

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!**

- Feb. 1 Jennifer Swanson, Brandon Clark  
Feb. 2 Sherrie Moore, Todd Carriker, Roxy Moorman  
Feb. 5 Lee Andeway  
Feb. 6 Joyce Estal  
Feb. 7 Rachel Kelderman, Tyler Brockman  
Feb. 9 Jim Veldhuizen, Eloise Sloan, Marcus Messamer, William Wilker, Carrie Ireland, Darrell Van Zee  
Feb. 10 Norma Anderson, Sharon Staton, Joann Estal, Elaine Eveland, Jan Mayer, Wyatt Krier, Allyson Maxwell  
Feb. 11 Tonia Edmundson, Dalton Shaul  
Feb. 13 Angie Shrader  
Feb. 17 Bonnie Sedrel, Stan Herr  
Feb. 18 Dave Porter, Amanda Hoy  
Feb. 20 Mike Foster, Delia Lahner  
Feb. 23 Lucy Lamb, Mike Maxwell  
Feb. 24 Amy Slobe, Gina Christensen-Messamer-Nielsen, Taylen Parker  
Feb. 25 Greg Scott, Jason Herr  
Feb. 26 William Kminek  
Feb. 27 Joan Benscoter  
Feb. 28 Peg Hook, Rita Hoogheem, Scott Gilliland, Garrett Gilliland, Lucy Canfield



## **Pastor's Notes:**

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a)

Love is a word we use in a lot of ways. We love our favorite foods, we love our possessions, we love our pets, we love our hobbies, we love our family and friends. But the kind of love described in 1 Corinthians 13 is a type of love that is rarely realized in our lives. It is the type of love with which God loves us. It is the type of love that God wants us to experience and share with others.

In February, we consider what love truly is and how we can express our love to one another. Spend some time this month contemplating the depth of God's love for you. He sent His son Jesus to earth as the greatest expression of sacrificial love. Jesus willingly laid down his life to atone for our sins. That's a love worth seeking.

Love is not a feeling, it's a verb. True love is not conditional, it is a choice. The more we experience the unconditional love of God, the more we understand what love really is. It is not selfish or manipulative. It puts the needs of others in first place.

The context of this passage is the topic of spiritual gifts. What Paul is saying is basically that love is the highest and most important spiritual gift of all. In fact, he says that without love, none of the other spiritual gifts have any significance. This is similar to what Jesus says concerning the greatest commandment: that it is to love God and to love your neighbor.

We are called to seek God's love above all else. There is so much more to love than we currently understand, but it is definitely worth seeking. Love cannot be adequately explained with words, but it can be discovered by seeking God with all your heart and mind and soul. May God's love for you be experienced more deeply and may you find ways to express God's love for others through your words and actions as you seek and fulfill God's will for your life.

Pastor Chad

### Bridge Events

What is a bridge event? Bridge events are events that are held outside the church walls, preferably off church grounds entirely, specifically designed to meet and connect with people in the community.

CUMC's **Winter Carnival** will be postponed at this time. Stay tuned for information about the **Fishing Derby** in June if it can be held.

### Change A Child's Story



Because the Oskaloosa Elementary is not having visitors this year, our church will not be reading to students during conferences. We hope to have opportunities to give books to kids in the future, so any donations towards the purchase of books is appreciated.

### Discipleship Pathway:

All are welcome to join these groups!

Beginning in February, Joy Lierman will be leading a 7-week Women's Bible Study called "The Armor of God" on Monday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

The Men's Bible Study led by Pastor Chad meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in Friendship Lounge.

The Christ Connection Adult Sunday School class began on January 17 with 20 in attendance either in person or on Zoom. They meet in Fellowship Hall from 10:30-11:30ish.



### The Finance Committee report:



December 2020 income	\$42,100
December 2020 expense	\$29,226
	\$12,874
Total yearly income	\$324,459
Total yearly expense	\$297,652
	\$ 26,807



### ATTENDANCE

- Christmas Eve 4:30 – 41 6:30 – 49 11:00 – 26 Total - 115
- Dec. 27 Worship Attendance – 42 Sunday School – Not Held
- Jan. 3 Worship Attendance – 57 Sunday School – 26
- Jan. 10 Worship Attendance – 63 Sunday School – 21
- Jan. 17 Worship Attendance – 59 Sunday School - 51



**SERVICE HELD  
WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 17, 2021  
6:30PM**



## Karen's Page

It's been such a blessing to be a part of the women's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings. Joy encourages each of us to think of someone who comes to mind to pray for. Maybe it is someone we know

or maybe it is someone we don't, like the checker at the grocery store.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

**Sunday School:** We are continuing to offer Sunday School with hopes that the current situation will improve and more of our families will feel comfortable returning to in person class. Until then, we will continue to offer Zoom for 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. We will also continue to send packets home to those who were not in person. Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding through this difficult time of navigating what to do and what not to do. Thank you to our amazing teachers who are making their classrooms work with unknown numbers each week and many juggling in person and virtual! We are making connections with our families in many ways and those who are helping deliver to our families each week are so appreciated!

**Substitutes/Second Adults Needed:** If you are willing to be a substitute when teachers need to be gone or if you are willing to be the second adult in the classrooms to comply with our Safe Sanctuary policy, please let Karen know. With several of our classes having kids join on Zoom, we are needing that second adult to monitor the computer so the lead teacher can teach.

**Teacher Appreciation:** The Education Committee is hosting a "We LOVE our Sunday School Teachers" Teacher Appreciation on Wednesday, February 10 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Teachers have been contacted about this and along with showing our appreciation for all they are doing, this will also be a time for them to talk about how the year is going, ask questions, share their successes and learn from each other.

**Children to ring in Church:** The children will be ringing in church on January 31 and February 28 after the children's message. Please have your children meet at 9:15 a.m. in the chapel to practice. There are sit spots in the chapel and in the sanctuary to indicate where to be.

**Virtual Talent Show to support our Sunday School Offering!** Do you miss seeing all of our fabulous children and youth?!!! The Education committee is looking into having a virtual talent show!

Families can record their kids singing, playing an instrument, dancing, doing a magic trick or whatever talent they want to share. The recording will need to be 3 minutes or less so start practicing and we will communicate with more details. A freewill offering can be sent to the church to support the talent show for these two causes. Our preschool through fifth graders offering will go towards the New Hope School in Guatemala. The Middle School, Confirmation and High School offering will go towards the Holt International child, Cisy, that we sponsor. Thank you for your support!

## **Cans for Camp! Sunday, January 31 the trailer will be in the parking lot!**

You can bring your cans and bottles either before church or after worship. Volunteers will be there to help you unload and sort. It makes this go much smoother if you have your cans, bottles and plastic bottles already separated. The Middle School class and High School class will be helping during Sunday School to sort and load.

Let's send lots of our kids to camp this summer! The brochures for Wesley Woods and Lake Okoboji are in the west entrance or you can look up their website. [www.iaumc.org/camps](http://www.iaumc.org/camps). There is also a Christian summer camp called Summer Games University from July 12-16 for grades 6-12. Pastor Chad has been a part of this for years and rumor has it that this is where he and Joy met. Check out their website at [www.sgu.camp](http://www.sgu.camp). Registration begins on February 1.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 8:30- Little Creations  6:30- Women's Study 6:30- Boy Scouts 6:30- Cub Scouts	2 8:30- Little Creations 9:30- Women's Study 10- Men's Bible Study  7- Al Anon –Library	3 8:30- Little Creations P.S.  6:30- Staff Parish Relations Committee – Blue Room 7- Choir Rehearsal	4 8:30- Little Creations	5 8:30- Little Creations	6
7 9:30- Worship/KMZ 10:30- Sunday School	8 8:30- Little Creations  6:30- Women's Study 6:30- Boy Scouts 6:30- Cub Scouts	9 8:30- Little Creations 9:30- Women's Study 10- Men's Bible Study 6:15- Girl Scouts  7- Al Anon –Library	10 8:30- Little Creations  6- Finance Committee 6- Education Committee 6:30 – Board of Trustees 7- Choir Rehearsal	11 8:30- Little Creations	12 8:30- Little Creations	13
14 9:30- Worship/KMZ 10:30- Sunday School	15 8:30- Little Creations  6:30- Women's Study 6:30- Boy Scouts 6:30- Cub Scouts	16 8:30- Little Creations 9:30- Women's Study 10- Men's Bible Study  7- Al Anon –Library	17 8:30- Little Creations  6:30- Ash Wednesday Service 7:30- Ad. Council – Blue Room	18 8:30- Little Creations	19 8:30- Little Creations	20
21 9:30- Worship/KMZ 10:30- Sunday School	22 8:30- Little Creations  6:30- Women's Study 6:30- Boy Scouts 6:30- Cub Scouts	23 8:30- Little Creations 9:30- Women's Study 10- Men's Bible Study  7- Al Anon –Library	24 8:30- Little Creations  7- Choir Rehearsal	25 8:30- Little Creations	26	27
28 9:30- Worship/KMZ 10:30- Sunday School						

