



# THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter  
15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Christian Church

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

This year we will be visiting the epistles a little more often than we have in years gone by. A good portion of the New Testament letters are attributed to the famous Paul, who had been a persecutor of the early church prior to his conversion. Paul identified himself as an apostle of Christ who preached the gospel of Christ, which is the good news that Jesus has come in the flesh. Paul, at great cost to himself, relayed the core message that the kingdom of God had come near. He spelled out the upside-down nature of the kingdom. Upside-down in a number of ways... the first shall be last, and the last shall be first... strength in weakness... leadership through being a servant of all. Upside down by presenting a type of suffering which can lead to joy and peace as we realize that we follow Jesus, who suffered when he was here on earth. Paul addressed some of those characteristics of the faith in his second letter to the Corinthians. There, for example, he wrote that conflict can lead to comfort and even to contentment. Power can be manifested through weakness and through humility. Jesus' way was different, and difficult! It pushed people out of their comfort zones. It pushed them beyond their former understanding of how the world works. Paul took time to explain that "upside-down" perspective to the newly formed church at Corinth.

We see in many of Paul's writings that we are witnesses, empowered by the Spirit to tell the story of Jesus' life. Paul tells us that it's not really about us! We are fallible containers, but we are given priceless treasure to carry around. We are part of "getting the word out." We stand in a long line of Christians who have testified of God's goodness, mercy, blessing and joy. Paul reminds us to not lose heart, and that we are being renewed day by day. He reminds us that we have no choice but to walk by faith! He reminds us that everything has become new, and that our logical response should be to rejoice. We need those reminders that we are abundantly blessed! We need to be reminded that the gifts of God are to be shared in our world of scarcity, confusion, and lack of joy. May these next weeks of the Easter season be joyful for you!

*"So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever."*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 "The Message" translation, by Eugene Peterson

## BRUNCH-OUT

On Sunday, March 8th, we had 11 people enjoy lunch at China Inn Buffet. Next we plan to re-visit ETA Table+Tap on Sunday, April 12, 2026. We have a reservation to meet there following our Church service, 11:00 am and enjoy their buffet meal. This restaurant is located at 2601 52nd Avenue, Moline (the former Denny's, south-east of Southpark Mall). We hope you will plan to join us there for good food and fellowship.

Sally Bartosh



spring  
blessings

### Lent Colors

Lent—Violet/Purple

Maundy Thursday—White/Gold

Good Friday—Red/Black/None

Easter—White/Gold

Easter Tide—White Gold

*Thank you to those who have  
sent me get well cards.*

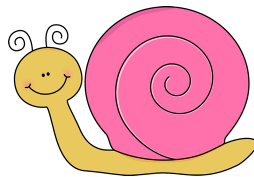
*I hope to be back soon!*

*Sandy Wentler*



### Birthdays

- 2 Mona Lyons Mlekush
- 21 Dave O'Melia
- 24 Jeanne O'Melia
- 27 Dave Glanz
- 28 Jesse R. Andereck



### Anniversaries

- 3 Pam and Jeff Demarlie
- 6 Bill and Judie Holmer
- 27 Steve and Lynne Sheese

### ATTENTION:

When parking in front of the church, please DO NOT park with your tires on the sidewalk.  
Thank you.

### Lenten Season Opportunities

Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm April 2nd

**Easter Celebration with Music**  
**9:30 am April 5th**

### PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

Total Income	\$5170.00
Total Expenses	\$12,152.03
Net Income	(\$6982.03)

### March Attendance

March 1	30
March 8	29
March 15	33
March 22	29
March 29 Palm Sunday	29

### 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.

*"Pray without ceasing..."* - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Peggy, Sheila's mother, passed away on 3/25/26. Please keep Sheila and her family in your prayers. (Church family)

Dennis Popp passed away down in Texas. Please remember the Popp family in your prayers.  
(Helen)

Prayers for Jennie D., hospitalized for observation following chest pains and a rare circulatory condition. (Helen)

Dave G. was in the hospital, is now recovering. (Church family)

Charlie's most recent follow-up surgery was successful. (Sheila)

Kathy O. Stage 4 cancer (Helen)

Sandy W. upcoming surgery (Marilyn)

Tom Mockmore is in the 2nd week of his cancer treatment plan. (Judie)

Nancy Mott continues her recovery from knee surgery. (Sally)

Greg H. continues his cancer treatments. (Diane B.)

Melanie, Scott, and family. (Diane B.)

Prayers for Karen H.'s extended family, as they have lost 9 loved ones in just 8 months. (Karen)

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

Lylah - heart transplant surgery, age 16, doing well. Prayers for her, her family, and the family of the donor heart who made the organ donation choice (Lisa)

Alice (Sandy, Mable & family)

Diane... multiple family health concerns. (Kathy)

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

Olivet Jagusah (Sheila and family)

Don Young (Sheri & family)

Mona (Alice and Mable)

Chris receiving cancer treatments. (Kathy Weston)

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

Pam DeSmet (family)

Emma (Jeanie) / Hunter (family)

Brenda O. (family)

Nancy G., cancer (family)

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

Dawn F. (family)

Kent Christensen (Kathy & family)

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

# APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 Good Friday	4
5 8:30am Elder Mtg 9:30am Worship Easter Sunday	6	7	8	9 10am Bible Study	10	11
12 9:30am Worship Food Pantry	13	14	15	16 10am Bible Study	17	18
19 9:30am Worship 10:30am Cabinet Meeting	20	21	22	23 10am Bible Study	24	25
26 9:30am Worship	27	28	29	30 10am Bible Study		

## Serving Elders

5 Lynne Sheese  
12 Diane Block  
19 Judie Holmer  
26 Sally Bartosh

## Visiting Elders

Judie Holmer and  
Lisa Hatlett

## Serving Deacons

HD Barb Hansen, Jackie  
Flemming, Karen Hitchcock  
and Marty Larson

## Preparing Deacon

Jackie Flemming and  
Lynne Swanson

## Flowers

5  
12 Lisa Hatlett  
19 Lisa Hatlett  
26 Lynne and Steve  
Sheese



# April 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- Matthew 16:24-28  
 Day 2- John 11:25-26  
 Day 3- Matthew 21:1-11  
 Day 4- Luke 23:26-30  
 Day 5- Luke 23:33-38  
 Day 6- Luke 24:36-49  
 Day 7- Psalm 25:1-6

Day 8- Psalm 25:7-14  
 Day 9- Psalm 25:15-22  
 Day 10- Proverbs 3:3-12  
 Day 11- Colossians 3:22-25  
 Day 12- Romans 3:21-26  
 Day 13- Psalm 16:1-5  
 Day 14- Psalm 16:6-11

Day 15- Romans 2:1-4  
 Day 16- Isaiah 66:12-14  
 Day 17- James 5:7-11  
 Day 18- Isaiah 43:1-3  
 Day 19- Psalm 66:8-12  
 Day 20- Hebrews 4:15-16  
 Day 21- 1 John 5:1-5

Day 22- 1 John 5:6-12  
 Day 23- Psalm 105:1-5  
 Day 24- Psalm 106:1-5  
 Day 25- Colossians 3:1-3  
 Day 26- Hebrews 12:1-2  
 Day 27- Matthew 6:25-27  
 Day 28- Matthew 6:28-34

Day 29- John 14:1-4  
 Day 30- Psalm 150:1-6



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