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With tears of joy they come; while they pray, I will bring them back. I will lead them by quiet streams and on smooth paths so they don't stumble. I will be Israel's father. Ephraim will be my oldest child.
Jeremiah 31:9 CEB

As we begin a new year get a fresh start, a do-over of sorts. We turn a new page and have a chance to make some changes in our life that will be beneficial to us personally, as well as to those we are in contact with. There are two not-so-secret secrets to make lasting, meaningful changes in our lives. First, we have to acknowledge to ourselves that we need to make a change. Second, we need to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit's work in our life. Meaningful, lasting change doesn't happen apart from God. God longs for us to return to Him and let Him be the one who shapes our lives.

I've never been more excited about the sermons for January. Any of you who think about love for Christ, if you look at the titles of the sermons in the newsletter, think about the Scriptures. This January we will learn how a spiritual reboot can change our lives for the better. – **Pastor Cliff**

I want to say "Thank you" to all the people

Reverend
Cliff

While I'm On
My Feet!

*who sent me cards and the little care packages that have been left at my office. I'm very thankful for the gifts that have been given in my name for **Scholarships for Church Camp in the Upper Midwest Region**. I can only say "Thank you for your love and support." **Cliff***

*If you would like to follow along with Pastor Cliff for the Scriptures each week they are...January 7th "Spiritually Prepared" **Mark 1:4-11** (Reader Gloria Graham). January 14th "The Sacred Power of a Listening Heart" **1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19** (Reader Dan Crum). January 21st "John Mellencamp and the Danger of Procrastination" **Mark 1:14-20** (Reader Becca Miller). January 28th "Where Did He Get Such Authority?" **Mark 1:21-28** (Reader Justin Chastain).*



Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old oak leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in his voice the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's clothes!"

Thank you!

Andred and I would like to thank our church VERY much for the wonderful Christmas gifts! Kayla gave us a care package with everything, from a whole ham to shampoo and a big pack of toilet paper! The Christmas bonus was very generous and was very much appreciated! Thank God for each and every one of you wonderful people, this church is a blessing every day of the year!

Love, Justin and Andred Chastain

CARLISLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS...



“There will be an Official Board Meeting on Sunday, April 2nd following the Worship Service.”



“We will have a Spring Cleaning Day on Saturday, April 8th at 9:00 am to prepare the Church for Holy Week.”

THANK YOU!

Dear members of Carlisle C.C.

Thank you for your generous donation of gum for care packages.

We are honored that you chose our organization as your partner to show support for our troops. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Military Missions Inc. is a nonprofit charity which is staffed entirely by volunteers and 100% donation funded. Our organization reaches Beyond the Yellow Ribbon in our community! As our military personnel serve, providing protection and safety for all of us, we work to give something back to our troops and veterans. We exist to support deployed military personnel by sending care packages year round as an expression of appreciation and gratitude. Packages are sent to individuals and deployed military units. Our goal is to provide a touch of home during long deployments. Your donations make this possible. On behalf of the heroes touched by your gift, we are grateful. Thank you for being our partners in supporting our troops.

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SPRING CLEANING OF THE CHURCH

We will be having Spring Cleaning of the church to prepare for Holy Week on **Saturday, April 8th at 9:00 am**. We are hosting the Easter Sunrise Service this year with Community United Presbyterian Church in Hartford and want the church to look its best. There is a list of duties to be completed on the information board located in the coatroom, if you complete a task please mark it off the list. You are welcome to help out any time if Saturday doesn't work for you. Thanks!

CARE CENTER SERVICE
Pastor Cliff, Marci Palar, and Justin Chastain will go to the Carlisle Care Center to perform the Worship Service on **Sunday, April 2nd at 3:30 pm**. If anyone would like to come along and help out they are welcome to do so! The people at the Care Center like to have company!

24 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL
Every year Carlisle Christian Church holds a 24 hour Prayer Vigil starting on **Maundy Thursday** and ending on **Good Friday**. It's a peaceful time of reflection for those who participate. Time slots are half an hour long and you are welcome to sign up for more than one slot. The Vigil begins on **Thursday, April 13th at 5:00 pm** and ends on **Friday, April 14th at 5:00 pm**. The sign-up sheet is located on the information board in the coat room at the front of the church.

IN SYMPATHY
Please keep the family and friends of **Doug Pendry** in your prayers. Doug passed away on Monday, March 6th after more than a year of fighting cancer. Doug is the nephew of **Donna & Don Hall**.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
Carlisle Christian Church will host the Easter Sunrise Service this year with Community United Presbyterian Church in Hartford on **Sunday, April 16th at 7:00 am**. Breakfast will be served following the service downstairs.

CONGRATULATIONS ETHAN!
The Carlisle Middle School Honor Roll was released and **Ethan Overton** of Carlisle Christian was on it! Good job Ethan! 😊

7 RULES OF LIFE
1 Make peace with your past. 2 What others think of you is none of your business. 3 Only you are in charge of your happiness. 4 Don't compare your life to others. 5 Time heals almost everything. 6 Stop thinking so much. 7 Smile!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!



“THE FREE COMMUNITY DINNER WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH AT THE SENIOR CENTER, 35 VINE STREET, CARLISLE FROM 5-7 PM.”

Pastor Cliff, Justin, & Marci will be at the Carlisle Care Center Sunday, January 7th for the 3:30 pm service. Cliff & Justin will be at the Ramsey Home in Des Moines on Sunday, January 21st for the 3:00 pm service. You are invited to attend both of the services!”



January 3rd
Ruby Warren

January 7th
Butch Hayes

January 9th
Madison Killen

January 9th
Kayla Price

January 10th
Jacob Charles Montoya

January 13th
Mark Prall

January 16th
MaKenzie Killen

January 30th
Pat Reynolds

Happy Anniversary

**John & Kim McMaster
January 8th**

Please keep in your prayers

Twyla Cooper

Quinn Delaet

Jerry Mayes

Chris Nelson

Linda Robinson & Family

Dave Walker

Cotter Family

Dan James Family

Joan Mills

Arthur Rees

Leslie Thompson

Max Warren

In the military

Niklas Polson

Joshua Wesner

Tara Wesner

Greg Tilton

De Wilbur

Deacons

Team 1: Gerry Baker, Jim Watkins, Marilyn Hayes, Judy Watkins. **Team 2:** Marci Palar, Laura Rothfus, Rodger Rothfus, Mike Killen. **Team 3:** Bob Stuyvesant, Gloria Graham, Steve Thompson, Andrea Hamm. **Team 4:** Shirley Patterson, Louanna Pezzetti, Sherril Owens, Patsy Overton. **Team 5:** Cindy Berg, Craig Price, Diana Prall, Kayla Price.
Alternates: Berenice Chastain (848-3465) or Becky Rickabaugh (989-2014)

**January 7th : Team 5
January 14th : Team 1
January 21st : Team 2
January 28th : Team 3**

Elders

January 7th:

Joe Lang & Justin Chastain

January 14th:

Kathy Betzer & Dan Crum

January 21st:

Joan Mills & Sharon Bittner

January 28th:

Justin Chastain & Joe Lang

(1st person listed is Communion Elder)

WEEK OF COMPASSION FOR 2018

How is it that there are enough resources on our planet to feed the entire world, and yet so many hunger? As people of faith, what is our role in a world where the gap between the rich and the poor only seems to widen? How do we ensure that all of God's children get their fair share? When the apostle Paul visited the early churches in Macedonia, they became excited about the ministry opportunities laid before them. These early followers of Jesus couldn't help but get caught up in Paul's zeal for the ways God was working in their midst. They actually pleaded to be a part of the "service to the saints" Paul spoke of while visiting their community—despite their own poverty. This "ministry to the saints," referred to in his second letter to the Corinthians is another name for the offering Paul and the early churches were organizing for those in Jerusalem suffering from a devastating famine. The offering was considered a living out of one's faith, a spiritual calling—a ministry.

To organize a church-wide offering, a relief fund if you will (Week of Compassion is not original!) was not only practical, it was also a visible expression of their Christian unity. This offering was a way for Paul to unite all believers and to provide a way for them to care for one another—even if they did not know each other personally. For the churches in Macedonia and Corinth, many of them would never see or meet the Christians they were helping in Jerusalem. So their ecumenical offering was a concrete representation of the Gospel: that in Christ there truly was no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, rich or poor—no longer separation or division, but unity in Christ.

Everyone, regardless of economic or social location, has a gift to give. God supplies the gifts and resources so that we can give back. After all, none of what the early followers of Jesus gave was really theirs, right? Because all that we have is God's! We're simply giving back to God what is already God's. In giving to God, we give to others. Our gifts will be part of transforming a life, a community, and indeed, the whole world.

"For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus the Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9). This is what God has given; through our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ the Good News has been shared with us so that we never doubt that we have all we need, and in turn ensure that others get what they need. "For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance" (2 Cor 8:12-13).

Our abundance becomes their need and their need becomes our abundance. Have you ever thought of it this way? We could achieve a fair balance across the globe by sharing what we have, out of our abundance. "It is not with your own wealth that you give alms to the poor," asserted St. Ambrose, "But with a fraction of their own which you give back; for you are usurping for yourself something meant for the common good of all. The earth is for everyone, not only for the rich."

Through Week of Compassion we have the opportunity to act as the body of Christ by giving what we have. This is the offering, the "ministry to the saints" that Paul was promoting.

This is still our ministry, all these centuries later, through Week of Compassion—not only by this church family, but across the country by Christians of many denominations contributing to an ecumenical offering which has shared abundance for the meeting of needs for almost 70 years.

Together, we can make sure that everyone—yes, every single one of God's children, our sisters and brothers—get their fair share, bringing about a world the way God intended it to be. Ready to change the world?

CARLISLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018

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Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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We're on Facebook at
Carlisle Christian Church -
DOC



CWF MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Christian Women's Fellowship on **Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00 pm** in the double classroom upstairs. The co-hostesses for this meeting are **Kathy Betzer & Gloria Graham**, with Devotions by Kathy Betzer.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who prepared and/or attended the **Free**

Community Dinner held on December 28th at the Senior Center! Our next Free Community Dinner will be held on **Thursday, January 25th from 5:00 until 7:00 pm**. Please come along and bring a friend!

BOARD MEETING

There will be an Official Meeting of the Church Board on **Sunday, January 7th** right after the Worship Service. Please attend!

THANK YOU!

May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with warmth and love.
To the Carlisle Christian Church Carolers!

Don said "You just missed

them," as I met you all on the road leaving our place. Don was so appreciative you thought of him – me too! In Christian Love, Don & Donna Hall

Jolly Holiday Lights

Sunday, December 3rd 38 people met at church to take a trip to Jolly Holiday Lights in Altoona. Everyone had a wonderful time enjoying the Christmas Displays and the weather was cooperative. We stopped for dinner afterwards at the Pizza Ranch. Many thanks to **Pastor Cliff** for buying dinner for everyone! We had enough people come that we took a school bus there. Thank you **Dan Crum** for driving us through the tight maze of lights in the big bus!

**CARLISLE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
305 Market Street
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