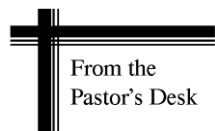


# Pilgrim's Progress

## March 2022

"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."



Ash Wednesday is the Beginning of Lent. We have a special worship service that evening, March 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Earlier in the year we celebrated holy days that emphasized the early events in the life of the Lord Jesus; Christmas, Epiphany, the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, turns our focus on the final days of Jesus. He is approaching Jerusalem with His disciples knowing that He will be betrayed and suffer the death of a criminal on a cross. He goes anyway, determined to complete His mission on earth to the bitter end. It begins forty days before Easter if you exclude Sundays, and our observation of it serves as a sort of "remembering" the journey those early disciples took with Jesus. People sometimes engage in a fast of some sort during this season and most of the Scriptures that connect with this time have to do with love so great that one is willing to sacrifice, our great need for grace, and the fact that this world is not what it was created to be nor is it what it will be. Lent reminds us that we leave everything of this world behind some day and the things that are eternal are what truly matter. It all begins on March 2nd. I hope to see you there.

Pastor Dan



### Sermons

March 2	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	When Nothing is Left	Joel 2:1-11
March 6	<i>Communion Sunday/Annual Meeting</i>		
	When Satan Tempted the Lord Jesus		
March 13	The Exodus		Psalms 91:1-12; Luke 4:1-13
March 20	My Word		2 Peter 1:12-15; Luke 9:28-36
March 27	Christ in the Flesh		Matthew 8:5-13; Isaiah 55:6-11
			Job 19:25-6; 2 John 4-11

### 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:** Romaine Mackaman

**Southridge:** Betty Runner #212, Carmalee Kothenbeutel

**Glenwood Place:** Loretta Stubbe #150, Jan More #112, Mildred Lathrop #145, Bob Becker #175, Bonnie Pappas #177, Lenora Brown #147, Joan Carter #116, Iva Howard #164



Jeremy & Julie Lavender

March 4, 2010 12 years

Bing & Dorothy McHone

March 28, 1998 24 years



March 3 Leta Lacina  
March 4 Barbara Ellcey, Erin Stanley  
March 7 Barb Hibbs, Erin Jensen  
March 8 Caroline Lavender  
March 9 Bob Bauer  
March 10 Greg Meyer, Reed Swartz

March 14 Dorothy McHone  
March 15 Julie Paustian  
March 21 Dave Dysart  
March 22 Irene Steward  
March 24 Lenora Brown  
March 31 Nick Carson





## News from Diaconate Board

Effective March 13<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Time will be back to normal. We know some people are not comfortable socializing yet so we must be sensitive to that.

Lent begins on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. As we enter the Lenten/Easter season please keep the following dates in mind:

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ash Wednesday (imposition of ashes) 7 P.M. in the church Sanctuary.  
Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season.
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday
- April 14<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae service 7 P.M. in the church Sanctuary.
- April 17<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday

Lent and the Easter season are the only times the cross is draped in our church. The Easter season ends with Pentecost (celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles) which is June 5<sup>th</sup> this year.

Do you know what Bible verse the Bible is opened to on the altar?



## News from Missions and Benevolence



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!

Thank you, Shelly Speas, for volunteering in March. Dates for 2022 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

		<u>2022 dates</u>		
April 23	May 28	June 25	July 23	August 27
September 24	October 22	November 26	December 24	

### SOME BUNNY NEEDS YOU!

The Benevolence and Missions Committee is holding their annual House of Compassion Supply Closet Drive, on behalf of our church, during the month of March. Chad Hammer, director at HOC said the following items are the most needed this year:

- Baby Diapers -all sizes
- Adult diapers
- Body wash
- Shampoo
- Laundry detergent



Also, if you rinse out Gatorade bottles, I will collect them as well. They divide large dish soap or laundry detergent containers into these bottles to give to clients. Clients are once again allowed to come into the HOC to request items and choose those products that they desire.

How can you help? Purchase the above-mentioned item(s). Bring them to church and put them in Fellowship Hall by the HOC table, or leave them by the church office and Katie will deliver items to the basement. For those that wish to leave the shopping to us, make checks out to First Congregational Church with HOC supplies in memo. Questions can be directed to Cheryl Woltjer. You can text or leave me a message at 641-751-2466. Thanks in advance for your donations. With rising costs many families are in need. Thanks for making a difference.



## News from Christian Ed



- **Confirmation:** We have seven confirmands and the possibility of an eighth. One meeting has been held, with plans to hold Confirmation Sunday in November. Each member will pick a mentor to participate with them. The mentors will meet together to discuss what they will be doing.
- A new **Zoom Bible Study** will start in March led by Pastor Dan.
- **Power Hour** is going great—a new study has been started called “Journey to Mars”.
- **Youth nights** on Tuesdays and Wednesdays continue to be well attended. The DOGS kids are starting a new series of lessons based on various animals. The two older groups are both working on “Defined” for their Bible study. The youth ski retreat is February 25-27. About eight youths are taking part in the trip to Wild Mountain in Minnesota. The youth will participate in the Bowl for Kid’s Sake again this year in early March.
- **VBS:** Cokesbury’s “**Food Truck**” was chosen as this summer’s VBS curriculum.
- **Sisters in Christ** has met twice to clean out closets in the Fellowship Hall and work on ideas for new centerpieces for the tables.
- **The Unknown Tour**, a women’s event will take place April 2 in the sanctuary.
- The **Ignite Leadership Conference** will be held at Grace Church in Des Moines on March 11 and 12. A group of adults and youth will attend.
- **YABS** (Young Adult Bible Study) will start meeting the first Sunday in March with a meal provided before watching and discussing “The Chosen”.
- **NAPF/HOPE:** Registration is now live online for the summer youth conference, along with scholarship application forms.
- **Graduation Sunday** will take place the third Sunday in May. We have seven graduates this year!
- An **Easter Pageant** is in the works!

**GIRLS NIGHT OUT**  
*Marshalltown, IA*  
**APRIL 2ND**  
*The Unknown Tour*  
*FCC Marshalltown*  
*6:00 PM - 8:30 PM*

**CLEAN STAND UP &  
SKETCH COMEDY.  
WORSHIP. SPEAKERS.**

TKTS: THEUNKNOWNTOUR.ORG

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

### Power Hour:

Preschool-12th grade, Sundays 9:15am in Loft

March 6,20,27

Won't have it the 13th—Spring break



### DOG's:

Preschool-5th grade, Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm in fellowship hall

March 1,8,22,29

Won't have it the 15th—Spring break

### Jr PY:

6-8th grade, Wednesdays 5:15-6:30pm in Loft

March 9,23,30

Won't have it the 16th—Spring break



### PY:

9-12th grade, Wednesdays 6:45-8pm in Loft

March 9,23,30

Won't have it the 16th—Spring break

March 2nd we will have a special combined Jr PY & PY starting at 6pm with a dinner in the fellowship hall. After dinner we will go upstairs to the sanctuary for the Ash Wednesday service starting at 7pm.

The middle school and high school students had a friendly competition in February to collect food for the emergency food box. What a wonderful project to share God's love and meet needs in our community.



### **It Is About Finding Where God is At Work in Our Midst**

March 2022 Newsletter Update

Kim Schryver, Chair RCT

Cycle II Interviews are underway and will wrap up by March 17, 2022. These 30-minute *conversations with a purpose* pose three questions:

- 1) How would you describe our congregation today?
- 2) What is keeping you connected with FCC?
- 3) How has the pandemic influenced your experience with FCC?

In this second round of interviews – “Who Are We Now,” we again look forward to learning from you. In round one, the RCT focused on our history as a body of faith. Your responses delighted us and illuminated the



extent of Jesus's influence at FCC in ways we hadn't fully appreciated before. Discovering how God is in our midst today is our next critical need. For the strengths of our past and present will be foundational elements in our future.

If you participated in Cycle I interviews, you will automatically be invited by the same interviewer to chat again. But we are extending an ENTHUSIASTIC ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL to schedule a 30 min. conversation for this second wave of interviews. Contact Miriam Bryant by phoning or texting (515) 771-5930 to request an interview. Miriam will make certain a Listening Team member is assigned to contact any volunteers who want to participate. Be assured we respect your confidentiality. Notes will be taken by the LT member during your conversation, but in such a way as to make them anonymous.

On March 24<sup>th</sup> of this year, the Listening Team will meet to identify major themes and strong sentiments you share with us in Cycle II interviews. Our coaches will join us via ZOOM in drawing together common threads of thought expressed by the congregation in our purposeful conversations. As following our first round, the Cycle II Summary draft will be shared with all of you at worship services (April 5, 2022), in the April Newsletter, in an all-church email and at regular meetings of the cabinet, boards and committees. All who wish to participate will have a chance to refine the initial draft of the summary presented during April and early May 2022.

We are very excited to announce an upcoming renewal event with you! Please, tentatively mark the third weekend of May (5/20-22/22) on your calendars. Our coaches will return to Marshalltown to facilitate "A Conference on the Future." All who want are invited to participate. More details will be shared in all-church emails, on [fccmarshalltown.org](http://fccmarshalltown.org), and the Newsletter starting in mid-April.



Our women's group will meet again March 19 at 9:30 a.m. to pray, plan, and play. We will work on Easter table centerpieces.

Thank you for joining us for fun and fellowship! Everyone is welcome!



## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022

The members of First Congregational Church of Marshalltown, Iowa are hereby notified that the annual meeting of the church will be held at 11:45AM on Sunday, March 6th, 2022 in the sanctuary at 312 West Main Street, Marshalltown, Iowa and via Zoom on-line.

Reports will be reviewed from various church officers and boards, new officers and board members will be elected, and a budget for the new year (2022) will be adopted.

Attention will also be given to any other business that may be brought before the meeting.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2022.

Sharon Propst

Sharon Propst, Church Clerk





# 2022

## FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

### Sunday Worship Services:

8:00am & 10:30am

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		<b>1</b> DOGS 6:15pm	<b>2</b> Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee Ash Wednesday service @7pm 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 4pm Power Hour 9:15am Annual Meeting In person / Zoom @ 11:45	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8:45am MBC DOGS 6:15pm	<b>9</b> Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 4pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Deacons	<b>16</b> Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Trustees 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Women's Fellowship 9:30
<b>20</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 4pm Power Hour 9:15am 11:45am BCE	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> DOGS 6:15pm	<b>23</b> Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	<b>24</b> RCT 6:30pm in loft	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 11am MOW Volunteer: Shelly Speas
<b>27</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 4pm Power Hour 9:15am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> DOGS 6:15pm	<b>30</b> Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	<b>31</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

