



THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter



A Message from Pastor Mike.....

Lent is coming up and it is one of those seasons of the church year that goes on for a while! While we do have one-day celebrations in the church calendar, we also have a few longer seasons. Advent lasts 4 weeks. Epiphany runs 4 to 9 weeks, depending on the year. Lent usually lasts for about 6 weeks, changing slightly from year to year. The season of Easter is then made up of the 7 weeks between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday. This year, Lent runs from February 18th (Ash Wednesday) to April 5th (Easter Sunday).

The purpose of the season of Lent, like the weeks of Advent, is *preparation*. The weeks of Lent are thought to have originated as a way to follow Jesus' model of spending 40 days in the wilderness. After his baptism by John in the Jordan River, Jesus spent that time focusing on the mission that was ahead of him. He spent time in prayer and in listening for the voice of God in his life. Lent begins with a context of repentance and seeking a closer walk with God. You may have heard of, or practiced, "giving up" something for Lent. There have traditionally been gatherings with multiple churches attending Lenten Suppers. Not all denominations observe the seasons of the church calendar, so your experiences may be different than that of others in our church family.

There is something to be said for this concentrated and prolonged approach to spiritual wellbeing. 40 days seems like a very long time, compared to our 30-second TV commercials and the online approach to holding people's attention for the briefest instant. Martin Luther King's famous *I Have A Dream* speech from 1963 was less than 1,700 words. Abraham Lincoln's *Gettysburg Address*, in 1863, was only 272 words! The Beatitudes passage in chapter 5 of Matthew's gospel is only about 150 words! While those messages are profound in their brevity, it's not that we should *always* try for 'short and sweet' communication of important ideas. There is a time for longer and more deliberate meditation on the things of God, and a time for asking hard questions, like: "What am I supposed to learn through this current trial?" "What is God telling me through this season of storminess at work, or in my family, or with a recent health scare?"

When we do meal preparation, our choices include microwaving something quick and throwing something in the crockpot, where it will simmer for a relatively long time. I suppose we can think of Lent as a sort of crockpot approach to our spiritual development! If a quick chapter of Scripture in the morning or a breath prayer during the day is roughly equivalent to a microwave meal, then maybe Lent is the analogical equivalent to simmering in the things of God for an extended period of time. May these coming weeks be a time of deep peace and growth for you! May God continue to bless and keep you!

BRUNCH-OUT

We were unable to go to Pizza Ranch last December due to bad weather. Instead we will hope weather co-operates, and will try again to enjoy a good meal and fellowship. Following our worship service, on Sunday, February 8, at 11:00 am, you are invited to join us at Los Agaves, 3939 - 16th Street in Moline. This is located next to Miss Mamie's. We are looking forward to seeing you there, so mark your Calendars and plan to join us.

Sally Bartosh

Preparing Deacons 2026

January—Lisa Hatlett

February—Jackie Flemming

March—Grace Carlson

April—Jackie Flemming and
Lynne Swanson

May—Helen Popp

June—Melisa Popp

July—Marty Larson

August—Kathy Weston

September—Sandy Wentler

October—Barb Hansen

November—Lynne Sheese

December—Lynne Swanson

January 2027—Lisa Hatlett



Volunteer opportunity

Do you have a few hours per week to spare? We no longer can support a cleaning service and are looking for volunteers to do basic cleaning on a week-to-week basis. You can sign up when your schedule allows and clean on the day(s)/time that works for you. Buddy up with someone if you feel that it is too overwhelming for one person.

Volunteer sign-up sheet will be on the table next to the coffee hour sign up.

If you have any questions, see Judie Holmer or Jackie Flemming.



15th Avenue Christian Church 2026 Officers & Board

Nominating Committee: Judie Holmer (chair), Marty Larson, Lynne Swanson and Jackie Flemming

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

Judie Holmer *

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

Trustees

2026

Judie Holmer

2027

Ron Standley

2028

Lisa Hatlett*

Elders

2026

Annie Bloomer
Lisa Hatlett
Kathy Weston
Mark Carlson

2027

Steve Swanson
Judie Holmer

2028

Diane Block*
Helen Popp*
Sally Bartosh*
Lynne Sheese*

Serving Deacons

2026

Lynne Sheese
Steve Sheese
Ron Standley
Marty Larson

2027

Barb Hansen
Marcia Swanson
Karen Hitchcock
Melisa Popp

2028

Grace Carlson (1 year)*
Rose Deibert*
Jackie Flemming*
Tyler Flemming*
Gary Troyer*

Preparing Deacons

2026

Jackie Flemming
Lisa Hatlett

2027

Kathy Weston
Sandy Wentler
Grace Carlson
Barb Hansen
Marty Larson

2028

Lynne Swanson*
Helen Popp*
Lynne Sheese*

*denotes being voted on

15th Avenue Christian Church 2026 DEACONS LIST ROSTER

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



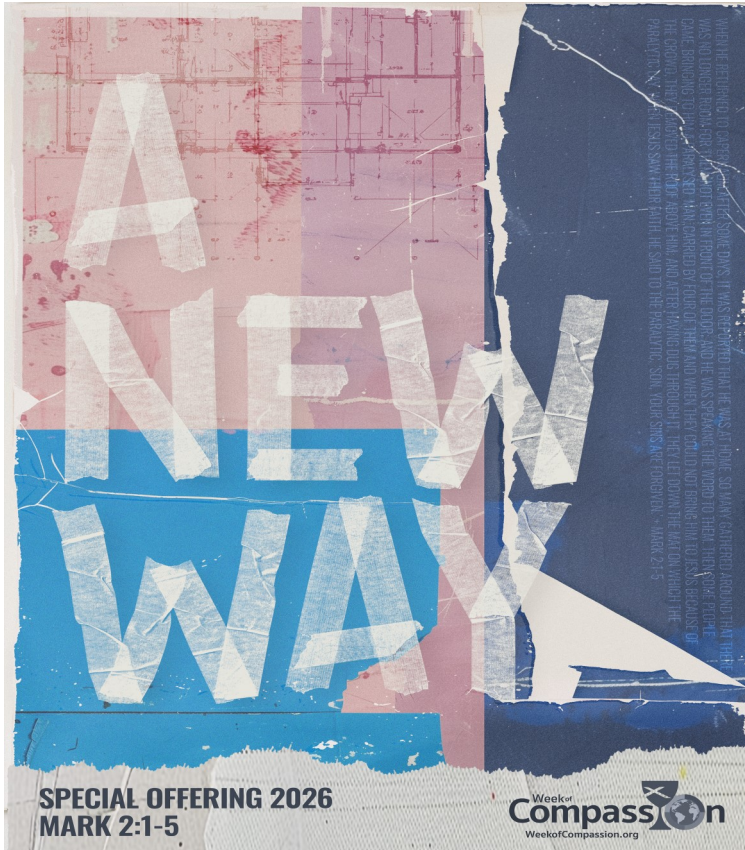
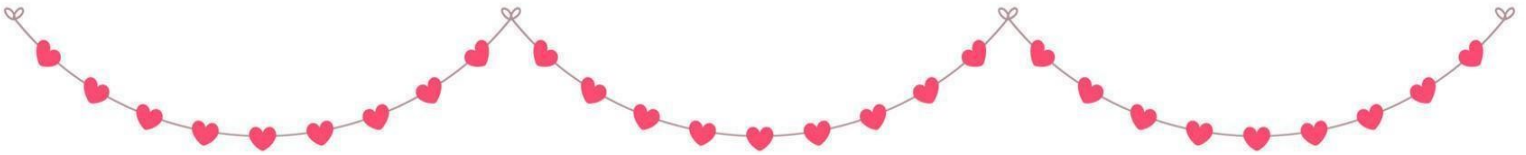
Music Notes

Many thanks to all of you for your kind wishes, cards, prayers, and donations in honor of my father. I feel truly supported by a loving Christian community.

Our musicians for this month include our usual cast of Susan Runyon, Claire Reger, and Lillian Dawn. I hope they come up with some of your favorite songs to help you praise God. The fourth spot is yet to be filled, if you have any recommendations, let me know!

Yours in Christ,
Sheila Doak





A big **THANK YOU** to Dan & Jennie Deibert for the new microphones in the sanctuary.

Judie Holmer

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

Cali Smith

SPECIAL OFFERING 2026 FEBRUARY 15-22

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT!!!

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

Birthdays

- 1 Don Wentler
- 13 Nancy Harris
- 22 Curt Danner

Anniversaries

- 3 Bob and Melisa Popp

Profit & Loss Report

Total Income	\$12167.00
Total Expenses	\$7997.83
Net Income	\$4169.83

January Attendance

January 4	31
January 11	29
January 18	25
January 25	25

Elders Prayer Bell Edition

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." - John 15:5 -

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 Delores Frybarger who is in the hospital with pneumonia. (Dick)

Prayers for the family of Bert Mayne following his funeral earlier today. (Family)

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

Tom Mockmore is beginning a cancer treatment plan (Judie)

Continued prayers of love and support for the O'Melia family (Church family)

Prayers of thanks that Edward G. is feeling better. (Cindy & Jacob)

Greg H. is receiving cancer treatments. (Diane B.)

Melanie is now back home, recovering. (Diane B.)

Alice (Sandy, Mable & family) Diane... multiple family health concerns. (Kathy)

Diane, a friend of Kathy's... family tension which are seriously straining relationships. (Kathy)

Prayers for Lynne and Steve Sheese's grandson, Ethan. (Steve and Lynne)

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

Olivet Jagusah (Sheila and family) Kathy O. undergoing cancer treatments in Houston (Helen)

Don Young. (Sheri & family) Chris receiving cancer treatments. (Kathy Weston)

Mona (Alice and Mable) Prayers for Barb for an upcoming lung biopsy. (Kathy)

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

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

Lili's treatments have been successful! She is now in an observation phase (family)

Judy Turner, lymphoma treatments (Craig & family) Tyler (Jeanne K.)

Joetta E. tumors (in-operable) Family Continued prayers for Julianna and Hector (Jeanie)

Pam DeSmet (family) Emma (Jeanie) / Hunter (family) Julie (cancer)

Brenda O. (family) Carla / Rosalie / Molly/ Mary/ Nickie (family) Nancy G., cancer (family)

Dawn F. (family) Kent Christensen (Kathy & family)



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 African American History Month Begins 8:30am Elder Mtg 9:30am Worship Service	2	3	4	5 10am Bible Study	6	7 National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
8 9:30am Worship Service Food Pantry Brunch Out	9	10	11	12 10am Bible Study	13	14
15 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Cabinet Mtg Week of Compassion	16 President's Day	17	18 Ash Wednesday	19 10am Bible Study World Day of Social Justice	20	21
22 9:30am Worship Service Week of Compassion Special Offering	23	24	25	26 10am Bible Study	27 9am Bell Deadline	28 African American History Month Ends

Serving Elders
1 Helen Popp
8 Mark Carlson
15 Steve Swanson
22 Sally Bartosh

Serving Deacons
HD Gary Troyer, Sally Bartosh, Jackie Flemming and Marcia Swanson
Preparing Deacon Jackie Flemming

Flowers
1 Karen Hitchcock
Sandy Wentler
8 Dave Glanz
15
22