



THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter

March 2025 Volume 38 Issue III

..... *A message from Pastor Mike*

Off and on, over the years, I have been intrigued by an epiphany that author and monk Thomas Merton had at the corner of Fourth and Walnut in Louisville, Kentucky, on March 18, 1958. Normally tucked away in the monastery, Merton had an appointment of some kind on that day and he found himself on a busy street corner. This is what he had to say about that moment:

“In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world. . . . This sense of liberation from an illusory difference was such a relief and such a joy to me that I almost laughed out loud. . . . I have the immense joy of being man, a member of a race in which God Himself became incarnate. As if the sorrows and stupidities of the human condition could overwhelm me, now that I realize what we all are. And if only everybody could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun. Then it was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, the depths of their hearts where neither sin nor desire nor self-knowledge can reach, the core of their reality, the person that each one is in God’s eyes. If only they could all see themselves as they really are. If only we could see each other that way all the time. There would be no more war, no more hatred, no more cruelty, no more greed. . . . But this cannot be seen, only believed and ‘understood’ by a peculiar gift.” - Thomas Merton - *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*

Maybe the reason that scene makes such a strong impression is because I suspect that we may all be given those special moments! We may all be given those moments, by the grace of God, but we must be attentive enough to recognize and meditate on them. Having said that, it’s a bit ironic that Merton went from a place of quiet reflection in the monastery, to a busy city intersection to receive that illumination! Paying attention is no easy task in our fast-paced world. Maybe it takes Divine intervention before we take the time to really look around (and look up)! If we are going to love our neighbor, we will need to look up and see them. If we’re going to love God with our whole heart and soul, and mind and strength, we will have to make time to just “be.” To *be* the beloved children of God that the Bible assures us that we are! As followers of Christ, we are being transformed into the image of God. We are truly blessed. Watch for those special moments of blessing in your life. Have a wonderful Spring!

“We can be confident that the best is yet to come because we belong to Jesus.” 2 Cor. 1:22



"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."

-Hal Borland

fresh produce

Music Notes

We are looking forward to hearing from our Handbell Choir again on March 16th! We'll also have our usual soloists returning this month, including Claire Reger, Susan Runyon, and Lillian Dawn.

Sheila Doak, Music Director



My apologies for not getting this in the February Bell but a HUGE thank you to everyone that helped with Sanctuary cleanup in January. What would have taken hours was completed in a short amount of time due to all those pitched in. Your assistance was greatly appreciated!

Jackie Flemming, Worship Chair



Why shouldn't you iron a four leaf clover?

You might press your luck.

March: The month when you start asking is it spring yet. Every day.

What's the best month to have a parade?

March.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Sunday, March 9th at 2:00 am

Don't forget to spring forward!



BRUNCH-OUT!!

On Sunday, February 9th we had 14 people enjoy lunch at Bent River Brewery. Our next event will be held on Sunday, March 9th 2025 at 11:00 am (following Church service). We will try a newly opened restaurant, River Drive Breakfast Parlor, 2900 River Drive, Moline. This location is west of the Western Illinois Campus buildings, and almost across the street from the Celebration Belle River-boat. They have a very nice side Party Room that will accommodate our group. Gene and I recently enjoyed breakfast there. Prices are reasonable and the food is good. I hope you will make plans to join us!

Sally Bartosh



Birthdays

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

February Attendance

February 2	35
February 9	31
February 16	29
February 23	43

PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

Total Income	\$14705.00
Total Expenses	\$18496.50
Net Income	(\$3793.560)

Elders Prayer Bell Edition

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalms 46:1

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.

Diane Block has pneumonia (family) Tyler (Jeanne K.)

Roy Morley fell and broke his hip and is in rehab. (Jan, Tim & Julie)

Joetta E. tumors (in-operable) Family Kenny Hitchcock (Karen & family)

Diane Butcher (family) Allen, cancer (Ann) Joel E. (Diane Block's cousin)

Caroline, cancer (Bartosh's friend) Jeanie Kirgan (family)

Kathy, cancer (Pastor Mike's sister) Mike F. stage 4 colon cancer (family)

Kira (6 yrs old) leukemia and in ICU (family) Edward Gridley (Jacob)

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

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

Melanie (Diane Block) Marilyn Mix having cancer treatments (family)

Jackie Adams (Dolores and Dick Frybarger) Julie (cancer)

Matt (Karen Hitchcock) Gibson (friend of Weston's)

Granddaughter Caitlin (Karen Hitchcock) Bob & Annie Bloomer (family)

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

Emma (Jeanie) / Hunter (family) Mona Mlekush (family & Alice)

Brenda O. (family) Carla / Rosalie / Molly/ Mary/ Nickie (family)

Nancy G, cancer (family) Pat, cancer (family) Kaylee Walker (Karen & family)

Kim Poleing (Karen) Gavin ,Mike Rushing, Connie (Karen & family)

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

Vickie (Jesse & Melba) Beverly Ducey (Jim & family) JD UAW Chaplin's (Jeannie)

Kent Christensen (Kathy, Don & family) Melba Andereck (Jesse & family)



2025 15th Avenue Christian

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

Serving Elders
 2 Sally Bartosh
 9 Diane Block
 16 Judie Holmer
 23 Dave Popp
 30 Steve Swanson
 Visiting Elders
 Helen Popp and Mable
 Carlson

Serving Deacons
 HD Grace Carlson, Karen
 Hitchcock, Rose Deibert and
 Melisa Popp
 Preparing Deacon
 Grace Carlson

Flowers
 2 Alice Lyons
 9 Alice Lyons
 16 Sandy Schlorf
 23 Marilyn Mix
 30 Alice Lyons





March

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.*