

# Pilgrim's Progress

## November 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."

John 6:35 "And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.'"

November is the end of Fall, with Winter on the horizon. On the last Sunday of the month, Christ the King Sunday, we'll have our annual Fall Harvest Dinner, just before Thanksgiving. It is the time to remember all of the good events that have transpired over the year so far, and to give thanks. In Deuteronomy, (26:1-11) the people gave thanks for the harvest and for the provision it provides, but also for the great works of God in the past, including the deliverance from slavery in Egypt. This month we can give thanks for all the blessings of our lives, but also for all that God has done that affects our lives; the blessing of Christ who sets people free from sin, the blessing of the Holy Spirit who brings the truth of Scripture to bear on our lives, the blessing of living in a country of laws that recognizes the God-given freedoms to people.

We can give thanks for life, and for eternal life in Christ. He said that He is the Bread of Life; the One who gave us life; died and rose again to give us new life, and who gives us purpose in life. He also showed that investing in the blessing of other people is a life well lived, saying that whatever we do for the least of His brethren, we have done to Him. We can give thanks to Him by helping a person in difficulty, or working to help people in slavery (human trafficking) in gratitude for freedom from the spiritual slavery of sin. Ways to give thanks abound, they are as many as the need of people around you. Ask the Lord to show you how you can give thanks verbally in prayer, but also by action in helping one another.

Pastor Dan

*Sermons*



### Sermons for November

- November 3 Rev Harlan Nuss will be our pulpit guest today
- November 10 Luke 20:27-38 God of the Living
- November 17 Luke 21:5-19 By Patience You Possess Your Soul
- November 24 Luke 23:33-43 The Cup

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DIACONATE COMMITTEE will decorate the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas Season on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am. All are welcome to participate!



# CHURCH NEWS



Al & Judy Hays	11/09/63	56 years
Dave & Jo Dysart	11/10/84	35 years
Cliff & Lori March	11/10/84	35 years
Ken & Anita Niehouse	11/10/57	62 years
Don & Jane Benbow	11/15/58	61 years
Tom & Mary Curley	11/15/86	33 years
Craig & Cynthia Ragland	11/29/96	23 years
Rod & Kristi Hassler	11/29/08	11 years
Lee & Valois Brintnall	11/30/52	67 years

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November 2	Jody Brintnall, Adrianna Goken
November 5	Brian Berg
November 6	Breana Gruver-Alvarado
November 7	Olivia Hawkins
November 13	Janet Allbee
November 20	Georgia Thomas
November 24	Nancy Urbanowski
November 25	Shirley Nott
November 27	Sharon Propst, Jeannette Atchison
November 30	Pastor Greg Ellcey

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

- Southridge:** Betty Runner #212,
- Bickford :** Joanie Smith-Legg #108; Marilyn Rhodes # 123, Dorothy Peterson #105
- Grandview:** Pattye Morrison #107, Ken Niehouse #413 **IVH:** JoAnne Ainley
- Suites of Ankeny:** Don & Romaine Mackaman

- The Willows:** Lee & Valois Brintnall #317, Sanny Thompson #205, Clarence Balcom
- Glenwood Place:** Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mildred Lathrop #145, Bob Becker #175, Bonnie Pappas # 177, Lenora Brown #147



## ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Our annual Harvest Dinner will be held Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> directly following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. There is no cost for this meal and you do NOT need to bring anything – all is provided. MENU: pork loins, cheesy potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, dinner roll, pie, beverage. As in the past, there will be reservation forms in Sunday bulletins for you to complete

OR you may call the church office during regular office hours 752-4239: Monday – Friday, 9-12. To best plan for the meal, we ask that your reservations be in no later than Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**More hands make less work.** Your volunteering will help make this annual event the success it has been for many, many years. These are the areas for which we are looking for volunteers: decorating & setting the tables on Saturday Nov. 23; clearing the tables after the dinner Sunday Nov. 24; general clean-up of kitchen and Fellowship Hall. If you are willing and available to lend a helping hand before or after our meal, please let the church office know.

We invite each of you to come enjoy the food, fellowship, and celebration of the Pilgrims First Thanksgiving.

Blessings, Harvest Dinner Prep Committee

**SENIORS CITIZENS: YOU CAN MAKE YOUR GIFTS TO FCC TAX DEDUCTABLE IN ADDITION TO THE STANDARD DEDUCTION FOR 2019**

Those of you who have reached age 70 ½ can take the new standard deduction which is double what it was for 2017 and contribute directly to a charity tax free. This contribution to the charity will become part of your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA. The financial institution that holds your IRA must do a direct transfer to First Congregational Church for this transaction to meet tax code requirements. Also please follow these steps in order to ensure the contribution is coded correctly: Make sure the financial institution includes your name somewhere on the check stub. You should also be able to designate the frequency of donation for that fiscal year. Notify the church treasurer of your intentions and if possible, add a designation along with your name such as "tithes", "Endowment", a "project name" or "program name".

*Please note this is to be used for informational purposes only. This is not tax advice and it should not be viewed as such. Please consult with your tax advisor for any questions on using RMD as a tax strategy.*

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<b>January - September 2019</b>	Actual	Budget	Net
<b>GIVING</b>	\$106,698	\$138,222	-\$31,524
<b>EXPENSES</b>	\$198,875	\$187,034	\$11,841

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**CAPITAL DONATION SUGGESTIONS**

**Est. Costs**

Your church has the need to invest significant dollars in several capital projects for the long-term health of the church. Anyone interested in supplementing their normal giving with gifts directed for capital projects are invited to review the following needs. These are all very important projects that your Trustees are currently working on. By giving some additional monies for these causes or to the general capital fund, you can assist your church in maintaining its strength for many years.

Add new railing by steps just East of pulpit	500
Sanctuary video recording system for services and sermon	800
Make <u>removable</u> guard rails on East side of Narthex	1000
Automatic notification of fire alarm - to Trustees	1000
New flooring on landing going up to Loft	1,400
Install security camera system - in Cloister and north entrance to church	2,000
Motion sensors for lights/fans in 4 bathrooms	3,000
New dishwasher in kitchen	6,000
Elevator compliance upgrade	6,000
Elevator controls upgrade	65,000
Tornado repairs - Insurance is only paying for 60% of tornado costs	20,000
Organ console upgrade - it is time for us to do a necessary organ upgrade	60,000 plus

Thank you for your consideration of these requests for your church.



**SISTERS IN CHRIST:** Sisters in Christ will meet Monday, November 25th at 6:30pm at the church. Barbara Heil of "From His Heart Ministries" will be speaking. Her topic is "Chosen: Living the Life You were Meant to Have"



On Wednesday, Nov 20, we will be offering the livestream of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace Live at the church. This is a one-night-only event that will start at 5:45pm, and end around 8:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided. Please sign up online under the Facebook event posted by Jeanne Vellinga. If you are unable to do so, please contact Jeanne Vellinga to register at 419-308-1107. If there is enough interest, we hope to start classes in the future.

Library News



Looking for stories or history about our Pilgrim forefathers or history of the Mayflower and her passengers? Maybe a biography of Miles Standish, John Robinson, or William Bradford. Who are the Saints and Sinners to whom we owe our freedom? What is the Mayflower Compact? Visit the church library and you will find several books on display that will help you understand our legacy. There is also a new book available at the Marshalltown Public Library that looks closely at the Mayflower Lives. A good read for young adults through seniors. Enjoy this Thanksgiving Season with your children through games and stories also available in your church library.

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



**Wednesday Night Activities: November 6 & 13**

DOGs 4:30-5:30pm, PreK-5th grade  
Jr PY 6-7pm, 6-8th grade  
PY 7:30-8:30pm 9-12th grade

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**October Power Hour: PreK-12th grade 9:15am on November 3, 10, 17, 24. Don't miss it!**

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Homework help availalbe on Thursdays, from **4-5:30pm** in the Loft. Students can stop by anytime for help. November dates are: 7, 14, & 21<sup>st</sup>. If there are church members who would like to help students with homework, please contact Shelly Speas.

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Christian Concert: Youth Group (6-12<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to join a group going to Building 429 concert at 6pm at Journey Church in Marshalltown on Thursday Nov 7<sup>th</sup>!! Cost will be \$10. Please let Shelly know if you are interested!

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**Calling all kids PreK-12th grade!** Want to be part of an awesome production that will shine the love of God and share the wonderful news of Jesus? Well, contact Shelly Speas and be part of our Christmas Program which will be Sunday, December 15th during the 10:30am Service. Practices will be Saturdays from 12:30-2:30pm on November 16th & 23rd **No practice on November 30<sup>th</sup>.** Then December 7th & dress rehearsal on December 14th. Hope you will choose to be part of this!

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YABS: Young Adult Bible Study in the Loft at FCC. Sunday Nov 17th at 7pm. Any questions contact Shelly Speas.

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Nooma Adult Bible Study: November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm in the loft. Studying Beth Moore's James: Mercy Triumphs, studying the Bible book of James. A meal and child care is ovided.



Adult Activities: Sunday School 9:30am every Sunday in the Adult Ed Room.

# MISSIONS & BENEVOLENCE At CHRISTMAS TIME



## Christmas is right around the corner which means that it's time to give gifts for our Angel Tree.

The FCC 2019 Angel Tree will be set up in the Fellowship Hall after Thanksgiving. You will be able to choose gift(s) you would like to donate. Please go to the Fellowship Hall anytime after Thanksgiving to select a gift(s) from the Angel Tree. Please purchase gifts and return them **unwrapped** on or [before Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>](#). Your gifts may be dropped off at the church office during the week or on Sunday mornings in a box near the Angel Tree marked "Salvation Army Toy Shop." If you prefer, you can make a designated donation to the Salvation Army for a Christmas food box. Along with the gifts, we ask volunteers to pray that the needs of the children and families be met.



This year the Missions and Benevolence Committee agreed to support the Salvation Army's Christmas "Toy Shop." The committee will take your donation to the Salvation Army where parents will be able to select gifts for their children's Christmas. Families, who meet the income guidelines, may sign up for the program.

Families and individuals may sign up for a food box which contains fixings for a Christmas meal and a gift certificate for meat. Parents who are eligible and sign up for the Toy Shop program will have the opportunity to choose a gift for their child from one of the "Toy Shop" tables. Parents are paired with a volunteer and shop at one of the "Toy Shop" tables that are set up with age appropriate gifts for their child.

There are many ways to get involved. You can volunteer to help set up the "Christmas Toy Shop." Go to Salvation Army's volunteer registration site at [www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com). When you enter the site, you will see a list of options. Tap "View Full Site" and scroll down the page where you will see the volunteer opportunities for the "Toy Shop." They are: Toy Shop Set Up, Toy Shop Distributing Food and Toy Shop Tear Down. ( Please mark your calendar and give this Christmas out of the storehouse of what God so generously gives to us, His children.)

### Acts [20:35](#)

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

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## Marshalltown Christian School Update:

### *Singing at Grandview Heights*

Invited by our next door neighbor, Grandview Heights Rehab and Healthcare, MCS students visited and sang songs to the residents.



### High Middle Ages Unit Study



In European history, Christianity that spread across Europe was based on the scriptures that recounted the life of Christ and his disciples.

*"We want the students to learn the story of history,"* said teacher Miss Harris, of the Middle Ages/Medieval Period all-school unit study. *"It is a high interest subject for many children and the setting for many favorite stories."*

A Medieval Feast and Project Fair will be the culmination of the unit study, and each student will present their research project.



With directions from teaching knight Herr Karl (aka Chuck Friend), students Isaac Alvez and Ross Vitek worked piece by piece to build the 100-pound, 12<sup>th</sup>-century armor. Rose Massa, Betsy Wirin, and Gabe Benda then added the arm pieces and steel gloves, while teacher Miss Harris looked on.



Using student-size kings, queens, bishops, knights, rooks, and pawns is a fun way to play the oldest skill game in the world. The six different chess pieces on the chess board represent the way of life in medieval times. When asked what first grade student and chess player, Peter Hoven, thought of the life-size chess game, he said, *"It was good!"*

First grader Lucien Arneson tries on a helmet with the help of Herr Karl. Live presentations like this one bring history to life for students.



## HOLIDAY CONCERT

Saturday, Nov 23, 2019 – 3:00 pm  
First Congregational Church  
312 W Main St

You are invited to begin your Holiday Stroll at a Holiday Concert sponsored by Elim Lutheran Church and hosted by First Congregational Church, 312 W Main St, Marshalltown, on Saturday, Nov 23, at 3:00 pm. This free concert of holiday music will feature . . .

Hudson Lourenço, organist – native of São Paulo, Brazil, with a master’s degree in organ performance from the University of Iowa and newcomer to Marshalltown.

Josh Grimes, pianist – local musician best known for his membership in the Seymour Family Gospel Group and resident of Toledo.

Community Bell Choir, handbells – a gathering of handbell ringers from several area churches including Elim Lutheran, First Congregational, St Francis Catholic, and Trinity Lutheran.

This free concert will take place just prior to the opening of the 2019 Holiday Stroll in downtown Marshalltown. “Strollers” are invited to begin their evening activities at this concert at the First Congregational Church before “strolling” down Main Street.

### Men’s Chorus



The Holiday Concert does not include the Men’s Chorus. But...the Chorus will be singing right next door at the Central Christian turkey-noodle dinner which follows this concert at 4:30 pm.

# November



## 2019

### FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

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

Adult Bible Study: 9:30am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239				
<b>color code:</b> youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards					1	2
<b>3</b> Communion Sunday Pulpit Guest: Rev Nuss  9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 5pm Nooma Loft	4	5  W.W.	<b>6</b> Youth Nite DOGs 4:30-5:30 PreK-5 <sup>th</sup> gr Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8 <sup>th</sup> gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12 <sup>th</sup> gr W.W.	<b>7</b> 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLp  6pm Christian Concert @ Journey church	<b>8</b> 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets	9
<b>10</b> Communion 9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr  11:45 Cabinet Meets	11	<b>12</b> 8:30am MBC meets  W.W.	<b>13</b> Youth Nite DOGs 4:30-5:30 PreK-5 <sup>th</sup> gr Jr PY 6-7pm 6-8 <sup>th</sup> gr PY 7:30-8:30 9-12 <sup>th</sup> gr W.W.	<b>14</b> 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLp  6:30pm Trustees	15	<b>16</b> 12:30-2:30 Cmas Program rehearsal
<b>17</b>  9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 11:45am BCE Meets 7pm YABS in Loft	18	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Deacons  W.W.	<b>20</b> No Youth Activities tonight  5:45 pm Financial Peace Seminar  W.W.	<b>21</b> 4-5:50pm HoMework HeLp  6:30pm Trustees meet	<b>22</b> 10-noon FCC Stamp Club meets  Special Youth Activity Pre-12 Thanksgiving Feast	<b>23</b> 11am MOW FCC Vol: Shelly Speas 12:30-2:30 Cmas Program rehearsal  3pm Holiday Concert  4pm Holiday Stroll begins
<b>24</b> 9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr   Harvest Dinner Following 10:30am service	<b>25</b> 6:30pm Sisters In Christ meet	<b>26</b> W.W.	<b>27</b> No Youth Activities tonight  W.W.	<b>28</b> No Homework help today 	<b>29</b> FCC will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.	<b>30</b> 11am MOW FCC Vol: Wagars  10am: Decorate Sanctuary for Advent & Christmas. All are welcome to participate.

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# November



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

