



THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter
15th Avenue Christian Church

A Message from Pastor Mike.....

The ideas of call, calling, and vocation turn out to be a complicated set of concepts. One of our seminary professors told a small group of us that he has found it helpful to think in terms of God having a *purpose* for his life rather than a *plan* for his life. He said that when we think of a plan, we picture specific steps, just the right timing, and all of the correct turns at each stage of life. If we feel like we missed a step or took a wrong turn along the way, then we are tempted to assume we have missed out on, or messed up, God's plan. If we think of it as God having a purpose for our lives, then those specific steps and timings aren't so central to the overall flow as they are in a plan. Living the life of faith turns out to be more like a purpose than a plan.

We are all called, and we are all ministers. I know that in theory, but I also know it much better now because all of you in the congregation here at 15th Avenue Christian Church have ministered to me. I thank all of you for your ministry to me, to your whole church family, and to your communities.

Some years ago, I made a campus visit to the seminary in Dubuque. They offer a weekend where you can tour the campus, meet professors, sit in on a class lecture and so forth as a way to discern if seminary is right for you. As we settled in to hear a lecture on Christian doctrine, they told those of us who were auditing the class to just listen and not ask any questions. (I leaned over to my neighbor and told her she may need to give me an elbow in the ribs if I forgot and started to ask a question! She said, "*I will tackle you if I have to!!!*")

After the lecture, there was a Q&A time where the professor answered a question by noting that some theologians have said that God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each not fully themselves unless they are in community with each other. That is, God is *relational* in an ultimate way. The implications of that for us, being created in the image of God, struck me like a thunderbolt that day! We, as individuals, are not fully *who we are* unless we are in relationship with others; with those in our families, churches, workplaces and communities. We are relational beings, just like our Creator. That insight has returned to me over and over in recent years. It has become a part of how I think of ministry, and the Christian hope that underlies and supports all of our ministry. That is why our gathering around the table, each week, together, is so central to what we do, and who we are, as Disciples of Christ.

Anniversaries

4	Tim & Jackie FLEMMING
Birthdays	
1	Jeff BARNES
2	Annie BLOOMER
2	Dawn FENSTERBUSCH
2	Richard FRYBARGER
4	Grafton CARLSON
7	Jennie DEIBERT
8	Tyler FLEMMING
11	Lynne SHEESE
13	Mable CARLSON
14	Steve SWANSON
15	Joy MILLER
24	Helen POPP
26	Marcia NELSON



Music Notes

With school back in session, there is a return to routine after a summer of new adventures. Special music will settle into a bit of a routine, with Susan Runyon requesting the second Sunday of the month due to new responsibilities with Trinity Episcopal Choir. Filling out the month is Claire Reger and Lillian Dawn, along with our special musician for the first Sunday in September, Steve Swanson!

Yours in Christ,
Sheila Doak

PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

Income	\$4,933.00
Expenses	\$7,795.94
Net Income	(\$2,822.94)

August Attendance

August 3	38
August 10	41
August 17	51
August 24	42
August 31	34



Celebrate Safely, September 1, 2025

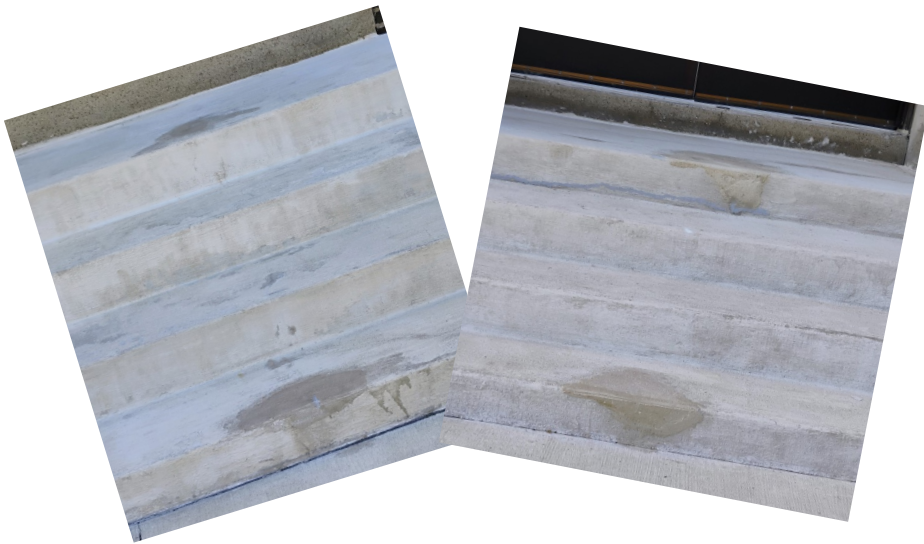
CROP WALK 2025!!

Crop Walk 2025 is right around the corner! Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 5th. In 2024 15th Ave Christian Church had 7 walkers and donations were over \$700! Please see Marty Larson if you are interested in walking this year. Donation will be accepted to help fight hunger here at home and across the globe. God Bless!!

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2025
CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME



Huge thank you to Ron Standley for repairing the North and West steps!

Shout-Out to Ron Standley, Lisa Hatlett and Jackie Flemming for volunteering and cleaning the church!! It is very much appreciated!! If you'd like to volunteer please see Judie Church for Details.



Ginormous thanks to Judie and Bill Holmer!! Every year the flowerbeds look so beautiful due to your hard work.
Thank you so much!

BRUNCH-OUT

On Sunday, August 10th we had a group of 16 people enjoy lunch at Pizza Ranch in Bettendorf. For our next outing, at 11:00 am, on Sunday September 28th, we will visit a new restaurant, ETA Table & Tap located at 2601 - 52nd Avenue, Moline, Illinois. This is the old Denny's location back SE corner of Southpark Mall parking lot. They serve a special Sunday buffet, and also have other menu choices. We hope you will plan to join us, everyone is welcome. Come enjoy the food and fellowship!



Sally Bartosh

Come and Celebrate!

Please join us Sunday, September 7th after service to celebrate Dick Frybarger's 95th Birthday. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall following service to enjoy refreshments and fellowship.

Back to School!!

We are collecting hygiene products for the Rock Island schools. If you have any questions please contact Rose Deibert at 309-269-6699. Thanks!



A Note from Your Board Chair

We are still looking for 2 more church members for the Nominating Committee. Currently we have 2 deacons. We need one elder and one other member of the congregation. Please consider joining this committee. This committee is responsible for organizing the list of officers of the church. Most of the work can be completed in person at church on Sunday morning, or through a few phone calls. The list of committee members will be brought to the Board for a vote of approval at the September meeting. Please consider helping out.

Thank you,
Lisa Hatlett
Board Chair

Elders Prayer Update Bell Edition

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart triumphs, and with my song I shall thank Him." Psalm 28:7

Please keep these family, friends and neighbors in your daily thoughts and prayers. Send a card, call on the phone or make a visit. Let them know they are not forgotten.

Prayers for Jeremy following a cancer diagnosis. (Grindley family)

Prayers for upcoming arm surgery. (Jeanie)

Karen, prayers for a possible auto-immune disorder. (Kathy)

A cousin, Stacey, needs prayer following a cancer diagnosis (Jeanie)

Please continue to keep all of the families who have lost loved ones in your prayers.
(15th Avenue Church family)

Diane Block (family) Beverly Ducey (Jim & Diane) Tyler (Jeanne K.)

Don Young is doing somewhat better, but he still needs prayers (Sherry & family)

Lili (9 yrs old) leukemia and treatment complications (family) Melanie (Diane Block)

Mike Besette, cancer surgery. and recovery upcoming. (Sabrinna, Zac, Nathaniel & family)

Christine is doing better. Her treatments will continue through the Fall. (friend of Kathy Weston)

Judy Turner, lymphoma treatments (Craig & family) Alice (Sandy, Mable & family)

Joetta E. tumors (in-operable) Family Pam DeSmet (family)

Continued prayers for Johnny, Julianna, and Hector (Jeanie)

Bill being treated for cancer (Candy) Barb (Nancy) Julie (cancer)

Mike F. stage 4 colon cancer (family) Patty R. (Rick & family)

Emma (Jeanie) / Hunter (family)

Mona Mlekush (family & Alice) Brenda O. (family) Nancy G., cancer (family)

Carla / Rosalie / Molly/ Mary/ Nickie (family) Pat, cancer (family) Dawn F. (family)

Cara (friend of Diane B.) Jessica Borland (Swanson's) Vickie (Jesse & Melba)

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



September Scripture Writing Plan

Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to copy 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- Psalm 121: 1-4
 Day 2- Psalm 121: 5-8
 Day 3- Psalm 62: 1-4
 Day 4- Psalm 62: 5-8
 Day 5- Psalm 62: 9-12
 Day 6- Amos 4:13
 Day 7- Psalm 93: 1-5
 Day 8- Matthew 22: 34-40
 Day 9- Matthew 11: 25-27
 Day 10- Matthew 11: 28-30
 Day 11- Isaiah 53: 1-4
 Day 12- Isaiah 53: 5-8
 Day 13- Isaiah 53: 9-12
 Day 14- Psalm 32: 4-6


Day 15- 2 Timothy 1: 6-8
 Day 16- 2 Timothy 1: 9-11
 Day 17- 2 Timothy 1: 12-14
 Day 18- Colossians 3: 1-4
 Day 19- Colossians 3: 5-10
 Day 20- Colossians 3: 12-14
 Day 21- Colossians 3: 15-17

Day 22- Colossians 3: 18- 21
 Day 23- Colossians 3: 22- 25
 Day 24- Matthew 7: 1-3
 Day 25- Matthew 7: 4-6
 Day 26- Matthew 7: 7-12
 Day 27- Matthew 7: 13- 20
 Day 28- Matthew 7: 21-23

Day 29- Matthew 7: 24-29
 Day 30- 1 Thessalonians 5: 19-24

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





SEPTEMBER 2025

15th Avenue
Christian
Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2	3	4 10:00am Bible Study	5	6
7 8:30am Elder Mtg 9:30am Worship	8	9 6:30pm River Bend Bronze	10	11 10:00am Bible Study	12	13
14 9:30am Worship Food Pantry	15	16 6:30pm River Bend Bronze	17	18 10:00am Bible Study	19	20
21 9:30am Worship 10:30am Board Mtg	22	23 6:30pm River Bend Bronze	24	25 10:00am Bible Study	26	27
28 9:30am Worship Brunch-Out Reconciliation Special Offering	29	30 10am Bell Article Deadline				

Serving Elders
7 Mark Carlson
14 Helen Popp
21 Diane Block
28 Lisa Hatlett

Serving Deacons
HD Marty Larson, Karen Hitchcock, Ron Standley and Marcia Swanson
Preparing Deacon
Barb Hansen

Fellowship Time
All dates are available! Sign up today!!

Flowers
7 Frybarger's
Mable Carlson
14 Alice Lyons
21 Barb Hansen
28

