

# Pilgrim's Progress

## April 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."

### **Luke 24:1-12**

Resurrection Sunday, the most important day in the Christian calendar, is April 24. Christ has risen from the dead, and no one apparently remembered that He predicted that He would do so. All His disciples were mourning and in hiding, when some of the women went to visit His grave. They would be the first witnesses to His resurrection.

There they found "two men...in shining garments" who explained to them why Jesus was not there. There is significance in the fact that two angels appeared to them. (I find there is often significance in even the smallest detail of Scripture). In the Old Testament the Tabernacle, and later the Temple, served as the house of God among the people of God, and at the heart of that house was the mercy seat, where the Holy Spirit met with the priests and sins were forgiven. The description of the mercy seat included the statues of two angels on either side. The Apostle Paul, in Romans 3:25 describes Jesus as the "propitiation"-literally the "mercy seat" that God the Father set forth. In other words, Jesus is the actual fulfillment of what the mercy seat symbolized in the Old Testament, and instead of statues of angels, He had real angels guarding His body in death.

We live in times in which the realities predicted and symbolized in the Old Testament have actually come to pass, with a Lord who is risen and active today. A Lord who provides constant access to God and to mercy and who will never forsake us. It's a wonderful thing to consider. May you have a happy and blessed Easter.

Pastor Dan

### **April's Habitat for Humanity Blitz Right After Easter**

Habitat for Humanity plans to make a big difference in the lives of people affected by last July's tornado the week after Easter. Working with volunteers from Marshalltown and elsewhere, Habitat will be making repairs on roughly 30 homes scattered over the city. Our church is heavily involved. Volunteers from the church are helping, but there's room for more. Also, we will be housing Habitat staff (10-11 people) here in our building for the week (and possibly volunteers from another church sending people to help the week before). Pastor Dan gets to give the devotional address during the dedication ceremony on Friday and we hope to present Bibles autographed by all the workers who helped with their home repairs. There's still room for more volunteers. Contact Pastor Dan (419 699 2910) about helping.

### **Sermons for April**

*Sermons*



April 7 It's All Worth It  
April 14 Think as Jesus Thinks  
April 18 Holy Thursday Worship  
April 21 Easter I am What I am  
April 28 Where Will You Go from Here

Philippians 3:4-14  
Philippians 2:5-11  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
John 21:16-19



**Iowa-Nebraska Association of Congregational Christian Churches** will meet for the Fall Annual Meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> in Ashland NE. Pastor Dan Vellinga is the Moderator of this meeting. Blocks of rooms have been secured at Mahoney State Park, Melia Hill Inn B&B and Holiday Inn Express. If you are interested in attending and need a room reservation, please contact Pastor Dan or Mary in the church office for more info.



Troy & LaRae McGahuey  
Dwayne & Maxie Shultz  
Bill & Lynn Maas  
Eric & Nicki Weeden

April 9, 1988 31 years  
April 12, 1967 52 years  
April 13, 1996 23 years  
April 18, 2004 15 years



April 1	Trisha Gill	April 18	Liz Meyer
April 4	Joy Kreykes	April 19	Linda McGregor
April 7	Nancy Carmer	April 20	Don Mackaman, Sara Schwab
April 8	Sam Good, Foster Hawkins,	April 21	Katie Paustian, Shelly Speas
April 9	Vicki McKibbin	April 23	Thomas Stanley
April 10	Leah Stanley	April 25	Kirk Shirar
April 12	Branden Storjohann	April 26	Ken Niehouse
April 16	Lisa Blabaum, Susan Malloy	April 27	Ron Estabrook
April 17	Sam Speas	April 28	Adam Swope
		April 29	Allyson Reeder, Clarence Balcom

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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, 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 **Suites of Ankeny:** Don & Romaine Mackaman

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

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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.

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**April Youth Night Schedule: Wednesday Activities: April 6, 10, 17 & 24**

DOG's 4:30-5:30pm (preschool-5th grade);

Jr. PY 6-7pm (6-8th grade);

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



**YABS (Young Adult Bible Study)** Young Adult Bible Study will meet **Sunday, April 14 & 28th** at 7pm at FCC in the Loft. Bible study for adults age 18-35. Currently studying from Andy Stanley's, “Me and My Big Mouth”. (note the day changed to Sunday rather than Monday)



Adult Bible Study on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



Our NAPF/HOPE Youth Mission Conference Group would like to announce that a flock of flamingos will be heading to Marshalltown for the month of April. You can nominate someone to receive a migration and our flamingo technicians will move them around town. More information to be announced. Please contact Shelly Speas 641-751-9868 to participate.

**Thanks so much for your support of our fundraisers!!**

## RECENT YOUTH ACTIVIES TO SHARE!



The WinterJam Christian concert in January was a wonderful experience! We took a group of almost 20 youth and young adults to see awesome Christian music artists and listen to some inspiring testimonies!



The Winter Retreat in February was an awesome time of fellowship and fun in Minnesota! We took a group of about 15 to ski, snowboard, and tube and stay at People's Congregational Church. Such an awesome thing to gather our youth together and grow in the faith as one group!



In March, some of our youth had an awesome opportunity to participate in a fundraiser and support a great community organization, Big Brothers, Big Sisters! What a wonderful way to support our community and help expose our young people to ways they can be involved!



In March we took a group of adults and youth to Des Moines for the **"Ignite Youth Leadership Conference"**. This conference is packed full of amazing speakers, so much encouragement for our youth leaders, wonderful worship music, and ideas for us to make an impact with our ministry!!



Also in March, we took a group of moms and girls to the **"Secret Keeper Girl Conference"** in Cedar Rapids. This was a wonderful conference focused on bringing families together and encouraging young girls to view themselves as masterpieces created by God!



We had so much fun at our family Night on Wednesday March 6th on Ash Wednesday! Great time to get our groups together for food, fun, and wonderful service to refocus our thoughts on God!



## **Marshalltown Christian School Update:**

"Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy..." Revelation 15:3-4

Marshalltown Christian School is completing its *thirteenth* year of serving families who choose Christian education. Registration is underway for the 2019-2020 school year. We teach biblical truths throughout the school day in order to fulfill our mission of *"glorifying God through biblical, Christ-centered education, providing academic excellence and preparing students for service and leadership."* We work with families and the church to disciple children and prepare them for their roles in building the Kingdom of God. Looking to the fall, we are preparing an exciting and engaging school-wide unit study and continuing the work to renew our accreditation. Thank you, First Congregational Church, for loving, supporting, and praying for MCS! God bless you.

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**Circle of Friends April 3** meeting has been cancelled.

## **MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE REPORT**



### **FCC Playing a Big Role in the Building Blitz This Month**

Habitat for Humanity is leading the Building Blitz April 23 – 27, 2019 to restore 30 – 40 homes damaged by the July 2018 tornado. Thousands from Marshalltown and elsewhere have volunteered to help with construction efforts and landscaping. Some FCC members are among them. Many more are volunteering in other ways.

Aaron Dickey has secured commitments of a handful of people from the church, but would love to round out his crew to 10. No experience is needed, all tools and safety equipment are provided and the engagement is for Friday, April 26 only. You must be at least 18 years old to build and at least 14 years old to do yard work with the crew. Call or email Aaron to volunteer. His contact information is: [adickey75@gmail.com](mailto:adickey75@gmail.com) or 641-485-0369.

Lunch for 200 volunteers working the Blitz on April 26 is being orchestrated by Kim Schryver. Ten folks from FCC have signed on thus far as supports in this effort. They will work with a crew from Elim Lutheran Church to make certain the volunteer laborers are well fed. St. Henry's Catholic Church will be the lunch service site. The Lunch Preparation and Service Committee would welcome a few more volunteers. Contact Kim Schryver to sign up: [kimschryver@gmail.com](mailto:kimschryver@gmail.com) or 641-844-3844.

Thanks to Cherryl Woltjer, et al.! They are planning hospitality for 11 Habitat for Humanity staff members who will overnight at FCC during the 5-day Blitz. Business as usual will go on in our church life during this time, but Blitz staff will bed down in our church at night - some in the Loft and probably some in Fellowship Hall. Our guests will shower at Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA. Breakfast and snacks will be provided by Cherryl's gracious team.

Finally, Pastor Dan is collaborating with Habitat for Humanity Staff and other local pastors to provide a special dedication ceremony blessing of the restored homes and those who reside in them and giving thanks to God. The event will be held on the morning of Friday, April 26. Each household will be presented with a Bible from FCC marking the day of the dedication.

Praises to this church for its volunteer efforts coupled with the financial support to Habitat for Humanity totalling \$100,000. In May, we will provide you all with feedback about some of the joys yielded by our participation!

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

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**The Marshalltown Police Department has asked that we share this information with all churches in Marshalltown.**

The goal of the Marshalltown Police Department, Marshall County Sherriff's Department, and L.A.S.T. WATCH is: Train employees to recognize signs of human trafficking in victims & perpetrators; to provide guidance of what to do when human trafficking is suspected and help put an end to Human Trafficking.

**SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING:**

- Sudden & dramatic change in behavior, friends, social climate
- Appears disconnected from family, friends, community
- May show signs of physical and emotional abuse
- Stopped attending or decreased attendance at school or job
- May be fearful, timid or submissive-may avoid eye contact
- Shows signs of being deprived of food, water of basic needs
- May be subject of shoplifting to meet their own basic needs
- Appears coached on what to say (does not speak for self when with others)
- Lacks personal possessions, or has an abundance of jewelry, makeup, fashionable clothes that do not fit their living situation
- Is a minor (under 18) and engaging in commercial sex acts
- Someone else is in possession of documents (license, ID, etc)
- Works long hours but income does not coincide with time worked
- Tattoo branding-indicating 'ownership' on victims
- Runaway
- Lacks clarification when asked direct questions (address, etc)
- Required to check in with someone; frequently being monitored.
- Refuses help when offered, protecting the abuser
- Usually not cooperative when others attempt to help, or with police
- Substance abuse or addiction frequently present
- The person with them may claim they are mentally ill
- May appear nervous or paranoid
- Attempt to lure other people (generally younger) to go with them
- May speak of having expensive clothes and jewelry, and a willingness To share those items to help lure someone.

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**HOW TO RESPOND:**

**Do not** attempt to intervene on your own.  
**Be a great witness** and give timely information to law enforcement. Get personal descriptions, license plate, vehicle description, # of people, direction of travel, friends or associate information, cell information.  
**Do not** make contact with suspected trafficker.  
**Be supportive & helpful** and above all else be aware.

**Who To Contact:**

**Emergency 911**

Marshalltown PD: 641-754-5725 or 911

Marshall County Sherriff's Office:

641-754-6380 or 911



**GRADUATION TIME IS UPON US!**

We will feature our graduates from our church as well as your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, from any school...whomever you'd like to boast about! Send a photo of your graduate (or bring it in) and a short write up about where they are graduating from as well as their future plans (college, job, trade school...) and accomplishments and we will post! It's so fun to share in your pride of our young people!

**Deadline for posting to the May newsletter for the graduation section is May 24<sup>th</sup>.**

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**FCC MISSIONS FAIR**

What fun we had! Our presenters, our support staff and those who attended enjoyed a night of learning, appreciation, friendly competition and of course food! Special thanks to those who provided table presentations tuning us into FCC supported missions:

Adrianna Goken and Shelly Speas – NAPF  
Cindy Shirar – Guzman Family Ministries  
Cassie Nemmers, et al. - Iowa Habitat for Humanity  
Bethany Wirin and Marilyn Downs – Marshalltown Christian School  
Karen and Mark Boland – My Kinsman Ministries  
Kim Schryver and Pastor Dan – NACCC Supported Missions  
Derice Aragon – Marshalltown Salvation Army  
Jeanne Vellinga – Welcome Table

Attendance numbered 45 with 34 from our church and 12 of visiting guests or presenters. It was a pleasure handing out prizes for well-done Word Jumbles and completed Mission Fair Passports! Again, thank you to all!



## Lenten Prayer Breakfast

First Congregational Church will host the April 17<sup>th</sup> **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 Congregational 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> at 8am in our Chapel and 10:30am in our Sanctuary. This service is open to all church members, families and friends.



## **FINAL LENTEN BREAKFASTS ON SCHEDULE...**

April 3, 2019	Trinity Lutheran Church 1011 South 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue
April 10, 2019	St. Mary Catholic Church 9 West Linn Street
April 17, 2019	First Congregational Church 312 West Main Street

Breakfast will be served at 6:30am followed by a Lenten message. We ask the host congregations to complete the event by 7:15am. The suggested theme this season will be "Beauty from Ashes". The breakfast and message are sponsored and organized by lay members of the host congregations. We invite all in our community, especially our church members, and encourage each church to make this information available to members of their congregations. Please feel free to invite interested friends and acquaintances.










# 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>						
	1	2	3 Lenten Brkfst: 6:30am Trinity Lutheran Church 1011 So 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave Youth Night 6pm Circle of Friends WW	4 7pm Vision Mtg	5	6
7 Communion 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT 5:00pm NOOMA/LOFT	8	9 8:45am BMC  W.W.	10 Lenten Brkfst: 6:30am St Mary Catholic Church 9 West Linn St. Youth Night W.W.	11 6:30 Trustees Meet	12 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets  Pastor at IA/NE Meeting	13  Pastor at IA/NE Meeting
14 Palm Sunday  Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT 11:45 BCE meets 7pm Young Adult Bible study/LOFT	15  HOLY WEEK	16 6:30pm Deacons Meet  W.W.	17 Final Lenten Brkfst: 6:30am FCC 312 W Main Youth Night W.W.	18 7pm Maundy Thursday Svc 	19 FCC offices closed  Good Friday	20  Holy Saturday
21 Easter Sunday  Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT 7pm Young Adult Bible Study/LOFT	22	23 <b>Habitat for Humanity®</b> Building Blitz Thru 27 <sup>th</sup> W.W.	24 Youth Night <b>Habitat for Humanity®</b> Building Blitz W.W.	25 <b>Habitat for Humanity®</b> Building Blitz	26 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets <b>Habitat for Humanity®</b> Building Blitz	27 11am MOW FCC Vol: <b>Habitat for Humanity®</b> Building Blitz
28 Power Hour 9:15 am all grades in the LOFT	29	30  W.W.			<u>color code:</u> youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards	<u>Youth Night Times</u> 4:30-5:30pm- DOGS preschool- 5 <sup>th</sup> grade 6-7pm Jr PY 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grades 7:30-8:30pm PY 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades



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

