



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

May 2023

♪ *I'd Rather Have Jesus* ♪ *Singing with understanding!*

I am convinced it is the Lord's will for us, "His people", to sing various types of songs. We sing sad songs, and we sing happy songs. We sing songs of praise as well as songs of Thanksgiving. We sing making requests of our God, and we sing songs that instruct us in our Lord's Ways. We also sing songs that can be dangerous for us to sing.

By that I mean we *need to sing with understanding* as Paul taught us in 1 Corinthians 14:15 15
What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

The song as the title of this article comes from Crum's red book, page 1B.

When we sing this song, we are stating to the Lord that we would rather have Jesus than an abundance of earthly possessions and riches.

~ We sing we would rather have Jesus than the praise of men.

~ We sing we would rather be faithful and true to His cause.

~ We sing Jesus is all our hungering souls and spirits require.

~ We sing we would rather have Jesus and let him lead our lives.

What if we are not truly thinking of the words we are singing? How does that sound to the Lord?

It would not be a "*sweet smelling savor to Him*" if we are not singing with understanding. It is so easy to get in the habit of simply mouthing the words. When we do this, we are not singing with complete understanding.

We need to think seriously of what we are singing to Him. We need to think about the words we are offering up to Him.

Of course, I think we appreciate that, while we are still living in the flesh, we are prone to having our minds drift, and it can be easy to fall into that pattern. Therefore, we need to get our minds back on Him and think about what we are singing.

It is for this reason that I like to hear those leading the songs say a few words to help us focus our minds and hearts on the upcoming words we are planning to sing. Because we live in the flesh, it is helpful to remind us of the seriousness of our upcoming words.

However, there is another level where we may sing the song, yet we are not truly meaning it. This song can be especially meaningful—or not. Do our actions truly fall in line with prioritizing our walk with Him? Are we living in a consistent manner that shows we would indeed *rather have Jesus than anything this world has to offer*? Or do our hearts and minds reflect other priorities?

In other words, are we truly meaning the words? If not, are we lying to the Lord? Are we committing the same sin that Ananias and Sapphira committed in Acts 5:1-11? Their lie was disastrous to their souls.

If we also are guilty of lying to the Lord, it can be disastrous to our souls as well, if we never repent and live consistent with what we are singing.

This is what I mean by being a "dangerous" song to sing if we do not mean it. Surely, this is one of the reasons that Paul urges us to "*sing with the understanding.*" Think about our words. Think about our motives.

It is for this reason we should take our singing seriously and with great purpose. When we sing in the assemblies with our brothers and sisters (including presence of Jesus, as taught in Heb 2:11-12), we are doing something that should be very important to us and our lives.

Our songs are not just there to fill the ‘spaces’ in between other aspects of our public worship. They should be there with purpose and “understanding”—therefore, we should sing with purpose and understanding.

There are good reasons why I believe the Lord wants us to sing when we meet as well as in our private lives. Songs are to reflect the reality of the Lord’s working in our lives. Songs fill unique roles, that nothing else can provide.

Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face ever more! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, O seed of Israel His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

~ 1 Chronicles 16

~ 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.



May Birthdays

- None

May 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

- Candy Meek, wife of Jim Meek, has stage 4 lung cancer. She has begun chemo treatments. Prayers would be appreciated.
- Shawn Head represented his employer, the Hoover Dam, on the TV show Ghost Hunters.
- Linda Head had the Watchman device implanted on her heart to prevent blood clots. This eliminates the need for blood thinner.
- Jay Graham met with us on April 1st and 2nd and gave us three good lessons.

May Birthdays

- ☆ 06 Shawn Head
- ☆ 09 Donna McNeece
- ☆ 18 Pam Climpson
- ☆ 19 Peg Warren

May 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

- Another quite month
- Looking forward to John Lee on May 14th
- Visitors: Paul & Brio Negley - Urbandale, IA.

May Birthdays

☆ 29 Becky McCoy

May 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

- **Two new deacons at Martensdale!** Rodney James Ingle and Dave Henderson with evangelist Rick Sparks officiating. It was a very edifying and happy Lord's Day!



- Trent and Leah Fiorentin and children (from Vadalía) attended Sunday services with us April 9 as Trent was our guest speaker.

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:

- On April 8 & 9 evangelist Tad Morris blessed Pleasant Hill and local congregations with a weekend Bible study on *"The Christian Transformation."* The weekend study was well attended by local members as well as out-of-state brethren. Most importantly, everyone received outstanding spiritual food. The audio lessons are available online at the Pleasant Hill Church of Christ website.
- Hallelujah - Christ is victorious!*
In the past four months, evangelist Wade Stanley has edified Pleasant Hill, Dean Avenue, and surrounding brethren with lessons from the book of Revelation. We thank Wade for his diligent efforts, traveling four hours each Wednesday night, and spending many hours of preparation each week. The congregation will miss weekly fellowship with the surrounding brothers and sisters in Christ. If you were unable to participate we invite you to watch the recorded sessions on the Pleasant Hill YouTube channel. Study guidelines are on the Pleasant Hill Church of Christ website library.
- Vacation Bible School will be held June 19-23. If anyone from surrounding congregations would like to be a children's teacher please contact Ginger Hermon. This year's theme for children is Let Your Light Shine. Adults will finish the Revelation study with Wade Stanley.
- Larry Brady had heart surgery on April 17. He spent about ten days in Mercy Hospital ICU recovering. His family was faithful to visit him every day and of course, his best nurse has been his wife, Bev! Lord willing, he will be discharged from the hospital on May 2nd and spend some time in a care center. Continued, earnest prayers for Larry's full healing and Bev's strength.
- Niko Felice broke his nose and had surgery this month. Prayers for his full healing are appreciated
- Bud Fillman had the upper area of his teeth pulled this month. It's been a challenge to get used to but Praise God. Bud is getting along well now.

- All glory to God Kelly George was fitted for his new leg and took his first steps on April 21. God be with you, Kelly, as you continue to persevere!
- Allison George is wearing a boot until June for tendonitis. She is scheduled for surgery in June. Continued prayers that Kelly and Allison's faith will be increased as they endure many physical and mental trials.
- Suzanne Harvey has been dealing with health concerns for the past 8 months. Thankfully colon concerns were ruled out. Further investigation will take place. This month she had a lymphedema therapy consultation as well.
- Ryane Needham was taken to the ER on April 27 for dynamic heart concerns. She saw a heart specialist the following day. Ryane will have a heart monitor for approximately a month and is scheduled for an MRI, ultrasound, and blood tests. Prayers are very much appreciated!
- Julene Pappan was diagnosed with Lyme Disease and E-coli. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she deals with this medical trial.
- Stephen Thompson's 6-month PET scan was clear!!! HALLELUJAH!!!
- Steve Thompson continues to battle with UTI. Additionally, he suffered a bad fall but thankfully wasn't hospitalized.
- Marty Williamson had rotator cuff surgery at the end of April.
- Congratulations to Ryan & Medina Zinne! God willing, a precious little girl will arrive in October. Many prayers for a healthy pregnancy & safe delivery!
- Looking forward to May 8th & 9th with Tad Morris.

May Birthdays

- ☆ 5/2 – Fred Brady
- ☆ 5/10 – Lisa Williamson
- ☆ 5/16 – Ava Brady
- ☆ 5/18 - Isaac & Marcus Needham
- ☆ 5/19 – Amy Pritchard
- ☆ 5/27 – Kinnick Ingle & Maisie Pritchard
- ☆ 5/29 – Shirley Warner

May Anniversaries:

☆ 5/6 – Dan & Amy Pritchard

☆ 5/25 – Steve & Nancy Brady



Praise God for our Youth! — April ITBS

In April 2023 Iowa Traveling Bible Study was a full house of not only young Bible students but parents as well. Excellent fellowship before and after the lesson. We are grateful to Marc for teaching an important subject relevant today. The ITBS students are equipped to share what the Word says about difficult topics in today's society.

Many thanks to Julene Pappan for her wonderful hospitality to the Iowa Traveling Bible Study Group last night! She served amazing food and the kids had a lot of fun playing in the recreational room and watching a movie in the home theater.

All glory to God for our precious children, the future of God's Church. Let's pray they stay true to Christ!

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>

- Several of our group attended the lessons by Tad Morris on Saturday April 8 and/or Sunday April 9 at Pleasant Hill. We also enjoyed the delicious "Breakfast Supper" served to us!
- Doug and Lisa Fiorentin visited Doug's mom and dad in Indianapolis for a weekend.
- Jason and Staci Miller and children traveled to Missouri to visit family.
- Justin, Brittney, Carson and Lillian enjoyed a few days in St. Louis.
- Lynnette Dowdy and Justin and Brittney Dowdy and children visited family in Missouri. Lynnette, Justin,

Brittney, Carson and Lillian traveled to Indiana for Pete Beach's funeral.

- Trent and Leah Fiorentin and children attended Martensdale April 9 where he was their guest speaker.
- Friday, April 14 the group enjoyed an "Italian Night" at the church building—good food and good fellowship. Next fellowship day will be May 31 at the Prairie City Rec Complex with a picnic and kick ball game.
- Easton Klein and Ethan Clark attended the Youth Meeting held at the Smart Road Congregation in Kansas City.
- Micah and Briana Heartsill have a little daughter, Rachel Anne born April 12, weighing 8 lbs. 6 oz and 21

inches long. Also welcoming baby Rachel are big brothers Corwin and Reuben and big sister Elsie— CONGRATULATIONS!

- Charity Klein and Shelby Ingle hosted an afternoon of pampering on Saturday, April 29 for the ladies at Charity's house--foot baths, hand massages, fellowship and snacks...great time!
- We will be helping Casady Cummings celebrate her high school graduation on Sunday, May 7 with an Open House at a friend's house.
- Visitors this month were: Rylee Ingle and Mason Burright.



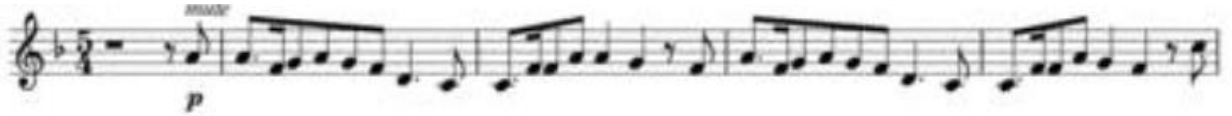
May Birthdays

- ☆ 8 Easton Klein
- ☆ 15 Lucas Ingle
- ☆ 23 Caleb Ingle
- ☆ 25 Charles Ingle
- ☆ 25 Micah Heartsill
- ☆ 25 Ethan Clark
- ☆ 26 Tim Burkman
- ☆ 28 Morgan Burkman
- ☆ 30 Greg Ingle

May Anniversaries

- ☆ 9 Lucas & Shelby Ingle
- ☆ 13 Justin & Brittney Dowdy
- ☆ 15 Alan & Pam Skinner
- ☆ 16 Jason & Staci Miller
- ☆ 25 Greg & Margaret Ingle
- ☆ 28 Bill & Bonnie Harkins.

How deep the Father's love for us



*I will sing with the spirit,
and I will sing with the understanding also.*

1 Corinthians 14:15

Sing 🎵

*I. How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.*

*II. How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.*

*III. Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.*

*IV. It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.*

*V. I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.*

*VI. Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.*

Understand !

*I. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us,
that we should be called the sons of God;
therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. ~ 1 John 3:1*

*II. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying,
Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted,
My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? ~ Mark 15:34
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,
that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:
by whose stripes ye were healed. ~ 1 Peter 2:24*

*III. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;
and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. ~ Isaiah 53:6
I was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious:
but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. ~ 1 Timothy 1:13*

*IV. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:
the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
~ Isaiah 53:5
When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished."
and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. ~ John 19:30*

*V. For I determined not to know any thing among you,
save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ~ 1 Corinthians 2:2
That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his
sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might
attain unto the resurrection of the dead. ~ Philippians 3:10-11*

*VI. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed
upon me was not in vain. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:10
But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood,
we shall be saved from wrath through him. ~ Romans 5:8-9*

How Deep the Father's Love for Us (a cappella)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOXnzYPMhWY&list=RDMM&start_radio=1&rv=FoHy5Wmlu0k

For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. ~ Psalm 47:7