 8	Caroline Lavender	March 26	Julia Ohrt
March 9	Bob Bauer	March 28	Rita Byers
March 10	Greg Meyer, Reed Swartz	March 29	James Allison
March 11	Dave Gill	March 31	Nick Carson



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, Esther Hougham #149**

Northridge Village-Ames: Willis Fiscus #211

The Willows: Al Storjohann #410, Lee & Valois Brintnall #317, Sanny Thompson #205



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.



March Youth Night Schedule: Wednesday Activities: March 6, 20, 27

No Youth activities March 13th for Spring Break

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

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



FamilyNight
BRINGING GENERATIONS TOGETHER

MARCH 6TH Family Night!! All groups will be together beginning at 6pm. All church invited as well. Meal and games in Fellowship Hall before our Ash Wednesday service at 7pm. Main dish will be provided but we invite people to bring side dishes or desserts for a pot luck. Please contact Shelly Speas for attendance count.



YABS (Young Adult Bible Study) Young Adult Bible Study will meet Monday, March 11th & 25th at 7pm at FCC in the Loft. Bible study for adults age 18-35. Currently studying from John Bevere: Good or God.



Adult Bible Study on Sunday, March 10th at 5:30pm. Studying Francis Chan, The Forgotten God. Meal provided in fellowship hall. Childcare also provided. Study will be in the Loft after dinner.



Circle of Friends Circle of Friends will meet at 6:30PM **March 13** in the Mayflower Room with our usual pot-luck dinner, good conversation, and an interesting program. Note the date change due to Ash Wednesday being March 6.



Thank you for your prayers, cards, calls and offers of transportation and assistance during my surgeries, hospital stays and following complications. Thank you, Pastor Dan, for your calls. You are all a gift from God to us. Pastor Ellcey and Barbara.



When inclement weather occurs, please refer to the following radio stations for announcement of cancellation of our worship services; KDAO 1190 AM or 99.5 FM KIX 101.1 FM, KFJB 1230 AM. We have certainly had our share of snowstorms this year.

MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE
COME YE, COME ALL;
NEW MISSION FAIR DATE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!



Wednesday, March 27th, 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 Kingsman 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 March 27th evening to church!!!



**FCC PARTNERING
 WITH
 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
 APRIL 23 – 26, 2019**

This is a very exciting opportunity for our church to make a real difference in the lives of our immediate neighbors who have suffered from the 2018 tornado. Watch for upcoming news in the church narthex & fellowship hall, and in our church bulletins, all-church emails, and the April Newsletter for more details!



MEALS ON WHEELS

Those who receive "Meals on Wheels" are so fortunate to have Volunteers from FCC. There are still openings for deliveries in the upcoming months. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex awaiting your name! Your participation is appreciated! Thank you.



GIVE A LIFT to Our Neighbors!

Many in our community have a real need for assistance financing items that keep themselves showered, shampooed, diapered, laundered and with clean dishes. House of Compassion (HOC) Supply Closet works diligently to help meet this need in a responsible way. March is FCC's month to focus on helping to maintain HOC Supply Closet inventories of important toiletries, cleaning supplies and medicines. We need your help!

HOC SUPPLY CLOSET DRIVE **Here's how to help in 2019**

1. Grab a tag or two (or five or more!) from the kite tails in Fellowship Hall during the month of March
2. Buy just the items described in the amounts/sizes/numbers recommended on the tag.
3. Bring your items to Fellowship Hall at the designated corner up through Sunday, March 31st
4. No need to wrap them or label them. *(If you have items to donate after March 31st, please take them directly to House of Compassion.)*

Benevolence and Missions Committee has concentrated on 10 of the most used items for the drive this year:

- Body Wash** – get five bottles liquid bathing soap; each bottle 10 oz. or larger
- Depends** (adult incontinence briefs) - get one package or box with at least 12–16 each, in either L or XL
- Diapers** – get one package or box of at least 16-18 diapers, in size 6
- Dish Detergent** – get five bottles liquid dish detergent; each bottle 10 oz. or larger
- Hand or Body Lotion** – get five bottles; each bottle 10 oz. or larger
- Facial Tissue** (e.g. Kleenex) – get two packages with at least four boxes/package
- Ibuprofen** – get one bottle with at least 100 tablets or pills each
- Liquid Laundry Detergent** – get one bottle/jug of at least 100 oz. volume
- Paper Towels** – get one package with at least 6 rolls per package
- Toilet Paper** – get one package with at least 12 rolls

Please note, we are not taking cash donations this year.



January 2019	ACTUAL	BUDGET	NET
GIVING	\$17,513	\$15,358	\$2,155
EXPENSES	\$17,124	\$19,058	-\$1,934



Ash Wednesday Services will be held on March 6th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall of First Congregational Church. This service is open to all church members, families and friends.



Lenten Prayer Breakfast

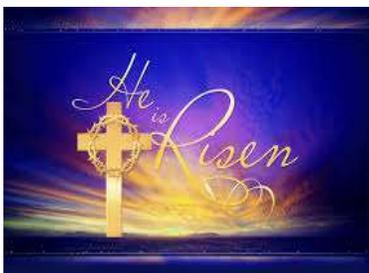
First Congregational Church will host the April 17th **Community Lenten breakfast** at 6:30am in our Fellowship hall. A Lenten message will follow with the event complete at 7:15am. Church members, friends and acquaintances are invited to attend.



Palm Sunday Services will be celebrated at First Congregation Church at 8am in the Chapel and 10:30am in our Sanctuary. All are invited.



Maundy Thursday Services will be held at First Congregational Church on Thursday April 18th at 7 P.M. in Sanctuary. This service is open to all church members, families and friends.



Hallelujah! Hallelujah! The Lord Has Risen!!

First Congregational Church will celebrate Easter Services on Sunday, April 21st at 8am in our Chapel and 10:30am in our Sanctuary. This service is open to all church members, families and friends.



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

Adult Bible Study: 9:30am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <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>	<p><u>Youth Night Times</u> 4:30-5:30pm- DOGS preschool- 5th grade 6-7pm Jr PY 6th-8th grades 7:30-8:30pm PY 9th-12th grades</p>				1	2
<p>3 Communion <u>Power Hour</u> 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT 5:00pm NOOMA/LOFT</p>	4	5 W.W.	<p>6 Lenten Brkfst: 6:30am 1st Presby 101 S ctr 7pm Ash Wednesday Svc Youth Night 6pm All groups Family night W.W.</p>	7 7pm Vision mtg	8 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets	9
<p>10 Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT 11:45 Cabinet Mtg Daylight Savings time begins Lent Begins</p>	11 7pm Young Adult Bible Study/LOFT	12 8:30am Missions Meet W.W.	13 Lenten Brkfst: 6:30am 1 st United Methodist 202 W Main 6pm Circle of Friends 6:30 Trustees meet NO Youth Night/Spring Break W.W.	14 6:30 Trustees meet in Adult SS room	15	16
<p>17 11:45 BCE <u>Power Hour</u> 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT  2nd Sunday in Lent</p>	18	19 6:30pm Deacons Meet W.W.	20 Lenten Brkfst: 6:30am Our Savior Lutheran 3001 S 6 th St Youth Night W.W.	21	22 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets	23 11am MOW FCC Vol: McCarty & Shollenbarger
<p>24 Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT 3rd Sunday in Lent 31 Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT 4th Sunday in Lent</p>	25 7pm Young Adult Bible Study/LOFT	26 W.W.	27 Lenten Brkfst: 6:30am St Henry 211 W Olive 6-7:30pm Missions Fair Day 6-7:30PM all invited Youth Night 4:30-5:30 D.O.G.S. 6-7:30 Jr PY & PY together for Mission Fair W.W.	28	29	30 11am MOW FCC Vol: Page 7

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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

