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Berwickchurch.com

THE DOVE

B E R W I C K C O N G R E G A T I O N A L C H U R C H

PASTORS:

Rev. Theron (Tom) Conrey
and
Pastor Patty Smith

SUNDAY SERVICES:

In person worship
Sundays—9:30 AM

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Happy New Year! 1

Christmas
Chowder Ride 2

Cherokee Mission Trip
Prayer Requests 2

Pastor's Pen 3

Love Scriptures 4

Mark your calendar;
Birthdays & Anniversaries 4

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hello, and Happy New Year to one and all. Time is flying by so fast! Very soon it will be the time of Lent, a wonderful time of preparation for Easter. Many folks “give up” something for Lent. I want to suggest that we all give of our time to join each other in watching the Lenten movies as devotionals. This is what I am thinking. We had a successful time watching the “Christmas Carol” after church, complete with breakfast casserole! It was a fun time of fellowship and learning. We could watch one of the Lenten movies “The Robe” etc. We have options of where and when we do this. I really need for you to get back to me and let me know of your interest so we can proceed with the planning. happy Patty51@gmail.com

On Jan 8, 2023 we will be blessed to have a missionary visiting our church. Donna Gustafson graduated high school with me, and has been a missionary for over 20 years.

ALSO:

More exciting news: Pastor Peter and Faith from Happy Life in Kenya (Where Jonathon is) will be visiting our church in March or April.

Folks, our church is coming back to life and creating our NEW NORMAL. Please come join us and help us to spread God's Love. May God's love and peace surround you this coming year.

Pastor Patty

IT WAS AN EXTRA FRIGID CHRISTMAS WITH SNOW, ICE AND VERY, VERY COLD TEMPERATURES!

We decorated the church for Christmas on November 30 and then enjoyed chili.

On December 18, we gathered downstairs to watch the original black and white version of The Christmas Carol and enjoyed yummy snacks, including Lori's famous egg bake, popcorn and various Christmas cookies.

There was no Christmas pageant this year and it was missed.

On Christmas Eve, a few hardy souls braved the cold, cold temperatures to join us in a special candle-light service. Carol Dahlstrom beautifully sang "Mary Did you Know" acapella. (Thank you, Carol!) The service is available to watch on YouTube and a copy was sent to the child we sponsor at Happy Life (Jonathan).

SPECIAL GUEST

We will have a special visitor Sunday, January 8. Pastor Donna Gustafson, missionary in Peru, will be with us and will be speaking during the sermon time. Pastor Donna graduated high school with Pastor Patty.

We will have a fellowship time after the service. Please join us at 9:30 AM to welcome her to our church!



Carol Dahlstrom, Christmas Eve

CHOWDER RIDE!

The church will again be warming up the cold bikers from 11:30 AM to 1 PM on their February bike ride from Bondurant to Berwick. The ride is scheduled for Feb. 11.

CHEROKEE IMPACT MISSION TRIP MAY 17-21

I wanted to let Berwick know that the Cherokee Impact Mission Trip (May 17-21) is now taking reservations through Rich Miller-Todd and Julie Robie (Missions Coordinator) for our National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Email Julie at jrobie@nacc.org or talk with Rich Miller-Todd at 515-669-9554. Kay and I have had several wonderful experiences with the Cherokee church in December.

Rev. Rich Miller-Todd

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Our shut-ins
- Charles Neagle
- Gerald Banning
- Mary Feters
- Janice & John McKinney



Pastor's Pen, from Pastor Patty for the new year.



The Greatest gift and the best news ever!

The greatest gift you have ever been given was not bought in a store. It wasn't even wrapped. Yet it cost the giver everything.

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (KJV) (That is the version I memorized as a child)

We are just out of the season that we celebrated the birth of our Lord. Very soon we will be in the season of Lent when God sacrificed His son, His sinless son, to clear the world of sin.

In Titus, chapter 2 it says: The free gift of eternal salvation is offered to EVERYONE.

What a wonderful, generous and Loving father our God is!!

Remember last month I spoke about 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – Give thanks in all circumstances ...

God wants us to be thankful **and** full of Joy. ***Philippians 4:4 “Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice.”***

Did you know that grateful people are happy people? Being grateful lessens your stress.

You cultivate an attitude of gratitude and joy when you:

1. **Pray and do it with thanksgiving.** Gratitude is the healthiest emotion.
2. **Don't worry.** Worrying does not change anything. Kind of like stewing without doing.

Matthew 6:34 – “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (NIV)

3. **Pray about everything.** It is said if you pray instead of worry, you would have less to worry about.

4. **Think about the right things.** This is a deliberate choice to think about the right things. Choose to think positive and focus on God's word.

What is the result of this?

Philippians 4:7 : “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your heart and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (NIV)

Happy New Year to you all! God's blessings to you. Remember, be grateful, be joyful & most of all

HAVE AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE!

Pastor Patty, Berwick Congregational Church, Berwick, Iowa

To contact Berwick Church:

Church Phone: 515-262-0949
Pastor Tom: 515-480-3396
Patty Smith: 515-321-8326
Church Secretary: 515-262-9047 (Karen)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Sunday, Jan. 8—Speaker: Missionary From Peru

Sunday, Jan. 15—Council meeting

Saturday, February 12—Chowder Ride—
we serve as warming station 11:30 AM-1PM



Berwick Congregational Church



1 Corinthians 16:14 - Let all that you do be done in love.

Colossians 3:14 - And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

1 Corinthians 13:13 - So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 4:8 - Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 Peter 4:8 - Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Please send your contributions to: **Berwick Congregational Church, P.O. Box 308, Berwick, Iowa 50032.** Thanks so much!