



THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter
15th Avenue Christian Church

Pastor's Corner

Easter is one of the special days in the church year that move around, and because of that it has been called “a moveable feast”. Pentecost is also a moveable feast because it comes fifty days (the seventh Sunday) after Easter. The Easter date can vary by as much as 35 days. The rule is, we celebrate Easter on: *the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of Spring*. The reason for this method is that Christian tradition has kept the celebration of Easter aligned with the Jewish feast of Passover in remembrance of Jesus’ crucifixion during that annual event in Jerusalem. Passover was tied to the seasons, the lunar cycle, and to the barley harvest.

This year we had a full moon on March 18th, which was before we had officially hit Spring. The first full moon after March 20th will be on April 16th. The rule directs us to celebrate Easter on the first Sunday *after* April 16th and that happens to be just one day later this year! In 2023, Easter will be on April 9th. Over the past 500 years, the most common dates for Easter Sunday have been March 31st and April 16th. There have been many systems and algorithms proposed to do the math associated with the moveable feasts. One of the more modern proposals was brought forward in 1991.

Just as we have Pentecost 50 days after Easter, the season of Lent kicks off 40 days before Easter. From Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday is 46 calendar days, but the six Sundays are not counted as days of Lent within the Protestant tradition. The days of Lent are a season for repentance, reflection, and confession. Just as Advent is a season of preparation for Christmas, Lent is a season of preparation for Easter. There is darkness, and then the dawn. There is crucifixion, and then resurrection. We wait in hope, “as the sentinel waits for the dawn.”

The days of Holy Week follow Jesus’ passion. The suffering and death of Jesus led to the darkness that was observed in the middle of the afternoon on Good Friday. Easter is all about that darkness being defeated by the light of Christ.” *He is not here for he has risen just as he said.*” Darkness is vanquished and death itself has been defeated. We celebrate victory over sin and death as we ponder Jesus’ words, “*I am the resurrection and the life.*”

“So we’re not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There’s far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can’t see now will last forever.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 “The Message” translation, by Eugene Peterson

May you feel the light of Christ in this most blessed of all seasons,

Pastor Mike

April Bell

Easter will be here soon! I hope you are planning to attend our church service and bring your family and friends! It promises to be another great celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection, with Bells, Saxophone, Choir, and Brass! I can't wait to celebrate fully again after two years of more muted celebrations.

Music Camp is coming! I have a director who has said she will lead us this summer, but I'm waiting to confirm dates with her. We'll probably be looking at June 20-26, July 11-17, or July 18-24. Help spread the word to families with K-8 children!

We are still looking for sopranos for choir, so don't be shy! We could use your help!

In His service,

Sheila Doak, Music Director



Orders are now being taken for Easter Lilies.

They are \$10.00 each.

Payment must be made when ordering.

Please make checks payable to 15th Avenue Christian Church. The deadline for submitting your order to the church office is Tuesday, April 5^h. Orders received after April 11th and/or without payment cannot be accepted.



Easter Lilies

Your name (Please Print)

Daytime phone #

In Whose Name/Memory/Honor, etc.

Number of Lilies Requested

Total Amount Enclosed

Easter is April 17

Seasons and Colors of the Christian Year

God's people use the liturgical church calendar to help them in their worship life. Beginning with the season of Advent and extending through the season of Pentecost, the Church Year consists of two halves - the festival portion and the non-festival portion. The first half (Advent to Pentecost) reminds us of what God has done and continues to do for us through Christ Jesus. The second half (Pentecost to Advent) focuses on our response to God's goodness to us in Christ.

In all there are six seasons of the Church Year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. The following colors are associated with these seasons, illustrated by the paraments on the altar, pulpit, and lectern and the stoles worn by the pastors:

Blue - (Advent) reminds us of the blessed eternal hope that is ours in Christ. Blue can represent penance, sacrifice

White - (Christmas and Easter) is the color of purity, holiness, glory, and joy. White can represent Purity, light, glory, joy.

Green - (Epiphany and after Pentecost) represents the Christian life and growth in the faith. Green can represent life, hope, and anticipation.

Purple - (Lent) reminds us of our need for repentance and preparation for the celebration of Easter. Purple has often been associated with royalty. Purple can represent penance, sacrifice, and preparation.

Red - (Pentecost) the color of fire and blood, represents the work of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Red can represent God's love, blood, and fire.

April Colors

Lent— Violet/Purple

Maundy Thursday — White/Gold

Good Friday — Red/Black/None

Easter — White/Gold

Easter Tide — White/Gold



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Rummage Sale

Our Annual Rummage Sale will be June 17 and June 18. You may bring your treasures starting May 1st. The elevator will be open for drop off. If furniture is involved you will need to be prepared to pick it up if it doesn't sell.

Questions should be directed to Marcia Swanson 309 755 6889 or Steve Sheese 309 738 0545.

Easter is April 17th

Join us for Easter

9:30am Worship

We want to wish a warm welcome to our newest church members: **Tim Flemming, David and Jean Glanz.**

You are each a blessing to us. Welcome and God bless you!

From the mouths of babes:

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3.

The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say,"

"Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait."

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

March Attendance

March 6	34
March 13	41
March 20	42
March 27	55

Please see the Calendar at the end of the Bell for Serving Elders, Serving & Preparing Deacons, Fellowship Hosts, and Flowers scheduling.



Anniversaries

3	Pam and Jeff Demarlie
6	Bill & Judie Holmer
12	Dave and Helen Popp
27	Steve and Lynne Sheese

Birthdays

2	Mona Lyons Mlekush
9	Joel Mlekush
10	Michelle Butcher
21	Dave O'Melia
23	Jeff Hinrichsen
24	Jeanne O'Melia

Thank you from the Barnes' and Nelsons

Words cannot express our gratitude for your outpouring of love and concern for our family at the time of Barb Crangle's passing. Whether you sent a card, called, hugged, came to the service or prayed, we are forever thankful. Pastor Mike, your kind words and sharing meant so much. Special thanks to Sheila Doak for the beautiful arrangements and expressiveness in playing. Thanks to Steve Swanson and Aaron Flemming for the beautiful saxophone music. And, to the bell choir, we are beyond grateful for your participation and meaningful playing. Steve Swanson, you bring out the best in us.

Thanks to everyone.

Doug Nelson and Kathi Barnes and families

Prayer Labyrinth**Good Friday, April 15th 2:00pm—6:00pm**

Come... be centered...journey through the labyrinth... meditate...and pray.

You may come just to pray, or enter the labyrinth as well.

Prepare to complete your individual Lenten journey by participating in a meaningful and spirit-guided prayer process. Walk the single path of the labyrinth and be guided to the spiritual center. As you breathe deep, relax and pray, your mind and body are opened to the word and wisdom of God.

Entrance: West doors or elevator (go down)

When: Good Friday, April 15, 2022, 2:00pm until 6:00pm.

Where: The labyrinth will be placed in the Fellowship hall. Comfortable chairs, a table and prayer books will also be available. The labyrinth is open to all.

Pastor Mike will be at the church and available on this contemplative day, if you would like to have a conversation about prayer.

Maundy Thursday Service—

At **Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church**, 2324—18th Avenue, Rock Island;
at 7:00 PM. Should you wish to attend.

Elders Prayer Update Bell Edition

“God is our refuge and strength, A very ready help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

Please keep these family, friends and caregivers in your daily thoughts and prayers.

Let them know they are not forgotten while we are apart.

Consider a phone call or send a card to tell them they are missed and loved.

Barb Hansen

Jeff Mix – is home now. (Marilyn & family)

Pat & Carolyn (Lori & Jim Bickford)

Cara (friend of Diane Block)

Mike, Jeff Barnes brother (Kathi, Jeff and family)

Dorothy Coulson (Diane)

David & Sonya Geenen

Lois (Weston's friend)

Jessica Borland (Swanson's)

Bob Bloomer (Annie & family)

Michelle (Don & Kathy)

Wm. “Bill” Mockmore (Judie, Bill and family)

Alice Lyons (family)

Cathy Wilson (Lisa & family)

Wanda (Kathy & Don's friend)

David O'Melia (Jeannie & family)

C.D. Thompson (Family)

Sarah T. Julie (cancer)

Sharon D. (Bartosh's neighbor) Beverly Ducey (Jim & family)

Bob, David and Jane (Kathy & Don)

Vickie Andereck (Jesse & Melba)

Ron Lyons (Alice, Sandy, Mona and Margaret)

Kent Christensen (Kathy & Don)

Jo (Kathy & Don)




Judy (Kathy & Don)

Gabriel (friend of Westons)

Tim M. (Jan & Roy)

15th Avenue Christian Church

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 8:00 am Elders Meeting	4 6:30pm Ave Bell Choir Practice	5 6pm RiverBend Bronze	6 6:30pm Choir Practice	7 10am Bible Study	8	9
10 PALM SUNDAY 	11 6:30pm Ave Bell Choir Practice	12 6pm RiverBend Bronze	13 6:30pm Choir Practice	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY 10am Bible Study 	15 Good Friday Labyrinth 2pm to 6pm in Fellowship Hall	16
17 EASTER 	18 6:30pm Ave Bell Choir Practice	19 6pm RiverBend Bronze	20 6:30pm Choir Practice	21 10am Bible Study	22	23
24 Cabinet Meeting in Chapel 11:00 AM	25 6:30pm Ave Bell Choir Practice	26 6pm RiverBend Bronze	27	28 10 am Bible Study	29	30

Serving Elders
3 Steve Swanson
10 Mark Carlson
17 Judie Holmer
24 Annie Bloomer

Visiting Elders
Doug Nelson & Alice Lyons

Serving & Preparing Deacons
Preparing: Sandy Wentler
Head Deacon: Barb Hansen

Deacons: Grace Carlson
Lynne Sheese
Steve Sheese

Flowers
3 Judie Holmer
10 Lisa Hatlett
17 Easter Lilies
24 Lisa Hatlett

Fellowship Hosts
3 Bill & Judie Holmer
10 Dave & Helen Popp
17 Easter Sunday
24 Swanson/Flemming