



# THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter



## *A Message from Pastor Mike—*

If you attend a sporting event or other entertainment venues, you may receive a program to help guide you along. Like the Sunday bulletin, those printed programs help you understand who is who, and what will happen when. After a stretch of months in Ordinary Time within the church calendar, we are now entering the season of Advent. This is a season with a language all its own! In a way, we almost need a program to remind us of all of the special language the church has traditionally connected with this particular season. There are wreaths and candles. There are readings and special colors. We have “The Hanging of the Greens” Chrismons, and Gaudete Sunday. Advent is both a season of waiting and a season of active preparation.

Advent is said to date back to the 4th century, when it was used as a season of preparation for baptism. It leads the Christian community into the Christmas season, but it also points us forward to the Second Coming of Jesus. We get the word Advent from Latin, where *adventus* means coming or arrival. Like our season of Lent, Advent used to be 40 days long and it had penitential elements like fasting and prayer. Once again this year, we will experience weekly themes of hope, peace, joy and love. Our hope is grounded in Christ’s birth and in the promises that we have of Jesus’ return at the end of the church age. Our peace rests on the message of peace found in Jesus’ birth on Christmas morning. That unusual word Gaudete, used to describe the third Sunday of the season, is another Latin word meaning “rejoice ye.” During that week we are reminded to “rejoice in the Lord always.” Our joy is found in anticipation of the deep meaning that we experience at this special time of year. The focus on love reminds us that God ‘so loved the world that he gave his only Son for all of us’!

It takes time to prepare our hearts and minds for the message of Christmas. Advent is almost like a rehearsal for the peace and joy that we find in remembering the birth of Jesus, and in his promised return. Advent wreaths remind us that God’s love for us is “evergreen,” or eternal. The preparations of Advent lead us into the celebrations of Christmas. From there we move into Epiphany and the circular church year plays out once again. All of this special language is meant to help us understand the magnificence of God’s plan to bring us back from wandering in the wilderness. We need all the help we can get from language to comprehend the blessed hope we have in the mercy, grace, and promises of our wonderful God! Merry Christmas to all!

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2).*



## ***Christmas Eve Worship***

*15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Christian Church  
Tuesday, December 24, 2025  
10:00pm*





## Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 7th, directly after church. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the slate of officers and the proposed budget for 2026. Please plan to stay for the information and vote.

\*\*\*\*\* *We are still looking for a Vice Chair for 2026. Please see me if you are interested or volunteer yourself at the December 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting.*

Lisa Hatlett

On December 28 Pastor Mike is going to take a vacation day and we thought it would be nice to sing some Carols that day. We will have a form in the bulletin to put in the offering plate with your suggestions early in December. Thank you.

Judie Holmer



## Christmas Funnies

**What did Adam say the day before Christmas?**

"It's Christmas, Eve!"

**What type of key do you need for a Nativity play?**

A don-key!

**Where would you find snowmen dancing?**

At a snowball!

**What is the most popular carol in the desert?**

"Camel ye Faithful!"

**Why do reindeer wear bells?**

Because their horns don't work!

## Music Notes

Well, this year flew by, didn't it? December brings thoughts of beautiful Christmas Eve services with saxophone playing and bells ringing. For Sunday special music, we are looking forward to hearing from Claire Reger, Lillian Dawn, and the Pleasant Valley Treble Choir that will be joining us on Dec. 14th.

Sheila Doak, Music Director



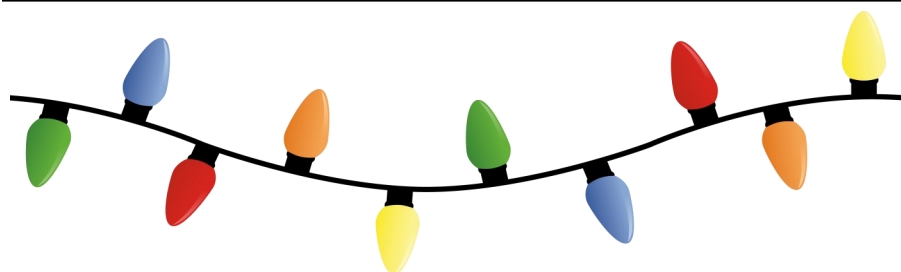
## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

DECEMBER 14 & 21, 2025

Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

**The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.**



### Angel Tree

This year we are participating the Angel Tree program. Please select a child's tag from the ribbon around the doorway in the Narthex. The tag will have the child's age and a few gift suggestions. You do not need to buy every item on the tag. Let your own budget be your guide. We can even do the shopping for you! Just put your donation in the offering plate. Please bring your gift to church on **Sunday, December 14th**. You can also drop off your gift to the office Mon-Fri 9am to Noon. Thank you!

As the year ends.....

I'd just like to take a moment to say thank you for all of the support you've given me the past two years as Board Chair. I'm looking forward to one less "hat to wear," but will still be very involved with my other roles in our church.

Lisa Hatlett

Board Chair



## From the Personnel Chair

Each year we show our staff our **gratitude** during the season of giving. We are collecting your donations for our staff Christmas Bonuses. Please indicate Staff Bonus on your check or cash donation. Our deadline for donations is December 21st 2025.

Thank you,  
Helen Popp



## Giving Envelopes

2026 giving envelopes are in the Narthex. If you do not have one assigned to you and would like a set, please let me know and I can make that happen. Also, financial statements for 2025 should be available in early January. Thank you to my Assistant Financial Secretaries - Tim, Jackie, Lynne, and Gary for your help in the office each Sunday,

Lisa Hatlett  
Financial Secretary

## November Attendance

November 2	35
November 9	36
November 16	32
November 23	30
November 30	Cancelled

## Profit & Loss Report

Income	\$3881.00
Expenses	\$7056.48
Net Income	(\$3175.48)

## COLOR CHANGE

On December 24th the color changes to white and stays to Epiphany. Symbolizing the purity of the Christ Child, holiness, glory and joy.



## Anniversaries

31 Don & Sandy  
Wentler

## Birthdays

5 Gene Bartosh  
7 Don Young  
8 James Ducey  
21 Bert Mayne  
30 Edward Grindley

## BRUNCH-OUT

On October 12<sup>th</sup> our group enjoyed a delicious lunch at Famous Dave's in Davenport. For our final outing of this year, we will go to Pizza Ranch, in Bettendorf, Iowa, located at 880 Lincoln Road, next to Burlington Coat Factory. On Sunday, December 14, 2025, we will meet at 11:00am, when they open. Plans are that we will be in the Bunkhouse room. We will enjoy a great selection of good food, and hope to have some Christmas fun. We hope you will make plans to join us, everyone is invited.

Sally Bartosh



## Jesus Is The Reason

*In Bethlehem, God gave to us  
The source of Christmas joy;  
A star is shown on a miracle:  
The virgin birth of a boy.*

*He was born both God and man,  
A Savior for us all,  
The way to get to our heavenly home,  
If we just head His call.*

*So as we shop and spend and wrap  
And enjoy the Christmas season,  
Let's keep in mind the sacred truth:  
Jesus is the reason.*

Thank you for your kind words, cards  
and support. They mean a lot to us  
during this difficult time.

The Ducey Family

Property Department is looking  
for cleaners for 2026 beginning in  
January. If you would like to vol-  
unteer please contact Judie  
Holmer or call the office.

Judie Holmer

## Thankful for All

If you missed the Thanksgiving potluck, you missed a delicious meal! Thank you to all who brought food to share - especially to Steve and Jackie and Ron & Judie for providing the meat! Everything was tasty! Also, thank you to everyone who helped set up or clean up afterwards. It was a team effort!



### Elders Prayer Bell Edition

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.

*"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."* John 15:7

Prayers for Sarah Efflandt, battling a chronic lung condition. (Marcia)

Dennis Popp is recovering from two falls and a visit to the emergency room. (Helen)

Alice (Sandy, Mable & family)

Prayers for the Ducey Family

Christian, stage 4 cancer diagnosis. (Friend of Jennie)

Continued prayers for Bert Mayne, who is now at Celebrate in Moline. (Family)

Olivet Jagusah needs prayer for serious health concerns. (Sheila and family)

Kathy O. undergoing cancer treatments in Houston (Helen)

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

Prayers for safety as Mike Mix travels overseas. (Marilyn)

Brad, cancer. (Son of Sally's friend)

Mike Besette is now back home, recovering from cancer surgery.  
(Sabrinna, Zac, Nathaniel & family)

Don Young is feeling better, and receiving weekly treatments. (Sheri & family)

Chris will continue her treatment program for another month, and appreciates  
continued prayer. (Kathy Weston)

Mona (Alice and Mable)

Lorraine, cancer diagnosis (Sally and Gene)

Gail, health challenges (Sally and Gene)

Prayers for Barb for an upcoming lung biopsy. (Kathy)

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

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

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

Lili (9 yrs old) leukemia treatments and recovery process (family)

Judy Turner, lymphoma treatments (Craig & family)

Tyler (Jeanne K.)

Joetta E. tumors (in-operable) Family

Pam DeSmet (family)

Continued prayers for Julianna and Hector (Jeanie)

Emma (Jeanie) / Hunter (family)

Julie (cancer)

Brenda O. (family)

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

Nancy G., cancer (family)

Dawn F. (family)

Jessica Borland (Swanson's)

Kent Christensen (Kathy & family)



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



## December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 PEACE SUNDAY 8:30am Elder Mtg 9:30am Worship <b>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 JOY SUNDAY 9:30am Worship Christmas Offering Food Pantry	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 LOVE SUNDAY 9:30am Worship Christmas Offering	22	23	24 10 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve			

**Serving Elders**  
7 Sally Bartosh  
14 Judie Holmer  
21 Annie Bloomer  
28 Helen Popp  
**Visiting Elder**  
Helen Popp and Mable Carlson

**Serving Deacons**  
**HD** Steve Sheese, Lynne Sheese, Rose Deibert, Marty Larson  
**Preparing Deacon**  
Lynne Swanson

**Fellowship Time**  
7  
14 Brunch-Out  
21  
28

**Flowers**  
7 Kathy Weston  
14 Marty Larson  
21 Lisa Hatlett  
28 Mable Carlson



# A Christmas Story December



- Day 1: Micah 5:2
- Day 2: Isaiah 7:14
- Day 3: Psalm 72:9-11
- Day 4: Jeremiah 31:15
- Day 5: Numbers 24:17
- Day 6: Isaiah 11:1-2
- Day 7: Luke 1:26-28
- Day 8: Luke 1:29-31
- Day 9: Luke 1:32-33
- Day 10: Luke 1:34-35
- Day 11: Luke 1:37-38
- Day 12: Luke 1:46-48
- Day 13: Luke 1:49-50
- Day 14: Luke 1:51-52
- Day 15: Luke 1:53-55
- Day 16: Luke 1:67-69
- Day 17: Luke 2:7
- Day 18: Luke 2:8-9
- Day 19: Luke 2:10-11
- Day 20: Luke 2:13-14
- Day 21: Luke 2:29-32
- Day 22: Luke 2:33-35
- Day 23: Matthew 2:1-2
- Day 24: Matthew 2:10-11
- Day 25: Matthew 2:16-18
- Day 26: John 1:1
- Day 27: John 1:4-5
- Day 28: John 1:14
- Day 29: John 1:15-16
- Day 30: 1 John 5:1
- Day 31: Romans 8:2-3