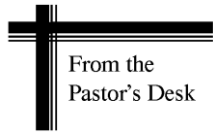


June 2026

"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

The annual meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches has Jeremiah 29:11 as its theme: "For I know that thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." It is a wonderful promise among the many hundreds our gracious God gives to us in Scripture. It comforts, and should comfort, the many who seek hope and purpose in a fragmented and insecure world. The thought that the God of the universe seeks our benefit and works in His mysterious ways toward our peace and toward a gentle future is a marvel to consider. The context, I believe, makes this promise all the more poignant because it holds true even during those times when life is bitter and disappointing.

Promise and Heartbreak

Jeremiah was speaking to people who had been taken from their homeland and exiled to another nation and, understandably, they wanted to go home. A particular prophet named Hananiah claimed that he had a message from God to the effect that the exiles would return to Israel in two years, a message that everyone wanted to hear, but Jeremiah called him out on it for it was a false message and Hananiah's ministry and life ended shortly thereafter. Jeremiah would give the true message just before the promise in verse eleven, the people of Israel would remain in exile for seventy years, long enough for an entire generation to pass away or be too old to travel back. It was in this context that God told them to pray for the prosperity of the city in which they live now, to make the most of the opportunities they do have even if they are heartbroken by what is denied them, and it is here that we find that the promise of God holds true even when our circumstances are hard and life is disappointing.

God's promise holds even if you don't have every dream come true

And that is the depth of the promise, that it holds true even if you don't have every dream come true, even if there is heartbreak sometimes. I once read of a comment about another beautiful promise of Scripture, one that some from the voice of the Lord Jesus Himself (John 10:10), that He came that we may have life and have it abundantly. I read that the abundant life is not necessarily easy, but one in which you can look back after some years and say that it was worth it, it was worth it all. I think that the promise in verse eleven is similar. God knows the plans He has for us; they are good plans even if there is heartache in this fallen world in which we live.

Here's an application point for all this.

Ask for a vision of your work (even your daily work) that extends even beyond the boundaries of your mortal life. Pray that you would have the gift of seeing your life and the lives of your compatriots in the church, as God sees it (note Jeremiah 33:3). Some people live beautiful lives that touch others, even those born beyond the boundaries of our mortal lives. May you be one of those people. God's plans for us go beyond our imagination, and they are indeed peaceful and hopeful.

Sermons for June

June 7 "Rest for Your Souls" Jeremiah 6:16; Matthew 11:25-30
 June 14 "Since the Cration of the Wolrd" Pslams 19:1-6; Romans 1:20
 June 21 Father's Day "The Mercy Seat" Leviticus 16:15; Romans 3:21-25
 June 28 Harlan Nuss leads worship



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



Dale & Patricia Wiese	June 8, 1957	69 years
David & Lynn Hall	June 14, 1974	52 years
Kathryn & David Peiffer	June 16, 2018	8 years
Gary & Vicki McKibbin	June 17, 1967	59 years
Robert & Jane Bauer	June 20, 1964	62 years
Ronald & Deborah Estabrook	June 20, 1970	56 years
Dan & Jeanne Vellinga	June 20, 1981	45 years
Wayne & Jonna Wagar	June 22, 1968	58 years
Georgia & Stan Thomas	June 27, 1987	39 years
Terry & Julianne Paustian	June 29, 1974	52 years



June 4 Patricia Preece, Dwayne Shultz	June 18 Lucas Schryver,
June 6 Lyric Swope	Reginald Kersbergen
June 7 Rich Miller-Todd	June 22 Matthew Schryver,
June 9 Arlene Selby	Shannon Wolcott
June 10 Deb Mettlin	June 25 Lynn Hall
June 13 Savannah Piper	June 26 Donald Benbow
June 15 Jane Bauer	June 28 Arch Allison
June 16 Maxie Shultz	June 30 Layla Wimberley



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

On May 12th the committee met, and it was voted to give \$1,000 to Sal's Cupboard. For those of you not familiar with Sal's Cupboard it is a food pantry located in the Salvation Army of Marshalltown. It provides emergency food boxes to individuals and families throughout Marshall County to help bridge the gap caused by limited income or insufficient food stamp benefits. Some key stats: 2,146 individuals supported through Sal's Cupboard in addition the Salvation Army has helped 265 individuals through rent and utility assistance. Additionally, our committee will commit more funds to the local Red Kettle Campaign in future months. Please prayerfully consider the Salvation Army when donating.

Thank you,
Kristi Hassler, BMC

Scan QR code below if you wish to donate to the Salvation Army



Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry met May 4 to do a bit of spring cleanup in the church yard. Thank you to all who participated. Our next meeting is June 1. We will be making casseroles to freeze for future use. Join us for the fun!

We will not meet in July, August, and September. Join us October 5. We look forward to having you with us.

Bible Study with Jane will continue the second and fourth Mondays of each summer month.

June 8 and 22

July 13 and 27

August 10 and 24

We are studying Hebrews. We have a book and a chair for you.

Praying for you always,

First Congregational Women's Ministry



Youth Group News

2026 College Graduates



Kasie Brandt is the daughter of Judy Mutton and granddaughter of Kathy Benington and Paul Tremain. Kasie Graduated from Buena Vista University with a degree in Spanish and animation. At BVU Kasie was part of Sigma Delta Pi which is the Spanish honors society and Tri Alpha which is a national honor society that recognizes the academic achievements of first-generation college students. Kasie also graduated magna cum laude for her GPA. Kasie's future plans are to work on a game as a coder and background artist. She hopes to move into character animation and maybe composing which is the cool effects you see in shows.

Our youth group was blessed to put up American Flags around Marshalltown for Memorial Day. This is a youth fundraiser opportunity provided by the Optimist Club.



What a wonderful Graduation Sunday we had for our 5 high school seniors and one college graduate on May 17th!



The middle school and high school groups had fun picking up trash at Riverview Park and Riverside cemetery as service projects in our community for Earth Day.



Our youth had a wonderful time making special Mother's Day cards with chocolates to hand out to their family and church family during the 10:30am service on Mother's Day.



We had an awesome time with our youth and their families at WayWard Social for our end of the school year parties!





We are so very excited to attend this year's summer youth mission conference NAPF/HOPE with 8 of our youth/young adults, and 3 adult leaders. We are so thankful for all the support and encouragement we have received from our church family as we have fundraised and prayed over this year's Conference! We are blessed to have Patrick Stewart serve on the conference planning team this year. Please continue to pray over our conference and those who will be attending!





Faithfully:
Anchored in **Christ**



NAPF-HOPE

Save The Date

June 27th - July 2nd
Westfield State University,
Westfield Massachusetts



Hello 







FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS!
Sunday Worship Services:
 8 am & 10:30 am in person
 10:30 am 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 Women's Ministry @ 5:30	2	3	4	5	6
7 Communion In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	8 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 Trustees @ 5:30	9 BMC meets @ 9 AM	10	11	12	13
14 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Cabinet meeting @ 11:45	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows BCE meeting @ 11:45	22 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30	23	24	25	26	27 NACCC meeting Springfield, MA 11 AM MOW Julie & Arch Allison
28 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows NACCC meeting Springfield, MA	29 NACCC meeting Springfield, MA	30 NACCC meeting Springfield, MA				



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.fcmarshaltown.org

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

