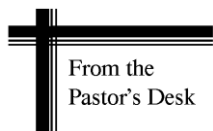


Pilgrim's Progress

October 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."



From the
Pastor's Desk

October will, again, be a busy and profitable month for our fellowship as we begin the all church Bible study based on the work of Pastor Max Lucado in his book, "Fearless." Hebrews 2:14-15 says this: *"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."* This Bible study seeks to address the many fears of life and the way God overcomes them. It is a chance to grow in the ways and mindset of Christ, and to grow together as a fellowship, not just as individuals. The Sunday sermons in October through mid-November will also reflect this theme and we have several options for people to meet in small groups. They are as follows, starting October 5-

Sunday, 4:00 p.m. at the Thomas residence, led by Georgia Thomas and Shelly Speas

Sunday, 7:00 p.m. at the residence of Kristin and Greg Meyer, starting October 12 and running through November 26. They will not meet on October 5 or October 26.

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. in the Adult Education Room near the back door of the Church, led by Pastor Dan.

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library, led by Julie Paustian

Wednesday, 7:30 pm. at the Wagar residence, led by Jonna Wagar & Gary Heggen

Thursday, 1:30, led by Judy Gaynor and Kim Schryver at alternating residences, starting October 9 and ending on November 13

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. at Nuss residence, led by Harlan and Deb Nuss

For more details, please contact the church office at 641-752-4239

Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashana

Fall has us thinking about the Holiday season, with thanksgiving (a very special day for Congregational Churches) leading to Advent, then Christmas and then the New Year. Fall also holds days of special significance in the Scriptures. Last month saw the days of Rosh Hashana, days of remembrance that we, and all that is, was created, and that we serve a God who is infinite in power and in creativity. This month marks Yom Kippur (October 1), the high holy day in Judaism and a day of great significance for Christians. It is the day of repentance and forgiveness, the day we face, once again, that our covenant with God through Christ came at great cost and that God is holy and holds the destinies of all in His hands. If you can, take time on this day to reflect on its meaning and what it means for your relationship with God through Christ.

Prayer for the Nation

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Adult Ed. Room

The recent episodes of violence against people in public life, most recently in the terrible murder of Charlie Kirk have raised concerns about the state of our nation among several people in our fellowship. In response, we have started a prayer meeting in the Adult Education room, near the back door of the building, on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to Noon. If you have time, I encourage you to join and participate as we pray for peace, for righteousness to prevail and for a change in the heart of our nation. We'll continue as long as we feel the Holy Spirit leads us to do this. Prayer does not prepare us for the work of God in our midst. It is the work. I look forward to seeing you there.

Fall Meeting-Iowa Nebraska Association of Congregational Christian Churches

Our regional association meets twice a year to fellowship, to worship, to learn and to plan for service and mission opportunities. We see people traveling to meet coming from as far away as the Wyoming state line to the Mississippi River. The meeting this Fall is October 10-11 at the Christian Service Camp, Bristow, Iowa (8 miles from Allison, Iowa). The cost is \$15.00 to cover the meals.

The agenda is below:

Friday, October 10

5:00-5:30 Registration

5:30-6:30 Supper

6:30-8:30 Vicinage Council considering the Ordination of Pastor Ray Smith, who serves the church in Ashland, Nebraska

Saturday, October 11

8:00-9:00 Breakfast and Registration

9:00-10:00 Worship Service with Communion

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-11:00 Speaker

11:10-11:15 Break

11:15-12:30 Business Meeting

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:00 Service Project for the Camp

Deadline for reservations is October 6. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sermon

October 5 "The Trouble with Fear" Hebrews 2:14-18; 1 Corinthians 9:9-10

October 12 "The Fear of Irrelevance" Matthew 8:23-27; Luke 12:4-7

October 19 Rich & Kay Miller Todd fill the pulpit

October 26 Rich & Kay Miller Todd fill the pulpit



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





Arch & Julie Allison	October 10, 1998	27 years
James & Katie Lundberg	October 17, 2009	16 years
Greg & Kristin Meyer	October 18, 2003	22 years
Tracy & Lori Wildman	October 20, 1979	46 years
Dan & Sharon Propst	October 20, 1980	45 years
Doug & Krystal Randall	October 27, 1984	41 years
John & Nichole Kersbergen	October 30, 2021	4 years



October 1	Julie Lavender	October 20	Joan Smith-Legg
October 6	Julianne Packer	October 22	Destiny Gepford
October 8	LaRae McGahuey, Cheryl Woltjer	October 23	Lori Wildman
October 10	Gary McKibbin	October 25	Tara Swope, Natalie Peiffer
October 12	Bob McGregor, Mallory Fowler	October 26	Steve Storjohann
October 14	Bob Hibbs	October 27	Hannah Shirar, Leiah Paustian
October 15	Lincoln Lavender	October 28	Mason Moyer
October 17	Bill Maas	October 29	John Blabaum, Bob Nott,
October 18	Melanie Brandt		Jonathan Tuttle



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



Benevolence and Missions Committee Remains Hard at It!!!

Submitted by: Kim Schryver for Oct. 2025 Newsletter



No sooner did we finish the Yard Sale wrap-up when we launched into some new projects and decision-making in August and September. Here are some highlights.

In August we discussed what we thought all of you might appreciate as a Christmas Project in 2025. Ideas were tossed into our “thought pot”, and we chewed on them with worthwhile discussion of past and prospective options. The bottom line is we all agreed that the Marshall County Emergency Food Box (EFB) would be a way for us to activate the FCC Mission Focus established for 2024-25. “Nurture a growing sense of belonging to: God, each other, and our surrounding community.” Our committee modified this slightly to remind us that we aspire to do everything in meetings, organizing, decision-making, and executing plans under the influence of God. Our committee’s specific mission focus statement is: “To nurture a growing sense of belonging first to God so that we can authentically embrace and express our belonging to one another and to our wider community.” EFB is a worthy, well-run, ecumenical support system with a broad reach in our county. The committee unanimously voted to make it the recipient of our time, talent and resources as a Christmas project this year. We hope you enjoy participating. Many more details to come in the next month.

On September 14 at Grace Church Kim Schryver represented FCC at a celebration of the 15th Anniversary of My Kinsman Ministries (MKM). Local citizens, Mark and Karen Boland, stepped out in extraordinary faith to help out in Sierra Leone mission work 15 years ago. Their involvement has expanded in admirable and ever-so-positive ways with each year calling for deep trust in God. FCC has donated to MKM for several years now. Several members of our congregation have “pen pal” relationships with MKM staff and parishioners. It is a blessing to be a part of this positive endeavor in Christ’s name in a predominantly Muslim country. Work of MKM has spanned E-bola outbreaks, civil unrest, COVID and weather disasters. Lives have been rescued and flourished because of MKM. The Bolands gave an impactful presentation in honor of MKM’s 15th Anniversary. They have graciously agreed to share their message with power point slides at our 10:30 a.m. worship service on November 16, 2025. Mark your calendars. You won’t want to miss this.

Kristi Hassler is heading up an initiative with Shelly Speas and the older youth to fill Little Food Pantry boxes in late September or early October.

The committee budgeted a \$3,000 donation to Salvation Army in October to help them jump start the Red Kettle Drive that should commence for them in November.

We will establish plans to disburse the remaining \$3,310.85 in our Committee Budget for 2025 at our meeting in October.

Hoping this newsy update was an uplift for you!



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read “Pillars of Faith” in September, the person was Greg 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, Greg, 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 October.

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 October 2025 is no exception.

As a child, I grew up going to many churches because of family moves. In fact as a child I went to 6 different schools with 5 different moves. We went to several different Methodist Churches. Then my family moved to North West Iowa and we attended The Reformed Church of America from then on. A traumatic life change brought me back to Central Iowa where my parents were living. FCC is the first Congregational Church I have ever attended.

A little over three years ago I joined First Congregational Church and was soon invited to be a deacon. I have always been interested in women’s ministry and served in this capacity in the churches I have attended. When my children were young I taught Sunday School and have taught junior high children. In my experience I have taught women and children from the Bible. I have been involved with music and enjoy singing. At one point in my adult life I retaught myself to play the piano. I did this by dragging out the old piano books from when I was a child and became skillful enough to help out a small church in need of someone to play the piano.

When asked what activity did you enjoy most? The answer was, “That is a tough question. Teaching and singing are the things I enjoy most.”

When asked, what advice to you have for the future of our church? The answer was “I challenge everyone to search out their spiritual gifts and use them to glorify God”

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





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					
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards			1 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee Jr PY: 4:45-6:30 PM PY: 7-8:15 PM	2 Prayer group 11:00 AM Bell choir 5:30 PM	3	4
5 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15 - 10:20 PM All Church Bible Study 11:30 AM	6 Women's Ministry @ 5:30 PM	7 DOGS: 5-6 PM	8 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee Jr PY: 4:45-6 PM PY: 7-8:15 PM	9 Prayer group 11:00 AM Bell choir 5:30 PM	10 IA/Neb. Fall meeting	11 IA/Neb. Fall meeting
12 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15 - 10:20 PM All Church Bible Study 11:30 AM	13 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 PM	14 BMC meets @ 8:45 AM	15 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee Jr PY: 4:45-6 PM PY: 7-8:15 PM	16 Prayer group 11:00 AM Bell choir 5:30 PM Trustees meet 7:00 PM	17	18
19 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15 - 10:20 PM All Church Bible Study 11:30 AM BCE meets @ 11:45 AM	20	21 DOGS: 5-6 PM Diaconate meets @ 6:30 PM	22 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee Jr PY: 4:45-6 PM PY: 7-8:15 PM	23 Prayer group 11:00 AM Bell choir 5:30 PM	24	25 11am MOW Arch & Julie Allison
26 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15 - 10:20 PM All Church Bible Study 11:30 AM	27 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 PM	28 DOGS: 5-6 PM	29 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee Jr PY: 4:45-6 PM PY: 7-8:15 PM	30 Prayer group 11:00 AM Bell choir 5:30 PM	31 Halloween 	



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

