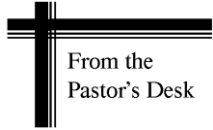


Pilgrim's Progress

November 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 All Church Bible Study

Many thanks to all the people who participated, led and helped with the All Church Bible Study. It is a wonderful opportunity to study, reflect and share together. It strengthens our faith and our sense of community, and I feel sure that we will be doing something like this again.. Please let me know how this has affected you and if you have any suggestions for future studies. Thanks

Pastor Dan

Thank you for the very kind gift for Pastor's Appreciation Month

I'd like to give a huge "thank you" to everyone in the church for the extraordinarily generous gift of \$1,000.00 given to me for Pastor's Appreciation Month. This is a marvelous act of generosity and I cannot even think of how to show appropriate appreciation for all of you in this wonderful congregation. Thank you for all that you do, the dedication to Christ in this community, and your love and kindness. Jeanne & I are greatly blessed.

Sermons

November 2 All Souls Day "What If Things Get Worse?" Hebrews 12:25-29; Haggai 2:4-9
Sermon touching on the themes of Chapter 13 of "Fearless."

November 9 "The One Healthy Terror" Matthew 17:1-8; Exodus 32:1-4
Sermon touching on the themes of Chapter 14 of "Fearless."

November 16
Report from the Boland's about My Kinsman Ministries

November 23 The Reign of Christ Sunday "In Paradise by Supper" Luke 23:33-43; Jeremiah 23:1-6

November 30 First Sunday of Advent "Being Watchful" Matthew 24:36-44; Jeremiah 2:1-6



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



Al & Judy Hays	11/09/63	62 years
Dave & Jo Dysart	11/10/84	41years
Don & Jane Benbow	11/15/58	67 years
Craig & Cynthia Ragland	11/29/96	29 years
Rod & Kristi Hassler	11/29/08	17 years



November 1	Molly Lundberg	November 20	Georgia Thomas
November 2	Jody Brintnall, Adrianna Goken	November 23	Tonya Tuttle
November 6	Breana Gruver-Alvarado	November 24	Dale Wiese
November 11	Isobel Williams	November 27	Sharon Propst



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



On October 5th, 4 of our youth members: Mallory Fowler, Lydia Speas, Clair and Libby Meyer, helped put food in the mini food pantries around town. It was a beautiful day and was fun going with these girls to do God's work! Thank you so much for their help with getting the mini missions done. Big thanks to the Missions and Benevolence committee for their support in this mini-Mission!





Annual Harvest Dinner set for Sunday, November 23

Our ancestors that came as pilgrims were in a strange new land, and they faced many hardships. With the help of their new neighbors and friends, they survived, and of course you know that they held a feast to celebrate that friendship that we now call Thanksgiving. This year, our annual Harvest Dinner here at First Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, November 23 after the 10:30 service.

Watch your bulletins for the reservation forms. We would like you to make your reservations by November 16. Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to our meal, which will include Ham, Turkey, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, and Pies. Just make sure to include your guests in your reservation form. Forms are also available outside of the church office.

There will be opportunity also to sign up to help with the set up on Saturday, November 22 for serving and cleaning up on the day of the dinner. Please look for the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you,

Harvest Dinner Prep Committee



The committee for Mission and Benevolence is excited to announce that the Marshall County Food Box is our 2025 Christmas Giving Project.

Increasing numbers of families are experiencing food insecurity here in Marshall County. So far in 2025, the Emergency Food Box has averaged 540 families a month. The family will be given 3-5 days of food, once a month. Remember some of these families are a household of one or two people over the age of 60 on fixed incomes. Some are families who are having to move in with each other to manage expenses.

Foods of every variety can be used at the Food Box! Items used every day are canned fruits, vegetables, tomatoes, beans, mac & cheese, peanut butter, **soups**, pasta sauces, and **cereal**. Also appreciated are miscellaneous items such as **condiments, soy and taco sauce, cake and other mixes**.

Foods shown in bold are currently in greater need.

Monetary donations also help the Food Box cover the costs of food ordered from the Food Bank of Iowa, to make local food purchases, and to pay for the foods included in the voucher, which allows families to get milk, eggs, bananas and margarine from Kwik Star. Any cash donations will also help cover costs related to building upkeep and maintenance.

Our campaign for the **Food Box will begin on the 23rd of November**. Please look for instructions about our giving, coming soon.

Jonna Wagar, Missions and Benevolence



News From the Diaconate Board

First, we would like to remind you to set your clocks **back one hour** before you go to bed Saturday, November 1st. This way you won't be an hour late for Church on November 2nd. Daylight Savings Time ends on that Sunday @ 2 a. m. This is just an fyi.

Plans for the Harvest Dinner on November 23rd are well underway. **Please note the date is Sunday November 23 and Not the 22.** If you have someone you would like to invite to this meal, that is fine. However please add them to your reservation list so we will know how many are coming. Thanks in advance! You can find more information about the Harvest Dinner in another article in this Newsletter.

In preparation for the Advent season, which begins on November 30. We will be decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 29th at 10 a. m. All who can are invited to come and help.

Also, a reminder, the Sign-up Sheet for fellowship time can be found every Sunday either on the end of the serving table or in the kitchen on the end of the counter by the door to Fellowship Hall. Keep in mind that on Holiday weekends there is no Fellowship time so that you can spend time with your family.

Dates to Remember:

November 2nd - Daylight Savings Time ends

November 23rd - Harvest dinner

November 29th - Christmas decorating

~Judy Gaynor and the Member of the Diaconate



All Church Bible Study

Bible study continues, based on Max Lucado's book, Fearless.... Imagine Your Life Without Fear. We have over 40 people participating in five groups throughout the week. We are drawing closer to God and each other, what a wonderful fulfillment of our church's mission focus!

The Board of Christian Education is thankful for the positive response to this effort and considering sponsoring new programs in the new year. Please see Kristin Meyer if you are interested in being involved in the planning.



Women's Ministry News

Our Women's Ministry with various activities meets the first Monday of each month. The WM sponsored Bible Study with Jane is the second and fourth Monday of each month. Meetings are at 5:30 in the library or Fellowship Hall.

We invite you to join us at any time. You are most welcome!

Blessed Thanksgiving to all!
Your Women's Ministry



Youth Group News

Sunday Power Hour/Sunday School:

November 2(breakfast provided) & 9th, but the 16th & 23rd will be practice for Children’s Christmas Program. (Not 30th because of Thanksgiving Break)

Tuesday DOG’s:

November 4(meal provided),11,18 (Not 25th because of Thanksgiving Break)

Wednesday Jr PY & PY:

November 5(meal provided),12,19 (Not 26th because of Thanksgiving Break)

Labor Day we had the privilege of putting up American Flags us around our Marshalltown community with our youth group. This awesome project is set up through the Optimist Club and is a great youth fundraising opportunity! We are so thankful to be a part of this!



What a special feeling it is to see our kids up front during church services for kids messages Sunday mornings! We are called to bring our kids up to know the Lord and I know many families who are so thankful for their FCC church family!



“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it” Proverbs 22:6

What a blessing it was to have our youth lead the Rally Day Service on September 21st! They were able to share the gifts and talents God has given them to glorify Him and share Jesus’s love and truth with everyone. We are so thankful for the opportunity given to our young people to share their faith!





Some of our youth got to help one our church Benevolence and Missions Board members, Kristi Hassler, deliver food to our local mini food pantries ❤️



Some of our 5-12th grade youth, along with other adults from our church, got to go to the IA/NE Regional Association Fall Retreat. It was such a wonderful experience for our youth at such a beautiful camp! Our youth had fun together and enjoyed participating in worship, meals, and a service project with the adults there from other congregational churches in our association. Libby and Claire Meyer got to share in person about their experience at NAPF/HOPE in Saint Louis, MO and thanked the association for the scholarships they received. The kids ended the weekend having a blast doing the zip line at the camp.



We have kicked off another year of regular youth activities at FCC!
Sunday mornings we have Power Hour/Sunday School for preschool-12th grade, 9:15-10:20am. With once a month breakfast.



Tuesdays we have DOG's (Depend on God) for preschool-4th grade, 5-6pm with once a month meals 6-6:30pm.



We are excited to begin practices for the Children's Christmas Program in November! All children preschool-12th grade are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of this!

The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 14th during the 10:30am worship service. Practices will begin Sunday, November 16th at 9:15am in the Loft. Then there will be a practice Saturday, November 22nd from 10-11:30am in the sanctuary. Then there will be a practice on Sunday, November 23rd at 9:15am in the Loft.

No practices will be during Thanksgiving break Nov. 27-30th. Practices will pick back up again in December.

For children around the world, a shoebox is often their very first gift. Given together with the Good News of Jesus Christ, it communicates God's love to a boy or girl in need. So, it is important to make sure your gift is ...

FUN —includes a “wow” item and other quality toys

FULL —packed to the brim with additional school supplies and personal care items

PERSONALIZED —prayed over and contains a note and photo, which are often the child's favorite items!

Do Not Include

Soap is no longer allowed in shoebox gifts because of the complications it causes in customs in some nations.

SOAP; candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.



Our youth groups plan to pack Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes again this year. This is a project through Samaritan's Purse that collects and delivers shoebox gifts to children in need around the world. These gifts contain toys, school supplies, and personal care items, with the goal of sharing God's love in a tangible way. A key component is also sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through these boxes and a subsequent discipleship program called "The Greatest Journey."

This is an awesome project for our youth to partner with and if our church members would like to help, you could donate money or items that will fit in a shoebox to the narthex for the youth to be able to put into the shoeboxes the second week of November. We will be collecting items starting Sunday, November 2nd-Monday, November 10th. Below is a list of ideas to donate and also things that are not allowed. Please consider helping the youth with this amazing opportunity to spread the Gospel and mission of Jesus!



Strings & Stories Concert to Be November 20



The Humoresque String Quartet will present a concert in Marshalltown Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

“Strings & Stories” will be the theme of a concert by the Humoresque String Quartet to be given at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 201 E. Church Street, on Thursday evening, November 20, at 7:00 p.m. The personal musical stories of the members of the quartet, as well as stories about the composers of each piece, will be interwoven between selections in the concert. Members of the quartet include Mary Giese and Christine Norman Hall from Marshalltown, and Craig Mushel and Ethalinda Cannon from Ames.

The concert is sponsored in partnership with [Arts@St.Paul’s](mailto:Arts@St.Paul's) and the Arts + Culture Alliance. Donations will be accepted to support the strings program of the Marshalltown Public Schools.



Pillars of Faith @ F. C. C.

For those of you who read "Pillars of Faith" in October, the person was Jane Symons. 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.fcmarshalltown.org/newsletter> Thanks, Jane, 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 November.

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 November 2025 is no exception.

I grew up on a farm north of a town in Jasper County, Iowa that is located 33 miles northeast of Des Moines. This town had a population of 962 in the 2020 census. I went to the United Church of Christ northeast of town, which was built on land donated by the maternal side of my family. It was a nice church with a beautiful park behind it.

By 2001 I was living in Marshalltown and my spouse-to-be and I were looking for a church. It was after 9/11 and it was unsettling times. We felt the need to be in a fellowship where we could grow our faith. We tried Central Christian Church and New Hope Christian Church among others but none of them seemed like the right fit. Then we decided to try the church on the corner of Main and 4th Street in Marshalltown. "It was a pretty church inside and reminded me of my home church in Jasper County. Pastor Barry Holmes was the minister and everyone was so welcoming." We went to the 8:00 A. M. service in the chapel every other week because of my work schedule. Pastor Barry explained the history of the church and soon we decided to become members. A short time later we were married in the Chapel with both of our families in attendance.

My church involvement began when Foster Hawkins and Nancy Unbanowski, who were on the Diaconate Board, invited me to become a member of that board too. I was on this board for a few years and then became a member of the Benevolence & Missions Committee. As a member of the Diaconate, I love serving, visiting members in care facilities and working with others to prepare the Harvest Dinner in November. "Julianne Packer has the Harvest Dinner prep down to a science, which makes it easy." On the Benevolence & Missions Committee I love doing the work that helps others in need. I also am proud of the job this Committee did with the yard sale, raising money for worthy causes. I have also been a helper for Vacation Bible School for several years.

When asked which activity have you enjoyed the most? The answer was, "I enjoy both the Diaconate and Benevolence & Missions Committee equally. I also love to bring my family to church to share the good things

that happen in the service, like the children's message, Music and Pastor Dan's sermons. They love it and always ask to go to church when they come to our house."

When asked, "Do you have any advice for the future of our church?" The reply was, "We have to be welcoming! We need to figure out a way to make our church more accommodating for people with handicaps and have events that will draw the public in and closer to 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 December 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
2 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15 - 10:20 AM All Church Bible Study 11:30 AM	3 Women's Ministry @ 5:30 PM	4 DOGS: 5-6 PM	5 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee Jr PY: 4:45-6 PM PY: 7-8:15 PM	6 Prayer group 11:00 AM Bell choir 5:30 PM	7	8
9 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15 - 10:20 AM All Church Bible Study 11:30 AM	10 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 PM	11 DOGS: 5-6 PM BMC meets @ 8:45 AM	12 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee Jr PY: 4:45-6 PM PY: 7-8:15 PM	13 Prayer group 11:00 AM Bell choir 5:30 PM	14	15
16 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Christmas program practice 9:15 AM All Church Bible Study 11:30 AM BCE meets @ 11:45 AM	17	18 DOGS: 5-6 PM Diaconate meets @ 6:30 PM	19 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee Jr PY: 4:45-6 PM PY: 7-8:15 PM Trustees meet 7:00 PM	20 Prayer group 11:00 AM Bell choir 5:30 PM	21	22 11am MOW Diane Speas Christmas Program practice 10-11:30
23 Harvest Dinner In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Christmas program practice 9:15 AM All Church Bible Study 11:30 AM	24 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 PM	25	26 Men's church coffee 8am Hy-Vee	27 Thanksgiving Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29 Christmas Decorating @ 10 AM
30 Advent begins 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.fcmarshalltown.org

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

