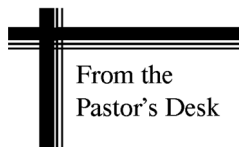


# Pilgrim's Progress

## March 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

The end of this month sees Palm Sunday already, as Lent came early this year. While Palm Sunday is often a victorious celebration, some call it "Passion Sunday" to focus on the suffering of Christ before His Resurrection. The Apostle Paul wrote this of the Lord in Philippians: "Let this mind be in you which was also

in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

First note that Jesus took the form of a "bondservant", a slave by choice. In other parts of the Bible, we Christians are told that we are "bond slaves of Jesus" so we must follow His lead. In an ironic twist, the Scripture teaches that the greatest freedom a human being can know is slavery to Jesus Christ. The Prince of freedom agreed to voluntary slavery for us, He knows best how we should live our lives. What also strikes me about this passage is that humility is strategic in the plan and will of God. Jesus did not humble himself due to low self-esteem but for the redemption of many. Likewise, the Holy Spirit does great works in the lives of people who live with humble hearts. May that same Spirit guide you in strategic humility this month, and may your obedience to Jesus lead to ever greater freedom.

Pastor Dan

### Sermons:

### Theme of the Month: Hope in Christ



(Daylight Saving Time Begins)

March 7  
March 14  
March 21  
March 28

Titus 2:11-15  
Philemon 1:8-16  
John 12:20-33  
Mark 14:32-42

God's Purpose  
No Longer a Slave  
Honor from the Father  
The Spirit is Willing



## **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

It's "daylight saving time," not "daylight savings time."

Many people render the term's second word in its plural form. However, since the word "saving" acts as part of an adjective rather than a verb, the singular is grammatically correct.

### **2. Though in favor of maximizing daylight waking hours, Benjamin Franklin did not originate the idea of moving clocks forward.**

By the time he was a 78-year-old American envoy in Paris in 1784, the man who espoused the virtues of "early to bed and early to rise" was not practicing what he preached. After being unpleasantly stirred from sleep at 6 a.m. by the summer sun, the founding father penned a satirical essay in which he calculated that Parisians, simply by waking up at dawn, could save the modern-day equivalent of \$200 million through "the economy of using sunshine instead of candles." As a result of this essay, [Franklin](#) is often erroneously given the honor of "inventing" daylight saving time, but he only proposed a change in sleep schedules—not the time itself.

### **3. Englishman William Willett led the first campaign to implement daylight saving time.**

While on an early-morning horseback ride around the desolate outskirts of London in 1905, Willett had an epiphany that the United Kingdom should move its clocks forward by 80 minutes between April and October so that more people could enjoy the plentiful sunlight. The Englishman published the 1907 brochure "The Waste of Daylight" and spent much of his personal fortune evangelizing with missionary zeal for the adoption of "summer time." Year after year, however, the British Parliament stymied the measure, and Willett died in 1915 at age 58 without ever seeing his idea come to fruition.

### **4. Germany was the first country to enact daylight saving time.**

It took World War I for Willett's dream to come true, but on April 30, 1916, Germany embraced daylight saving time to conserve electricity. (He may have been horrified to learn that Britain's wartime enemy followed his recommendations before his homeland.) Weeks later, the United Kingdom followed suit and introduced "summer time."

### **5. Daylight saving time in the United States was not intended to benefit farmers, as many people think.**

Contrary to popular belief, American farmers did not lobby for daylight saving to have more time to work in the fields; in fact, the agriculture industry was deeply opposed to the time switch when it was first implemented on March 31, 1918, as a wartime measure. The sun, not the clock, dictated farmers' schedules, so daylight saving was very disruptive. Farmers had to wait an extra hour for dew to evaporate to harvest hay, hired hands worked less since they still left at the same time for dinner and cows weren't ready to be milked an hour earlier to meet shipping schedules. Agrarian interests led the fight for the 1919 repeal of national daylight-saving time, which passed after Congress voted to override President Woodrow Wilson's veto. Rather than rural interests, it has been urban entities such as retail outlets and recreational businesses that have championed daylight saving over the decades.

### **6. For decades, daylight saving in the United States was a confounding patchwork of local practices.**

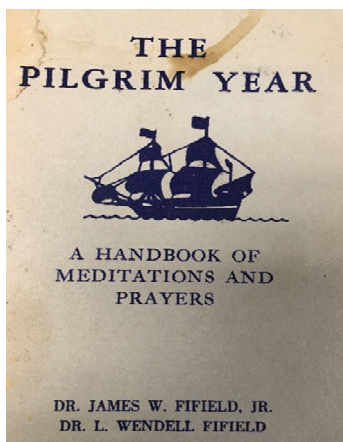
After the national repeal in 1919, some states and cities, including [New York City](#) and Chicago, continued to shift their clocks. National daylight saving time returned during [World War II](#), but after its repeal three weeks after war's end the confusing hodgepodge resumed. States and localities could start and end daylight saving whenever they pleased, a system that Time magazine (an aptly named source) described in 1963 as "a chaos of clocks." In 1965 there were 23 different pairs of start and end dates in Iowa alone, and St. Paul, Minnesota, even began daylight saving two weeks before its twin city, Minneapolis. Passengers on a 35-mile bus ride from Steubenville, Ohio, to Moundsville, West Virginia, passed through seven time changes. Order finally came in 1966 with the enactment of the Uniform Time Act, which standardized daylight saving time from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October, although states had the option of remaining on standard time year-round. Page 2

**7. Not everyone in the United States springs forward and falls back.**

Hawaii and Arizona—with the exception of the state’s Navajo Nation—do not observe daylight saving time, and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands also remain on standard time year-round. Some Amish communities also choose not to participate in daylight saving time. (Around the world, only about one-quarter of the world’s population, in approximately 70 countries, observe daylight saving. Since their daylight hours don’t vary much from season to season, countries closer to the equator have little need to deviate from standard time.)

**8. Evidence does not conclusively point to energy conservation as a result of daylight saving.**

Dating back to Willett, daylight saving advocates have touted energy conservation as an economic benefit. A U.S. Department of Transportation study in the 1970s concluded that total electricity savings associated with daylight saving time amounted to about 1 percent in the spring and fall months. As air conditioning has become more widespread, however, more recent studies have found that cost savings on lighting are more than offset by greater cooling expenses. University of California Santa Barbara economists calculated that Indiana’s move to statewide daylight saving time in 2006 led to a 1-percent rise in residential electricity use through additional demand for air conditioning on summer evenings and heating in early spring and late fall mornings. Some also argue that increased recreational activity during daylight saving results in greater gasoline consumption.




**FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT** (submitted by Miriam Bryant)

“It is not too late to save this thing we call civilization---but, it is later than many admit. It is late enough so that those who love life and believe in the dignity of man—had better bestir themselves, not much by telling the folks in Washington what a terrific job they’re doing as by doing a better job at home ourselves. “

Above is a partial message from this book of Meditation and Prayers published in the late 1950’s by the First Congregational Church of LA...of note to longtime members –Rev. Ronald W. Dickson, our former Pastor, is one of the editors. This historical treasure is available in our library.



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

 **Healing Prayer Ministry**

- 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.





Jeremy & Julie Lavender  
Bing & Dorothy McHone

March 4, 2010 11 years  
March 28, 1998 23 years



March 1	Cliff March	March 14	Dorothy McHone
March 2	Kayla Bogenrief	March 15	Charlie Fry, Julie Paustian
March 3	Leta Lacina	March 19	Gwen Wical
March 4	Barbara Ellcey, Dick Squiers, Erin Stanley	March 21	Dave Dysart
March 7	Barb Hibbs, Erin Woltjer	March 22	Irene Steward
March 8	Caroline Lavender	March 24	Lenora Brown, Lori March
March 9	Bob Bauer	March 29	James Allison
March 10	Greg Meyer, Reed Swartz	March 31	Nick Carson



## **News from Diaconate Board**

**Maundy Thursday Service:** Maunday Thursday falls on April 1<sup>st</sup> this year. Pastor Dan will hold services via You Tube at 7pm that evening for your viewing. More information will follow prior to Holy Week.

**Following is a reminder of our COVID guidelines for in service worship. Participation is light, but with spring around the corner and vaccinations being administered, we anticipate those numbers growing. So, we all need to be safe, so hence this reminder. Call the church office 641-752-4239 if you have any questions.**

**In-person Worship resumed:** The Diaconate approved re-opening FCC on Sunday February 7th with both an 8am and 10:30am service; both services are held in the Sanctuary. The 10:30 service will continue to be on You Tube for those being cautious and 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.

## **News from Missions and Benevolence**

### **SUCCESSFUL SALVATION ARMY TOY DRIVE 2020**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you! You make my heart sing because your generosity and support of the Salvation Army's Christmas toy drive has made a difference to a child in our community.

Thanks to the caring donations of money from our church family, we helped parents in need to afford the opportunity to select gifts for their child at Christmas. Missions and Benevolence budgeted \$1,000.00 for the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Drive and FCC church members gave an additional \$310.00. This gave our committee the opportunity to shop for fun and practical Christmas gifts for boys 12-18.

Our committee focused on buying gifts for teenage boys because of the glaring shortage of gifts in that area last year. According to Derice Aragon, (chairperson from the Salvation Army), there was still a shortage of gifts in that age group again this year. In addition to donations from the community, the Salvation Army contributed an additional \$1,000.00 to purchase more gifts for children 12-18. Out of the 123 families that received food, toys, and clothing there were 324 children that were able to open a present on Christmas.

I personally want to thank our Missions Benevolence Committee shoppers, Kristi Hassler, Kim Schryver, and Cherryl Woltjer for helping. We had fun! Masked up and armed with hand sanitizer, we met at Wal-Mart first and then headed to Theisen's. Just to name a few of the gifts we purchased: wireless headphones, tabletop foosball game, strip lights for room décor, tool sets, toiletry sets, board games, 12 bibles, flashlights, basket and volley balls, fishing poles, hand weights and portable speakers. The most popular gift this Christmas were electronic items.

Single and adult families also received a food box and a gift card for either a turkey or ham.

Derice Aragon, of the Salvation Army and coordinator of the Christmas "Toy Town" said that next year she would suggest we still focus our attention on the teenage group and perhaps add bedding items to our gifting. On behalf of the Salvation Army, Derice thanked FCC for our generosity and said that the Salvation Army is very thankful for the community's donations and support.

Many thanks, Jonna Wagar



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

March delivery volunteers are Shelly Speas & girls. More 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 still open**

April 24	September 25
May 22	October 23
June 26	November 27
July 24	December 25
August 28	



## **THRU OUT MARCH 2021 - FCC DRIVE TO SUPPORT HOC SUPPLY CLOSET**



To be eligible for Supply Closet products, participants must meet financial guidelines, reside in Marshall County, and present a picture ID to use the closet once a month. Three hygiene and household items can be chosen each month. The closet is open Monday - Thursday 10-12AM and 1-4:15 PM.

**Throughout March 2021 the FCC FOCUS will be to gather donations from the congregation of these items:**

- 1. hand soaps**
- 2. tooth paste**
- 3. men's/women's deodorant**
- 4. pain relievers – acetaminophen, ibuprofen or aspirin**
- 5. bandaids**
- 6. Financial support – write checks to FCC earmarked for HOC Supply Closet.**

**Please, bring your items to the shopping cart in the narthex at church or deliver to the FCC secretary.** We will end collections on Sunday, March 28, 2021, to allow time to deliver all collected items before the end of the month. If you want to donate after that date, please, take your items directly to House of Compassion at 211 W. Church during their hours of operation noted above.

### **About the House of Compassion**

*Called by our faith in Jesus Christ to act in love, the House of Compassion responds to the needs of our neighbor and advocates justice and dignity for all.* The house is a nonprofit organization that helps people who are in need of food or household items. We offer these things so that the town of Marshalltown, IA is a better place. As an agency totally funded by private donations, we feel very blessed

## FCC Renewal Task Force is at Work



At the Annual Meeting, Kim Schryver shared a very broad overview of a process by which our church will undertake an exciting look into our past, present and future. To begin this endeavor, we have engaged professional facilitators from the Center for Parish Development (<https://missionalchurch.org>) in collaboration with our own National Association of Christian Congregational Churches (<https://www.nacccc.org/>).

A few church members have invested in a LOT of learning about how to DO a church renewal project that is inclusive, not top down, and meaningful. At the direction of the FCC Cabinet, a special Renewal Task Force was appointed. This Renewal Task Force includes: Pastor Dan Vellinga, Kristin Meyer, Kim Schryver, Kirk Shirar and Shelly Speas. The purpose of this Task Force is to recommend a handful or so of FCC members who would effectively serve as a Renewal Coordinating Team to design and coordinate under the expert guidance of our facilitators a more detailed process of church renewal with our Cabinet and all of you.

Renewal will be a many month's process. We're striving for it to be a joyful and encouraging period of discovery and new connectedness. After the Coordinating Team is recruited and approved by our Cabinet, the Renewal Coordinating Team will be introduced to the whole congregation and will provide regular updates on what to expect next. Toasting all of you in this beginning of our next chapter!



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

## MARCH ACTIVITIES & YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULES

**Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade, 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. **March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**6-8<sup>th</sup> grade, Jr. P.Y. (Jr. Pilgrim Youth)** and **9-12<sup>th</sup> grade, P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth)** will meet in a combined group at First Congregational Church on **Wednesday** nights from 6:45-8:00pm in the fellowship hall. **March 3, 10, 16, 24, 31**

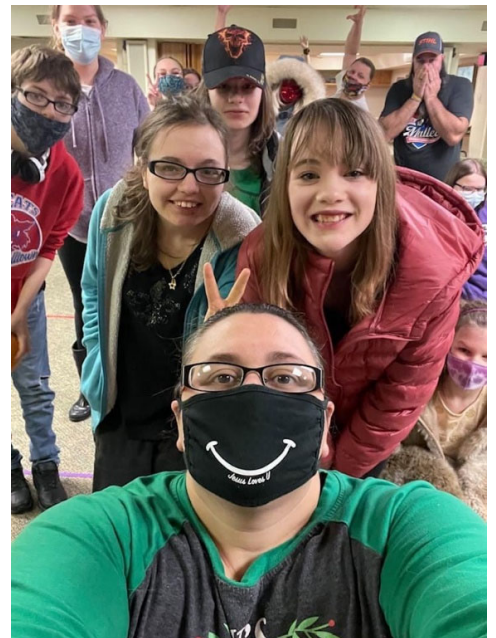


We are excited to start Sunday morning Power Hour again sometime in March, date still to be determined. Shelly Speas will contact families to let them know when that will be.



YOU KNOW KIDS ARE ALWAYS HUNGRY! And during youth group it's no different! Would you, our church members, be willing and able to provide snacks for our Tuesday night and Wednesday night youth programs for about 35 kids? Nothing fancy, just finger food to keep those bellies from growling! Please contact Shelly Speas if you are able to help...it's so appreciated! Thanks!

## OUR KIDS IN PICTURES!










well hello,  
**march** *it's about time!*

**March 2021**

**FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!**

*Sunday Worship Services: 10:30am on You Tube*

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 Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	3 Youth Activities 6:45-8:00 Jr PY & YP Fellowship Hall	4	5	6
<b>7 Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube  In Person Cabinet Meeting follows 10:30 svc in	8	9 8:30am MBC  Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	10 Youth Activities 6:45-8:00 Jr PY & YP Fellowship Hall	11	12	13
<b>14</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube  	15	16 6:30pm <b>Deacons</b>  Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	17 Youth Activities 6:45-8:00 Jr PY & YP Fellowship Hall  	18 6:30pm <b>Trustees</b>	19	20
<b>21</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube  11:45am BCE	22	23 Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	24 Youth Activities 6:45-8:00 Jr PY & YP Fellowship Hall	25	26	27 11am MOW Volunteers: Shelly & Family
<b>28 PALM SUNDAY</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube	29	30 Youth Activities 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	31 Youth Activities 6:45-8:00 Jr PY & YP Fellowship Hall	April 1 7pm You Tube Maundy Thursday Service		
						Page 9



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

