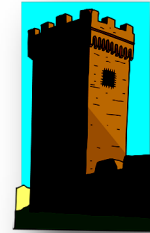


FORT DES MOINES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Love God Love People Serve Everyone

WWW.GODSFORT.ORG



Office:
515-285-1254

Fort Connections

Service Times:
Sunday School- 9 AM
Worship- 10 AM

Mike Demastus

March 2016

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday...

The Psalmist wrote: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (Psalm 133:1, ESV) When Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane he urged, "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:23, NIV). When we gather together in our oneness in Christ Jesus we are literally an answer to the prayer of Jesus.

On Sunday, March 20th (Palm Sunday), we will be doing this very thing. We will gather with Connections Christian Church (formerly Franklin Avenue Christian Church), Rising Sun Church of Christ, Lifebridge Christian Church, First Church of Christ in Ankeny and Indianola Church of Christ for a spectacular unity service. It will be held at the Paul R. Knapp Learning Center on the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Parking will be in the Midway area directly across from the Knapp Learning Center.

I firmly believe that this event will be one that will be a sincere encouragement and blessing to everyone participating. We will have the benefit of seeing firsthand that God is at work. We will get to worship with and pray with fellow brothers and sisters from around central Iowa who share the same core values and beliefs that we do.

And then all of our churches will be launched into our own individual Easter Sunday services with a full heart and a growing excitement!

I want to make sure that you can come to this event no matter what, so make sure you let us know at the church if you are in need of a ride. We will help get you there and home.

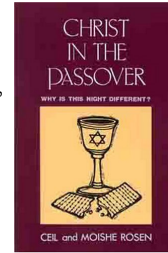
Also, because we will not be having our regular services that morning I also want to make sure that you do not miss on giving your regular tithe and offering. So plan early for that. We will have set up in the next week or so the ability for you to give online and even, if you choose, to have automatic withdrawal from your account to give to the church. So be watching for that!

In the meantime, be praying about this experience. Palm Sunday and then our Easter service is going to be one that you will never forget! I am so very excited about it.

Ancient and modern, the Passover feast of Jesus and early Christians, and now the Easter Resurrection Feast of many Christians, is a time of joy, thanksgiving, and to be hoped, a time of deeper relationship with our Risen Savior.

Christ In the Passover is a deep look at the roots and meaning of the Easter Season.

How sad that to many it is a season of rabbits, candy, and spring sales only.



Missions Ministry Update

By Jim Meisch

In 2003, Rapha House began their safe house program for children who had been rescued from slavery and sexual exploitation. After more than a decade of growth, Rapha House is now an international safe house program which has won the favor of the governments in the countries in which it works. It is an organization which practices excellence in the standards of caring for children who have been rescued from these traumatic situations. The Rapha House model is to find native people who are qualified and passionate about combating the issues of child slavery and sexual exploitation in their own countries, and equipping them to combat on behalf of these children. Rapha is a Hebrew word which means “healing.” And healing is the heartbeat of Rapha House. Our goal is to reach \$1,500.00 which will feed 15 girls for 2 months. Here’s how it breaks down: \$25.00 will feed 15 girls for 1 day and \$1.60 will feed 1 girl for one day. Please pray about how you can help the girls who are sold into the sex slave trade.



**Our Resurrection Service is going to be FANTASTIC!
Make sure you make time to worship our Resurrected Lord!**

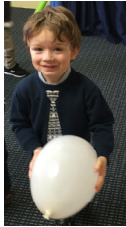
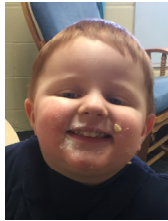


We will have a VBS meeting on Thursday, March 17th at 6:30. The station leaders need to have a list of materials that they will need so we can start collecting them!

Fort Facts

Total Income for January: \$12,942.89

Total Expenses for January: \$ 9,708.52



Summer is just about upon us, can you believe it?



We have decided to change things up for Sunday School for the children of our church during the summer. We are going to have all the kiddos in one room and we will be using a Veggie Tales curriculum made just for Sunday School. "Put Others First" has lessons on King George and the Ducky; "Thankfulness" has lessons from Madame Blueberry; and "Faith in God" has lessons from Dave and the Giant Pickle. Each series we will be using has clips from the shows, a teacher guide, and coloring pages. I need 3 teachers to take a month at a time (June, July, August) to teach these VERY easy Sunday School lessons. I would like to give my regular Sunday School teachers a break, so I am looking for some fresh new faces!

Please pray about and consider how you may help!

The children of The Fort are SOOOOOO worth it!

Mommy and Me Play Group!

Calling ALL Mommies and their little people:

We are going to have a **Play Group** on Tuesday, March 15th from 10:00-11:30 am so that the mommies and their little ones can make friends!

We will have some unstructured play time (with a bit of structure) and a snack.

Have the kids bring their tricycles so that they can ride around and get some exercise.

Invite your mommy friends and their little ones too!

Sign-up this Sunday so that we will have plenty of snacks!!!



Scripture Memorization for March

Job 19:25

"I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth."



Daylight Saving Time starts on March 13th!
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour on Saturday March 12th when you go to bed!

Birthdays

3-2 Doug Keller
 3-7 Tim Bantz
 3-8 Rosemary Ellwanger
 3-8 Kelsey Hoodjer
 3-8 Nathan Shanks
 3-11 Nathan Ohnemus
 3-12 George Ellwanger
 3-13 Cali Kenworthy
 3-16 Hallie Kinman
 3-20 Roy Hodson
 3-21 Audrey McClaskey
 3-22 Richard McMichael

Anniversaries:

3-20 Bob and Linda Saylor

Special Dates to Remember

3/10 Elders/Deacons Meeting @6
 3/13 Board Meeting
 3/15 Mommy and Me @10
 3/16 NO BIBLE STUDY!
 3/17 VBS Meeting
 3/20 Special Service!
 3/23 Resurrection Egg Hunt for ALL the kids
 3/27 EASTER

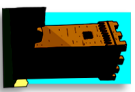
If your birthday or anniversary was forgotten, please send an email to secretary@Godsfort.org.

Server Schedule

| | 03/06/16 | 03/13/16 | 03/20/16 | 03/27/16 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| Greeters | Dan/Cathy | Kirk/Ashley | | Teressa |
| Scripture | Ben | Roy | | |
| Praise Team | Mike/Mary | Nate/Tlkr | | |
| Offering Meditation | Doren | Miles | | Carter |
| Communion Meditation | Richard | Lonnie | | |
| Server | Nathan O. | Jacob | | Miles |
| Closing Prayer | Jim | Richard | | Mike |
| Stewardship | George/Bruce | Doren/Dale | | Jacob/Terry |
| Nursery/Toddlers | Nate/Melissa/Tammy | LeAnn/Miranda | | Forrest/Ben |
| Junior Church | Lindsay #17 | Cleo #18 | | |
| Communion Prep | Beth | Beth | | Beth |
| Communion to the Sick | Nate/Deanna | Jim | Nathan | Richard |
| Security | Richard | Mike K. | | Roy |



**It's just about MOWING season! Can you believe it?!?!?
 Please sign-up to help with the mowing for the summer.
 The more people that help,
 the fewer times everyone has to do it!**



March 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| | | | Bible Study for ALL ages @6 | | | |
| 6 | Daniel Plan @7 | 8 | Bible Study for ALL ages @6 | 10 Elders./Deacons Meeting @6 | 11 | 12 Daylight Saving Time! |
| 13 Board Meeting | Daniel; Plan @7 | 15 Mommy and Me @10am | 16 NO BIBLE STUDY | 17 VBS Meeting @6:30 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Special Service at the Knapp Learning Center | Daniel Plan @7 | 22 | 23 Resurrection Egg Hunt @6 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Resurrection Sunday! | Daniel Plan @7 | 29 | 30 Bible Study for ALL ages @6 | 31 | | |
| | | | | | | |