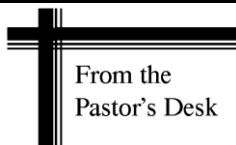


# Pilgrim's Progress

## February 2020

"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."



From the  
Pastor's Desk

### Theme for the sermons of the month: Making the Most of Life

It has been said that life is God's gift to us, what we do with that life is our gift to God. I think that there is some truth to that. In one of His many parables, the Lord Jesus spoke of three servants to whom a wealthy man entrusted cash for investment. The first two followed suit and invested the money and made a profit, and were both rewarded. The third, considering his employer to be a hard man who took what did not belong to him, took the cash and buried it in a safe place. He was able to return the cash to his employer upon his return. The employer, probably insulted, takes the money away from that last servant and gives it to the one who did the best job of investing, and the last servant was punished. In the actual parable, Jesus uses "talents", bars of precious metal and what the "talents" actually represent is a matter of debate. I think that was deliberate. The "talents" could be the spiritual gifts bestowed upon the church by the Holy Spirit, it could be the gospel, which is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16), or it could be our lives and what we do with it. I do not think that makes the most of our lives involves riches or fame. It involves learning what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit, or to be pleasing to the Lord, or to know Him better, or to be made more like Him. It is service and prayer, and unconditional love. It is an uncounted accumulation of gracious acts of service borne out of heart that is grateful for a salvation made only of grace. That is the theme of our sermons this month.

### Ash Wednesday February 26 7:00 p.m.

We begin Lent with worship in song, reflection and the Imposition of Ashes the last Wednesday of the month in the Sanctuary. By participating in this we confront our mortality (which is health if we don't overdo it) and remember that Jesus, the eternal Son of God, chose to die a mortal death for the sins of the world. This is a good opportunity to grow spiritually and to remember the suffering of our Savior. Hope to see you there. Schedule of morning breakfast meetings for Lent follows on page 2.

### Sermons for February

Sermons



Sunday February 2

Annual Meeting

Sunday February 9

Sunday February 16

Sunday February 23

Sermon: The Message of the Cross

Sermon: Salt of the Earth

Sermon: Gaining Christ

Sermon: Transfigurations

Isaiah 29:14

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:13-20

Philippians 3:8

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9



Pastor Dan during the children's message on Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup>. Interesting display on screen...shared by a church member.



To: Christian Congregations of Marshalltown

A short time from now, we will again be observing another season of Lent. This is a great opportunity for us as Christians to give a united message about the salvation that has been given to all through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Too often we are viewed by the format of our worship service rather than the message we have to share.

As we have done the last several years, lay people from churches in our community have stepped up to offer fellowship and worship every Wednesday morning during the Lenten Season. Please note the churches and dates below for the 2020 season of Lent:

February 26, 2020 Ash Wednesday	First United Church of Christ 204 South 4 <sup>th</sup> Street
March 4, 2020	Hope United Methodist Church 2203 South 3 <sup>rd</sup> Avenue
March 11, 2020	New Hope Christian Church 3901 South Center Street
March 18, 2020	St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church (St. Henry Campus) 211 West Olive Street
March 25, 2020	Central Christian Church 300 West Main Street
April 1, 2020	First Friends Church 2409 South 6 <sup>th</sup> Street
April 8, 2020	Elim Lutheran Church 302 West Church 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

**“Gather Us, Redeem Us, Anoint Us, Make Us New”**

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.

# CHURCH NEWS

## FROM YOUR TRUSTEES: CAPITAL DONATION SUGGESTIONS

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

Add new railing by steps just east of the pulpit	\$500
Sanctuary video recording system for services & sermons	\$800
Make removeable guard rails on East side of Narthex	\$1000
Automatic notification of fire alarm to trustee(s)	\$1000
New flooring on landing outside of loft	\$1400
Motion sensors for light/fans in 4 restrooms	\$3000
Elevator compliance upgrades	\$65,000
Tornado repairs-insurance paid 60% of repair costs	\$20,000
Organ console upgrade-very necessary	\$60,000+

\*\*\*\*\*



Robert & Barbara Hibbs

February 28, 1970

50 years

\*\*\*\*\*



February 2 Madelyn Latham

February 24 Danielle Wical

February 3 Angela Dickey

February 25 Staci Moyer

February 4 Marian Gerdes

February 26 Joel Greer, Jeanne Vellinga

February 5 Katie Peiffer

February 27 Jo Dysart

February 16 Pat Anderson, Brian Mattingly, Beau Ragland

February 28 Mildred Lathrop

February 20 Betty Runner

February 29 Terry Paustian (this is your year, Terry!)



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

**Bickford:** Joanie Smith-Legg #108; Marilyn Rhodes # 123, Dorothy Peterson #105

**Grandview:** Patty Morrison #107, Ken Niehouse #413 **IVH:** JoAnne Ainley

**Suites of Ankeny:** Don & Romaine Mackaman **Southridge:** Betty Runner #212

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

**Glenwood Place:** Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mildred Lathrop #145, Bob Becker #175,

Bonnie Pappas # 177, Lenora Brown #147



Youth Director: Shelly Speas

Contact # 641-751-9868



**Wednesday Night Activities:**

**February 5, 12, 19**

DOGs 4:30-5:30pm, PreK-5th grade

Jr PY 6-7pm, 6-8th grade

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



**February Power Hour:**

PreK-12th grade 9:15am

February 2, 9, 16, 23

Starting with worship songs in the loft.



There is homework help available **every Thursday in February** for any student that needs it. Just contact our Youth Director, Shelly Speas, ahead of time so we are prepared with a helper for your student. The group meets in the downstairs of the church.



**Friday Feb 21-23...** Youth Winter Retreat Announcement for youth 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade. The group will be leaving the evening of Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> and will travel to Minnesota where they will stay at People's Congregational Church. They will have the opportunity to ski/snowboard/and tube at Wild Mountain Resort. They will return home on Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> in the late afternoon. Cost is \$16 for tubing and \$60 for skiing or snowboarding. Please contact the Youth Director Shelly Speas with questions or to let her know if interested.



**FAMILY NIGHT/ASH WEDNESDAY...Wednesday Feb 26<sup>th</sup>.** There will be a special activity on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the fellowship hall at FCC. Youth and families are invited to come to a family night. Then they are invited to come upstairs for the Ash Wednesday service beginning at 7pm in the sanctuary. Church members are invited to come as well. This will be a pot luck so bring some yummy food to share.



**YABS (Young Adult Bible Study):** Bible Study for adult ages 18-35 will meet Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm. Food & Bible Study together.



Nooma Adult Bible Study is **Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 5pm for a Super Bowl Party. Please bring a snack to share. No child care provided.



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

**Sisters in Christ** will be Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Details to be announced soon!

**MISSIONS & BENEVOLENCE**



**MEALS ON WHEELS...Thanks to all who participate!** You are appreciated! Dates for 2020 are still open...check your availability to see if you can assist!

February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	June 27 <sup>th</sup>	October 24 <sup>th</sup>	
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	July 25 <sup>th</sup>	November 28 <sup>th</sup>	
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	September 26 <sup>th</sup>	December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Thank you!

**Diaconate News:** We will begin the Lenten Season with an Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary at 7pm. Lent is a period of 46 days before Easter and ends on Maundy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

You may have noticed that the giving envelopes and pencils have been removed from the book holders in the pews. We have found scribbling on new envelopes as well as damage to the Bibles and hymnals in the pews, so felt the need to remove them. You will now find the envelopes in a box on the window ledge in the central hallway as well as in the Narthex. We apologize if this causes you inconvenience, but the Diaconate felt that we needed to protect the books and not waste envelopes.



**UPDATE:** When FCC had new carpet installed in the Sanctuary a couple of years ago, the trustees decided to remove a few pews to establish more room and create some wheelchair locations. We had hoped to sell or give these pews away to a woodworker to reuse or recycle. Bev Swenson's son and grandson took these pews...some stayed in Marshalltown and some went with her grandson out of state. Today, I received a photo from Doug Swenson showing me how he altered one of the pews for Bev's home. I am so pleased to see his beautiful work. Bev is so proud of her new furniture addition to her home.



MCS is very thankful for the warm weather during the Christmas Break, which allowed for the completion of the safety surface needed to cover the hard ground under the playset. Students are delighted to now be able to play and enjoy the equipment at their new recreational area. We thank God for providing the resources, volunteers, and weather to finish the playground project for the children.



Do you know a family interested in sending their children to Marshalltown Christian School? Shadow Days are available for those who want to experience being an MCS student for a day. Just call the school office to make the arrangements at (641)753-8824. See the difference MCS can make in your family's life!

In Christ, - Bethany Wirin

## TOY TOWN 2019 at SALVATION ARMY



Thank you, First Congregational Church members! We are blessed with people who are genuinely kindhearted and giving. The Mission and Benevolence Committee appreciates your support of the Salvation Army's annual Christmas "Toy Town" for families and their children.

This year there were 121 families and 369 children that received toys, food and clothing.

The number of stocking stuffers, toys, books and clothing donated totaled 2,836. Also, 60 single and adult families received a food box and gift card for either a turkey or ham.

Melissa Christensen, coordinator of "Toy Town" says, "We are very thankful for FCC's support and generous donations. Thank You!"



2020

# 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
<p>Monday-Friday 9am-noon 641-752-4239</p>						
<b>color code:</b> youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards						1
<b>2 Communion</b> 9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr 11:30AM Lunch followed by Annual Meeting 5pm Nooma Loft Super Bowl Pty	3	4  W.W.	<b>5 Youth Nite</b> 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>6 4-5:30pm</b> HoMework HeLp	7	8
<b>9</b> 9:15AM Power Hour PreK-12gr	10	11  W.W.	<b>12 Youth Nite</b> 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>13 4-5:30pm</b> HoMework HeLp	<b>14 10-noon FCC</b> Stamp Club meets	15
<b>16 9:15AM</b> Power Hour PreK-12gr 11:45 BCE Meets 7PM YABS Meet	17	<b>18</b> 8:30am MBC meets 6:30pm Deacons meet	<b>19 Youth Nite</b> 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>20 4-5:30pm</b> HoMework HeLp                      6:30pm Trustees meet	<b>21</b> Winter Retreat to MN; skiing, snow boarding & tubing. Overnighter. Contact Shelly Speas if interested.	<b>22</b> 11am MOW Volunteers:
<b>23 9:15AM Power</b> Hour PreK-12gr	24	25	<b>7 pm Family Night</b> attend Ash Wed Svcs followed by Pot luck meal. W.W.	<b>27</b> 4-5:30pm HoMework HeLp	<b>28 10-noon FCC</b> Stamp Club meets	<b>29</b> Happy B'day Terry Paustian 





First Congregational Church  
312 W. Main St.  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

web page: [www.fccmarshalltown.org](http://www.fccmarshalltown.org)

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. All ages in the LOFT

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

Office hours 9 a.m. - noon Mon - Fri 641-752-4239

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

