



# THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter  
15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Christian Church



## ***A message from Pastor Mike—***

People who are scheduled to perform or sing or play an instrument or speak in public are often said to suffer from a malady that has been referred to as “butterflies.” That is a description we can relate to. It’s in the stomach, I guess you’d say. It’s like a mild dose of anxiety. There are legitimate concerns for doing a good job, mixed together with swirling questions about worst-case outcomes. *“What if I mess this up? What if I lose my place? What if I just go blank?”* We know what a person means when they say they have butterflies. We’ve probably been there before ourself. To take that image one step further, I believe that its possible for all of us to have a collective sense of butterflies when the calendar flips over to a new year! There are many things to be concerned with, and yet we know that we have been down this path before! We know that there is really nothing magical about turning the calendar page over to January. The sun still comes up on January first. The earth continues to rotate and revolve just as before. And we know from personal experience that God is always faithful. We know in our heart that we can depend upon God no matter what circumstances come down the road for us.

I always find it helpful that the poor apostles had a hard time catching on when it came to the things that Jesus was teaching them and demonstrating in his life. That gives me hope that it is OK to be a little slow to learn the lessons of faith. I believe we can feel less stressed about what 2025 may have in store for us if we go into the new year with a sense of curiosity and wonder and renewed purpose. According to the never-failing wisdom of *Wikipedia*, way back in 1975, *Smithsonian Magazine* featured the work of a Norwegian naturalist who had invested 24 years in looking for representations of all 26 letters of the alphabet (and the numbers 0-9,) in the patterns found on butterfly wings! Imagine having that kind of determination, persistence, and single-minded purpose! Now imagine what our New Year would be like if we looked, with diligence and resolve, for small confirmations that God is truly with us and actively at work in our world? What if we tuned our minds and our eyes to see the beauty and the wonder of God-at-work in our lives and in the lives of our family and friends? Whenever we feel that familiar anxiety begin to rise in our stomachs, we can be reminded that God is faithful and has promised us abundant life. That promise of abundance includes joy and peace, in the here as well as in the hereafter. Happy New Year, and may God’s peace descend and remain on you all through 2025!

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”* John 14:27

Financial statements for 2024 are available. There is a box in the Narthex with them in it. Those not picked up by Jan. 26th will be mailed to you. If you find any discrepancies, or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by email at [lhatlett@mchsi.com](mailto:lhatlett@mchsi.com) or text or phone at (309) - 737-2338. Please keep in mind that I am at work from 7 AM - 4 PM, and may need to access the computer at church to find answers to your questions. I will be in touch with you as soon as I have answers.

Thank you,  
 Lisa Hatlett  
 Financial Secretary



## Music Notes

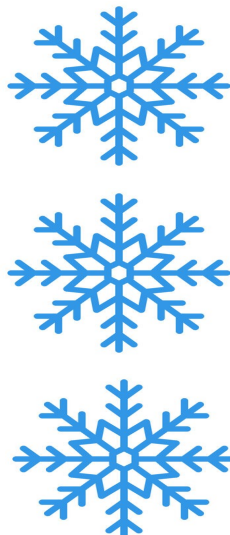
Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! December was filled with beautiful worship services, but none more beautiful than this past Christmas Eve. It was heartwarming to see so many people attend. Looking forward to January, we will have Claire Reger with us on Jan. 5th and 19th, Susan Runyon on Jan. 12, and Lillian Dawn on Jan. 26th.

Yours in Christ,  
 Sheila Doak



## Preparing Deacons 2025

- January—Lisa Hatlett
- February—Jackie Flemming
- March—Grace Carlson
- April—Sandy Wentler
- May—Marty Larson
- June—Helen Popp
- July—Melisa Popp
- August—Kathy Weston
- September—Barb Hansen
- October—Diane Butcher
- November—Lynne Sheese
- December—Lynne Swanson
- January 2026—Lisa Hatlett



## Sanctuary Clean-Up

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations after service on Sunday January 5th.

Assistance by those that are able will be appreciated.

Jackie Flemming,  
 Worship Chair

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our worship this season.

Special thank you to Pastor Mike for his meaningful messages and to Sheila for her talents and coordinating the wonderful musicians for our enjoyment.

Thanks to those that donated poinsettias for the beautification of the sanctuary.

Appreciation for those that volunteered for candle lighting – Steve Swanson, Judie Holmer, Marty Larson, Dave & Helen Popp, Lynne & Steve Sheese and Tim & Tyler Flemming.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to those that helped decorate this year – Marcia Swanson, Lynne Swanson, Judie Holmer, Chris Gordon, Tim Flemming, Aaron Flemming, Tyler Flemming and Steve Swanson.



Jackie Flemming, Worship Chair

### FEBRUARY BELL

Bell articles for the February Bell are due by January 30<sup>th</sup>.



REMEMBER TO SIGN UP ON THE  
2025 Flower calendar - in the Narthex



### Profit & Loss Report

Income	\$8720.00
Expenses	\$9795.92
Net Income	(\$1075.92)

### December Attendance

December 1	33
December 8	39
December 15	40
December 22	40
December 24	31
December 29	32

### Birthdays

- 1 Doug Nelson
- 1 Helen Odean
- 3 Margaret Carroll
- 7 Diane Butcher
- 10 Sheila Doak
- 11 Cali Smith
- 12 Lisa Hatlett
- 13 Ron Standley
- 22 Bob Popp
- 30 Diane Block



## BRUNCH-OUT



On Sunday December 8th we had a very successful gathering at Pizza Ranch. We had 34 people enjoy great food, fellowship with our church members, puzzles and games (Thank You Judie Holmer), and an ornament gift to take home. Next we have a plan for January, even if it is cold and snowy outside. On Sunday, January 26, 2025, following our Church service we will re-gather at China Cafe, 4605 - 16th Street, Moline. This is an old Wendy's building across from Southpark Mall and Olive Garden. We have a reservation beginning 10:45-11:00 that day to enjoy Chinese food for lunch. I hope you will plan to join us.

Sally Bartosh



~ Thankful, Grateful, Blessed ~

You've seen this message from me before and you will most likely see it again. It is one of my favorite mantras and it helps to keep me grounded. I use it in my personal life, my work life, and my home life. It helps me remember all that I have to be grateful for.

After church on Sunday, I looked at the final giving amount for Food Pantry this year and I was honestly humbled. As a congregation, we donated \$4,477.00 to the Christian Friendliness Food Pantry! I can only imagine how many individuals and families we helped this year.

We are a small congregation, but we are capable of doing mighty things. Do you volunteer in the community? I'd love to hear about it, and if you're okay with it, share your story with our members. Let me know. I'd like to know more about what our church members do in the community and think of other ways we can move our Outreach campaign into the community.

Wishing you blessings in the New Year.

Lisa Hatlett  
Outreach Chair



### Board and Cabinet Meetings for 2025

Board Meetings are open to all members of the congregation, although only the officers of the Board, Elders, and all Deacons can vote on items of business. Cabinet Meetings are for Officers of the Board and Committee Chairs. Meetings are held on Sunday mornings after the Worship service has concluded, unless scheduled on another date/time. \* We are still looking for a Vice Chair for 2025. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Hatlett, Chair of the Board (309) 737 – 2338 or [lhatter@mchsi.com](mailto:lhatter@mchsi.com).

**January - No meeting**

**February 16<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting**

**March 16<sup>th</sup> - Cabinet Meeting**

**April 13<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting**

**May 18<sup>th</sup> - Cabinet Meeting**

**June 15<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting**

**July 20<sup>th</sup>—Cabinet Meeting**

**August—No Meeting**

**September 21<sup>st</sup>—Board Meeting**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>—Cabinet Meeting**

**November 9<sup>th</sup>—Board meeting**

**December—Congregational Meeting**



## Elders Prayer Update Bell Edition

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel . Matthew 2:6

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.

Henry Diedrich died 12/16 (family)      Mike F. stage 4 colon cancer (family)

Ayden is having surgery to replace part of his skull (family) friend of Tyler F.

David O'Melia was in the hospital, UnityPoint Rock Island (Jeanie & family)

Brother Blake and sister Brooke (Jeannie K. & family)

Joy Miller i (Jeannie K. & family)      Juliana (Jeannie K.)

Candy broken right arm ( Bill)      Bill being treated for cancer (Candy)

Mike Besette has stage 3 cancer (Sabrinna, Zac, Nathaniel & family)

Dena recovering from heart surgery (cousin to Annie B.)

Forrest (5) has pneumonia & CF (Matt, Stephanie and River)

Joe Joe young boy has heart problems (family)

Boy 4yrs old, MS, had cardiac arrest, is home and regaining strength. (family)

Don Young (Sherry & family)      Barb (Nancy)      Merle (friend of Weston's)

Marilyn Mix having cancer treatments (family)      Nancy G., cancer (family)      Pat, cancer (family)

Daughter Melanie (Diane Block)      Edward Gridley (Jacob)      Gibson (friend of Weston's)

Jackie Adams (Dolores and Dick Frybarger)      Matt (Karen Hitchcock)      Dawn F. (family)

Granddaughter Caitlin (Karen Hitchcock)      Kenny (Karen Hitchcock)

Mona Mlekush (family & Alice)      Bob & Annie Bloomer(family)

Roland, Cancer (friend of Weston's)      Patty R. (Rick & family)

Blake (Jeanie) / Emma (Jeanie) / Hunter (family) Carla / Rosalie / Molly/ Mary/ Nickie (family)

Kaylee Walker (Karen & family)      Kim Poleing (Karen)      Melba Andereck (Jesse & family)

Julie (cancer) Brenda O. (family) Gavin ,Mike Rushing, Connie (Karen & family)

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

Vickie (Jesse & Melba)      Beverly Ducey ( Jim & family)

Kent Christensen (Kathy, Don and family)      JD UAW Chaplin's (Jeannie)

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

# January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3 6:30-9pm RBB Retreat	4 9am-3:30pm RBB Retreat
5 8:30am Elder Mtg 9:30am Service	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:30am Service Food Pantry	13 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Choir Practice	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:30am Service	20 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed	21 6pm RBB Practice	22	23	24	25
26 9:30am Service Brunch-Out	27 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Choir Practice	28 6pm RBB Practice	29	30	31	

**Serving Elders**  
 5 Diane Block  
 12 Dave Popp  
 19 Steve Swanson  
 26 Mark Carlson

**Visiting Elders**  
 Judie Holmer and Mark  
 Carlson

**Serving Deacons**  
 HD Marcia Swanson, Sally  
 Bartosh, Rose Deibert and Barb  
 Hansen

**Preparing Deacon**  
 Lisa Hatlett

**Flowers**  
 5  
 12 Lisa Hatlett  
 19  
 26



# January



## 31 Day Scripture Writing Plan

Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to write out. Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice as you simply copy these texts out of your Bible.

Day 1- Isaiah 43:16-19  
 Day 2- Lamentations 3:22-26  
 Day 3- Ecclesiastes 3:11-15  
 Day 4- Psalm 98:1-9  
 Day 5- Psalm 90:12-17  
 Day 6- Jeremiah 29:11-14  
 Day 7- Philippians 3:7-14  
 Day 8- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
 Day 9- 1 Peter 1:3-9  
 Day 10- Mark 12:28-33

Day 11- Ezekiel 36:24-28  
 Day 12- 1 Chronicles 16:8-14  
 Day 13- Colossians 3:12-17  
 Day 14- Hebrews 12:7-13  
 Day 15- Isaiah 40:28-31  
 Day 16- Philippians 4:4-9  
 Day 17- Luke 14:28-35  
 Day 18- Romans 12:1-8  
 Day 19- Romans 12:9-16  
 Day 20- Romans 12:17-21

Day 21- Psalm 37:1-6  
 Day 22- Psalm 37:7-11  
 Day 23- Psalm 37:18-19, 23-24, 27-28  
 Day 24- 2 Peter 1:1-4  
 Day 25- 2 Peter 1:5-11  
 Day 26- Romans 8:18-25  
 Day 27- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10  
 Day 28- Psalm 27:1-4  
 Day 29- Psalm 27:5-8  
 Day 30- Psalm 27:9-14  
 Day 31- Choose your own verse



Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.  
 Psalm 119:18