



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

April 2023

One serious lacking as a result of the lockdowns

As a result of dealing with the lockdowns and slow recovery of congregational activities, in particular *in-person Bible studies*, a lot of studying together has suffered.

Do not get me wrong, I am convinced leaders of the various congregations have done the best they can do in very trying and difficult circumstances; and they should be commended for their efforts and desire to at least make every effort to get as close to normal as possible.

From my perspective, the vast number of congregations have not been able to meet in person for what I call Bible studies and discussions that usually occur in most congregations. These gatherings are often separate to observing the Lord's Supper and an exhortation (or sermon).

While most assemblies of the body often are usually 2 hours in length to give time for various ways to consider the Lord's Word, most congregations have felt constrained to keep the meeting to 1 hour, and as a result, no bible studies. It is my personal conviction that individual Christians have suffered as a result of a lack of group studies and discussions.

It is also my conviction that a large portion—if not a majority—of Bible knowledge and learning comes as a result of such public studies.

- We learn a lot when we are actively attentive and involved in such opportunities.

- We learn a lot when we have our Bibles opened before us, as we are considering what a fellow believer is saying in regard to a particular passage or topic.
- It causes our "gray matter" (as our brother Marvin Ingle would say) to be stimulated. It brings to mind additional thoughts that build on other ideas and considerations.

I am convinced that our minds tend to work better and therefore learning is enhanced in group studies and discussions.

There is also a lacking in separate classes, usually separated by age groups and even gender. While it is certainly beneficial when an entire congregation can study as one group, there are also advantages to separating into smaller groups.

This gives more brothers and sisters opportunities to teach their individual classes, in which case, not only do the individuals who attend learn more, but certainly the individual who teaches learn more of what they are studying, preparing and presenting.

If you are a teacher you can testify the truth of that! There is a fable that is accepted by many churches and brethren that we learn better by being taught by those who know more than we. But in reality, I believe we learn more by teaching!

We have a granddaughter who is 7 years old who has been reading to her brother of

2 years, and they both are benefitted tremendously!

I know to various degrees brothers (mostly evangelists and elders) have had opportunities to teach through the many virtual formats that have been available, and the brothers should be commended for their efforts to help spread learning among the brethren.

However, most of these did not offer personal interaction as the type of studies I am referring to require. For these and other reasons, most brothers and sisters have missed out on such opportunities for going on 7 months and counting as congregations seem to be slowly getting back to our regular formats of studies.

Of course this lacking can be somewhat mitigated by individual Christians and their families endeavoring to study the Lord's

Word in the privacy of their own homes. While this type of studying can be beneficial, it does not nor even can completely and adequately provide what group Bible studies and discussions can offer.

And it could be argued that when we combine both of these type of studies, they augment and enhance each other, and that leads to even more learning.

As the congregations continue to work toward a normalcy that existed pre-covid and pre-lockdown, I am looking forward to churches getting back to serious congregational Bible studies.

We are all benefitted tremendously! May God allow it to be so once again for His people.

~ 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 at Chariton.



April Birthdays

- None

April 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

- Sara Patterson, daughter of John and Donna McNeece had back surgery to hopefully help her with pain and headaches she had been having due to injuries from a car wreck years ago. The doctors had to replace old hardware with

new. They also removed scar tissue and repaired two tears.

- Several members have been ill this month.

April 2023

April Birthdays

- ☆ 06 Shawn Head
- ☆ 09 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.

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

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

- Enjoyed having Doug & Jill Twaddle with us this month & had some great Bible lessons.
- Some of the church members are enjoying Wade Stanley's study of Revelations.

April Birthdays

- ☆ 9 - Mary Swisher
- ☆ 28 - Morgan Head

April Anniversary

☆ 19 - Richard & Janet Negley

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

- Quiet month at Martensdale.



April Birthdays

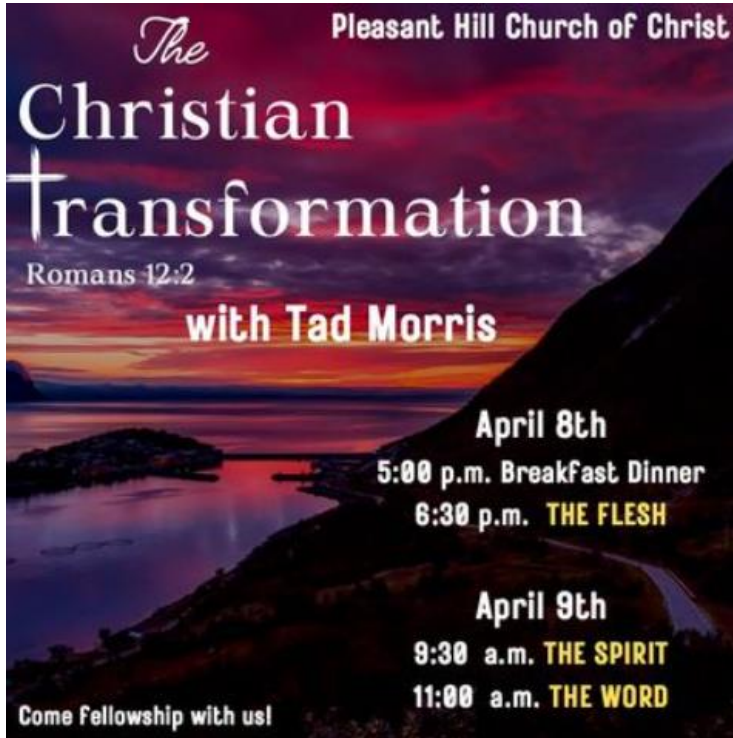
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April Anniversaries:

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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



Looking forward to April 8th & 9th with Tad Morris.

April Birthdays

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April Anniversaries:

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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>

- *On Friday, February 17, Melda Ingle, age 91, passed away at her daughter's home in Vandalia. Her funeral was held Monday, February 20. Her family thanks all of you for your thoughts and prayers. We were very blessed with a good Christian mom as an example for us.
~ Greg, Lynnette, Lisa, and Charles and families*
[Full obituary](#)
- Shonya Klein was one of the directors for a Homeschool Musical held in Newton on March 3. Many of our children performed: Carson and Lilly Dowdy, Kiana, Tyrell, and Aryana Klein and Easton

worked in the sound department. Fun night for everyone!

- Brighton and Caleb Ingle had parts in a PCM Middle School Musical on March 3, 4 and 5---great job!
- On Friday, March 10, fellowship was enjoyed at the building with games and snacks.
- Several ladies attended the Smart Road Ladies Meeting in Missouri on Saturday, March 11—Shonya and Kiana Klein, Lynnette and Brittney Dowdy, Angie and Shelby Ingle, Charity Klein, Nancy and Sarah Clark, and Leah Fiorentin.



- Trent Fiorentin spent a week in South Carolina for work related training.
- James Dowdy is no longer an intern at Principal but was given a full-time position. Congratulations!
- Richard Goode is home from staying a few weeks in a rehab facility and Bonnie Harkins has been feeling better and was able to attend services.
- Visitors this month were: Sue Schreck

April Birthdays

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

April Anniversaries

- ☆ 15 Devon & Erin Ingle.



April Fools' Day—occurring on April 1 each year—has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, though its exact origins remain a mystery.

Origins of April Fools' Day

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. In the Julian Calendar, as in the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1.

People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called “April fools.” These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as “poisson d’avril” (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.

April Fools' Day Pranks

In 1957, the BBC reported that Swiss farmers were experiencing a record spaghetti crop and showed footage of people harvesting noodles from trees.

In 1996, Taco Bell, the fast-food restaurant chain, duped people when it announced it had agreed to purchase Philadelphia’s Liberty Bell and intended to rename it the Taco Liberty Bell.

In 1992, National Public Radio ran a spot with former President Richard Nixon saying he was running for president again... only it was an actor, not Nixon, and the segment was all an April Fools' Day prank that caught the country by surprise.