



# THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter

## ..... A message from Pastor Mike

The season of Lent remind us that there are practical aspects to living our lives of faith. Why do we believe the things we believe and why do we do the things we do? It's like an annual life review which helps us stay focused on what is truly important. We will take a look at the Ten Commandments this Sunday, and they too help us stay focused as we make our way through these weeks leading up to Easter, and all along the path of life. Some of the commandments are about our relationship to God and some are about our relationships with each other. There is a very strong sense of community represented in the writings of the Old Testament, including the Exodus account of Moses' reception of the commandments and the Law. How we treat each other matters. We are all integral parts of larger groups and not just making our solitary way through the trials of life. We are family members, neighbors, citizens, co-workers, and much more. It is necessary pay attention as individuals and as members of various communities.

The late Frederick Buechner, an author and preacher worth exploring, wrote: *"Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness; touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace."* It had been said that all Christians are theologians. We may not feel equipped to explain our faith experiences and our sense of God's presence, but those things do impact us at every level - as individuals and as members of our various communities.

I am serving on our regional Committee on Ministry This role gives me a chance to hear and be in relationship with many candidates for ministry. Some are on the track to be commissioned for service to a specific church, and some are on the ordination track. If they are seminary students, there is a fair amount of discussion about course content and planning, spiritual formation, spiritual disciplines and practices. These candidates are under the care of the region, where conversations about calling and discernment can take place.

Something similar happens here in our local congregation. We are part of a community of faith where we listen to each other and grow together. We celebrate and mourn, we wonder and hope. We engage in worship and we share our lives together. It is a blessing to be able to gather around the table, to listen to each other, and to help one another discern God's leading. It is a blessing and an encouragement to be able to listen to each other and to listen to God together. May you experience God's blessing and peace as we make our way, together, toward Easter Sunday.

*"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10 "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17*



## Music Notes

**Sheila Doak, Music Director**

I'm looking forward to hearing the Bell Choir play on March 17! Finding special music is getting a little more challenging with some of my regulars having health issues or being busy/unavailable. Again, if there is someone you'd like to hear, please let me know! Easter will hear before we know it! Hoping for a great musical celebration that day.



Sheila Doak, Music Director

## Journey of Gratitude

How is your Journey of Gratitude looking? I find that I don't remember to write something down daily but do "catch up" every few days. Some of the things I wrote down this week include hugs from little ones, a student's smile, and the warm sunshine. Little things really can make a difference.

Please remember that this is a fundraiser to help us reach our Outreach giving goals for the year. Every dollar helps. Donations can be turned in on Easter or the first week of April. Please mark that it is either for Outreach or the Journey of Gratitude.

Thank you, Lisa Hatlett & The Outreach Committee



## Cabinet Meeting ~ March 17<sup>th</sup>

All elected officers and Committee chairs are asked to attend. The next Board Meeting is April 21<sup>st</sup>. You are a member of the Board if you are an elected officer or serving as an Elder or Deacon (serving or preparing.)

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00

am

Don't forget to spring forward



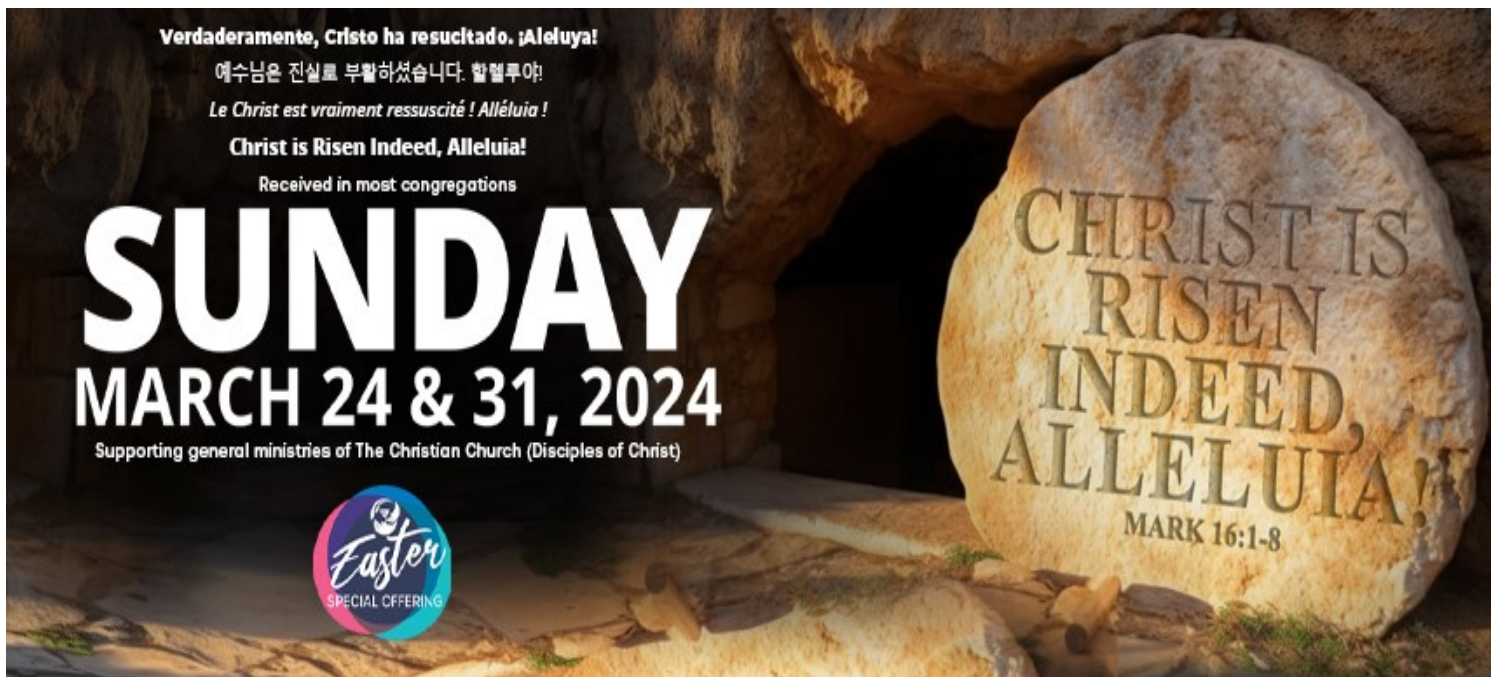
## Birthdays

- 1 Barb Hansen,  
Vera Hinrichsen
- 07 Sandy Schlorf
- 21 Nancy Mott

## Lenten Season Opportunities

Palm Sunday 9:30 am March 24th  
 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm March 28th

**Easter Celebration with Music 9:30 am  
 March 31st**



## February Attendance

February 4	32
February 11	33
February 18	37
February 25	36



## PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

Total Income	\$6141.00
Total Expenses	\$9195.56
Net Income	(\$3054.56)

## 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: Wednesday, March 6th**

**Lilies are \$17.00 each.**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, **please print exactly** how you would like your acknowledgement (for each plant) to read in the bulletin on Sunday March 31.

(Use the back for additional acknowledgements.)

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Questions: Call Jackie Flemming (309) 235-0914 or the office (309) 786-6925 from 9 am to Noon Mon-Fri.

Office use only  
Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ qty of lily \_\_\_\_\_ amt paid \_\_\_\_\_



## Elders Prayer Update Bell Edition

*"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 4:19

*Elders have been keeping these individuals in their thoughts and prayers.*

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

*Send a card, a call on the phone or a visit. Let them know they are not forgotten.*

David Popp is home from rehab after hospital stay (Helen, Bob, Jennie & family)

Aida had surgery (Tyler Fleming 's friend)

Faye Scott was University of Iowa Hospital (Karen's mother, Kenny Hitchcock)

Wayne Carter was in the hospital. (Susan, Sabrinna, Zac, Nathaniel and family)

Mike B. had a stroke ,was in the hospital, and home now. (Sabrinna, Zac & family)

Cathy Wilson, cancer (Lisa & family)

Theresa, hospital Blake (Jeanie)

Emma (Jeanie Wayne L.)

Hunter (family)

Randy (Lynne & Steve Sheese)

Chad Secor (Dave & Helen's nephew)

David, Cancer (friend of Weston's)

Edward Gridley (Jacob)

Mona Mlekush (family & Alice)

Carla Rosalie Molly Mary Nickie (family)

Nancy G, cancer (family)

Pat, cancer (family)

Kim Poleing (Karen)

Kenny (Karen)

Melba Andereck (Jesse & family)

Juliana & Hector (Jeanie & 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)

Dennis Popp (Kathy, Matt, David & Helen)

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)





# 2024 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Christian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 World Day of Prayer	2
3 8:30am Elder Mtg 9:30am Worship	4 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	5 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Prac-	6	7 10am Bible Study	8 International Women's Day	9
10 9:30am Worship	11 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	12 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Prac-	13	14 10am Bible Study	15	16
17 9:30am Worship Food Pantry 10:30am Cabinet Meeting	18 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	19 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	20	21 10am Bible Study	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 9:30am Worship Easter Special Offering	25 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	26 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	27	28 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter Sunday 9:30am Worship Easter Special Offering						

Serving Elders	
3	Sally Bartosh
10	Diane Block
17	Judie Holmer
24	Dave Popp
31	Steve Swanson
	Visiting Elders
	Helen Popp and Mable Carlson

Serving Deacons	
	HD Karen Hitchcock, Barb Hansen, Lynne Sheese, Steve Sheese
Preparing Deacon	
	Grace Carlson

Flowers	
3	Marilyn Mix
10	Mable Carlson
17	Alice Lyons
24	
31	





# March

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## SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

### *Abiding in Him*

Day 1: Exodus 25:8-9

Day 2: Exodus 29:45-46

Day 3: Deut. 33:27

Day 4: I Samuel 1:22

Day 5: I Kings 8:27

Day 6: Psalm 4:8

Day 7: Psalm 16:9

Day 8: Psalm 61:4

Day 9: Psalm 65:4

Day 10: Psalm 84:1-3

Day 11: Psalm 84:10-11

Day 12: Psalm 90:1-2

Day 13: Psalm 101:7

Day 14: Psalm 140:13

Day 15: Proverbs 1:32-33

Day 16: Isaiah 30:19

Day 17: Isaiah 32:16

Day 18: John 1:1, 14

Day 19: John 6:56

Day 20: John 8:31-32

Day 21: John 15:1-4

Day 22: John 15:5-8

Day 23: John 15:9-10

Day 24: I John 2:4-6

Day 25: I John 2:24, 28

Day 26: I John 3:6

Day 27: I John 3:9

Day 28: I John 3:24

Day 29: I John 4:12-13

Day 30: I John 4:16

Day 31: 2 John 1:9

*Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to meditate and reflect on God's Word.  
Write down what you have gleaned from each day's scripture.*