



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

December 2022

The Imperfect Saints of Faith

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

“And what more shall I say?

“For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets; who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”

~ **Hebrews 11:30-34**

Hebrews 11 is called by many, “*The Hall of Faith*”, and for good reason.

It is filled with the great deeds of many saints of old. Saints who had much faith. Saints the Lord used in inspiring ways for various purposes.

It starts with Abel and commences to review much of Israel’s history. It speaks of Enoch, Abraham, Moses, and many others. The Lord used these individuals to bring about His plans of hope and purpose for the Lord’s people to follow.

This chapter includes great works such as saving mankind from their own sin as well as bringing forth a nation that would bring the Christ and the Old Testament to the world.

It speaks of how the Lord used a harlot who had faith enough to help Israel begin its conquest of Canaan.

Take special note of verses 30-33. Something that stands out in my mind is that, though these men and woman had great faith, *they also had great imperfections.*

In particular, I think of Barak, Samson and Jephthah.

Barak seemed to refuse to do what the Lord called him to do as told in Judges 4:6-8—unless it was with a condition that he “required.” Jephthah was the son of a harlot, though that certainly was not his fault. However, it is worthy of note that according to Judges 11:3, when he was chased away from his family, “*worthless men*” joined him in raiding. I wonder why he attracted such men and even associated with them?

However later in the chapter, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and helped him win Israel’s freedom from the Canaanites.

Hebrews 11 reminds us of Samson, for yes, he too was a man of faith according to the Holy Spirit, yet in reading Judges 13-14, we learn he also had some great imperfections. In particular he had serious weaknesses in regard to the women he was attracted to. In spite of these imperfections, the Lord recognized him as having great faith!

This should give us hope. Why?

We, as the Lord’s Christians, also are imperfect saints. We all battle with our own weaknesses and imperfections. Many of us share some of the same weaknesses these Old Testament saints had.

If you do not have these same weaknesses, you certainly have your own that you must deal with. And sometimes our weaknesses get the better of us, as they did in these examples. Sometimes we simply fail just as they did.

Nevertheless, notice the successful victories they accomplished through their faith.

- They subdued kingdoms.
- They worked righteousness.
- They obtained promises.
- They stopped the mouths of lions.
- Out of weaknesses they were made strong!

This is the kind of victories that came about due to their weaknesses that the Lord assured the apostle Paul of in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10:

“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’

“Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

With all of this said, it can harm our spirits when we constantly worry that God will reject us because we are imperfect beings. In reality, He works with our weaknesses to make us stronger and to ultimately work toward righteousness.

Of course, I am talking about learning and growing when we recognize we are imperfect beings, when we repent of our wrongdoings, and we continue to go forward through faith. *The same faith these imperfect people had.*

Our faith can be just as powerful and just as effective in helping us grow more and more in our striving to do our Father’s will and to be more like Jesus, which should be our ultimate goal.

~ 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

- No news this month.



December Birthdays

- ☆ Albert Schreck - 9th
- ☆ Brian Schreck - 31st

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

- Doug and Jill Twaddell met with us on a Sunday. Doug led our class and gave our exhortation.
- We had our social and shared dinner with them.

- Greg Head received a heart pacemaker. He has been having fainting spells, and a very low heart rate. He is slowly getting better.

- Jim Meek dislocated his newly repaired shoulder and had to have another surgery to repair it.
- They inserted a spacer this time. He is doing much better and will be starting physical therapy soon.
- Peg Warren's new neighbor, Cindy Clevenger, has been worshipping with us. She moved from Texas where she attended the Church of Christ. We are happy to have her.

- Several have been ill with sore throats, coughs and stomach flu.

December Birthdays

- ☆ 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

- Thanks to Doug & Jill Twaddell for meeting with us on Saturday evening & Sunday morning. Also thanks to Doug giving us two good Bible studies.

Visitors:

- - Paul Negley & family - Urbandale, IA
- - Darrell & Linda Barnes - Springfield, MO

December Birthdays

- None

December 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

- Mike & Tracy Penick spent some time with the brethren in Nixa, MO in November.
- Tom & Dianne Collier had their children and families visiting from Florida, Montana, and Oklahoma in Des Moines for Thanksgiving.
- A number of brethren were kept home over November because of a cold bug going around amongst the kids and adults.



December Birthdays

- ☆ 10 - Mary Proudfit
- ☆ 12 - Teresa Bown
- ☆ 29 - Drew Teghtmeyer
- ☆ 30 - Hannah Hounsom

December 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:

- **Kelly George** has been struggling with a clotting disorder for over a year. Unfortunately, there are no longer options to save his foot. On Wednesday, December 7, Kelly will have a below-the-knee amputation. The kingdom surrounds Kelly and Allison in much love and earnest prayers during the weeks ahead.
- **Beauregard Wood** was hospitalized for RSV at Blank Children's Hospital when he was only 10 days old. Praise God he made a full recovery.
- **Steven Thompson** was hospitalized for a few days due to UTI and pain medication concerns.
- **Bud Fillman** had cancer removed from his face and forehead this past month.
- **Brenda Bohall** was hospitalized with RSV pneumonia this month. Continued prayers for her recovery.
- **Betty Warren** has been dealing with open wound areas on her leg. She has also been ill with a lung infection.
- **Suzanne Harvey** had a few falls in late November which resulted in headaches and dizziness. She also has been in A-fib with her heart and is awaiting a hernia surgery.
- **Tammy Brady** had foot surgery and is nearly recovered.
- **Darby Allen** was in a serious car accident this past month when another car t-boned them. We praise God that no one was hurt badly. Darby's vehicle was totaled but she only suffered a few cuts and bruises. Darby is a freshman at Drake University and is from the Nixa, MO congregation.
- Our hearts pour out in much love to **Cindy Brady** and her family. Cindy's brother, Randy Mogensen, passed away on November 23 after a 6-month battle with cancer.
- **The Alex Needham family** passed around illness for three weeks battling strep throat and flu.
- **Marty & Lisa Williamson** traveled to India between 11/3-12/1.
- **Bev Brady** has started a weekly Women's Silver Bible study on Tuesdays. Ladies are studying "Responsibilities of Christian Women."

- **Niko Felice and Kim Horack** will be married in Cancun on December 2. Those attending are Julene Pappan, Daniel & Carly Suhr, Kelly & Allison George family, Fred Brady, and Alex & Ryane Needham.
- **November ITBS:** Many thanks to the Klein family for their sincere hospitality! Many thanks to all the ITBS students for digging into God's Word.
- We enjoyed fellowship, playing games, and learning biblical truths from John 6-10. Many thanks to Alan Klein for a great object lesson of sheep listening to the shepherd's voice. John 10:27
- The next ITBS is December 17 @ 4 p.m. at **Rodney and Alena Ingle's** home.



CHURCH OF CHRIST

Iowa Traveling
BIBLE
study

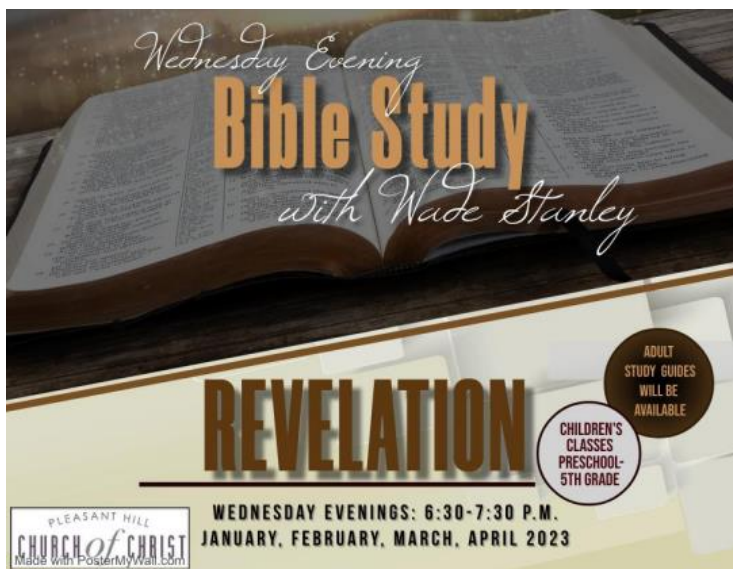
"John 11-15"
Christian Fellowship & Bible Study!

SATURDAY, December 17, 4 p.m.

Hosts:
Rodney & Alena Ingle
5516 SE 6th Ave
Pleasant Hill, IA

This will be a sledding party, granted there is snow! Chili will be served. Bring a side, crackers, & dessert to share. Don't forget to bring your Bible & binder with completed questions.

January – April 2023: God willing, **Wade Stanley** will teach the book of Revelation. All local congregations are invited, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. See invitation for details.



December Birthdays

- ☆ 12/3 – Jed Wood
- ☆ 12/4 – Steve Brady
- ☆ 12/7 – Gabriel Hermon
- ☆ 12/8 – Leah Anguiano
- ☆ 12/18 – Jason Brady & Paul Zinnel
- ☆ 12/23 – Dominique Blackman
- ☆ 12/29 – William Conner

Anniversaries:

- None

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>

- Melody and Morgan Burkman hosted a Grand Opening of their Coffee and Carnations shop in Prairie City on Nov. 5. The gathering was also a surprise party to congratulate Greg Ingle on his retirement.
- The group enjoyed food and fellowship at the church building on Nov. 11.
- Margaret Ingle had cataract surgery on Nov. 22 and all went well. She has another eye surgery scheduled for Dec. 6.
- Trent and Leah Fiorentin took Josie to Iowa City for some testing and more tests will be in the future, but parents feel like things are headed in the right direction now.
- Many gatherings were held to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends and to give thanks to God for our many blessings.

- Visitors this month were: Sue Schreck; Brandy McPhillips and daughter, Maddie, Ryan, Rylee, and Patrick Ingle.



December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

- ☆ 12 Robert & Sharon Cummins

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



There are two solstices every year:

There is one in December and one in June. The December solstice marks the shortest day north of the equator and the longest day in the south.

In Des Moines, Iowa, the winter solstice falls on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 3:48 pm CST.

The December solstice can be on December 20, 21, 22, or 23.

December 21 or 22 solstices happen more often than December 20 and 23 solstices. The last December 23 solstice was in 1903 and the next one is in 2303. A December 20 solstice is also rare, with the next one in the year 2080.

Why Does the Date Vary?

Today's Gregorian calendar has 365 days in a common year and 366 days in a leap year. However, our planet takes about 365.242199 days to orbit the Sun. This means that the timing of the equinoxes and solstices slowly drifts apart from the Gregorian calendar, and the solstice happens about 6 hours later each year. Eventually, the accumulated lag becomes so large that it falls on the following date.

A Specific Point in Time

Most people count the whole day as the December solstice. However, the solstice is actually at a specific moment - when the Sun is exactly overhead the Tropic of Capricorn.

Shortest Day in the North

Since the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the Sun in December, it receives less sunlight during the course of a day. At the solstice, the North Pole's tilt away from the Sun is greatest, so this event marks the shortest day of the year north of the equator.

The Sun 'Stands Still'

The term solstice comes from the Latin word *solstitium*, meaning 'the Sun stands still.' This is because on this day, the Sun reaches its southern-most position as seen from the Earth. The Sun seems to stand still at the Tropic of Capricorn and then reverses its direction. It's also common to call it the day the Sun turns around.

It's the First Day of Astronomical Winter

In the Northern Hemisphere, astronomers and scientists use the December solstice as the start of the winter season, which ends on the March equinox. For meteorologists, on the other hand, winter begins three weeks earlier, on December 1.