



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

February 2024

The visit of the wise men

In Lk 2:39 where Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth, where Jesus would grow up, something very important happens in between Lk. 2:38 & 39 that Matthew records in Matt. 1:1-23.

Who were these wise men from the east? Some translations refer to them as Magi. Somehow, they knew the king of the Jews was to be born. They say His star in the east, and they had come to worship him. They knew this Child, even as king of the Jews, was worthy of their worship. They came to Jerusalem, for that was where the present king, Herod, lived, and that would be the most natural place for a king of Israel to be born.

I know you know the story of how Herod knew nothing of this Child, and he was especially alarmed that one would be born to usurp his place and authority, for that is how such a vile man as Herod would view it. Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes to find out where this Child would be born. When they discovered it was to be in Bethlehem by reading the prophecy in Micah 5:2, Herod sent them on their way and requested when they had found this Child, to send him word that he may come to "worship" Him as well. Of course, we know Herod had no intention of worshipping this Child. He had every intention of killing Him.

These Magi continued their journey until they arrived at Bethlehem to the house in which Mary and Joseph lived with their Child, where they did indeed worship the Child and gave Him gifts of great value. These riches probably be used by Joseph and Mary to raise this Child. The child Jesus was about 2 years old or so. Before these Magi began their journey to their home, they were "divinely warned in a dream" to go back another way and not return or perhaps not even to notify Herod they had found the Child.

But before Herod sent his representatives to Bethlehem to kill the innocents, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, warning him of Herod's plot, and told him to flee to Egypt, which they did. This was to fulfill the prophecy from Hos 11:1-- "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Unfortunately, Herod did have every young child un

der the age of 2 years murdered in that small town of Bethlehem later.

One thing I find very interesting is how did the Magi know of Jesus' birth? Yes, they saw His Star, but I wonder if there was something else involved. We tend to assume every Jew in Israel and later Judea was evil when the Lord had the nations destroyed, and Assyria and later Babylon had taken many of them back to the east, as was the custom of victorious armies of that time. We know there were at

least some who were righteous who were carried away to Assyria and Babylon with the others. Men like Daniel, Shadrach, Mishael, Abed Nego, Ezra, Nehemiah and perhaps their parents as well as others. They were faithful children of God carried way with the wicked.

Could these righteous and knowledgeable Jews had influenced Assyria and Babylon with their faith? Absolutely! We know there was some influence on Nebuchadnezzar and later, Cyrus and surely others! It only makes sense that the Lord did allow the knowledge of the Jewish Scriptures and the many prophecies they foretold of the coming Christ to help them gain wisdom and understanding. Where He would be born and perhaps other hints as to His status and life. Perhaps these Magi even understood them better than those Jewish leaders in Israel at the time of the Christ and His birth! To help aid this along, per

haps the Spirit also helped them understand when the “King of the Jews” would be born.

Whatever the aid and to what extent it was, led to the Lord being glorified and mankind ultimately having

the chance to be saved from our burden of sin and death. May God be glorified, and may His name be praised!

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

- Quiet month in Chariton.



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

- Marty and Lisa Williamson met with us. Marty spoke for us, and gave us many good things to think about.
- Tammy Fitzgerald received good news from her MRI on her leg. There is no infection, so she won't need further surgery.
- Shawn Head had a liver scan. His liver disease is some better right now.
- Several have been ill this month.

February Birthdays:

- ☆ 08 Johnie McNeece
- ☆ 16 Bill McNeece
- ☆ 25 Frances Hawthorne

February Anniversaries:

- ☆ None

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m

Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632

For information call: Richard Negley (712)695-9001 or Marvin Negley (712)303-7106

- Quiet month at Fairview

February Birthdays:

- ☆ None

February Anniversaries:

- ☆ 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

- Mary Proudfit has been diagnosed with covid. Please keep Mary & Duane in your prayers.
Her address is:

Willows

Room 1340
1203 North E Street
Indianola, IA 50125

- Alena Ingle has been experiencing some health issues. Please keep Rodney, Alena and family in your prayers.
- Allie Mae Stephens was baptized on Wednesday, January 24th at the Smart Road Church of Christ in Missouri. Allie's grandparents are Mike & Tracy Penick and great grandma, Peg Warren. Prayers for Allie Mae as she begins her walk with God.

February Birthdays — None this month

February Anniversaries

- ☆ Allen & Teresa Bown - February 9
- ☆ Bill & Wendy Hounsom - February 20

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

Announcements: ♥ Heartfelt Love & Prayers:

The Lord and His angels rejoiced with the Pritchard family on Friday, January 26, when Alivia Pritchard was buried in Christ and arose again in the newness of life! Her father, Dan Pritchard, baptized Alivia for the remission of her sins around 4:15 p.m. in the church baptistry.

Alivia's immediate family, grandparents, aunts, cousins, elders, and close friends were exceedingly glad to celebrate her immersion. God bless you, Alivia! Your sincere faith, genuine love, and quiet/gentle spirit will draw others to



Christ. May you grow strength and wisdom in the Lord as you strive to be a faithful, loving servant of Christ.

“Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life!” — Romans 6:4

- Tim, Tammy, Larry & Bev Brady are all vacationing in Florida this month.
- Taylor Ingle, Shea & Gabriel Hermon all attended the Smart Road, MO Church of Christ Youth Meeting this month.
- Pleasant Hill's church government study and selection process with Rick Sparks will begin Sunday, Feb. 4, God willing.
- Kelly George had surgery on his hand this month to repair a genetic condition called *Dupuytren's*

contracture. We are thankful that his heart is healthy enough for him to have this surgery.

- Mike and Shirley Warner were blessed with their 10th great-grandchild on January 3rd. Tate Oliver Thornton was 8 lbs. 15 oz and 21 1/2 inches long. Parents are Noah and Lexi Thornton of Omaha NE. God bless the little children!!
- Marilyn McClurg is gaining strength. She was at Waukee Independence Legacy Pointe early January but has made it home now. Please encourage her with love.

All glory to God! There were 22 Bible students in attendance at this month's ITBS!

- What an amazing start to the 2024 Iowa Traveling Bible Study (ITBS)! January's Bible study was about the profitability of being in the Word of God. Students memorized 2 Timothy 3:16 and learned Greek from the passage. Everyone participated well and gained knowledge in scripture.
- After the study, the group shared food, fun, and fellowship. Counting adults there were nearly 30 present for the evening gathering. Praise God for our gracious sister-in-Christ, Nancy Clark, Vandalia congregation, for hosting. She was well-equipped and had a feast ready for the crew! Later Alan and Marc challenged everyone to a guys vs gals group activity game, there was outdoor snow fun, Flashlight Hide and Seek, and lots of laughter and small group conversations.
- We witnessed children bonding in the Lord and gaining spiritual growth. Hallelujah for the youth God has gifted the kingdom.

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February Birthdays

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

February Anniversaries – None this month!



SAVE THE DATE!

February ITBS is 2/24
at Randy and Theresa Ingle's home
in Mitchellville, Iowa

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.com>

- **Walter Daugherty will be celebrating his 100th birthday on Feb. 2.** An Open House at the Vandalia Church of Christ building is planned for Sunday, Feb. 4 from 3-5 PM. If you are not able to attend the Open House, Walter's address at the nursing home is:

Altoona Nursing & Rehab

200 7 th Ave. SW
 Altoona, IA 50009

---he LOVES getting cards!

- **Nathan Fiorentin and Erica Belcher were married in a private ceremony Tuesday, Jan. 16.** They, along with Haylee and Levi are living in Reasoner, Iowa. A wedding ceremony is being planned for April 27.
- **We have two new sisters-in-Christ – Erica Fiorentin and her daughter, Haylee LaCoursiere** were baptized into Christ on the evening of January 16 th ... so happy for them!
- Saturday, Jan. 27, an Open House was held for **James Dowdy to celebrate his recent graduation from Purdue Global**—CONGRATULATIONS JAMES on this accomplishment!
- 🏠 **Mary Ellen Goode has been in and out of the hospital this month.** She is currently at Mercy West---prayers for her and her family.
- Shonya, Easton, Kiana, Tyrell Klein and Ethan Clark attended the Youth Rally at Smart Road in Kansas City on Jan. 19-21.

- Jason Miller's sister Llana Satterlee's funeral was January 24 in Carrollton, Missouri. Prayers for Jason and Staci as his father, David Miller is in the hospital due to a medical emergency and is now in progressive rehab at the hospital.
- Several members attended a Fellowship Night at the church building Friday, Jan. 26.

Prayers for this work

- **Trent Fiorentin has set up several bible studies at care centers in Pella and Indianola**—prayers for his efforts. Trent is working on the VBS to be held at the Vandalia building on April 13 and 14. Trent has accepted a part-time job as a handyman at Christian Opportunity Center in Indianola.
- **Visitors** this month were: David and Joyce Ingle; Randy and Theresa and Kinnick Ingle; Brandy McPhillips and daughter, Maddie; Randy and Bobbi Owens and girls.



February Birthdays

2 Walter Daugherty	2 Reuben Heartsill
9 Bruce Fiorentin	16 Derek Ingle
20 James Dowdy	21 Laura Dowdy
26 Amy Ingle	27 Shelby Ingle
28 Briana Heartsill	

February Anniversaries

☆ None

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE AN EXAMPLE TO THE BELIEVERS

1 Timothy 4:12

WEDNESDAY 6:30 P.M. FEB 14TH, 2024

WELCOME: MARC HERMON

OPENING PRAYER: MARTY WILLIAMSON

SONG: GABBY HERMON

TWO WAYS TO HANDLE TEMPTATION

-TYRELL KLEIN-

SONG

NT READING: 1ST TIMOTHY 4:8-16 - SAMUEL PRITCHARD

HELPING & ENCOURAGING OTHERS

-GABBY HERMON-

SONG

OT READING: JOSHUA 1:1-9 - KINNICK INGLE

THE LORD'S GUIDE

-SHEA HERMON-

SONG

WALK THE NARROW WAY

-EASTON KLEIN-

INVITATION SONG

CLOSING REMARKS: MIKE WARNER

CLOSING PRAYER: ALAN KLEIN

Pizza & Salads in the basement following...