



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

February 2023

We're Marching to Zion!

The word "Zion" is used in the Scriptures in various implications. The word itself means "high place." It was often used to represent the altitude and location of the Temple in Jerusalem, for it was the "high place" in the city as described in Jeremiah 31:6 6 *"For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."*

It is used to represent the New Testament church as in Hebrews 12:22 22 *"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable angel in festal gathering."*

It is also used to represent the abode of the Lord as in Psalms 9:11 at the beginning of this article. I believe it is the later use of this word that the song the congregations sing in Crum's red book on page 2.

This song is a very positive and exciting song that describes how the Lord's people are making their way toward Heaven to dwell with our Creator.

This song describes our goal of "marching to Zion" as we are making our way through this life on to the next, to spend eternity with our Lord and Master. That should be our primary goal for this life.

Even though this song is a very positive song, we know we will pass through various

difficulties and trials. Certainly, many of the trials we must face can be very difficult to overcome. Many of these trials will entangle us as we will fail to come up to the Lord's standards. But that is okay. This is how we learn. This is how we grow. We will face difficulties and struggles. Jesus faced such difficulties and sorrows as noted in

Hebrews 5:8 *"Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered."* While yes, Jesus was indeed able to accomplish something that is beyond us, for He never faltered while facing such suffering in doing His Father's will to perfection.

We have not yet been made "perfect", for we must deal with the weakness of our flesh, and we will falter from time to time. In this manner this is the process that helps our weaknesses to be made perfect. Such stumbling humbles us and helps us learn and grow spiritually into the Christians the Lord desires of us. This is all part of making our way to our ultimate goal.

This song described our journey as a "march." This is possibly as an army might march into battle, for we are in a battle. We are in a battle against our own flesh and weaknesses.

There are a number of references in the Scriptures that describe the Lord's people as the "army of God." We are His soldiers fighting

the most difficult battle we will ever participate in.

It is worth noting that as the apostle Paul is speaking of our “whole armor of God” that we must put on in order to wage this war, he describes who we are fighting against in Ephesians 6:12 12 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

While we might be tempted to think our battle is against our neighbors and others who are not Christians, we are in essence fighting “for them!” We are wanting them to come to the Lord for their good, for their benefit, which

is what the word “good” means. Jesus said in Luke 6:27 27 “*But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.*” This is why we should not view them as an enemy, but rather as those souls created by the Lord, Who in turn, wants them to be saved! (as should we.)

So, our “marching to Zion” is not only for our benefit, but it is also for those we encounter along our way. “We’re marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion. We’re marching upward to Zion, The beautiful City of God”. Let us march together and help as many others as possible come along with us.

~ Jay H. Graham



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

- **Brian and Tammy Schreck have a new granddaughter.** **Rowan Marilee Fenton** was born on January 14th. Parents are Gerry and Ashley Fenton and she joins siblings, Aella and Felix.



February Birthdays

- None

February Anniversaries

- 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

- Quiet month at Dean.

February Birthdays

None

February 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 and cold month at Fairiview.
- **January Visitors**
 - * Takashi & Manami Murakami & Nephew Rui from Kumamoto, Japan
 - * John Negley - Coralville, IA

February Birthdays

None

February 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

- **Aléna Ingle had major surgery on January 30th at Mayo Clinic.** She was discharged February 1st and back home that evening. Recovery time for this surgery is 4-8 weeks.



Prayers for her strength and recovery. Also for Rodney taking on the full-time care of Aléna and their four young children.

To help ease some of the family's burden at this time go to . . .

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/kw7gk2>



February Birthdays

None

February Anniversaries

- ☆ 9 - Allen & Teresa Bown
- ☆ 20 – Bill & Wendy Housom

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:

- **Betty Warren, 96, passed away at her home on Monday, January 2, 2023.**

Betty was a founding member of the Pleasant Hill Church of Christ and faithfully served the congregation as an elder's wife for fifty years.

She diligently attended worship services, worshipping her Savior and communing with brothers and sisters-in-Christ. Her faithful attendance during her elderly years grounded Betty in faith, affirmation in the Word, and confidence in the hope of her eternal salvation.

Her continued service and presence as the oldest member at Pleasant Hill served as an inspiration and example to the rest of the flock.

Gardening was her passion which she shared with her church family by creating beautiful flower bouquets every Sunday morning for many years. Her gardening included vegetables and fruit which she canned and froze for future use.

She was an excellent seamstress from sewing matching dresses for her 3 daughters, to care bears and cabbage patch dolls and to alternations for many in the community and church. In her later years, she enjoyed sending hand-made greeting cards to brethren, family, and friends and working on puzzles. Betty will be missed by her family and members at Pleasant Hill but we have hope, thanks be to Christ!

- **Larry Brady will have heart surgery on March 13,** God willing. He & Bev are traveling in the month of February to Florida.
- **Suzanne Harvey will have hernia surgery on February 13,** God permitting.



- **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. Kelly's preliminary prosthetic appointment is on February 14. Current prayers are for Kelly to receive the most advanced leg. He will need to demonstrate strength and balance when he tests to classify his needs. As you can imagine Kelly is working hard with PT to prepare him to be qualified for the most advanced prosthetic leg possible. Keep up the great work, Kelly. Continue to lift them up in prayer and encourage them with cards and visits.
- **Praise God for our Youth! ... January ITBS**
- **Iowa Traveling Bible Study had a fabulous night filled with Bible study, games, campfire, fellowship, and Mexican food.**
January ITBS theme was *'We can't do things on our own – we need the Holy Spirit to help us!'* (John 16-18).
Many thanks to the Klein family for hosting and to the parents who brought their children. It's a joy to see

you raise them in the Lord and share fellowship with one another.

Save the Date! February ITBS will be held at Destry & Charity Klein's home on 2/24 at 4 p.m. Watch for details on the ITBS Facebook page.

- **January thru April 2023, God willing, Wade Stanley will teach the book of Revelation on Wednesday nights. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

All local congregations are invited. Each week Wade's study is recorded and available on the Pleasant Hill Church of Christ YouTube channel.

February Birthdays

- ☆ 2/5 – Max Flickinger
- ☆ 2/6 – Marc Hermon
- ☆ 2/10 – Layla Laymon
- ☆ 2/14 – Audra Needham
- ☆ 2/23 – Marje Turnquist

February Anniversaries:

- None

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>

- **Walter Daugherty will be celebrating his 99th birthday on Feb. 2.** We are planning a small party on Feb. 5th with cake and singing to him at the nursing home where he resides. Walter's address is Altoona Nursing & Rehab, 200 7th Ave. SW, Altoona, IA 50009--he LOVES getting cards!
- **Melda Ingle and her family and church family will be helping her to celebrate her 91st birthday on Feb. 8.** Her address is 13068 Fremont St. Prairie City, IS 50228.
- Bonnie Harkins was in Pella Hospital for several days and is home now recovering.
- Doug Fiorentin is scheduled for shoulder surgery Feb. 3 and will be off work for several months.
- Lynnette Dowdy visited family in the Kansas City area.
- Doug and Lisa Fiorentin attended his older brother, Paul's funeral in Illinois. Another brother, John has had a stroke and not doing well and Doug's father, Bruno is not doing well either---prayers appreciated.
- We had fun and fellowship at our monthly get-together at Klein's making Stone Soup with everyone bringing something to add to the soup----delicious!

- Several ladies enjoyed a fun night at Shonya Klein's as we had a Favorite Things party hosted by Brittney Dowdy---food, fun, and favorite things!!!
- Visitors this month were: Ryan, Jamie, Patrick, and Taylor Ingle, Jared, Bethany, Paityn, Kendrick, and Lochlan Groves.



February Birthdays

- ☆ • 2 Walter Daugherty
- ☆ • 2 Reuben Heartsill
- ☆ • 8 Melda Ingle
- ☆ • 9 Bruce Fiorentin
- ☆ • 14 Rachael Henle
- ☆ • 16 Derek Ingle
- ☆ • 20 James Dowdy
- ☆ • 21 Laura Dowdy
- ☆ • 26 Amy Ingle
- ☆ • 27 Shelby Ingle
- ☆ • 28 Briana Heartsill

February Anniversaries

- ☆ None

The Siloam Pool: Where Jesus Healed the Blind Man

A sacred Christian site identified by archaeologists

Biblical Archaeology Society Staff January 12, 2023 118,347 views

The Siloam Pool has long been considered a sacred Christian site, even if the correct identification of the site itself was uncertain. According to the Gospel of John, it was at the Siloam Pool where Jesus healed the blind man (John 9:1–11).

Traditionally, the Christian site of the Siloam Pool was the pool and church that were built by the Byzantine empress Eudocia (c. 400–460 A.D.) to commemorate the miracle recounted in the New Testament. **However, the exact location of the original pool as it existed during the time of Jesus remained a mystery until June 2004.**



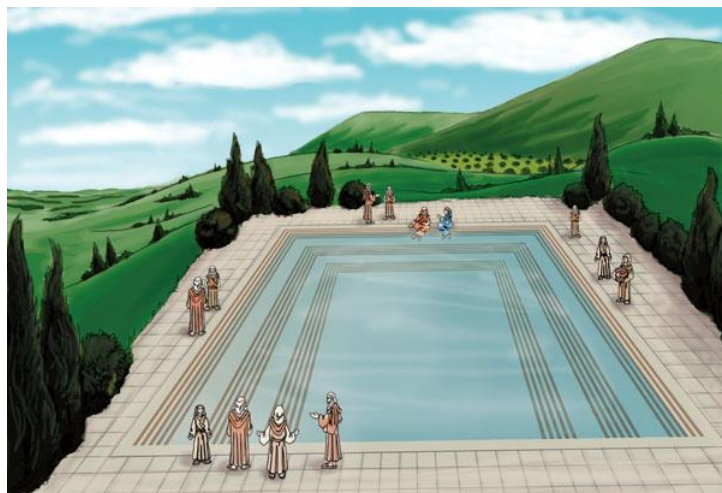
In 2004, the stepped remains of the ancient Siloam Photo: Todd Bolen

During construction work to repair a large water pipe south of Jerusalem's Temple Mount, at the southern end of the ridge known as the City of David, archaeologists Ronny Reich and Eli Shukron identified two ancient stone steps. Further excavation revealed that they were part of a monumental pool from the Second Temple period, the period in which Jesus lived. The structure Reich and Shukron discovered was 225 feet long, with corners that are slightly greater than 90 degrees, indicating a trapezoidal shape, with the widening end oriented toward Tyropoeon valley.

The Siloam Pool is adjacent to the area in the ancient City of David known as the King's Garden and is just southeast of the remains of the fifth-century church and pool traditionally believed to be the sacred Christian site.

What was the function of the Siloam Pool during Jesus' time? Because the pool is fed by waters from the Gihon Spring, located in the Kidron Valley, the naturally flowing spring water would have qualified the pool for use as a mikveh for ritual bathing. However, it could also have been an important source of fresh water for the inhabitants on that part of the city. One scholar has even suggested that it was a Roman-style swimming pool.

Whatever its original purpose, the Siloam Pool where Jesus healed the blind man is an important Christian site, and its discovery represents a watershed moment in the field of Biblical archaeology.



Artist's rendering of the Siloam Pool, the Biblical Christian site where Jesus healed the blind man. Image: Jason Clarke.