



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

January 2023

Nothing is as edifying as teaching the Gospel!

Tom and I were sitting in our living room watching *The Great British Baking Show* (cooking shows are our usual evening wind down). But I was not mindlessly relaxed as I usually am watching our show. I felt a bit troubled—despite being warm and comfortable, full from a great dinner, and entertained.

Me (bluntly): *Tom, do you think this is what we are supposed to be doing with our short lives?*

Tom: *Not really — how did you get that question from the British Baking Show? What's on your mind?*

Me: *It's been a long time since I have brought anyone to church. All the Bible examples we have studied for a long time are about saving souls.*

Tom: *Well, it always comes down to meeting people.*

We really didn't have any fast answers to our question. We had zeal, we had faith, we had desire to 'bring souls out of darkness and into the light of Christ' but we did not know exactly how to go about it.

That night, something came up on my FB that had the answer. It actually blew me away how simple that answer was—but it would require a little sacrifice on our part.

The answer? The words on my computer said verbatim, "You have to go where the people are. Think of the example of Paul."

I will admit I was a bit stunned receiving such an odd post and that it provided a very simple answer to our question. (I was also condemned by it because I knew this answer most of my Christianity.)

The next morning our breakfast discussion picked up on our evening conversation. How do we get this started? How do we keep it going? Oh . . . and if we

were willing to give up our creature comforts to do this. We knew we had to get up and out. But where?

Later that day, Tom wanted to go out to a coffee house in Beaverdale. As he was getting our coffees, I got our table. As soon as I sat down, I overheard a conversation at the next table. Two men were in a discussion and I picked up the word 'Baptist' several times. I asked them if they were Baptist preachers.

That was all I had to do. We were off and running in a wonderful conversation about Christianity.

The one gentleman was a Presbyterian preacher. The other gentleman was a member in his congregation. The discussion took us into many of the topics we had studied at the Martensdale Church so we were well prepared for what came up: baptism, predestination, the authority of the Gospel, etc.

We had a good hour conversation that totally edified our souls and confirmed that God is for this. We saw that doing nothing was not an option. With our Lord's help, we will continue our search for opportunities like this.

What's next? Well, the one gentleman looked up Tom on FB and sent a friend request. So that conversation continues.

We will see where God may direct us. For us it started with getting up off the couch and out the door. Teaching the Gospel is an adventure to be sure.

~ Dianne Collier

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and reverence. ~ 1 Peter 3:15



Chariton

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

Location: Call for information.

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

- No news this month.



January Birthdays

- None

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 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

- Cindy Clevenger placed her membership with us. We are so happy to have her. Her mother, who lives in Kansas City, has been visiting and attending services.

- Several of our members have been ill:

- John and Donna McNeece
- Cindy Clevenger
- Peg Warren

- Greg Head
- Risa Schamel
- Debbie Wilkins.

January Birthdays

- ☆ 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

- Fairly quite month.

January Birthdays

- ☆ 7 - Tracy Head

January Anniversary

None

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)
Website: martensdalechurchofchrist.com
For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

- Dave and Christy Henderson are very excited to announce that they hope to be very busy this next summer! Their daughters are both expecting. Cassidy is due May 20 and Bethany is due June 16.



- Due to the extreme weather we experienced, we cancelled our Wednesday evening class on Dec 23.
- Martensdale overall attendance through December was a bit sporadic with many coming down with colds, flus, and a few with covid.



January Birthdays

- ☆ 09 – Hugh Ingle

January Anniversaries

- None

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 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

Heartfelt Love & Prayers:

- Kelly George is doing remarkably well following his below-the-knee amputation. All glory to God for giving Him and Allison strength during this trial. Continue to lift them up in prayer and encourage them with cards and visits.
- Betty Warren was taken by ambulance Tuesday, December 28, to Mercy Hospital. The medical team discovered that Betty has significant brain bleeding and is being monitored in ICU. The family requests prayers for our precious sister in Christ who served as an elder's wife for more than 50 years at Pleasant Hill. We petition for God's will and His comfort to surround Betty and all her family.

- Larry Brady will have heart surgery on March 13, God willing. There are a handful of medical exams & procedures between now & then so prayers are welcomed. He & Bev will travel in the month of February to Florida.
- Congratulations to Bailey Righi! She has been offered a job with the Green Bay Packers in Wisconsin. Bailey will run an internal app for the coaches that manages player analytics, etc. Bailey's hard work and talents shine! She has been such an important and beloved sister at Pleasant Hill. We will miss her presence at Pleasant Hill in 2023.
- Congratulations to Tim Brady! He is retiring in late December. He and Tammy will celebrate retirement and spend the winter months in Florida.

- Congratulations to Jamie Ingle! She finished her graduate program in December for a special education endorsement.
- Jason and Theresa Brady will vacation in Arizona January 5-23.
- Nick, Kayley, & Jubilee Hermon will spend time with Kayley's family in Colorado from Dec. 22 to mid-January.
- Dan & Amy Pritchard's family will vacation in Florida from December 25- January 7.

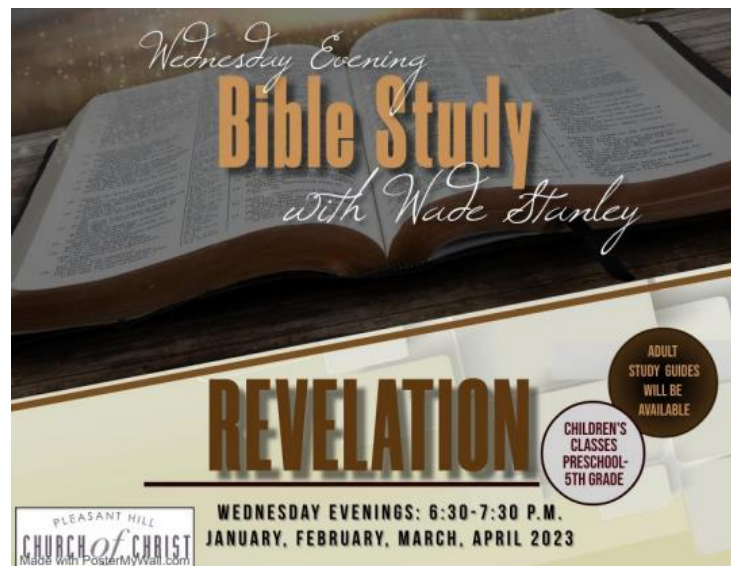


Many thanks to the Wood family for hosting the **December ITBS**. Children enjoyed sledding, playing games, and participating in a Bible Study which focused on John 11-15.



Praise God for our Youth! All glory to God several from Pleasant Hill were able to attend the **Winter Youth Rally led by Doug Twaddell at Gregory Church of Christ**. Pray for much fruit to be harvested for years to come from these noble efforts!

January – April 2023: God willing, **Wade Stanley** will teach the book of Revelation. All local congregations are invited, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. See invitation for details.



January Birthdays

- ☆ 1/1 – Denise Waits
- ☆ 1/31 – Doug Bown

Anniversaries:

- 1/8 – Roseanne & Cliff Van Vleet

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sunday: 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

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) 238-3316

Website: <https://vandaliacoc.co>

- Charles Ingle retired Dec. 27 from mental health counseling with Pella Regional Health Center and plans to continue to do some therapy with church members. Charles also had rotator cuff surgery on his left shoulder on Dec. 28---what a way to begin retirement!
- The group enjoyed pizza and fellowship at Coffee and Carnations in Prairie City on Dec. 9.
- Trent and Leah Fiorentin and girls visited the Corydon congregation. Jason and Staci Miller and family visited family in Missouri. James and Laura Dowdy and family visiting relatives in Kentucky.
- Margaret Ingle had cataract surgery on Dec. 6 and healing continues on both eyes.
- Ethan Clark, Easton and Kiana Klein attended the Youth Rally, Dec. 27-29, at the Lone Jack congregation in the Kansas City area.
- Josie Fiorentin came home after being hospitalized with breathing difficulty and then went to Iowa City for more tests.

- Lots of food, games and fellowship was enjoyed by the group at our annual New Year's Eve party at the church building.
- LOTS of illnesses passing through congregation---all are on the mend now.
- Visitors this month were: Sue Schreck; Ryan, Jaimie, Patrick and Taylor Ingle



January Birthdays

- 1 Lincoln Fiorentin
- 5 Mary Ellen Goode
- 10 Emma Ingle
- 11 Lillian Dowdy
- 16 Blake Fiorentin
- 19 Richard Goode
- 19 Allison Miller
- 29 Greyson Fiorentin

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> - Lighthouse of Iowa

New Year Considerations. . .

- Who was Noah without his Flood?
- Who was Job without his tragedy and loss?
- Who was Hannah without her tears?
- Who was Daniel without his lions den?
- Who was Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego without their fiery furnace?
- Who was Stephen without the stones?
- Who was Paul without his prisons and stripes?
- Who can remember Jesus without His Cross?
- *Then there is your story . . .*

**This new year,
will you view your troubles as a sign of abandonment
or as an opportunity to glorify God?**

(Special thanks to Zak Wellsted for this post.)