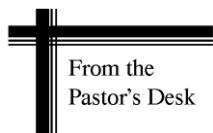


Pilgrim's Progress

August 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."



True North

August is the month where we have Vacation Bible School, from August 4 through August 8. The theme is "True North" showing that Jesus is our example and our leader. We learn from Him what true life is and the direction of our path through these days. During the week we learn about baptism, about what it means to be a sheep, the authority of Jesus, what trusting in Jesus looks like, and how the Holy Spirit helps us today. Please be in prayer for all the people involved in this great project.

Sermon

August 3	To Live is Christ	2 Timothy 4:6-8; Philippians 1:19-26
August 10	Work Out Your Salvation	John 6:27-29; Philippians 2:12-18
August 17	Press Toward the Goal	Hebrews 12:22-24; Philippians 3:12-16
August 24	Our Focus	1 Peter 1:3-5; Philippians 4:6-8
August 31	All Our Needs	Jeremiah 2:11-13; Philippians 4:18-20



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



Don & Kayla Bogenrief	August 6, 1977	48 years
Rich & Kay Miller-Todd	August 9, 1982	43 years
Max & Liz Meyer	August 10, 1971	54 years
Mike & Cheryl Woltjer	August 11, 1984	41 years
Matt & Kim Schryver	August 16, 1975	50 years
Sam & Shelly Speas	August 19, 2006	19 years
Tom & Jane Adams	August 24, 1968	57 years
Paul & Julianne Packer	August 29, 1975	50 years



August 2	Lydia Speas	August 16	Tyler Randall
August 3	Bonnie Pappas, Deb Nuss	August 20	Lynn Maas
August 6	Vicki Long	August 22	Tom Adams
August 8	Anna Wolvers	August 23	Romaine Mackaman
August 9	Jane Adams	August 24	Jacob Shirar
August 13	Dan Propst	August 26	Julie Allison
August 15	Judy Hays	August 29	Carol 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.

2025 dates are all Full! Thank you to all of you who have volunteered.
Be on the look out for the 2026 sign up sheet!



Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry and Bible Study with Jane will not meet during August. Our usual Women's Ministry general meetings will resume October 6.

We will begin a new Bible Study with Jane on September 8. We are excited to share The Daniel Prayer by Anne Graham Lotz. The first lesson on September 8 explores how to use the study and materials. There is a video presentation with each of the 6 lessons. We have materials for you. Please join us. Your participation is important for our fellowship and discussions. Thanks!



WOW! Renewal in Action!

The Benevolence and Missions Committee Has Been Busy!

I'll start with the biggest news. Between sales, free will donations from patrons from of the Yard Sale on July 26, 2025, plus additional donations from our congregation, the total earned was \$6,600 as of July 28, 2025. A more in-depth final report of the MANY busy beavers who helped to make the Yard Sale a success beyond the Mission and Benevolence Committee is planned for the September newsletter. Special thanks to Jonna Wagar for heading up this highly successful and satisfying charitable money maker. Huge thanks to all who helped!!!!

Yard Sale July 26, 2025



We thank Kay and Rich Miller-Todd for their informative and inspiring Mission Moment in July. Their first-hand observations of progress and ongoing challenges meeting the needs of 2024 flood victims in the North Carolina mountains and in Tennessee were spurs to the committee and to the congregation to provide further support for rebuilding. Hence, we will be sending some of the proceeds from the Yard Sale to rebuilding efforts there. Some proceeds will also be sent to victims of 2025 flood this summer in Texas.

Financial donations to FCC earmarked for flood victims will be accepted thru noon on August 10, 2025.

Annual HOC Supply Closet Drive Wraps Up for 2025

Thanks especially to Kristi Hassler, Doris McCarty and Diane Speas for assisting with this project! Cute idea, Diane, to engage the youth in our theme and Kristi/Doris, et al. thanks for getting the bounty of donations to HOC.

Congregation, your generosity continues to be a great witness!



Marshalltown Christian Schools received another \$5000 donation from our church in July 2025. The committee continues to evaluate the worthiness of the school and consistently finds it a highly successful accredited place of matriculation for students in Marshall County. We deeply respect and value their mission to build educated students who become reliable members of the United States, hone close relationships with God, and provide potent witness to living their faith in the world.

All Meals on Wheels volunteer slots are ALL FILLED for 2025, but the 2026 sign-up sheet will be posted soon. Great work, Kristi and Doris, and all the volunteers!



Youth Group News



We had an end of the year Glow Party with our DOG's Group. "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Going to Let it Shine"



We had a Scavenger Hunt to celebrate our end of the school year with Jr PY & PY. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

In June and July, Shelly made unleavened bread that has been used for communion with a couple of youth and talked about the scriptural history of it. She plans to do this for the year and offer to have other youth help her make it.



The youth made some special super dad chocolates for Father's Day Sunday and handed them out before the service began on June 15th to all our wonderful church fathers.

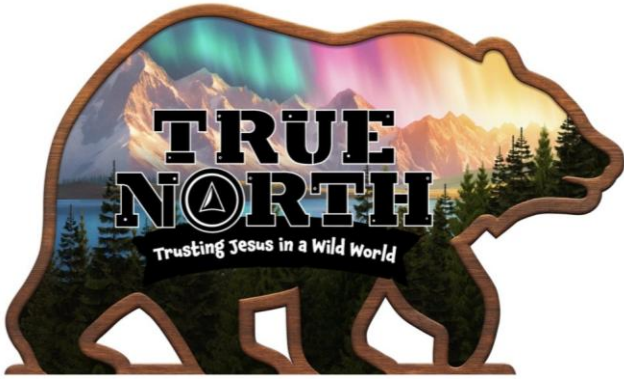




We took our DOG's Group to Triumph Park and ice cream in Waukee in July.

NAPF/HOPE was a great success this year in St. Louis, MO growing in our Christian faith and serving God doing different mission projects. We were also blessed to have 3 of our young people (Kasie Brandt, Savannah Piper, and Libby Meyer) help Patrick Stewart and another adult planning team leader plan an awesome mission conference. We will plan to give a short presentation of our trip to the congregation in August.





We are excited for another awesome year of Vacation Bible School which will be August, 4th-8th. What an awesome week it is to spend with the kids that God brings to hear and experience His Word and grow in their faith in Jesus! It takes many people to make VBS possible and we are grateful to all who have volunteered to help! This week we are busy decorating.



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. 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.

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

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



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read “Pillars of Faith” in July, the person was Dorothy McHone. 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, Dorothy, 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.

Louisa County, pronounced (loo-EYE-zə), is located in the south east part of Iowa on the Mississippi River. Muscatine County is north of this county. This is where this month’s Pillar of Faith grew up in a small town with a population of less than 1000. The town consisted of a post office, grocery store, church and 3 taverns.

The youngest of nine children, I walked a block to church from the age of 6.

I was married in this church and attended it until we moved from Grandview to Muscatine. Then to Marshalltown because of my spouse’s job transfer in 1984. We found a church here but it didn’t feel like family. So, I began visiting other churches in the area and finally found the right ‘family’ at FCC in 1997. This was true even though I was politely asked to move from a lady’s seat in the pew on my first visit. I felt the warmth of the church and the members were very welcoming. I was welcomed as a member of FCC in September 1998, and the nominating committee asked me to become a member of the Diaconate Board that year.

Over the years, I have served on the Diaconate Board, Board of Christian Education, Mission and Benevolence, as Moderator and Church Clerk. I still cherish the friendships and memories that were made during my first years at FCC.

When asked what committee I enjoyed the most, "It would be BCE because of the impact that committee has on the youth of our church and their faith journey."

When asked what advice do you have for the future of our church, "I would like to see more community outreach. Find a way to help those searching for a church family, find it at FCC."

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."





ASSISTANCE LEAGUE'S 3RD ANNUAL

CHICKEN POT PIE

Presale!

AUGUST 1ST – SEPTEMBER 10TH

PICK UP INFORMATION:

FRIDAY. October 17 4:00-7:00 PM First Presbyterian Church
101 S. Center Street

SATURDAY. October 18 8:30 AM-Noon Marshalltown, Iowa
50158



6" Minis
2/\$20

Thank You
TO OUR SPONSORS!



EMERSON




ORDER HERE!



10" \$20

Assistance League of Marshalltown
www.assistanceleagueofmarshalltown.org



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	2
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards	4	5	6	7	8	9
3 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	Vacation Bible School	Vacation Bible School	Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee Vacation Bible School	Vacation Bible School	Vacation Bible School	
10 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	11	12 BMC meets 8:45 AM	13 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	14	15	16
17 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	18 BCE meets 6:30 PM	19	20 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	21 Trustees meet 7:00 PM	22	23 11am MOW Arch & Julie Allison
24 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	25	26	27 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	28	29	30
31 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows						



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

