

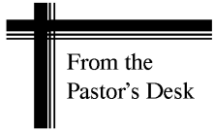
# Pilgrim's Progress

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## November 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."

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From the  
Pastor's Desk

November marks the end of Fall with Thanksgiving on the 28<sup>th</sup>, Harvest Sunday on the 24<sup>th</sup> and Daylight Savings Time begins on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. November 2 is All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day is the 1<sup>st</sup>. Veterans' Day is the 11<sup>th</sup>. All of these days are worth consideration but for this month I'd like to share some Scripture we associate with All Saints' Day. With the idea that God only knows all of the true saints, November 1<sup>st</sup> was set aside as a day to honor them somewhere between 731 and 741 AD, so it has been around for a long time. All Saints' Day is a good time to remember beloved family members, people who were a good influence on us and those who set a good Christian example in years past. It looks forward to the culmination of all the followers of Jesus meeting together in Mount Zion for a great feast, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. At least a couple of passages in Scripture speak of it.

Isaiah 25:6-8

"And in this mountain The Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees. And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken."

Revelation 21:1-4

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.' And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Both passages speak of God wiping away the tears from our eyes, which leads me to think they point to the same event. Like Christmas and Resurrection Sunday, All Saints' day encourages to look back on those who have helped us in our Christian walk in the past, and to live today looking forward to the future feast in which all those who have served Christ will celebrate together with Him. The holiday season will soon be upon us. I hope it goes well and with much happiness for all of you.

-Pastor Dan

### Sermons-

November 3	The Good Things to Come	Hebrews 9:11-14; Ephesians 1:3-11
November 10	Harlan Nuss will give the sermon	
November 17	Encourage One Another	Hebrews 10:19-25; Micah 2:1-2
November 24	The Captain of Their Salvation	Hebrews 2:10-22; Psalm 22:22-24



**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, Anita Niehouse #116,  
Elenor Tjossem #160, Lenora Brown #161

**Creeside in Grundy Center:** Leta Lacina

**Cross Creek in Lee's Summit, MO:** Vicki Long



Al & Judy Hays	11/09/63	61 years
Dave & Jo Dysart	11/10/84	40 years
Don & Jane Benbow	11/15/58	66 years
Craig & Cynthia Ragland	11/29/96	28 years
Rod & Kristi Hassler	11/29/08	16 years



November 1	Molly Lundberg	November 23	Tonya Tuttle
November 2	Jody Brintnall, Adrianna Goken	November 24	Dale Wiese
November 6	Breana Gruver-Alvarado	November 25	Shirley Nott
November 20	Georgia Thomas	November 27	Sharon Propst



## **Meals On Wheels**



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. 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. Any questions please call me Kristi Hassler 641-753-3276 or Doris McCarty 641-752-7604.

**2024 Is Full. Thank you to all! 2025 dates available are:**

February 22	April 26	May 24	June 22
July 26	August 23	September 27	October 25
December 27			



# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**D.O.G.'s (Depend on God)** is a group for K-4th grade kids on Tuesday nights from 5-6:30pm with a meal. November 5, 12, 19, No group the 26th

**Jr. P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth)** is a group for 5-8th grade youth on Wednesday nights from 5-6:30pm with a meal. November 6, 13, 20, No group the 27th

**P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth)** is a group for 9-12th grade youth on Wednesday nights from 6:15-8pm with a meal. November 6, 13, 20, No group the 27th

**Power Hour** is a group for K-12th grade youth on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:20am. November 3, 10, 17, 24



Power Hour Sunday mornings

DOG's Tuesday nights



Visited Glenwood residents during their trick or treat event.

We took the Jr PY & PY groups to Center Grove Orchard in October for fun and fellowship



We went with our DOG's group and their families to Appleberry Farm in October for fun and fellowship.







PY Wednesday nights



We are excited to be presenting some of our young children with their very own Bibles on Sunday, November 10th during the 10:30am service. There will also be a cake reception in the fellowship hall after the service. Please join us on this special Sunday.



## **News from Diaconate Board**

We are looking forward to our annual Harvest Dinner after church on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Jane Symon for heading up the committee.

A big thank you goes to Lynn Maas who decorated the sanctuary for the harvest season! Lynn arranges all the flowers on the alter every Sunday.

The Advent season will be starting soon. We will be decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 A.M. We welcome all who can help.

Our Christmas Eve candlelight service will be on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Time to be determined later.

On December 29<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 A.M. service we will be having a hymn sing of Christmas carols during the service.



## **Women's Ministry**

The general Women's Ministry meeting is Monday November 4 at 5:30 downstairs. It's time to clean the kitchen so it is ready for holiday use. There are several areas of need. Please join us if you can. A united effort will earn the best results. Thank you!

Bible Study with Jane will be Mondays in the library at 5:30 on November 11 and November 25.

Join us if you'd like. We look forward to having you.



## Harvest Dinner

The annual Harvest Dinner will be held on November 24, 2024 after church. Jane Symons and the planning committee are making plans for the event and will again be asking for volunteers. Watch your bulletins for ordering information, and for sign up sheets to volunteer!

Thank you!



## Greetings from Missions and Benevolence

Our Christmas giving this year will focus on victims of Hurricane Helene. Last Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>, Rich Miller-Todd shared information about the NACC,s efforts to help devastated areas of North Carolina. Rich, who is the chairperson of the “One Great Hour of Sharing,” told of the critical needs and gave firsthand information about Helene’s devastating destruction in the Ashville NC area. He showed pictures of homes with water as high as eave troughs and washed-out roads. There were people on horses with their donkeys loaded with supplies. The only way to reach people is in the hollers. It is especially personal to Rich and Kay who have relatives that have been impacted by this terrible hurricane. Kay, who is a native North Carolinian, has recently received information that there is growing need for more assistance especially since winter is around the corner.

Juile Squires’ daughter Beth, lives in the Highlands NC area located about an 1 1/2 hr. SE of Ashville. Julie shared that her daughter and family were without electricity for 7 days but felt blessed that they were ok and had no major damage. However, north of their community their need is life threatening. Small mountain homes were devastated and once again we are reminded that winter is on its way.

Our committee has earmarked \$1,000.00 from our budget towards hurricane relief. Here is how you can help support our efforts to help. At the back entrance of our church, we have decorated a giving tree full of ornaments with dollar amounts and an attached envelope. Please choose an ornament with the dollar amount you like. Take the ornament with you and return your donation to the church office or in the Sunday offering plate. Please earmark your check to Hurricane victims.

Our donations will serve the following:

1. Convoy of Hope
2. NACCC Mission Partners
3. Vetted individuals providing aid.
4. NACCC churches impacted by or helping with relief efforts If you have questions,

call:

Jonna Wagar 641-691-2991

Thank you for your prayers, support and faithfulness!



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

For those of you who read “Pillars of Faith” in October, the person was Jody Brintnall. 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, Jody, 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 November.

Before we introduce you to the November Pillar of Faith and since this is November, a time of Thanksgiving, we would like to turn your attention to the Pilgrims. What did you learn about the Pilgrims in school? We remember, in elementary school, learning that they came from England and that they had Thanksgiving with the Indians. That is all we remember. How about you? As an adult we learned a lot more about the Pilgrims’ religious trials in England and the trials they had when they landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts. If this is interesting to you, we would suggest that you read “Saints and Strangers” by George F. Willson, published in 1945. A copy of it can be found in our church library. Of particular interest to our Pillar of Faith in this book is John Alden who was a single man and a cooper (barrel maker) by trade. He traveled on the Mayflower and must have been born by 1599 to be old enough to sign the Mayflower Compact.

The Congregational church finds its roots in the faith of the Pilgrims and the maternal grand parents of our November Pillar of Faith are descendants of the John Alden family. At the age of four this Pillar of Faith’s Mother began bringing her to Sunday school at First Congregational Church in Marshalltown. In 1974 she attended Confirmation classes and was confirmed by Pastor J. B. Sheldon, which means she has been a member for 50 years.

She found the joy of worshipping through music singing in Pilgrim Choir. It was with this choir that she played her first instrument and Elizabeth Bakehouse composed the accompaniment for her to play. The song was “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder.” When she started playing bells in Junior High, Lois Sauer was the director. She also participated in Interpretative Choir with Janet Allbee as director. She participates in

Chancel Choir and Bell Choir at the present time. She has been on several church boards with her favorite board being the Diaconate because of the service to God and church members. She also led the students in singing some of the contemporary song of the time as opening worship before Sunday School for a couple of years.

When asked which activity did you enjoy the most? She replied, "My Favorite activity is helping with music at Vacation Bible School! Seeing the smiles on the faces of those participating is a reminder to 'Rejoice in the Lord Always and Again I Say Rejoice!' "

When asked, "Do you have any advice for the future of our church?" She replied, "I don't give advice. But we have a plaque hanging in our home that says: 'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God *is* with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9 NKJV "

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



*Sounds  
of The  
Season*

***A HOLIDAY CONCERT*** is once again being sponsored by Elim Lutheran Church in conjunction with the Marshalltown Holiday Stroll. The concert will take place on

*Saturday, November 23, at 3:00 pm in the Elim sanctuary. This year's concert will feature Josh Grimes (piano), Hudson Lourenco-Feld (organ), a community*

*handbell choir and Janet Collison (harpist). There*

*will be one other surprise as well! Admission is 'an armload' of canned goods for the Elim Blessing Box*

*with any surplus being shared with the Emergency Food Box. Mark your calendars - Saturday, November 23, 3:00 pm, at Elim Lutheran!!*



# **Nominating Committee News**

The Nominating Committee wishes to inform the Congregation of opportunities for involvement in the governing of First Congregational Church of Marshalltown. Those who are nominated and accept the nomination begin their service following the Annual meeting held in February. If you are interested in any of these positions or wish to know more about them, please contact the following Committee members.

Lisa Blabaum - 641-485-4633 [lblabaum@gmail.com](mailto:lblabaum@gmail.com)  
Debi Estabrook - 641-751-0611 [gammma@mchsi.com](mailto:gammma@mchsi.com)  
Wayne Wagar - 641-751-0858 [ragawsw@msn.com](mailto:ragawsw@msn.com)  
Jonna Wagar - 641-691-2991 [jonnawagar@netscape.net](mailto:jonnawagar@netscape.net)

**Moderator** - The term is one year and no individual shall hold this office for more than two consecutive terms. Duties include moderating the Annual meetings and Special meetings of the Church and the Church Cabinet meetings held at least 4 times per year. The Moderator is a lay leader of the Church and may have other duties applicable to the office.

**Assistant Moderator** - The term is one year. Duties include attending the Annual and Special Meetings of the Church and Church Cabinet. They shall act as Moderator in the absence of the Moderator, or when designated to do so by the Moderator. Additional duties may be assigned by the Church from time to time.

**Church Clerk** - The Clerk shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the Church and shall hold office for one year and until a successor is elected and qualified. The Clerk may succeed themselves in office. The Clerk keeps an electronic record of all the transactions of the business meetings of the Church and of the Church Cabinet. The Clerk keeps a register of the members of the Church with the date of their reception and removal, record of baptisms, marriages and deaths, and makes a full report to the Church at the Annual meeting. They issue Letters of Transfer of Church Membership, and give legal notice of all congregational meetings when notice is necessary.

**Church Cabinet at Large Members** - Three members at Large are elected for a three year term with one member expiring annually. The Church Cabinet consists of Moderator, Clerk, Board of Trustee member, Board Diaconate member, Board of Christian Education Member, Benevolence and Missions Committee member, Treasurer, and Pastor. Duties are to represent the Church Membership and act as an Executive Committee of the congregation between congregational meetings; and, with the aid of the Pastor, to visualize the entire task of the Church and set the general direction of the church program; To coordinate the work of the various boards and committees and the staff carrying out the church program; To monitor the adequacy of programs and functions, and; to envision possible new or expanded programs and projects. Meet at least 4 times a year with the Church Cabinet.



**Board of Trustees** - The Board consists of five members, elected for four year terms with no more than two trustees expiring each year. The Trustees hold in trust all Church property and physical maintenance and physical properties, propose the annual budget for the support of the Church, and have general charge of its financial and business affairs. Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of each month at 9:30 am.

**Board of Diaconate** - Consists of twelve Deacons with three year terms. The Board has supervision over the worship services and assists Pastor with administration of the sacraments. Arrange for greeters, ushers, and lay readers if needed for services. Meets third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Does not meet in June or July.

**Board of Christian Education** - Consists of 9 members elected for three year terms with terms of three members to expire each year. The Board supervises the direction of educational youth programs of the Church. Evolves a system of Religious Education to the extent possible persons of all ages. Correlate courses of instruction, appoint teachers and secure equipment and supplies. Meets the third Sunday of the month @ 11:45 am.

**Benevolence and Missions Committee** - Consists of five members elected to three year terms that the terms of no more than two members expire each year. The board investigates, coordinates and promotes benevolent projects throughout the Church fellowship and directs those of the church itself. Seeks out and encourages means of expanding Christian service of the church beyond its own membership. Meets second Tuesday of the month at 8:45 am.

**Financial Review Committee** - Consists of three members, elected for three year terms with no more than one member expiring each year. The Committee shall audit the accounts of the Church and all of its organizations annually. The annual financial review will be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the subsequent calendar year. Following completion of the financial review, it will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

**Nominating Committee** - Subcommittee of the Cabinet. Consists of 4 members elected for one year term. One member chosen by the Cabinet from the Cabinet members-at-large. Term limit 2 years. At least one member shall carry over from the previous retiring Nominating Committee. Committee shall nominate persons to fill each office and each board or committee person to be elected at the Annual meeting. Committee also nominates for any vacancies that arise. Organizational meetings determined by the Committee. Meet as needed until all positions are filled.



# **SURVEY** CHURCHWIDE **BIBLE STUDY**

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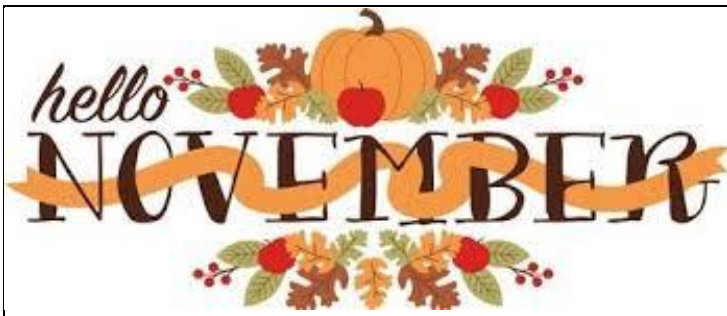
The Board of Christian Education is seeking input on creating opportunities to connect with God and each other. Please return to church office, Kristin Meyer, or place in offering plate. Share your contact information if you would like to be included in future planning.

What topics are of interest to you for a Bible study?

What size discussion group is most comfortable for your participation?

When would be a good meeting time for you?





# 2024

**FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!**  
**Sunday Worship Services:**  
**8:00am & 10:30am**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>Monday-Friday</b> 9am-Noon 641-752-4239						
<b>color code:</b> youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards					1	2
<b>3 Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc <b>Power Hour</b> 9:15-10:20a Cabinet meeting 11:45am	<b>4 Women's Ministry</b> 5:30pm	<b>5 DOGS 5-6:30pm</b>	<b>6 Men's Church coffee</b> 8am @ Hy-Vee  Jr PY 5-6:30pm PY 6:15-8pm	<b>7 Bell Choir practice</b> 5:30pm	8	9
<b>10 Guest Pulpit Harlan Nuss</b>  In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc  <b>Power Hour</b> 9:15-10:20am	<b>11 Women's Bible Study</b> 5:30pm	<b>12 DOGS 5-6:30pm</b>  BMC meets 8:45am	<b>13 Men's Church coffee</b> 8am @ Hy-Vee  Jr PY 5-6:30pm PY 6:15-8pm	<b>14 Bell Choir practice</b> 5:30pm	15	16
<b>17</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc  <b>Power Hour</b> 9:15-10:20am  BCE 11:45am	18	<b>19 DOGS 5-6:30pm</b>  Diaconate meets 6:30 PM	<b>20 Men's Church coffee</b> 8am @ Hy-Vee  Jr PY 5-6:30pm PY 6:15-8pm  Trustees meet 6:30 PM	<b>21 Bell Choir practice</b> 5:30pm	22	<b>23 11am MOW Volunteer:</b> Jullie Allison
<b>24 Harvest Dinner</b>  In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows 10:30am Svc  <b>Power Hour</b> 9:15-10:20am	<b>25 Women's Bible Study</b> 5:30pm	26	<b>27 Men's Church coffee</b> 8am @ Hy-Vee	<b>28 Thanksgiving</b>    Office Closed	29     Office Closed	<b>30 Sanctuary decorating</b> 10AM



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

