



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

April 2020

Our Hope!

by Jay Graham

Of course, everything today seems to be centered around this virus and our responses. I do believe this is something we, as Christians, should take very seriously, especially as it seems to be primarily a danger to those who are older as well as those with compromised immune systems. I completely understand the serious precautions we are urged to take.

With this said, it is sad seeing our society as well as much of the world falling apart but not surprising. When your hope is in this world and the things of the world why would you not?

I certainly can understand why many people seem to be panicking to the point of fighting over and even hoarding consumer goods. I am reminded of Proverbs 28:1-- The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion. When all you have to hope for is this world, you are frightened of shadows. You are frightened of anything that threatens to take your hope away.

The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. The apostle Paul spoke to this in 2 Timothy 1:7-- For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Jesus taught us to fear God and not the things that endanger our earthly existence.

As the Lord's people, our Hope is in Christ and His crucifixion, and it is NOT in this world. So we should not allow ourselves to be caught up in the distractions of this world.

Yes, this virus and the danger it presents can be a distraction. It is intended to take our eyes off the Lord and be frightened.

As noted in Mat 14:22-33, just as Peter was walking on the water, defying the laws of gravity, he began to sink. Why? Because he took his eyes off His Lord. I believe the wind and the waves were there from the beginning of his getting out of the boat—they were not a factor that kept Peter from walking on the water. However, they became a distraction, for when he took his eyes off the Lord he began to sink.

Jesus warned us of distractions in Lk 13:1-5. The danger the Tower of Siloam falling posed was a distraction. Even the horrific act Pilate caused by taking the lives of the Galileans was a distraction. To both examples He urged His people to repent rather than focus on those tragedies.

Now I certainly do not wish to be misunderstood. I believe we should take this illness seriously, but let us not panic as many in the world are doing. Let us keep our heads and actions under control and our spirits fixed on Jesus and what Peace and Courage only He provides.

Let us continue to keep our eyes on the Prize and not be afraid as taught in Phil 3:14.

Our Hope is in the Lord and His crucifixion and subsequent resurrection. He will deliver us from this body of death if we continue to look unto Him as the author and finisher of our faith. THAT is worthy of our great and uncompromised attention. Not the distractions of this world. It is in Christ where our Hope is!

Amen!



Chariton

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

NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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

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

- Quiet month at Chariton

April Birthdays

★ None

April Anniversaries

★ None

Dean Avenue

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

NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Last Sunday of the month: ~~A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.~~

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

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

Ways we are keeping in touch with each other during the Covid19:

- We are texting and telephoning each other. Some are having their own bible study, prayers and singing.
- Others are joining Pleasant Hill's online services. A couple of TV shows put on by Church of Christs have been found.
- We had scheduled a weekend meeting with Tad Morris on April 11 & 12. This has been cancelled.
- **We are saddened to report that Neal Warren passed away on March 19th with Parkinson's disease.** His birthday was March 16th. He was 86 years old. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Cards can be sent to Peg Warren
695 E. Army Post Rd., #410
Des Moines, IA, 50315

- Risa Schamel had carpal tunnel surgery on one wrist. She will have surgery on the other wrist later.
- **Others ill:** Pam Climpson, Yvonne Coe, Shirley McNeece
- **Visitors:** Bill, Bryan, Max and Tally Charlier, Nancy Evans, Aiden, Coleton, Preston and Paxon Boozell, Brita Head & Charlie, Frances and Valerie Hawthorne.



April Birthdays

- ★ 6 Shawn Head
- ★ 9 Donna McNeece
- ★ 18 Pam Climpson
- ★ 19 Peg Warren

April Anniversaries

- ★ 27 Bill & Shirley McNeece

Fairview

Meeting times: ~~Sundays: 10:00 a.m. + Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.~~
NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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

For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

Richard Negley reports from Fairview:
"Like most churches during this time things are pretty quiet. We did not hold services on March 22 & 29th."



April Birthdays

★ 9 - Mary Swisher

April Anniversary

- ★ 19 - Richard & Janet Negley, 57 years!
- ★ 25 - Jack & Bobbi Swisher, 48 years!

Martensdale

Meeting Times: ~~Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. + Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.~~
NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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

- Pam Deckler traveled to Nebraska to be with her daughter who had surgery.
- Dick and Phyllis Bown went to Springfield, MO, to help their granddaughter, Savannah, celebrate her birthday.
- Tom Collier traveled to Oklahoma City to celebrate his joint March 10th birthday with his grandson Bradley who turned 9 years old. Tom turned another year older.
- Visitors this month were Stephanie Stephens and kids and Nick Hermon.

- We're realizing what a blessing it is to meet regularly with the brethren and being reminded not to take that blessing for granted!

April Birthdays

★ 26 - Bill Hounsom

April Anniversaries

★ 14 – Duane & Mary Proudfit

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: ~~Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. + Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.~~
NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

ONLINE ACTIVITIES AND SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND AT THE WEBSITE

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

- We have added a new member to our congregation, Mike & Shirley Warner's son, Stephen Thompson. We

are thrilled to have him as a permanent member of our "family." Congratulations!

- Along the same note, we are saddened to lose a member, Nathan Williamson, who is transferring to the Smart Road Church of Christ. Lord willing, Nathan and his fiancée Kathleen Didion, are planning to be married on June 6th! Congratulations to Nathan and Kathleen!!
- Our congregation has formed a group called C.R.E.W. ~ Christians Ready & Eager to Work! Some of the CREW opportunities we have done this past month include:
 - Card shower for Steven Dallas Thompson;
 - Sunshine box for Sophia George to encourage her through her health problems;
 - Outdoor work at Keith Price's home as well as Mike & Shirley Warner's home;
 - Freezer meals & care packages were delivered to Stephen & Dee Thompson home to help them through a difficult time... Dee has had to be quarantined due to COVID-19. They have little over a week left in quarantine.
 - Hallelujah!—Steve is celebrating two years since his cancer diagnosis and now cancer free! Please continue to keep this family in your prayers.
- We are postponing visits to Keith Price for now as we're taking all recommended coronavirus precautions. Please encourage the family with cards and prayers.
- Others that need encouragement for ongoing health issues: Wanda Burkman, Betty Warren, Bruce & Suzanne Harvey, Paul Zinnel, and Niko Felice (continuous sinus infection).
- Marje Turnquist has cornea damage from a branch that hit her eye while working in flower garden in Florida.
- Please pray for Kayley Hermon's Aunt Kelley who is 7 months pregnant and has been exposed to COVID. She was hospitalized with pneumonia and is waiting to get official test results back.
- Special prayers for many members of Theresa Brady's family who are being cared for in a nursing home.
- Many prayers needed for those who have been directly affected by COVID-19:
- Nick Hermon - freelance video production with Indiana & Norwalk High Schools for spring sports has been canceled.
- Alonzo Jones - Work very limited due to virus.
- Julene Pappan, Marc Hermon, Jamie Ingle and all our children in attendance at public schools are delayed until at least April 12.
- Many are working from home: Cindy Brady, Sharon Mineart, Betty Miles, Dan Pritchard, Eric & Whitney Thorson, Marty Williamson & Michele Zinnel. Tim Brady and Ginger Hermon are both working part-time from job site and from home.
- Brandon Ingle's UNI classes are now online, Kayley Zimmerman's student teaching is delayed until Norwalk returns to session.
- JC & Melanie Castro - Missionary trip to spread the gospel in Haiti has been canceled. They continue in prayerful preparation for their trip to Virginia and hope to leave soon to share time with their son, Jacob, & Melanie's mother.
- Marje Turnquist - delayed travel home from Florida to Iowa.
- Mike Warner - hip surgery postponed. Pray for his pain to be minimal.
- All our beloved members who are caregivers or who have quarantined themselves: Betty Warren, Marilyn McClurg, Nora Lee Ingle, Bud Fillman, Steven Dallas Thompson, Stephen Thompson, Tom Brady, Mary Gearhart (Ron), Rosanne Van Vleet (Cliff), Jen Albright (Chip & Keith), Bruce & Suzanne Harvey, Don & Wanda Burkman, Marge Flack, Steve & Nancy Brady. Be creative and think of ways to help this group and others! Please consider calling, texting or sending cards of cheer their way.
- Please pray earnestly for our many brothers and sisters who work in the medical, emergency and military fields: Special prayers for Mike & Cindy Brady, Alex Needham, Brandon Ingle in the days and months ahead. As well please pray for extended family members providing medical service (Megan Schreck, Ayden Twaddell, Tricia Baird).
- Praise God! Steven Dallas Thompson was able to worship with us in early March; additionally, it was a blessing for Stephen Thompson's wife, Dee, and daughter Addison to attend services. Also, Niko Felice had two life-long friends join us in songs of praise.
- We were also blessed with brother Grant McClung, from the Excelsior Springs congregation, visiting Ryan Zinnel and worshipped with us. We are also grateful the Needham family has been able to worship with us.
- Bud Fillman and Larry/Bev Brady made it home safely from their vacations in Texas and Florida, respectively.
- Please continue to pray for a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery for Kelsey Wood (April) and Whitney Thorson (June).
- March 15th was our last congregation meeting together... we celebrated Bud Fillman's 90th birthday that day during our potluck lunch. We are grateful for four brothers and sisters who are over 90 years of age and continue to worship with us (Nora Lee Ingle, Betty Warren, Marilyn McClurg and Bud). They have been a

constant source of love, encouragement, and faithfulness. We cherish each one of them. ❤️

"We pray that each may enjoy good health and that all may go well, even as their souls are getting along well." 3 John 1:2.

- Our "3M" elders (Mike Warner, Marty Williamson, Marc Hermon) have had many discussions and many prayers, trying to figure out what to do about our services in response to the COVID-19. For the near future we will be suspending Wednesday and Sunday night Bible studies.
- **Sunday morning service will be live streamed** until we can meet again. Songs and Voices from the Past will be from 9:30-10:00 a.m. and worship service will take place 10-11:30 a.m. There have been bumps along the way, but we are doing our best to get the kinks worked out. You can go to our Pleasant Hill Church of Christ website and follow the link posted there for each Sunday. We have all been provided with bread and juice so we can participate in the Lord's Table at our individual homes (thanks to Marc and Ginger Hermon). A BIG thank you to Nick Hermon for putting in many hours and lack of sleep to get us "online" technically! It has been a wonderful encouragement to all of us to learn that so many from other congregations around the country have "logged in" and participated. pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org OR can be found on Facebook as well.
- The monthly ITBS meetings have been suspended during this time as well.
- One unexpected blessing from this current COVID crisis, is the increased amount of online spiritual opportunities for us all to stay connected and encouraged. Marc started a Family Fun Bible Trivia night on Wednesday nights since that Bible study has been suspended. Due to the growing number of Wednesday Night events/studies, we will be moving our Family Fun Bible Trivia nights to Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. so we can all join in with as many events as possible. The link to the YouTube Stream will be posted on our church website and Facebook page.
- Ginger Hermon is planning weekly children's classes through Zoom; so hope to have that up and running

soon for the kiddos... they surely are missing their church friends! Depending on the age group, kids will study stories from the Book of John, share a Bible verse, sing songs, make a craft and cultivate friendships.

- Praise God from whom all blessings flow!! We love you all and ask that you love one another as we navigate this "bump" on our journey towards the prize.
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."



April Birthdays

- ★ 2 Karla Fetters / Brandon Ingle
- ★ 7 Rosanne Van Vleet
- ★ 8 Taylor Ingle
- ★ 9 Annabel Albright
- ★ 10 Wanda Burkman / Ryane Needham
- ★ 11 Bruce Harvey
- ★ 21 Lilly Albright
- ★ 26 Betty Warren / Margaret Franklin
- ★ 27 Rylee Ingle

April Anniversaries

- ★ 5 Randy & Theresa Ingle
- ★ 22 Eric & Whitney Thorson

April 2020

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.
Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.
Website: vandaliacoc.com
For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- We are saddened to report that Ruth Schell's oldest brother, Wayne Bartlett, passed away Saturday, March 30th in Indianola. We were informed that due to these difficult times, the funeral will need to be at a later date.

April Birthdays

- ★ 6 Margaret Ingle
- ★ 8 Pamela Skinner
- ★ 17 Aryana Klein

April Anniversaries

- ★ 23 James & Laura Dowdy

Early Christian History

A little known fact: The title "Apostolic Father" suggested, and was intended to suggest, the writings of those who had known the Apostles and were faithful to their teachings, as opposed to the writings of the New Testament, the work of the Apostles themselves. Modern scholarship would accept such a claim only in the cases of these three bishops, appointed by one of the Apostles: **Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, and Polycarp of Smyrna**—Polycarp being the most well documented. This fact, and especially scripture, debunks the lists of 'Apostolic Succession' claimed by Catholicism and several denominations.



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/library.php>
(select *Iowa Lighthouse* under the Library tab)