



THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter

..... *A message from Pastor Mike*

We are now in the season of the church year that is called Lent. Some may be unfamiliar with this season, or have forgotten the significance of it. They may ask the question, what is it and why does it matter? The word Lent comes from an old word meaning “Spring” or “lengthen,” as in the days are getting longer at this time of the year. Lent was set at forty days using the example of Jesus fasting for 40 days in the wilderness. If you look at the calendar, though, there are 46 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. That is because the Sundays of Lent aren’t counted in the total! Some think that was to highlight the point that whatever had been given up for Lent could be enjoyed on Sabbath days. Others think the Sunday rule was just to help make the nice round figure of 40 days for the Season of Lent.

Historically, Lent was a time of catechism and preparation, leading up to candidates joining the church on Easter morning. We can follow that model by preparing our hearts, through repentance and renewal, as we look ahead to the most holy day of the Church Calendar. There are many different traditions associated with the Season of Lent. Some people give up something for forty days, maybe chocolate or movies or ice cream. Rather than giving something up, some people *add* a spiritual practice to their Lenten schedule. Perhaps morning and evening prayer receive a renewed emphasis. Maybe the adopted practice is to linger prayerfully over a short reading of Scripture. Another person may decide to attend a retreat. There are many options.

Our Ash Wednesday service centered on the message found in the Old Testament book of Joel. A terrible plague of locusts had ravaged the land of Israel. People were starving and full of anxiety about the future. The prophet’s recommendation for the people was to return to the Lord. They had been so busy with making a living and with all the normal cares of life that Joel felt it was necessary to challenge them about neglecting their spiritual lives. He knew what he was talking about. In just 73 verses (3 chapters) Joel quoted or referenced at least 20 other prophets. He painted an accurate picture of a very big problem. He wrote, “assemble the congregation for mourning and repentance.” And then, right after his call to return to the Lord, he moved right into the *promise of hope* that God gives to the people of every time and place! Lent may have the reputation of being a season of mourning and sadness, but it points us and prepares us for the greatest hope that we have as Christians, the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter morning!

“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart... return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love” – Joel 2:12-13 –

Music Notes

Sheila Doak, Music Director

The Choir has been singing so beautifully lately, even with such small numbers. It would be great to have a few more join us, but with the imminent departure of Jeff and Kathi Barnes, I'm afraid we are heading more quickly than I hoped to a special music/soloist model. Please let me know if there is any special music you would like to provide or if there is someone you recommend that you'd like to hear.

It is time to start thinking about Music Camp. I have asked Judie to ask the Board for their input. Finding volunteers can be a struggle, especially if the calendar is not favorable to the people we have available to work. Last year, we depended on the Nelsons and the Barnes to help get us through some of the kitchen work. I'm wondering if this summer we could join with Grace Presbyterian Church to present our usual Music Camp, with their help and the addition of their kids joining ours. I'll start asking and see where it leads!

In His Service,
Sheila Doak, Music Director



Gratitude Challenge 2023

Are you taking part in the gratitude challenge for Lent? Each day write down one thing you are grateful for and put \$1 in an envelope. On March 26th (or Palm Sunday or Easter) turn your money into the collection plate marked *Gratitude Challenge* or *Outreach Drive*. If you'd rather not mess with cash, you can also put a check in the plate. Please make it to Fifteenth Avenue CC and designate it as *Outreach*. These funds will go towards our church's annual outreach giving to several area groups as well as our Disciples' Region. I'm up to day 5 - How about you?



Dear Church Family,

I need to thank all of you for the thoughts, prayers and beautiful cards. I have not been very good about getting thank you's to you. My life has been very filled with sadness the last year or so. Your cards and prayers bring light to my life. I love you all.

- Mona Mlekush



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Sunday, March 12th at 2:00

am

Don't forget to spring forward



Welcome Spring Potluck!!!

On Sunday, March 26th Membership Nurture will be hosting an all church potluck right after church. Table service (plates, utensils, cups,) and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish (or 2) to share. We look forward to celebrating Spring together!



NEW DIRECTORY!!

The new directory is done and ready for pick-up! They are on the table in the Narthex. If you would like the directory mailed to you, please contact the office Monday – Friday 9am to Noon.

RUMMAGE SALE!!

The rummage sale will be August 18th and 19th. (Tentatively) Set-up will begin August 13th. If you have any questions please contact Marcia Swanson



February Attendance

February 5	33
February 12	38
February 19	30
February 26	42

Lenten Season Opportunities

Palm Sunday 9:30 am April 2

Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm April 6

Good Friday—Prayer Garden

April 7 8:00am to Noon

Easter Celebration with Music 9:30 am April 9

Birthdays

- 01 Barb Hansen, Vera Hinrichsen
- 03 Clara Delle Thompson
- 04 Allyson Leatherman
- 06 Jerry Sheese
- 07 Sandy Schlorf
- 21 Nancy Mott

Sunday April 10 and 17, 2022
 A special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund
 supporting general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ

Please fill out and return this order form with payment to the church office. Payment must be made when order is placed.

Deadline to order: Noon on Friday, March 31st

Lilies are \$11.00 each.

TOTAL PLANTS ORDERED _____
AMOUNT ENCLOSED (REQUIRED) \$ _____
Checks should be made payable to 15th Avenue Christian Church

Name _____

Daytime Phone _____

In the space below, **please print exactly** how you would like your acknowledgement to read in the bulletin on Sunday April 9, 2023.

(Use the back for additional acknowledgements.)

Questions: Call Church office @ 786-6925 from 9 am to 12 pm Mon-Fri.

Office use only
Envelope # _____ qty of lily _____ amt paid _____

Elders Prayer Update Bell Edition

Elders Prayer Update Bell Edition

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again
to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” 1 Peter 1:3

Elders have been praying for these this past month.

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.

Charlie Jagusah surgery (Sheila's son)	Carolyn Swanson- cancer (Judie's cousin in Ames IA)	
Nancy Harris (Jerry & family)	Don Harris – surgery – (Jerry Harris's brother in NC.)	
Don Young – foot infection (family)	C.D. Thompson is in hospice. (family)	
Jody, lost her Dad (family)	Damon (Dad)	Matthew Popp (Popp family)
Steve had surgery(Sue & family)	Brett Smith (Kelly”Goold” & family)	
Sharon -long battle with cancer now deceased. (friend of Bartosh 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)		
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)		





2023

15th Avenue Christian Church

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

5 Girl Scout Day	6 6:30pm 15th Ave Elder Mtg Bell Practice	7 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	8 International Women's Day 6:30pm Choir Practice	9 10am Bible Study	10 10am Bible Study	11 10am Bible Study	12 9:30am Worship Service	13 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	14 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	15 6:30pm Choir Practice	16 10am Bible Study	17 10am Bible Study	18 10am Bible Study	19 9:30am Worship Service 10:30 Cabinet Mtg	20 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	21 International Day of Forests 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	22 World Water Day 6:30pm Choir Practice	23 World Meteor- ological Day 10am Bible Study	24 World Day of Prayer	25 World Meteor- ological Day	26 9:30am Worship Service Potluck?	27 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	28 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	29 6:30pm Choir Practice	30 10am Bible Study	31 10am Bible Study
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Serving Elders	
5	Sally Bartosh
12	Diane Block
19	Judie Holmer
26	Dave Popp
	Visiting Elders
	Helen Popp and Mable Carlson

Serving Deacons	
	HD Grace Carlson, Sally Bar- tosh, Rose Deibert and Karen Hitchcock
Preparing Deacon	
	Helen Popp

Flowers	
5	Alice Lyons
12	Bill and Judie Holmer
19	Sandy Schlorf
26	Sandy & Don Wentler



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31-Day Scripture Writing Challenge

MARCH

God speaks to us through His Word, so take some time each day this month to write down the following Scripture. If you have time, you might want to also write a prayer that the Scripture leads you to pray, or your reflections as you write.

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 1 | Isaiah 43:25-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 17 | Luke 23:44-47 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 2 | Matt. 20:17-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 18 | Matt. 26:28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 3 | Acts 3:19 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 19 | Psalms 22:14-16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 4 | Mark 8:31 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 20 | Galatians 3:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 5 | Isaiah 1:18 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 21 | Col. 1:13-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 6 | John 12:23-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 22 | 1 Peter 2:24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 7 | Ephesians 1:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 23 | Mark 14:46-47 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 8 | Matt. 27:33-37 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 24 | Matt. 27:65-66 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 9 | Hebrews 10:17 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 25 | Isaiah 53:9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 10 | Mark 15:29-32 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 26 | Mark 15:5-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 11 | Daniel 9:9 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 27 | Psalms 16:10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 12 | Luke 23:27-31 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 28 | Mark 16:5-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 13 | Micah 7:18-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 29 | Romans 6:8-9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 14 | John 19:5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 30 | 1 Cor. 15:3-8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 15 | Isaiah 53:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 31 | 2 Cor. 5:17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 16 | John 12:37-38 | | |

Come back next month for a new Scripture writing challenge!