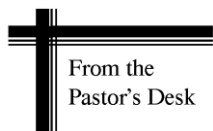


# Pilgrim's Progress

## April 2025

"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."



*1 Corinthians 15:20*

"But now, Christ is risen from the dead and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."

The Apostle Paul, in his famous defense of the Resurrection, wrote of Christ being the "first fruits" of those who have fallen asleep. The statement is steeped in the practice of the people as recorded in the Old Testament. The Book of Leviticus, the field manual of the ancient Israeli priesthood, required the people to honor God at the beginning of the harvest, recognizing Him as the One who meets the needs of the people. Leviticus 23:10 and 11 includes the following instructions: "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.'" The fruits of the beginning of the harvest, the "first fruits" were dedicated to the Lord. Years later, Paul noted the connection as Christ is the "first fruits" of those who have died, and the connection is clear. Just as the "first fruits" signaled the beginning of the harvest, Christ as the first fruit of the dead signals that there is more to come. Christ's resurrection guarantees that there will be more, as many will rise from the dead, some to eternal honor and others to eternal shame. This ancient promise, prefigured in the ritual of Old Testament worship, states that the Bible speaks of our resurrection even as it speaks of Christ's. His destiny is our future.

### Sermons

April 6 "The Anointing at Bethany"

John 12:1--8; Philippians 3:4-14

April 13 Palm Sunday "Jesus on the Cross" Luke 2:44-49; Philippians 2:5-11

April 20 Easter/Resurrection Sunday "If This Be True..." Luke 24:1-12; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

April 27 Deacons lead worship



*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, Elenor Tjossem #160, Lenora Brown #161

**Hospice House:** Leta Lacina

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



Troy & LaRae McGahuey

April 9, 1988

36 years

Dwayne & Maxie Shultz

April 12, 1967

57 years

Bill & Lynn Maas

April 13, 1996

28 years





April 4 Joy Kreykes  
April 8 Sam Good  
April 9 Vicki McKibbin  
April 10 Leah Stanley  
April 14 Jasmine Gepford  
April 16 Lisa Blabaum  
April 17 Sam Speas

April 18 Liz Meyer  
April 19 Linda McGregor  
April 21 Katie Paustian, Shelly Speas  
April 23 Thomas Stanley  
April 25 Kirk Shirar  
April 27 Ron Estabrook  
April 28 Adam Swope



## **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.

### **The following 2025 dates available are:**

July 26

August 23

September 27

October 25

December 27



## **Diaconate News**

April 9, 2025 the Lenten Breakfast will be hosted by FCC. The starting time is 6:30 A. M. and will end at 7:15 A. M. There will be a delicious meal and devotional time.

Palm Sunday is April 13, 2025 when the children of the church participate in the 10:30 service with the waving of the palms.

Maundy Thursday is April 17, 2025 beginning at 7:00 P. M. There will be a Tenebrae and Communion service. During a Tenebrae service scripture is read telling the story of the last days of Jesus' life on Earth.

Easter is on April 20th this year and in preparation for this event, the deacons are once again planing an Easter Memorial Garden. If you would like to donate a plant in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion, please look for the Memorial Garden flier in your bulletin on Sunday. On the paper you can put your information. Then place the paper and your donation in the envelope. You may then place it in the offering plate. The suggested amount is \$20 but all donations are accepted and appreciated. Thank you in advance!

Have a very blessed Easter Season!  
Members of the Diaconate

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**D.O.G.'s** (Depend on God) No group on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8,15,22,29 -  
is a group for K-4th grade kids on Tuesday nights from 5-6:30pm with a meal.

**Jr. P.Y.** (Pilgrim Youth) No group on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9,16,23,30 -  
is a group for 5-8th grade youth on Wednesday nights from 5-6:30pm with a meal.

**P.Y.** (Pilgrim Youth) No group on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9,16,23,30 -  
is a group for 9-12th grade youth on Wednesday nights from 6:15-8pm with a meal.

**Power Hour** (Sunday School) 6,13,27, No group on the 20th (Easter) -  
is a group for K-12th grade youth on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:20am.



What a blessing it was to take a group of our youth leaders and students to the Ignite Youth Leadership Conference in Des Moines in March! We came home with many great tools and so much encouragement to continue to do the things God has for us to do!

We took a group of students to Urban Air for some fun and fellowship together in March.



We took a group of students to the WinterJam Christian music concert in Des Moines in March joining thousands of other Christians in worship!



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

For those of you who read “Pillars of Faith” in March, the person was Doris McCarty. 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, Doris, 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. The Biblical definition of faith is found in Hebrews 11:1 which says, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Revised Standard Version. Also 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 April.

Before I introduce this month’s Pillar of faith, this author finds it interesting that the last few Pillars of Faith have originally come from different parts of Iowa and the surrounding area. Maybe it was a job that brought them to Marshalltown but what brought them to First Congregational Church? I believe it is a sense of belonging first to the Triune God, (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit) which causes one to seek to belong to a like minded community. Our Pillar of Faith for April 2025 is no exception.

This month’s Pillar of faith moved to Marshalltown in 2001 and started attending the First United Methodist Church, participating in a couple of different Bible studies there friends were made. At some point there was an invite to “That Place” on the Conrad Corner. That is where later the spouse was met in 2002. In 2003 they were married in the Methodist Church by Jerry Swanberg and Barry Holmes. After their marriage the couple committed to First Congregational Church where the spouse’s family had gone for years. The big draw though was Barry and Cheryl Holmes, who were very personable. This month’s Pillar of Faith has belonged to our church for about 22 years.

This person taught Sunday School served on the Board of Christian Education and the Diaconate. She helped with Vacation Bible School many years and was asked to be the director of VBS one year. Then she was asked to do crafts, which she really didn’t want to do but did do. These were two very impactful years for her. They caused her to grow in her faith because she had to step out of her comfort zone to do them. She remembers praying with a child who shared with her about being afraid of going to middle school in the fall. Later she found out from this child that middle school was going well. God showed her, through all this, that if she would take the first step in doing His will for her, He would be there too. She often prepares food for youth nights and became known as “The Snack Lady” at Vacation Bible School. She dreams of future snacks, like a “Camp Fire Snack” made with graham crackers, pretzel logs and jelly worms as flames. She has hosted Bible studies and was on the Renewal Team. This was a time of personal renewal for her, where she recommitted to participate in the life of the church.

When asked, which activity did you enjoy most? The reply was, “anytime I could bless someone with food.”

When asked, do you have any advice for the future of our church? Her reply was, “It has been on my heart to find ways to encourage more people to use their gifts, and we all have them, in service at FCC.”

That leads this author to add: As Paul said in Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” NKJV And we can too!

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 May 2025 newsletter. The answer will be there under the title “Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.”.



## **Women's Ministry**

**April 6 @ 5:30** Join us as we work to clean up after the new windows installation in the Sunday School room. Please bring your favorite cleaning rags. Thank you!

We have discussed and decided to help with serving the evening meal at The House of Compassion. Our first date is *Monday April 21*, and our second is *Monday July 21*. If you would like to join us, please contact Shelly Speas 641-751-9868 for times and expectations. Thank you!

**May 5 @ 5:30** Come one. Come all. We are hosting the church yard spring clean up. Thank you for joining us! Please bring your favorite yard tools. Thank you!

### **Bible Study with Jane**

We have just finished our study of the twelve disciples. Our next study is The Names of God. We look forward to sharing with you. We have a chair and a book for you! Church library 5:30 April 14 and April 28.



The annual IA/Neb NACCC meeting will take place April 11-12 @ Eugene T. Mahoney State Park | 28500 W. Park Highway | Ashland, NE 68003.

**Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!**




*Rejoice*



HE IS RISEN



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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <div>Monday-Friday 9am-Noon 641-752-4239</div>						
<b>color code:</b> youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards		<b>1</b>  D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	<b>2</b>  JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	<b>3</b> Bell choir 5:30	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Katie Fellowship Hall 10-5 pm
<b>6 Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	<b>7</b> Women's Ministry 5:30 in Library	<b>8</b> BMC meets @ 8:45AM  D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	<b>9</b> Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee  JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	<b>10</b> Bell choir 5:30	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	<b>14</b> Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 in Library	<b>15</b> Diaconate meets @ 6:30 pm  D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	<b>16</b> Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee  JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	<b>17 Maundy Thursday</b>  Trustees meets 5 PM  Bell choir 5:30	<b>18 Good Friday</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20 Easter</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>21</b>	<b>22</b> D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	<b>23</b> Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee  JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	<b>24</b> Bell choir 5:30	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 11am MOW Lisa Blabaum
<b>27</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	<b>28</b> Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 in Library	<b>29</b> D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	<b>30</b> Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee  JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00			



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

