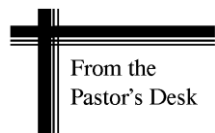


Pilgrim's Progress

July 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 Holy Temple

In the Jewish Calendar, July 13 through August 3 is the season to remember the Temple in Israel. The first temple was built on Mt Moriah, traditional site of the drama in which God told Abram (later Abraham) to sacrifice his son Isaac, only to stop him in the last minute and instruct Abram to sacrifice a ram caught in a thicket instead. King Solomon built the first temple in 833 BC, and it was later destroyed by the Babylonian Empire. After Israel suffered 70 years of exile, they gained permission to build a new temple, and that was the temple that the Lord Jesus predicted would be destroyed, which it was by the Roman Empire in 70 AD. There has been no temple since then, though Ezekiel predicts in detail a temple that is yet to come which some take to be symbolic and others a literal temple. (chapters 40-46) In this season Jewish people reflect on the temples of the past and on the meaning and significance of having a temple and what it may mean for the future. Christians can reflect on this season as a reminder that the people who follow Christ are, individually and corporately, a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) and that in heaven there will be no need for a temple, because the people of God will be the temple of God. It's wonderful to consider the future of the sacred temple as well as the tragic loss of the temple in the years after Christ rose. Have a blessed Summer.

Sermon

July 6	Walking Worthy	Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 1:9-16
July 13	The Basic Principles of the World	Colossians 2:20-23; Colossians 2:6-10
July 20	The Elect of God	2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Colossians 3:12-17
July 27	Redeeming the Time	Ecclesiastes 10:12; Colossians 4:2-6

VBS in August

Please note that Vacation Bible School will be August 4 (just after the season remembering the Temple in the Jewish Calendar) through August 8. Please be in prayer for this most important outreach.

Please note also that a memorial service for Donn Anderson, a long-time servant of the church, will be on July 19.



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





Bob & Judy Gaynor	July 1, 2006 (19)
Kirk & Cindy Shirar	July 6, 1991 (34)
John & Lisa Beaty	July 9, 2004 (21)
Nay & Nan Liew	July 12, 2010 (15)
Ken & Darcie Lunsford	July 14, 1984 (41)



July 4	Kaisa Stanley	July 20	Krystal Randall
July 5	Miriam Bryant, Dave Hall, Kim Schryver	July 22	Courtney Mentor
July 6	Bev Swenson	July 24	Max Meyer
July 8	Carlton Kothenbeutel, Mike Woltjer	July 26	Margaret Otte(105)
July 12	David Dickey	July 27	Larry Good, Danielle Propst
July 14	Al Hays	July 28	Mackenzie Moyer, Alicia Storjohann,
July 16	Gary Heggen	July 31	Matthew Dickey, Eleanor Rowden
July 19	Julie Squiers		



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



Thank you for all the donations for the Supply Closet Drive. It was very successful and greatly appreciated my those in need!



FCC Yard Sale
Saturday July 26th
Bring your donations NOW!!

Drop off during church office hours, Deadline for donations is Tuesday July 22nd
Donations must be clean, if electronic, they must be in working order and please no broken items.

Volunteers NEEDED for sorting for the following Dates/time:
7th, 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, & 25th 10-12 AM
21st, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 2-4 PM

**Help with Supplies: Bags, cash box, hangers, canopy tents, magic markers,
pricing gun, tables, & clothing racks**

Please Sign up to help Volunteer for the Day of Yard Sale

Set-Up Volunteers:	Shifts for workers:
6:00 AM - 8:00 AM	8-10, 10-12, 12-2, 2-4, Clean up

If you are unable to deliver your donations please call:
Kristi Hassler: 753-3276; Lisa Blabaum: 641-485-4633; Or questions call Jonna Wagar
641-691-2991

All proceeds will be donated to disaster recovery in the United States.
Thank You for your support!!
Missions and Benevolence Committee



Women's Ministry

Thank you to everyone who helped clean the kitchen June 2.

July's activities include serving at the House of Compassion on July 21. If you would like to join us with this service, please contact Shelly Speas for details.

In July we will also be assisting with the yard sale being planned by the Board of Benevolence.
July Bible Study with Jane will be July 14 and July 28 at 5:30 in the library.

There will be no general meeting nor Bible study in August.
Thank you.



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read "Pillars of Faith" in July, the person was Bob 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, Bob, 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 August.

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 August 2025 is no exception.

I grew up in a town in Grant Township, Boone County, Iowa and attended the Methodist Church with my parents. At this church I went to Sunday School, Bible School, Church Camp and sang in the Choir. After I graduated from high school I came to Marshalltown to attend the Evangelical School of Nursing, which was located where the old hospital is up town. On Sundays the nursing students would attend different churches in Marshalltown each Sunday just to see which one felt right. When I met and married my spouse, we went to First Congregational Church which was where my mother and father-in-law went to church. We also brought our children up in The Congregational way. "I believe my Christian calling was and is nursing and caring for those who need assistance."

At First Congregational Church I taught Sunday School in different grades as my children grew up and served on the Board of Christian Education. I have also served on the Diaconate many different terms. Evening Circle and Cum Double are two church social groups I enjoyed. In the late 80s or early 90s Pastor Elcey asked me to cook for the Youth Group and I enjoyed that very much. My favorite activity is doing Sunday morning treats.

When asked, what advice do you have for the future of our church? The reply was, "I don't know how to do it but I would love to see the church be full again."

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



It's time to update the FCC Church Directory!

It's been a number of years and I've volunteered to gather and create a current church directory. The biggest order will be to get all your pretty faces captured to add in the new book.

I've selected September 9th and 10th to take photos at the church.

My goal is to get a nice photo for the directory, while also providing you with free digital copies for you to use as you like. Singles, couples, family photos with individual youth if requested. Sessions are a short half hour and I'll do my best to make you look awesome.

Click on the link below, and scroll down to the bottom of the calendar. Select 'Jump to the Next Bookable Date' which will take you to the September booking dates and times. Pick one of the times scheduled from 10am till 8pm.

<https://calendar.app.google/4gF2N5754w3PHVkJX8>

IF you can't make these sessions, please let me know and I'll work it out. For our members in care and residential facilities, I will be contacting you all to set up times to come to you. I realize that it may not be possible to get you all with my camera, so that's where I'll work with you to get a digital photo that you can provide for the directory.

For any questions, sending photos, or whatever please CONTACT ME directly at JOHNBLABAUM@GMAIL.COM or call/text my cell phone at 641.485.5880. (If you contact the church, Katie will pass it along to me).

Thanks so much.

John Blabaum
johnblabaum@gmail.com
641.485.5880





The Fourth of July, also known as [Independence Day](#), celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. This document declared the thirteen American colonies independent from Great Britain.



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
	Monday-Friday 9am-Noon 641-752-4239					
		1	2 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	3	4  Office Closed	5
6 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	7	8 BMC meets 8:45 AM	9 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	10	11	12
13 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	14 Women's bible study @ 5:30	15	16 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	17 Trustees meet 10:00 AM	18	19 Funeral service for Donn Anderson
20 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows BCE meets 11:45am	21 Women's ministry at House of Compassion	22	23 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	24	25	26 FCC Garage Sale 8-3 11am MOW Kristi Hassler & Diane Speas
27 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	28 Women's bible study @ 5:30	29	30 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	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

