

THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter



A Message from Pastor Mike.....

We will be starting a new Bible Study on February 9th, based on the *Believe* series by pastor and author Randy Frazee. Judie will continue to lead our class on Thursday mornings at 10am to 11am. This study includes weekly Scripture readings, a short video during the class, and then a time for group discussion. We always have good conversation and we always learn something new each time we meet. Everyone is invited to attend!

There are thirty lessons which will take us until Labor Day or so to complete. There are ten lessons in each of three focus areas: Think: “What do I *believe*?” Chapters include God, salvation, the church, and eternity. Act: “What should I *do*?” Sample chapters include worship, prayer, Bible study, and the spiritual gifts. Be: Who am I *becoming*?” These chapters cover the fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, humility. Here is a summary description of the course from our *Study Guide*:

“The goal of every follower of Jesus Christ is to become more like him, but how do you know where to start? What does it really mean to be a disciple of Jesus? The objective of the *Believe* adult curriculum is to paint a clear picture of what it means to think, act, and be like Jesus. This study guide (and the related video) will help you assess your spiritual life, pinpoint areas that need special attention, and give you tools to help you grow. The first ten sessions focus on the core beliefs of the Christian faith; the next ten sessions focus on foundational practices of the Christian life; and the last ten sessions focus on Christ like virtues. May God bless you as you seek him through this experience.”

Frazee, Randy. *Believe Study Guide: Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus* (p. 6). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

As followers of Christ, we know we are on a life-long journey to become more and more like Jesus. To help us in our discipleship, we need regular spiritual practices to be part of our lives. Our daily routines can easily keep us so busy that we forget to include time for prayer and regular study of the Scripture. Just like the teams who are preparing for the Super Bowl, we need practice and we need to focus on the basics. Even the top players still need to concentrate on blocking and tackling. For us, as Christians, it is a good idea to renew our commitment to the basics of the faith. Prayer, scripture reading, loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, loving our neighbor as ourselves. It is good to be the church together and to study God’s amazing word together – on Thursdays, on Sundays, and really every day of the week!

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” – Micah 6:8 –

Board and Cabinet Meeting Purpose and Schedule

The Church Board of 15th Avenue Christian Church consists of about 46 members and a quorum is nine.

The board meets at least six times per year and more if necessary. Special Board Meetings may be held for specific purposes, with proper notice.

The board conducts and votes on the official business of the church. All church members may attend a board meeting and all are invited.

You are a board member if you are elected as one of the following:

- Church officer: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary, Clerk, and Church School Superintendent.
- Trustee
- Elder (or Emeritus)
- Serving or Preparing Deacon (or Emeritus)

Scheduled Board Meetings: all on the third Sunday after church.

February 19, 2023

April 16, 2023

June 18, 2023

August 20, 2023

- Appoint Nominating Committee

October 15, 2023

- Approve 2024 Budget and 2024 Officers and Board December 17, 2023 (If necessary)

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Sunday, December 17, 2023 (approve 2024 budget and officers)

The Church Cabinet is an unofficial body of the church, meeting for the purpose of planning, developing new ideas and ministries, and calendaring. The Cabinet meets in the off months of the board.

You are a Cabinet member if you are one of the following:

Board Chair or Vice-Chair (the Vice-Chair usually runs the meeting)

- Treasurer (as requested)
- Financial Secretary (as requested)
- Church School Superintendents
- Trustee (as requested)
- Committee Chairs
 - √ Stewardship – Rose Deibert
 - √ Membership Nurture – Lisa Hatlett
 - √ Outreach – Lisa Hatlett
 - √ Property – Dave Popp
 - √ Personnel – Dave Popp
 - √ Worship – Jackie Flemming
 - √ Children’s Sunday School – Lynne Swanson and Jackie Flemming
 - √ Elders – Dave Popp
 - √ Deacons – Barb Hansen

Scheduled Cabinet Meetings: all on the third Sunday after church.

January 15, 2023

March 19, 2023

May 21, 2023

July 16, 2023

September 17, 2023

- Develop 2024 Budget with input from Committee Chairs (Treasurer and Financial Secretary should attend) December 17, 2023

15th Avenue Christian Church 2023 Officers & Board

Nominating Committee: Lisa Hatlett (chair), Mable Carlson, Jackie Flemming, Lynne Sheese

Officers

Chairperson of Board
Vice Chairperson of Board
Secretary of Board
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Assistant Financial Secretaries
Clerk of the Congregation
Church School Superintendent

1 Year Terms

Judie Holmer *
Lisa Hatlett *
Jackie Flemming *
Steve Swanson *
Lisa Hatlett *
Lynne Sheese *, Jackie Flemming *, Tim Flemming *, Gary Troyer*
Lynne Sheese *
Lynne Swanson *

Trustees

2023

Lynne Sheese *

2024

Ron Standley

2025

Dave Popp *

Elders

2023

Kathi Barnes
Annie Bloomer
Lisa Hatlett
Kathy Weston

2024

Steve Swanson
Judie Holmer

2025

Dave Popp *
Diane Block *
Helen Popp *
Sally Bartosh *

Elder Emeritus

Mable Carlson, Clara Delle Thompson, Doug Nelson

Serving Deacons

2023

Allyson Leatherman
Rod Leatherman
Lynne Sheese
Steve Sheese
Ron Standley

2024

Barb Hansen
Marcia Swanson
Karen Hitchcock

2025

Grace Carlson *
Rose Deibert*
Jackie Flemming*
Tyler Flemming*
Gary Troyer *

Deacon Emeritus Marcia Nelson

Preparing Deacons

2023

Jackie Flemming
Lisa Hatlett

2024

Diane Butcher
Sandy Wentler
Grace Carlson

2025

Lynne Swanson *
Helen Popp *
Lynne Sheese *
Steve Sheese *
Melissa Popp *

Preparing Deacon Emeritus: (No new honorees)

*denotes being voted on

15th Avenue Christian Church 2023 DEACONS LIST ROSTER

<p><u>FEBRUARY</u> HD Rose Deibert Grace Carlson Barb Hansen Jackie Flemming</p>	<p><u>MARCH</u> HD Grace Carlson Sally Bartosh Rose Deibert Karen Hitchcock</p>	<p><u>APRIL</u> HD Karen Hitchcock Barb Hansen Rose Deibert Marcia Swanson</p>
<p><u>MAY</u> HD Ron Standley Barb Hansen Karen Hitchcock Marcia Swanson</p>	<p><u>JUNE</u> HD Marcia Swanson Rose Deibert Lynne Sheese Steve Sheese</p>	<p><u>JULY</u> HD Gary Troyer Lynne Sheese Steve Sheese Ron Standley</p>
<p><u>AUGUST</u> HD Barb Hansen Ron Standley Sally Bartosh Gary Troyer</p>	<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u> HD Sally Bartosh Barb Hansen Marcia Swanson Gary Troyer</p>	<p><u>OCTOBER</u> HD Jackie Flemming Grace Carlson Ron Standley Gary Troyer</p>
<p><u>NOVEMBER</u> HD Lynne Sheese Steve Sheese Karen Hitchcock Grace Carlson</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER</u> HD Steve Sheese Lynne Sheese Jackie Flemming Grace Carlson</p>	<p><u>JANUARY 2022</u> HD Rose Deibert Sally Bartosh Jackie Flemming Karen Hitchcock</p>



FORMATION

(A reflection by Marcia Monsma)

A journey,

Eagerly anticipated
 Now nearing completion.

A journey,

Toward servanthood
 Symbolized
 By a towel and basin.

A journey,

Being formed in the image of
 Christ
 Clothed

In the garments of Christ.

A journey ending,

Yet
 Beginning ever anew.

A journey joyfully continuing

In Him

With Him

Through Him

To the glory of God the Fa-
 ther.

***A journey commissioned with
 a challenge:***

Believe what you read,
 Teach what you believe,
 Practice what you teach

A journey wrapped in prayer,

“May He who began a good
 work in us
 Carry it on

Until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:6

2023 Preparing Deacons Schedule

- January 2023- Lisa Hatlett
- February 2023 - Jackie Flemming
- March 2023– Helen Popp
- April 2023- Lynne Swanson
- May 2023– Helen Popp
- June 2023– Lynne and Steve Sheese
- July 2023– Grace Carlson
- August 2023– Sandy Wentler
- September 2023– Melissa Popp
- October 2023– Lynne Swanson
- November 2023– Lynne and Steve Sheese
- December 2023– Jackie Flemming and
Lynne Swanson
- January 2023– Lisa Hatlett





“I was living a normal life,” eighteen-year-old Dmitry recalled. “I was studying logistics and marketing and playing football. I wanted to be a professional footballer, and had a contract with the Mariupol junior football team.” Anna, also 18, is from Donetsk, and had already moved because of the earlier war (2014, when Russia annexed Crimea). Now in Mariupol with Dmitry, “I was studying law, wanting to become a lawyer.” The young couple’s dreams of football and law were interrupted when they woke to a call from Dmitry’s parents telling them that the war had started. They quickly made sure they had cash on hand in the first few days. Battles started in the suburbs of Mariupol; Dmitry and Anna lived near the city center, but days later, fighting started near their flat, and for the next month, they stayed in the middle of the war zone, afraid to leave the city. As the violence escalated, it became almost impossible to safely move around Mariupol, or even to be in touch with friends like Kristina, who lived just in the next yard. “We had no electricity, no information, no internet,” Dmitry said. “The only information we could get was from Russian soldiers, who told us Kyiv, Mariupol, and Odessa were all under Russian control.” Eventually, Dmitry and Anna decided that the risk of fleeing was less than the risk of staying. “Mariupol was on the front lines,” Dmitry said. “Donetsk was under Russian control. The only way to escape was through Russia.” So the two left together for the Russian border. After hours of security checks of their phones and few belongings, Dmitry and Anna were finally able to purchase train tickets to St. Petersburg. Their plan was to go to Hungary, where a friend was living. A Russian vlogger, supportive of Ukrainian refugees, gave them the phone number of a staff member at Hungarian Interchurch Aid (a Week of Compassion partner). As part of the relief and transition stations established at the borders, Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) supported Dmitry and Anna as they came through their five-day journey to Budapest. Since then, HIA has helped them find shelter, food, connections with a local football club, and help in finding jobs. This is where suffering is alleviated and transformed. This is how, in the midst of grief and anxiety, hope can rise up anew. Giving to Week of Compassion means providing new possibilities in desperate times. Partnerships and generosity make it possible to see God’s mercies made real every day. Soon after arriving in Budapest, Dmitry and Anna were able to get in touch with their friend Kristina. A rocket had landed in their yard, wounding a woman. “We went to shelter in a school, but after an unexploded bomb was near the school, we went back to the flat. We were so scared we could not sleep.” The next day, she lost her phone connection, the day after that, they lost power. Eventually, bringing Anna’s mother with her, Kristina drove to Donetsk, and from there the two repeated Dmitry’s and Anna’s journey across Russia, and the friends finally reunited in Budapest. Happy to be in Europe now, the teenagers worry about their family at home. They want to see their families reunited, but “I don’t see a way back to Mariupol,” Dmitry said. “The city is ruined, it will take a long time to rebuild.” Anna agreed, “I can’t see going back.” “If I can organize my life here, I will stay,” Kristina said; her friends agreed. They don’t know if Budapest will be their permanent home, but your offerings to Week of Compassion, when shared through partners like ACT Alliance and HIA, mean that Dmitry, Anna, and Kristina have choices, opportunities, and hope - to rise up anew and rebuild their lives.



2023 Outreach Fundraiser

Many people say that Lent is a journey, one of sacrifice, prayer, and charity. We are asked to break away from our normal routine and focus on our spiritual journey. This year I am challenging you to combine your spirituality with charity. Beginning on Ash Wednesday and running until Palm Sunday, I am asking that you think of gratitude. Who or what in your life brings you a sense of gratitude, grace, or growth? Can you consciously identify 1 thing daily? Do you want to keep a list? For every day you can identify at least 1 person or thing, put \$1 in an envelope. On Palm Sunday bring your envelope to church and donate to our special Outreach offering. This offering provides parts of the funds we use to support several outreach organizations each year.

Thank you,

Lisa Hatlett Outreach Chair

Journey of Gratitude

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____
- 13. _____
- 14. _____
- 15. _____
- 16. _____
- 17. _____
- 18. _____
- 19. _____

- 20. _____
- 21. _____
- 22. _____
- 23. _____
- 24. _____
- 25. _____
- 26. _____
- 27. _____

WEEK OF COMPASSION SPECIAL
OFFERINGS FEBRUARY 19 &
FEBRUARY 26

Music Notes

We'd love to have more members in the Choir and playing handbells! Even if it is just for one week to fill in for a missing member, your participation could be vital! If you don't feel comfortable joining us, do you know someone who could? They do not have to be members of the church to ring bells or sing in choir. Help us praise the Lord through music!

Sheila Doak, Music Director

PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

Total Income	\$13,720.50
Total Expenses	\$13,618.88
Net Income	\$38.62

January Attendance

January 1	29
January 8	30
January 15	32
January 22	29
January 29	30

If you have taken home Altar flowers please return the vases as soon as possible. Thanks!



Special thanks to Mable, Grace, Sally, Katelyn, Rebecca, Rylee, Rose, Dave, Helen, Marcia and Tyler for leading our advent readings.

Jackie Flemming



Getting to know you..... Cali Smith, Church Administrative Assistant

I can't believe I've gained such a lovely church family in just six months! I have learned so much and hopefully have assisted 15th Ave. to become a more streamlined, organized building. Sometimes I feel as if I know more about you than you know me, so let me tell you some things about myself:

I am a little sister to my brother, Josef and a daughter to my Mom and Dad, Vikki and Doug Blair, who all live in Rock Island close by. I have a 90 year old Grandma Jackie who lives on a farm by herself in Lanark, IL and lots of cousins around the area. My husband Matt and I have been married for 23 years and have been together for 28 years. I am a mom to Xavier (17) and Lillian (12). My children are the most beautiful things I ever made! I also have 4 cats named Sherman, Savannah, Celeste and Zachary.

I graduated from Orion High School in 1994 and Commonwealth Business College in 1996. I have worked in retail but office work and serving others seems to be my forte. For the past 17 years I have worked and attended Broadway Church, first as an evening hostess and ended being the administrator and Outreach Director.

I continue to be the director of Broadway Outreach Center – preparing and serving meals to the home-bound and having a free clothing store for the community. (We are still searching for a new site so if you know of one, please let me know). I look forward to serving you to the best of my ability and being a part of your church family for a long time. It has been a pleasure to work here!

Elders Prayer Update Bell Edition

“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Your sight, Lord, my rock and my Redeemer” Psalms 19:14

The elders have been praying this month for the individuals listed below.

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

Let them know they are loved and not forgotten while apart.

A card, phone call or visit to let them know they are missed.

- | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|
| Matthew Popp (Popp family) | Steve (child with brain tumor) | Sue & family |
| Brett Smith (Kelly”Goold” & family) | Rose C. (Ron) | |
| Sharon (friend of Bartosh family) | C.D. Thompson (family) | |
| Jeff Mix (Marilyn & family) | Kaylee Walker (Karen & Kenny) | |
| Jerry Roelens (Barb Hanson & family) | Wm. “Bill” Mockmore (Judie, Bill and family) | |
| Kathy Overholster (Dave Popp's niece & family) | Diane Butcher (family) | |
| Brenda O. (family) | Mike Rushing (Karen & Kenny) | |
| Kenny Hitchcock (Karen & family) | Connie (Karen & family) | |
| Sharon (friend of Bartosh's family) | Blake Field | |
| Sophi, Melaine & family (Diane & Dorothy) | Dorothy Coulson (Diane & family) | |
| Mona Mlekush (Alice & family) | Cara (friend of Diane B.) | |
| Mike (Kathi, Jeff & family) | Jessica Borland (Swanson's) | |
| Bob Bloomer (Annie & family) | Michelle (Don & Kathy W.) | Alice Lyons (family) |
| | Wanda (Kathy & Don's friend) | Sarah T |
| | Julie (cancer) | |
| | Beverly Ducey (Jim & family) | |
| Scott (Kathy & Don) | Vickie (Jesse & Melba) | Kent |
| | Christensen (Kathy, Don and family) | |
| Jo (Kathy & Don) | Gabriel (friend of Weston's) | |
| | Hector Mata (Jeanie, Juliana, Joy) | |
| Sgt. William Lind (family) | Bob Kindred (Mike & family) | |





February Scripture Writing Plan

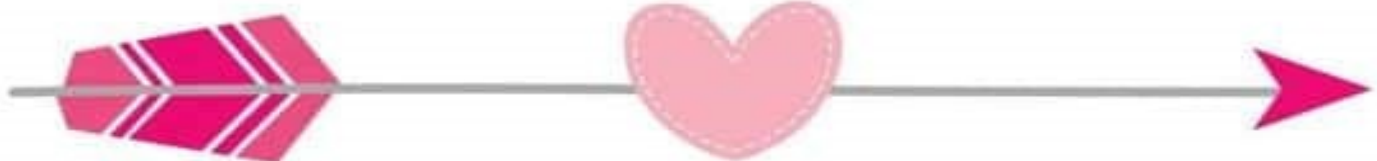
Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to copy out. Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice as you simply copy these texts out of your Bible.

Day 1- Mark 12:28-31
 Day 2- Luke 6:27-36
 Day 3- Romans 12: 9-16
 Day 4- Romans 13: 8-10
 Day 5- I Corinthians 13: 1-7
 Day 6- I Corinthians 13: 8-13
 Day 7- Ephesians 4:1-6

Day 8- I Peter 4: 7-11
 Day 9- I John 4: 7-12
 Day 10- I John 4: 13-16
 Day 11- I John 4: 17-21
 Day 12- John 15:9-13
 Day 13- John 3: 16-21
 Day 14- Deuteronomy 10: 12-19

Day 15- Deuteronomy 11: 13-15
 Day 16- Deuteronomy 11: 18-23
 Day 17- Matthew 22: 37-40
 Day 18- Matthew 5: 43-45
 Day 19- John 13: 34-35
 Day 20- John 14: 15-21
 Day 21- Romans 5: 1-8

Day 22- Romans 8: 28-30
 Day 23- Micah 6: 8
 Day 24- I John 2: 15-17
 Day 25- I John 3: 1-3
 Day 26- Hebrews 10: 24-25
 Day 27- Deuteronomy 6: 4-9
 Day 28- Luke 10: 25-28
 Day 29- Choose your own



Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.
 Psalm 119:18

15th Avenue Christian Church



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 8:30am Elder Mtg 9:30am Worship Service	6 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	7 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	8 6:30pm Choir Practice	9 10am Bible Study	10	11
12 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Board Mtg	13 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	14 Valentine's Day 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	15 6:30pm Choir Practice	16 10am Bible Study	17	18
19 Week of Compassion Special Offering 9:30am Worship Service	20 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	21 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	22 6:30pm Choir Practice	23 10am Bible Study	24	25
26 Week of Compassion Special Offering 9:30am Worship Service	27 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	28 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice				

Serving Elders
5 Lisa Hatlett
12 Kathi Barnes
19 Mark Carlson
26 Steve Swanson

Serving Deacons
HD Rose Deibert, Grace Carlson, Barb Hansen and Jackie Flemming
Preparing Deacons
Jackie Flemming

Flowers
5 Marty Larson
12 Dave Glanz
19
26

Birthdays
1 Don Wentler
13 Nancy Harris
22 Curt Danner
25 Dorothy Coulson