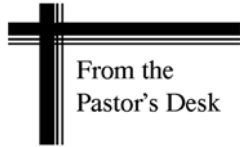


# Pilgrim's Progress

## February 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

**February 7 is the Annual Meeting**, beginning right after worship in the Sanctuary. At the Annual Meeting, we'll consider changes to the bylaws regarding the Endowment Fund. People can come in person or they can participate via the Zoom program. If you have any questions about Zoom, or are in need of an invitation via email, please contact the church office at 641 752 4239. The official notice of the meeting and the content of the proposed bylaw changes is later in the newsletter.

### Parish Development

Another reason to participate in this year's Annual Meeting is to continue the discussion of congregational renewal using the program from the Center for Parish Renewal. It involves Bible Studies, sermon and a weekend in which we all meet together (when we are able to do so) and share in God's heart for this community. There are, so I'm told, over 40 congregations in Marshalltown, so why should we have the one that meets in this building. I think because the mix of our people, our relationships and our "personality" as a community is unique and there are people in Marshalltown who can grow spiritually in our community better than they can in any other. Other churches can make similar claims, but that does not diminish the unique characteristics of our community. Different churches work for different people, and this process can make our community strong, healthy and ready for growth and for the work of God. We need everyone to take part.

### Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. The ashes, on our forehead or left hand, symbolize our recognition of the brevity of this life and a reminder to focus on Christ and eternity. As we walk with Christ toward the cross and the Resurrection, we can use Lent for a time to grow and to review our priorities and our spiritual life.

Pastor Dan

### Sermons

February 7  
February 14  
February 21  
February 28

Why Jesus Came  
From Life to Life  
Pastor out of town  
God Our Savior

Hebrews 2:14-18  
2 Kings 2:1-12  
Titus 3:1-8

## NEW CUSTODIAN

Nichole Wimberly has been our church custodian for the last few years and she has recently given her notice to leave this job. She's a busy woman with a young daughter and a full-time job that requires a lot of attention! We thank her for her commitment to this job and to FCC during her tenure.

We are pleased to announce Kim Curley, daughter of Mary Curley and neighbor to Nicole, has been hired to fill the position. So, if you see Kim working in the church be sure to introduce yourself to her! Welcome, Kim.





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

- Bickford :** 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:** 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.



Robert & Barbara Hibbs February 28, 1970 51 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, Beau Ragland | February 28 | Mildred Lathrop             |
| February 20 | Betty Runner               | February 29 | Terry Paustian              |



## News from Diaconate Board

**In-person Worship resumes:** The Diaconate approved re-opening FCC on Sunday February 7th with both an 8am and 10:30am service; both services will be held in the Sanctuary. The 10:30 service will continue to be on You Tube for those not wanting to attend in person.

### Following are the church guidelines for In-Person Worship

**Entrance doors:** **South doors** (back parking lot); **East front doors** under the Portico for those needing the elevator.

**Hand sanitizer** will be available at the entrances and we encourage you to use it when entering and exiting.

**Face Masks:** are required and there will be a supply available at both entrances.

**8am Service Seating:** The pews on the east side of the sanctuary (rows 1-6) will be available. Please wear masks and social distance; families may sit together.

**10:30am Service Seating:** Every other pew will be open for seating. Signage will appear on those pews not available. Please wear masks and social distance; families may sit together.

**Bulletins/Order of Worship:** There will be no paper or books available at the services; all information will appear on the screen in the Sanctuary. There will be no ushers, but deacons will be available to answer questions and offer guidance.

While we are all anxious to get back to “normal” as much as possible, we respectfully ask that you abide by these guidelines set out by your Diaconate board and encourage you not to touch, hug or shake hands with each other at this time. We thank you for your cooperation.

**Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday,** the first day of Lent and always falls 46 days before Easter. Symbolically, ashes from the burning of the Palm Sunday palms on Pentecost are used to mark a cross on the worshipers’ foreheads saying “That dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return”. These words were used as part of the Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve.

Specifically, Ash Wednesday is not mentioned in the Bible, however, from Biblical times, sprinkling oneself with ashes has been a mark of sorrow for sin. Several times the Bible mentions people repenting in dust and ashes, often accompanied by fasting. As you think about your life, repentance and fasting where is your heart? Are you focused on others or yourself? We should be willing to repent, fast and focus on God throughout the year and not just during the Lenten season.

Our Ash Wednesday/Lenten Service this year will be held as a Face Book live service on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Details will follow when defined in an all-church email.

## News from Christian Ed

**Children's Christmas Program:** Shelly produced this program and it is available to view on YouTube 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!

February delivery volunteers are Rod & Kristi Hassler. Dates for 2021 are 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. Thank you. Kristi Hassler

### 2021 dates

March 27  
April 24  
May 22

June 26  
July 24  
August 28

September 25  
October 23  
November 27  
December 25

## BCE Highlights

**Adult Sunday School:** If there is enough interest, there will be a zoom study led by Pastor Dan on Romans. Give him a call if interested.

**Children's Youth Ministries:** Shelly, our youth director broke her ankle and had surgery due to a Ninja move gone wrong. For awhile, youth activities will be held in Fellowship Hall. The younger group, DOGS, are following a book called "Indescribable". The other two groups are considering ways to serve the community. Fundraisers will include flamingos and the Optimist flags. The ski retreat remains a possibility.

**NAPF:** The annual meeting will be held virtually June 20-27 with the theme "Miles Apart – Connected with Faith".

**Committee news:** Hunter Diggins will be joining the Christian Ed board after approval at the annual meeting. Adrianna Goken's term will be ending and we thank her for her service. Page 3



Youth Director: Shelly Speas  
 Contact # 641-751-9868  
 Youth Activities in February:

## **FEBRUARY ACTIVIES & YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES**

**Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> 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.  
 Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23**

**6-8<sup>th</sup> 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 fellowship hall.  
 Feb. 3, 10, 16, 24**

**9-12<sup>th</sup> grade, this program is called P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) will meet at First Congregational Church on **Wednesday** nights from 7-8pm in the fellowship hall.  
 Feb. 3, 10, 16, 24**

**Sunday morning Power Hour for Preschool-12<sup>th</sup> 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!**



Every week at youth activities we collect the names of the kids who are there and then every couple of months we choose 2 winners by drawing their names from a box for each group. Here are our youth group attendance winners this month! Briget Stackhouse and Caitlynn Schmidt (3<sup>RD</sup> PHOTO)



Gracie Anderson and Amber Brindle

Kasie Brandt and Peyton Anderson



Sam & Shelly Speas technically met at Sam's house, at his sister Holly's high school graduation party. Sam saw Shelly there and he thought she was pretty but Shelly didn't notice him that first time. Then they officially met, Shelly's freshman year of college at the University of Northern Iowa when Sam came to visit his sister Holly in the dorms. Shelly and Holly were roommates, and Holly encouraged Shelly and Sam to get to know each other better. Sam found out that Shelly really wanted to learn how to swing and salsa dance, so he borrowed tapes from the public library with lessons on them so they could learn together. They grew closer after that doing many things together, including the Des Moines marathon in 2005. Sam even surprised Shelly with a first official date where he told her

they were just going to catch fish. He blindfolded her taking her to the river where he had tiki torches lined up making a path across the river. This path led Shelly to a table set in the river with dinner, roses and music waiting for them. Not too long after their first date, Sam set up another surprise date where he officially asked Shelly to be his girlfriend. This time going to a local wildlife park where he had gone in tall grass, cleared away an area in the middle of it, and dug a heart shaped pit. There they roasted dinner together and he gave her a dozen roses with one artificial rose. This rose he said represented his undying love for her. Fast forward 7 months later and Shelly had come home after being gone on a trip to visit her family in Missouri for Easter. Sam had surprised her by coming over and asking her to go to a park with him. He took her to the park by her childhood home and took out his guitar. Shelly, not knowing what was coming, dared Sam to teeter totter as he played the guitar. So as they teeter tottered, Sam played and sang a song he wrote, and proposed to Shelly in the song. Then they got off the teeter totter and Sam got down on one knee and presented her with an engagement ring. They didn't want a long engagement so they were married 4 months later at Pilgrim Heights, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Sam and Shelly have experienced lots of things in life together, with many highs and lows over the last 14 years. The one thing that holds them together is their faith in God. They rely on love from Jesus to be able to love each other, even through times of disagreements and hardships. They have come to know that life has seasons of good and bad, and they can't rely on their feelings which are ever changing like the wind. They also know that they need a strong rock to anchor their marriage and family onto, that can stand up to anything that may come. They are both just human and even though they can depend on each other and many times lift each other up with encouragement, they are very capable of making mistakes and can even let each other down. They instead anchor their lives to Jesus, who is never changing and always dependable. They use lessons learned from the Bible to direct their family and guide their hearts. Their advice to people going into marriage is to anchor their future on Jesus and not just their love for each other. Also it is vitally important to be active and connected to a church family. God didn't create us to get through life on our own. This is why he created community to help each other and depend on each other. We also need each other to see things from different perspectives! Sam and Shelly will be celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this coming August, and they are excited to see where God is going to take them next on their journey.





### Pastor Dan and Jeanne Vellinga

Dan and I met at the Veteran’s Memorial Auditorium in 1975. A mutual friend of ours, Randi Legg (female) and I were handing out brochures as people were entering to attend a David Wilkerson crusade. As I met him, I immediately thought that he was the nicest guy I had met, and I wanted to marry him!!! In true stalker form, I proceeded to find out anything I could about him. The next time I saw him was on the bus trip to Maine for an NAPF meeting. (I’m originally from the LaMoille church) When we got to the first stop in Indiana, I approached him, said hi, and asked him if he remembered me. He said no, he didn’t. I said, “well I remember you, and in fact I know all about you! You live in a yellow house at 909 W. Church St, you have a dog named Nipper, a yellow Volkswagen and your phone number is 752-4147....!” He looked surprised (and perhaps a little scared, lol, and said “well I won’t forget you now!” We ended up dating throughout high school and into his college years. We were both part of the GIA Singers, our youth group here at our

church, and participated in many plays together. He would get a lead role, and I would get the tiny parts and help with makeup. We would go to Happy Joe’s Pizza and always order half pepperoni/half Canadian bacon and sauerkraut, and he would carefully remove any of the evil sauerkraut that had fallen onto his side. We enjoyed hanging out at the Wharf, which was a Christian youth center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Vet’s Auditorium run by John Fitzgerald.

Fate would have it that my family decided to move to Broken Arrow, OK, which was a 30 minute drive to Oral Roberts University where Dan was studying. (I may have had a small part in suggesting that location!) After dating for 5 years, we married when I was 20 and he was 21. We were married in a small ceremony at the chapel of ORU, then drove to Marshalltown where there was a reception held for us here at this church.

Advice to newly married couples: Don’t say things you don’t mean in anger. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” Proverbs 18:21. Don’t throw around the “D” word (divorce) when you’re mad. Take opportunities to improve your marriage by going to marriage conferences or counselors as needed.

Note from Dan: Early in our marriage, Jeanne had a job at Harvard Medical School in Boston. She was very good at it. This job had real career potential and Jeanne gave it all up to follow the ministry that was on my heart. The lesson here is: don’t take your spouse for granted. They often give up a lot for you.



Vicki Weissinger Long/Ron Long – Marriage Memories (July 24,1971-March 18,2018...we would have celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary July 2021). Ron and I met on a “blind date”. We were introduced by Dave and Sharon (Kimberlan) Berg. Sharon and I both taught at Anson Elementary. Ron, Dave, and Sharon all graduated from MHS in 1960. Our first date was in February 1971 just prior to Presidents Day/Valentine’s Day. It was a “rare” snow day in the district. We went to Zeno’s for pizza and then across the street to a movie at the Strand Theater to see “Tora, Tora, Tora. Ron was most impressed because I ordered a beer with my pizza!

We were at my apartment in South Manor one weekend in March. Ron didn’t ask “Will you marry me?” He simply asked, “When shall we get married?” That was his proposal...March

14, 1971. God played a big part in our marriage. He guided us to an adoption agency in Ottumwa, when it seemed all else failed. We brought 2-month old Jeb home February 19, 1979 . When we were thrown a curve on December 26, 2007 with Ron’s mantle cell lymphoma diagnosis, he gave us strength to carry on for the years ahead; until Ron’s unexpected passing on March 18, 2018.

Marriage is “teamwork”. When you think you can’t, you find out you can, if you really believe in your marriage and each other.

Maybe more mine than Ron’s ...favorite love song “Just The Way You Are”. Not “I’ll fix you” or “You’ll fix me”, but we will figure this out together!





Dwayne and Maxie Shultz

Dwayne and I both were working at Fisher Controls. I worked in Printing and he worked in the Factory Office building, One part of my job was to file revisions in the Material books in the factory, One day, Dwayne was in the area and stopped to talk to me as I was filing. A week or so later a mutual friend, Jack, asked me, "If Dwayne wanted to ask you out , would you go?" I hesitated for a bit; I was divorced with 2 children and hadn't dated much. Then Jack said "Well it's just a date, isn't like you're going to marry him!!"

Needless to say, we remind Jack of that every once in a while!!

Dwayne's proposal amounted to my saying to him, "Look we've dated 2 1/2 years and if this isn't going anywhere, then I need to know!" By this time my Denny was 6 and Cheri was 4 and I wanted someone to help me raise them and to be a father figure for them. Well, he must have done a good job, after saying "Yes"!! On Dwayne's 80th birthday, son, Denny took him on a surprise all-expense paid vacation to Florida and made arrangements for them to play on Arnold Palmer's golf course, Bay Hill!! It was something that he will always remember!!

God has played a great part in our marriage! He has blessed us with 54 wonderful years together, a happy family life, we are also blessed to spend the winter in AZ, and we are still able to play tennis at this age!!

**Advice:** Just have fun together; laugh, love and thank God for every day that you have with each other!!





♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥



## February 2021

### FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

Sunday Worship Services: 10:30am on YouTube

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	<b>2</b> Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	<b>3</b> Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 Jr PY Fellowship Hall  7-8pm PY Fellowship Hall	4	5	6
<b>7</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube  Annual Meeting In person or Zoom	8	<b>9 8:30am MBC</b>  Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	<b>10</b> Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 Jr PY Fellowship Hall  7-8pm PY Fellowship Hall	11	12	13
<b>14</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube  	15	<b>16 6:30pm Deacons</b>  Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	<b>17 Ash Wednesday            FB Service</b> Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 Jr PY Fellowship Hall  7-8pm PY Fellowship Hall	<b>18 6:30pm Trustees</b>	19	20
<b>21</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube  <b>11:45am BCE</b>	22	<b>23</b> Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	<b>24</b> Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 Jr PY Fellowship Hall  7-8pm PY Fellowship Hall	25	26	<b>27</b> <b>11am MOW</b> <b>Volunteers:</b>
<b>28</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube  <b>11:45am BCE</b> <b>meets</b>						





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

