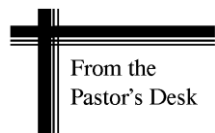


Pilgrim's Progress

June 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."



Shavot

As Summer begins, we look to the warmer weather and vacations, but also to the anniversary of a special part of the Scriptures. June 1-3 is the celebration of Shavot in the Jewish calendar, the remembrance of the giving of the Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) and of the Ten Commandments, found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. Creation, the meaning of deliverance, of holiness, of sin and of the eternal nature of the will of God are introduced in these books. Forming the basis of the rest of Scripture, the truth of these books, as well as the rest of the Old Testament, are the foundation of all that is in the New Testament. You cannot really understand the New Testament without a working knowledge of the Old. So, as we get ready for Summer, take a few minutes to give thanks for the Torah and Ten Commandments, and for all that God has given us.

-Pastor Dan

Sermon

June 1	"Final Instructions"	Leviticus 16:20-22; Luke 24:44-53
June 8	"Led by the Spirit"	John 14:8-17; Romans 8:14-17
June 15 (Trinity Sunday)	"The Love of God"	John 16:12-15; Romans 5:1-5
June 22	Pastor at NACCC Annual Meeting	
June 29	"The Passing of Authority"	2 Kings 19:15-16; Galatians 5:13-25



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

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



Dale & Patricia Wiese	June 8, 1957	(68)
Dave & Lynn Hall	June 14, 1974	(51)
David & Katie Peiffer	June 16, 2018	(7)
Gary & Vicki McKibbin	June 17, 1967	(58)
Robert & Jane Bauer	June 20, 1964	(61)
Pastor Dan & Jeanne Vellinga	June 20, 1981	(44)
Ron & Debi Estabrook	June 21, 1970	(55)
Wayne & Jonna Wagar	June 22, 1968	(57)
Stan & Georgia Thomas	June 27, 1987	(38)
Terry & Julie Paustian	June 29, 1974	(51)





June 4 Pat Preece, Dwayne Shultz
June 6 Lyric Swope
June 7 Rich Miller-Todd
June 9 Arlene Selby
June 10 Deb Mettlin
June 13 Savannah Piper
June 15 Jane Bauer
June 16 Maxie Shultz

June 18 Lucus Schryver, Reginald Kersbergen
June 22 Shannon Wolcott, Matthew Schryver
June 25 Lynn Hall
June 26 Don Benbow
June 28 Arch Allison
June 30 Layla Wimberly -Kersbergen



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:

September 27

December 27



Diaconate News

June 1, 2025 will be the first time we will have a more traditional Communion service since Covid-19. There will be no more struggles to open the elements packages. Instead, members of the Diaconate will be passing trays of unleavened Communion Bread and small cups of juice. Do you remember the old way we did it? That is the way it will be on June first.

The Ice Cream Social mentioned in last month's newsletter will be from 2:00 - 4:00 P. M on June 15th, which is Father's Day. The Lilly Mae's truck is not available on father's Day but we will be having their ice cream and serve it ourselves. We are also preparing baked treats to enjoy with the ice cream. Please join us!

The signup sheets for Fellowship Time are still available. There haven't been many Fellowship times in May to present this to anyone. There are still times open in June.



CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION THRU APRIL, 2025

After four months of 2025, we are behind budget by 28.8%.

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

The most important value is our tithes and offerings, which are behind budget by 28.8% through April.

January - April, 2025	Actual	Budget	Net
GIVING	42,959	60,332	-28.8%
EXPENSES	87,276	101,904	-14.4%
	19,522	25,476	

CAPITAL DONATION SUGGESTIONS

Your church has the need to invest significant dollars in several capital projects for the long-term health of the church. By donating to these projects, or to the general capital fund, you can assist your church in maintaining its strength for many years. Please prayerfully consider supplementing your normal giving with gifts directed to the following capital projects.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Capital Project	Cost	Dollar Raised
Narthex east door railings – to make removable	\$1,000	0
Additional church security cameras	\$1,182	0
New kitchen stoves	\$2,031	0
Motion sensors for lights/fans in 4 bathrooms	\$3,000	0
New sanctuary camera and sound mic's	\$4,880	0
New fabricated gate system – east side of church	\$5,456	0
Upgraded church fire alarm system	\$6,800	0
New vented system for tip of Sanctuary roof	\$7,000	0
Replace 16 glass windows – Education Wing	\$36,337	0
New 2023 15 passenger Ford Transit 350 van	\$55,995	\$5,178
Stain glass windows – Inspection/Repair/Replacement	\$100,000	\$40,000



YOUTH GROUP NEWS



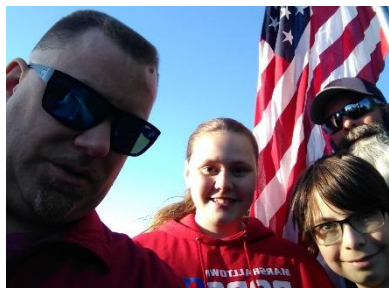
We did a little trash pick up around our church neighborhoods for Earth Day with some of our high schoolers.

We were blessed to have one of our seniors, Savannah Piper, lead DOG's on one of our Tuesday nights! Her message was from

Matthew 7:24-27, where Jesus teaches about building our lives on a solid foundation – the rock – which represents His teachings and God's Word. Those who hear and obey Jesus' words are like a wise man who built his house on the rock. They will be able to withstand the storms of life. While those who only hear but don't obey are like a foolish man who built on sand.



We had the awesome privilege, provided by the Morning Optimist Club, to put up American Flags around our community for Memorial Day with our youth group. Our group has 4 routes and so we have 4 wonderful volunteer drivers who take our kids around to different assigned neighborhoods. This is a fundraising opportunity for our youth. This year a few of our youth were asked to help an older couple with their route, which is a separate route from our regular 4, as they are recovering from health related issues, and our youth gladly volunteered. We are blessed to have this opportunity!






In May we celebrated some of our incredible 2025 graduates! Melanie Brandt, Savannah Piper, and Davis Ragland were honored during the 10:30am service with a reception in their honor after church.

We have so much fun on Wednesday nights with our middle school & high school youth groups!



The youth made some special butterfly chocolates for Mother's Day Sunday and handed them out before the service began on May 11th to all our wonderful church mothers.


We are so very excited to attend this year's summer youth mission conference NAPF/HOPE with 8 of our youth/young adults, and 3 adult leaders. We are so thankful for all the support and encouragement we have received from our church family as we have fundraised and prayed over this years Conference! We are blessed to have 4 of our own serve on the conference planning team this year, Patrick Stewart, Kasie Brandt, Libby Meyer, and Savannah Piper. Please continue to pray over our conference and those who will be attending!



NAPF HOPE 2025

Save The Date!

JUNE 21st-26th
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
Registration: \$445




ACTIVITIES

- FOOD PACKAGING
- WORSHIP
- AWESOME SPEAKERS
- MISSION WORK
- FUN DAY AROUND ST. LOUIS
- SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
- STAYING AT EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

LIMITLESS

Matthew 19:26
Jesus looked at them
and said that with man
this is IMPOSSIBLE but
with God all things are
POSSIBLE





FCC Women's Ministry planned an all church clean up day on May 5th. A lot of needed yard work was worked on so our church looks beautiful this summer.



Davis Ragland is the son of Craig and Cynthia Ragland and grandson of Robert and Jane Bauer. Davis will graduate from the Marshalltown High School in May. He recently graduated from the Marshalltown Community College while in high school with his Associates of Arts Degree. Davis ranked 1 out of 340 in his graduating class and is graduating with a 4.0 grade point and is an AP Scholar Seal of Biliteracy Recipient. Davis has received many awards for his hard work and dedication. He was selected for the Iowa Governor's Scholar Program, got Academic All-State for football and basketball, was chosen as Iowa Chapter 5A Scholar-Athlete of the year, was MHS all-time record holder for most carries in a football game, was 2x 1st team all-conference, all district, and all area in football, was team MVP and defensive player of the year in football, was a national math team qualifier, was part of the National Honor Society, and was Nominated for the B.A.

Niblock scholarship and was awarded the Nick Norris Scholarship. Davis was also chosen as a "Leader of Tomorrow" by Times Republican and recognized by Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce as a member of the top 5% in the class of 2025 in Marshall County. Davis was very involved in sports and activities while in high school. He was varsity football team captain, was in varsity basketball, led a food recycling drive in National Honor Society, was on the math team, was a coach in the powderpuff games, was a football leader mentor, was a stock market game participant, was Rotary Club of Marshalltown's student Rotarian, he volunteered for meals on wheels, was the founder and commissioner of the Marshalltown Basketball League, was part of the rent-a-player yardwork initiative, volunteered for trash clean up, helped with youth football camp, and was a Marshalltown girls basketball volunteer practice player. Davis was also part of confirmation at FCC. This summer Davis plans to continue working at C Eye Care and handle the bookkeeping. Davis plans to attend the University of Iowa in the fall and triple major in accounting, finance, and sports management. He intends to complete a Master's in sports management and will be working in the athletic department's finance office. Davis plans to attend law school to become a sports agent in the future.

Gabrielle Ann Estabrook (Gaby) is the daughter of Matt & Cristy Estabrook and granddaughter of Ron & Debi Estabrook. She is graduating from Marshalltown High School in May. During her MHS high school years, she participated in volleyball and golf (4 years) and a Regional Volleyball team in Des Moines. She received First Team All Conference awards in both volleyball and golf. She is a member of the National Honor Society, STEP (Students Teaching and Empowering Philanthropy), the Kindness Project and will receive a Silver Cord for her volunteer hours. She was chosen as a "Leader of Tomorrow" by Times Republican and recognized by Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce as a member of the top 5% in the class of 2025 in Marshall County. Gaby will attend Iowa State University to pursue a career in Finance and Accounting.



Women's Ministry

Many thanks to each person who helped with the May 5 church yard cleanup. Tasks yet to be finished include trimming the bushes on the southwest part of the building and bringing weeds in along sidewalks and parking lot cracks into submission. We also need mulch for the front including the garden area planted in Ron Long's memory. Since our May 5 clean out, weeds have reasserted themselves. Thank you for helping as you can. We offer our efforts with Glory to God's House!

Our June 2 general meeting will be directed at cleaning the kitchen. Join us with your favorite cleaning tools if you'd like. We can accomplish much together from 5:30 to 6:30 or 7:00.

Bible Study with Jane is June 9 and June 23 at 5:30 in the library. We are usually concluding at 6:30.

Our current study is titled "**The Names of God**"

July 21 we are serving at the House of Compassion. We welcome anyone who would like to join us in this service!

Prayers and thanksgiving for all of you from your Women's Ministry.



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read "Pillars of Faith" in May, the person was Judy Gaynor. 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, Judy, 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 June.

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 June 2025 is no exception.

I was born and grew up in a Midwestern state. As a small child I went to the same church as my maternal grandparents, the Evangelical United Brethren Church. This church and The Methodist Church merged to form the United Methodist Church in 1968. I attended Sunday School and went to Church Camp in the summer. At the age of about 12, I was baptized by immersion in Kinnikinick Creek. After graduating from I high school I went to Miami University. While there I occasionally went to a Lutheran Church.

After graduating from college I got a job with Westinghouse in Columbus and after a couple years was transferred to Greensburg, PA. Then I decided to get an MBA in Boston and while there I met the Pastor of a Congregational Church who came to visit my spouse when hospitalized. That left an impression on me!

Years later a job brought me to Marshalltown, Iowa and I began looking for a church home. The first place I went to was the Methodist Church and then the Presbyterian Church; neither one felt quite right. So I thought because of my Boston experience I would try the First Congregational Church. After meeting Pastor Greg Ellcey, I knew this was the place and within a year I joined the church.

I was Church Moderator in 1997- 98 and on the Trustees for one or two years. I was on two pastoral search committees and chaired one of them. I have been on the Diaconate, the Endowment Fund Committee and the Financial Review Committee. I also chaired the social group, “Cum-Double” for a number of years.

When asked which activity did you enjoy the most? The answer was, “The Diaconate because you are involved in the basic reason for the church, caring for people.

When asked what advice to you have for the future of our church? The answer was, “Everyone should welcome people who are visiting to help 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 July 2025 newsletter. The answer will be there under the title “Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.”



Benevolence and Missions Committee Update for June 2025



Marshall County Homeless Task Force Co-Chairs presented to FCC Benevolence and Missions Committee in April 2025.

Left to right: Jasmin Banderas, Child, Adolescent and Parent Support (CAPS) Program Director and Kendra Sorensen, Marshalltown Area United Way Executive Director.

The task force serves to organize collaboration among several different service agencies to meet the many needs of homeless people and families. This valuable coordination and central referral program has improved services and timeliness of those services since organized in 2023.

FCC donated \$3000 toward this valuable work.

Photo from Marshalltown Times Republican, 9/25/2024 article titled "Homelessness Task Force Leaders Present First Update to City Council."

Remember Peter and Faith Ndungu? They were the amazing directors of Happy Life Ministries. One year ago over Memorial Weekend they visited our church and won many of us over to the work they do rescuing and nurturing abandoned children. Your Mission and Benevolence Committee voted to again support their work with a \$1000 donation in May 2025.



Projects we have completed or that are underway this Spring include the following:

- 1) As a committee we planned, prepared and served dinner to our youth and their teachers/adult supporters on Wednesday, 4/23/25. We want our youth to know we support youth services as a church body! Committee members have provided several meals on our own too.
- 2) Ongoing leadership of Meals on Wheels by Kristi Hassler and Doris McCarty has secured volunteers through August. Please, fill out the volunteer roster through December! Sign up on the clipboard in the narthex.
- 3) We're continuing HOC Supply Closet Drive "Bags Full of Blessings: Kids and Congregation Together" and would love your donations through 6/8/25. Grab a Supply Closet Drive card with shopping list of ideas to buy in the narthex or on the back door table.
- 4) Look forward to Mission Moments at Sunday Worship Services sometime in July or August by Rich and Kay Miller-Todd. They will share feedback about their visits at hurricane devastated Appalachian counties where our One Great Hour of Sharing donation in 2025 was put to use.

Finally, THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR DONATIONS AND SERVICE. We love working for you.



The Ice Cream Social will be from 2:00 - 4:00 P. M on June 15th, which is Father's Day. The Lilly Mae's truck is not available on father's Day but we will be having their ice cream and serve it ourselves. We are also preparing baked treats to enjoy with the ice cream. Please join us!

An aerial photograph of a beach and ocean. The top of the image shows a sandy beach with a white line of surf washing onto it. Below the beach, the ocean is a vibrant turquoise color. The text is centered over the ocean portion of the image.

**“Summer means
happy times and good
sunshine.”**

BRIAN WILSON



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 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15 Cabinet meets 11:45 AM	2 Women's Ministry 5:30 Kitchen cleanup	3 D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	4 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00			
8 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	9 Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM	10 BMC meets @ 8:45AM	11 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee			
15 Father's Day In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows BCE meets 11:45am Ice Cream Social 2-4 PM	16 Shelly Fellowship Hall		18 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	19 Trustees meet 5 PM		21 11am MOW Katie Lundberg NACCC conference
22 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows NACCC conference	23 Women's Bible Study 5:30 PM NACCC conference	24 NACCC conference	25 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee NACCC conference			
29 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	30					color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards



First Congregational Church
312 W. Main St.
Marshalltown, IA 50158

web page: www.fccmarshalltown.org

the LOFT

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. All ages in
Worship Services: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

641-752-4239

Office hours 9 a.m. - noon Mon – Fri.

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

