



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

January 2021

2020—A different kind of year!

I'm looking out of my window at the snow coming down and covering the scene in front of me. I love it because it makes everything white and clean and I think I can say even more quiet. Everything the earth needs, that's for sure. The scientists even went a bit further with snow and found it was very abundant in much of what the soil needs for the next planting of the fields. In fact if you were to buy the fertilizer that is contained in snow it would be very expensive. Anyway, I love snow.

Now about us. It has been a very interesting time hasn't it? Testing everything we took for granted, perhaps. Many of the folks I know, since they were babies, their parents brought them to church in their bassinets (old word for baby carriers). The baby bassinets were gently placed in the family pews so babies could soak up sermons, singing, and well, all the church atmosphere and fellowship possible. When they grew older they sat in the same spot until the family changed their pew. In other words, we are very accustomed to our lives in the Churches of Christ, many since their birth.

UNTIL NOW

A very dark shadow has entered our secure Christian world, perhaps more than one which we are dealing with as we speak. That dark shadow is called Coronavirus, or better known to us as Covid-19 or just Covid. I think the young people of the world gave it the nick name Rona.

Whatever it's called, it has the power to change everything in the

world and everything we have practiced in the church.

Our elders are now in the position to make judgments on situations they have never seen before, for the good of the congregations.

Consequently, we are now in our cars parked in the church parking lot listening to the sermon on a radio channel. Or in the church building each of us now assigned where we sit so we can stay 6 feet away from our brethren. We now wear masks and of course the result is we can't see each other's faces, which is so much a part of our edification.

Sisters no longer are making the unleavened bread at home but now we each have our individual containers of the bread and fruit of the vine, which takes away the personal touch. But all these decisions had to be made for the good of the church, if we choose to meet.

And the most difficult of all is our loved ones getting sick. We worry about our children and the new babies we now have in our families. We are worried about the aged in our congregations praying this darkness will not affect them.

But even with all our careful changes, many are getting sick—some worse than others. We find it is a long sickness, one that takes away appetites, causes dehydration, and makes us very tired. Some experience this tired feeling well past the "fourteen days". There are so many symptoms, you don't know what to expect from day to day, not

knowing what is coming around the corner.

We experienced Covid in our house. We described it as a "wonky" feeling we never felt before. Obviously, we couldn't go out and get food or other provisions but were totally shut in.

However, we were quite blessed with our church family taking care of our food and other needs while waving at us from the deck and checking up on us often to see how we were doing. That was comforting to our spirits.

We did a lot of praying that God would keep us under his wing and we took comfort in the belief that is exactly where we were. The whole experience was a great time to rely on God's strength because ours was greatly lacking, both physically and in our hearts. We didn't know how our bodies would react to this virus.

We know as Christians we have the Bible to comfort us with prayer and with the stories of those who also experienced like situations and were in the care of God. The Apostle John is one such a man. He was the last of the Apostles on this earth, fighting for the Gospel and for the Churches of Christ in his time. As we know, the Roman rulers banished him to die on the Island of Patmos. Alone, aged, living as a convicted man, but still walking in the Spirit, he was used by God to give us the book of Revelation. An excellent example to those of us whose strength is tested in these times.



Chariton

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

Location: 811 S. 4th St., Chariton, IA

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

We have suspended services for the time being.



January Birthdays

★ Jeanette Schreck - 3rd

January Anniversaries

- None this month

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- Quiet month at Dean.



January Birthdays

- ★ None

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

- The COVID 19 virus continues to affect our church and community and the world around us. To maintain the highest level of safety we reasonably can, we are meeting on Sunday mornings but are asking everyone to observe the various recommended social distancing guidelines.
- Prayers go out for Jack Swisher at this time as he is back in Council Bluffs hospital having problems from his hip surgery.

These are trying times, but Jesus is the one that stands on our storm-tossed ship and offers to us words of comfort.

We don't know what the future holds, and that can naturally cause a degree of anxiety: but God has given us similar words as Paul gave to those on that stormed tossed ship. There will be times when the seas are rough; but just as Paul told them then—we will live on. Through this we know that God will see us through: and by putting our trust in Christ, we will survive.



January Birthdays

- ★ Tracy Head - January 7

January Anniversary

- ★ None this month

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 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

- **Dave and Christy Henderson welcomed their first grandchild in December.**
Judah Dell Purdy was born on December 15th to their daughter and son-in-law, Adam and Cassidy Purdy, of Maryville, MO. Christy was able to go spend a few days with them after they returned home. Great-grandparents are Duane and Mary Proudfit.
- **Rodney Ingle's grandpa Roy Whanger passed away.** He was Rodney's last living grandpa, and his mom Joyce's last living parent. He was 96 and lived this last year isolated in a nursing home. Rodney and Alena were blessed to be able to visit him through his nursing home window on the way home from Eminence this year. He was a

faithful member of the Church his whole life. He will be greatly missed.

- **Sunday morning services resumed on December 13th at Martensdale** with a shorten service— morning class, Lord's supper, no sermon. Collection box is set in the back. Members sat distanced in their "assigned" seats. Masks are required.



January Birthdays

- ★ None
- ★

January Anniversaries

- ★ None

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.
Listen from your car at FM station 100.9
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

- Congratulations to Jamie Ingle! She has been accepted at Morningside College effective 2021 spring semester. Jamie will pursue a teaching license as an Instructional Strategist II (Intellectual Disabilities). Best wishes, Jamie!
- Congratulations and prayers for Brandon Ingle! He's been accepted to the National Guard Flight School to become a MEDEVAC pilot. Lord willing, Brandon will leave July 16, 2021 for two years. May God watch over him, and his faith grow as new challenges come his way.
- Visitors over the last month: Gordon & Chamille Laymon & family; Daniel Suhr (Carly's husband); and Rick Felice.

- Travelers this past month: Ayden, Maddy & Theo Twaddell were visiting the Twaddell family in Kansas City. Nick & Kayley Hermon have been visiting Kayley's family in Colorado for the month of December and plan to return in early January. Marty & Lisa Williamson spent a week in Branson, MO.
- JC & Melanie Castro left the last weekend of December to begin their journey to California. They praise God for granting them their petition to witness for the Lord as they travel in their remodeled bus.
- COVID update: Many from our congregation have succumbed to this "stink, stank, stunk" disease. Fortunately, most of them have now recovered:

Brenda Bohall & her dad Bud Fillman; Larry & Bev Brady; Michele & Paul Zinnel.

- Those still fighting the symptoms or in quarantine: Jason & Theresa Brady; Lowell Hermon; Marc & Ginger Hermon family; Miles & Kelsey Wood family; Dan & Amy Pritchard family; Marty & Lisa Williamson.
- Others in need of prayers and encouragement: Kinnick Ingle had a painful ingrown toenail with infection that was removed last week. Kinnick will need to be off his feet for a few days. Please pray for his toe to feel better soon and for him to heal quickly!
- Tom Brady spent about a week in the hospital due to a drop in his hemoglobin. He needed a blood transfusion and other care. He's now home but continued prayers for both Tom and Fred as they deal with medical trials would be much appreciated.
- Ryane Needham is having heart concerns and is on a 30-day monitor. She will share more at the end of her testing but prayers are appreciated until then!
- Alonzo Jones has been diagnosed with diabetes and now on insulin. His blood sugar level is going down but still a way to go. His sight is beginning to get back to normal. Please pray for both Alonzo and Joyce as they endure with their medical trials as well.
- Steven Thompson was placed in the hospital for 10 days due to swollen legs and feet; turned out he also had a blood clot behind one knee; doctors put a filter in his jugular vein to stop the clot if it moves. He's lost about two gallons of fluid and able to move more easily. He was released from the hospital and is now at home for continued physical therapy. Please continue to keep him (and Pat, as caregiver) close in thought and prayers.
- Please continue to encourage and pray for those members unable to participate in worship services due to age or family related health problems. A few to lift up in prayer and encourage with cards are: Jen Albright, Wanda Burkman & Betty Warren.
- Many are worshipping from their cars on Sunday morning due to COVID concerns or in quarantine...

listening in to FM radio station 100.9. Thank you to Marc Hermon for setting this up!

- Joyce Ingle & family: Joyce's Dad, Roy Whanger, passed away on December 15th. He was 96 years old and lived a long Christian life! Many of us fondly remember his quoting scripture after scripture. A favorite of his was Psalms 19. Please pray for Joyce & Dave's family as they grieve their loss but Heaven's gain!
- Due to many members needing to quarantine, we canceled regular service on Wednesday night and did an online Song Night. Special, heartfelt thanks to Nick Hermon (who is in Colorado!) for preparing wonderful song nights for the congregation!
- Thank you to Mike Brady for recording sermons the past few weekends. Please note that there will be a slight delay in getting lessons posted on the website.
- Thank you to Betty Miles & Sharon Mineart for printing the bulletin, as well as handing out programs, communion & collecting offerings.
- Thanks to all our members who have stepped up to help fill in responsibilities during family quarantines due to COVID.
- In 2021, the W.O.R.D. will do the chronological Bible study. Challenge yourself to a chronological Bible study or 6 months New Testament or one year OT & NT 7 Bible Studies.



January Birthdays

- ★ 1 Denise Waits
- ★ 4 Dee Thompson
- ★ 28 Tom Brady
- ★ 31 Addi Thompson
- ★ 31 Doug Bown

January Anniversaries

- ★ 8 Rosie & Cliff VanVleet
- ★ 31 Sharon & John Mineart

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m.

No Sunday evening or Wednesday evening services until further notice

Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.

For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

Website: <https://vandaliacoc.com>

- WE ARE MEETING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.
- We have rearranged our auditorium so that our seats are grouped together for families and spaced farther apart to allow for social distancing.
- When we partake of Lord's Supper, the man who gave the Lord's Supper talk puts on a mask and gloves, breaks the bread for each family group, places it on a plate, and another masked and gloved man takes the plate to the family group. The fruit of the vine is passed by both men, and each disposable cup is handed to each member. We are doing this to limit exposure to the emblems so there is less of a chance of spreading any infections.
- Our Sunday morning service is also available to watch online using Google Meet.
Go to meet.google.com, and enter the meeting code.
If you need the meeting code, please send us an

email at vandaliacoc@gmail.com. We have rearranged our auditorium so that our seats are grouped together for families and spaced farther apart to allow for social distancing.



January Anniversaries

- ★ 1 Jason & Mariha Henle

January Birthdays

- ★ 1 Lincoln Fiorentin
- ★ 5 Mary Ellen Goode
- ★ 10 Emma Ingle
- ★ 11 Lillian Dowdy
- ★ 16 Blake Fiorentin
- ★ 18 Jessi Henle
- ★ 19 Richard Goode
- ★ 29 Greyson Fiorentin

Copies of the *Lighthouse of Iowa* can be found at the following two Church websites:
Vandalia Church of Christ:
Pleasant Hill Church of Christ: <http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org/library.php>
(select *Iowa Lighthouse* under the Library tab)

Happy New Year 2021

