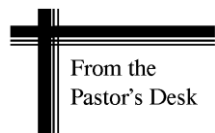


Pilgrim's Progress

May 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."



The Ascension of the Lord.

According to Sacred Scripture, Jesus remains with His disciples for some time after the Resurrection, departing from them and ascending into heaven from the Mount of Olives. We remember that event on May 9. Scripture mentions the event several times. Luke's Gospel (Luke 24:44-53) witnesses Jesus "opening their comprehension" to understand the Scriptures, and promising the arrival of the Holy Spirit in a new and special way. Then He blesses them and returns to heaven. The Book of Acts, a sequel to the Gospel of Luke, mentions that Jesus is to return the same way He left, from the Mount of Olives. In the midst of all that, I want to mention one small detail from Luke's Gospel. When Jesus arose from heaven He was blessing His disciples. It corresponds to the promise that He remains seated at the right hand of the Father praying for us to this very day. There is a certain comfort in knowing that people are praying for you in times of trouble, or in general for that matter. I find it comforting to know that Christ prays, and prays for us, constantly. Have a wonderful month.

Sermons for May:

May 5	"Far Above All Powers"	Ephesians 1:15-23; Revelation 19:11-16
May 12	"Maidservants"	Luke 1:35-38; 1 Samuel 2:1-10
May 19	"The Spirit of Life"	Ezekiel 37:1-14; 2 Kings 13:14-21
May 26	"The Bible and the Trinity"	Titus 2:11-14; Matthew 26:36-46



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



Bickford: Joanie Smith-Legg #108,
Mill Pond Care Center: Romaine Mackaman
Veterans Home: Marian Gerdes
Southridge: Betty Runner #212,
Glenwood Place: Mildred Lathrop #145, Bonnie Pappas #112,
 Anita Niehouse #116, Elenor Tjossem #160
Willows of Marshalltown: Evelyn Thompson
Story County Medical Center: Lenora Brown



Aaron & Angie Dickey	May 10, 1997	27 years
Blake & Sarah Latham	May 26, 2007	17 years
Steve & Alicia Storjohann	May 27, 1983	41 years



- | | | | |
|--------|---|--------|-------------------------|
| May 1 | Grant Brintnall, Nichole Kersbergen | May 12 | Iva Howard |
| May 2 | Kristi Hassler, Paul Packer | May 13 | Ken Lunsford |
| May 3 | Sandy Packer | May 15 | Doug Randall |
| May 5 | Avayah Speas | May 21 | Bob Gaynor, Ken Winkler |
| May 6 | Jennifer Allison | May 22 | Judy Gaynor |
| May 7 | Doris McCarty | May 23 | Raechel McGahuey |
| May 8 | Lisa Beaty | May 27 | Patricia Wiese |
| May 9 | Madison Swartz, Eleanor Tjossem | May 31 | Wendi Stanley |
| May 10 | Cynthia Ragland, Jim Clark, Nicole Vellinga | | |
| May 11 | Claire Meyer, Libby Meyer | | |



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. We will now pick up and drop off the coolers and tubs for meal delivery at the hospital under the canopy by the entrance to the emergency room. The hospital has asked drivers not to park directly in front of the ER doors, and for no longer than 10 minutes. There should be enough room for two cars to fit under the canopy. This will be helpful during inclement weather, and it will allow the kitchen staff to keep an eye out for our arrival and return directly from their window. This change will be effective starting Wednesday March 13th. 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!

	June 22	July 27	August 24	
September 28		October 26	November 23	December 28



The Marshalltown Men's Chorus will present a concert of sacred music on Sunday, June 9, beginning at 1:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1011 S 3rd Ave, Marshalltown. The concert will also feature the local group '5 for 1' and a community handbell choir. There is no admission charge to the concert; however, a donation of canned goods for the Emergency Food Box is requested. A time of fellowship will follow the concert at Trinity Lutheran Church.



Trustee News

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION THRU MARCH, 2024

After three months of 2024, we are behind budget by 19.1%

Below is the Actual and Budget numbers for our church through September. The Giving includes tithes and offerings. The Budget Expense values are those that have been budgeted through March for the church

The most important value is our tithes and offerings, which are behind budget by 19.1% through March.

January thru March 2024	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	33,264	41,124	-19.1%
EXPENSES	65,377	69,135	-5.4%

Below are the capital current projects that need to be funded. Should anyone want to contribute to any of these important projects, your donation can be earmarked specifically for your chosen project.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS		
Capital Projects	Est. Cost	\$ Raised
Narthex east door railings - make removable	\$500	0
Motion sensors for lights/fans in 4 bathrooms	\$3,000	0
New fabricated gate system - east side of church	\$5,000	0
Vented roof system - tip of roof over the Sanctuary	\$7,000	0
Replace 16 Education Wing windows	\$37,537	0
New 2023 15 passenger Ford Transit 350 van	\$60,995	\$10,178
Stain glass windows – Inspection/Repair/Replacement	\$100,000	\$40,000

Trustees: Bob McGregor, Chair; Greg Meyer, Mike Woltjer, Bill Mass, Doug Randall



Women's Group

The women's group is inviting all church women to have supper together at Legends on May 6 at 5:30. We will meet in the private room at the northeast corner of the building. All are welcome—you don't have to be a member of the women's group. Anyone who is interested may call me at 641 751 5191 or Shelly at 641 751 9868. – Thank you, Georgia.



Raining Blessings on Our Neighbors in Need!

HOC SUPPLY CLOSET DRIVE MAY 2024



House of Compassion Supply Closet is now assisting more than 350 households per month. To receive the benefit one time per month, participants must meet financial guidelines, reside in Marshall County, and present a picture ID. Three hygiene and household items can be chosen each month. The most needed items are recorded on paper raindrops created for this year's drive at FCC. See raindrops for more information.

Two ways to contribute by Sunday, May 26, 2024!

1: Donate most needed items:

- a) Take one or more big paper raindrops; items to buy are described.
(find these in narthex, at back entry or in Fellowship Hall)
- b) Purchase the items in the quantities identified.
- c) Put purchased items in or beside the laundry basket in the Church Narthex.

2. Financial support: Make checks payable to FCC, earmarked for HOC Supply Closet



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Power Hour for preschool-12th grade at 9:15am in the Loft, Sundays, May 5,12,19. End of the year party May 19th.

DOG's in the Fellowship Hall for preschool-4th grade, 5-6:30pm with a meal, Tuesdays, May 7,14,21,28. End of the year party May 28th.

Jr PY in the Loft for 5-8th grade, 4-45-6:15pm with a meal, Wednesdays, May 1,8,15,22,29. End of the year party on May 29th.

PY in the Loft for 9-12th grade, 6:30-8pm with a meal, Wednesdays, May 1,8,15,22,29. End of the year party on May 29th.

We had our high school Spring Retreat on Saturday, April 7-Sunday, April 8th. Took the group to Urban Air in Ankeny and had a sleepover at church. We counted over 1500 cans and bottles that we later turned into the redemption center. We are so thankful to everyone who has donated their cans and bottles so the youth can turn them in as a youth fundraiser!



We had a great time in our weekly groups picking up trash around Marshalltown as an Earth Day project, teaching our kids that serving God is serving in our community. We had fun trying to find the most interesting trash :)





We are so very grateful to everyone who has driven the church van to pick up and drop off kids on Wednesday nights and provided dinners for our Tuesday and Wednesday night groups!! This is a huge blessing and a way to be the light of Jesus to the families we minister to!



We are so thankful for the new church van and the gift it has been to our church! It has especially been a huge blessing to the youth ministry! Here are some quotes from some of our youth about how the van has been a blessing to them:



- “The new church van has blessed me so that I can go on retreats and help with the fundraisers for NAPF/HOPE”
- “I am blessed by the church van; by how it is able to take us places to do things.”
- “It is so great to have the new van that gets us outta town and doesn’t break down”

- “The van has charging ports which is so great”
- “The van has blessed me by being a way to get to church and do stuff with the church”
- “The van has blessed our group by allowing people who don't have rides to be able to go to youth group and hear about God.”
-



In April some of the youth worked with the Benevolence and Missions Board to fill free local food pantries around town, serving a great need in our community.



Diaconate May Newsletter

The Diaconate has planned at least 3 and possibly 4 special occasions for the summer months. The exact dates have yet to be determined so watch for next month's newsletter. June we will have an ice cream social, in July we will enjoy a hymn sing and then we will conclude the summer with an indoor potluck bbq with the Diaconate furnishing the pulled pork and baked beans.

One of the V2M projects for the Diaconate was that we open up the parameters for who receives a church card for birthdays and anniversaries. We will now be sending cards to everyone over 20 for birthdays and anniversaries. If we don't have your information in the database please contact the church office to update your record. The Stamp Club is a busy group and we would like to recruit new adult members. No experience needed. Stamp Club will furnish all of the equipment and supplies. We make kits in advance making it easier for the members to make the cards. We would love to have you join us for this wonderful ministry. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 10 A.M. until noon in the Fireside Room in the basement. Schedules vary so please call the office to make sure we will be meeting on those dates if you would like to attend. We hope you can join us.

We will not have Fellowship Time on Mother's Day, May 12th so the mothers can be with their families. There will be no Fellowship on Memorial Weekend, May 26th.

During Covid we removed the offering envelopes from the pews. We also removed the pens and pencils from the rack due to marking up the Bibles and hymnals. For this reason we have not added pens and pencils. BUT, we will be putting the offering envelopes back in the pews. Offering envelopes can also be found at the entrances to the sanctuary.

Per the by-laws we have been reviewing the church membership database. Matt Schryver will be working with members who have not been active in the church for awhile. We have 4 levels of membership: Member – active, Member-inactive, Non-member active and Non-member inactive. The definition of active is either active in church activities and/or contributing financially. The number of active non-members has been growing slightly.



Ian Meyer will be graduating from Marshalltown High School in May of 2024. Ian is the son of Greg and Kristin Meyer. Ian has been a Vacation Bible School helper at FCC for many years and served on the Board of Christian Education. Ian was involved in Band, serving as drum major his senior year, Pep Band, National Honor Society, Student Rotarians, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Concert Choir and Future Farmers of America, where he placed 5th in the Job Interview contest at the 2024 State Convention. Ian played basketball for two years and ran cross country and track throughout high school, serving as team captain for cross country for two years. Ian earned varsity letters in academics, band and sports and will be receiving a Silver Cord for community service. Ian will be attending Central College in Pella this fall, where he will major in Exercise Science and participate in Cross Country and Track.



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read "Pillars of Faith" in April, the person was Georgia Thomas. 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, Georgia, for all you have done, do and will do!

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 May.

This Pillar of Faith has been a member of First Congregational Church in Marshalltown for 24 years. The maternal Grandparents of this person were members of this church, as were the parents. This person was born to be a Congregationalist! One of the earliest memories shared, was of being in a cabin as a very young child and having many children looking down at her. Perhaps this was God speaking to her through this memory.

Being raised in the Congregational church the activities she was involved in began early in her life. She attended Sunday School and Youth group. Also she was in many Christmas programs. She was confirmed after attending Confirmation Classes when she was in eighth grade. At this time she became an Acolyte and this was when the Acolytes had to sit up with the pastor after lighting the candles. (Some times the Acolytes would fall asleep while sitting there.) She has been in Bell Choir since she was 14 years old, taught Sunday School since high school and started serving on the Board of Christian Education in college. She still serves on that board now. She was a member of the Women's Group and helped with bake sales and the Women's Bazaar. She also went with the Women's Group to a "Women of Faith Conference" in Des Moines, which she enjoyed very much.

When Barry and Cheryl Holmes were serving First Congregational Church, she helped with "Girls of Grace" which met at their home. She also was asked, by Barry and Cheryl to be a chaperone for high schoolers at an "Aquire the Fire" concert in Des Moines. That is where she "got on fire" for Christ and to share the Gospel of Christ with youth.

When asked which activity she enjoyed the most, the answer was "Youth Group!" She may be following in her parent's foot steps.

When asked, "Do you have any advice for the future of our church?" The conversation started with a reference to Romans 12:3 through the first part of verse 6. This is where Paul is speaking, " For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them:.....(NKJV)" The advice being, " We are one body for Christ, therefore Everybody has an active role in the Church and everybody is important!"

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 June newsletter. The answer will be there under the title "Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C."



House of Compassion

2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT

Friends,

Thank you. Thank you for partnering with us. Thank you for continuing to love and support others through us, especially in these challenging financial times. We are serving more households than ever, so your generosity is more crucial than ever. You are appreciated!

Our core services remain unchanged. Our **Soup Kitchen Program** will serve around **14,500** meals in 2023. Our **Client Services Programming**, offering financial assistance for utility bills, medical/dental needs and tuition-payment for clients wishing to learn the English language has already **surpassed monies budgeted for 2023 with 45 days to go**. In fact, we continue to enroll a **monthly average of 17 new households between Client Services and our Supply Closet** programming. The need out there is real and we will continue to meet it with your help.

In terms of new programming, our **JobPath Program** continues to be a success, with **24 households** no longer requiring our services due to gainful employment or better paying jobs. Much thanks to IowaWorks, Iowa Valley Continuing Education, and TLC Associates for their wonderful work in this program. Thanks also to United Bank & Trust, as they remain at-the-ready for clients wishing to participate in **Financial Literacy classes**. Our new **Scholarship Program** made **four, \$500 awards** to very deserving students now attending Marshalltown Community College, making their dreams of higher education come true. These programs are now staples of who we are and we remain excited for the opportunities they will create.

Thanks again for your partnership and continued generosity. Enclosed is an envelope for your convenience, or you can donate through our website at houseofcompassion.net or through our Venmo account at [Compassion211](https://www.venmo.com/Compassion211). As always, I am available to answer any questions at **641-752-5999** or **chammar@houseofcompassion.net**. Our Endowment is also an opportunity for sustained giving if you are interested; contact Colleen Springer at **colleenspr324@gmail.com** for more information.

In Gratitude,



Chad Hammar
Executive Director



Memorial Day Services

Raymon Veterans Park — Albion, IA

May 27, 2024 8:00AM

Master of Ceremonies	Joynell Raymon - Raymon Company
Raising of the Colors	Ceremonial Units, American Legion Post #46, V.F. W. Post 839
Parade Drummer	Billy Wilson
Star-Spangled Banner	Amanda Raymon
Invocation	Pastor Dan Vellinga, First Congregational Church
My Country 'Tis of Thee	Elisabeth Bieber
In Flanders Fields America the Beautiful	Men 's Chorus Quartet: Stacy Heil, Larry Pfantz, Andy Schwandt and Jon Mulder
Placing of the Missing in Action Wreath	Wayne Rayman, 234th Signal Battalion
Ashokan Farewell — Flute Selection	Krystal Randall
God Bless America	Jeffrey Frank
Bell Salute for Those who Died for our Freedom	Lori Judge DeSauliners
Speaker	Brian Raymon
God Bless the USA This American Life	Amanda and Chad Raymon Written and performed by Amanda and Chad Raymon
In Honor of Larry Raymon	Brian Raymon
Benediction	Pastor Dan Vellinga
Memorial Salute 839	American Legion Post #46, V.F. W. Post
Taps and Echo	Bert Tecklenburg and Paul Herman Courtesy of the Marshalltown Municipal Band
Program Arranged by Julie Mann, Joynell, Brian, and Chad Raymon	

Visit the park web site at www.raymonsveteranspark.com



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					
			1 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	2 Bell choir 5:30	3 Chancel Choir 5:30pm	4
5 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	6 Women's Ministry @ 5:30 at Legend's	7 D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	8 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	9 Bell choir 5:30	10 Chancel Choir 5:30pm	11
12 Mother's Day In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Power Hour 9:15	13 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 in Library	14 D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30 BMC meets 8:45am	15 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	16 Bell choir 5:30	17	18
19 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15 BCE meets 11:45am	20	21 D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30 Diaconate meets 6:30 pm	22 Men's church coffee 8am @ Hy-Vee JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00 Trustees meet 7 pm	23 Bell choir 5:30	24	25 11am MOW Kristi Hassler & Naomi McDaniel
26 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube	27 Memorial Day  Office Closed	28 D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	29 JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	30 Bell choir 5:30	31	



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

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

