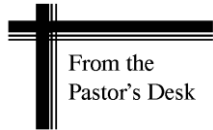


# Pilgrim's Progress

## July 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

One of the saddest days in the Jewish calendar is in July. While we are making the most of Summer, the Ninth of Av (July 22-23, 2026) is the day remembered for the loss of both Temples, the fall of Solomon's Temple to the Babylonian Empire and the loss of the second Temple to the Roman Empire less than a generation after the death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. It is a somber time that looks back at these ancient disasters but also looks forward to the restoration of the Temple in Jerusalem. I find it an interesting detail in all this in Ezekiel, chapters 40-47 that give a fairly detailed description of a Temple that has yet to be built. Some scholars think this temple is a detailed symbol, but others think this is a real temple whose time has not yet come.

Christians look at the temple as something with great value but also hold to the idea that the collected body of believers, through all ages and places, are together the Temple of God. An individual Christian is also a temple of the Holy Spirit, something that should be considered when we evaluate how we use our time and how we treat other people in the church. Still, this month is remembered that God is above even the greatest of disasters and there is hope that people may, yet some day see a Temple on the holy court in Jerusalem.

### Sermons for July

July 5	<i>"Called by My Name"</i>	Deuteronomy 28:10; 2 Chronicles 7:4
July 12	<i>"Grace Abounds"</i>	Genesis 2:16-7; Romans 5:12-21
July 19	<i>"Wages"</i>	Romans 6:18; Romans 6:22-23
July 26	<i>"Reigning in Life"</i>	Proverbs 25:25-28; Romans 12:3-5



**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





J.P. & Jennifer Howard	July 1, 1995	31 years
Robert & Judith Gaynor	July 1, 2006	20 years
Breana & Luis Alvarado	July 4, 2015	11 years
Kirk & Cindy Shirar	July 6, 1991	35 years
Ken & Darcie Lundsford	July 14, 1984	42 years



July 4	Kaisa Stanley	July 20	Krystal Randall
July 5	Miriam Bryant, David Hall, Kimberle Schryver	July 22	Kim Ferneau, Susan Ferneau, Courtney Mentor
July 6	Beverly Swenson	July 23	J.P. Howard
July 8	Carlton Kothenbeutel, Michael Woltjer	July 24	Max Meyer
July 12	David Dickey	July 26	Margaret Otte, Johnathan Howell, Jr.
July 14	Allen Hays	July 27	Danielle Propst
July 16	Gary Heggen	July 28	Alecia Storjohann, Mackenzie Moyer
July 19	Julie Squiers	July 31	Elanor Rowden, Matthew Dickey



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 2026**

**THANK YOU FCC CONGREGATION FOR YOUR AWESOME RESPONSE!!!**

**Items most needed this year were donated in these amounts:**

- TOILET PAPER – 65 rolls in 10 packs of various sizes
- PAPER TOWELS – 36 rolls in 7 packs of various sizes
- TISSUES – 18 boxes with 250 tissues or more per box
- GARBAGE BAGS – 10 boxes of 30-gal bags with at least 40 count per box
- HAND SOAPS – 9 bottles with at least 7.5-fl oz. per bottle
- DISH SOAP – 19 bottles with at least 16-fl oz per bottle
- LAUNDRY SOAP – 784-fl oz. total in 8 jugs; enough to do 605 loads of clothes
- LIGHT BULBS – forty 60-Watt bulbs in boxes of various counts
- ALL PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANER – 472-fluid oz. in 15 bottles of various sizes
- PLASTIC BANDAGES – 565 band-aids in 10 boxes of various sizes and counts



*Special thanks to Kristi Hassler and Naomi McDaniels – Hasslers' granddaughter from Colorado, for loading all those great gifts and delivering them to the HOC. Wonderful service!*



# Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry general meetings on the first Monday of the month will resume in October.

Bible Study with Jane continues through the summer on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:30 in the church library. We have a book and chair for you. Please consider joining us!

Praying for you always,  
First Congregational Women's Ministry



## Diaconate News

June 7th at the 10:30 service there was a baptism by emersion of a six-year-old girl officiated by Pastor Dan. Also, on June 27th at the 10:30 service there was another baptism by immersion of a gentleman officiated by Pastor Dan. As chairperson of the Diaconate, it was my extreme honor to represent the Deacons and the Congregation at both of these sacred ceremonies.

Jesus has been honored by your act of faith. And we were excited to see you be baptized in His name.



## Youth Group News

We took our DOG's group to Conrad, IA to Dreamland Park for some summer fun together. We were so happy that there were some nice local kids selling lemonade down the street so we could enjoy some cool, refreshing drinks!



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



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



The Ragbrai committee hard at work making homemade noodles for our chicken and noodle fundraiser on July 22nd.



Our youth group had a great time together watching part of season 1 of The Chosen. This summer they have plans to watch The Chosen and study the Gospels together.



We are excited for another awesome year of Vacation Bible School which will be August 3rd-7th here at FCC. What an awesome week it is to spend with the kids that God brings to hear and experience His Word and grow in their faith in Jesus! It takes many people to make VBS possible so please let Shelly Speas (641-751-9868) know how you would like to help this year. There are several different ways to help and with all the different wonderful gifts and talents God gave each our church members, I know we will be able to serve the Lord as a great team.

Here is a list of items we are needing for Vacation Bible School:

- 240 white powdered donut holes
- 1 large box of rice crispies
- 6 large packages of white chocolate chips
- 80 vanilla pudding cups
- 4 boxes of white cake mix
- 2 dozen eggs
- 7 cans of white frosting
- large container of vegetable oil
- 4 large packages of vanilla sandwich cookies (60 per container)
- 4 blocks of white chocolate bark
- 2 containers of blue sparkle sprinkles
- 1 large container of microwaveable popcorn with at least 18 packets of popcorn (regular sized)
- 2 large packages of M&Ms

Accepting Non-Perishable Food Donations for Meals

- 80 individual Doritos or Fritos bags, 20 lbs ground beef or turkey, 10 packages taco seasoning, 2 gallons salsa, 5 lb long-grain white rice
  - 80 sandwich buns, bottle of mustard, jar of mayonnaise, 8 bags of chips, and 3 jars dill pickle spears.
  - 4 bottles of ketchup, 6 bottles of ranch dressing, 1 bottle barbecue sauce, 1 bottle honey mustard
  - 80 hot dogs, 80 hot dog buns, jar of relish, 12 cans baked beans.
- For general supplies: 400 plates or trays, 400 napkins, 200 forks, 100 spoons, 2 boxes food service gloves  
These can be placed on the back counter in the kitchen any time before August 2nd.

You can contact Kristin Meyer at 641-485-8577 or email [kristin.meyer@drake.edu](mailto:kristin.meyer@drake.edu) with any questions on how to drop off supplies for VBS



*Snowball Mountain Challenge* invites kids to an exciting winter sports event where they become Challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith. In Snowball Mountain Challenge, kids will learn that God is the source of their strength!











**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
		<b>Monday-Friday</b> 9am-Noon 641-752-4239				
<b>color code:</b> youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards			<b>1</b> NACCC meeting Springfield, MA	<b>2</b> NACCC meeting Springfield, MA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Happy 4 <sup>th</sup> of July
<b>5 Communion</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	<b>13</b> Trustees @ 5:30 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30	<b>14</b> BMC @ 9	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows BCE meeting @ 11:45	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> RAGBRAI	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11 AM MOW Jody and Shelly
<b>26</b> In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	<b>27</b> Women's Bible Study @ 5:30	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



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](http://www.fccmarshalltown.org)

A member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

