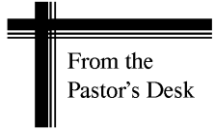


# Pilgrim's Progress

## February 2024

"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 February 14 (it also happens to be Valentine's Day) and Ash Wednesday is the day that starts Lent, the season in which we metaphorically walk with Jesus as He travels to Jerusalem knowing

that the cross awaits Him. It's meant to be a time of reflection and awareness that this world is simply not all that there is. I thought about that for a few moments when I was playing with my grandchildren in the snow of our front yard (this was on January 22, shortly after the big freeze lifted). As I watched the girls make snow men and snow angels, I noted that the memories of them are what is going to last about this afternoon, not the car I drive or the house in which I live. This world, this life, is so temporary in the grand scheme of things and Lent gives us a healthy chance to ponder this. We take time to remember our mortality, those we love who have gone one, and what really matters in life according to God's perspective. It's the spiritual life, and by that I mean a life infused and shaped by the Holy Spirit, and the impact on other lives that will matter for eternity, long after everything of this present order is ancient history. Someone asked the Lord Jesus what verse encompasses all of Scripture. He chose two, that we should love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Deuteronomy 6:4) and that we should love our neighbor as ourself (Leviticus 19:18). Lent is the time to think about our lives and habits as we journey to the cross with our Lord Jesus.

### Sermons for February:

4 Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39 Purpose

11 (Transfiguration Sunday)

Mark 9:2-9; 2 Kings 2:1-12 A Chariot of Fire

18 1Peter 3:18-22; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 One Spirit

25 Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 Pick Up Your Cross



*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:** Mildred Lathrop #145, Lenora Brown #147, Iva Howard #164, Bonnie Pappas #112, Marian Gerdes #166, Anita Niehouse #116

**Willows of Marshalltown:** Evelyn Thompson



Robert & Barbara Hibbs

February 28, 1970 53 years



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

## 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.

### The following Dates for 2024 are available! Thank You!

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

*Ephesians 5:20 Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Dear Congregation,

On behalf of the Mission and Benevolence, I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness and support of the Adopt a Family Program in 2023.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to shop for our three families we sponsored this Christmas season. Your help was needed and appreciated. Each family received a Wal-Mart gift card, a new bible, the gifts for the children, plus a \$50.00 Fareway grocery gift card. All families were very thankful for the generosity that was given. My prayer is that the Lord will receive the time you gave as an act of service to Him.

God Bless you!

*Jonna Wagar*

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Power Hour Sundays at 9:15am for preschool-12th grade.

February 4,11,18,25

DOG's (Depend on God) Tuesdays, 5-6:30pm with a meal for preschool-4th grade.

February 6,13,20,27

Jr PY (Pilgrim Youth) Wednesdays, 4:45-6:15pm with a meal for 5-8th grade.

February 7,21,28

PY (Pilgrim Youth) Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm with a meal for 9-12th grade.

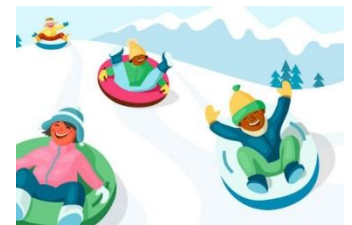
February 7,21,28

Wednesday, February 14th, Jr PY & PY will be combined beginning at 6:15pm. We will meet in the fellowship hall for dinner and then attend the Ash Wednesday service together at 7pm in the sanctuary.



Friday, February 2nd, we are taking a group of 5-12th grade students to the WinterJam concert in Des Moines where we will see many Christian music artists come together to praise God and share their testimonies.

High School Winter Retreat: Saturday, February 24th-Sunday, February 25th for 9-12th grade students. Planning to ski, snowboard, or tube in Boone, IA and have a lock-in at church. Please contact Shelly Speas for more details.



We had such an awesome time with our middle school kids in January at the Winter Retreat!



We took the DOG's group to the MHS cafeteria for a pasta dinner to support the MHS band fundraiser in January.

What a successful bake sale we had in January with our youth attending the NAPF/HOPE national youth mission conference! We are so grateful for the generosity of our church family and their support!



We had a wonderful Sunday in January getting to see an awesome puppet show sharing about Jesus as our Lord and King performed by some of our youth and then we enjoyed a soup luncheon during fellowship time!



## Chancel Choir

Choir will practice Friday at 5:30 on February 2 and February 9. Sundays February 4 and February 11 practices will be at 10:00.

Sing Joyfully!



## Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry will meet at 5:30 Monday, February 5, in the Fellowship Room. We will be making Valentines.

Bible Study with Jane will be at 5:30 in the library on Mondays February 12 and February 26. We will be starting a new study on the 26th. We look forward to having you join us!



### 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.





## News from The Diaconate

We will be observing Ash Wednesday with a special service on February 14th, in the sanctuary at 7 P.M. You will see the color purple used on the altar cloth, pulpit scarf and Dan's stole. Purple represents repentance and solemnity. The cross is draped with a purple sash for the same reason. The sanctuary is bare of any other decorations, except the crosses in the window.





## Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read “Pillars of Faith” in January, the person was Lenora Brown a.k.a. Grandma Purple. If you haven’t read this article in the church’s newsletter and you have a computer, you can find it at this web site: <https://www.fccmarshalltown.org/newsletter> Thanks Lenora for all you have done, do and will do! It can be seen that you “Brighten the corner where you are!” with your warm smile and encouraging words.

One of the definitions of a pillar is: a person or thing regarded as reliably providing essential support for something. In the New King James Version of the Bible, Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” This gift of God is the reason the receivers of this gift want to be the hands and feet of Jesus on earth. So, with these two things in mind, we would like to present the “Pillar of Faith” for February.

This person’s background is interesting in that it begins in Clarion, Iowa, which is in Webster County. What makes it interesting is that a grandfather, Hezekiah Gilbert, settled just south of Clarion in Story County. Hezekiah bought land there and the town of Gilbert, Iowa was founded there. Now the southern edge of the town of Gilbert is just two miles from the northern edge of the city of Ames. Another interesting fact is that all these towns are due north of each other on highway 69.

However back to the subject which is our Pillar of Faith. She was born and baptized in the Congregational Church in Clarion. She was destined to be a Congregationalist because Hezekiah and both sides of her family were Congregationalists. When she was in 6th grade the family moved to Ames where they attended and were active in the Congregational Church. At the age of 15 her family moved to Marshalltown, where, you guessed it, they belonged to the First Congregational Church.

She was involved in youth activities as a young person and played basketball in the church league. As an adult she taught Sunday School and Bible School in the summer time. She was involved in Ladies Groups which included a Evening Ladies Group. She was on the Board of Trustees and the Diaconate. When there was a split in the Congregational Church she wrote a letter to the Association about the Congregational Way. Her comment after this statement was, “I love my Church!” She has belonged for 87 years.

When asked what activities she enjoyed doing most she said, “Teaching Sunday School but I enjoyed them all!”

When asked do you have any advice for the future of the church? She responded, “Everyone should encourage others to come to First Congregational Church, because we need to grow our church.”

Now if you are wondering why this person’s name was not mentioned, it wasn’t a mistake. Can you guess who this person is? If not be sure and read your March newsletter. The answer will be there under the title “Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.”





FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!  
 Sunday Worship Services:  
 8am & 10:30am in person  
 10:30am Service is also on YouTube

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 Bell choir 5:30	2 Chancel Choir 5:30pm  WinterJam	3
<b>4 Communion</b> <b>Annual Meeting</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	<b>5</b> Women's Ministry @ 5:30 in Library	<b>6</b> D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	<b>7</b> Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	<b>8</b> Bell choir 5:30	<b>9</b> Chancel Choir 5:30pm	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	<b>12</b> Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 in Library	<b>13</b> BMC meets 8:45am  D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	<b>14</b> Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  Ash Wednesday service @ 7pm  JR PY & 6:15pm dinner then Ash Wed. Service	<b>15</b> Bell choir 5:30	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15 BCE meets 11:45am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30  Diaconate meets 6:30 pm	<b>21</b> Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00  Trustee's meet 10:00 am	<b>22</b> Bell choir 5:30	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 11am MOW Rod Hassler  High School Winter Retreat
<b>25</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	<b>26</b> Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 in Library	<b>27</b> D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	<b>28</b> Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee  JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	<b>29</b> Bell choir 5:30		

# 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.fccmarshalltown.org](http://www.fccmarshalltown.org)

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

