



THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter
15th Avenue Christian Church

A message from Pastor Mike.....

Two of the hardest terms in all of the theological language we see and use as Christians are grace and faith. Are those nouns or verbs? Is faith a noun - something that was handed down to us, something we possess? Or is it an action verb that informs our whole way of life? Is grace a gift that was given by God before the foundation of the world? Is grace the activity of the Holy Spirit within and among us today? We don't usually take time to think about such things! These are great mysteries, but we shouldn't be too quick to shrug them off as beyond our finite minds to work on. There are good reasons to make *active wondering* part of our lives of faith. We are swimming around in God's grace all the days of our lives.

The proper response to that great gift of grace is gratitude. I've heard it said that grace and gratitude come from the same Latin root word. Our gratitude can be shown as we practice spiritual awareness, going about the normal routines of our lives. Now you might say (and I might say on my grumbly mornings) "That's nice". That's fine for when I feel good. That's fine for when the sun is shining and my bills are caught up. How am I supposed to apply my faith and live in active gratitude when the wheels are coming off of my life or in the life of someone in my family? Or you might say: "I remember periods like that when I felt God's grace, but now everything is quiet, dull, even boring. Will there be an end to this season of dryness?"

To read Scripture and then apply it to the real circumstances of our lives isn't always a slam dunk. We are trying to look at the hugeness of God's word, and apply it to the small moments of our daily lives of faith. For sure, we need to get a reminder of God's big picture each week. But, at the same time, we need to know what next step to take this coming Tuesday. We're all in the same boat. We all need to grab onto the biggest truths of all... that God loves us, he's made a way for us to be reconciled to him through Jesus, and that Jesus left us a comforter - the Holy Spirit.

We aren't just slugging it out here on earth and waiting for a better world. As odd as it sounds to say out loud, our electric bills and arthritis are part of the magnificence of life as children of God. It's all smooshed together. Our gratitude for God's grace includes our willingness to press on as we practice our faith. Practice makes perfect. Our life of faith is active. God's grace is active. God's plan of salvation is a historical thing, yes, but it's also a happening- right-now thing, and a reality that we'll experience with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever! The grace that gives us faith doesn't have an expiration date, it's who God is. How great is that? "Grace that is greater than all my sin." That is really good news. It is truly the gift of God. Amen.

My Heart is Full!

Thank you for supporting our Thanksgiving in July collection for Food Pantry. We surpassed our goal and raised over \$500. Hunger is widespread in our community, and I have no doubt that the Youth Hope Food Pantry will feel blessed to receive our donation. Your generosity is appreciated.



Lisa Hatlett

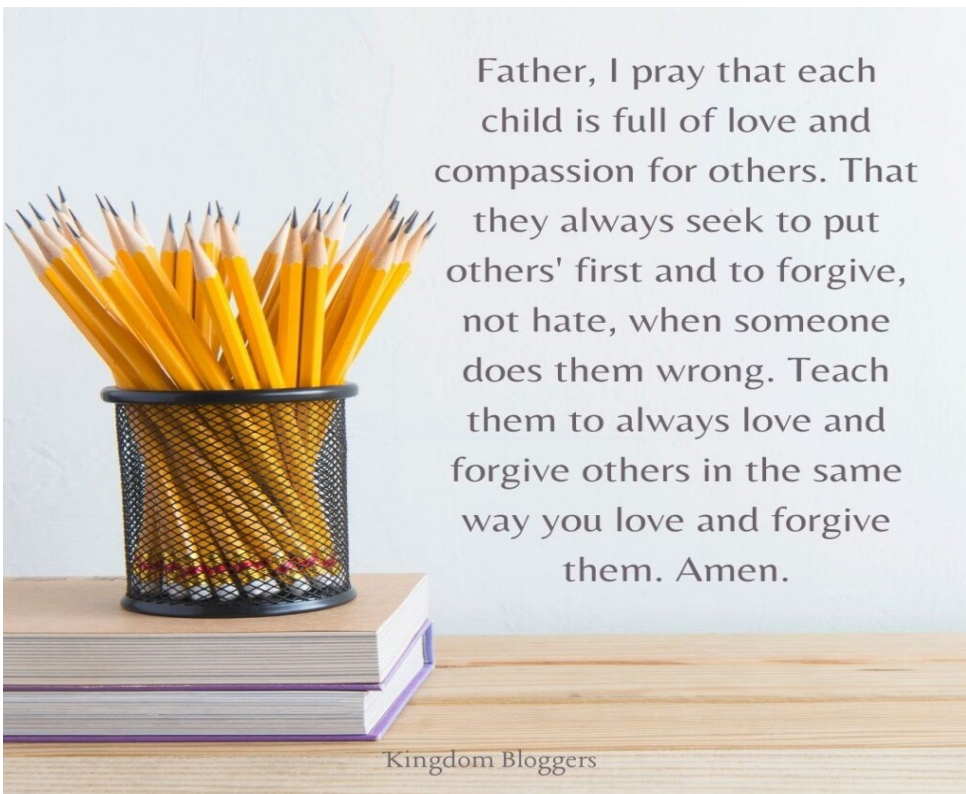
Outreach
Chair

Music Notes

I'm sorry to miss you all on August 4th. I will be returning from my nephew's wedding in Maine. Coming up for special music in August, we can look forward to hearing Miriam Anderson on August 11th, Lillian Dawn on August 18th, and Jesse Andereck on August 25!

It'll be nice to see some familiar faces and hear their music minister to us!

Yours in Christ,
Sheila Doak



Father, I pray that each child is full of love and compassion for others. That they always seek to put others' first and to forgive, not hate, when someone does them wrong. Teach them to always love and forgive others in the same way you love and forgive them. Amen.

Kingdom Bloggers

July Attendance

July 7	36
July 14	42
July 21	30
July 28	28



PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

Income	\$3505.00
Expenses	\$48005.40
Net Income	(\$44500.40)

Anniversaries

- 3 Kathy & Don WESTON
- 11 Dave & Jeanne O'MELIA
- 22 Jerry & Nancy HARRIS

Birthdays

- 11 Hector MATA
- 30 Juliana MATA
- 30 Marilyn MIX

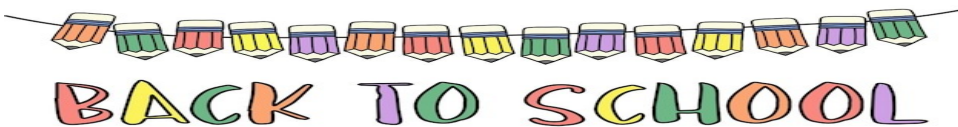


Notes from Your Board Chair ~ Lisa Hatlett

At the July meeting several members volunteered for the 2024 Nominating Committee. The Board voted and approved the committee, so its members can get started as soon as they like.

Committee members are Helen Popp, Kathy Weston, Barb Hansen, and Lynne Sheese (Committee Chair.)

Also at the July meeting, Marty Larson volunteered to organize our participation in the 53rd Annual CROP Walk. The date is Sunday, October 6th. More information will be available soon. Please be ready to show your support for this event, one that we have participated in for many years.



BRUNCH-OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!

On Sunday, July 14th we had 19 people enjoy lunch at China Inn Buffet. For our next event, on Sunday, August 18th, Doric Masonic Lodge is hosting a Pancake Breakfast. We have special permission and invitation to come enjoy their meal (pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, and coffee) for \$5.00 donation each. The Masonic Lodge is located in the Heritage addition south of John Deere Road. 5020 - 47th Avenue, Moline. We can drive there after church, and they will expect us to arrive around 11:00-11:30. Hope YOU will plan to join us!



Sally Bartosh

The Secret

*I met God in the morning when
the day was at its best, His
presence came like a sunrise
like a glory within my breast.*

*All day long the presence lingered.
All day long He stayed
with me: as we sailed in perfect
calmness o'er a very troubled
sea.*

*Other ships were blown and
battered, other ships were sore,
distressed; But the winds that
seem to drive them brought to
us a peace and rest.*

*Then I thought of other mornings,
with a keen remorse of
mind, When I, too, had loosed
the moorings, with His presence
left behind.*

*So I think I know the secret
learned from many a troubled
way; you must seek God in the
morning if you want Him
through the day.*

Ralph S. Cushman

Rummage Sale

Our Annual Rummage Sale will be September 20th and 21st. We need inventory so please check your closets and all of your nooks and crannies for items you don't want or need any more. If you have any questions please contact Marcia Swanson 309-755-6889.

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*

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.

Kathee Secor spot on lungs (Rick, Brenda & family)

Mark Lee Stevens died July 1st (Nancy & family)

Edward Gridley postponed heart valve surgery July 11th (Jacob)

Dave & Jeanne Omelia (Dave has Covid with Pheumonia)

Susan Runyon (friend of Bartosh)

Marilyn Mix cancer treatments (family)

Annie Bloomer (Bob & family)

Bob Bloomer (Annie & family)

Gibson – kidney failure, 20yrs old. (friend of Weston's)

Roy Morley is home. (Jan, Tim and Julie)

Kenny and my mother Faye (Karen Hitchcock)

Ken Enstrom (box 229)

Patty R. (Rick & family)

Henry Diedrich /Silver Cross #255 (family)

Theresa / Blake (Jeanie) / Emma (Jeanie) / Hunter (family)

Chad Secor (Dave & Helen's nephew)

Roland, Cancer (friend of Weston's)

Mona Mlekush (family & Alice)

Carla / Rosalie / Molly/ Mary/ Nickie (family)

Nancy G, cancer (family)

Pat, cancer (family)

Kaylee Walker (Karen & family)

Kim Poleing (Karen)

Melba Andereck (Jesse & family)

Juliana & Hector (Jeanie) Chaplaincy at John Deere (Jeanie Kirgan)

Jerry Roelens (Barb Hanson & family)

Gavin ,Mike Rushing, Connie (Karen & family)

Kathy Overholzer (Dave & Helen's niece)

Julie (cancer)

Brenda O. (family)

Dawn F. (family) Cara (friend of Diane B.)

Jessica Borland (Swanson's)

Vickie (Jesse & Melba)

Beverly Ducey (Jim & family)

Kent Christensen (Kathy, Don and family)

Don Young (family)

A background image of a watermelon with a green rind and red flesh, sliced into several pieces. The word "August" is written in a large, green, cursive font across the center of the watermelon slices.**Bible Study Tools****31-Day Scripture
Writing Challenge**

August

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"/> Aug. 1 | 1 Peter 2:24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 17 | 1 Corinth. 13:12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 2 | Luke 18:42-43 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 18 | James 1:27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 3 | Genesis 4:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 19 | Romans 1:17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 4 | Romans 5:8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 20 | Revelation 3:21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 5 | Ephesians 1:7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 21 | John 8:12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 6 | Mark 11:25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 22 | James 2:17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 7 | Psalms 103:12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 23 | 2 Corinth. 12:9-10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 8 | Romans 10:9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24 | 1 Chron. 16:10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 9 | Proverbs 19:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 25 | Isaiah 6:3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 10 | Lam. 3:31-32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 26 | Habakkuk 3:3-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 11 | Psalms 119:28 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 27 | Zechariah 2:11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 12 | Habakkuk 3:17-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 28 | Revelation 1:7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 13 | Isaiah 33:2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 29 | Psalms 19:1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 14 | 2 Thess. 2:16-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 30 | Job 38:4-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 15 | Psalms 147:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 31 | Genesis 12:2-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 16 | James 1:2-4 | | |

Come back next month for a new Scripture writing challenge!

15th Avenue Christian Church

2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:30AM Elder Mtg 9:30AM Worship	5	6	7	8 10AM Bible Study	9	10
11 9:30AM Worship Food Pantry	12	13	14	15 10AM Bible Study	16	17
18 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Cabinet Meeting 11:00AM Brunch Out	19	20	21	22 10AM Bible Study	23 6-9PM River Bend Bronze Re- Retreat	24 9AM-4PM River Bend Bronze Re- treat
25 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship Time - Gene and Sally Bartosh	26	27	28	29 10AM Bible Study	30 Bell Article Deadline	31

Serving Elders
 4 Kathy Weston
 11 Annie Bloomer
 18 Sally Bartosh
 25 Annie Bloomer

Visiting Elder
 Sally Bartosh and Diane Block

Serving Deacons
 HD Jackie Flemming, Sally Bar-
 tosh, Barb Hanson and Marcia
 Swanson

Preparing Deacon
 Melisa Popp

Flowers
 4 Don & Sandy Wentler
 11 Sandy Schlorf
 18 Marilyn Mix
 25

