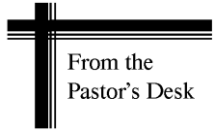


May 2026

"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

May brings us several special days this year, and I've decided to mention all of them rather than try to focus on one as more important than the rest.

Mothers' Day

The image of a person's mother as being the most selfless person in their lives is often true. There are exceptions, unfortunately, but mothers today often give of themselves unselfishly based on unconditional love for their children, just as they had for centuries before. Former President Barak Obama once mentioned in a speech that his mother was an ambitious woman who had hopes and dreams for her education and career and never saw them through to completion, because she sacrificed them for her son. Many, many daughters and sons could echo that statement. Mothers deserve to be honored and remembered on this special day for them.

Graduation Sunday

May 17 is the day we honor graduates. We have six people who are graduating from high school or college. Claire and Libby Meyer, Mallory Fowler, Amber Brindle, Jasmine Gepford are all graduating from Marshalltown High School and Kasie Brandt will graduate from Buena Vista University. What an exciting period in their lives in which they have more options and more major decisions than in any other season. May God bless them with wisdom as they move forward and may Proverbs 3:5-6 influence every choice they make.

Ascension of the Lord

May 14 remembers the events recalled in Acts 1, in which Jesus blessed His followers and ascended into the clouds above. While people were still staring at the sky, two angels appeared and addressed them, saying that Jesus would descend onto the Mount of Olives one day in the future. We still await that day.

Pentecost

May 24 is Pentecost. Before His Ascension, Jesus told His disciples that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit to be all that He wills them to be. That promise was fulfilled with the arrival of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. That Spirit still remains at work in the church and in the world today.

Trinity Sunday

May 31 remembers the Trinity, that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three persons, yet not three gods. They remain, mysteriously, three and one all at the same time and it reminds us that the nature of God is beyond us and always will be. By the way, the New Testament becomes hard to understand if there is no Trinity.

Harlan Nuss leads worship on Mother's Day

Sermons for April

May 3	"The Cornerstone"	Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:1-10
May 10	<i>Mothers' Day</i> . Harlan Nuss leads worship	
May 17	"Graduation Sunday"	Job 1:1; Proverbs 3:5-6
May 24	"Pentecost"	Acts 2:1-4; James 3:1-6





Please keep our Members in Care Facilities in your thoughts & prayers:

Bickford: Joanie Smith-Legg #108

Mill Pond Care Center: Romaine Mackaman

Glenwood Place: Elenor Tjossem #160, Lenora Brown #161



Aaron & Angie Dickey	May 10, 1997	29 years
Steve & Alicia Storjohann	May 27, 1983	43 years



May 1	Grant Brintnall, Nichole Kersbergen	May 11	Claire Meyer, Libby Meyer
May 2	Kristi Hassler, Paul Packer	May 13	Ken Lunsford
May 3	Sandy Packer	May 15	Doug Randall
May 5	Avayah Speas	May 21	Bob Gaynor
May 6	Jennifer Allison	May 22	Judy Gaynor
May 7	Doris McCarty	May 23	Diana Speas
May 9	Madison Swartz	May 27	Patricia Wiese
May 10	Cynthia Ragland, Jim Clark, Nicole Vellinga	May 31	Wendi 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. 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 641-750-3946 or Doris McCarty 641-752-7604.

Available Dates for 2026: September 26

- Did you know that Meals on Wheels is a non-profit, is self-funded, it does not receive state or federal assistance, the meals are paid by the client, and insurance does not cover meal charges? The organization provides healthy meals 365 days a year. Clients can choose daily delivery or customize for certain days a week.
- Did you know drivers are the heart of the program and you can volunteer as an individual or a group? First Congregational Church provides a driver the 4th Saturday of every month. Check the clipboard in the Narthex for opportunities to deliver. There are still some months to cover in 2026!
- Did you know monetary tax-deductible donations are always accepted and appreciated? Donations may be used to offset meal charges for some clients in need. Donations can be mailed to Carrie Loney, Meals on Wheels of Marshalltown, 2615 Smith Ave, Marshalltown, IA, 50158.
- Did you know they have a website www.mealsonwheelsofmarshalltown.com?

Thank you to all of our volunteers and for any consideration you can give to this organization.
-Doris McCarty & Kristi Hassler, BMC



Missions and Benevolence



SPRING CLEANING TO HELP FAMILIES CREATE A HEALTHY NEST

HOC SUPPLY CLOSET DRIVE THIS MAY 2026

Our annual House of Compassion (HOC) Supply Closet Drive kicks off Friday, May 1, 2026. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, May 31, 2026.

Items most needed include the following this year.

- TOILET PAPER – at least one 4-roll pack
- PAPER TOWELS – at least one 4-roll pack
- TISSUES – at least 250 two-ply tissues, boxed any way
- GARBAGE BAGS – at least 40 count of 30-gal bags
- HAND SOAPS – at least two bars or two 7.5 oz bottles
- DISH SOAP – two 16-oz. bottles liquid dish soap
- LAUNDRY SOAP (not pods!) – at least 50 fluid oz. liquid or 9 lbs box powder
- LIGHT BULBS – at least one 4-pack of 60 Watt bulbs
- HOUSEHOLD CLEANER – at least two 22-fluid oz. all purpose cleaner
- PLASTIC BANDAGES – at least one box of 50 +, any sizes

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

1. TAKE ONE OR MORE SPRING BIRDIE CARDS DISPLAYED AT CHURCH ENTRANCES AND IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
2. BUY THE ITEM IN THE QUANTITIES DESIGNATED ON THE BACK OF THE CARD
3. BRING YOUR PURCHASED ITEMS TO THE DONATION TABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
4. MEMBERS OF BENEVOLENCE AND MISSIONS COMMITTEE WILL COLLECT AND DELIVER ALL ITEMS TO HOC DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE 2026.



Women's Ministry

First Congregational Women's Ministry's activity for May 4 is a church yard tidy up. The Board of Trustees have plans for further yard work at a future date.

Bible Study with Jane will meet
Monday May 11. We are studying Hebrews.



Youth Group News

Power Hour/Sunday School

Sundays, 9:15-10:20 am in the Loft for Preschool-12th grade

May 3, 10 (Mother's Day Project), 17, 24 (End of the School year breakfast)

DOG's (Depend on God)

Tuesdays, 5-6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for preschool-4th grade

May 5, 12, 19 (End of the school year party)



Jr. PY (Pilgrim Youth)

Wednesdays, 4:45-6 pm in the Loft for 5-8th grade

May 6, 13, 20 (End of the school year party)

PY (Pilgrim Youth)

Wednesdays, 7-8:15 pm in the Loft for 9-12th grade

May 6, 13, 20 (End of the school year party)



We were so blessed by the message of the Easter play in April! Jesus is Risen! The play was written by our member Deb Nuss and presented by our members Harlan Nuss, Wayne Wagar, Patrick Stewart, Pastor Dan Vellinga, Bob Gaynor, Rod Hassler, Brent Vellinga, Jane Symons, John Blabaum, Greg Meyer and costumes by Lynn Maas.



Our DOG's group picked up trash at Riverview Park as an Earth Day project in April.

Our church hosted a wonderful IA/NE Association meeting with some of our regional Congregational churches in April. It was a great time of fellowship and planning.



Please join us for Graduation Sunday on Sunday, May 17th during the 10:30am service where we will celebrate our 2026 graduates! We will also have a reception in their honor after the service.



Mallory Fowler is the daughter of James and Katie Lundberg and Gary Fowler. She will be graduating from Marshalltown High School. While at MHS Mallory has been involved in I-Jag and Chorus. She has also taken piano lessons for the past 5 years. She has also attended summer and winter camps at IRBC. Mallory has been involved in many activities at FCC such as youth group, Sunday school, VBS, rally day youth services, children's Christmas programs, many service projects with the youth group, baptism, and confirmation. She has attended NAPF, our national youth conference, for the past 4 years and plans to attend again this year. After high school Mallory plans to continue working at Elim Children's Center and attend MCC in the fall studying Early Childhood Education.

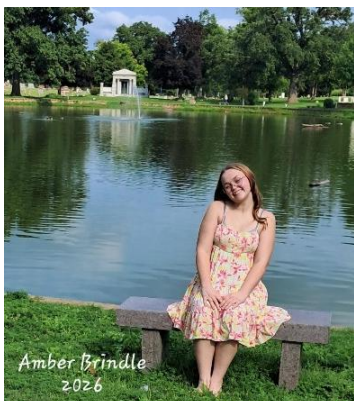
Claire Meyer is the daughter of Greg and Kristin Meyer and the granddaughter of Max and Liz Meyer. She will be graduating from Marshalltown High School. Claire has been very involved in music at FCC, with Bell Choir, Chancel Choir and Praise Team. She has been involved in many activities at FCC such as youth group, Sunday school, rally day youth services, children's Christmas programs, many service projects with the youth group, and confirmation. She has also been a Vacation Bible School helper at FCC for many years and currently serves on the Board of Christian Education. Claire attended the NAPF/HOPE summer youth conference twice and looks forward to attending this summer in Massachusetts. At MHS, Claire was involved in choir, show choir, drama, and was an office runner for two years. Claire earned varsity letters in academics and music and will be receiving a Silver Cord for community service. Claire plans to earn the Child Development Associate Credential and will continue her employment locally in Early Childhood Education.





Libby Meyer is the daughter of Greg and Kristin Meyer and the granddaughter of Max and Liz Meyer. Libby will be graduating from Marshalltown High School. Libby has been involved in many activities at FCC such as youth group, Sunday school, rally day youth services, children's Christmas programs, many service projects with the youth group, and confirmation. She has been a Vacation Bible School helper at FCC for many years and served on the Board of Christian Education. Libby attended the NAPF/HOPE summer youth conference four times and served two years as a Leader in Training for this event. At MHS, Libby was involved in National Honor Society, Student Rotarians, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Tennis and Swim, making two trips to the Girls High School State Swim Meet. Libby earned varsity letters in academics and swimming and will be receiving a Silver Cord for community service. Libby will be attending Drake University in Des Moines this fall, where she will enter the Pre-Occupational Therapy program.

Jasmine Gepford is the daughter of April Gepford, granddaughter of Kathy Benington and Paul Tremain and great granddaughter of Jack and Terry Tremain. Jasmine will be graduating from Marshalltown High School. Jasmine has been involved in many activities at FCC such as youth group, Sunday school, rally day youth services, children's Christmas programs, VBS, many service projects with the youth group, confirmation, and NAPF. At MHS, Jasmine was in art club, and she received her ServSafe certificate through the foods program. Jasmine plans to attend MCC in the fall and pursue a degree in art and possibly business.



Amber Brindle is the daughter of Randy Brindle and Lisa Brindle. She will be graduating from Marshalltown High School. Amber has been involved in many activities at FCC such as youth group, rally day youth services, children's Christmas programs, VBS, and many service projects with the youth group. Amber was also a cheerleader for 4 years, Girl Scouts for 3 years, and she was involved in drama, I-Jag, and speech. Amber plans to continue working this summer at Bobcat Academy and would like to go to school for cosmetology.



Congratulations

CLASS OF 2026



Please Join Us
To celebrate Claire and Libby Meyer
MHS Graduates of 2026
Saturday, May 30th, 1-4 pm
FCC Fellowship Hall



MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED





FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!
Sunday Worship Services:
 8 am & 10:30 am in person
 10:30 am Service is also on YouTube

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Monday-Friday 9 am-Noon 641-752-4239				
color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards					1	2
3 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Farewell reception for Katie 11:45 AM	4 Women's Ministry @ 5:30 PM Trustees meet @ 5:30 PM	5 DOGS: 5-6 PM	6 Men's church coffee 8 AM Hy-Vee Jr PY: 4:45-6 PM PY: 7-8:15 PM	7 Bell choir 5:30 PM	8	9
10 Mother's Day In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	11 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 PM	12 DOGS: 5-6 PM BMC meets @ 9 AM	13 Men's church coffee 8 AM Hy-Vee Jr PY: 4:45-6 PM PY: 7-8:15 PM	14 Bell choir 5:30 PM	15	16
17 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows BCE meets 11:45 Power Hour 9:15	18	19 DOGS: 5-6 PM Diaconate meets @ 6:30 PM	20 Men's church coffee 8 AM Hy-Vee Jr PY: 4:45-6 PM PY: 7-8:15 PM	21 Bell choir 5:30 PM	22	23 11 AM MOW Doris McCarty
24 Graduation Sunday In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15	25 Memorial Day  Office Closed	26	27 Men's church coffee 8 AM Hy-Vee	28 Bell choir 5:30 PM	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

