Pilgrim's Progress

November 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

Thank you for the gift for Pastor's appreciation month!

Recently I was presented with two gift cards, the value of which reached $1,000. It is a wonderful gift that was extraordinarily kind and thoughtful. I mentioned at the time that there should be a parishioner's appreciation month, and if I had the money, everyone would be enjoying winter at a beach somewhere on the Florida coast. All the meals would be catered at every gathering and the people who have worked so hard in the kitchen would get to go to their favorite restaurant every week. People who serve on committees would receive all expense vacations to the destination of their choice every year. People who help with children would have statues of them cast in gold, and then they would be given the statue. Musicians and singers would get whatever they want every time. My apologies to those who give of their time and of their hearts and yet I have neglected to mention. If I had my way, this would be how parishioners are appreciated. Some of my happiest years as a pastor have been here, and I'm grateful. Pastor's appreciation month is not an obligation, as it is an honor and a sacred responsibility simply to be a pastor. Thank you very much.

-Pastor Dan

November has two special days, one more famous than the other
All Saints' Day
November 1st is also the end of Daylight Savings Time, so set your clocks back an hour before bed. All Saints' Day is a day to remember those who have been faithful to Jesus Christ in the past, and those, who along with former, serve as an example for the rest of us. Take some time to think of people who were good influences for you. People who were reverent, spiritual, practical and committed to making life better for others. Take some time to think about them and add them to your prayers. That is part of All Souls' Day.

The other is Thanksgiving; the holiday that has us all meeting with family and watching football, having eaten lots of turkey, potatoes and gravy. I look forward to it every year. Those early settlers in New England celebrated the simple fact that they were alive. They had been left on the shores of Massachusetts late in the season and north of their destination. They wanted to arrive earlier in Virgina. Now they had to face a Massachusetts winter with little time and provision. Half of them, roughly, died that first winter. They were glad to be alive. We, these many years later, had so many reasons to be thankful, and it is a good spiritual practice to list them on paper and say a prayer of thanks to God, the giver of all good things, for each and every one of them. We can never praise the Lord too much, neither can we over thank Him for blessings. For this thanksgiving, ask the Lord to help you be someone who gives others cause to give thanks this season.

-Pastor Dan

Sermons for November

November 1	*"The People of God"*	Psalm 34:1-10; John 3:1-3
November 8	*"The Jealous God"*	Matthew 25:1-13; Joshua 24:14-25
November 15	*"Consider Your Ways"*	Haggai 1:1-11; Lamentations 3:40-42
November 22	*"A Chosen People"*	Haggai 2:20-23; 1 Peter 2:7-9
November 29	*"The Hope of Christmas"*	Mark 3:24-37; Isaiah 64:1-9

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

Bickford: Joanie Smith-Legg #108
Glenwood Place: Elenor Tjossem #160
State Center Specialty Care: Lenora Brown
Windsor Manor in Grinnell: Elanor Rowden #210

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Allen & Judith Hays	November 9, 1963	63 years
David & Jo Dysart	November 10, 1984	42 years
Donald & Jane Benbow	November 15, 1958	68 years
Craig & Cynthia Ragland	November 29, 1996	30 years
Rodney & Kristi Hassler	November 29, 2008	18 years

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November 1	Molly Lundberg	November 23	Tonya Tuttle
November 2	Jodi Brintnall	November 24	Dale Wiese
November 20	Georgia Thomas	November 27	Sharon Propst

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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 23	February 27	March 27	April 24
May 22	June 26	July 24	August 28
September 25	October 23	November 27	December 25

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Missions and Benevolence

Thank you to the friends that placed items in the old Clifton's food cart in the Narthex. It's always a little blessing to see those items and then to place in one of the little food pantries around town to bless others that may be in need.

Thank you,

Kristi Hassler, BMC member

BE the LIGHT



Matthew 5:14

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." We are the light! Get ready to shine the light of Christmas by giving hope and hopefully some comfort to the less fortunate in our community.

Our Christmas Angel Tree will be up by the Harvest Dinner. Christmas gift tags will have items or an item printed on the back. December 15th will be the target date to bring your unwrapped purchases to the church. The choir room will be the drop center. There will be a drop off box for: **Personal Hygiene**, **Misc. Extras**, and **A light, tight homeless care kit.** Contents for each of these categories are as follows:

Personal Hygiene Bags

- Nail clippers/nail f
- Bandages (large ones, useful for blisters)
- Comb and/or brush
- Hand lotion
- Deodorant
- Lip balm
- Wet wipes
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Maxi pads
- tampons
- Chewable multivitamins
- Q-tips
- Baby wipes
- Antibiotic ointment
- Shampoo

Misc Extras

- Headlamp flashlight
- Flashlight
- Can opener

- Hand warmers
- Cough drops
- Laundry pods
- Laundry Mat voucher from Ecklor's Laundromat
- Sewing kit
- Ziploc bags
- Socks. Nice, high-quality, thick socks are best for people who walk almost everywhere.
- Gloves/scarf. A good quality pair of gloves will be a great blessing.
- Caps
- Underwear, various sizes. According to the Triumph Center most don't wear underwear.
- Blankets

Non-perishable food

- Nut butters
- Instant coffee packets
- Dried fruit
- Nuts
- Trail mix
- Tuna with pull off lid
- Cracker packets
- Beef jerky sticks
- Energy bars
- granola bars

Here is a suggestion for a homeless care kit that packs the most amount of blessings in the smallest amount of space. This is according to some professionals by trial and error. We will call it the Light, tight homeless care kit.

- Gallon quality plastic zip top plastic bag (they don't tear apart as easily)
- Handwritten note of encouragement
- Nice wool socks (1x$4-6)
- Nail clippers
- Water bottle
- Large bandages
- Packet of wet ones
- Whatever you choose from the lists provided that you can get in the gallon bag

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Women's Ministry

At our next general meeting on Monday November 2 at 5:30 p.m. We are planning to clean the kitchen, straighten closets, and remove a challenging dead plant. We will be finished about 7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite cleaning tools. Thanks for joining our crew!

Bible Study with Jane. We have finished our study of Hebrews and will begin a new topic on Monday November 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the library. Our second November study evening is November 23. We have a chair and a book for you. We look forward to having you join us!

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Diaconate News

Annual Harvest Dinner

The Annual Harvest Dinner is set for November 22nd! Look for reservation forms in the Sunday bulletins starting at the end of October with a deadline of reservations November 13th. Feel free to invite neighbors and friends please contact the church office if you are unable to get to a bulletin with number in your party to help with our planning. Be looking for a sign-up sheet to help in various ways. We will be looking for a few volunteers to help set up on Saturday before and to help serve and clean up on Sunday. Our menu this year is turkey, cheesy potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans and choice of pie. This year our committee is planning on having an article in the Times Republican about our history and Heritage Sunday event, so you might see a few new faces in church that Sunday! Celebrating our country's 250th year we can also include our church's heritage as part of that history! Call the church office with any questions or Kristi Hassler at 641-753-3276 to be added to volunteer list. Thank you!

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Youth Group News





DOG's fun.

Sunday school fun.

















PY fun.





Jr PY fun.







Indoor picnic with our confirmation group.





Confirmation group with Pastor Dan and their mentors.

The confirmation banquet was a special night where our confirmands shared their statement of faith projects.









Confirmation Sunday was a very special day where we celebrated with four young ladies on their confirmation day, Elizabeth Gepford, Molly Lundberg, Layla Wimberly, and Lydia Speas.







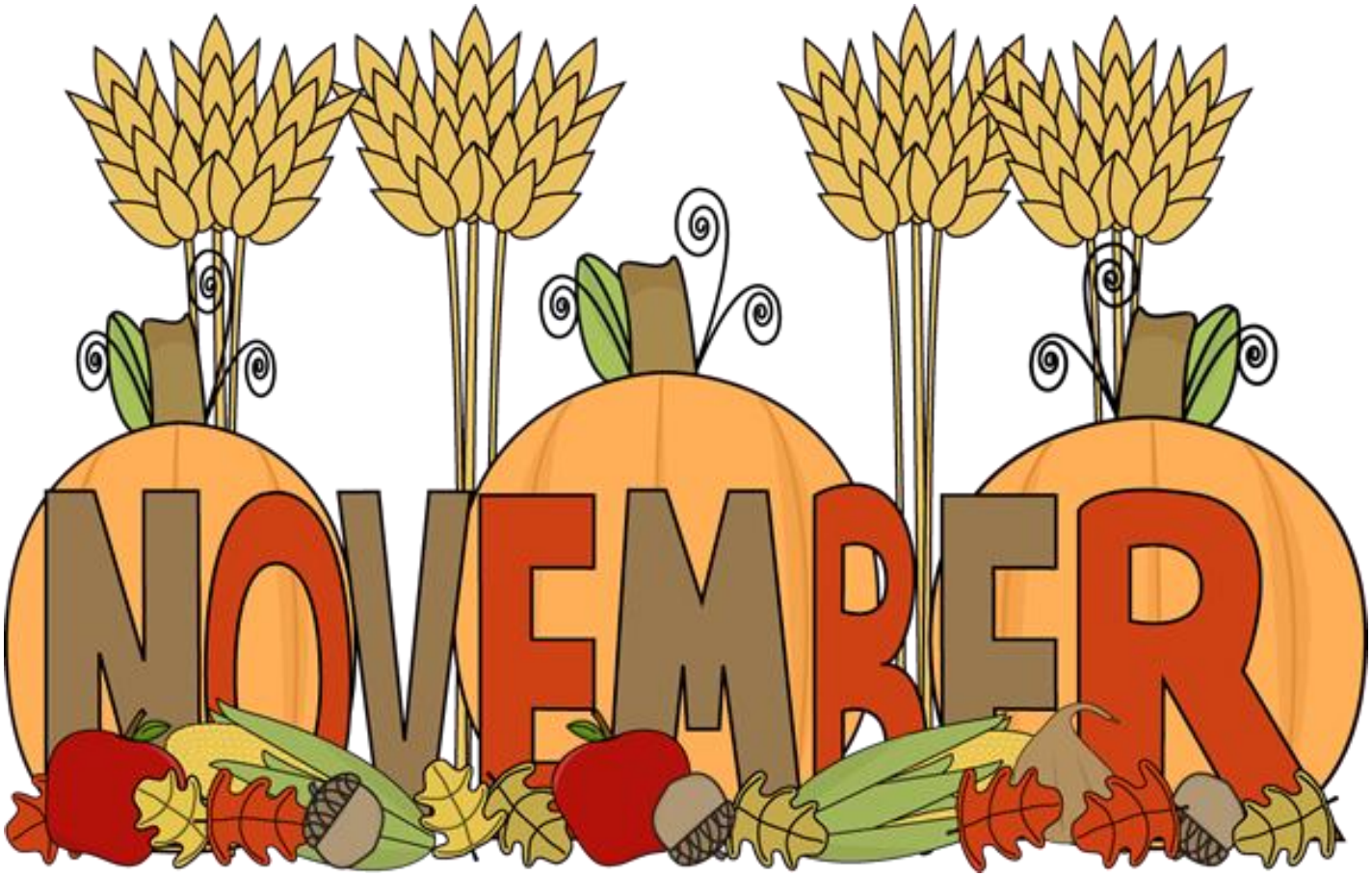
Sunday school for ages Preschool (age 4) through 12th grade, Sunday mornings 9:15-10:20am
November 1,8,15,22 (Not 29th)

PY(Pilgrim Youth) for ages 9-12th grade, Sunday nights from 7:30-8:45pm
November 1,8,15,22 (Not 29th)

DOG's(Depend on God) for ages preschool (age 4) through 4th grade, Tuesday nights from 5-6pm
November 3,10,17,24

Jr PY(Pilgrim Youth) for ages 5-8th grade, Wednesday nights 4:45-6pm
November 4,11,18 (11th being Flags) (not 25th)

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NOVEMBER


HAPPY
Thanksgiving
Grateful
Thankful
Blessed



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					
1 Communion color code: youth events Church mtgs Special events Comm. Events Color copy on bulletin boards	2 Women's Ministry @ 5:30 PM	3 DOG's: 5-6 PM	4 Jr.PY: 4:45-6 PM	5 Men's church coffee 8 AM Hy-Vee Prayer Meeting @ 11 AM Bell Choir practice @ 5:30 PM	6	7
8 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Cabinet @ 11:45 AM Power Hour 9:15-10:20 AM PY: 7:30-8:45 PM	9 Trustees @ 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 PM	10 BMC @ 9 AM DOG's: 5-6 PM	11 Jr.PY: 4:45-6 PM	12 Men's church coffee 8 AM Hy-Vee Prayer Meeting @ 11 AM Bell Choir practice @ 5:30 PM	13	14
15 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Power Hour 9:15-10:20 AM PY: 7:30-8:45 PM BCE @ 11:45 AM	16	17 DOG's: 5-6 PM Diaconate @ 6:30 PM	18 Jr.PY: 4:45-6 PM	19 Men's church coffee 8 AM Hy-Vee Prayer Meeting @ 11 AM Bell Choir practice @ 5:30 PM	20 Chancel Choir practice @ 5:30 PM	21
22 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows Harvest Dinner Power Hour 9:15-10:20 AM PY: 7:30-8:45 PM	23 Women's Bible Study @ 5:30 AM	24 DOG's: 5-6 PM	25	26 Thanksgiving Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 11 AM MOW
29 In-Person Worship 8am and 10:30 svcs In Sanctuary 10:30 Svc/YouTube Fellowship follows	30					

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