

LOOKING FOR GOODNESS AND LIGHT

While working as a chaplain at an inner city hospital, I encountered persons from all walks of life. The homeless woman who was starving herself to feed her kids. The bitter teenager who was paralyzed from the neck down after a snowmobiling accident. The HIV-positive young man who had no insurance because he lost his job when they learned of his illness. The father of a young boy with third-degree burns over most of his body because the father spilled a pan of scalding water on him. The young woman with a personality disorder who had tried to commit suicide for the third time.

“O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O God!”

There were times when I struggled with how to minister to and be with these persons. At these times, I would try to remember my supervisor’s recommendation: “Look for God in the eyes and face of everyone you meet. And even if you have trouble seeing God there, make sure that if they look, they can see God in you.”

When I allowed myself to look, the goodness and light of God was there, shining through their illness, their pain, and their struggles. In their most vulnerable times, the superficialities of the world were put aside, and I was given a glimpse of the real beauty that we all hold within—the beautiful goodness and light of God.

“O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O God!”

—Barbara Saylor
El Sobrante, California

Text for Today

Psalm 4 (6)

There are many who say, “O that we might see some good! **Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!**” You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.



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Sheldon Church of the Brethren
 Ministers - All Members
 April 26, 2009
 9:30 a.m. Worship



NOTE: The blue hymnal will be used today, unless otherwise noted.

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETINGS / ANNOUNCEMENTS / SPECIAL DAYS

***PRELUDE / LIGHT CANDLES**

***CALL TO WORSHIP #671**

***GATHERING HYMN #5** *There Is a Place Of Quiet Rest*

***INVOCATION**

PRAISE HYMN #117 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

MUSIC MINISTRY *Near the Cross With the Old Rugged Cross*

CHILDREN'S TIME (Gathering Song: *Jesus Loves the Little Children*)
 "Food From Heaven"

OFFERTORY STATEMENT

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY #119** (blue hymnal)

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

FAITH JOURNEY HYMN #615 *Shall We Gather At the River*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pray For: Unionville, IA Fairview Church
 Praying For Us: Mount Etna, IA Church

OUTREACH MINISTRIES



**United Christians
 International**

Haitian Ministry directed by Rev.
 Jean-Jean & Kristie Mompremier.
www.unitedchristiansinternational.org

2009 CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator
 Linda Adams

Deacons
 Clarence & Rhelma Evans
 Linda Adams & Jo Rolston

Clerk
 Jo Rolston

Treasurer
 Sandi Cox

Adult Sunday School Teachers
 Linda Adams
 Donna Brinkman
 Alan Cox
 Marcene Cox
 Scott Maggert
 Sally Young

Children's Message
 Marcene Cox

Children's Sunday School
 Ann Maggert and Sandi Cox

Church Facility Trustee
 Scott Maggert

Church Sign
 Alan Cox

Custodial Care
 Members take monthly turns

Farm Trustee
 Ross Cox

Fellowship Time
 Clarence & Rhelma Evans

Lawn Care
 Jared Cox
 Jed Cox
 Ross Cox

Messenger Agent
 Donna Brinkman

Ministerial Committee
 Marcene Cox
 Ross Cox
 Rhelma Evans
 Jo Rolston

OUR CHURCH

Worship Service9:30am
 Christian Education (Sept.-May) .10:50 am

Communion
 1st Sunday of Each Month

The Sheldon Church of the Brethren
 3011 Marsh Ave
 Sheldon, Iowa 51201
 (712) 324-3842
 Email: pastor@sheldonbrethren.org

Web Addresses:

The Denomination:
www.brethren.org

Northern Plains District:
www.npcob.org

The Church:
www.sheldonbrethren.org

Nominating Committee
 Linda Adams
 Ann Maggert

Outreach & Evangelism
 Alan Cox
 Marcene Cox
 Sally Young

Parsonage Committee
 Ann Maggert

Pianists
 Donna Brinkman
 Marcene Cox
 Jill Dykstra
 Teri Kelderman
 Lynn Rolfsmeier

Special Music
 Marcene Cox

Sunday School Superintendent
 Jo Rolston

Ushers
 Alan Cox
 Scott Maggert

Daniel 3:1-2, 4-8, 12-18 1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. 2 And King Nebuchadnezzar sent word to gather together the satraps, the administrators, the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the judges, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 4 Then a herald cried aloud: "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; 6 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." 7 So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up." 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

Exodus 20:3-5a 3 You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.

Romans 1:21-23, 25 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Revelation 4:9-11 9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: 11 "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Anniversaries and Birthdays for April

Anniversaries

2 - Scott & Ann Maggert

20 - Marne Bothmer

28 - Ryan Maggert

Birthdays

06 - Mark Diers

07 - Jeannette Grove

18 - Ann Evans

Many happy returns of the day of thy birth. May sunshine and gladness be given and may the Dear Father prepare thee on earth for a beautiful birthday in heaven.

Church Events

Welcome!

Welcome to Rev. Bob Wittstruck this morning.

Welcome to all members and guests. May you receive God's blessing from today's service. Enter to receive the Light; Depart to let it shine!

Adult Sunday School

In Adult Sunday School we are using the *Serindipity Bible For Groups* with a Bible study format. Our topic this week is "Volitional Life" from Numbers 22:1-35. We welcome your attendance and participation!

Devotional

The May-June *Upper Room* devotionals are on the back table. Please take one for your daily devotions.

Community

May 2 - The Sioux County Oratorio Chorus will be performing Handel's *Messiah* at 7:30 pm in the BJ Haan Auditorium of Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. The chorus will be joined by the Northwestern College Heritage Singers chamber choir, chamber orchestra, and four soloists. The concert will be conducted by Dr. Thomas Holm, Associate Professor of Music at Northwestern College in Orange City. Tickets for the performance are adults \$7 advance and \$9 at the door, students \$3 advance and \$5 at the door. Tickets can be purchased in Sioux Center at True Vine or the Dordt music office and in Orange City at Dove or the Northwestern College music office.

Guest Speakers

May 3 - Rev. David Loveall (Communion)

May 10 - Rev. David Loveall

May 17 - Don Adkins

May 24 - Pete Abersson

May 31 -

June 7 - Rev. David Loveall (Communion)

June 14 - Rev. Lucinda Douglas

June 21 -

June 28 -

July 5 - Rev. David Loveall (Communion)

July 12 -

July 19 -

SCRIPTURES (see insert)

MESSAGE "Spiritual Reality, Spiritual Allegiance,
Final Authority and Ultimate Power!"

PRAYER OF BLESSING ON THE WORD

*CLOSING HYMN #165 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

*BENEDICTION

*THREEFOLD AMEN #382 (blue hymnal)

* - Please Stand, if you are able

SERVING THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, April 26:

Message

Worship Leader

Children's Message

Music

Music Ministry

Ushers

Adult Sunday School

Children's Sunday School

Rev. Bob Wittstruck

Alan Cox

Marcene Cox

Teri Kelderman

Teri Kelderman

Alan Cox and Scott Maggert

Sally Young

Ann Maggert and Sandi Cox

SERVING THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, May 3:

Message

Children's Message

Music

Ushers

Adult Sunday School

Children's Sunday School

Rev. David Loveall

Marcene Cox

Marcene Cox

Alan Cox and Scott Maggert

Alan Cox

Ann Maggert and Sandi Cox

PRAYER REMINDERS

Our Congregation & Children Living Peace Church, Sioux City UCI - Jean-Jean & Kristie Lost Brothers and Sisters Those Serving in the Military Our Community Harriet Rolston (broken hip) Rhelma Evans (spot on arm) Yvonne Rohlfson (cancer) Linda Beal (cancer) Ann Evans (cancer) Mary Fike (cancer)