

# Pilgrim's Progress

## July 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."

### **Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."**

The Book of Philippians is called "the book of joy" because of its light tone. It is written as if the author never had a bad day in his life. It is almost always upbeat and positive, but that stands in stark contrast to the circumstances tradition claims for this book. A letter written by the Apostle Paul to the Christians gathered in the city of Philippi, it was created in a jail cell. Some say that the actual cell has been found in the city of Rome, but I'm not sure of that.

What is known is that the jails cells of the time were relentlessly dark and depressing. They were often underground, damp and moldy with rats eating scraps of food, assuming that there was any food left after a meal, or even that food was offered in the first place. A prisoner had no rights, and could be jailed without limit. A jailor could forget to feed the prisoner, or simply let him starve to death. Wherever Paul's jail cell was, it was surely a terrible and depressing place. Yet that did not stop him from writing the "book of joy".

When Paul wrote that he could do all things through Christ, he wrote of being in happy, abundant circumstances and also being needy and uncertain of his future. He found, however, that the Holy Spirit engendered within him a contentment and could not be defined by any circumstance, and that gave him tremendous strength. In writing this in Sacred Scripture, I think the Bible offers us a promise of the Holy Spirit, to draw upon the Presence of God and create a contentment that is not defined or altered by circumstance. My prayer is that you will experience this grace of the Spirit this Summer.

Pastor Dan

### Sermons for July

*Sermons*



- |    |                            |                    |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 7  | Lambs Among Wolves         | Luke 10:1-11       |
| 14 | On Being a Grumpy Neighbor | Leviticus 19:17-18 |
| 21 | The Good Part              | Luke 10:38-42      |
| 28 | The Lord's Prayer          | Luke 11:1-4        |

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Our trustees continue to work on tornado damage in and around the church. Our new dishwasher is fully installed and functional now! Dorothy McHone can instruct anyone who needs to know how to use it. As it becomes difficult to recruit volunteers for our boards, the trustees are analyzing the number of volunteers needed for the

boards of each committee going forward.



Bob & Judy Gaynor July 1, 2006  
 JP & Jennifer Howard July 1, 1995  
 Kirk & Cindy Shirar July 6, 1991  
 John & Lisa Beaty July 9, 2004  
 Dave & Trisha Gill July 12, 2008  
 Ken & Darcie Lunsford July 14, 1984  
 Zach & Tara Juhl July 21, 2012

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July 4	Kaisa Stanley	July 19	Julie Squiers
July 5	Miriam Bryant, Lorrie Damman, Dave Hall, Dave Hall, Kim Schryver	July 21	Don Lundsford
July 6	Tyler Reeder	July 22	Susan Ferneau
July 8	Carlton Kothenbeutel, Mike Woltjer	July 23	JP Howard
July 12	David Dickey, Marilyn Rhodes, Belle Russell	July 24	Max Meyer
July 14	Al Hays, Eric Fruin	July 26	Margaret Klink
July 15	Sanny Thompson	July 27	Larry Good, Danielle Propst
July 18	Jane Ragland	July 28	Mackenzie Moyer
		July 29	Amy Gummert
		July 31	Matthew Dickey, Eleanor Rowden, Mildred Rowden

**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 **Suites of Ankeny:** Don & Romaine Mackaman  
**Glenwood Place:** Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mary Vellinga #117, Mildred Lathrop #145, Bob Becker #175, Bonnie Pappas # 177, Lenora Brown #147  
**The Willows:** Lee & Valois Brintnall #317, Sanny Thompson #205

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**Marshalltown Christian School Update:**

Even though it was a sopping wet, rainy weekend, customers stood in the rain waiting to get inside for the many donated items on sale in support of Marshalltown Christian School. Thank you for your supportive heart of giving those merchandise donations. The MCS Garage Sale fundraiser blesses the school's general fund and also our community members. As one purchaser stated when she loaded up her furniture bargains, "I am so very grateful that I came today!" MCS is thankful, too, that the shoppers came and departed "drenched" in bargains.

**Reading in the Park** is an MCS reading project being held this summer for students entering first through fourth grades who want to continue their reading skills and stay connected with their school friends during the summer break. Staffed by volunteers, Carrie Glessner and Kristi Cameron, students in attendance enjoyed the first day of reading – and, of course, playing in the park!

Board members will be traveling to Des Moines this summer to attend the summer IACS Conference (Iowa Association of Christian Schools). Topics of interest will include sustainability, long-term vision, and strategic planning. *"For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding."* ~ Proverbs 2:6

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As you may know, we removed 3 or 4 of the 17' long pews from our sanctuary when we had the new carpet laid last year. They have been in storage since and we would like to give them to a woodworker or someone who could utilize them. If you have an interest, please contact the church office. Thank you.



Youth Director: Shelly Speas  
Contact # 641-751-9868

Summer is here, so there are no more regular Wednesday Youth Activities or Power Hour. Below are listings of special activities planned! Mark your calendars!



**July 7th: 9 AM** Popcorn, Movie, and a message in the Loft at 9am for pre-12th grade



**July 19th: 6:30PM-12:30AM** Youth Lock-in for 6-12th grade 6pm-12:30am with food, games, and Jesus



**July 24th: 5-7PM** Drive in Movie at FCC for pre-5th grade 5-7pm



Nooma Bible Study will be July 7th beginning at 5pm. This month we will have a cookout at Greg and Kristin Meyers home. Please contact Shelly Speas ([641-751-9868](tel:641-751-9868)) for more info.

thank you.  
thank you.  
thank you.  
thank you.  
thank you.

Thank you so much to those who donated items for our youth yard sale! It was a great sale and we were very blessed!!

Our preschool-5th graders had a fantastic time together at our picnic in Conrad, IA at Dreamland Park on June 5th!

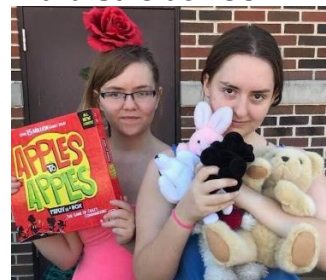
We had a fantastic youth night with our 6-12th graders on June 14th with food and games at church and Cosmic Bowling!

What a wonderful blessing the flamingo fundraiser has been this year!! Thank you all for supporting us and helping to move the flock all around Marshalltown!

PICTURES FROM THE YOUTH WORKING AT NAPF/HOPE MISSION CONFERENCE IN OHIO



The Flamingos @ Pastor's Yard Sale at FCC







## TO MARS AND BEYOND VBS

JULY 29-AUG 2, 5:00-8:30 p.m.



Kids ages 4-12 will blast off with the first VBS to land on the moon! To Mars and Beyond will help them discover the wonders of God's universe. They'll become Voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. Each night they will be fed a meal then meet in our Assembly area-an outpost on Mars! Also included are games, science exploration, crafts and a snack. They'll lift off to distant planets on special missions to collect power sources. Along the way, they'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too. Add to the adventure with out-of-this-world fun, learning, and timeless Bible stories that inspire kids to give glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine! Shelly Speas and Jeanne Vellinga will be co-directing this year and can be reached for questions at 641-751-9868 or 419-308-1107. To register online, go to [cokesburyvbs.com/firstcong](http://cokesburyvbs.com/firstcong). If you do not have computer access, call one of the phone numbers and we can take your registration over the phone. All are welcome, we encourage you to BRING FRIENDS!

**HELPERS:** We are getting our staff lined up, and will need helpers! You've heard it takes a village to raise a child- it takes the church to minister to kiddos through VBS! If you can help in any way, please give Shelly or Jeanne a call or text.

**DONATIONS:** There are lists on the counter across from the men's bathroom downstairs. For food items, please bring them to the church by Saturday, July 27.

Miss Galaxy, Lydia Speas, will be handing out postcards with information about our VBS throughout town.

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**FOUND ITEMS:** Occasionally, people leave items behind in the pews or around the church. There is a box located in the narthax cloak room that says "FOUND ITEMS"...please check it if you are missing something!







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

