



# Christian Fellowship Church Of Eldora



## May/June 2026

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

**Pastor Susan Schnieders**  
**cfcpastorsusan@gmail.com**

**Pastor Patrick Schnieders**  
**cfcpastorpatrick@gmail.com**

**Church Office: 641-939-2057**  
**[eldoracfc@heartofiowa.net](mailto:eldoracfc@heartofiowa.net)**

**FB: Eldora IA Christian  
Fellowship Church**

**Web: [eldoraiacfc.org](http://eldoraiacfc.org)**

### Strong Words

By Pastor Susan Schnieders

I remember that a common adult tactic to get a child to eat something “good for them” they’d rather not would be to say, “Don’t you want to grow up big and strong like daddy,” [teaching](#) early on that strength is more desirable than weakness. Strength guarantees our triumph over adversity in our lives and paves the path to success or glory.

C.S. Lewis would likely agree that strength is necessary for glory, but in a totally different way. In a collection of essays titled *The Weight of Glory*, he says that the word glory conjures two ideas: fame or luminosity (light). Scripturally, he concluded that the word “glory” indeed referred to fame—not that of human celebrity but “fame” in the mind of God, like the accolade in the parable of the talents (Mt 25), “Well done, good and faithful servant.” In other words, the accolade of God towards a human is glory. When we give God accolades (praise), we are *glorifying* God.

Lewis’s short book, *The Great Divorce*, describes his (fictional?) “[dream](#) vision” [of](#) heaven and hell. In this vision, one distinguishing feature between those persons who are oriented towards their own desires and purposes and those who have lived lives faithful to God and his purposes is their appearance. While both continue living after their earthly lives are done, those who enter and continue in the afterlife fixated on their own desires and agenda are “ghostlike” in appearance: thin and wispy; almost see-through. However, those who came in oriented and obedient to God’s ways appear solid and luminous. Here’s my conclusion via Lewis: God’s praise, his accolade for a life well-lived, is heavy; it’s weighty (thus, the *weight* of glory). For us to bear up under it, we must become “solid” beings, and this solidness is [acquired](#) through a life of obedience. When we take up Jesus’s yoke (Matthew 11:28-30), working with and learning from him in his fields for his harvest, we build up the muscles of our souls, making us strong enough eventually to bear up under the weight of the Father’s accolades. Growing strong enough also entails carrying the weight of our crosses in this life, persevering in suffering with patience, humility, and hope, forgiving and loving rather than retaliating and seeking revenge. In either case, it is the presence of Jesus beside us and in us that makes us stronger than we are on our own.

God’s accolade is a gift given, not something earned. It’s more like our appreciation of a beautiful sunset or symphony; glory is a response to something that makes our hearts soar. It’s estimated that the mass of the observable universe is  $1.5 \times 10^{53}$ ; that’s a huge number! If God’s spoken word can create a universe with that much mass, certainly his expressed appreciation (glory) toward a life well lived has some heft as well.

[Psalm 24:3-4](#) asks, "Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear deceitfully," and [James 4:10](#) advises, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you." When we taste and see that the LORD is good, when we live a life according to his ways, we do become “big and strong like our daddy” and able to bear the weight of his appreciation and praise, which he gifts to us on behalf of his son Jesus, who makes us strong, though we are



### Notes from the Bells...

During the months of March – June and September – December, for the past nearly three years the ECFC bell ringers have been enjoying ringing to enhance worship. We rehearse weekly during those months and have grown our musical skills and collection of songs. Several of our members have a number of years of experience ringing here and in other congregations. Conversely, a few of our members courageously joined with minimal experience and have grown tremendously as ringers.

Many community and church bell choirs across the nation struggle to find enough interested ringers. However, we continue to be blessed at CFC with even willing substitutes and a talented accompanist.

In the past two Advent seasons we've become musical ambassadors for Jesus. During the Eldora Christmas Festival in 2024 we held a short ringing program while our church Nativity Display was shared with the community. In December of 2025 the full bell choir, Pastor Susan and Lynnette Minter traveled to New Providence and presented a program for the NCNP Women's Christmas Tea. Christian artwork supported the Nativity story.

On Tuesday, May 6, in the evening, our Bell Quartet ensemble will present a program of classic hymns at the Women's Salad Meal here in Eldora at St. Mary's Catholic Church. The same for ladies, Jill Grego, Sue Kramer, Joan Riskedahl, and Shirley Alpers of HCNP church will play on May 17 at the Gifford Church morning worship.

The bell choir is finding joy in ringing for you and hoping to do our best musically, but the real joy has been found in supporting one another weekly in prayer, laughing together, and studying a scripture that increases our understanding of a song.

Next month we'll share about our supportive crew who tote and lift and our hardworking music librarian. God can use all our gifts, and we thank Him for listening with His ❤️ and not always his ears!

Carol Humphrey



Shirley Alpers, Jill Grego, Sue Kramer, Rosanne Foster, Joan Riskedahl, Pastor Susa Schnieders, Carol Humphrey, Lynnette Minter, Kristin Strait, Scott Swartz, and Rick Soesbe. Missing from photo, Nancy Webb

**CFC Minutes**

**Members present:** Jim Johnson, Steve Foster, Rosanne Foster, Pastor Susan, Pastor Pat, Dave Dunn, Scott Swartz, Trista Nelson, Blaire Donaldson, and Mary Swartz. Rick Shaw also attended.

Dave Dunn called the meeting to order, and Pastor Susan led with a prayer.

**TRUSTEES –**

Scott Swartz stated he has a bid for a new water heater from Rob’s Heating and Cooking for around \$2500 and Blaire Donaldson suggested that Carsten’s is contacted for another bid. The roof started leaking again after the last rain. Randy Tjaden was up on the roof repairing it after church. There are a couple of shingles missing from the church roof. Randy needs notifying. The first boiler has been installed. The state inspector is scheduled to check it on Monday and if everything is okay, they will install the second.

**FINANCE –**

Scott Swartz gave the financial report. Year to date income for was \$45,383 which is up around \$5,000 from 2025. The general fund balance is \$41,124.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

May 4-10 – Pastors gone  
 Scott will talk to Nick LaVelle about doing the parsonage lawn again this year.  
 Rick Shaw spoke to the council about the summer church camps for children in Ukraine.  
 Scott brought up a request for a small washing machine to help with the cleaning in the church.

**OLD BUSINESS –** Pastor Susan will compile some visuals for the outside planters. Steve made the motion to adjourn, Scott seconded. Dave adjourned the meeting.



**March 2026**

	<b>YTD</b>	<b>BUDGET 2026</b>	<b>2025 YTD</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Pledges, Offerings and Donations	\$45,383		\$40,510
<b>Expenses</b>			
Staff Expenses	\$32,041	\$136,628	\$32,334
Buildings and Utilities	\$9,762	\$46,150	\$8,387
Worship	\$348	\$5,200	\$180
Ministries and Misc	\$664	\$4,425	\$592
<b>Total Outflows</b>	<b>\$42,815</b>	<b>\$192,403</b>	<b>\$41,493</b>
<b>Fund Balances as of 3/31/26</b>			
General Fund	\$41,124		\$38,101
Building Fund	\$5,758		\$12,683
HOPE Fund	\$4,011		\$3,887
Savings Account	\$5,099		\$7,010
Memorial Fund	\$12,846		\$11,799
Youth Fund	\$9,348		\$9,435
Mission and Nurse Funds	\$2,722		\$2,716
Trust Fund	\$131,234		\$126,144
Devision Scholarship Trust	\$76,332		\$76,508
<b>NON-BUDGET ITEMS</b>			
	<b>YTD</b>		
HOPE expenditures	\$530		\$530
Benevolence Giving	\$2,005		\$2,075
Misc projects	\$10,000		\$0



**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 3**  
**Communion/Bread of Life**  
9:30 Worship Service

**Thursday, May 7**  
**VA Van**

**Sunday, May 10**  
**Mother's Day**  
9:30 Worship Service

**Sunday, May 17**  
9:30 Worship Service

**Thursday, May 21**  
3:00 Prayer Ministry

**Sunday, May 24**  
9:30 Worship Service

**Monday, May 25**  
**Memorial Day**  
**Thursday, May 27**  
9:30 am Women's Coffee

**Sunday, May 31**  
9:30 Worship Service



**Sunday, June 7**  
**Communion/Bread of Life**  
9:30 Worship Service

**Sunday, June 14**  
9:30 Worship Service

**Sunday, June 21**  
**Father's Day**  
9:30 Worship Service

**Thursday, February 19**  
3:00 Prayer Ministry

**Sunday, June 28**  
9:30 Worship Service



**June Birthdays**

- June 04 - Jason Lloyd
- June 08 - RaeAnna Minter
- June 08 - Bob Webb
- June 08 - Scott Williams
- June 10 - Hudson Clemons
- June 11 - Brent Lloyd
- June 12 - Samantha May
- June 13 - Kendra Prosser
- June 14 - Steve Foster
- June 16 - Janele Fish
- June 20 - Cade Prosser
- June 23 - Jean Dunn
- June 23 - Sharon Reents
- June 24 - Jill Wical
- June 30 - Pam Tjaden



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



- Looking for members to join the church's:
- Trustees Committee
  - Outreach Committee
  - Memorial Committee
  - Missions Committee
  - Staff Parish Committee
  - Worship team

# Special Blessings



**CFC Church Council**  
Missing from photo: Rosanne Foster, Jim Brown



**A Very Happy Birthday**  
To both  
Herbie and Vic Reist



**Beautiful new cross created and crafted**  
by Steve Foster & Scott Swartz.



**Karen Reece, Peggy Rooks, & Gayle Faris**  
Kitchen duty

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

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

### **Things to Ponder**

#### **1. The Empty Chair**

During a church meeting, a member noticed an empty chair in the front row. Curious, she asked the pastor about it. He smiled and said, "That chair is for the person we're still praying for—the one who hasn't yet walked through our doors." The member went home and prayed for her neighbor. Two weeks later, that neighbor filled the empty chair. Sometimes, faith is simply making room for God to work.

#### **2. The Little Light**

A boy was given a small flashlight during a power outage. "It's not very bright," he complained. His father replied, "It's enough to light the step in front of you." That night, the boy realized he didn't need to see the whole path—just the next step. God's guidance works the same way: He gives us enough light for today, and tomorrow will have its own.

#### **3. The Forgotten Thank You**

After a big storm, a woman prayed for her roof to hold. It did. She prayed for her family's safety. They were safe. But in the busyness of cleanup, she forgot to thank God. Days later, she remembered and whispered, "Thank You." She felt peace wash over her. Gratitude doesn't expire—God always welcomes it, no matter how late it comes.

## ***10 Reasons for Bible Study***

1. The Bible yields food for the soul. It has the milk necessary for the spiritual growth of the babe, and meat to sustain the older, mature Christian (1 Peter 2:1-2; Hebrews 5:12-14).
2. A knowledge of the truth, and obedience to it, is necessary to be made free from sin (John 8:31-32; 1 Peter 1:22).
3. The Bible reveals God's view of man. It enables the student to see himself as God sees him, for the Bible is God's mirror of the soul (James 1:22-25).
4. A working knowledge of the Bible arms one against the difficulties and hardships of life. It has a message to cover every condition and problem. It can be used in every emergency from the cradle to the grave (Romans 15:4).
5. The knowledgeable Christian is able to comfort and edify the discouraged and brokenhearted (Colossians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:14).
6. The Scriptures contain all good works that are pleasing to God and give all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3).
7. One must study the Bible to have the approval of God, to be a ready workman, and to handle correctly the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15).
8. A knowledge of the Bible is the only safeguard against fatal error (Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1).
9. The Scriptures are able to build us up and to give us a home in Heaven (Acts 20:32; 2 Timothy 3:15).
10. The Bible will be our standard of judgment in the last day (John 12:48; Revelation 20:12).

**- by David J. Riggs**