



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

January 2019

What sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make?

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning.

In reality, there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year's resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?

Common New Year's resolutions are commitments to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money more wisely, and to spend more time with family. By far, the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating more healthily. These are all good goals to set. However, 1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." The vast majority of New Year's resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be.

Many Christians make New Year's resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly.

These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year's resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year's resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually, or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it for good health to serve God, or is it for vanity, to serve yourself?



Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." John 15:5 declares, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." If God is the center of your New

Year's resolution, it has chance for success, depending on your commitment to it. If it is God's will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God-honoring and/or is not in agreement with God's Word, we will not receive God's help in fulfilling the resolution.

So, what sort of New Year's resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions: (1) pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) regarding what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) rely on God's strength to help you; (4) find an

accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) don't become discouraged with occasional failures; instead, allow them to motivate you further; (6) don't become proud or vain, but give God the glory.

Psalm 37:5-6 says, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun."

<https://www.gotquestions.org/new-years-resolution.html>



Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

Location: 15th & Roland, Chariton, Iowa

For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 203-2137

- We are in the process of selling our building and expect to have things finalized the first part of January. We will be renting space in the local Farm Bureau building to meet in on Sunday mornings. The address is:
**811 S 4th Street
Chariton, IA 50049**
- If you are thinking of attending services with us we would recommend you contact one of the elders to make sure we will be having services that day.
- Albert Schreck has been having back problems that have been causing him to have quite a bit of pain. He is meeting with doctors to try and find the cause and to see what can be done to alleviate the pain.
- Lynn Faulkner and Teresa Groves were visitors this past month.



8 pews have been spoken for, 8 remain (as of Dec 28). If interested contact Albert or Brian at the phone numbers above.

January Birthdays

- ★ 3 - Jeanette Schreck

January Anniversaries

- None

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Last Sunday of the month: A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- Travis Head and Brita Daly were married on December 28, 2019. Congratulations to them and Brita's daughter, Charlie.
- Neal Warren has fallen forward out of his wheelchair more than once. Please keep him and Peg in your prayers.
- Cathy James has pneumonia.
- Greg Head has had pneumonia.
- Others ill: Pam Climpson, Risa Schamel, Debbie Wilkins.

Visitors: Bill, Bryan, Max and Tally Charlier, Nancy Evans, Aiden & Paxon Boozell, Parker Strable, Brita Head & Charlie, Shawn Head and Valerie Hawthorne..

January Birthdays

- ★ 19 Conner Wilkins
- ★ 23 Mary Lou Allen
- ★ 28 Debbie Wilkins

January Anniversaries

- None

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632
For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- Quiet month in Fairview



January Birthdays

- None

January Anniversary

- None

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
January thru March: Potluck after morning service, meeting back at 1 p.m.
Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)
Website: Martensdalechurchofchrist.org
For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

The Spring Meeting 2020

Formerly hosted by the Dean Avenue Church of Christ, will be hosted by the Martensdale Church of Christ on March 28 & 29, 2020. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

<http://martensdalechurchofchrist.org/index.php/about-us/spring-meeting-2020>

Quiet month at Martensdale.



January Birthdays

- ★ 9 Huey Ingle
- ★ 15 Mike Divis

January Anniversaries

- None

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
January thru March: Potluck after morning service, meeting back at 1 p.m.
Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa
Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org
Contacts: Mike Warner 515-967-4529 / Marty Williamson 515-556-2394 / Marc Hermon 515- 554-3567

- We are blessed to have two new members added to our flock at Pleasant Hill -- Joe ("JC") and Melanie Castro. May we be an encouragement to them, as well as their zeal encourage us to seek the lost and become more evangelistic.
- Congratulations to Whitney and Eric Thorson upon their news that a second child will be welcomed to their family in June!
- Steve & Nancy Brady became grandparents for the 9th time on Sunday, December 29. Mathew & Heather Brady had their 6th child, Benen Thomas Brady. Congratulations to all!
- Our dear sister, Melba Tingle, finished her earthly race on Saturday morning, December 21, 2019. She will be missed on this side of heaven, but know she is rejoicing to be with the Lord! Please keep her family in your prayers.

- Randy & Theresa Ingle hosted another tailgate party at their home for the Iowa Hawkeyes Holiday Bowl game on Friday, December 27th against USC. Hawkeyes won!



- Iowa Bible Study will be held, Lord willing, on January 18, at Nick & Kayley Hermon's home.

- Ryan Ingle is taking sign-ups for “Meals from the Heartland”, working from 9-11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 25.
- David, Joyce & Nora Lee, along with their dog Oreo, visited Walter Daugherty at the Altoona Manor, where Walter now resides. Walter & other residents sure enjoyed Oreo! (Walter was a member at the Vandalia Church of Christ).
- Visitors this month have been: Brian & daughter Jill McClurg; Megan & Ethan Schreck.
- Travelers: Jason & Theresa Brady to Illinois; Nick & Kayley Hermon went to Colorado; Randy Spinney to Ohio; Marty & Lisa Williamson to Branson,

then visit with son Nathan in Kansas City; Marc & Ginger Hermon family to Missouri for the Winter Youth Rally..



January Birthdays

- ★ 1 Denise Waits
- ★ 28 Tom Brady
- ★ 31 Doug Bown

Anniversaries

- ★ 8 Rosanne & Cliff Van Vleet
- ★ 31 Sharon & John Mineart

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.
Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.
Website: vandaliacoc.com
For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- We are happy to report the baptism of Delana Lewis of Newton.
- Justin and Brittney Dowdy have returned home after spending 5 weeks in Indiana where they helped care for Brittney's mother during her illness and death. We extend out sympathy to her family.
- We learned of the death of Delbert Brown, a brother of Mary Ellen Goode, and send our sympathy to her family also.
- We lost a long time friend and member when Bobbi Duckstein passed away after having several health issues. Her funeral will be Saturday, January 4, 2020.

- Our visitors were Valerie Burkman, Rodney Ingle, and Jason Dowdy.

January Birthdays

- ★ 1 Lincoln Fiorentin
- ★ 2 Mary Ellen Goode
- ★ 10 Emma Ingle
- ★ 11 Lillian Dowdy
- ★ 16 Blake Fiorentin
- ★ 18 Jessi Henle
- ★ 19 Richard Goode
- ★ 19 Allison Miller

January Anniversaries

- ★ 1 Jason & Mariha Henle

Copies of the *Lighthouse of Iowa* can be found at the following two Church websites:

Vandalia Church of Christ: <https://vandaliacoc.com/lighthouse-of-iowa.html>

Pleasant Hill Church of Christ: <http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org/library.php>
(select *Iowa Lighthouse* under the Library tab)



Bible Quiz

Joshua

Match the question with the answer on the right.

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| ___ Who did Joshua succeed as leader of Israel? | 1. Rahab |
| ___ Which tribe of Israel did Joshua belong to? | 2. 110 years old |
| ___ How many stones did the Israelites take out of the Jordan River? | 3. Joshua |
| ___ What type of weather helped Joshua defeat the Amorites? | 4. Ark of the Covenant |
| ___ To which city did Joshua send two spies? | 5. Moses |
| ___ What was the name of the woman who hid the two spies? | 6. Timnath Serah |
| ___ Who led the Israelites into the Promised Land? | 7. Hailstones |
| ___ Which city was given to Joshua as his inheritance? | 8. Jericho |
| ___ What did Joshua tell the priests to carry across the Jordan River? | 9. Ephraim |
| ___ How old was Joshua when he died? | 10. Twelve |



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