



THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter



A Message from Pastor Mike—

Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring Paul's letter to the Philippians, his most optimistic and joyful New Testament letter. He wrote to the church at the ancient city of Philippi, letting them know that all was well with him and that all would be well (in the long run) for them: *"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."* (1:6) One of the amazing things about this epistle is that it was written from jail! Paul was imprisoned, and yet he struck a positive and hopeful chord. He made the point that his suffering had only strengthened his resolve to spread the good news of the gospel and to live for Christ.

Just as we spent a few weeks in Romans last month, having a bit longer to examine a single book of the Bible will allow us to see the context of a group of early Christians. The more we do that, the more we find that our modern times present us with similar challenges. It must have been difficult to teach the truths of the Christian faith before the invention of the printing press. Philippians contains what has been called a "Christ Poem," or "Christ hymn." Just as the Jewish people had a hymn book in the Book of Psalms, the early church in the first century had music and hymns as part of their worship services. Chapter 2 shows that this was one way of succinctly passing on the good news that a new kingdom had been inaugurated by Christ:

"who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians speaks to a number of key ideas and themes. Humility and contentment, peace and joy, unity and perseverance. Paul asked what it means that Christ took on the form of a human being and gave up his preexisting Divinity to come to earth and dwell among us. The apostle shows that what Jesus' did is so much more than a historical event. Jesus' life matters for us because it changed everything... in the first century, today, and forever! Paul tells us how we can participate in this greatest event ever; he tells us what we can do today: *"Hold fast to what we have attained,"* and what we can do with the rest of our lives: *"Press on toward the goal."*

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4:8



I dropped the ball on the CROP Hunger Walk this year, and I apologize to all who have faithfully supported it in past years. We do not have a team walking, but we still have the opportunity to give. Donations will be accepted until October 15th; at which time they will be sent to CWS (Church World Service.) Please make checks out to CWS/CROP (not the church.)

Examples of what your donations can provide:

\$17 - chickens for a family

\$30 - provide a water filter for a home, to equip a household with a daily supply of fresh, clean water for drinking, washing, and cooking.

\$75 - Groceries: Provide a week's worth of groceries for a refugee settling into their new life in the US.

There are numerous other ways your donations are used. Every donation counts! Please consider supporting this activity that we, as a church, have supported for years.

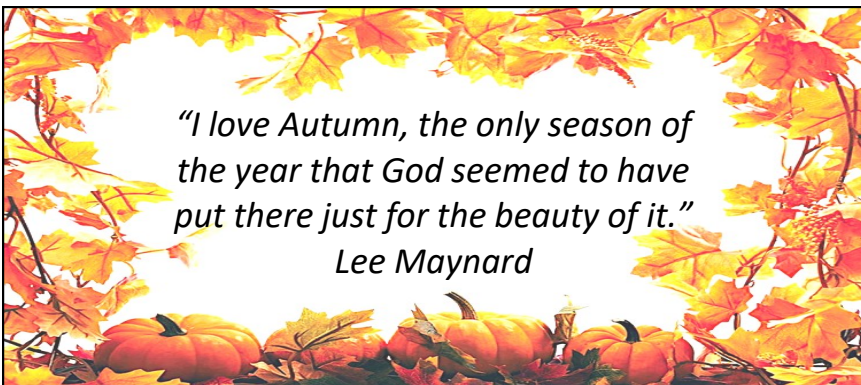
Thank you,

Lisa Hatlett

Outreach Chair

Fall Potluck!

On Sunday, October 15th Membership Nurture is hosting an after-church potluck. Bring a dish to share. Beverages and table service will be provided. Come hungry! There's always plenty of food! And consider this a warm-up because we will have our traditional Thanksgiving potluck on November 19th. (More information on that to come!)





Nominating Committee

At the September Board meeting the 2024 Nominating Committee was approved. Members are Mable Carlson, Judie Holmer, Lynne Swanson, and Lisa Hatlett. These ladies are charged with finding members to serve as officers and members of the church Board. We will be looking for members willing to serve as Vice Chair, Elders, and Deacons (both serving and preparing,) and possibly more. Please consider your answer carefully if asked. If there is a position you are interested in, please contact one of these members on Sunday morning.

THANK YOU to the members of 15th Ave. Christian Church for partnering with Broadway Outreach Center for a once a month community clothing/food ministry to be stationed in your beautiful facility. We have prayed for a place to hold this ministry as we know you have prayed for a ministry to help you be vocal in your faith of serving others. God has answered all our prayers and we hope that we will see you every fourth Saturday to share your beliefs with those who use the ministry.



Let us tell you a little about the clothing ministry and how it works. People donate clothing (start cleaning out those closets!) volunteers sort it, take what is proper and displays it for anyone to take on the 4th Saturday of the month. We have every size male, female, and child. Approx. 15 racks and 5 tables are used each giveaway and then sorted again before storing. Clothing not acceptable or not chosen that day is sent to Goodwill or to another part of the ministry – recycling. Material is developed from the clothing and made into cage comforters or incubator pads or cat toys for animal shelters, adult cover-ups for home care facilities and nursing homes, T-shirts are made into long scarves that wrap around the neck and have pockets for homeless shelters, and infant and toddler bibs for daycare centers.

Our food ministry provides take out meals for those shopping for clothes, for people to come in and pick up, and to be delivered to those who order ahead of time. This is the only ministry in the city that delivers a weekend meals to shut-ins, high-rises, and families.

In 2022, we served over 1400 people in the clothing ministry and 840 homes in the food ministry not counting those who picked up their meals. Just in the recycling program over 5000 items were sent out to other organizations. There is a place for every volunteer and we look forward to seeing you take part in the program.

- Cali Smith, Director



Anniversaries	
11	Jeff & Kathi BARNES
11	Amy & Marc DEMARLIE
18	Carole & John COYKENDALL
Birthdays	
3	Melissa POPP
4	Jackie FLEMMING
5	Kathi BARNES
5	Sally BARTOSH
20	Dorothy TOOLEY
20	Don WESTON
23	Kenny HITCHCOCK
24	Rod DANNER



ALL SAINTS DAY

This year we will observe All Saints Day on November 5th. This is the time when we recognize all those who were called to God this year. If you wish your loved one to be recognized on All Saints Sunday, please submit the name of your loved one using any one of the following methods:

- Contact the office by phone at (309)786-6925 (leave a message if calling before 9am or after 12pm)
- Email secretary@15thavechristianchurch.org
- Mail to 15th Ave Christian Church, 3600 15th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

Please let us know no later than November 1st so your loved one will be honored during the All Saints Day Service.

Jackie Flemming , Worship Chair

Music Notes Sheila Doak, Music Director

I am currently looking for special music for Oct. 22 and beyond. If you have anything or anyone special you'd like to hear from now until the New Year, including Christmas, please send your suggestions my way!

Sheiladoak6@gmail.com or 309-721-8868

Yours in Christ,
Sheila Doak



September Attendance

September 3	41
September 10	40
September 17	44
September 24	30

PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

Income	\$4260.00
Expenses	\$4686.92
Net Income	(\$426.92)



Elders Prayer Update Bell Edition

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Elders have been praying for these individuals this past month.

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

Consider a phone call, a card or visit to let them know they
are loved and missed and not forgotten.

Ayden (family) Pamela Hoeper died (Donna Poston, Marcia Swanson & family)
Jeff Leach died (West Virginia)

Robert Popp was in the hospital, home now doing well. (Dave, Helen, Melisa & family)

Tracey has cancer (family) Rachael (Josie's mom & family)

Bert Mayne Roy, surgery (Jan & family)

Tim M. heart problems (Jan, Roy and family) Mona Mlekush (Alice & family)

Melba Andereck (Jesse & family)

Kevin Schwinn (family) Jerry Harris (Nancy & family)

Juliana & Hector (praying for family) Chaplaincy at John Deere (Jeanie Kirgan)

Karen Kindred is doing well (Mike & family)

David O'Melia (Jeanne & family) Shelly Rockwell (friend of Poops')

Jerry Roelens (Barb Hanson & family) Wm. “Bill” Mockmore (Judie, Bill and family)

Gabriel , Sarah T, Scott, Michelle, Wanda, Joy (Kathy & Don)

Gavin ,Mike Rushing, Kaylee Walker, Connie (Karen & family)

Don Young (Shari & family) Dennis Popp (Kathy, Matt, David & Helen)

Chad Secor (Dave & Helen's nephew) Kathy Overholzer (Dave & Helen's niece)

Julie (cancer) Brenda O. (family) Dawn F. (family)

Rosalie Molly Sophi, Melaine, Cole (Diane)

Cara (friend of Diane B.) Jessica Borland (Swanson's)

Bob Bloomer (Annie & family)

Beverly Ducey (Jim & family)


Vickie (Jesse & Melba)

Kent Christensen (Kathy, Don and family)



October 2023

15th Avenue Christian

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Serving Elders
1 9:30am Worship Reconciliation Special Offering	2 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Choir Practice	3 6pm RiverBend Bronze	4	5 10am Bible Study	6	7	1 Diane Block 8 Lisa Hatlett 15 Sally Bartosh 22 Mark Carlson 29 Helen Popp Visiting Elders Dave Popp & Alice Lyons
8 9:30am Worship 1:00pm CROP Walk	9 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Choir Practice	10 6pm RiverBend Bronze	11	12 10am Bible Study	13	14	Serving Deacons HD Jackie Flemming, Grace Carlson, Ron Standley and Gary Troyer Preparing Deacon Lynne Swanson
15 9:30am Worship 10:30am Potluck	16 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Choir Practice	17 6pm RiverBend Bronze	18	19 10am Bible Study	20	21	Fellowship Coffee 1 Bob and Annie Bloomer 8 15 22 29
22 9:30am Worship	23 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Choir Practice	24 6pm RiverBend Bronze	25	26 10am Bible Study	27	28	Flowers 1 Lynne Swanson 8 Lisa Hatlett 8 Dave Glanz 15 Annie Bloomer 22 Karen & Kenny Hitchcock 29 Mable Carlson
29 9:30am Worship	30 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Choir Practice	31 Halloween 					



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**31-Day Scripture
Writing Challenge**

October

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"/> Oct. 1 | Luke 6:35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 17 | Revelation 1:8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 2 | 2 John 1:6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 18 | Psalms 42:11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 3 | Proverbs 17:17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 19 | 2 Peter 1:16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 4 | Judges 5:31 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 20 | Psalms 112:1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 5 | Zechariah 8:16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 21 | Deuteronomy 28:9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 6 | 2 Thess. 1:11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 22 | 1 Kings 8:61 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 7 | Hosea 6:6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 23 | 2 Peter 1:20-21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 8 | Romans 14:17-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 24 | John 17:17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 9 | Luke 12:33-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 25 | Romans 10:8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 10 | 1 Peter 4:10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 26 | Judges 6:12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 11 | Zechariah 7:9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 27 | Isaiah 41:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 12 | Daniel 7:13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 28 | Matthew 10:28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 13 | Isaiah 47:4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 29 | Romans 8:15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 14 | 2 Samuel 22:29 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 30 | 1 Peter 3:14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 15 | Psalms 8:3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 31 | Psalms 23:4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 16 | Haggai 2:6-7 | | |

Come back next month for a new Scripture writing challenge!