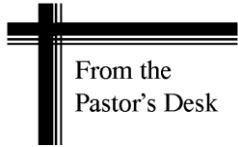


# Pilgrim's Progress

## February 2023

"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 Spiritual Discipline of Prayer

This month we consider prayer, one of the most fundamental of spiritual disciplines. It is prayer and careful reading of Scripture that forms the basis for all the other disciplines. One the face of it, prayer can seem rather silly. We have a conversation, using thought most of the time, with a Being that we cannot experience with our five senses under ordinary circumstances. Yet it is absolutely vital. Martin Luther once said, "As it is the business of tailors to make clothes and of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray."

### ACTS

"ACTS" as an acronym for prayer came, it is said, from the great reformer, whose barber asked him for advice on prayer. Luther said to start with "adoration"-praise-simply telling God who He is in all His greatness. "C" stands for confession, both confession of sin and an acknowledgement that we are who the Bible says we are, not what we think we are or what other people say we are. "T" stands for "thanksgiving." "S" is for supplication-asking for ourselves and other.

### Meditation

There is also a means of prayer that leads to the consideration of Scripture. It goes both ways; from prayer to Scripture and from Scripture to prayer. It is meditation. This type of meditation is reading a passage over and again, pondering it, attending to how the passage makes you feel, praying about what the passage says, and say to you. Meditation connects the two essential disciplines.

Prayer can take place at a planned, focused period of time in which you do nothing but pray, and prayer can also be an ongoing conversation you have with the Lord in the back of your mind as you go about your duties for the day. As much as possible, do both. Prayer is a vital was of seeking the Presence of God, and the most practical definition I know of faith is the conviction that God exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. Prayer is the way of seeking.

### Sermons



February 5	The True Fast	Isaiah 58:1-9; Matthew 5:13-20
February 12	Cherish Relationships	Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 5:21-27
February 19	Up On a Mountain	Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9
February 26	Every Word...	Genesis 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11





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

**Bickford:** Joanie Smith-Legg #108,

**Mill Pond Care Center:** 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



Robert & Barbara Hibbs

February 28, 1970

53 years



February 3	Angela Dickey	February 20	Betty Runner
February 4	Marian Gerdes	February 22	Jane VerMulm
February 5	Kathryn Peiffer	February 26	Jeanne Vellinga
February 10	Katie Vogeler	February 27	Jo Dysart
February 16	Pat Anderson, Brian Mattingly, Beau Ragland	February 28	Mildred Lathrop
		February 29	Terry Paustian, Katie Lundberg



### News from Diaconate Board

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. We will have a service of imposition of ashes on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary.

The color for Lent is purple. You will find the pulpit scarf and altar cloth purple. Purple symbolizes pain, suffering, mourning and penitence. The mood is somber. The large cross will be draped in purple as well. The only time we drape the cross is Lent thru the season of Easter.



#### Inclement Weather Information:

When the weather is questionable, please refer to KCCI, KFJB, or Kix 101.1 for the latest weather updates about cancellations or postponements.



**Open Chapel ~ Open Chapel is available from 1:00-2:00pm every Wednesday. It is a time for Mediation and Quiet Reflection and is open to all.**



# News from Christian Ed

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ED HIGHLIGHTS

Adult Sunday school will begin a study on Revelation in March.

Confirmation Sunday is set for February 19 with the banquet being held the night before, February 18 at 6 p.m. Deacons, parents, mentors, and BCE board members are included in the banquet.

Power Hour will continue to have all ages meet together. The group continues study of the Beatitudes.

DOGS has discontinued the science experiments and will use other Bible lessons.

Volunteers have generously provided supper for the youth groups on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Chosen study continues to meet on Sunday evenings, every other Sunday.

NAPF/Hope: Patrick and his team continue to work on details, especially a location. Shelly will plan a meeting with kids regarding their responsibilities if attending this conference.

Women's Ministry: The Woman of God Bible study continues on Monday evenings. Jane VerMulm has volunteered to lead the next study also. A Chocolate Making Party is scheduled for February 2, 6pm.at Lillie Mae's Chocolates.

The Christmas program was a great success, and the soup lunch afterward was very well attended.

Winter Jam is February 10. The LaMoille group has been invited to attend with us.

Winter retreat will be February 25 and 26 at Seven Oaks—there will be an overnight stay with activities at the church.



## News from Missions and Benevolence



The mission's team is still committed to doing our part for Meals on Wheels in Marshalltown! Our part is; one Saturday a month (the fourth Saturday) and we do the east route. What's new and exciting is that we now go to the new hospital and pick up and our old blue route has become the east route. Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office (641-752-4239) to volunteer. You will be making a difference for someone that day and it feels good to help out. Any questions please call me Kristi Hassler 641-753-3276 or Doris McCarty 641-752-7604.

### Open 2023 Dates

April 22  
August 26  
December 23

May 27  
September 23

June 24  
October 28

July 22  
November 25



# YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Power Hour is for preschool-12th grade students on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Loft.  
February—5,12,19,26

D.O.G.'s (Depend on God) is for preschool-5th grade students on Tuesday nights at 5-6:30pm with a meal in the Fellowship Hall.  
February—7,14,21,28



Jr. P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) is for 6-8th grade students on Wednesday nights at 5-6:45pm with a meal in the Loft.  
February—1,8,15

P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) is for 9-12th grade students on Wednesday nights at 6:15-8pm with a meal in the Loft.  
February—1,8,15



On Wednesday, February 22nd we will have Jr. P.Y. & P.Y. combined starting at 5pm with a meal. We will then join the church for a special Ash Wednesday service at 7pm in the sanctuary.

Friday, February 10th will be the WinterJam concert in Des Moines, IA at Wells Fargo Arena. Shelly will be taking some of the 6-12th grade youth to this event. Will be a wonderful night of worship!



Saturday, February 25-Sunday, February 26th will be the Youth Winter Retreat. The 6-12th grade youth will be tubing in Boone, IA at Seven Oaks on Saturday and then will have a lock-in at FCC on Saturday night.



We had our makeup Christmas parties for Jr PY & PY on Wednesday, January 11th when we came back for groups after Christmas break! We had so much fun!

We had an amazing time with our confirmation class and their mentors on Sunday, January 15th. We played the card game spoons, enjoyed some snacks, made treats for a service project, and the mentors shared what it means to be a part of a church. Was a special time together. We are very excited to have these wonderful young people join our church!



We are truly blessed to have 8 students ready to be confirmed in February! There will be a confirmation banquet on Saturday, February 18th where the students will share their statements of faith in Jesus Christ. Then Sunday, February 19th the confirmation class of 2023 will officially join as members at First Congregational Church during the 10:30am service with a reception downstairs after the service.

We are so excited to start season 2 of The Chosen Bible study after finishing the first season! This Bible study is open for all adults. If you missed season 1 with us that is no problem! You can watch season 1, which is 8 episodes, on The Chosen free app anytime. We would love to have others come join us for this wonderful time of Bible study, where the Old Testament and New Testament come to life before our eyes on the screen and we dive into the scripture looking at Jesus and his amazing ministry and his time with his chosen disciples. Please contact Shelly Speas if you have any questions. We will start back up on Sunday, February 19th at 6:30pm in the Loft and will have yummy snacks provided for the kickoff of season 2.



We had a day of celebration as one sweet, precious baby and two of our teen youth were baptized on Sunday, January 22nd in our church! Congratulations to Melanie Brandt, and Jasmine Gepford and congratulations to Katie and David Peiffer with their baby girl Natalie on this special celebration of faith in our Lord Jesus!



OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023

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, February 5th, 2023 in the fellowship hall at 312 West Main Street, Marshalltown, Iowa. A catered meal will accompany the meeting.

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 (2023) will be adopted.

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

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2023.  
(Revised from the first notice dated 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023)

*Sharon Propst*  
Sharon Propst, Church Clerk

# February

## February 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			<b>1</b> Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  Open Chapel 1-2pm  Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15am <b>Annual Meeting</b> <b>11:45 am</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Women's            fellowship</b> <b>5:30pm</b>	<b>7</b> <b>DOGS 6:15pm</b>	<b>8</b> Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  Open Chapel 1-2pm  Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm	<b>9</b> <b>RCT meets</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15am	<b>13</b> <b>Women's            Bible Study</b> <b>5:30pm</b>	<b>14</b> <b>BMC meets</b> <b>8:45am</b>  <b>DOGS 6:15pm</b>	<b>15</b> Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  Open Chapel 1-2pm  Jr PY 5:15-6:30 PY 6:45-8pm	<b>16</b> <b>6:30pm</b> <b>Trustees</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Confirmation</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15am <b>11:45am BCE</b> <b>Adult Bible Study</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Deacons Meet</b> <b>6:30pm</b>  <b>DOGS 6:15pm</b>	<b>22</b> Men's Church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  Open Chapel 1-2pm  Jr PY & PY combined @ 5pm   ASH WEDNESDAY <b>Imposition of Ashes</b> <b>6:30pm sanctuary</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>11am MOW</b> <b>Volunteers:</b> <b>Bill &amp; Lynn Maas</b>
<b>26</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc Power Hour 9:15am	<b>26</b> <b>Women's            Bible study</b> <b>5:30pm</b>	<b>28</b>				

# February

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

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

