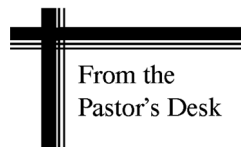


# Pilgrim's Progress

## May 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

### Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:6-7 "Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.'"

**Thursday, May 13 is the Day of the Ascension of the Lord**, recorded in Acts 1. Most of the time, our consideration of this and other passages like it focus on the promise of Pentecost. The very next verse, verse eight, says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." We naturally take note of the tremendous implications of the giving of the Holy Spirit, without whom living the Christian life would be impossible and all Christian worship would be dead, empty ritual with maybe, at best, a certain psychological benefit.

In light of that verse, I find it easy to skip over the prior two, but this time feel they deserve their consideration. Note that even in this very early account of the life of the church, while Christ is still on earth for a few moments, that people are asking about His return and subsequent reign in Israel. The question of His return has been on the minds of the very earliest generation of Christians, and that question has been discussed in every generation since. Jesus does not answer the question when presented to Him.

He replied that "times" or "seasons" such as that are in the domain of God the Father. He knows, and we'll know when we need to know. Not that such questions aren't worth discussion, they are, but there are some subjects in which we must acknowledge that God is sovereign, has ultimate knowledge and control. There is a certain comfort in the idea that we serve a God who is sovereign. While there is much that happens that we don't understand, we know that He understands and will one day make all clear to us. The Ascension reminds us that God has a plan and is in control.  
Pastor Dan

### Sermons:

May 2

Mission to Ethiopia

Isaiah 18:1-2

May 9

Mary and the Great Prayer

Isaiah 7:14

May 16

The Easy Yoke

Isaiah 9:2-4

May 23

The Spirit and the World

Jonah 3:1-4

May 30

The Generous Trinity

Numbers 11:23-30





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.



Aaron & Angie Dickey	May 10, 1997	24 years
Blake & Sarah Latham	May 26, 2007	14 years
Steve & Alicia Storjohann	May 27, 1983	38 years



May 1	Grant Brintnall, Nichole Wimberly	May 13	Kali Banks
May 2	Kristi Hassler, Paul Packer	May 15	Doug Randall
May 3	Sandy Packer	May 19	Levi Storjohann
May 4	Whitney Storjohann	May 21	Bob Gaynor, Ken Winkler
May 5	Avayah Speas	May 23	Raechel McGahuey, Judy Gaynor
May 6	Jennifer Allison, Megan Greenwood	May 31	Wendi Stanley
May 7	Doris McCarty, Chad Pinkston, Tawnya Jordan		
May 8	Ashley Beaty, Lisa Beaty		
May 9	Madison Swartz, Eleanor Tjossem		
May 10	Cynthia Ragland, Jim Clark, Nicole Vellinga		
May 11	Claire Meyer, Libby Meyer, Patricia Morrison,		



### Diaconate News...Did you know?

- Symbolically the palms from Palm Sunday are burned on Pentecost Sunday to be used to impose ashes on Ash Wednesday.
- The Easter Season is the period of 50 days spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost (May 23rd this year). The paraments are white during this time. The cross is only draped during Lent and the season of Easter. Paraments are the cloths on the lectern and altar table as well as the color of stole the pastor wears on his robe.
- Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his ascension. Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church and the start of the church's mission to the world. On Pentecost Sunday the paraments are red.
- After Pentecost we enter the "Ordinary" season where the paraments are green until Advent.

### Board of Christian Ed

**Adult Sunday School /Bible Study** on Romans led by Pastor Dan on Sunday afternoons via zoom is going very well.

**Power Hour** (Children's/Youth Sunday School) started again on April 11. All ages are currently meeting together. Power Hour will run through the end of May.

**Youth Group:** All 3 groups are well attended, with various activities for each group. The small Bible study group for young women is meeting again. Shelly is also doing a study called "Defined" with one of the girls individually. The youth will attend RiseFest 2021 in Sheldon, IA June 11 and 12 and camp overnight.

**YABS:** (Young Adult Bible Study) will be starting again soon.

**Sisters in Christ:** We discussed meeting in late June with a picnic.

**Graduation Sunday:** Hailey Edwards is our high school graduate this year. Jenny Sauer, Mackenzie Moyer and Hannah Shirar are our three college graduates. We will recognize them on Sunday, June 6 at church with cupcakes or cake in the fellowship hall. Our group will attend Baccalaureate to support this special evening. Shelly has been asked to help plan the ceremony.

**Nursery** is open again on Sunday mornings. One more attendant is needed to join Shelly, Jody and Sharon. Julie Lavender and Jeanne Vellinga are subs.

**Ebenezers** meetings have started again. This is the group made up of youth directors at some of the area churches. The group wants to plan an event for all churches. An overnight event in July is planned.

**NAPF/Hope.** The conference will run Tuesday, June 22 through Sunday, June 27. Sunday is the day for live events through zoom. Mission work will be scheduled for two days. There are many meaningful and fun activities being planned for this.

**VBS News:** Rocky Railroad VBS will be held July 25-29 and will include children 4-12 years of age.

Patrick is working on a **“life skills”** class for high school and young adults.

A ladies’ Bible study called **“Breakthrough”** will start May 3. We hope to have the TV mounted on the wall in the Adult SS room before that date.



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!

**May delivery volunteer is Doris McCarty.** 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 MOW Dates Open

July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27, December 25



We need to discard some of the many retired books in the library. There are many copies of old hymnals in the church library and many have been given as Memorial gifts over the years. If you or your family wish to have a hymnal(s) you donated but are now retired from use, please contact Mary or Miriam in the church office and we will be happy to give them to you. .

One or two copies of a hymnal from each era will be kept on our shelves to recognize its historical significance. Your comments and suggestions are welcome as the library is reorganized.



## Rev. Dr. Ashley Cook Cleere Named New Executive Director

The Executive Director Search Committee and the Board of Directors are pleased to announce the selection of Rev. Dr. Ashley Cook Cleere as the new Executive Director of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC). The selection was made after a national search process, numerous interviews, and thoughtful deliberation.



Jodee Lord, chair of the Search Committee said “We were excited what we learned about Rev. Dr. Cleere through the interview and through conversations with her references. She is passionate about and experienced in the NACCC. Ashley is a leader who is willing to be part of the team. She is a reliable and good administrator but also a visionary and innovator.” Jodee explained that the committee was particularly impressed and excited by the comments to questions related to visioning that the Rev. Dr. Cleere presented to the committee during the process. She was a unanimous choice of the Search Committee.

Ashley’s personal resume most recently includes work as Chaplain, Director of Church Relations, and Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Piedmont College. Her role at Piedmont included strengthening ties with the NACCC, promoting student recruitment to establish a more diversified student body, and partnering with students, faculty, staff, and community organizations to effect change in the college community. While chaplain Ashley worked with budgets and goals, personnel selection and evaluation, fundraising, and programming.

Ashley has also served as Interim Senior Pastor at Central Congregational Christian Church in Atlanta GA; Founding Minister at Covenant Congregational Church in Demorest GA; Minister of Congregational Life at South Congregational Church of Hartford CT; and Pastor of First Congregational Church of Etna in Pittsburgh PA. She is a graduate of Hamilton College, Union Theological Seminary, and Columbia Theological Seminary.

At the time of Ashley’s selection, she was serving as President of the Board of Governors of the Congregational Foundation. As President, she was a voting member on the NACCC Board of Directors and served from 2017-2020. Other work included serving as a member of the Nominating and Annual Meeting and Conference Committees, Missionary Society, and Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (CFTS).

Rev. Art Ritter, NACCC Board of Directors Chair stated, “We are excited about the choice of Ashley Cleere as the new Executive Director. Her experience within the NACCC will be helpful as we deal with the unique issues of our time and we look forward to her leadership in helping us define and work toward a bright future. We are grateful for the excellent work of the search committee.”

The members of the Search Committee and the Board of Directors ask that everyone keep the Rev. Dr. Cleere in prayer as she begins her new position on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Her selection will be on the agenda for ratification by the Delegates at the virtual Annual Meeting and Conference on June 19, 2021.





## ARE YOU INTERESTED?

NACCC needs a Year-Round NACCC Delegate. Each member church selects a Year-Round delegate to keep the NACCC informed on their church's hopes and needs so the NACCC can better support our ministries. The NACCC counts on the delegates to bring news of the NACCC to our congregation and leadership. Delegates receive an email newsletter monthly with info to share with the minister, leadership and congregation. If you would be interested in being our Year-Round Delegate, please talk to Miriam Bryant or Pat Anderson. Miriam has held this position most capably but she claims she isn't getting younger. We thank Miriam for her service.



## We Have Launched!



We are excited to announce that the new website for the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches has arrived! We encourage you to visit our state-of-the-art website and experience all it has to offer.

We are easy to find because our website address has stayed the same!

Visit us at [www.NACCC.org](http://www.NACCC.org)





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

## MAY 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. May 4, 11, 18 (end of the year party!)

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. May 5, 12, 19 (end of the year party!)



Date for May Power Hour will be May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (end of the year party) for our youth and children Preschool-12th grade on Sunday mornings at 9:30am. We will continue to meet in the Fellowship Hall.

## OUR KIDS IN PICTURES!

Our March attendance winners!

Taylor Brindle, Caitlynn Schmidt, Hailey Edwards, Sadie Moeller, Melanie Brandt, Nora Stackhouse



## News from Marshalltown Christian School

The MCS 8th grade graduation ceremony is nearing later this month, and MCS will say goodbye to its current 8th grade students. Each student will be selecting a surrounding area high school of their choice or choose homeschooling for the remainder of their secondary education. MCS graduates include Abbie Colwell, Caleb Doran, Jack Mason, Nate Norton, Rylee Stucky-DeLarme, and Ross Vitek. MCS entrusts its 8th graders to God who says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path." As they journey on to their next school environment, we thank God for their solid, biblical foundation and bright outlook.

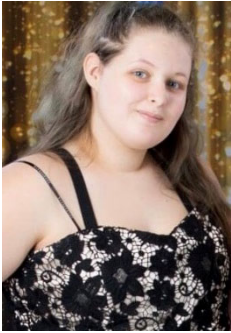
Grateful to God for the dedicated and talented teachers at MCS, the board of directors will host a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast in expression of their gratitude. MCS teachers inspire their students to glorify God, teach them with excellence, and guide them to servant leadership all to ensure that the school's mission is at the center of all educational activities.

Save the date for a Time of Celebration, Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 4-7 p.m. in celebration of retiring the building debt, 15 years of Marshalltown Christian School, and what's next for MCS!



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Graduation Sunday will be June 6<sup>th</sup> at FCC



Hailey Edwards will graduate from Marshalltown High School on Sunday, May 30th. She is the daughter of Crystal Edwards. Hailey participated in an early childhood development class at MHS where she had a practicum which allowed her to work at Bobcat Academy as a teacher's aid. She chose volleyball and an extra curricular activity as well. Hailey has been involved in our youth programs at FCC and has served as a VBS helper, has helped with youth fundraising, and was in our church Christmas play. She plans to attend Marshalltown Community College next year to pursue a degree in the early childhood development field.



Mackenzie Moyer is graduating from Marshalltown Community College on Friday, May 7th. She is the daughter of Tory and Staci Moyer and is the granddaughter of Ron & Debi Estabrook. Mackenzie will be receiving her AA degree in Liberal Arts. She has served as the Vice President of the Student Senate at MCC and has been on the Dean's list. Mackenzie will continue her education at Iowa State University where she plans to pursue a degree in Psychology.



Jenny Sauer is graduating from Marshalltown Community College on Friday, May 7th. She is the daughter of Darin Sauer and Jennifer Kearns. Jenny has 2 more online college courses to complete this summer and then she will receive her degree as a Medical Office Practitioner. After the summer, Jenny plans to apply to a hospital or a medical clinic.



Hannah Shirar is graduating from Iowa State University on Saturday, May 8th. She is the daughter of Kirk and Cindy Shirar. Hannah will receive her BS degree in Chemical Engineering, and she also majored in Spanish. Also while at ISU, Hannah has been involved with the honor societies Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi and she was honored as the Tjaden Family World Culture Scholar and was on the Dean's list. She plans to attend law school next fall to pursue her JD

degree to be able to work in IP law. Hannah plans to attend a law school in North Carolina, most likely Wake Forest University School of Law.





# May 2021

## FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

*Sunday Worship Services: 8am & 10:30am in-person in Sanctuary  
10:30am Service also 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						<b>1</b> Happy May Day 
<b>2</b> <b>Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube	<b>3</b> <b>Women's Bible Study</b> "Breakthrough" Adult SS room 7-8:30	<b>4</b> <b>Youth Activities</b> 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	<b>5</b> <b>Youth Activities</b> 6:45-8:00 Jr PY & YP Fellowship Hall	<b>6</b> <b>Renewal Coord.</b> <b>Team</b> <b>FH 6:30pm</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube	<b>10</b> <b>Women's Bible Study</b> "Breakthrough" Adult SS room 7-8:30	<b>11</b> <b>8:30am MBC</b>  <b>Youth Activities</b> 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	<b>12</b> <b>Youth Activities</b> 6:45-8:00 Jr PY & YP Fellowship Hall	<b>13</b>  <b>Ascension</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 
<b>16</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube  11:45 am Cabinet Zoom  <b>7pm BCE</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Women's Bible Study</b> "Breakthrough" Adult SS room 7-8:30	<b>18</b> <b>6:30pm Deacons</b>  <b>Youth Activities</b> 5:30-6:30 DOGS Fellowship Hall	<b>19</b> <b>Youth Activities</b> 6:45-8:00 Jr PY & YP Fellowship Hall	<b>20</b> <b>6:30pm Trustees</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>11am MOW</b> <b>Volunteers:</b> <b>Doris McCarty</b>
<b>23</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube	<b>24</b> <b>Women's Bible Study</b> "Breakthrough" Adult SS room 7-8:30	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube	<b>31 church</b> <b>offices closed</b> <b>No Bible Study</b> 					



MAY

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.fcmarshaltown.org](http://www.fcmarshaltown.org)

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

