



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

February 2021

Loving the Lord's Church like Christ Loves His Church

Jay Graham

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."

~ Ephesians 5:25-27

Often the above verses are used to point out how husbands should love their wives, and that certainly is a good application from these verses. I would like to point out another great lesson we can garner from this passage, and that is to note how Christ loves His church. Therefore, the Lord's people should love His church as well.

Many years ago, back in the 1980s, I had the privilege of working with our brother, Bill Hensley. I learned a number of great lessons regarding my work as an evangelist among the Lord's congregations from Bill. One lesson I learned that has had a great impact on me was a statement Bill said numerous times—*"An evangelist must love the church in order to serve the church."*

That is indeed a truth that I have learned to appreciate more and more.

There are many aspects about the Lord's body we should love. We should love its people, and this

even in light of our fellow Christians' short-comings, myself included. We should love it, for it is indeed, the only Bride of Christ and its perfect holiness that Christ's blood purchased.

The Church's missions

We should love her missions. These missions include preaching the gospel to the world through our lives and through our words and messages. It is the gospel that is at the heart of our faith and our lives of submission and obedience. It is the gospel that gives us our Hope for help as we live our lives today as well as for what the Lord has planned for us in eternity. There is also the mission of the body edifying itself as Christians teach and admonish one another through the assemblies of the body and through our individual lives of service.

The Church's design

We should love the design of the body, for it was designed by its Creator and Head, Jesus Himself. Its design is perfect to accomplish what its Designer had in mind. This design includes the elders of the various congregations as they work at shepherding those in their care. This design includes its deacons as they work to serve the brethren of the congregations that they are responsible to and its evangelists as they work among the various congregations. Its design includes how Christians

make up the body by using their various gifts and abilities to the edification of the body.

A separate and unique Church

We should love and appreciate its unique nature in the midst of a confusing religious landscape.

There is a tendency for those in the denominations to consider the churches of Christ to be one of many. There is also a tendency for even the Lord's people to fall into this same error by considering the Lord's one body to be just another denomination.

My brothers and sisters—this is NOT the case.

We should love that the church is NOT one of many churches, and that it is not one of many denominations. It is separate and unique. It was created in a manner that puts it beyond man's manipulations. Therefore we are not at liberty to call it by our standards or arrange its design as we see fit. Christ has designed it as He saw fit to accomplish His will and certainly not by our standards.

If you wish to see what it would be like if it were made according to man's wisdom, just look at the confusion of the religious landscape today; such as, *"Attend the church of your choice"* as the mantra of denominational thinking and wisdom.

Whereas the Lord's will is for men and women to attend and be part of His church. Likewise, we should love, appreciate, and honor its Designer by not attempting to mold the church into our image. It is designed to be built in His image and His alone!

Therefore, as such, the Lord gets all glory and honor. Just consider the many manmade religious institutions that are so prevalent today, whether they be churches

or religious schools as well as other religious institutions. Consider who gets the glory for these? The men and women who made them—certainly not the Lord.

The Lord's one Church as the only "school of the soul" is made to glorify its Builder and Him alone! We should love it for what it is!

"Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the

preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began, but is now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

~ Romans 16:25-27



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.



February Anniversaries

- None this month

February Birthdays

- ★ 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

- Quiet month at Dean.



February Birthdays

- ★ None

February Anniversaries

- ★ None

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

- Just a quiet month of January. Looking forward to having John Lee on Feb 21.

- **Visitors:** Paul & Race Negley - Urbandale, IA.



February Birthdays

- ★ None this month

February 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

- Quiet month at Martensdale.

February Birthdays

★ None

★

February Anniversaries

★ 09 Allen & Teresa Bown

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

- We are collecting gift cards and letters as a college care package for Brandon Ingle this month, due on or before Sunday, February 14. A basket in the foyer is available for your gifts or can mail directly to him. Some of his favorites are McDonald's, Casey's, Fareway & Walmart.
- **Travelers:** Marje Turnquist was visiting her daughter, Suze Hicks and family, for a few weeks in Minneapolis, MN. She reports she enjoyed brisk snow packed walks each day! Marty & Lisa Williamson visited Nathan & Kathleen in Kansas City. Dave & Joyce Ingle were in Kansas City visiting Nora Lee & the Morris family; and also spent some time in southern Missouri. JC & Melanie Castro have continued to enjoy fellowship with the Sierra Vista, Arizona congregation. On Monday JC has a second interview with the Ford dealership. Your continued prayers for the Castros are appreciated! Dan & Amy Pritchard family will be spending 10 days in Florida for a wonderful family vacation! Pray for safe travels for them.
- **Prayer requests:** Marilyn McClurg: suffered from food poisoning a few weeks ago and had a difficult time recovering. Doctor appointment showed poor kidney function; she spent some time in ER for further tests, taking IV fluids, and anti-nausea meds. She also was suffering from back spasms and her blood pressure was out of whack, so feeling pretty crummy overall.
- Tom Brady: spent more time back in the hospital; but now home again. He continues to have falls, which is very disconcerting. Doctors have started Tom on a new regime with his dialysis. Alonzo Jones: received a shot in his foot to help with his arthritis pain. He's taking insulin and getting his blood sugar under control. Allison George: had a consultation with a facial reconstruction surgeon this past week in Iowa City. She will have surgery in June/July. The plan is to remove the plates in Allison's mouth and under her eye. Will also do some cosmetic fixes and possibly remove the muscle that's causing her jaw pain. The purpose for waiting on the surgery is to give the muscle time to heal if possible and allow her bones to completely heal as well. Allison's great sense of humor and steadfastness of her faith has helped tremendously in dealing with all this. Paul Zinnel will have out-patient surgery this coming week in Omaha. Doctors will remove the simulator in his chest.
- Hallelujah! Julene Pappan was in a bad car accident a few weeks ago but glory to God she is safe with a few aches and pains. We are grateful for God's protection over her and much thanksgiving to the Lord!

- Ryane Needham has been going through testing this past month for her heart. Diagnosis from her cardiologist referred to her as having a "super dynamic heart" where even at a resting rate, the heart beat bounds as though she is being active. He said this was a congenital situation, and could be reflected in her lifestyle being an active mom of four. Ryane and Alex are encouraged by this news, as SURPRISE they are expecting a baby girl in 7 weeks and are glad to know the pregnancy was not the source of her condition. Following the delivery of her little one, Ryane and her cardiologist will discuss a prescribed beta blocker which ought to make her feel more restful.
- Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to a couple of families in our church ~ Shirley Warner & family: Shirley's brother, Jim, passed away in January. Jim was in a nursing home in Missouri and had recently been diagnosed with COVID, but his passing was unexpected. Jim and Shirley were very close. Shirley remembers him as her rock through many difficult life trials. Jim served as a deacon in his church and was loved by many. Sadly, Jim's wife, Marcia, was recently diagnosed with liver cancer. Her surgeon feels it can be treated successfully with surgery. This family is in need of God's hand of comfort and strength. ~

Jennifer, & Chip Albright family; Erica & Bob Goltra family; and Pam Sorensen. Jen & Erica's dad and Pam's brother-in-law, Keith Price, passed away recently. There is no service planned at this time so we encourage you to send cards of sympathy and love. Keith has been battling many health issues for quite some time and is finally at rest. Jennifer's family has been a wonderful example of love and compassion in the care of her Dad/Grandpa.

- Lord willing, ITBS will be hosted February 27th at 3:00 p.m. @ Alan & Shonya Klein's home. Sledding, Bible Study, Fun for all! Ages 9-18. (January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather).



February Birthdays

- ★ 4 ~ Joyce Jones
- ★ 5 ~ Max Flickinger
- ★ 6 ~ Marc Hermon
- ★ 10 ~ Layla Laymon
- ★ 14 ~ Audra Needham
- ★ 23 ~ Marje Turnquist
- ★ 24 ~ Sharon Mineart

February Anniversaries

- ★ 7 ~ JC & Melanie Castro

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m.

No Sunday evening or Wednesday evening services until further notice

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

Website: <https://vandaliacoc.com>

=====No February News =====

From Vandalia's website:

<https://vandaliacoc.com>

- WE ARE MEETING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.
- We have rearranged our auditorium so that our seats are grouped together for families and spaced farther apart to allow for social distancing.
- When we partake of Lord's Supper, the man who gave the Lord's Supper talk puts on a mask and gloves, breaks the bread for each family group, places it on a plate, and another masked and gloved man

takes the plate to the family group. The fruit of the vine is passed by both men, and each disposable cup is handed to each member. We are doing this to limit exposure to the emblems so there is less of a chance of spreading any infections.

- Our Sunday morning service is also available to watch online using Google Meet. Go to meet.google.com, and enter the meeting code. If you need the meeting code, please send us an email at vandaliacoc@gmail.com. We have rearranged our auditorium so that our seats are grouped together for families and spaced farther apart to allow for social distancing.



February Anniversaries

★ 17 Brett & Lori Cole

February Birthdays

★ 2 Walter Daugherty

★ 2 Reuben Heartsill

★ 8 Melda Ingle

★ 9 Bruce Fiorentin

★ 14 Rachael Hnle

★ 16 Derek Ingle

★ 20 James Dowdy

★ 20 Laura Dowdy

★ 26 Amy Ingle

★ 27 Shelby Ingle

★ 28 Briana Heartsill

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)