



Christian Fellowship Church Of Eldora



June 2025

A Newsletter of the
Christian Fellowship Church
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**FB: Eldora IA Christian
Fellowship Church**

In 2004, Rick and I participated in a program called “Love Lift for Ukraine”, when we traveled to Ukraine to help develop “sister-church” relationships with Ukrainian churches... at the invitation of the Ukrainian government... in order to connect with the West after years of Communist rule.

We were hosted by Pastor Peter Bevz and his wife of the First Missionary Baptist Church in Chernihiv in the Chernihiv Oblast in northern Ukraine.

The Bevzs personally hosted us in their home during our weeklong visit and are a hard-working family. Mrs. Bevz served us amazing meals... most of which came from produce she grew in her own gardens... where there is no grass lawn... only vegetable gardens!

We also met the Bevz’s son, Roman, who is the Associate and Youth Pastor and leads Ukraine Crossroad Ministry for teens and children. He is also involved in procuring and distributing humanitarian aid to the city and villages.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2021, they came in from Belarus on the north... traveling through the Chernihiv Oblast on their way to Kiev. I was shocked when I early read that Chernihiv was one of the first cities to be invaded and attacked at that time. Roman informed us that a cousin of his was killed in that attack.

Roman had already been running summer camps for teens and children in Chernihiv but the war made things a lot more challenging.

Following are Roman’s updates from the winter of 2025...

Dear Friends and prayer supporters,

Praise God, that we are still alive and I can write you this update about our ministry.

When I look through the pictures of our church's ministry within the three years of war it is almost hard to tell that we have the war going in our country.

Yet, there is a war and many people are killed daily by Russia. Sufferings, pain, losses, anxiety, fear of death, constant air raid alerts, drone/missile attacks on civilians - all this accompany the daily routines of vulnerable Ukrainian people.

In January 2025 we organized Crossroads Day Camp (3 days) for teens and youth during the winter school break.

On the 2nd day of the camp there was a missile attack on Chernihiv. We heard two or three explosions that day. We took all the kids to the basement and, praise God, no one suffered.

The spring break at the schools was in the end of March and we used that time wisely and organized Crossroads Day Camp for teenagers again. God blessed it very much. We had many people showed up then and the connections between the campers and our team became much stronger.

To make a long story short, we are very excited that, in spite of the war, we can serve God and serve the people of Ukraine.

This year our church plans to organize two Crossroads Day Camps in the summer. Most of the children who attend our camps are from non-Christian homes. We expect the total of about 200 kids and teenagers daily.

Children and teenagers in Ukraine have been traumatized by the war and they need some getaway time to heal and not to focus on the war. The time that they spend at our camps helps them to have fun, meet new friends, open up to the other campers or staff, find the support of the camp leaders and also learn about hope and trust which they can put in Jesus.

Three years in a row we rented an inflatable slide from one church in Western Ukraine. We started praying and raising funds for purchasing an inflatable slide for our church.

The inflatable slide is not just a good thing for kids to have fun but it is also a very attractive thing that brings many children to camp. Since we know that camp is the only place where most of these kids hear the Gospel, it makes us realize that we should make these camps interesting and attractive for them.

Missionary Baptist Church partners with Chernihiv Christian Mission in different humanitarian projects through which the Gospel is preached to the unsaved. Since the beginning of the war and up to today we have not stopped preaching the Gospel and helping the vulnerable and needy people in Chernihiv city and in Chernihiv Region.

Along with the aid that we give to people, we also share the Gospel with them. Within the three years of war more than 10 000 people heard the Good News and received the humanitarian aid through our ministry. Praise God! Within the period of war, 40 people have already been baptized and joined our church.

We have many plans for the summer, but we don't have enough funds for it yet. However, we trust it all to the Lord! Blessings, Roman Bevz

--Rick & Sue Shaw



Isaiah 30:20-21

And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

"When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." (Prov. 16: 7)

Members present: Rosanne Foster, Steve Foster, Pastor Susan, Pastor Pat, Valerie Soesbe, Jim Brown, Dave Dunn, Trista Nelson, Vic Reist, Scott Swartz, and Mary Swartz. Rick Shaw attended as a speaker.

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

The minutes were reviewed. Steve Foster moved to accept last month's minutes; Scott Swartz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRUSTEES –

The parsonage deck has been stained and the missing shingles replaced. The church still has at least one leak. Randy has said he will check on it.

Jim Brown will talk to Nick LaVelle about spraying the parsonage lawn for weeds.

FINANCE – All the bills are up to date. Total input for the year is \$56,880, expenses \$54,115. Trista Nelson moved to accept the finance report; Steve Foster seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS –

Four students were considered for the Davison Scholarship this year. After discussion, Jim Brown moved and Pastor Susan seconded to award a \$1,000 scholarship to Ava Salvo, Sophie Vinton, and Lacy Coffman from the Hubbard Church. Rylee Nelson will receive a scholarship when she attends graduate school. The motion carried unanimously.

The Pastors will be out on May 25 and June 1.

Rick Shaw spoke about a mission that he would like to present to the church: "Pray for Ukraine". He has agreed to do a presentation as the message when the Pastors are gone on May 25.

Jim & Gretchen Brown will be giving the message June 1, with communion moved to June 8.

It was asked to move the old bell choir tables back to the basement.

A quarterly Brunch Potluck was discussed. The next one is maybe August or September.

Val brought up hosting the Migrant Meal. Everyone agreed it would be a good idea, unless it rains. Then, it might be best to move it to St. Mary's Catholic Church. Val will do some checking on things.

OLD BUSINESS –

There are 6 or 7 members involved and working on Children's Sunday School starting this fall.

Still working on the directory

It was decided to try changing the service time to 9:30 during the summer to see how things go. This new start time will begin June 15.

The meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Strait, Secretary



May Birthdays

- June 04 - Jason Lloyd
- June 08 - RaeAnna Minter
- June 08 - Scott Williams
- June 10 - Hudson Clemons
- June 11 - Brent Lloyd
- June 12 - Samantha May
- June 14 - Steve Foster
- June 16 - Janele Fish
- June 23 - Jean Dunn
- June 24 - Jill Wical
- June 28 - Mike May, Jr.
- June 30 - Pam Tjaden

Sunday, June 1

Ascension Sunday
9:00 Worship Service

Friday & Saturday, June 6&7

Rummage Sale

Sunday, June 8

Pentecost Sunday
Communion/Bread of Life Sunday
9:00 Worship Service

Sunday, June 15

Father's Day
9:30 Worship Service

Sunday, June 22

9:30 Worship Service

Wednesday, June 25

9:30 am Women's Coffee Fellowship

Sunday, June 29

9:30 Worship Service



Mini · Wordsearch



Find these words from the last 3 verses of Romans 8.

They may be going in any direction, including diagonal.

- ANGELS
- CONQUERORS
- CONVINCED
- CREATION
- DEMONS
- DEPTH
- ELSE
- FUTURE
- GOD
- JESUS
- LIFE
- LORD
- LOVED
- MORE
- POWERS
- SEPARATE

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

(All Bible references from NIV)



Happenings!





April 2025 Summary Report

NON-BUDGET ITEMS	YTD	
Misc Designated Income	\$3,715	\$2,247
Community Meal		\$1,080
HOPE expenditures	\$560	\$161
Missional Giving	\$3,715	\$1,600
Misc projects	\$500	
Trust Fund Income		
HOPE income		
Trust money used		
Estate bequest		
Donations toward building fund		
Donations toward disaffiliation		\$54,500
Donations toward trust		
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as of 4/30/25		
General Fund Balance	\$35,477	\$38,251
Outstanding bills	\$0	\$0
Disaffiliation Loan Balance	\$0	\$7,000
real balance	\$35,477	\$31,251
Fund Balances		
Building Fund	\$12,683	
HOPE Fund	\$3,857	
Savings Account	\$7,015	
Memorial Fund	\$11,999	
Youth Fund	\$9,435	
Mission and Nurse Funds	\$2,717	
Trust Fund	\$128,006	
Davison Scholarship Trust	\$76,936	