



THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter



A Message from Pastor Mike—

There are many, many places in the Bible which talk about someone waiting. Our church season of Advent is here once again and it is all about waiting. Waiting can be tough for us modern folk! It really helps to know that God waits with us. It's like we are in a dentist's or a doctor's office, and God is there to keep us company as we wait. We gradually learn that we need patience in order to see what God has in store for us next.

I saw a Tyndale article which provided these five reasons that waiting can be beneficial for us...

Waiting helps us slow down.

Waiting helps us notice new things.

Waiting helps us remember what we really want / need.

Waiting gives us time to prepare.

Waiting gives us the choice to trust.

This is a very good list! Here we see that waiting can help us with our faith, hope, and love. Waiting helps us learn, from personal experience, that God's promises are true. Waiting helps us learn patient trust. Waiting helps us develop humility, endurance, and Christian hope.

In the Old testament, Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years before the child promised by God arrived in their lives. Joseph waited for years and years to understand why he had been sold into slavery in Egypt. Moses had to wait 40 years before he was called back to Egypt. The Israelites milled around in the desert for 40 more years before they were given the green light to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Psalm 27:14 says, *"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."* David waited for years after Samuel announced that he would one day be named king. From the age of 15 or 16, David waited. Psalm 40:1 says, *"I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry."* Enduring patiently, he was eventually crowned king when he was 30 years old.

In the New Testament, we find more examples of patient waiting. Jesus waited until he was age thirty before he began his public ministry. After Paul's conversion on the Road to Damascus, he waited three years to begin his ministry to the Gentiles. There are many other examples, throughout Scripture, that show us the importance of patience during times of waiting.

Romans 12:12 says, *"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."* Those are wise words for our busy age.

As we wait for the weeks of Advent to bring us to Christmas morning, may we join with the prophet Micah, who wrote, *"But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me."* Have a blessed Christmas!

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint." - Isaiah 40:31 -

Christmas Eve Worship

15th Avenue Christian Church

Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:00pm



CHRISTMAS OFFERING **DECEMBER 10 & 17, 2023**

Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On December 10th we will hold a Congregational Meeting directly after worship service to vote on the following:

1. The budget for 2024
2. The new slate of officers



Angel Tree

This year we are participating the Angel Tree program. Please select a child's tag from the small Christmas tree or the ribbon around the doorway in the Narthex. The tag will have the child's age and a few gift suggestions. You do not need to buy every item on the tag. Let your own budget be your guide. We can even do the shopping for you! Just put your donation in the offering plate. Please bring your gift to church on **Sunday, December 10th**. You can also drop of your gift to the office Mon-Fri 9am to Noon. The deadline for all gifts is December 15th. Thank you!



Music Notes

Sheila Doak, Music Director

As I come to the end of the first Fall with special music every week, I have to say it has gone well. With a combination of regular contributors and others who are occasional or one-time only, I have been able to fill all the spots. I'm always looking for more, though, so keep sending your ideas of music or musicians you would like to hear! I'm looking forward to a good program of music this Advent and Christmas! I hope you are able to join us and invite your friends!

Sheila Doak, Music Director

Jesus is the reason for the season

~ Thankful, Grateful, Blessed ~

This (see above) is what I was feeling this morning as I looked over the contribution total for our Thanksgiving Food Pantry collection. Thanks to our generous members, we raised \$1570 during the month of November for the Youth Hope Food Pantry. I am so appreciative of all who open their hearts (and wallets) and give so generously when I ask. Thank you so much. Merry Christmas!

Lisa Hatlett, Outreach Chair

From the Personnel Chair

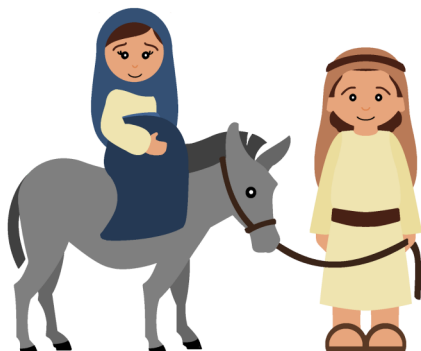
Each year we show our staff our **gratitude** during the season of giving. We are collecting your donations for our staff Christmas Bonuses. Please indicate Staff Bonus on your check or cash donation.

Our deadline for donations is December 17th 2023

Thank you,
David Popp

November Attendance

November 5	34
November 12	39
November 19	44
November 26	25



COLOR CHANGE

On December 24th the color changes to white and stays to Epiphany. Symbolizing the purity of the Christ Child, holiness, glory and joy.

Profit & Loss Report

Income	\$3090.00
Expenses	\$9912.74
Net Income	(\$6822.74)

Anniversaries

31 Don & Sandy
Wentler

Birthdays

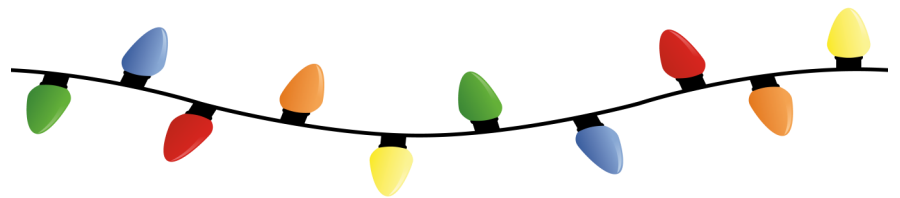
2 Kenneth Enstrom
5 Gene Bartosh
7 Don Young
8 James Ducey
21 Bert Mayne
30 Edward Grindley

*If cold December gave
you birth, the month of
snow and ice and mirth,
place on your hand a tur-
quoise blue, success will
bless whatever you do.*



Thank You!

Just a quick thank you to everyone who helped out at either the October or Thanksgiving potlucks. What an enjoyable time for all! Your help is greatly appreciated. Membership Nurture



A Christmas Letter From Jesus

When you look for me at Christmas,
You won't need a special star,
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right here where you are.
You may not be aware of me amid the
celebrations
You'll have to look beyond the stores,
and all the decorations
But if you take a moment from your list of
things to do
To close your eyes and say a prayer,
I'm waiting here for you.
You're the one I want to be with
You're the reason that I came!
And you'll find me in the stillness
When I'm whispering your name.
by Anonymous

Sharing Some Holiday Cheer

Let's shake up our traditional Coffee Time on Sunday, December 17th. Membership Nurture is hosting a Holiday Snack Party. Bring your favorite holiday treat to share (potluck style) after church. We will provide plates & napkins, as well as coffee and hot cocoa makings. Your treat can be sweet or savory - whichever you like. Our last 2 potlucks have been so successful - we're hoping we have a lot of members stop down to mingle and share in the treats.



Jesse and Melba have moved to Friendship Manor. The new address is: 1209 21st Ave. Apt. B202, Rock Island IL New phone # is 786-1132.

Ring...and Bright!

RiverBend Bronze Handbell Ensemble
Christmas Concerts

Friday, December 1, 7:00pm
Saturday, December 2, 2:00pm
Saint John's United Methodist Church
109 E 14th Street, Davenport, Iowa

December 9, 3:00pm
Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
1340 3rd Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

 RiverBend Bronze
*Admission is free.
Free will offering received.*

**Poinsettia Order Form**

You can help beautify the sanctuary this holiday

Please fill out and return this order form and payment in full to the church office by the end of service December 10th, 2023. Orders without pay-

ment or made after December 10th cannot be accepted.

6" poinsettias are \$11.00 and are available in red only.

TOTAL PLANTS ORDERED _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (REQUIRED) \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to 15th Avenue Christian Church.

Name _____

Daytime Phone _____

Please **print** exactly how you would like your acknowledgement to read in the bulletins for each plant ordered. (Please use the back for additional acknowledgements if you are ordering more than 1.) Questions? Call (309)786-6925 from 9 am to 12 pm- Mon-Fri or Jackie Flemming (309)235-0914.

Office use only

Envelope # _____ qty _____ amt paid _____

Elders Prayer

"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

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.

Wayne Carter (Susan, Sabrinna, Zac, Nathaniel and family)

David / Cancer (friend of Westons) Joetta Engles (friend of Popp's)

Edward Gridley (Jacob) Mona Mlekush (family & Alice)

Carla Rosalie Molly Mary

Nancy G, cancer (family) Pat, cancer (family) Angie Young (Don & family)

Kim Poleing (Karen) Kenny (Karen)

Wendy (friends & neighbors) Tracey has cancer (family)

Melba Andereck (Jesse & family)

Juliana & Hector (praying for family)

Chaplaincy at John Deere (Jeanie Kirgan)

Jerry Roelens (Barb Hanson & family)

Wm. "Bill" Mockmore (Judie, Bill and family)

Gavin ,Mike Rushing, Connie (Karen & family)

Kaylee Walker (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) Cara (friend of Diane B.)

Jessica Borland (Swanson's)

Bob Bloomer (Annie & family)

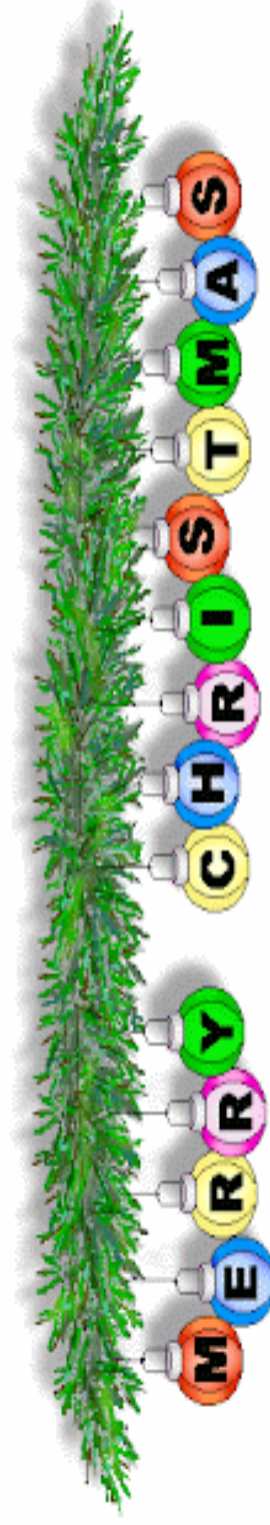
Beverly Ducey (Jim & family)

Vickie (Jesse & Melba)

Kent Christensen (Kathy, Don and family)



15th Avenue Christian Church



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	
3 HOPE SUNDAY 8:30am Elders Meeting 9:30am Worship	4 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Choir	5 6pm RiverBend		7	8	9
10 PEACE SUNDAY 9:30am Worship CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	11 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Choir Practice	12 6pm RiverBend Bronze	13	14	15	16
17 JOY SUNDAY 9:30am Worship Christmas Offering	18 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Choir Practice	19 6pm RiverBend	20	21	22	23
24 LOVE SUNDAY CHRISTMAS EVE 9:30am Worship Service 10:00pm Christmas Eve	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 Office Closed 6pm RiverBend Bronze	27	28	29	30
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 9:30am Worship Service						

Serving Elders
3 Lisa Hatlett
10 Sally Bartosh
17 Judie Holmer
24 Annie Bloomer
31 Helen Popp
Visiting Elder
Judie Holmer and Mark Carlson

Serving Deacons
HD Steve Sheese, Lynne Sheese, Grace Carlson, Jackie Flemming
Preparing Deacon
Jackie Flemming & Lynne Swanson

Fellowship Time
3 Gene and Sally Bartosh
10
17 Holiday Snack Party
24
31

Flowers
3 Dave Glanz
10 Mable Carlson
17 Lisa Hatlett
24 Marty Larson
31 Marty Larson

THE BELL

A Christmas Story December



- Day 1: Micah 5:2
- Day 2: Isaiah 7:14
- Day 3: Psalm 72:9-11
- Day 4: Jeremiah 31:15
- Day 5: Numbers 24:17
- Day 6: Isaiah 11:1-2
- Day 7: Luke 1:26-28
- Day 8: Luke 1:29-31
- Day 9: Luke 1:32-33
- Day 10: Luke 1:34-35
- Day 11: Luke 1:37-38
- Day 12: Luke 1:46-48
- Day 13: Luke 1:49-50
- Day 14: Luke 1:51-52
- Day 15: Luke 1:53-55
- Day 16: Luke 1:67-69
- Day 17: Luke 2:7
- Day 18: Luke 2:8-9
- Day 19: Luke 2:10-11
- Day 20: Luke 2:13-14
- Day 21: Luke 2:29-32
- Day 22: Luke 2:33-35
- Day 23: Matthew 2:1-2
- Day 24: Matthew 2:10-11
- Day 25: Matthew 2:16-18
- Day 26: John 1:1
- Day 27: John 1:4-5
- Day 28: John 1:14
- Day 29: John 1:15-16
- Day 30: 1 John 5:1
- Day 31: Romans 8:2-3