



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

December 2024

On the move from Arizona to the Midwest to the Caribbean

Dearest brothers and sisters,

Greetings in Jesus' name. Our family has had quite the last several months. This is why I have not been able to send you a report of my efforts in a timely manner. I will begin again to send you a report every 3 months beginning the first of 2025, God willing.

You will note at the beginning of this letter is a new address for us. We learned 4 months ago that we had to move. We have been paying rent for the past 15 years, and our landlord died. His family decided to sale the land. After searching for another place for 3 months we were unable to find a house suitable and affordable for our needs. Flagstaff's housing market has been extremely "hot", and the prices were outrageous. We would find a house we thought was suitable, and we would learn it was off the market before we could make an offer. We thought we may have to move to another location. We were desperate.

Finally, we decided to look at some houses in Williams, AZ which is about 45 minutes to the west of Flagstaff. They were a little bit less expensive and a little bit of a commute. The Lord provided such a place! We closed on a house 2 weeks ago, and we are moved in!

We still have much work to do regarding emptying boxes, and the house needs some repairs, but it is perfect for us. It has plenty of room, and we are confident we can afford it. God is good! I really wanted to remain in Northern AZ, for it is central to my working with the six congregations.

For the past several months I had to adjust my travels, and I had to cancel several visits to southern AZ and northern NM. I am now back to my regular schedule and travels. I was with the churches at Huachuca City and Pima this past weekend for the first time in 2 months. The congregations were very understanding about this, but it had to be done.

From the Midwest to the Caribbean

Also, during this time I felt obligated to go on our 4-week journey to the churches in the Midwest and east. I

also was blessed with the opportunity to travel with Jeff Taylor to the island of Providenciales in the Caribbean.

They asked me to come visit them and teach them about the importance, need and qualifications of elders. They had never even considered the topic of elders. If not for this invitation I seriously thought of cancelling this trip, but I decided this opportunity may never come again.

Jeff and his wife were on that island for a vacation, and they attended a church of Christ of about 60 in attendance. After visiting with Jeff, they thought it would be worthwhile to invite me to visit them and teach on these very important and scriptural topics. I felt like this was too important to cancel, so I decided to go.

Jeff and I were there for 5 days. We both spoke on various aspects of elders, and I also spoke of the work of an evangelist and how they were needed to appoint such leaders, if a congregation wants to follow the Lord's plan for such an effort.

While there, we addressed two lessons to the brothers and several to the entire congregation. Some of you may have seen some pictures of the brothers and of the congregation I posted on my Facebook account. Please look at them and the brief explanations of our efforts.

The brothers and sisters were very much interested in our thoughts. Each session was concluded with a time for their questions. They would have gone till midnight if we had let them! It was great to see a lot of interest in these topics.

As happened a few times in the Philippines, Jeff & I would say a few sentences and a brother would translate. A good percentage of them spoke Creole, a percentage spoke English, and a few could speak both.

My thoughts go back to our work in the Philippines. The single best result of those efforts was in our teaching on the importance of elders and their work. Since our going they have "taken the ball and run with it." Our purpose was never to appoint elders in Providenciales, but it was to teach them and let them do this work. As with the Philippines, we do not know the brethren nor their culture,

❄ December 2024 ❄

and for this reason we agreed to urge them to do this. I do not think they are ready for elders yet, but I told them I was confident they could be ready in 5 years or so if they applied themselves. May God allow this work and lead to His glory and the edification of the congregation.

To make this trip possible the churches at Excelsior Springs, MO and Smart Rd in Greenwood, MO were willing to not have me visit them as I do each year in the fall. They felt like this work was worth it. And by His providence I met with each over a Lord's Day earlier this year.

As I wrote earlier, I have resumed my work and travels. We are still unpacking, and probably will be until the mid 2030s! We praise the Lord for His blessings and goodness! Thank you all for your financial support and your prayers. May God continue to bless and keep you.

Love,
Jay H. Graham



Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Call for information.
For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 203-2137

- Quiet month in Chariton.



December Birthdays

☆ None

December 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

- Quiet month at Dean.

December Birthdays

☆ 08 Leah Anguiano 2009

☆ 14 Andrew Higgins 1992

☆ 18 Travis Head 1979

☆ 28 Risa Schamel 1955

December Anniversaries

☆ 28 Travis & Brita Head 2019

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m.
Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632
For information call: Richard Negley (712)695-9001 or Marvin Negley (712)303-7106

- November was a quiet month

December Birthdays:

- None

December Anniversaries:

- 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

- **Ethan and Megan Schreck welcomed the arrival of their new daughter on November 4th.**
Eliza Wren Schreck weighed 7 lb 9 oz and was 19.5" long.
Congratulations to the Schreck family!
- **Pam Deckler had colon surgery** on October 8th and again on November 29th. Pam is back home recuperating. Pam's address is:
Pam Deckler
2209 W. 10th Avenue
Indianola, IA 50125
- **Trent Fiorentin met with us on October 27th** and gave a lesson on being a light out in the world. Our lights must shine so we can bring lost souls to Christ.
- **The ladies of the congregation enjoyed a Secret Sister gift exchange.** Names were drawn in July and a gift was given in the months of August, September & October. The ladies got together on November 2nd and enjoyed a brunch followed by a gift exchange and a reveal of who their Secret Sister was. The activity was really enjoyed by all and plans are in the works to do this again in 2025.



November Visitors:

- Linda Mowrey
- Jake & Kara McClung
- Jasmine Russell
- Faith Pinkley
- Steve, Cerine, Isabelle, Emelia & Maylee Proudfit
- Kirk, Bethany & Killian Ford
- Adam, Cassidy, Judah & Ezra Purdy

October Visitors:

- Randy & Laura Teghtmeyer
- Trent Fiorentin
- Doug Fiorentin
- Linda Mowrey

September Visitors:

- Dennis & Cindy Stanley
- Kirk, Bethany & Killian Ford
- Marc, Ginger, Shea & Gabby Hermon
- Ayden, Madison, Theo & Ginny Twaddell

December Birthdays

- ☆ Teresa Bown - December 10
- ☆ Drew Teghtmeyer - December 29
- ☆ Hannah Hounsom - December 30

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

Announcements: ♥ Heartfelt Love & Prayers:

- Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints." **On Friday, Nov. 1 st our precious sister-in-Christ, Wanda Burkman, went to rest from her earthly labors.** Heartfelt love and fervent prayers to our beloved brother Don and all their family. Don and Wanda were blessed with over 66 years of marriage!



- "For this child, I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of Him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD."** 1 SAM. 1:27-28
Thank you for keeping Niko and Kim Felice close at heart and prayers as they look forward to meeting their newborn child this winter!
- Brenda Bohall is in Lutheran Hospital ICU** for oxygen concerns. She will likely be there for a handful of days. Many thanks for your love and fervent prayers!
- Congratulations to Julene Pappan!** She moved into her new home this past month.
- Continue to encourage and pray for Stephen Thompson** as he deals with many medical trials.
- Please petition the Lord on behalf of Kelsey Wood's mom, Kim James (Indiana).** Kim had colon cancer surgery early November and has been in the hospital this past month recovering.
Much love to you, too, Kelsey and family!

Kim's address is

7803
East Washboard Rd
Solsberry, IN 47459.

- All glory to God we held another Young Men's Meeting.** Seven fine men, zealous to serve our Lord and edify His kingdom, participated in the evening service. Many thanks for their hard work on lessons, public scripture readings, songs, and prayers. Continue to fix your eyes on Jesus and keep growing in knowledge and truth!



- We had a great turnout at the November Iowa Traveling Bible Study (ITBS).** Many thanks to Ryan & Jamie Ingle (+ Joyce) for opening their home to the group and providing another opportunity for the Word to be spread! Three school friend guests attended this month's event. Marc led a Bible study on governing authorities.



- God willing, the next Iowa Traveling Bible Study will be held on Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Hermon home. Wear warm clothes – we may go sledding! Bring fruit, chips, and desserts to share.



December Anniversaries

- ☆ Jed Wood – 12/3
- ☆ Steve Brady – 12/4
- ☆ Gabriel Hermon – 12/7
- ☆ Jason Brady – 12/18
- ☆ Paul Zinnel – 12/18
- ☆ Alonzo Jones – 12/22
- ☆ William Conner – 12/29

December Anniversaries

- ☆ Alonzo & Joyce Jones – 12/19
- ☆ Nick & Susan Conner – 12/30

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.com>

- **The Woman’s Day Meeting held at Excelsior Springs, Mo. on Saturday, November 2 was attended by** Shonya, Kiana, and Aryana Klein; Briana Heartsill, Lynnette Dowdy, and Charity Klein. A blessed day of fellowship!
- **Trent and Leah Fiorentin and Eva and Josie traveled to Clarinda** so Trent could speak on Sunday, November 3. Charles and Angela Ingle, Sharon Cummings and Nancy Clark also went to Clarinda. A delicious soup lunch was enjoyed by everyone after the service on Sunday.
- **The group sang for Richard and Mary Ellen Goode at their home in Indianola** on Sunday evening, November 17.
- **Travelers this month:** Jason and Staci Miller visited family in Missouri; James and Laura Dowdy and family, Doug and Lisa Fiorentin, Trent and Leah Fiorentin and family, and Nathan and Erica Fiorentin and family went to Indiana to visit family.
- **Thanksgiving dinners were held with family and friends** as we gathered to celebrate our love for God and one

another, giving thanks to God for our many blessings throughout the year.

- Visitors this month were: Cadell Ream, Ryan and Jamie Ingle and family; Erin Ingle’s mother, Maryann Homan; Randy and Bobbi Owens and family.



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

- None

Winter Solstice

Saturday, December 21, 2024

3:19 AM
Central Time

The **winter solstice** is the day when the Earth's axis is tilted furthest away from the sun, marking the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. It usually occurs on December 21 or 22.

Winter cooking for a crowd — French Toast*Bake 8 pieces of French Toast at one time.***Gather Your Ingredients**

- 3 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons packed brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon table salt
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup milk
- 8 slices hearty white sandwich bread

Instructions**STEP 1**

- ❄️ Adjust 1 oven rack to lowest position and second rack 5 to 6 inches from broiler element. Heat oven to 425 degrees.
- ❄️ Generously spray bottom and sides of 18 by 13-inch rimmed baking sheet with vegetable oil spray.
- ❄️ Whisk eggs, vanilla, sugar, cinnamon, and salt in large bowl until sugar is dissolved.
- ❄️ Whisking constantly, drizzle in melted butter. Whisk in milk.

STEP 2

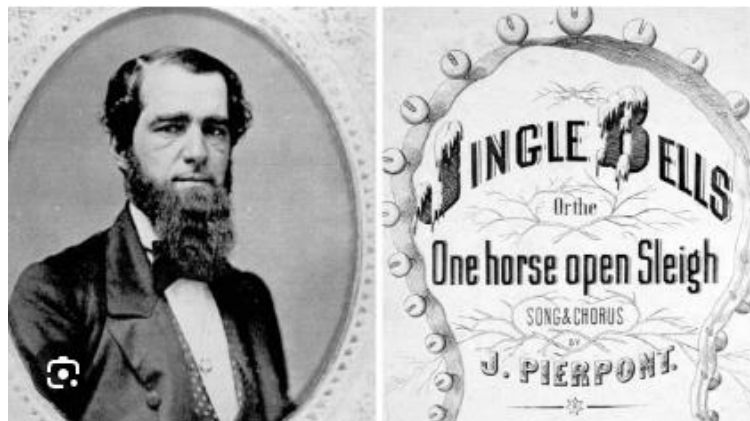
- ❄️ **Pour custard egg mixture into the prepared rimmed baking sheet.** Arrange bread in single layer in egg mixture, (2 rows of 4) leaving small gaps between slices.
- ❄️ Use your fingers to flip slices in same order you placed them in sheet. Let sit until slices absorb remaining custard, about 1 minute after which the custard will be completely absorbed.
- ❄️ Bake on lower rack until bottoms of slices are golden brown, 10 to 15 minutes.
- ❄️ Transfer sheet to upper rack and heat broiler. (Leave sheet in oven while broiler heats.) Broil until tops of slices are golden brown, watching carefully and rotating sheet if necessary to prevent burning, 1 to 4 minutes.

STEP 3

- ❄️ Using a thin metal spatula, serve with maple syrup and confection sugar.

SERVES 4 | TIME 35 minutes
America's Test Kitchen**Did you know . . . ?**

"Jingle Bells" was originally written as a Thanksgiving song. "Jingle Bells" was written by James Lord Pierpont, (an American composer, songwriter, and Confederate soldier) and published in 1857. According to History, Jingle Bells wasn't even the song's original name, it was **"One Horse Open Sleigh."**

**Christmas celebrated on January 7th.**

More than 200 million who profess Christianity around the world are associated with Orthodox Churches.

Most celebrate Christmas on January 7th, following the Julian calendar (instituted by Julius Caesar in 46 BC) unlike those Christian denominations which follow the Gregorian calendar (instituted by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 as a modification to the Julian).