



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

October 2022

Are Superheroes Real?

Let's get right to the point—the answer is YES.

How can we know? Find those individuals with special powers. Ask . . .

- Who can fly in the air and do things that defy the laws of nature?
- Who has peculiar powers beyond that of mortal men?
- Who can see things that are invisible to the normal eye?
- Who is willing to defy death and go fight having the ability to save all mankind from total destruction?
- Who are those people whose true destiny is outside of this world?
- Where are these people, these “superheroes” dwelling among the inhabitants of earth unnoticed?

Where are they?

As with most superheroes, they are dwelling with us closer than we realize. They're in your city, your neighborhood, even in your house.

If you really want to meet one face to face, go look in your mirror.

The real superheroes with all these “powers” on earth is YOU!

Me? A superhero?

Yes. This is not emotional hyperbole, exaggeration or even a cute comparison—it is a fact.

Ask yourself some basic “superhero” test questions:

- Do you believe your true home is not on planet earth?
- Do you believe that you have the capacity to live eternally?
- Do you have a strong desire to save the inhabitants of the planet earth from eternal destruction?
- Do you believe you can call on Powers existing outside of this planet for help?
- Are you preparing for a final battle to defeat Death itself?

Are you delusional?

If you answered yes to all the questions above you are not delusional. You are a Christian, a child of God. And because of that, you have real ‘super powers’.

Source of power



As a Christian, consider that our powers are not given to us with limits. As the Apostle Paul told the brothers and sisters at Philippi, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”* Jesus Christ is the Superhero of superheroes.

The power that those in the Scriptures possessed to accomplish what was beyond normal human capacity is called ‘Faith’. The source from which they drew this great power is the Book called ‘The Word of God’. We must believe and be confident that *we have the same source of power* as our spiritual ancestors did.

These are the words from the God in Heaven, the divine food given so mankind could have the power to overcome death and save their eternal existence from the fiery destruction to come. And in the end, escape to *“meet the Lord in the air”*.

Superheroes' family history

A history of real superheroes in ages past highlighting their incredible and super-human deeds is documented in the Scriptures in the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews.

All of these superheroes knew they were not of this world. They confessed that they were strangers here, temporarily abiding in this place, and simply passing through it. They claimed their final destination is a better place, not on this planet. (Heb 11:13-14).

This history is truly our spiritual genealogy, our family into which we were ‘born again’. Our bond is not of mortal blood, but we are bonded by the Blood of Christ. As we often sing, *“There is power in the Blood!”*

"With great powers comes great responsibility"

So do we really understanding who we are?

The role of a superhero has with it the calling of self-sacrifice. A responsibility to live past a self-serving life.

Recall Moses refusing to live a self-indulgent life of ease and luxury. And by faith he *"chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season"*.

We sung these words so many times, *"More, more about Jesus"*. Amen! So how about less, less about me, my hobbies, my wants, my worldly desires and goals. And let's learn how to walk in the Spirit!

As the Apostles admonish us, *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would"*.

Raise the bar



Are we confident of the power we possess through faith; the things we can accomplish, the limits we can surpass?

By faith we can raise our expectations in this life much higher than the faithless. Do you believe that Sara, way past the age of child-bearing, bore a son in her old age simply because she believed what God said? As the Scripture puts it, *" . . . because she judged Him faithful Who had promised"*.

How much further can we go in our faith if we simply believed there is much more for me to know, and do, and experience in Christ and His Kingdom?

And take that refreshed faith to others in the world in a renewed effort to save the souls of the lost!

Consider the beauty of our Savior, revealed when He was *"pouring out his soul unto death"* for us. He took the punishment and pain meant for our sins upon Himself.

He is the only true Superhero for mankind.

So let this mindset of Jesus Christ be in you . . .
*"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and **took upon him the form of a servant**, and was made in the likeness of men.*

*And being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled himself, and became obedient unto death**, even the death of the cross.*

*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
That at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
And that **every tongue should confess** that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."



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.



October Birthdays

- None

October 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

- Roberta Melinsky had a hip replacement in August and is doing well.
- Jim Meek is having a shoulder replacement on September 28th.
- Nick, Kailey and Jubilee Hermon attended services with us on a Sunday morning.
- Janeane, Rosie and Ari Stanley attended a Sunday morning service with Wade.
- Johnie and Donna McNeece vacationed at the Lake of the Ozarks where their daughter, Sarah, lives for their 66th wedding anniversary.

- Greg Head fell backwards on cement and cut his head. He had seven staples in the back of his head. A CT scan didn't reveal any further damage, but he is still experiencing dizziness. He has to be very careful for the next several weeks.
- Randy, Theresa and Kinnick met with us on a Sunday morning. Randy gave us a good message. They ate dinner with us at our social afterwards.

October Birthdays

- None

October Anniversaries

- ☆ 10 Frank & Claudia Meek

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

☆ Though no news from Fairview/Clarinda, I did have a good discussion with Richard about the Church and her history. Especially the history in Iowa years ago. There was a lot of zeal and evangelistic spirit!

☆ Planning on a visit down to Clarinda in October, the Lord willing!

October Birthdays

- None

October 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

- **Dawson Clint Tegtmeyer** was born on Saturday, August 13, 2022. Coming in at 8 lbs. 20.5 inches long.



First field meal as a family of 4!

- **Dianne Collier** had cancer-related surgery Wednesday, August 24. She is home and recovering very well. Dianne attended worship services for the first time Sunday, September 25 at Pleasant Hill. Very grateful to our Father for His comfort and healing.



- From Facebook: Brenda Bown is @ Mercy Clinics. "My Dad [**Fred Bown**] is checking off the days until he has much better eyesight after both eyes no longer have those cloudy cataracts! Today ... Pre-op prior to his first eye surgery next week has been checked off his list! Yeah!!! 😊🎉"



October Birthdays

- ☆ 07 – Brenna Ingle
- ☆ 09 – Keturah Ingel
- ☆ 15 – Zechariah Hounsom
- ☆ 30 – Wendy Hounsom

October Anniversaries

- None

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

Heartfelt Love & Prayers:

- **Darby Allen, Nixa Congregation, is attending Drake University this year.** We are thrilled to have this sister-in-Christ worshipping at Pleasant Hill church of Christ each week.
- **PRAISE GOD! Stephen Thompson and Brenda Bohall** had 6-month CT cancer scans on September 27. Both received praiseworthy reports that tests were clear and they are cancer-free.
- **Steve Thompson** has battled bronchitis the past few months and was in the Emergency room a few times.
- **Kelly George** has a diabetic ulcer on his toe due to poor circulation complicated by his diabetes. Kelly continues oxygen therapy two times a day for six hours each day. He is scheduled for an angiogram in Iowa City.
- **Allison George** had another surgery on August 29 to help repair damage to her eye ball from the golf accident. . Fat was placed above, below, and behind her eyeball to protect it.
- **Theresa Brady** had rotator cuff surgery on September 7 and did well.
- **Suzanne Harvey** had serious infection and was hospitalized for a week. She had her gall bladder removed late August. **Bruce Harvey** had surgery in late September to remove bladder stones and kidney stones.
- **Betty Warren** has been suffering from an open leg wound. Please send card of cheer or stop by for a visit.
- **Michele Zinnel** suffered from Bell's Palsy this month. Despite this physical trial, we were so blessed by her servant's heart during the Labor Day weekend.
- **Bud Fillman** was hospitalized a few weeks ago for a UTI and possible sepsis. We're grateful he is doing better! Continue to pray for his health as doctors are looking further into health concerns.
- **Wanda Burkman** had COVID at the end of October. Let's shower her with cards, love, and prayers.

- **Bud Fillman Continued prayers for a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery for Kelsey Wood and Baby Wood.** Baby boy is due at the end of October.
- **Jill McClurg's fiancé, Joshua Jeffrey,** will be traveling to the USA early October so the couple can be married. (Unfortunately, Jill's visa was denied for England.) Continued prayers for them as they begin their life together.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Iowa Traveling Bible Study** will be October 22, 11:30 a.m., in Marshalltown at Alex & Ryane Needham's home. We are looking for a November host. Let Marc Hermon know if you are interested in opening your home.
- **October Weekend Meeting with Joshua Riggins is scheduled for October 8 & 9.** Lessons will be on Stewardship: spending, giving and saving. Saturday evening's lesson will begin at 6 p.m. A social gathering will take place in the basement afterward. Joshua will speak twice Sunday morning and we will close out the meeting in fellowship with a basket dinner. All local brethren are encouraged to attend!

Praise God!



All glory to God the Labor Day meeting was a weekend full of wonderful fellowship and edifying lessons!!!

L-R: John Lee, Doug Twadell, John Morris, Rick Sparks, Wade Stanley.

We encourage you to listen to lessons online at:

<http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org/audio.php>



Hallelujah! Oshea Samuel Hermon was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins on Wednesday, Sept 21. (1 John 1:9) says: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (John 3:5) says: "Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.'"



Congratulations to Matt, Bailey, and Calvin Fecke Family! **Lyla James Fecke** was born Sept. 23 at 4 a.m. Lyla weighs 7 lbs 12 oz and is 20.5 inches long. She and Bailey are doing well.



Praise God for our youth! We had great turnouts at both the August and September ITBS meetings hosted at the Hermon home. Many thanks to everyone who attended Camp Hermon as well. What a wonderful time of fellowship, edification, and fun!

October Birthdays

- ☆ 10/1 – Pat Thompson & Don Burkman (90th birthday)
- ☆ 10/3 – Ryan Ingle
- ☆ 10/4 – Bev Brady
- ☆ 10/6 – Joyce Ingle
- ☆ 10/10 – Betty Miles
- ☆ 10/15 – Josiah Pritchard
- ☆ 10/27 – Sammy Pritchard
- ☆ 10/30 – Kelsey Wood
- ☆ 10/31 – Ryan Zinnel

Anniversaries:

- ☆ 10/5 – Kelly & Allison George
- ☆ 10/8 -Mike & Shirley Warner



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>

- Little Josie Fiorentin is still in Blank Children’s Hospital (in Des Moines) having trouble with asthma related issues. Mom and Dad would very much appreciate if you would keep Josie in your prayers.

- In August, Lynnette Dowdy, James Dowdy, Justin Dowdy and children, and Doug and Lisa Fiorentin traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for Julia Owens’ funeral.

- Greg and Margaret Ingle enjoyed time away as they vacationed at Clear Lake.
- Melody and Morgan Burkman's Coffee and Carnations shop had a "Soft Opening" and an official Open House will be coming soon. We are excited for them!
- In August, a baby shower was held for Lucas and Shelby Ingle with family and friends in attendance. They received many items to help them welcome their baby in a few weeks.
- Bonnie Hawkins is home after being in the hospital for a few days.
- Richard Goode is at Mercy Rehab in Clive. He transferred there after spending several days in the hospital.
- Walter Daugherty, a resident of the Altoona Nursing Home, is recovering from pneumonia.
- Trent Fiorentin is facilitating a monthly bible study being held at the church building. The group is using

Marvin Ingle's study guide that he made and used in his bible studies.

- We are planning a get-together on the second Friday of each month. Our first one will be at Alan and Shonya Klein's house on Oct.14.
- **Visitors this month were:** Sue Schreck; Brandy McPhillips and daughter, Maddie; Ryan and Rylee Ingle.



October Birthdays

- ☆ 13 Nathan Fiorentin
- ☆ 15 Eva Fiorentin
- ☆ 16 Josephine Fiorentin
- ☆ 19 Brittney Dowdy
- ☆ 28 Matthew Clark

October Anniversaries

- ☆ 31 Drew Cummings & Miriam McDonough

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> - Lighthouse of Iowa

Superhero

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: a fictional hero having extraordinary or superhuman powers
also : an exceptionally skillful or successful person



A **superhero** or **superheroine** is a stock character that possesses superpowers, abilities beyond those of ordinary people, and fits the role of the hero, typically using his or her powers to help the world become a better place, or dedicating themselves to protecting the public and fighting crime.

Superhero fiction is the genre of fiction that is centered on such characters, especially, since the 1930s, in American comic books (and later in Hollywood films, film serials, television and video games), as well as in Japanese media (including kamishibai, tokusatsu, manga, anime and video games).

The word superhero dates back to 1899. Antecedents of the archetype include such mythologic characters like Gilgamesh, Hanuman, Perseus, Odysseus, David, and demigods like Heracles, as well as folkloric heroes as Robin Hood, who adventured in distinctive clothing.

Real life inspirations behind costumed superheroes can be traced back to the "masked vigilantes" of the American Old West such as the San Diego Vigilantes and the Bald Knobbers who fought and killed outlaws while wearing masks.