



Christian Fellowship Church Of Eldora



March 2025

A Newsletter of the
Christian Fellowship Church
1415 12th Street, Eldora, IA

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Spiritual Shedding

By Pastor Susan

In recent sermons, Pastor Patrick has emphasized our great need to root ourselves in close, intimate relationship with God to enable us to live the lives we are designed and called to live. While certainly our lives with God ought to include joy and celebration (Christmas/Easter), they also ought to include times of solemnity with penitence (Advent/Lent). This is the rhythm throughout the biblical story - Israel cycles from blessing to self-reliance followed by exile and repentance; feasting and fasting. We prefer feasting over fasting, but we need both. Our sinful tendencies keep us from being able to sustain virtues like love and humility during long periods of prosperity. We become lovers of pleasure, power and convenience and forget love of God and neighbor.

So, as people who desire to abide in God's love, Lent's call to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving is a gift. It's an opportunity to communally recommit ourselves to God through spiritual renewal, self-discipline, and neighbor-love. I'm glad we do this together as a community. It holds me accountable to the self-discipline of Lent. I look forward to how God might shape my heart, mind, and body more into the likeness of Jesus during this season.

Will you join me by choosing some thoughtful practices for Lent, perhaps one in each area: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving? Perhaps you can choose a specific prayer or a pre-determined amount of time to pray daily. For fasting, maybe choose a non-essential food, activity, or convenience that's habitual for you and refrain from it deliberately. And almsgiving can be as simple as putting change in a jar daily with the intent to donate it somewhere at/after Easter (a good practice for kids!).

(Continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

What matters is doing what you're *able* to do and doing it intentionally and consistently. Noticing how our minds, bodies, and emotions respond to these practices can show us where idols have sneaked in. For instance, crankiness when I fast becomes an opportunity to rely on Jesus in weakness. And rather than judging myself when some less than Christlike tendencies bubble up, I simply acknowledge my weakness and lean more into God for help.

Lent is *not* a season of self-flagellation or punishment for our sins; it's meant to illuminate areas where self-reliance and pride have sneaked in so we can repent. Like the animals that shed their winter coats in spring, Lent offers us the chance to shed our self-sufficiency, self-focus, and self-gratification so we can put on the new and glorious life Jesus has promised.



January 2025

	YTD	BUDGET 2025	2024 YTD
Income			
Pledges, Offerings and Donations	\$15,280		\$14,111
Expenses			
Staff Expenses	\$10,348	\$132,628	\$7,951
Buildings and Utilities	\$2,138	\$43,150	\$1,654
Worship	\$180	\$5,600	\$712
Ministries and Misc	\$498	\$4,275	\$475
Total Outflows	\$13,164	\$185,653	\$10,792
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Fund Balances as of 1/31/25			
General Fund	\$41,201		\$37,314
Building Fund	\$12,676		
HOPE Fund	\$4,417		
Savings Account	\$7,008		
Memorial Fund	\$13,157		
Youth Fund	\$9,435		
Mission and Nurse Funds	\$2,715		
Trust Fund	\$126,144		
Davison Scholarship Trust	\$76,505		
NON-BUDGET ITEMS	YTD		
HOPE expenditures	\$500		
Missional Giving	\$1,025		
Misc projects	\$0		

Minutes for Christian Fellowship Church of Eldora Council/SPRC; February 19, 2025, 4:30 pm

Members present: Dave Dunn, Pastor Susan, Pastor Pat, Scott Swartz, Jim Johnson, Vic Reist, Trista Nelson, Rosanne Foster, Steve Foster, Val Soesbe, Mary Swartz, and Blaire Donaldson. Ann Raisch attended.

Dave Dunn called the meeting to order, and Pastor Patrick began with a devotion.

The minutes were reviewed. Jim Johnson moved to accept last month's minutes; Val Soesbe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRUSTEES –

- The roof has been repaired but it hasn't rained so it is unknown whether all the leaks have been fixed.
- The west door will continue to be locked during Sunday service.

FINANCE – All the bills are up to date. Total input for the year is \$15,280, expenses \$13,164. Vic Reist moved to accept the finance report; Pastor Pat seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Ash Wednesday Service time was set at 6:00 pm
- March's council meeting will be moved to March 19 at 4:30 pm
- Jim Johnson moved, and Trista seconded to have Tracy Morlan add LED lights in the new sign.
- The Byrtie Allen family suggested using Byrtie and Floyd's memorial fund money to pay for the sign, this was approved.
- Trista Nelson moved, and Val Soesbe seconded to approve of the EMT crew using the south lawn of the church for an Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday.
- Ann Raisch gave a presentation to plant some trees on the south lawn. She suggested fruit trees, but it was also discussed to add some shade trees and a bench for people to use. It was decided to explore further.
- The Facebook page is up and running
- Security and safety concerns were discussed. Some ideas were to close off the stairs with a door going downstairs from the west door; locking the west door and installing a doorbell was also discussed. No decision was made at this time.
- We would like to plan another church brunch. It was decided to wait until closer to Easter and then inviting the Hubbard congregation.
- The VA Mobile Clinic will be parking north of the Church on: 03/06, 05/06, 07/10, 09/11, and 11/06. The workers will be given access to the church to use the restroom.

OLD BUSINESS –

- The newsletter is being worked on.
- The children's church/SS is in the research stage.
- The funeral policy is being worked on.
- The kitchen remodel should be completed next week. The painting is all that needs to be done.
- Greg Salvo would like to lead an outdoor adventure outing
- Directory is coming along well. We still need info and pictures from some members. Pastor Pat suggested to wait for the final directory until after Hubbard closes, in case some from Hubbard decide to join CFC.
- The committee & contact person list has been updated.

Val moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Strait, Secretary



March Birthdays

Mar. 01 - Charlie Creps
 Mar. 03 - Dorothy Davison
 Mar. 05 - Taylor LaFrenz
 Mar. 07 - Brandon Vinton
 Mar 08 - Linda McEwen
 Mar. 14 - Douglas Minter, Jr.
 Mar. 15 - Herbie Reist
 Mar. 16 - Emma Inks
 Mar. 16 - Ivan E. Miller
 Mar. 16 - Shorty Reinertson
 Mar. 20 - Mark Seward
 Mar. 23 - Nicole Hess
 Mar. 23 - Jenna Roling
 Mar. 28 - Jim Peters
 Mar. 29 - Ella Anderson
 Mar. 30 - Kat Konomi
 Mar. 30 - Vic Reist
 Mar. 31 - Abby Swartz-Bradley

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well."
 3 John 2

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy." Philippians 1:3-4



Sunday, March 2

Communion/Bread of Life Sunday

9:00 Worship Service

Transfiguration Sunday

Wednesday, March 5

6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 9

9:00 Worship Service

Daylight Saving Time begins

Sunday, March 16

9:00 Worship Service

Wednesday, March 23

9:30 Coffee Fellowship

Sunday, March 23

9:00 Worship Service

Wednesday, March 26

9:30 am Women's Coffee Fellowship

Sunday, March 30

9:00 Worship Service



CHURCH

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ALTAR
 BALCONY
 BELIEF
 BELL
 BENCH
 BIBLE
 BOOKS
 BULLETIN
 CANDLES
 CHOIR
 COMMUNITY
 CONGREGATION
 DOORS
 FAITH
 FLOWERS
 FOYER
 GOSPEL
 GUESTS
 MINISTER
 PEACE
 PEW
 PIANO
 PRAYER
 TRAY
 WORSHIP

S N I T E L L U B C E R H O W
 X W O B F E I L E B I C E C E
 M R A N Z P E W E O O T C A L
 O R E Y A R P C H N G A A N B
 T S L T W I A C G I U G D D I
 R G E G S E P R B S E F O L B
 A B P I P I E E K B S O O E P
 Y E S H T G N O V A T Y R S I
 I L O N A C O I T L S E S M H
 T L G T H B X V M C X R Y K S
 Y T I N U M M O C O A L T A R
 D O S R E W O L F N H O R B O
 N F A I T H E R B Y I B A D W

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
 Find and circle each word.





Happenings !



Christian Fellowship Church of Eldora
1415 12th Street
Eldora, Iowa 50627

Non-Profit Organization
PAID
U.S. Postage Permit #83

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 Afterglow meeting 9:00am Worship Service	24	25 9:30am EWOW	26 9:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Kiwanis Popcorn 6:00pm Book Study	27	28	1
2 9:00am Worship Service	3 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	4 9:30am EWOW	5 9:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	6	7	8
9 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Afterglow meeting	10	11 9:30am EWOW	12 9:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Book Study	13	14	15
16 9:00am Worship Service	17 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	18 9:30am EWOW	19 9:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Church Council 6:00pm Book Study	20 3:00pm Prayer Ministry	21	22
23 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Afterglow meeting	24	25 9:30am EWOW	26 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Women's Coffee Fellowship 5:30pm Book Study	27 4:00pm Kiwanis Popcorn/CFC Sponsoring	28	29
30 9:00am Worship Service	31	1 9:30am EWOW	2 9:00am Bible Study	3	4	5