



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

August 2020

Gratitude is a vaccine

If we “inoculate” ourselves with the Divine principle of Gratitude, we will be better able to face and deal with these problems that we all have throughout our lives.

Colossians 3:15

Of course, everything we hear and read and see at this time is all about this Coronavirus plague that is affecting the entire world in general and these united states in particular. It has changed our lives, certainly for the short term and probably even for the long term in some respects.

As a result, a rush is underway to develop a vaccine. Vaccines help our bodies fight off various diseases and afflictions. Over the decades, there have been many vaccines developed dealing with many afflictions to be sure. No, I am not bringing this up to argue for or against them. I am just pointing out how vaccines have been used to help mitigate various afflictions.

In regard to our dealing with problems and afflictions, both physical and spiritual, the Lord has given us the principle of “Gratitude”.

Gratitude, in reality, is the ultimate vaccine to whatever troubling circumstances we find ourselves in. It is for these and other reasons the Lord encourages His people to be thankful in whatever they face.

Due to the advent of sin and accordingly death, we live in an imperfect and problematic world. We must face trials and even hardships of all kinds found in this world.

These hardships may include natural storms such as hurricanes and droughts and floods. They may include job-related problems and even catastrophes as many are facing today that will affect our finances and living environments. They may include physical afflictions and yes, even death, whether our loved ones or even our own.

The apostle Paul said in Acts 14:22c—*“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”* I have no doubt he was referring to many of these problems.

If we “inoculate” ourselves with the Divine principle of “Gratitude”, we will be better able to face and deal with these problems that we all have throughout our lives.

This spiritual “vaccine” will help remind us of the good that we are promised can come as a result. These problems can help us grow spiritually and ultimately to be more like Christ. Remember

the prophecy in regard to our Lord from Isaiah 7:15—*“Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good.”* Remember what it says in James 1:2-3—*“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”*

These same principles apply to us! We must eat “curds and honey” in order to learn to refuse the evil and choose the good. Therefore, we are to “count it joy” when we face such trials. This is not necessarily easy to do, but this attitude of ‘gratitude’ will help us through our problems.

It is this principle that teaches us we can still be thankful even though our circumstances may not be pleasant.

Indeed, “Gratitude” in every circumstance can help us deal with problems in a righteous and holy way. It is the ultimate “vaccine”!

~ Jay H. Graham



Chariton

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

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

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

- Norm Riekens had surgery on his shoulder.
- Otherwise it's been a quiet month at Chariton.

August Birthdays

★ None

August Anniversaries

★ None

Dean Avenue

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

- Yvonne Coe is experiencing some congestive heart failure.
- Tom Collier from Martensdale was our speaker. He gave us a good lesson on Walking in the Spirit & Light.
- **Travelers:** Linda Head, Karma Sharp, Risa Schamel and Debbie Wilkins
- **Visitors:** Brita Head & Charlie

Birthdays

★ 02 Shirley McNeece

★ 18 Ron Sharpt

Anniversaries

★ None this month

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

- We are pretty much back to normal on Sunday mornings.
- Jack & Bobbi Swisher moved on July 28th to Eiler Place



August Birthdays

- ★ 21 - Bobbi Swisher

August Anniversary

- ★ 15 - Justin & Tracy Head
- ★ 17 - Neil & Becky McCoy - August 17

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
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

- **We resumed our Wednesday evening services** on August 5 with a good attendance.
- **Please keep Rusty Bown in your prayers.** He does tree trimming and fell about 15 feet out of a tree. He broke his shoulder and fractured some neck vertebrae. He is currently in ICU at Methodist Hospital and is scheduled to have surgery on his neck Monday.
- **Tanner and Tiffany George will be moving to Missouri.** Tanner will be starting a new job the first part of August. They'll be greatly missed here at Martensdale.
- We held a **baby shower for Tiffany George** on August 1 at the home of Allen and Teresa Bown.
- Tom and Dianne Collier attended services at Dean Avenue this month.

- Drew, Courtney and Millie Teghtmeyer traveled to Kansas City.
- **Visitors** this month have been Dave, Joyce and Nora Lee Ingle; Stephanie Stephens and her kids; Shannon Cobb (a friend of Stephanie); Randy and Laura Teghtmeyer and Laura's mom; Kirk and Bethany Ford; Paula Parker (Tiffany George's mom); Aaron and Jessica Clevenger and kids (Tiffany's sister and brother-in-law); and Jordan Bown.

August Birthdays

- ★ 18 – Mike Penick
- ★ 23 – Duane Proudfit
- ★ 25 -- Malachi Wheeler

August Anniversaries

- ★ None this month

Pleasant Hill

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| Meeting Times: | Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. Listen from your car at FM station 100.9 |
| 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 |

- Right now, our meeting times are Sunday morning 9:30-10:30 a.m.; no Sunday evening service; Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30 p.m. You can still listen from your car at FM station 100.9.
- Thank you, Dan & Amy Pritchard, for hosting the start-up of our Iowa Traveling Bible Study! We are so grateful for this opportunity for our youth to gather for fellowship and Bible study. Lord willing, the next ITBS will be in August and hosted by Ryan & Jamie Ingle. Date TBD.
- Thank you so much to all who showered Madison Twaddell a week ago with incredible love and generosity! Special thanks to Kayley for a lovely gathering. Pictured above are all the grandmothers who were in attendance (left to right): Betty Warren, Suzanne Harvey, Nora Lee Ingle, Ginger Hermon, Jill Twaddell, and Ladeanna Twaddell. Lord willing, there will soon be 5 generations through the Ingle side.
- The Blackmans will be moving on Friday, July 31st to Iowa City. Praise God they will live close to their grandmother, Margaret Franklin. An outdoor party has been planned following Wednesday evening service to wish Diamond and Dominique well, say goodbye & celebrate Diamond's 17th birthday. Please keep the girls, their mother Taneka, sister Teyha & niece, in your prayers during the days and months ahead as they transition to this new location & school district.
- A unique opportunity in our "social distancing" culture was a Front Yard Bridal Shower, scheduled for Saturday, August 1, 2020 for Carly Felice in order to shower Carly and Daniel Suhr with gifts in anticipation of their September 5th wedding. We had to sign up for a time slot to "drive by" and wish them well.
- Please keep Denise Waits and her sons Max & Jack Flickinger in your prayers... Jack has enjoyed

his summer in Pennsylvania with his dad. However, Denise & Mark have decided that Jack will spend the next school year with Mark in Pennsylvania. Max has also enjoyed his summer in Pennsylvania, but he will be coming home within the next few weeks. Max will hold off on attending DMACC for awhile and will look for a job this fall. Denise has been out of work since 7/3; but hopes to start a new job in another week.

- Denise is looking for someone to ride with her to pick up Max in Pennsylvania. She's thinking about renting a van and leaving on 8/13 or 8/14, and be back home by Monday night, 8/17. Please let Denise know if you are available to assist. Thank you.
- Whitney, Eric & Dean Thorson welcome their precious little one: Mae Hartley Thorson, born on July 1st at 10:51 a.m. Mae weighed 8 lbs., 11 oz. and measured 20 inches long. Congratulations! We are rejoicing for a healthy baby and momma is doing well. Pray for Whitney's complete recovery and the family's transition to four. Thankfully, Eric was able to be on paternity leave until July 30; then continue to work from home until October (due to the pandemic).
- Nora Lee Ingle: last month Nora Lee was admitted to Iowa Methodist Hospital. She had several tests and reasons for concern were MRSA infection, electrolyte imbalance, afib heart & blood sugar concerns. Thank you for the earnest prayers, Nora Lee was released and back home. She still needs daily treatments at Iowa Methodist. If you are able to help the family with transportation, please check in with Jamie Ingle.
- Tom Brady: continue to keep Tom in your prayers. Tom's doctor appointment reported that Tom's bloodwork was okay and his INR within range. Doctor wants to have an ECHO done on

Tom's belly to see why it is distended, so that will be scheduled soon. The kidney transplant team called stating Tom is not a candidate. Although this is disappointing, it's good to have an answer so next steps can be considered. Please pray for Tom, Fred & all the family. It's been a roller coaster ride of emotions, but they continue to put their full trust & faith in our Lord.

- Joyce Ingle: At this point in time Joyce will not have additional shoulder surgery. Please pray for her strength and mobility as she continues physical therapy.
- Suzanne Harvey: Suzanne's foot specialist is recommending a customized shoe to help with her foot injury and pain.
- Betty Warren: Betty was to see a specialist this past week for the lump in her throat. Bow with us in prayer to petition for her physical well-being.
- Lowell Hermon: Lowell has been dealing with back pain for over a month. He was unable to worship last Sunday due to this condition. Please keep him close in thought & prayer.
- Alex Needham: Alex accidentally shot himself in his foot. Fortunately, there was no damage to his bone or artery and he is now on the mend. Praise God that Alex was able to return to work this past week. Please continue prayers for full recovery. If you want full details of the accident, ask Alex or Ryane!!
- Marje Turnquist: Continue to lift Marje up as she battles a few medical concerns and grieves her sister-in-law, Marilyn Koestler, who is in her last days of battling cancer. Please pray for comfort, peace and God's will for all. Lord willing, Marje will be traveling to visit her son Ric & family. Please pray for safe travels.

- Stephen Thompson: Pray side effects from past chemo treatments will be minimal and cancer will not return for Steve. He has endured much but always gives God glory (in all circumstances)!
- Madison Twaddell: Please continue to pray for a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery. Maddy is due September 8.
- Ayden Twaddell's 3-week AT National Guard commitment takes place weekdays July 20-August 7.
- **Visitors:** Troy, Danielle & Jaden Brand, Bob & Sharon Cummings, Nathan & Kathleen Williamson, Philip Clevenger, Alijah & Austin Twaddell, Bud Fillman's daughter Brenda Bohall, and Gordon & Chamille Laymon with two of their four children, Malachi & Leah. Welcome!
- It was a wonderful blessing to have Niko Felice return to services after a long battle of illness. As well, we praise God for Nora Lee's presence after her hospitalization. Finally, what joy to worship with Betty Warren again. This was her first time back to services during the pandemic. She's been missed!. 😊



August Birthdays

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ★ 4 Carson George | ★ 6 Marilyn McClurg |
| ★ 9 Suzanne Harvey | ★ 12 Elijah Ingle |
| ★ 13 Madison Twaddell | ★ 18 JC Castro |
| ★ 25 Jack Flickinger | ★ 26 Amy Pritchar |

August Anniversaries

- ★ 3 - Ayden & Madison Twaddell
- ★ 10 - Nick & Kayley Hermon
- ★ 19 - Dave & Joyce Ingle
- ★ 25 = Paul & Michele Zinnel

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.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) 966-2537

- We are still using Google Meet for those not coming to the building. We haven't been having services on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.
- A graduation party was given at the church building in honor of Gavin Burkman.
- A pace maker is planned for Marvin Ingle. He spent a few days in the hospital where it was determined he was having irregular heart rhythm.
- Justin and Brittney Dowdy and children and Lynnette Dowdy visited family in MO.
- James and Laura Dowdy and children visited family in KY.
- Greg and Margaret Ingle spent a couple weeks vacationing at Clear Lake.
- Jason and Staci Miller and children visited family in MO
- **Our visitors were:** Jason Dowdy and children, Sue Schreck, Valerie Burkman, and the James Welty family.

- **August Birthdays**

- ★ 3 Jason Miller
- ★ 13 Ruth Schell
- ★ 14 Justin Dowdy
- ★ 23 Shonya Klein
- ★ 25 Trent Fiorentin
- ★ 29 Destry Klein

- **August Anniversaries**

- ★ 5 Derek & Amy Ingle
- ★ 12 Trent & Leah Fiorentin
- ★ 14 Tim & Melody Burkman
- ★ 19 Marvin & Melda Ingle
- ★ 19 Destry & Charity Klein

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)