



# Christian Fellowship Church Of Eldora



## May 2025

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

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### Now what? Celebrate!

*By Pastor Susan*

Easter has come and gone – now what? While our fast-moving culture habitually rushes from one thing to the next, God intends that his people live differently than the world, including in our orientation to time. So, while the rest of the world hastily trades the Easter bunnies, chicks and pastels for graduations, weddings, Memorial Day, and school's end, all good things in themselves, the Christian calendar invites us to lavishly linger for 50 days in feasting and celebrating Easter's triumph: the resurrection of our King Jesus.

Biblically, this season represents the time between the resurrection and Pentecost, during which Jesus *“presented himself to them [his disciples] and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God”* (Acts 1:3). It was during this time that Jesus appeared to his disciples in locked rooms, along the Emmaus Road, and at breakfast on the beach. Jesus didn't vacate the tomb and immediately ascend to heaven; he spent more than a month in his resurrected body hanging with his friends. Yes, to teach and prepare them for his eventual absence, but I suspect it was also to celebrate simply being together again after the traumatic events of his arrest, trial, and death.

God's wisdom in this celebratory period reveals itself if we consider the physiological, psychological, and social effects of celebration. Celebrating releases a cocktail of “feel good” chemicals in our brain – namely dopamine, endorphins, serotonin, and oxytocin. During their time with the resurrected Lord, these served to heal and prepare the disciples for their next mission.

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In celebrating Jesus's risen presence with them, the disciples experienced the release of dopamine, which, besides making us happy and satisfied also makes us open to new ideas and creativity; exactly what the disciples would need to start a new endeavor called the church. The endorphins and serotonin lifted their moods and elevated their sense of well-being and stability; certainly needed to help heal their shattered emotions and reorient them to this new reality of life beyond death. And the oxytocin released during these joyous reunions strengthened the disciples' bonds of love and trust for one another, again, a necessary glue to survive the coming conflicts and persecution.

We are fearfully and wonderfully designed for celebration, not just to feel good, but to become more open and innovative, resilient to stress and tragedy, and socially bonded to one another; all necessary for our lives as disciples. Isn't our God amazing? This year we get to celebrate until June 8! I encourage you to deliberately celebrate God's mercy and goodness during this time – give glory to God by celebrating the return of birds and flowers; whoop it up when you complete an errand or chore; party with family and friends just because. God created celebration for our healing, creativity, and wholeness so that we are physically, mentally, and emotionally prepared to do the good work he has set aside for us to do. Woo-hoo and party on!



### March 2025

	YTD	BUDGET 2025	2024 YTD
<b>Income</b>			
Pledges, Offerings and Donations	\$40,510		\$36,105
<b>Expenses</b>			
Staff Expenses	\$32,334	\$132,628	\$25,147
Buildings and Utilities	\$8,387	\$43,150	\$5,499
Worship	\$180	\$5,600	\$802
Ministries and Misc	\$592	\$4,275	\$559
Total Outflows	\$41,493	\$185,653	\$32,007
<b>Fund Balances as of 3/31/25</b>			
General Fund	\$38,101		\$31,876
Building Fund	\$12,683		
HOPE Fund	\$3,887		
Savings Account	\$7,010		
Memorial Fund	\$11,799		
Youth Fund	\$9,435		
Mission and Nurse Funds	\$2,716		
Trust Fund	\$126,144		
Davison Scholarship Trust	\$76,506		
<b>NON-BUDGET ITEMS</b>			
	<b>YTD</b>		
HOPE expenditures	\$530		
Missional Giving	\$2,075		
Misc projects	\$0		

**Members present:** Jim Johnson, Dave Dunn, Pastor Susan, Pastor Pat, Rosanne Foster, Steve Foster, Val Soesbe, Vic Reist, Trista Nelson, and Scott Swartz were present. Jim Brown took part by phone.

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

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

#### **TRUSTEES –**

Nick LaVelle will be called to see if he will mow at the parsonage again this year.

Some shingles need replaced on the parsonage, and the deck needs staining.

**FINANCE –** All the bills are up to date. Total input for the year is \$40,510, expenses \$41,493. Trista Nelson moved to accept the finance report; Steve Foster seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS –**

The first bill on the sign/lighting was paid

The local EMT is planning an Easter Egg Hunt using the south lawn of the church on Palm Sunday.

A potluck brunch was discussed for after service on May 4 or 18. Pastor Susan moved to have a Welcome Hubbard potluck brunch on May 4, Trista seconded. Motion carried.

There was some discussion changing the Sunday worship service to 9:30. Some things discussed were: fellowship could be enjoyed before the service, families with young children might appreciate the later start, some members of the Hubbard-Salem Church might be more comfortable coming with the later start. It was decided to table the discussion to next month.

#### **OLD BUSINESS –**

Pastor Susan gave a report on the children's church/Sunday School. Things are going well, she received some curriculum to be used and is reaching out to others who would like to help.

Hope Fund Policy was discussed

Hope Fund – gas, utilities

PLMA – gas, food, lodging

We are hoping to get the directory done by May 1.

Hubbard is having Maundy Thursday Service at 5:30 on April 17.

Good Friday Service at SHHS at 6:00 April 18

Stations of the Cross is planned for Wednesday, April 16

Val announced that she is accepting donations for the Spring Rummage Sale. Date to be determined.

Steve moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Strait, Secretary



**May Birthdays**

- May 4 Calli Soesbe
- May 5 Kayla Prosser
- May 6 Chelsea Donaldson
- May 12 Janey Hobson
- May 14 Marilyn Petty
- May 15 Andy Prosser
- May 15 Carter Kies
- May 17 Dennis Meints
- May 19 Steve Haywood
- May 19 Jerry Kramer
- May 22 Sara Anderson
- May 23 Jan Lloyd
- May 23 Emma Salvo
- May 24 Olger Konomi, Jr.
- May 24 Sue Kramer
- May 24 Conor Minter
- May 25 Carol Humphrey
- May 28 Della Peters
- May 28 Lexie Tidman
- May 30 Nan Knight

**Sunday, May 4**

**Communion/Bread of Life Sunday**

9:00 Worship Service

Transfiguration Sunday

**Sunday, May 11**

**Mother's Day**

9:00 Worship Service

**Sunday, May 18**

9:00 Worship Service

**Sunday, May 25**

9:00 Worship Service

**Monday, May 26**

**Memorial Day**

**Wednesday, May 28**

9:30 am Women's Coffee Fellowship

**Friday & Saturday, May 30-31**

**Rummage Sale**

4		9	7				3	2
2	8	1	6	9				5
7	3		4	8	2			6
			2	7		9		
					8	2		
		2			5	6	1	3
9				1		3	7	8
1	5		3					
					9	5	6	

**FELLOWSHIP, GREETER, & USHER**  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**  
 Please sign up



Loretta sharing fellowship



Harold sharing his talent

# Happenings!



Palm Sunday at CFC

Christian Fellowship Church of Eldora  
 1415 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Eldora, Iowa 50627

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

Eldora United Methodist Church

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00am Worship Service	28	29 9:30am EWOW	30 9:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Book Study	1	2	3
4 9:00am Worship Service	5 10:00am Prayer Share Ministry	6 9:30am EWOW	7 9:00am Bible Study 4:30pm Church Council	8	9	10
11  9:00am Worship Service	12	13 9:30am EWOW	14 9:00am Bible Study	15	16	17
18 9:00am Worship Service	19 10:00am Prayer Share Ministry	20 9:30am EWOW	21 9:00am Bible Study	22 3:00pm Prayer Ministry	23	24
25 9:00am Worship Service	26 	27 9:30am EWOW	28 9:00am Bible Study	29 	30 	31 