



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

March 2024

Jesus' healing and forgiveness

The overall purpose of Christ's incarnation was to forge a path for mankind to live with his Creator in eternity. To do this, He had to provide a way for mankind's sins to be paid for and forgiven. This was the only means by which man could obtain a home in Heaven. His sins had to be dealt with, for they were the only condemnation between man and his salvation.

For Jesus to accomplish this glorious deed, He had to do several other things so man could find the right pathway to this end.

For instance, He had to build His Church to give man a spiritual dwelling place to help him walk with His Creator while here on earth, for righteousness was and always has been a way for the Lord's people to live.

To make all this work, Jesus had to have the capacity to forgive sins, and He had to prove that ability, or else mankind would not have the faith to have their sins forgiven.

Much of Jesus' work while here on this earth was to heal some of mankind's many afflictions and diseases. He had to prove He had such power, and this power must not in any way depend on man's medicines and knowledge. For man's medicines and knowledge would work only in the physical world. They were powerless in the spiritual world and could never do what only the power of the Lord could do to heal man's spiritual afflictions, namely sin and death. Man is completely powerless, helpless, and hopeless in this regard.

It seems that much of the religious world thinks Jesus came to get rid of man's physical diseases and afflictions. But that was never His objective. Though

He did expend much power and time healing many of man's physical afflictions during His ministry.

But again, healing these diseases was never the "endgame." Healing these diseases was not to extend much beyond the first century during His and His apostles' lives. One of His primary goals was to heal man of His spiritual afflictions, that is—sin. That is why He came into the world.

In the paragraph in Lk 5:17-26, we have the story of Jesus forgiving a man's sins and healing his affliction as a paralytic. As Jesus was healing many afflictions, this man's friends wanted to get him to Jesus, for they had faith that Jesus could heal him and help him walk. As good friends would do, they found a way to get their friend to Jesus, for He was crowded around by many others who begged for their own healing.

When they finally got their friend to Jesus, it says Jesus saw their faith, and He said to the paralytic, "*Man, your sins are forgiven you.*"

There is no indication the man asked for this great blessing. This may have been the first time Jesus forgave someone's sins. Perhaps, Jesus knew this was a good man, for certainly His friends were for doing what they could to help their friend.

However, Jesus had something more profound in mind. He knew the Pharisees and teachers of the Law were watching Him, probably looking for something to accuse Him, for they were indeed beginning to become jealous of Jesus getting as much attention as He was getting. I believe Jesus knew exactly how they would react.

When they heard Jesus utter this statement, they responded by reasoning among themselves in Luke 5:21 "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Note, they were right in

their observation, for indeed only God can forgive sins. No man has that power.

But they did not know Who and What Jesus was. Jesus counters back in vs 22 by challenging them by asking, "Which is easier, to forgive sins or heal the lame?" Jesus then proceeded to heal the man of his paralysis after He forgave his sins! In this account it does not give us the Jewish leaders' reaction, but I

think we can figure that out by studying them throughout Jesus' ministry.

While the acts of healing were part of Jesus' ministry, that was only a step in convincing the people and us that Jesus does indeed have the power to forgive sins. If Jesus can forgive this man's sins—He can forgive ours!

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.



March Birthdays

- None

March 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

- Frances Hawthorne and her two daughters came to worship with us. It was Frances' 96th birthday. Frances is doing well.



- Marty Williamson met with us and gave us an edifying lesson.
- Don James spent some time in the hospital to pass a kidney stone. He is doing good now.
- Jim Meek fell and hurt his arm that he had surgery on.
- We have had lots of sickness this month.

March Birthdays:

- ☆ 12 Brita Head
- ☆ 29 Greg Head
- ☆ 30 Roberta Milinski

March 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

March Birthdays:

☆ None

March 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

- Please keep Mary & Duane in your prayers.

Her address is:

Willows

Room 1340

1203 North E Street

Indianola, IA 50125

- We were saddened by the loss of Pam Deckler's mom, Doris Long. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Deckler and the Long families.
- The Teghtmeyer family took a vacation in January and early February. They spent a few days in Orlando at Disney World, a few days in Cocoa Beach and went on a 7 night Disney cruise.
- Trent, Leah, Eva and Josie Fiorentin from the Vandalia Church of Christ met with us on Sunday, February 25th. Trent gave a good lesson on hypocrisy based on Matthew 25.

Visitors:

Stephanie, Ada, Allie, Anna and E.J. Stephens
Trent, Leah, Eva and Josie Fiorentin
Halley and C.J. Little
Roy McMillan
Steve Proudfit

March Birthdays —

- ☆ Ethan Schreck - March 5
- ☆ Courtney Teghtmeyer - March 7
- ☆ Tom Collier - March 10
- ☆ Dave Henderson - March 18
- ☆ Rusty Bown - March 20
- ☆ Megan Schreck - March 24

March Anniversaries

- ☆ Dave & Christy Henderson - March 14
- ☆ Dick & Phyllis Bown - March 27

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 next ITBS is March 30 at 4 p.m. at Ayden & Madison Twaddell's home.
- Tim, Tammy, Larry & Bev Brady are all vacationing in Florida this month.
- Allison George had additional corrective facial surgery this week. Praise God she's healing well thus far. Kelly and Sophia George suffered with Influenza A at the end of February.
- Bruce & Suzanne Harvey are going through medical trials. Bruce had hand surgery and Suzanne is dealing with eye pain/headaches due to Thyroid Eye Disease.
- Marilyn McClurg has attended worship services the past few weeks – praise God!

It is with heavy hearts that we share that Ayden's sister, and Doug and Jill Twaddell's daughter, Alyssa Twaddell, passed away Friday morning. Alyssa, 33, attended Lone Jack Church of Christ in KC.

- Alyssa made an impact on youth by helping organize each year's Winter Youth Rally themes, games, fellowship activities, and creating end-of-rally photo slideshows.
- Throughout the years, congregations were blessed with Alyssa composing bible school songs, offering kid's Zoom classes during the pandemic, and interacting with children, and helping mothers in need, especially her sisters-in-law.
- Alyssa loved to attend Bible campouts and went nationwide to attend church meetings. She was a loving, caring person and at the end of her earthly life gave generously through gifting at least two souls as an organ donor.
- The Twaddell family embraced Alyssa during her final week in heartfelt love and showed an incredible example to the kingdom and world of their great faith in God and hope in the resurrection, thanks be to Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4.
- Alyssa's celebration of life was Saturday, Feb. 24th at the Gregory Blvd. Church of Christ 7109 Raytown Rd.

Raytown, MO. Visitation will be from 12-2. Service from 2-3 with a meal and fellowship for all to follow the service in the basement.

- **This week we encouraged our college students with care packages.** We take great delight in our young brothers and sisters! May they continue to grow in knowledge academically but even more importantly, spiritually!
- Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



- Praise God for the young men who participated in the Young Men's Meeting on February 14.
- 1 Timothy 4:12, "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in manner of living, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."
- Praise God for the young men who participated in edifying the body of believers and giving God glory during the Young Men's meeting!



- We thank God for their zeal for the Word, sincere love for Christ, and desire to serve the kingdom. We invite you to listen to their readings and lessons online.

Addresses for the Twaddell family are listed below:

- Family of Doug and Jill, in birth order: Alyssa, Austin, Aubryn (Michael), Ayden (Madison), and Alijah (Sarah).
- Doug & Jill Twaddell (Evangelist + members at Excelsior Springs CoC)
*Austin and Ladeanna (Gregory Blvd. CoC) - Paternal grandmother.
1700 S Ann Ct
Independence, MO 64057
- Michael & Aubryn Fenton family (Lone Jack CoC)
312 SE Corder St
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
- Ayden and Madison Twaddell family (Phill CoC)
307 S. 3rd St
Indianola, IA 50125
- Alijah and Sarah Twaddell (Blue Springs CoC)
1112 NW Arlington Place Apt 4
Blue Springs, MO 64015
- Judy Dunn (Prince Road CoC) – Maternal Grandmother
11373 D'Adrian Professional Park;

%Cedar Creek, room 111
Godfrey, IL 62035

March Birthdays

- ☆ Tim Brady – 3/4
- ☆ Carlene Suhr – 3/7
- ☆ Kyrie Ingle – 3/9
- ☆ Chamille Laymon, Susan Conner – 3/10
- ☆ Gordon Laymon, Henry Conner – 3/11
- ☆ Ellie Wood – 3/15
- ☆ Miles Wood – 3/17
- ☆ Brenda Bohall – 3/18
- ☆ Mike Brady, Naomi Needham – 3/19
- ☆ Bud Fillman – 3/20
- ☆ Theresa Brady – 3/30
- ☆ Allison George – 3/31

March Anniversaries

- ☆ Gordon & Chamille Laymon – 3/19
- ☆ Bruce & Suzanne Harvey – 3/11!

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>

Sunday, Feb. 4, Walter Daugherty celebrated his 100th birthday with an Open House held at the church building.



- Members of the Newton American Legion were there to honor him as he is a WWII veteran. Many friends and family came to share the afternoon with him and to enjoy cake and one of his favorite foods—Wendy's Frosty! The highlight of the afternoon was Walter sharing some wonderful stories about his life---such an amazing man!.

- Doug Fiorentin's older brother John passed away and his father Bruno broke his femur---prayers for the Fiorentin family.
- Mary Ellen Goode spent several days in a rehab center and is now home slowly recovering.
- Jason and Staci Miller, Allison and Isaac have traveled to Missouri several weekends to visit his father, David Miller, as he continues to recuperate.
- Matthew Clark served samples of 5 different homemade brats to the group after services on Sunday, Feb. 25, in preparation for a Fareway brat contest in March, which he and Ethan are participating in. Samples were delicious and feedback was given to Matt. Good luck!
- Visitors this month were: Sue Schreck, Randy, Theresa and Kinnick Ingle; Randy and Bobbi Owens and daughters; Jason and Autumn Dowdy, Sterling, Hunter, Malachi,

Gatlin, Shiloh, and Aspen; Ryan and Jamie Ingle and family;
Brandy McPhillips and Maddie.

- ☆ 22 Abigail Ingle
- ☆ 23 Sharon Cummings
- ☆ 29 Michael Cummings
- ☆ 29 Alan Klein



March Birthdays

- ☆ 4 Devon Ingle
- ☆ 19 Mariha Henle
- ☆ 22 Mason Burkman

March Anniversaries

- ☆ 23 James & Laura Dowdy

Spring Equinox
 Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 10:06 PM
 Central Time

Vernal (Spring) equinox, two moments in the year when the Sun is exactly above the Equator and day and night are of equal length; also, either of the two points in the sky where the ecliptic (the Sun's annual pathway) and the celestial equator intersect.

