



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

December 2020

Celebrating our dear Savior's birth!

Read Isaiah 9:6

The event is mentioned in only two of the Gospels—Matthew and Luke—unlike His death, which is found in all four of the Gospels and remembered in worship every first day of the week.

Nonetheless, how was this epic, earth-moving birth celebrated in Scripture?

Was it with a Christmas holiday declared on the 25th of December? No. Nothing mentioned of that in Scripture.

By giving gifts to friends and family? Except for the Wisemen from the East with their gold, frankincense, and myrrh (which were given about two years AFTER His birth) worldly gifts had nothing to do with it.

What was the response from Heaven and Earth when the Incarnation of the Word of God came into the world?

From the beginning of time to His arrival, through His short time here on earth, to the day He ascended to Heaven, and even to this very day—*believers spread the news of our Savior far and wide to all the lost souls that would hear!*

They knew He was coming

For centuries the prophets have foretold of the Messiah's coming. Hundreds of prophecies within the Old Testament resounded throughout the earth like a giant's footsteps pounding the ground as He approached the world to save mankind. Within the prophecies, His voice comes within earshot . . .

"Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire, mine ears hast thou

opened. Burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I, 'Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of Me.

I delight to do thy will, O my God. Yea, thy law is within my heart. I have preached righteousness in the great congregation. Lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest."

~ Psalms 40:6-9

The coming of the Lord Jesus was prophesied long before Abraham and Sarah.

Through the book of Jude we hear the voice of Enoch, "the seventh from Adam", preaching the return of Christ as clear as it would be preached today, saying, "*Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*"

Since the dawn of man, the world knew He was coming—but especially the Jews. Why? As Paul explains in Romans 3, ". . . chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God".

Just as those same 'oracles' are now both revealed and committed unto us.

The voices of angels and men

What was it like to be a shepherd just outside of Bethlehem in the fields, watching a flock of sheep that night?

And then suddenly, have an angel appear, shining a heavenly light all around you and your fellow shepherds, with a message from heaven, saying,

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Stunning! I get it! But then the sky breaks open above them, and a chorus of angels come through! And the Shepherds looked up into the night sky now radiant with the light of angels praising God in one voice saying, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*"

And just as quickly as they came, the angels were gone away from them back up into heaven!

What was that! What now? There was no going to sleep that night! The shepherds wasted no time to go see this thing that the angels told them, saying, "*Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.*"

Luke continues in chapter two saying that the shepherds came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger, just as the angel had said.

So, when the Shepherds knew that the Savior was born, "*they*

made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child."

From angels to shepherds to all that would hear, the heralds from heaven and on earth exclaimed with joy and excitement the Good News that the Christ was born!

That was how angels and men celebrated the Savior's birth on the very night He was born.

What are your 'Christmas' plans? How are you planning to celebrate the night that Christ was born? Who are you going to tell the Good News, that the Savior has come to save us all from Satan's power and bring us back to God?

This season all Christendom will sing of "the thrill of hope" the night of His birth brought to a sin weary

world, and how when He appeared, "the soul felt its worth"!

Let us celebrate our dear Savior's birth the same blessed way that angels and men did in the word of God sharing with all that will hear the salvation, peace and good will that God hath sent to us.



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

- We have suspended services for the time being.

December Birthdays

- ★ Albert Schreck - 10th
- ★ Brian Schreck - 31st

December Anniversaries

- None this month

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

- We have suspended our Sunday morning service for now. We will resume when the Covid 19 risk is lower.
- Shawn Head had gall bladder surgery. He is doing well..



December Birthdays

- ★ 18 Yvonne Coe
- ★ 18 Travis Head
- ★ 28 Risa Schamel

December Anniversaries

- ★ 28 Travis & Brita Head

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 enjoyed having Rick Sparks the weekend of November 7th & 8th.
- Keep Jack Swisher in your prayers as he fell & broke his hip, had surgery at Mercy Hospital at

Council Bluffs. He is back at the Clarinda Regional Health Center in the Swing Bed Program.

- Visitors: Dasha & Minka Negley - Urbandale, IA



December Birthdays

★ None this month

December Anniversary

★ None this month

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

- All services at Martensdale are temporarily cancelled through December 10th, and then will tentatively resume on Sunday, December 13th.
- Mike and Tracey Penick came down with covid this month and after a few miserable days rebounded and are on the mend.
- Tom and Dianne Collier also came down with covid and had a similar experience with nothing serious developing and are also on mend.
- Rodney and Alena Ingel were not feeling well and got tested for covid. Thankfully they tested negative but have another nasty bug and are recovering.
- The Penick family had quite a scare. A deer ran in front of Mike's semi going 65 miles per hour and the trailer brakes locked and the semi jack knifed. The guard rail stopped the semi from going over the overpass. Mike is pretty shaken up and will be sore. Praise and thanks to God for his protection!



December Birthdays

- ★ Mary Proudfit December 10
- ★ Teresa Bown December 12
- ★ Drew Tegtmeyer December 29
- ★ Hannah Hounsom December 30/1

December Anniversaries

- None

Pleasant Hill

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

- Due to the increased spread of COVID in Iowa, the elders have cancelled ITBS, women's Bible study with Melanie Castro, and homeschool group meetings at the church building until further notice. We will

continue having services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

- If you are not feeling well, the elders encourage you to stay home or listen to services from the parking lot (100.9 FM).

- The month of November saw several of our members either exposed to COVID or actually with symptoms. Those battling COVID are Bud Fillman & his daughter Brenda Bohall (Brenda spent some time in the hospital). Brenda is home and still on oxygen but thanks be to God, she is making wonderful improvements! Bud's COVID test came back positive but he had mild symptoms which allowed him to be very helpful to Brenda. Both Brenda and Bud have finished their quarantine and were able to worship with us from their car this past week.
- Niko Felice: tested positive for COVID. Niko is on the upswing of things and ended his COVID quarantine. We are so grateful his case was mild and pray there will not be symptoms down the road.
- Nora Lee Ingle: Was exposed to COVID last week but praise God has been feeling well during quarantine. Please keep her in your prayers that she will remain healthy.
- Larry and Bev Brady: became ill and tested positive for COVID. Praise God they are making improvements, eating well thanks to their loving family, and managing symptoms from home. We are so grateful for this wonderful news!
- Stephen Thompson: Stephen's daughter, Addi, tested positive for COVID. Therefore, Steve is quarantined from his family. This isn't easy for them to go through this again. At this time, Stephen's daughter, Addi, has been feeling well. The family is out of quarantine. Give thanks to the Lord! His love endures forever!
- Mike & Shirley Warner: Our hearts go out to Mike & Shirley's families. Shirley's brother, Jim Thompson, is in the end stage of Alzheimer's and had to be moved to a new nursing home. Mike & Shirley's daughter, Shannon Schiebel, has COVID. Shannon was scheduled for surgery but it's now been rescheduled to 12/11. Pray for this family please.
- Wanda Burkman: Please lift Wanda up in prayer as she continues to deal with back pain and to have difficult days. We're so grateful Don has provided such wonderful, loving care.
- Update on Allison George: *"I have some permanent damage to my optic nerve. It effects my night vision and is the cause of the bubbles I see in bright light. The scar tissue where my jaw hinges is causing some problems with chewing, biting and how wide my mouth can open. I'm doing physical therapy to help. I am still swollen and have facial numbness but thankful I can finally blow my nose and sneeze. I'm starting to see a massage therapist to hopefully help break up the scar tissue. I can't begin to say thank you enough to all of the cards I've received. There's at least one in my mailbox every day. They brighten my day and give me strength to keep pressing on."*
- Lowell Hermon: His staples have been removed; and his incision looks good. However, his surgeon is unsure why he's having so much pain in his pelvis. He is still suffering but received new pain meds which have been helpful in getting better rest at night.
- Theresa Ingle: Theresa has been dealing with headaches as well as nerve pain in her neck. Please encourage & pray for her!
- Alonzo Jones: has been dealing with painful arthritis in his feet. His foot doctor had an MRI done on his foot. Alonzo was to find out results and treatments on 11/30. Pray for him to find pain relief in the near future!
- Scott Pappan: Has had carpal tunnel surgery on both his left and right hands. Please pray for his healing.
- Marje Turnquist: Marje's glaucoma pressure has been rising so her doctor is changing prescriptions. This has challenged her vision and causes her eyes to grow tired quickly. However, she remains in good spirits.
- Betty Warren: Betty had a head a cold this past week. She continues to receive her macular degeneration shots each month. Please lift her up in prayer and send her cards of encouragements. Days get long and lonely.
- Jason Brady: Continue to keep Jason in your prayers. It's taking time to get acclimated to the internal CPAP.
- Steven Dallas Thompson: On Saturday, November 7th, Steve and Pat were getting ready to head to their son Matt's wedding. Steve slipped on the running board getting into his truck prior to Matt's wedding. Family had to call the rescue unit to help get him up and take him to the hospital; his left knee was injured and he could not walk. After x-rays, hallelujah, nothing was broken! Hospital staff were wonderful and helped to get him out of ER just in time to make it to the wedding, wheelchair and all. He did suffer strained/sprained muscles above and around his left knee. Physical therapist comes 3x a week and he is seeing improvement, but it is very slow going. At this point he still can't put too much weight on his left leg and is limited to his recliner these days. Please send cards of cheer!
- Mary Gearhart's daughter, Diane Day, lost her rental home in November due to a fire; only the frame remains so Diane lost everything in the house. Send

cards of encouragement (& perhaps gift cards) to Diane at Mary's address.

- Congratulations to Diamond Blackman! She was accepted to Kirkwood Community College. Diamond is a senior at Iowa City this year. She and Dominique are attending school online but will switch to in-person classes in early December.
- Those Traveling: The Alex & Ryane Needham family spent time with Alex's family for a week; then left for Florida to join the Brady's for a week. Unfortunately, on the way down to Florida (close to Nashville) they had vehicle troubles. Thankfully a Good Samaritan stopped to help.
- Tom, Fred, Jason and Theresa Brady are vacationing in Florida until December 5th.
- Nick & Kayley Hermon are visiting Kayley's family in Colorado until early January.
- Thank you, Daniel and Carly Suhr, for cleaning the church building during the Neehdam's time away! We sincerely appreciate your labor of love!
- Thank you also to Joyce Ingle, for doing yard work at the PHill building! We love your servant heart and are thankful you're making improvements and driving again.

- If you haven't visited the P-Hill [website](#) it's loaded with resources. [Bible audio](#), [past sermons](#), [Children's Curriculum](#), [FAQ's](#), [Gospel Message](#), [Iowa Lighthouse](#), [Bill Hensley](#) radio broadcasts, [Edify One Another](#), [Bible Outlines](#), links to sister congregations are just a few items to search.
- Visit PHill YouTube [Children's Song Playlist](#), [PHill YouTube Acapella Playlist](#), & [Acapeldridge](#) Visit PHill YouTube [Children's Song Playlist](#), [PHill YouTube Acapella Playlist](#), & [Acapeldridge](#)



December Birthdays

- ★ 3 Jedidiah Wood
- ★ 4 Steve Brady
- ★ 7 Gabriel Hermon
- ★ 8 Leah Anguiano
- ★ 18 Jason Brady
- ★ 18 Paul Zinnel
- ★ 22 Alonzo Jones
- ★ 22 Harper Kent
- ★ 23 Dominique Blackman
- ★ 29 William Conner

December Anniversaries

- ★ 19 Alonzo & Joyce Jones
- ★ 30 Susan & Nick Conner

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 happy to report the baptism of Brighton Ingle, son of Derek and Amy Ingle.
- Drew Cummings and Miriam McDonough were married October 31, 2020.
- Visitors were Chad and Christy Gebhart and family, and Eddie and Karis Frieje.



December Anniversaries

- ★ 12 Robert & Sharon Cummings

December Birthdays

- ★ 2 Bonnie Harkins
- ★ 3 Carson Dowdy
- ★ 3 Kelsey Fiorentin
- ★ 8 Leah Fiorentin
- ★ 27 Melody Burkman
- ★ 27 Jason Henle
- ★ 29 Staci Miller

Copies of the *Lighthouse of Iowa* can be found at the following two Church websites:

Vandalia Church of Christ:

Pleasant Hill Church of Christ: <http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org/library.php>
(select *Iowa Lighthouse* under the Library tab)

O' Holy Night

From its original French lyrics to the most popular renditions of this Christmas classic, here's everything you need to know about 'O Holy Night'.

'O Holy Night' is a timeless **Christmas** carol, composed by Adolphe Adam in 1847. The music was originally set to a French poem, 'Minuit, chrétiens' (Midnight, Christians) and released under the name 'Cantique de Noël'.

Adam was a French composer and music critic who wrote mostly **operas** and **ballets**. Alongside the opera Giselle (1841), 'O Holy Night' is one of his best known works.

Placide Cappeau, the author of the French lyrics, was a wine merchant and poet. Although he was never particularly religious, Cappeau was asked in 1843 to write a Christmas poem to celebrate the recent renovation of the church organ in his home town. He obliged and, soon after, Adolphe Adam composed the accompanying music.

It was almost a decade after the song's composition that the lyrics were translated into English. Minister John Sullivan Dwight translated the French original into the lyrics we sing today in 1855.

O Holy Night

Verse 1

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Verse 2

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger.
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! your King! before Him bend!

Verse 3

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name, all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we;
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim,
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!