

THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter



A Message from Pastor Mike.....

This is typically the time of year when a few of the seed catalog companies send out their Spring editions. Their marketing departments probably know that we are beginning to get cabin fever. They probably know that we are beginning to look ahead and get our hopes up! They know we are hoping for better days in the not-so-distant-future. There is a sense in which the church has done that same thing all down through the ages. We look ahead with fond hopes to what God has in store for us, wondering what happens next, and what heaven will be like.

We will be starting a new Bible Study on February 6th, based on a book and study guide written by pastor and author Max Lucado. The book is titled *What Happens Next: A Traveler's Guide Through the End of This Age*. The material is designed to run for at least six weekly sessions, but it could extend a bit longer if we find some of the chapters cover too much ground. Judie will lead our class discussions on Thursday mornings at 10am. The study will include weekly Scripture readings, a short video during the class, and then a time for group discussion. We always have good conversation around whatever the lesson topic is for the day, and we always learn something new each time we meet. Everyone is welcome to attend!

The author has observed that there are almost 700 references to heaven in the Bible, yet we rarely take time to study those passages carefully. Although there have historically been a lot of different interpretations about how the end-times will play out, this author believes there are three main points which have had widespread agreement: The visible return of Jesus Christ, the bodily resurrection of the dead, and the final judgement of all people. Here are the course session titles from the *Study Guide*:

Session 1: Made to Reign

Session 2: God's Plan for the Ages

Session 3: The Rescue and the Rewards

Session 4: Destination Wedding

Session 5: God Will Have His Garden

Session 6: The Great Homecoming

As we look ahead to Spring, we are reminded of new life and of an abiding sense of hope. That strong instinct of bright promise on the horizon has its spiritual parallel in our deeply embedded hope for the eternal plan of God to find fruition in our lives. The good news for us is that we don't have to figure everything out on our own or to find meaning in the messiness of life by ourselves. May you find hope in the promises of God. May you feel God's claim on your life as a blessing that warms both your heart and your Spirit!

"They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'" – Acts 1:11 –

BRUNCH-OUT

On Sunday, January 26, a bright, sunny, warmer day, we had 12 people enjoy Chinese food for lunch at China Cafe. Next we will visit Bent River Brewing Company, 1413 5th Avenue, Moline, Illinois (almost across the street from Lagomarcinos). We will meet on Sunday, February 9th after our Church service, 11:00 a.m. (they open at 11:00). They are known for delicious BBQ, and smoked meats as well as a wide variety of other entrees. Mark your calendars, and I hope you will plan to join us.

Sally Bartosh



BIBLE STUDY!!!

Bible Study will begin February 6th at 10:00 - 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. This bible study is called "What Happens Next" by Max Lucado. This is a 6 weeks study course. If you have any questions, let me know.

Hope to see you there.

Judie Church-Holmer

HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY

15th Avenue Christian Church 2025 Officers & Board

Nominating Committee: Lynne Sheese (chair), Kathy Weston, Barb Hansen and Helen Popp

Officers

Chairperson of Board
Vice Chairperson of Board
Secretary of Board
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Assistant Financial Secretaries

Clerk of the Congregation
Church School Superintendent

1 Year Terms

Lisa Hatlett *

Jackie Flemming *
Steve Swanson *
Lisa Hatlett *
Lynne Sheese *, Jackie Flemming *, Tim Flemming *, Gary Troyer*
Lynne Sheese *
Lynne Swanson *

Trustees

2025

Dave Popp

2026

Judie Holmer

2027

Ron Standley*

Elders

2025

Dave Popp
Diane Block
Helen Popp
Sally Bartosh

2026

Annie Bloomer
Lisa Hatlett
Kathy Weston
Mark Carlson

2027

Steve Swanson*
Judie Holmer*

Serving Deacons

2025

Grace Carlson
Rose Deibert
Jackie Flemming
Tyler Flemming
Gary Troyer

2026

Lynne Sheese
Steve Sheese
Ron Standley
Marty Larson

2027

Barb Hansen*
Marcia Swanson*
Karen Hitchcock*
Melisa Popp*

Preparing Deacons

2025

Lynne Swanson
Helen Popp
Lynne Sheese
Melisa Popp

2026

Jackie Flemming
Lisa Hatlett

2027

Diane Butcher*
Sandy Wentler*
Grace Carlson*
Barb Hansen*
Marty Larson*
Kathy Weston*

*denotes being voted on

**15th Avenue Christian Church
2025 DEACONS LIST ROSTER**

<p><u>FEBRUARY</u> HD Rose Deibert Grace Carlson Marty Larson Gary Troyer</p>	<p><u>MARCH</u> HD Grace Carlson Karen Hitchcock Rose Deibert Melisa Popp</p>	<p><u>APRIL</u> HD Karen Hitchcock Barb Hansen Lynne Sheese Steve Sheese</p>
<p><u>MAY</u> HD Ron Standley Marty Larson Gary Troyer Melisa Popp</p>	<p><u>JUNE</u> HD Melisa Popp Marty Larson Barb Hansen Jackie Flemming</p>	<p><u>JULY</u> HD Marcia Swanson Sally Bartosh Jackie Flemming Ron Standley</p>
<p><u>AUGUST</u> HD Marty Larson Barb Hansen Grace Carlson Gary Troyer</p>	<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u> HD Sally Bartosh Karen Hitchcock Ron Standley Marcia Swanson</p>	<p><u>OCTOBER</u> HD Gary Troyer Karen Hitchcock Ron Standley Melisa Popp</p>
<p><u>NOVEMBER</u> HD Lynne Sheese Rose Deibert Barb Hansen Steve Sheese</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER</u> HD Steve Sheese Lynne Sheese Rose Deibert Marty Larson</p>	<p><u>JANUARY 2026</u> HD Jackie Flemming Sally Bartosh Grace Carlson Marcia Swanson</p>



Music Notes

Our usual guests will be joining us this month to share their beautiful music. Looking forward to hearing again from Claire Reger, Susan Runyon, Lillian Dawn, and a mystery guest!

Sheila Doak, Music Director



MISSION MOMENT: HOPE IN A NEW HOMETOWN—Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Week of Compassion has continued to accompany individuals and families affected by the war. Three years into this conflict with no clear end in sight, accompanying Ukrainian refugees is less focused on temporary arrangements while waiting to return home, and has redirected to helping them more fully integrate into neighboring regions, in addition to supporting the communities that are actively welcoming them. Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable when adjusting to new environments. To enable integration into the wider community, programs are established as survivor- and community-led responses (SCLR). Week of Compassion’s partner, Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, has distributed micro-grants to refugee communities and in their host communities in both Hungary and Ukraine. This SCLR program's goal is to embrace community-led initiatives that foster lasting integration, empowerment, social cohesion, and resilience building. What does this look like in real, everyday life? In Budapest, the Ukrainian Space offers after-school programs for primary and secondary students, from arts and crafts to Hungarian language courses, from mathematics to cookie-decorating! As their young lives have been disrupted by war, these programs provide an important place for children to simply be together, for them to paint and play and talk about their home, their family, life in the place they left and in the place they live now. In fact, when some observant students noticed plants and trees in their new home that resembled those that grow around the homes they left behind, an art project was born. Creating a book with students' drawings of plants, trees, and flowers, with captions in Hungarian and Ukrainian, the students have both an art project and a bridge across cultural divides. These hours at the Ukrainian Space are something children can look forward to every week – a place to escape adult worries, where kids can be kids. Knowing the importance of resilient and integrated communities at every age, elders can gather weekly with the Ukrainian Elder’s Club, for learning activities at the Ministry Center or cultural programs in Budapest and surrounding towns. This gathering serves as a healing space where members share meals and support one another, especially as they deal with separation from their families. It allows them to preserve their memories and converse in their native language in a new environment. This Thank you to Reformed Church in Hungary for these story details following a recent Week of Compassion partner visit. community not only acknowledges their struggles but also celebrates moments of joy, providing a place to be seen and heard amidst the brokenness and laughter. Week of Compassion continues to pursue the things that make for hope and peace – things that are true, honorable, and just. We eagerly share stories of hope, telling of what we have HEARD AND SEEN: that gifts of compassion matter, to people in crisis, and as people of faith. Week of Compassion makes an impact around the world, ensuring that the stories, needs, and celebrations of vulnerable communities are heard and seen – and that we respond. With long-standing partnerships around ecumenical tables, especially in times of conflict and division, Week of Compassion is committed to the long-term, long-lasting, steady and deliberate work of peace, justice, and hope. We invite people of faith to be part of hopeful outcomes, where giving is a heartfelt response as we follow a compassionate Christ.

SPECIAL OFFERING 2025 FEBRUARY 16-23

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God’s people transform suffering into hope.





Thank you very much for the Christmas bonus. Also, thank you for the birthday cards. It was very much appreciated!!

Cali Smith, Administrative Assistant



February Funnies

What did one sheep say to the other sheep on February 14th?
I love ewe.

Knock Knock.

Who's there?

Arthur?

Arthur who?

Arthur any chocolates left for me?

Why did the banker break up with his girlfriend?

He was losing interest.

Can February March?

No, but April May.

ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

Julie's Artistic Rose is requesting all vases please be returned.



Birthdays	
1	Don Wentler
13	Nancy Harris
22	Curt Danner

Profit & Loss Report	
Total Income	\$7213.00
Total Expenses	\$10724.94
Net Income	(\$3511.94)

January Attendance	
January 5	34
January 12	31
January 19	24
January 26	36

Elders Prayer Bell Edition

“Heal me, LORD, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved,
for you are the one I praise.” Jeremiah 17:14

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.

Lynne Sheese' step dad “Randy” Jacob Miller has died 01 /29.

Bentley Secor is home from the hospital. (Kathee, Katlyn & family)

Kira (6 yrs. old) leukemia and in ICU (family)

26 year old granddaughter passed away (Dave Glanz & family)

Juliana Mata – loss of a friend and car accident. (Jeannie K.)

Edward Gridley had stent surgery and is doing well. (Jacob)

Mike F. stage 4 colon cancer (family)

Diane Block (family)

Joel E. (Diane Block's cousin)

Ayden (family) friend of Tyler F.

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

Joy Miller is moving to assisted living. (Jeannie K. & family)

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.)

Joe Joe young boy has heart problems (family)

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

Elders Prayer Bell Edition Continued

Don Young (Sherry & family)

Barb (Nancy)

Merle (friend of Weston's)

Melanie (Diane Block)

Marilyn Mix having cancer treatments (family)

Jackie Adams (Dolores and Dick Frybarger)

Matt (Karen Hitchcock)

Gibson (friend of Weston's)

Granddaughter Caitlin (Karen Hitchcock)

Kenny (Karen Hitchcock)

Bob & Annie Bloomer (family)

Roland, Cancer (friend of Weston's)

Patty R. (Rick & family)

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

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)

Gavin ,Mike Rushing, Connie (Karen & family)

Julie (cancer)

Brenda O. (family)

Dawn F. (family)

Cara (friend of Diane B.)

Jessica Borland (Swanson's)

Vickie (Jesse & Melba)

Beverly Ducey (Jim & family)

JD UAW Chaplains (Jeannie)

Kent Christensen (Kathy, Don & family)

Pray for the victims of the California fires





The Heart of the Matter

SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Day 1: Deuteronomy 4:7-9
Day 2: Deuteronomy 6:4-6
Day 3: Deuteronomy 10:12-13
Day 4: Psalm 7:8-10
Day 5: Psalm 26:2-7
Day 6: Psalm 73:26-28
Day 7: Psalm 84:1-2
Day 8: Psalm 86:11-13
Day 9: Psalm 119:9-11
Day 10: Psalm 139:23-24
Day 11: Proverbs 3:3-6
Day 12: Proverbs 4:23-24
Day 13: Proverbs 16:23-24
Day 14: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
Day 15: Jeremiah 29:11-13
Day 16: Joel 2:12-13

Day 17: Matthew 6:19-21
Day 18: Matthew 15:17-20
Day 19: Matthew 22:37-40
Day 20: Luke 6:45
Day 21: Romans 8:27-28
Day 22: Ephesians 3:14-19
Day 23: Colossians 3:14-17
Day 24: 1 Timothy 1:5
Day 25: Hebrews 4:12-13
Day 26: Hebrews 10:22-25
Day 27: James 4:8-10
Day 28: 1 Peter 3:14-16
Day 29: Jeremiah 17:9-10
Day 30: Mark 7:21-23
Day 31: Ezekiel 36:26

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.

15th Avenue Christian Church



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 African American History Month Begins
2 8:30am Elder Mtg 9:30am Worship Service	3 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	4 6:30pm River Bend Bronze	5	6 10am Bible Study	7 National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day	8
9 9:30am Worship Service Food Pantry Brunch Out	10 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	11 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	12 No Ash Wednesday Svc	13 10am Bible Study	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15
16 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Board Mtg Week of Compassion Special Offering	17 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice President's Day	18 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	19	20 10am Bible Study World Day of Social Justice	21	22
23 9:30am Worship Service Week of Compassion Special Offering	24 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	25 6:30pm River Bend Bronze Bell Practice	26	27 10am Bible Study Bell Deadline	28 African American History Month Ends	

Serving Elders	
2	Lisa Hatlett
9	Helen Popp
16	Mark Carlson
23	Steve Swanson

Serving Deacons	
HD	Rose Deibert, Grace Carlson, Marty Larson and Gary Troyer
	Preparing Deacon
	Jackie Flemming

Flowers	
2	Karen Hitchcock
9	Judie Holmer
16	
23	