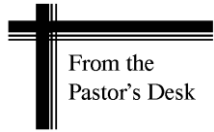


# Pilgrim's Progress

## April 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."



John 20:6-7 "Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself."

The verses above describe the scene when Peter and (we presume) John came to investigate Mary Magdalene's report that the tomb of Jesus was open. John outran Peter but Peter was the one who entered the tomb first. In it he found the linen cloths used to prepare the dead for burial and the face cloth folded and laid to one side. There is a saying that, regarding Scripture, God is in the details and this may be an example of that. Another way to translate "face cloth" in this text is "napkin" because the napkins used during meals were similar to the cloths used to cover the face of the dead during burial. There is meaning in the similarity. When the master of a house is eating, the servants keep watch. If the master leaves the table, but lays the napkin casually to the side, that indicates that he is not finished with the meal and will return shortly. If the master carefully folds the napkin and leaves, the servants know to clear the table because the master is finished. We can only guess what went through Peter's mind when he looked at the empty tomb but John, when he wrote his gospel years later, noted that the "napkin", the face cloth had been folded neatly and put to the side, indicating that the master was finished and would not be coming back. Every Resurrection Sunday, we remember that Jesus is finished with death and that we serve a risen Savior, who is alive and in charge of all Creation. So, Happy Easter and may you all have a blessed Holy Week.

### Sermons



April 2	Looking for Loyalty	1 Peter 5:6-9; 2 Chronicles 16:7-9
April 10 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Triumph & Tears	Isaiah 50:4-9; Luke 19:28-44
April 17 <i>Easter/Resurrection Sunday</i>		
	The Last Enemy	Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
April 24	Kings & Priests	John 20:19-31; Revelation

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



**Bickford:** Joanie Smith-Legg #108, Marilyn Rhodes # 123

**Grandview:** Pattye Morrison #107

**Suites of Ankeny:** Romaine Mackaman

**Southridge:** Betty Runner #212,

**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



Troy & LaRae McGahuey	April 9, 1988	34 years
Dwayne & Maxie Shultz	April 12, 1967	55 years
Bill & Lynn Maas	April 13, 1996	26 years



April 4	Joy Kreykes	April 19	Linda McGregor
April 8	Sam Good	April 21	Katie Paustian, Shelly Speas
April 9	Vicki McKibbin	April 23	Thomas Stanley
April 10	Leah Stanley	April 25	Kirk Shirar
April 16	Lisa Blabaum	April 27	Ron Estabrook
April 17	Sam Speas	April 28	Adam Swope
April 18	Liz Meyer		



## News from Diaconate Board

We have returned to hosted Fellowship Time effective March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> will be Palm Sunday. The children will enter the church waving palms.

Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. we will be having the Tenebrae service in the sanctuary. This service is sometimes called the Service of Shadows. After each reading a candle is extinguished and the reader leaves the altar area. This represents the Disciples leaving Christ. The Christ candle is extinguished at the very end representing the death of Christ. It's a very moving and meaningful service.

After 2 years, we will have the Easter Memorial Garden return! There will be no Fellowship Time on Easter Sunday, allowing for families to celebrate together.

After Easter Sunday we are in the Easter season liturgically. The parament colors remain white until Pentecost Sunday.



## 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 to Rod and Kristi Hassler for volunteering in April. 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

### 2022 dates

May 28  
October 22

June 25  
November 26

July 23  
December 24

August 27

September 24

On behalf of the Benevolence and Missions Committee we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the House of Compassion Supply Closet Drive this past month. We over filled two shopping carts with our donations! To say those at HOC were thrilled and grateful to all of you is an understatement! Your generosity to those in need within your community was great. The HOC is looking for volunteers in the Supply Closet if you have a Thursday morning or afternoon open to help out. Grab a friend and you can work together! Thanks again! Cheryl Woltjer, project chair



Thank you to the First Congregational Church for the supplies collected in their recent supply drive!



## News from Christian Ed

BCE elected Tonya Tuttle as their new chairman.

SPECIAL PALM SUNDAY  
Harpist, Palms, Potluck

On Palm Sunday, April 10, we will begin with harp music played by **Janet Collison** that will begin 10 minutes before the service. Please plan on arriving at 10:20am. Janet will also be doing the prelude and special music. We are blessed to have her come and minister to us!

The kids will receive palms and will be waving them. Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Afterwards, the Board of Christian Education is sponsoring a potluck in Fellowship Hall. The meat (ham) will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share.



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Power Hour: Sunday's at 9:15am in the Loft for Preschool-12th grade. April—3,10,24

No Power Hour Sunday April 17th. Families are encouraged to come to the Easter Celebration Services together and celebrate our wonderful Savior!!



On Sunday April 10th all kids are encouraged to come to the 10:30am service to wave palms in celebration of Palm Sunday, celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

DOG's (Depend on God): Tuesdays 6:15-7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall for preschool-5th grade.  
April—5,12,19,26

Jr PY (Pilgrim Youth): Wednesdays 5:15-6:30pm in the Loft for 6-8th grade.  
April—6,13,20,27

PY (Pilgrim Youth): Wednesdays 6:45-8pm in the Loft for 9-12th grade.  
April—6,13,20,27



Our Wednesday Night Youth Groups were so blessed to be a part of the Ash Wednesday service in March and were treated to dinner that was provided and served by Kristin and Greg Meyer. It was a special time of reflection to help us think about all our wonderful Lord has done for us and how we should respond to His great Mercy and Grace with our lives. Wonderful night to begin this season of Lent.



YABS (Young Adult Bible Study) will meet on Sunday, April 10th at 6:30pm in the Loft. This night we will get into session one, so if some missed the kickoff night that is ok because they only missed the introduction. This is a Bible study group for young adults wanting to meet for fellowship and for a deep dive into God's Word. We will be going through a study of a Bible TV series called The Chosen; a series about the life of Jesus and His followers. This group will meet once a month and will study "What It Means to Be Chosen?" We will be using a Bible study guide and watch an episode from the TV series each time we meet. The Bible study will have us taking a deeper look at Isaiah 43 and its fulfillment in Jesus and the lives of His followers, including us. You may contact Shelly Speas with any questions.

We had an amazing time at our annual Winter Retreat with our youth and leaders at the end of February! Got some fun time on the slopes skiing and tubing in Minnesota at Wild Mountain Resort and had an awesome time of fellowship and devotions throughout the weekend together!



Our youth and leaders were so happy to be a part of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters fundraising event, Bowl for Kids' Sake which was sponsored by the BCE for our youth to be a part of. It was a wonderful night together supporting a wonderful community program!



In March a group of our youth leaders and some of our youth got to be a part of the Ignite Youth Leadership Conference held at Grace Church in Des Moines. This amazing conference is an evangelism/discipleship training conference where we have a chance to hear from many different Christian speakers and trainers partnering with likeminded ministries, with the goal to equip and train students, youth workers, and volunteers with Biblical principles. Principles that will help each church or ministry accomplish the goal of reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We came away from the weekend with some new tools and a renewed passion for the mission of Christ through the ministry He has for us in our church and our community!



Our youth were excited to deliver their donations to the Emergency Food Box and were happy to have a tour of their new building! It was a wonderful way for our kids to be involved with providing for our community needs!



Care  
Initiatives  
Hospice



### Volunteer Opportunities in Our Community

Are you interested in providing meaningful support and making a big difference in the lives of patients and families receiving hospice care? We are currently seeking volunteers to join our team.

- Read to patients
- Sit with a patient to give the caregiver a break<sup>e</sup>
- Listen to a memory or story
- Provide office help
- Run errands

For more information, contact our  
Volunteer Coordinator  
515.223.3813 or 877.577.2888 or visit  
[careinitiativeshospice.org](http://careinitiativeshospice.org)





### Enriching Our Soil for Growth

*"...seek first his kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you."*  
Matt. 6:33

*Jesus replied, "...nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'there it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst."*  
Luke 17:21

*"... the kingdom of God is ... a matter ... of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."*  
Romans 14:17

Introducing

## PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

Conference

The Christian faith is focused on the future. Jesus inaugurated the Reign of God on earth. He instructed his disciples to pray for: "Thy kingdom come . . ." He invited his followers to live within that kingdom. He provided his followers with an experience of life within the kingdom (Matthew 5:3-11). He assured them that now, in this present moment, the kingdom of God can only be experienced in part, but in the end of time it will be experienced fully. The message of the coming Reign of God was the central theme in Jesus' message. It was the focus of his teaching, his ministry, his death, his resurrection. Jesus taught that the future is in God's hands. **Therefore, the future is filled with potential, with promise!** Ray Schulte, Dir. Center for Parish Development

### CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The future search conference is designed to enable participants to:

1. Continue our journey of exploring God's vision for our future.
2. Learn together through worship, study, discussion, and fellowship.
3. Imagine specific aspects of a faithful and dynamic future that would characterize our congregation living out key goals and a growing awareness of God's for its futures.
4. Provide input to dreaming of the FCC Marshalltown-of-the-future.

During the conference we will respond to our dreams by imagining together:

- ✓ *What would be going on? What would be different?*
- ✓ *What would people be doing? What would they not be doing? Who would be involved? (Think of a week in the life of a member – of our church).*
- ✓ *The nature and role of our relationships with one another? (Describe our community life)*
- ✓ *How will we relate to the neighborhood and broader community?*

Strengths in our past and present will be foundational elements in our future. The RCT is honored to have had so many of you engage in Cycle II interviews. We love what we are learning about FCC today. The first draft of the summary of "Who We Are" is being created now. The draft will be presented to you in early April 2022 during worship services, in our May newsletter and in an all-church email coming soon. This part of the Story of Us will play an important part in launching our future. Come help us get started envisioning by attending the **Planting for The Future Conference on Saturday, May 21, 2022**. See the one-page poster in this newsletter for details!

# YOU ARE INVITED: PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

Saturday, May 21st  
10 am - 2 pm (starting with coffee at 9:30 am)  
lunch provided

We will:

Continue our journey of exploring God's vision for  
FCC

Imagine our church faithfully and dynamically living  
out God's vision

Provide input into the planning and dreaming for  
the future of FCC

Sounds exciting, doesn't it? Call or email the church  
office before May 12th to let us know you'll join us!





# HE IS RISEN

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

Join MCS for our 'He is Risen'  
Easter Program!

**Where:** Hosted at First Congregational Church  
*312 W Main Street, Marshalltown*

**When:** Monday, April 11 ~ 6:30 pm  
*Dessert reception to follow*

**Who:** Bring your friends and family to join us in  
celebrating our risen Savior!





House of Compassion will be holding their “Soup Bowl Luncheon” on Sunday April 24, 2022 at St. Henry’s Church in Marshalltown. Volunteers are needed to prepare & serve food, bus tables, assist with clean-up. If interested, please contact Chad Hammar at 641-752-5999 for additional information.



## NACCC’s Year-Round Delegate News



### Connecting Points

Julie Robie, NACCC Missions Coordinator

Among the sounds and sights of the pandemic, there is one example to which we might easily relate - prefilled communion cups. It starts with the invitation to “please start opening them now, it might take a bit”. Then, many in the congregation struggle. Giggles escape. Frustrated groans erupt. Some with hands no longer steady or strong fumble until a loving hand from a nearby helper makes everything ready.

While these were the sounds and sights from the pew in front of me on a Lord’s Supper Sunday, it reminded me that as God’s people, we long to connect. First with the Lord and then with each other. One of the commonly heard comments by NACCC staff is that people deeply miss connecting with one another.

### Get the word out about the Member Forum!

The Member Forum is a place on the NACCC website where individuals can share and discuss current topics in the life of the church. Please take a moment to register and log into the forum. Invite members of your church to join in, too. The Member Forum is a dedicated forum exclusively for individuals of NACCC Member Churches. Register for the forum [here](#) and then join the conversation!



## A PAGE FROM THE LENTEN DEVOTIONS OF 1971

Tuesday, March 16, 1971

Virginia Adams

**Prayer:** Open our minds to study and growth through meditation and to constructive use of the benefits of spiritual insight. Through they name. Amen

*Luke 7:20-23*

The question is,

“Am I He.” The least of thee,

“Answer to the prophecy”?

The answer is,

You can see, the man is free

Who takes no offense at me!

Blessed it he,

Who follows me, and no longer fears

Infirmity or another willful tyranny!

Follow me,

Was the plea, the promised prophecy

Eternally keyed to life's mystery.

Welcome me,

And seek not in eventuality.

Live today in loves reality.

**Prayer:** As each of us answers this question, may we remember the words, “Blessed is He, who follows me,” and become strong in our faith and Christian action. Amen.



# 2022

## FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

Sunday Worship Services:  
8:00am & 10:30am

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 The sold out "Unknown Tour" 6 pm
<b>3 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	<b>4</b> MCS practice 9am	<b>5</b> DOGS 6:15pm	<b>6</b> Cabinet meeting 6:30  Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm  Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	<b>7</b> RCT @ 6:30 in Loft	8	9
<b>10 Palm Sunday</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Bible w /Dan 4pm YABS 6:30pm	<b>11</b> He is Risen performance by MCS @ 6:30pm in sanctuary	<b>12</b> DOGS 6:15pm  8:45am MBC	<b>13</b> Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm  Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	<b>14 Maundy Thursday Tenebrae @ 7</b>	<b>15 Good Friday</b>  Church Office Closed	16
<b>17 Easter</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	18	<b>19</b> DOGS 6:15pm  6:30pm Deacons	<b>20</b> Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm  Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	<b>21</b> 6:30pm Trustees	22	<b>23</b> 11am MOW Volunteer: Rod & Kristi Hassler
<b>24</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	25	<b>26</b> DOGS 6:15pm	<b>27</b> Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm  Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee	28	29	30



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

