

Pilgrim's Progress



January 2021

"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 **Epiphany** January 6 marks the Day of Epiphany and the end of the Christmas Season. Epiphany remains until February 17, Ash Wednesday. We recognize the day because it helps us remember the Three Wise Men, who came from another country (or countries) to worship Jesus with gifts. They probably did not

arrive immediately after the birth of our Savior, but sometime later, considering how far they had to travel. We think they might have come from Iran, but we really don't know for sure. Some scholars suspect that they had access to the prophecies of Daniel and so looked for the arrival of the eternal King of Israel.

We remember Epiphany to acknowledge the divinity of Christ and the awesome truth that God, the Son, actually entered Creation as a harmless, defenseless little baby and be part of the Human race. Isaiah prophecies of them centuries earlier in chapter 60 (verses 1-6):

"Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD."

Such a glowing description of what must have been a humble reception, as Joseph and Mary were not wealthy. God has a way of showing up in the most modest of circumstances and prefers to be near the humble and lowly of heart. We serve a big God, who is willing to be with humble and modest people. That is just one of the lessons of Epiphany. Pastor Dan



<u>Sermons</u>

January 3The Great BlessingJanuary 10Some Thoughts on BaptismJanuary 17David and GoliathJanuary 24David and the showbreadJanuary 31Saul at En Dor

Numbers 6:22-27 Mark 1:4-11 1 Samuel 17:45-47 1 Samuel 21:6-9 1 Samuel 28:13-15

Bible Study on Romans

Adult Sunday School is starting up again, except that it will be on Zoom and not on Sunday morning. Pastor Dan will begin a study on the Book of Romans shortly after the turn of the year. Meeting times are under consideration. We may possibly meet on Sunday afternoon, or Tuesday night, or perhaps another time that is convenient for all interested. If you have a suggestion, please email the pastor at "pastor@fccmarshalltown.org."

Please keep our Members in Care Facilities in your thoughts & prayers: Image: Sector 1 Joanie Smith-Legg #108; Marilyn Rhodes # 123 Grandview: Pattye Morrison #107 IVH: JoAnne Ainley Suites of Ankeny: Don & Romaine Mackaman Southridge: Betty Runner #212 The Willows: Lee & Valois Brintnall #309, Sanny Thompson #205 Glenwood Place: Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mildred Lathrop #145, Bob Becker #175, Bonnie Pappas #177, Lenora Brown #147. Image: Todd & Leah Stanley January 4, 2003 18 years Image: Methy Minimer Souther & Germales Kethenheutel Image: Methy Minimer									
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Carlton & Carmalee Kothenbeutel January 14, 1967 54 years									
	January 1	Bing McHone, Quinton Nor	rman	January 19	Kristin Meyer				
	January 3	Janice Jordan		January 21	Mary Curley				
		Aaron Dickey Rod Hassler		January 22 January 23	Harriet Arklie Joan Carter, Branden Goken				
								January 9 Carolyn "Sue" Horn January 11 Jennifer Howard	
		January 26	Debi Estabrook, Davis Ragland						
DILENCO	January 13	Larry Koepnick, Jennie O'C	Conner	January 29	Blake Latham				
	January 15	Carmalee Kothenbeutel		2					
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News from Christian Ed

Children's Christmas Program: Shelly produced this program and it is available to view on You Tube at your convenience.

Caroling: The kids met a couple of times and visited several homes and sang carols.

Annual Conferences: All Adult and youth conferences have been cancelled for 2021. Virtual conferences will be held. Each church group will be asked to do a mission project and report back to NACCC on the content and accomplishments. 2022 conferences will be held in Wichita, KS.

Freedom for Youth: continues to meet at various sites. The Marshalltown group is small, but anticipates growth. Options are being looked at for the annual ski retreat to see what is available.

News from Missions and Benevolence



MEALS ON WHEELS is still "in motion" as volunteers continue to take care of delivering meals those who need us. Our church volunteers are so willing to participate, and we thank you all!

We deliver studies" January delivery volunteers are Rod & Kristi Hassler. Our slate for 2021 is open and waiting to put your name on the list. If you'd like to sign up for one of the following dates, just call the church office 641-752-4239 and we will get you on the list. Have a blessed holiday season. Kristi Hassler

February 27 March 27 April 24 May 22 June 26 July 24 2021 dates

August 28 September 25 October 23 November 27 December 25

Missions & Benevolence Committee Shares Invitation from AA

What is AA? Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. It is nonprofessional, self-supporting, multiracial, apolitical, and available almost everywhere. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem.	 Dear Doctor, Clergy, Counselor or other Professional, We'd like to make sure you're aware of the active AA groups in the area. There are several meetings every week in Marshalltown. Mon 12 pm and 6 pm Tues 12 pm and 6 pm and 8 pm Wed 12 pm and 8 pm Thurs 12 pm and 8 pm Fri 12 pm and 7 pm
	Sat 12 pm Sun. 8 am and 6 pm

Customarily all meetings are held at **1311 E. Nevada St**., but because of the pandemic, many online meetings with local connections have been created. There are also at least weekly meeting options in nearby communities: Ames, Boone, Eldora, Iowa Falls, Jewell, Madrid, Nevada, Ogden and Stratford.

We invite you to explore the website at <u>www.aacentraliowa.org</u> for the latest information about meetings and more information. AA members are available to answer any questions by email or phone *(#below)* or to connect with potential alcoholics.

Thank you! Carol L., Cooperation with Professional Community (515-291-8671 text or message) Cpc@aacentraliowa.org



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

JANUARY ACTIVIES & YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

Preschool-5th grade, this program is called D.O.G.'s (Depend on God) will meet at First Congregational Church on TUESDAY nights from 5:30-6:30pm in the fellowship hall. January 5, 12, 19, 26

6-8th grade, this program is called Jr. P.Y. (Jr. Pilgrim Youth) will meet at First Congregational Church on Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30pm in the Loft. January 6, 13, 20, 27

9-12th grade, this program is called P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) will meet at First Congregational Church on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm in the Loft.

January 6, 3, 20, 27

Sunday morning <u>Power Hour</u> for Preschool-12th grade continues to be on hold for now. We will resume when our Sunday morning worship services go back to in person.

OUR KIDS IN PICTURES....



Our Power Hour attendance winners enjoyed their sweet prizes as a group. Congratulations!





We had a wonderful time this December with our youth spreading Christmas joy to some of our church members by caroling at their doors.







Our youth and leaders got to have some awesome Christmas fun together this December at their Christmas Parties!

Christmas brings joy and hope for everyone! No matter the circumstances, there is always hope through Jesus! A wonderful Children's Christmas Program was put together to share this hope through the Christmas Story told by our youth and families. Please check out the program on our church YouTube or Facebook pages.



Here are the names of the kids involved in the Children's Christmas Program (listed in the order as seen in the video) Ian & Libby Meyer Lydia Speas Claire Meyer Hailey Hovey Royvaughn, Lusiano, Jace, Daisy, and Ella Alvarado Troy Honn Caroline and Lincoln Lavender Kaedyn Arredondo

Savannah Piper Reagan Riang Nora, Briget, Skyler Stackhouse Kasie and Melanie Brandt, and Ian Fikes Hendrix Cambridge Frejya Mills Layla Wimberly Avayah Speas **Izriel Reese** Keianna Kibbee Jasmine & Lizzy Gepford Taylor & Amber Brindle Kirah Ragsdale Caitlynn Schmidt **Zoey Woodard** Thomas & Kaisa Stanley Kaleb, Liam, Elias, and Hollynn Carter

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FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS! Sunday Worship Services: 10:30am on You Tube										
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
Diffice Hours	Monday-Friday 9am-Noon 641-752-4239									
color code:youth eventsChurch mtgsSpecial eventsComm. EventsColor copy onbulletin boards					1 office closed	2				
3 10:30 Svc/YouTube 2pm Communion Svc on Facebook	4	5	6	7	8	9				
10 10:30 Svc/YouTube	11	12 8:30am Zoom MBC meeting	13	14	15	16				
17 10:30 Svc/YouTube	18	19 6:30pm Deacons meeting	20	21 6:30 Trustees meet	22	23 11am MOW Volunteers: Hassler's				
24 10:30 Svc/YouTube 11:45am BCE meets Notice: Annual Meeting Feb 7 31 10:30 Svc/YouTube Notice: Annual Meeting Feb 7	25 Annual Reports from all Committee chairs due to church office today.	26	27	28	29	30				
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"Thoughts and prayers going out to all the men who have spent months telling their partners...I'll do that when I have time!"

Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine I would go to a bank teller with a mask on asking for money!

We all pray we will be back "together" in 2021!!!





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

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

