



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

March 2020

“What can wash away my sin?”

Long ago in ancient Egypt, somewhere near the year 1300 B.C., two nations were given short notice that a deadly plague was coming to descend upon them at midnight. This plague was a spirit sent by God, called “*the destroyer*” and would take the life of every first-born in every house.

Israel and Egypt were about to part ways—this was a great contention against the will of Pharaoh, but according to the will of God—Pharaoh lost.

This was the night of the Passover. Israel was given divine instruction to save themselves and be spared from the coming death that night. The blood of a sacrificed lamb was to be put on the lintel above the door of their home and on the two side posts. Moses explained:

“For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.”

~ Exodus 12:23.

Israel was saved by the blood of a lamb.

Our Passover

In Paul’s plea to the brethren at Corinth to keep the Church pure, he said: “*Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover, is sacrificed for us.*”

1 Corinthians 5:7

We can’t forget that we too were overshadowed by the darkness of death, until “. . . *the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*”

~ 2 Timothy 1:10

Walking in accordance to His Word, we live in the divine safety of the blood of the Lamb, not to wander from our spiritual home out into the darkness and danger of ‘the destroyer’.

The Red Door

These epic events in Egypt and Israel—particularly the shedding of blood—are not forgotten. Have you ever noticed the many doors painted red on the various denominations in our communities? This ancient tradition goes back to medieval times and even earlier in old Catholic monasteries and cathedrals.

It is a tradition symbolizing that walking through ‘*the red door*’, one is passing through the cleansing blood of Christ, entering the holy place purified, into the sanctuary, the church.

(In some European countries, private homes paint their door red when the mortgage is paid off, i.e., declaring their home is debt free—a faint correlation to the blood of Christ paying off the debt of our sins.)

Why did my Savior come to earth?

For you. He came to earth because YOU were in way over your head in sin . . . as we all were. This is the common self-affliction of all men throughout history. I can relate very well to David’s lament to God: “*For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.*”

~ Psalm 38:4

Angels, prophets and apostles have declared this simple singular purpose of why “*the Word became flesh*” and walked among us. The angel that appeared to Joseph when Jesus was still in the womb of Mary said, “*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.*”

~ Matthew 1:21”

Thirty years later, the purpose of Jesus coming to earth was still the same: The last Old Testament prophet, John the Baptist said this:

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of

the world.”

~ John 1:29

And the Apostle John testifies that *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”*

~ 1 John 3:8

Christ came to destroy *the only thing* that gives Hell the title to my soul—sin. By his blood, the debt is paid and I am freed from the bondage of sin.

Where is the Blood of Christ?

The popular answer is *“at the Cross”*. And that is true. But how does one get there to reach the *“soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb”*?

The first answer with any clarity was given by the Apostles when men from every nation heard their testimony of Christ, and were convicted of their sins, and asked them, *“What shall we do?”*

Peter, as his manner was, was the first to answer. As an Apostle he knew exactly where to direct men to reach the blood of Christ for the remission of their sins:

Then Peter said unto them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

~ Acts 2:38

In the waters of baptism, the old man of sin is buried, and the new regenerated man is risen from the dead, washed from sin, to live a new life.

Happy day! But we see that before these men went down in the water, they had a change in the heart. The word they heard convicted them of their sins, turned their heart to the One who could save them, and brought a confession from their lips that

Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God.

Pure as the day you were born

The blood of Christ runs deep. Not just in the waters of baptism that we can see, but also in the believing and repentant heart that God sees.

We sin daily, as the Apostle John tells us. And though it is not lawful to be baptized every day to wash away our sins, the Christian has something equally effective—John comforts us saying, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* and be as free from sin as the day we were baptized—every-day!

God has always been this way, in both the Old and New Testaments—merciful, gracious, long-suffering, willing to forgive and remembering our sins no more. As Jeremiah explained: *“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”*

~ Lamentations 3:22-23

So we see that God has made it possible for the Christian to live everyday new and with a fresh start. Forgive and forget the past, put the future in God’s hands, and live today rejoicing that He blesses us daily shepherding us to our heavenly home.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

~ John 1:6-7

Amen!



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

- **Albert and Jeanette Schreck will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary** on March 19th. If anyone would like to send a card their address is: 45889 325th Ave., Russell, IA 50238.

March Birthdays

- ★ Norm Riekens - 25th

March Anniversaries

- ★ Albert & Jeanette Schreck - 19th

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Last Sunday of the month: A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- Pam Climpson hasn't felt well in a while. Cards of encouragement may brighten her days. Her address is: 15066 Scotch Ridge Rd., Carlisle, IA 50047.
- Tom and Dianna Collier from Martensdale met with us. Tom gave us a good lesson on "Being Closer to God".
- Neal Warren has good days and bad days. His birthday is March 16th. Cards can be sent to: 695 E. Army Post Rd., #410, Des Moines, IA, 50315.

Traveling:

- Skip and Risa Schamel, Ron and Karma Sharp – Florida
- Roberta Milinsky – New Orleans

Feeling Ill:

- John and Donna McNeece, Karma Sharp, Debbie Wilkins, Mary Dobberke and Yvonne Coe.

Visitors:

- Bill, Bryan, Max and Tally Charlier, Nancy Evans, Aiden and Paxon Boozell, Brita Head & Charlie, Shawn Head, Maddie Done, Tammy Fitzgerald, Ashley Fitzgerald and Addison.



March Birthdays

- ★ 16 Neal Warren
- ★ 29 Greg Head
- ★ 30 Roberta Milinsky

March Anniversaries

- ★ 11 Larry & Jan Sellers

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

- Jack & Bobbi Swisher continue to remain home bound during the winter months. Hoping to see them when spring comes.



March Birthdays

- None

March Anniversary

- None

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
February thru March: Potluck after morning service, meeting back at 1 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

The Spring Meeting 2020

Formerly hosted by the Dean Avenue Church of Christ, will be hosted by the Martensdale Church of Christ on March 28 & 29, 2020. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

<http://martensdalechurchofchrist.org/index.php/about-us/spring-meeting-2020>

- Duane Proudfit had surgery on his shoulder on Wednesday, Feb 26 and is doing well home recovering. There is six months of rehabilitation in front of him.
- A thank you to all who attended our meeting with Wade Stanley. We had 62 people in attendance Saturday night.
- Stephanie Stephens and kids worshipped with us while staying with Mike and Tracy Penick.
- So thankful Wendy and Zech Hounsom have been able to return to worship services.

- Tom and Dianne Collier were at Dean Avenue in February.
- Mike and Tracy Penick enjoyed a cruise in February.
- Nordan Bown attended Martensdale visiting family.

It was with great sadness we received news that our sister Marta Weeks passed away. Further update pending.

March Birthdays

- ★ Courtney Teightmeyer - 7th
- ★ Tom Collier - 10th
- ★ Dave Henderson - 18th
- ★ Rusty Bown - 20th
- ★ Charlie Decker - 23rd

March Anniversaries

- ★ Dave and Christy Henderson - March 14, 2009
- ★ Dick and Phyllis Bown - March 27, 1965

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
February thru March: Potluck after morning service, meeting back at 1 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

- **We welcomed many visitors this month:** Dave & Sandy Ingle {TWO Dave Ingles!}; Margaret Franklin, Tehya & Saniyah Blackman; members of the Needham family; members of the Burkman family; niece of Theresa Ingle; and friend of Rylee Ingle. Added blessings to our assembly!

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

~ Psalm 46:1

- **Those that have been ill this month:** Whitney & Dean Thorson (ill), Kelly George (gout), Carly Felice (Influenza B), Theresa Ingle

(migraines), Nora Lee Ingle (ill and sore throat); Paul Zinnel spent a few days in the hospital due to high blood pressure, Suzanne Harvey (sore and swollen legs and feet), Wanda Burkman (virus),

• **Please continue to keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:**

Tom Brady (kidney transplant list, recovery from 2nd cataract surgery), Ryan Zinnel (recovering from knee surgery), Marty Williamson (recovery from hand surgery), Ryane Needham (recovery from two medical procedures) - sign up for meals has been provided; Keith Price and the Albrights; also remember to pray for a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery for Kelsey Wood (April) and Whitney Thorson (June).

- Our condolences go out to Jamie and Ryan Ingle family as they grieve for the loss of Jamie's brother, Brad Evans. Sign up for meals has also been provided for them.
- We have several members who are escaping the winter season and spending time out-of-state the past several weeks; please pray for safe travels for each of them... Larry and Bev Brady; Marje Turnquist; and Bud Fillman. Marty and Lisa Wil-

liamson also escaped for a week of fun and relaxation in Miami! Nick and Kayley Hermon spent a weekend in Kansas City.

- We had our first "C.R.E.W." (Christians Ready & Eager to Work) meeting. Thank you for all the great suggestions!

Anyone interested in hosting ITBS please let Marc or Ginger Hermon know. Thanks!.



March Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ★ 3 Jennifer Albright | ★ 4 Tim Brady |
| ★ 7 Carly Felice | ★ 10 Susan Conner |
| ★ 11 Henry Conner | ★ 15 Ellie Wood |
| ★ 17 Miles Wood | ★ 19 Mike Brady |
| ★ 20 Bud Fillman | ★ 23 Lowell Hermon |
| ★ 29 Linda Garland | ★ 30 Theresa Brady |
| ★ 31 Allison George | ★ |

March Anniversaries

- ★ 11 Bruce & Suzanne Harvey

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.
Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.
Website: vandaliacoc.com
For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- We are happy to report the birth of Reuben Ray, born to Micah and Briana Heartsill. He weighed 8 lb. 4 oz., and joins big brother Corin. Grandparents are Alan and Shonya Klein.
- Bob Cummings spent a few days in the hospital as a result of a fall at home, injuring his back. He is home and has been able to attend services.
- We report the passing of Dorothy VanMaanen, sister of Melda Ingle. We express our sympathy to her and her family.
- Alan and Shonya Klein enjoyed a cruise to Puerto Rico with a Marriage Retreat group.
- We sang with the residents of Altoona Nursing Home on a recent Sunday evening.

- Our visitors were Valerie Burkman, Dawn Mikus and children, Jason Dowdy, Jarrett and Chania Horn, and Randy and Teresa Ingle and children.

March Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ★ 4 Devon Ingle | ★ 15 Marvin Ingle |
| ★ 19 Mariha Henle | ★ 21 Nick Guthrie |
| ★ 22 Mason Burkman | ★ 22 Abigail Ingle |
| ★ 23 Sharon Cummings | ★ 29 Michael Cummings |
| ★ 29 Abbi Henle | ★ 29 Alan Klein |

March Anniversaries

- ★ 23 James & Laura Dowdy

☆☆☆☆☆ **Upcoming Event** ☆☆☆☆☆

ITBS (Iowa Traveling Bible Study)

Topic: ***Overcoming Temptation While Running The Race***

Date: **Saturday, March 21, 4-8 p.m.**

Teachers: Alan Klien & Marc Hermon

Bible Students: Ages 9-18

Location: Mike and Cindy Brady's home

714 15th St SE

Altoona, IA 5009

Anyone interested in hosting ITBS please let Marc or Ginger Hermon know. Thanks!

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)