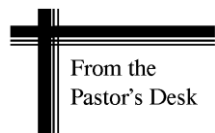


Pilgrim's Progress

September 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."



Fearless

As part of an ongoing response to the Renewal Project we had at this church, we're going to be starting an all church Bible Study based on the Scriptures and discussion questions that are part of the book "Fearless," written by famed Christian author and Pastor Max Lucado.

Kickoff on September 28

Beginning with a kickoff on the last Sunday of September, the study will be part of the Adult Bible Study on Sunday morning but will also take place at other times and places on a weekly basis so that everyone interested has an opportunity to participate. The idea behind it is that we need to pursue spiritual growth as a community as well as individually. The study runs through October until mid-November and the sermons will also reflect what we learn together. We hope everyone gets involved. Runs October through Mid-November

Fall Meeting of the Iowa Nebraska Association of Congregational Christian Churches
Allison, Iowa

October 10-11, 2025

The Iowa Nebraska Association meets twice a year for worship, learning and fellowship and to support each other as NACCC churches in the middle of the country. The Christian camp near Allison, Iowa will host this Fall's meeting, as the pastor of our sister church in Allison. The Fall Meeting is also the site of a Vicinage Council in preparation for the Ordination of Ray Smith as the pastor of the Congregational Church in Ashland, Nebraska. Everyone is invited and encouraged to take part.

Rosh Hashanah

One of the Jewish holidays of the Fall season is Rosh Hashanah, considered the secular New Year as opposed to the religious New Year of Yom Kippur. Starting at sunset on Monday, September 22 and continuing until nightfall of September 24, the holiday also commemorates the creation of Adam and Eve. It reminds us that we worship and serve a sovereign Creator and that humanity holds a special place in the heart of Almighty God. Rosh Hashanah is a time of reverence and also a time to respect the value of every human life.

Sermon

September 7	Luke 14:25-33	On Being a Disciples
September 14	Luke 15:1-10	The Value of a Soul
September 21	Rally Sunday	
September 27	Kickoff Sunday for "Fearless"	





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



Jennifer Allison & Merrill Swartz

September 12, 1998 27 years

Bob & Linda McGregor

September 16, 1972 53 years

John & Lisa Blabaum

September 28, 1996 29 years



September 5 Joan Fry

September 19 Jane Benbow

September 6 Ian Meyer

September 21 Kolleen Shollenbarger

September 11 Jeanie Burt

September 22 Darcie Lunsford

September 13 Pastor Dan

September 23 Carol Edeker

September 16 Emily Carson,
Troy McGahuey

September 24 Wayne Wagar

September 17 Kathaleen Hale,
Dylan Lunsford

September 25 James Lundberg

September 30 Jeremy Lavender



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.

January 24

February 28

March 28

April 25

May 23

June 27

July 25

August 22

September 26

October 24

November 28

December 26



Women's Ministry

There will be no general meeting in September due to Labor Day. Our next meeting is October 6.

Bible Study with Jane is September 8 and 22 in the library at 5:30.

We are starting a new 6-week Bible study, The Daniel Prayer, by Anne Graham Lotz.

We have a book and a chair for you. Join us if you would like!

Thank you.

17 Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. 18 O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. Daniel 9:17-18 ESV



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Are you ever fearful?

Why?

"Well," you say, "for starters, have you watched the news lately? Global calamity is imminent! Then there is my loneliness, my failing physical health, and my fear for the safety of my children. My job is insecure and my finances are shaky."

In answer to your fears...Jesus says, "Why are you afraid?"

What if we all learned that God is so much more than what we think He is?

The Board of Christian Education is sponsoring an all-church Bible study adventure with the purpose of glorifying God and drawing our congregation together in Jesus' Name. We are brothers and sisters in Christ and have this opportunity to study and bring God's Holy Word more fully into our every day living. Bible fellowship reminds us that we are not alone in our quest to learn. We uplift each other and build our faith together.

It is the Word of God that defeats the enemy when spoken in faith. Writing God's Word on our hearts leads us to use it as God intended for us to be victorious!

Our Bible study will be based on Max Lucado's book, Fearless.... Imagine Your Life Without Fear.

Several small groups are planned to meet weekly at different times during the week either at the church or in the leader's home. You will choose whichever group works best for you. The study will last for six weeks.

On September 28 after the 10:30 service there will be a brief gathering in the Fireside room so that you may choose your group and get your book. You may purchase your own copy sooner through Stepping Stones Bookstore, Amazon, or a source of your choice. The discussion guide is optional.

Our first group meeting and lesson 1 will be the week of October 5.

The Board of Christian Education is looking forward to having you join us in our upcoming adventure.

Psalm 34:4 *I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.* New Living Translation

Thank you!

Kristin Meyer
Georgia Thomas

Shelly Speas
Julie Paustian

ENORMOUS THANK YOU!!!

TO THE VOLUNTEERS AND GENEROUS DONORS WHO MADE THE 2025 YARD SALE A SUCCESS



The Sale was held Saturday,
July 26, 2025
8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Total sales: ~ \$2,700
Total donations: ~ \$4,775
Total Income: \$7,475.12
Expenses: \$00.00

TOTAL EARNINGS:
\$7,475.12



FCC MISSION & BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE rounded out the total to \$10,000 at our August regular meeting.

The total was gifted through NACCC to support two disaster-stricken areas equally:

No Carolina communities rebuilding after 2024 Hurricane Helene

Texas communities recovering from July 2025 Flooding

Steering Committee:

Jonna Wagar (Chair)
Kristi Hassler
Doris McCarty
Diane Speas
Kim Schryver
Cherryl Woltier
Julie Paustian
Lisa Blabaum
Georgia Thomas
Shelly Speas

Additional Volunteers:

Al and Judy Hays
Jody Brintnall
Rod Hassler
Mike Woltier
John Blabaum
Wayne Wagar
Dorothy McCone
Kristen and Claire Meyer

Katie Lundberg
Mallory Fowler
Pastor Vellinga
Lydia, Ayvah & Sam Speas
Nichole & Layla Kersbergen
Jane Simons
Maxi Schultz
Katie Vogler

Total Number of People from Congregation Who Volunteered: 31

Grant and Holly Carter and family also helped



Clean up following the sale was accomplished for a couple hours after the close of the sale on Saturday; a crew of youth with Shelly helped clean up for a couple hours on Sunday, plus several people helped during 4.5 hours (8 – 12:30 pm) on Monday, July 28th. Goodwill and Second Chance on Third were grateful recipients of all the leftovers. Nine loaded vehicles were needed to transport leftovers. Staff at both recipients were very helpful.



Youth Group News



We had a great time with our youth group putting up flags around our community for Flag Day in June and the 4th of July. What a blessing it is to do this awesome youth fundraiser provided by the Optimist Club!

We took a group of 5-12th graders to Adventureland in August to have some end of the summer fun together.

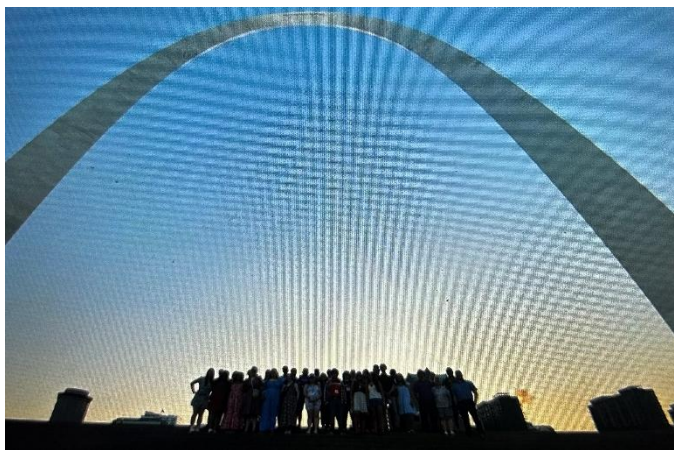


This summer Shelly met with the older youth for a Bible study. They read through and studied Matthew and Mark up to Holy Week and plan to do the same in Luke and John this fall and Winter. They also watched season 1 & 2 of the tv series "The Chosen" to go along with their study. Shelly wants to create discussions and help the youth develop a strong understanding of Jesus, His ministry, what His Words actually are, and what it means to follow Him.

The Rally Day Youth Service is set for Sunday, September 21st. The youth group has been working hard planning a great service and can't wait to share what God has put on their hearts with their church family. So we hope all will come to church that Sunday for this slightly longer but wonderful service. There will be a meal and fellowship after the 10:30 service.



NAPF/HOPE was a great success this year in St. Louis, MO with awesome mission work at the Salvation Army, the garden at Eden Campus, and food packaging with the adult conference through the Outreach Program. We also were blessed through our worship sessions and our large group sessions with our speaker Steve. We were happy to have 3 of our young people (Libby Meyer, Savannah Piper, and Kasie Brandt) help Patrick Stewart and another adult planning team leader plan an awesome mission conference. They made us proud as they jumped in and helped wherever they were needed. The group gave a presentation during the 10:30am service reporting about the highlights of their mission conference. Next year's trip will be on Massachusetts.



In August we hosted Vacation Bible School at FCC. We had the opportunity to have 35 kids from our community participate and learn that we can trust Jesus with our lives no matter the circumstances. VBS is an important opportunity for children and youth to engage with the Bible, learn about their faith, and build relationships within the church community. It also brings together different generations within the church and builds connections. It was a privilege to be able to work with everyone who served on the VBS team! From donating food and supplies, to setting up the spaces, teaching the lessons, leading the games, leading the groups, making the crafts, leading the songs, running the sound system, and making and serving the food, every effort made a difference. Their willingness to serve and create a space for children to learn about Jesus is inspiring, and I'm so thankful for their part in this ministry. We shared a VBS song and gave a presentation on Sunday, August 10th to wrap up the week





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 calender. 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 August, the person was Debi Estabrook. 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, Debi, 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 September.

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.

However, this month’s Pillar of Faith was born in Marshalltown in the early ‘70s and brought to First Congregational Church as an infant. “My parents were members of this church and I never stopped attending here. I went to Sunday School and when older went to Youth Group. At the time when the Swopes were leading this group. I was confirmed and became a member about 40 years ago.

When I was young my parents were involved in various areas of the church and I helped them. I helped them prepare the elements for Communion and I helped them when they were Fellowship Hosts after the 10:30 A. M. services. We now call this hosting Fellowship time. As an adult I have served on the Board of Trustees for several years. On this board I have met with contractors like painters, plasters, electricians and others in keeping the building in good shape. I have helped to change light bulbs and many other behind the scenes things. My favorite thing to do is running the dishwasher.

My advice for the future of our church is, To fill the pews we need a Contemporary service Plus a Traditional service!”

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 October 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

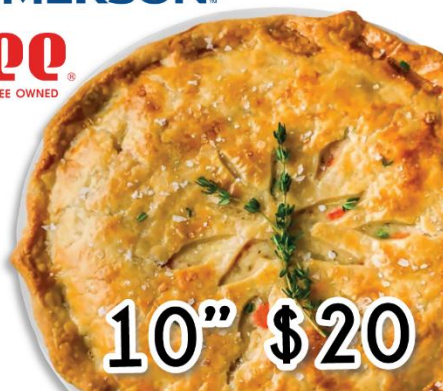
Thank You
TO OUR SPONSORS!



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 You
 Tube

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Monday-Friday 9am-Noon 641-752-4239					
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards	1	2	3 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	4	5	6
7 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Cabinet meets @ 11:45 AM	8 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 PM	9 BMC meets @ 8:45 AM	10 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	11	12	13
14 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	15	16 Diaconate meets @ 6:30 PM	17 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	18 Trustees meet 7:00 PM	19	20
21 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Rally Sunday BCE meets @ 11:45 AM	22 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 PM	23	24 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	25	26	27 11am MOW Arch & Julie Allison
28 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows All Church Bible Study 11:30 AM	29	30				



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

