

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshipping with us today!
 If you, or others you know, have a need that we may help you with, please let us know. No matter what the situation, there is hope in Christ Jesus and it is our goal to Share him here.

Visitor Information

Please take a minute to fill out the information below & return to greeter.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____

Children: _____

How may we serve you? (please circle)

1st time visitor New to Area

Returning visitor Would like a visit

Place membership Want to know more

Prayers: _____

Those to Keep Wrapped in Your Prayers:

Shut-ins

Delores Bolte, Ted Franklin, Sharon Hauptman,
 Amanda Larson, Eunice Peoples, Marge Rickertsen, Viola Sorenson

College Students

Jacob Duncan, Juwan, Thad Kinney,
 Emma Seilstad, Collin Smith, Rachel Smith

Military

Bob & Terry's Son: Bobby Duncan
 Nova Deckman's Brother: Billy Harris
 Mike & Glenda Petersen's Son: Nate Petersen
 Deb Elam's Son & Daughter-in-law: Jon & Lynn Kinney
 Cathy Shipley's Son: Chris Buckles

Areas to Serve

Today April 11th

Greeters Jake Sola
 Madison Sola
 Parking Lot Marv Cameron
 Call to Worship Troy Kinney
 Opening Prayer John Leighton
 Song Leader Dylan Ford
 Table Talk Mitch Dollen
 Table Prayers Jack Loftus
 Jacob Duncan
 Closing Prayer David Holcomb
 Announcements Parker Seilstad

Next Week April 18th

Greeters Troy Kinney
 Caronna Kinney
 Parking Lot Roger May
 Call to Worship Bill Leinen
 Opening Prayer Justin Leinen
 Song Leader Parker Seilstad
 Table Talk David Montague
 Table Prayers Bob Helton
 Austin Hunter
 Closing Prayer Nathan Leinen
 Announcements Jonah Leinen

Ministries

Media Parker Seilstad
 Education Bill Leinen
 Building Maintenance Keith Smith
 Rick Ogle
 Men's Bible Study Mitch Dollen
 Benevolence Jack Loftus

Worship Services Jonah Leinen
 Nova Deckman
 Secretary
 Women's Ministries Andrea Leinen
 Cathy Shipley
 Dylan & Jordan Ford
 Nursery
 Teens

1525 MCPHERSON AVE. COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51503
 EMAIL: COBLUFFCHURCH@MSN.COM PHONE: 712-322-8144
 WEB: COUNCILBLUFFSCOC.ORG

McPherson Ave.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

We are a Bible centered, unified family of believers called to an ever-deepening relationship with Christ. We will pursue Christ through study, prayer, and fellowship. We recognize that we are sent to the larger community surrounding us to plant the seed of the Gospel and to demonstrate God's love and Christ's life.

APRIL 11TH, 2021

Esther

Something Bigger Than Myself

Growing 2 1 Goal

Stronger . Deeper . Higher

Sundays

Bible Class All Ages
 Worship
 Life Groups
 All Church
 Fellowship Lunch

9am
 10am
 TBA
 TBA

1st and 3rd Mondays

Men's Bible Study at Building TBA
 Women's Bible Study at Building TBA
 Bible Class All ages 7pm

Wednesday

Something Bigger Than Myself

“The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti” (Est. 2:17).
Esther 1–2

When Joseph took stock of his entire life, he could see that God intended everything that happened to him, positive or negative, for the good of many (Gen. 50:20). Yet, while living through these events it was no doubt easy for him to think the Lord’s hand was not working on his behalf. God’s providence is usually hidden to mankind, but He is still moving nonetheless. The book of Esther conveys this point most powerfully, and so we will now pause our study of Genesis for an overview of its teaching.

Esther is not often studied or taught in the church. The primary reason for this is likely the same one that caused Jews and Christians in earlier centuries to question this book’s place in the canon of Scripture: God is never mentioned explicitly. In fact, if this book stood by itself outside of the canon we might not read it as a religious text. Yet as we will see, God’s absence is a literary device the author uses to remind us how the Lord works through ordinary events to achieve His purposes. The book of Esther teaches us that God’s providence is invisible more often than not, but it is real nonetheless.

After the Persians conquered Babylon in 538 b.c., they allowed the exiled Jews to go back and rebuild Jerusalem (2 Chron. 36:22–23). However, most Israelites remained outside of Palestine. The events in Esther took place about fifty years after Babylon fell.

Following Vashti’s disposition as queen (Esther 1), King Ahasuerus (better known as Xerxes) looks to fill his harem and replace her (2:1–4). Mordecai and Esther, Hebrew cousins, appear on the stage as the flawed heroes of the story. Both seem unconcerned with maintaining a life separated from the things of this world. *Mordecai* is named after the Babylonian god *Marduk*, implying he did not come from the most devoted of households. Esther herself is hardly the picture of piety, for she has no qualms about marrying an uncircumcised pagan (vv. 5–18; Ex. 12:48).

Esther and Mordecai are heroes because they are important in salvation history, not because they are flawless. Truly, the Lord is gracious and uses imperfect people to work out His perfect will.

Congregational Scripture Reading John 14:6

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Family News and Updates

Woman Walking with God Conference

There are two prepaid tickets available for the conference. If you would like to join us for next weekend April 16-18 please speak to Nova for more details.

Luncheon on the Lawn

The Holcomb/Deckman Life Group will be having a luncheon after services, Sunday April 25th on the lawn. We will be playing lawn games so be sure to bring your favorite lawn game, a dish to share and your lawn chars. Also a grill will be available if you would like to grill some meat to share.

Food Drive

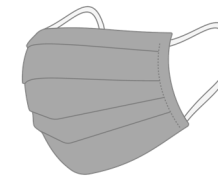
Next Sunday, April 18th will be the last day to drop off food items for the Spring Food Drive for the Mountain States Children’s Home. A detailed list of items is up on the announcement wall in the foyer and you can leave donations in the outer foyer.

NYC Camper and Staff Applications

Nebraska Youth Camp is now taking 2021 Camper and Staff applications for all summer sessions. Apply online at nebraskayouth-camp.com

Masked Seating

We are designating the first four rows on the right and left of the auditorium where masks must be worn for anyone who wants this extra precaution. We especially encourage the wearing of masks before and after services while mingling around and talking with one another where social distancing cannot be maintained.



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

17th Dylan Ford
17th Jadelynn Deckman
24th Brian Deckman
30th Rachel Smith
May
5th Ryan & Rumi Schulenberg
6th David Montague

Elders

Ron Holcomb 712-352-1324
Troy Kinney 402-510-5267
Bill Leinen 712-325-8234

Minister

Brian Deckman 918-809-0681

Please Pray for

Koletzke family Passing of Bob husband/
grandfather
Scheffler Family Loss of Father/
grandfather
Carmen Ponce Breast Cancer
Shannon Leinen Loss of Father
Curt Noble Loss of Wife
Carol Pantoja Wrist surg recovery
Rick Ogle Knee surg recovery
Andrea Leinen Knee surg recovery
Viola Sorenson Back surg
Ron Holcomb knees Surg recovery
Evalina H. recovery at home
Roger May liver cancer
Delores Bolte Duane’s health
Brian Deckman Cancer/Dialysis
Ted Franklin Overall health
Jason Leinen Protection and Health
College Students Military
Shut-ins Eldership

Expectant Mothers

Rachel Flores Due July 2021
Rebecca Saunders Due May 2021
(Deckman’s 1st Grandbaby)

Prayers Requests & Announcements
