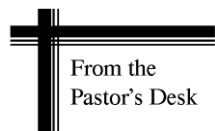


Pilgrim's Progress

May 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."



The Ascension of the Lord

On May 29, after Mothers' Day (May 11) and after most of the post-graduation celebrations end, the church celebrates Ascension Day. After His Resurrection He spent some time with His disciples. The women who were to first to learn that Jesus had arisen (Matthew 28:1-10). There was the meeting behind closed doors soon after He rose (Luke 24:36-43), there was the meeting with Thomas when Jesus showed Him the wounds in His hands and side (John 20:24-31), there was the time when He traveled with a couple of disciples on the Road to Emmaus when He explained that all of the events recounted during Holy Week were planned by God the Father and prophesied in ancient Scripture (Luke 24:13-35). There was the Breakfast by the Sea when Jesus re-established Peter as one of the Apostles (John 21). Finally, there was His ascension when 500 people saw Him rise to the heavens (Acts 1:4-11). While scholars debate this, many reputable theologians place an early day on the New Testament, asserting that the Apostles, Luke, James and Paul were indeed the writers. This means that if someone of that first generation wanted to dispute the Resurrection, he had to disprove the experiences of the remaining apostles, but also of all those who saw Jesus on that fateful day. It is one more piece of evidence that points toward the reality of the Resurrection. For us, we have the comfort of knowing that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, ever interceding for us, and that He return to heaven opened the way for the events of Pentecost and the expansion of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, but more about that next month. God bless you, and may you have a wonderful month.

-Pastor Dan

Sermon

May 4	Breakfast by the Sea	John 21:1-19; Matthew 4:18-22
May 11	Sheep Know Their Shepherd	John 10:22-30; Luke 2:18-20
May 18	The New Commandment	John 13:31-35; Deuteronomy 30:14-16
May 25	The Helper	John 14:23-29; Acts 16:6-10



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



Aaron & Angie Dickey
Blake & Sarah Latham
Steve & Alicia Storjohann

May 10,1997	28 years
May 26, 2007	18 years
May 27, 1983	42 years



May 1	Grant Brintnall, Nichole Kersbergen	May 11	Claire Meyer, Libby Meyer
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
May 6	Jennifer Allison	May 22	Judy Gaynor
May 7	Doris McCarty	May 23	Diana Speas
May 9	Madison Swartz, Eleanor Tjossem	May 27	Patricia Wiese
May 10	Cynthia Ragland, Jim Clark, Nicole Vellinga	May 31	Wendi Stanley



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:

August 23

September 27

October 25

December 27



Diaconate News

April was a busy month for the Diaconate. An update on the events reported in last month's news letter is as follows:

The Lenten Breakfast was well planned by a Deacon's spouse. Twenty-six people were served a delicious meal by members of the Diaconate and the Church Moderator. It was a blessing to all that participated. Palm Sunday, the youth of the church from very young to teenager waved palms. As they walked down the aisle they sang a song and the congregation joined them. The Maundy Thursday service was somber and moving. Communion was served after the scripture reading of the Last Supper in the Upper Room. Then the scripture reading of the events after the Last Supper were read by eight different Deacons. The bell choir played and the Chancel choir sang, both adding to the mood of the evening. The Easter Memorial Garden was lovely with lilies this year and we want to thank you again for the donations that made this happen.

May 4th will be the last Sunday to use the prefilled cups for communion. The board has decided to return to the more traditional way of serving communion on June 1, 2025 by using gluten free Communion wafers and juice in small cups

We will not have Fellowship Time on Mother's Day, May 11th so mothers can be with their families. There will also be no Fellowship on Memorial Day weekend, May 25th.

A sign-up sheet for helping with fellowship time is now available each Sunday in Fellowship hall. May has been filled but three Sundays in June are still available. Contact Judy Gaynor for further details.

The Diaconate is planning at least 3 and possibly 4 special events for the summer months. The first one will be on **June 15th** for the Lilly Mae Ice Cream Social. Please come and bring your Fathers for a good dish of ice cream and fellowship. Be sure and read the June newsletter to learn the time in the afternoon for this event and other details. The dates and times for the other 2 or 3 events are yet to be determined.



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. Meets May 6,13,20,27

Jr. P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) is a group for 5-8th grade youth on Wednesday nights from 5-6:30pm with a meal. Meets May 7,14,21,28

P.Y. (Pilgrim Youth) is a group for 9-12th grade youth on Wednesday nights from 6:15-8pm with a meal. Meets May 7,14,21,28

Power Hour (Sunday School) is a group for K-12th grade youth on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:20am. Meets May 4,11,19,25



The DOG's group was excited to decorate the paper sacks that will be used during the month of May for collecting items for the House of Compassion supply closet. We pray the sacks will bring a smile and hope to the people who use them.



Our youth waved palms and led the congregation in singing a beautiful hymn of “Hosanna” with Gary on the piano and the worship team accompanying them for Palm Sunday and what a blessing it was.



Easter morning was extra special as our church was blessed to be filled with many generations of members together to celebrate our Risen King Jesus. What a beautiful sight it was to see many children up at the front for the children’s message.



We had a trash pick up project around our church and neighborhoods with our DOG’s and Jr PY groups for Earth Day. We hope to teach our kids the importance of taking care of the earth God made and wants us to take care of and to help our neighbors and community.



We were blessed to take the DOG’s group and some of their family members to the movies to see “King of Kings” which tells the whole story of Jesus and how He is our Savior and King in a way that relates to children.



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read “Pillars of Faith” in April, the person was Kristin Meyer. 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, Kristin, 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 May.

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 May 2025 is no exception.

The story for this month’s Pillar of Faith will be from this person’s point of view: I was born in the county seat of Iowa County, Iowa in the spring of 1941. As a young child I remember going to a Wesley Methodist Church not far from our home in this same town. During the morning service the Children’s Message was always told with the help of a flannel board. Pieces of felt in different colors and shapes were used to resemble the characters in the story as it was being told. I was fascinated by this technique and the way it brought the Bible to life. In the spring of 1948 my family and I moved to Marshalltown because of my parent’s employment. My parents worked six days a week and I no longer went to Sunday School. However, I made friends in the neighborhood where we lived and went to various church functions for children with these friends. I remember going to Vacation Bible School at Elim Lutheran Church one summer and as a part of this got to see the Torah in the Jewish Synagogue across the street to the North of Elim Lutheran. My Christian upbringing was also helped by staying with maternal Aunts and Uncles for extended periods during the summer. I went to church with them and found that my Uncle was the Sunday School teacher.

When I was a young adult my mother got information in the mail about a young adult confirmation class at First United Methodist Church. She showed it to me and I decided to go. This class brought together all the pieces of the Christian Faith that I had heard growing up and I accepted Jesus as My Savior and Lord. It wasn’t until I joined the First Baptist Church and was baptized by immersion that the reality of it all sank in and I began to grow in the Christian Faith. This happened through studying the Bible and service to the church.

At the Baptist Church I was a part of the diaconate. I taught Sunday School for several years at different grade levels. I also helped with Bible School in many areas over the years. I was a member of a city wide organization called “Christian Women’s Club” and I participated in many of their Bible Studies.

I know that God is by my side holding my hand always but there have been times when I have felt him carrying me. Like when I went to college for the first time at age forty something. While there I was called an OWL (Older Wiser Learner by an instructor). That is when this verse became important to me: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength," Philippians 4:13 A few years after graduation from college I moved to a western state for a job and knew no one. When I moved back to Iowa and found a job on the eastern border, I knew no one. There were other times too, when I only had the Triune God to rely on. Each of these times I went in search of a fellowship of believers in a church.

When I retired I came back to Marshalltown and that is when I joined the First Congregational Church. I have been a member of this church for about 19 years. During that time I have been on the Board of Christian Education and was the chair person for a time. Then I was on the Diaconate for several years. I have lead many Beth Moore Bible Studies, helped with Vacation Bible School and sang in the choir. I led the Women's group for a time also, among other things.

If you asked me which activity I enjoyed the most it would be a hard choice. I enjoyed doing them all because they were done for the Lord.

My advice for future of our church is if you feel God calling you to do something, don't ignore it. Don't pray about it. Do what Peter did in the Bible, just get out of the boat. Yes, you may have to step out of your comfort zone! Yes, you might get your feet wet! However the blessings you receive from doing God's will, are not to be missed!

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



To FCC Family:

On behalf of the children of Leta Grace Lacina (Kelley, Kayla, Krystal, Karla, Kyle) and their families, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the beautiful flowers, the cherished messages/memories in cards, memorial donations, for all who helped with the funeral luncheon, and foremost for your prayers at this time of transition and grief. We are Thankful that our mother chose FCC as her church home and showed us through her faithfulness what it means to be a part of The Body of Christ.

"Strength and dignity are her clothing and her position is strong and secure. She smiles at what is to come because she knows her family is prepared. Her children will rise up and call her blessed.." -Proverbs 31:25 & 28

In HIS Grip! -Krystal Randall



FCC SUPPLY CLOSET DRIVE FOR



Bags Full of Blessings: Kids and the Congregation Together

MAY 1 - 25, 2025

Most Needed Items

Shampoo – At least two 12 oz. or larger bottles

Deodorant – At least two containers each 2.5 oz. or larger

Facial Tissue – At least two boxes with 150 tissues or more per box

Paper Towels – At least two rolls with 120 or more per roll

Toilet Paper - At least one 12-pack large or jumbo rolls toilet paper

How to participate:

- 1) Pick up a shopping list on cards in the narthex and at back entry to the church.
- 2) Buy one or more items in the sizes/amounts identified on the list.
- 3) Bring your items to the church BEFORE the deadline of Sunday night, May 25. Place them in the sack decorated by our youth in Fellowship Hall!

Benevolence & Missions Committee and Our Youth thank you for helping with this project!



2025 Graduates



Madelyn Latham is the daughter of Blake & Sarah Latham and the granddaughter of Paul & Julianne Packer. She is graduating from Wilton Junior-Senior High School in May. Over her years at WJSH, Madelyn was a cheerleader, played the clarinet in the school band and was in the River Valley Choir. During her freshman through senior years, she was in the Solo & Ensemble Honor Choir and the Large Group Honor Choir. Madelyn is most proud of her accomplishment of being on the school's Honor Roll all four years.

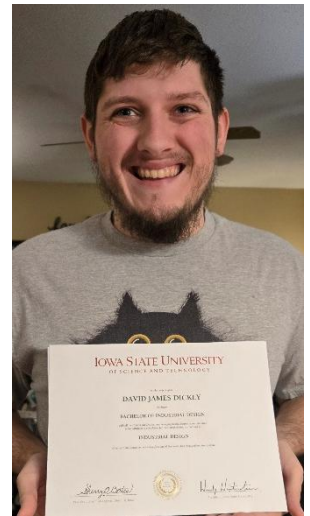
Madelyn will be working on her Liberal Arts degree at DMACC - Ankeny Campus and transfer to University of Iowa to work on her major in Psychology and minor in Criminal Justice.

Charlie Randall son of Tyler Randall and Jennifer Rabbitt and grandson of Doug and Krystal Randall. He graduated from Ankeny High School in January 2025. He was in chorus for 2 years and played football his freshman year. Charlie has worked at HyVee part-time for 3 years and currently looking for full-time job in Ankeny.



Melanie Brandt is the daughter of Judy Mutton and Ernest Brandt, the granddaughter of Kathy Bennington and Paul Tremain, and the great-granddaughter of Jack and Terry Tremain. She graduated from the Marshalltown High School in January 2025 and will walk with her graduating class in May. Melanie participated in I-Jag at MHS. Melanie has been involved with many things at FCC such as youth group, Sunday school, special music, Vacation Bible School as a student and helper, rally day youth services, children's Christmas programs, confirmation, helped with many different service projects and youth fundraisers, and attended NAPF our national youth conference. Melanie plans to attend beauty school at PCI Academy in Ames.

David J. Dickey is the son of Aaron and Angie Dickey. He graduated from Iowa State University in December 2024. He earned a Bachelor's of Industrial Design Degree with a Minor in Sustainability. His plans are to find a job in Industrial Design. He is exploring different directions that he can go in. He has moved to Lincoln, NE to pursue some better opportunities there.



Savannah Piper daughter of April Mattingly and David Piper. Savannah has been homeschooled throughout high school and will be graduating with the Central Iowa Christian Home Educators class of 2025 this May. Savannah has been involved with 4H, local drama groups, and Awanas. She also participated in soccer in her younger years and has enjoyed 9 years of dance. Savannah also took piano lessons. Savannah has been involved with many things at FCC such as youth group, Sunday school, special music, Vacation Bible School helper, rally day youth services, children's Christmas programs, confirmation, helped with many different service projects and youth fundraisers, attended NAPF our national youth conference, and served on the Board of Christian Education. Savannah was also selected as a Leader in Training for NAPF 2025 and is serving on the planning team.



This summer Savannah plans on visiting family in Michigan, attending and serving at NAPF, attending Senior High Camp at IRBC, participating in the 4H Fair, continuing to work at the Gladbrook Library and lead kids programs, and work at the Gladbrook movie theater. This fall Savannah plans to attend Faith Baptist Bible College to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. She hopes to someday teach at Christian schools. She also hopes to become a counselor at summer camps and to continue to go on mission trips. Savannah has received the Good Student Full Scholarship for Marine Biology Science Camp and Leadership scholarships towards college.



Women's Ministry



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



Memorial Day, observed annually on the last Monday of May, is a US national holiday honoring those who died serving in the U.S. military. It's a time for reflection, remembrance, and visiting cemeteries to place flags or flowers on the graves of fallen heroes.



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 Bell choir 5:30	2	3
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards						
4 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	5 REM training 9-12 Women's Ministry 5:30 (Yard Clean)	6 D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	7 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	8 Bell choir 5:30	9	10
11 Mother's Day In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	12 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 in Library	13 BMC meets @ 8:45AM D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	14 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	15 Trustees meets 5 PM Bell choir 5:30	16	17 Shelly Fellowship Hall 10-5
18 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15 BCE meets 11:45am	19	20 Diaconate meets @ 6:30 pm D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	21 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	22 Bell choir 5:30	23	24 11am MOW Lisa Blabaum Savanna Piper Fellowship Hall 1-5
25 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	26 Memorial Day  Office Closed	27 D.O.G.S 5:00 - 6:30	28 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee JR PY 4:45-6:15 PY 6:30-8:00	29 Bell choir 5:30	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

