

Waukee Christian Church

February 2021

Ash Wednesday 2021

To make the application of ashes safely to the church members and community, we are providing:

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ASH + SPLASH + DASH

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

7:00am-9:00am

and

11:00am-12:30pm

Waukee Christian Church
Highway 6 at T Ave
Waukee, IA 50263

for you are dust, and to
dust you will return
Genesis 3:19



www.HopeNGriffin.com

In the parking lot circle, by the front door.

Ashes may be applied to your forehead or the back of your hand.

Complimentary coffee will be provided by Friedrich's Coffee.

What's in a Curse?

Exodus, chapters 7 through 11 recounts a terrifying series of events. Pharaoh has refused to free the Hebrew slaves, Egypt's cheap source of labor, and so God is inflicting the country with unprecedented disasters. Troublesome insects, disease, famine, and darkness invade the land. What was once a prosperous empire is brought to its knees in a matter of days. Perhaps Pharaoh's hesitation to free these slaves was purely economic: *who's going to pick the crops if they leave?* But I think it went deeper than that. After all, Moses was raised as Pharaoh's brother. Sibling rivalries are famously irrational.

Regardless of *why* it happened, it still happened, and a terrible curse follows. Exodus moves through the phases of the plagues swiftly, using a similar cadence/cause/effect tempo for each terrible event. The book follows these events from the perspectives of Moses and Aaron and Pharaoh, painting the disasters with dramatic flair.

But there's one group I wish Exodus would speak about more.

The common Egyptian.

Egypt was a massive country with a massive economy; it required a large number of Egyptians to facilitate the day-in and day-out governance and operations of such a large system. Many of these Egyptians were hardworking families; middle-class men and women who sought modest prosperity with their lot in life. They played by rules, worshiped the gods, paid their taxes, and raised their children.

These Egyptians did not have a say in the immigration and labor policies of Egypt—it was not a democracy, there were no votes. They were ordinary people surviving in a system which they could not control.

Imagine their surprise when they learned that they were evil.

Imagine waking up one morning and being told that all of the crops and livestock had expired overnight. How do you think they reacted when their water turned to blood, or when their roof was shredded by hail? Do you think they feared for their children when the world went dark for three days? How do you think they felt when they woke up to their firstborn dead in their sleep?

It's a terrifying thing to consider.

Like most Biblical literature, we can safely assume that Exodus takes many literary liberties. Hyperbole and summary abound in a story as momentous as this, yet only lasts a few chapters. We can speculate all day long about which parts "probably happened as written" and which didn't but engaging in that sort of errand doesn't bring us any closer to the *message* of the story.

The message of this part of Exodus might be boiled down to this: mercy will end a curse; denial will incite it further.

What if Pharaoh, having recognized God's power during the first plague of gnats, repented and gave the Hebrews their freedom? Those Egyptian children would have survived. Better yet, what if Pharaoh's heart had been kinder, more humane, and gave to the Hebrews their freedom as soon as they first asked for it? Then there wouldn't even be the gnats!

But, of course, just handing the Hebrews their freedom wouldn't have been without consequences. How many thousands of common Egyptians would be out of work, disgruntled, and thrust into poverty? These moms and dads would be struggling to scrape together enough money to put food on the table, and to tend to their children and elderly parents.

In a corrupt system, it's always the common person who loses, no matter what. Sometimes we need to decide not how we wish to win, but how we wish to lose. Given an informed choice, the Egyptians would have preferred to keep their children rather than their jobs, wouldn't they?

If we refuse to lose outright, if we live in denial and turn our noses up at reality, things will get worse. The curse will morph and grow exponentially, taking infinitely more than we would have been asked to give in the first place.

The story of the plagues might be less about a literal series of events that happened in Egypt and more a critique of unethical human systems.

Powers that do evil unto others will inevitably be cursed. That was true thousands of years ago in Egypt and it's true today.

What curses do we live with currently? Maybe mass protests and vandalism are curses. Maybe the insurrection at the capitol is a curse. Maybe the massive floating island of plastic trash in the Pacific Ocean is a curse.

Or maybe they're just the latest steps in a series of plagues; just the gnats before the famine.

Thankfully, there is a quick solution to resolving a curse: mercy.

If Pharaoh had been merciful, things would have been better for Egypt. Mercy requires humility and sacrifice. It requires repentance.

Mercy requires accepting responsibility for injustice and working to correct it, even if it's not our fault, even if we feel powerless in the wake of giants and pharaohs and kings.

The question is not, 'do we live in a curse?' We certainly do.

The question is 'Will we have mercy, or will we have a future?'

- Pastor Gray

Homebound Members

Here is a list of our friends homebound or in care facilities. These friends need your prayers but also would welcome cards or visits (in person or by phone). Their days are so long with many hours to ponder why none of their church family visits (cares). They are a special part of our church family. A few minutes out of your day would mean so much to them!

~ Pastor Julie

- Lois Bannister
Kennybrook Village
200 SW Brookside Drive #20
Grimes, IA 50111
- Orville Bannister
Trinity Center at Luther Park
1555 Hull Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50316
- Bethalene & Alan Finestead
13240 NW 102nd Ave
Granger, IA 50109
Home: 515-999-2367
Cell: 515-240-770
- Barry Shover
Independent Villages
1505 SE Laurel St – Apt. #8
Waukee, IA 50263



Your giving is important to the future ministry of God's church in this place. Please give generously and with a cheerful heart.

	Year End 2020	January 2021
Receipts	\$ 119,879.57	\$ 7,747.76
Expenses	\$ 125,054.85	\$ 2,824.20
Difference	\$ (5,175.28)	\$ 4,923.56
Money available for expenses	\$ 33,157.85	\$ 38,152.00



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS BASH

02/03- Jamie Keller
 02/03- Sadie Infante
 02/04- Dennis Dowell
 02/08- Lorrie Grandgenett
 02/12- Alan Finestead
 02/17- Shawn O'Hern
 02/27- Pat Consolver

eGiving



We still have the eGiving option that is really encourage individuals and families to sign up for and embrace. It is secure, easy to use, and more efficient for both you and the church. We are currently ready to accept donations via the Online or Phone App options at this time.

You have the option to create an account or donate as a guest. If you create an account, you will be able to setup recurring donations, access donation history and setup various methods of payment.

You can donate via an ACH directly from your bank account or via a credit card.

The link to access our church giving page is [here](#)

(just click on blue word).

Summer Camp 2021

As February 1, 2021 registration for Summer Camp 2021 at the Christian Conference Center is open! You can visit our website for more information about camp, including dates, costs, publicity materials and more. Below is the direct link to our summer camp information page.

<https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/summer-camp>

A packet of promotional materials will be mailed to our congregations in the next few weeks. All of the information that will be mailed to you is also available online at the link listed above. If you should need any assistance, please feel free to email me at tiff@uppermidwestcc.org or call the CCC office at 641-792-1266. Thank you for all the ways you support the ministry of the CCC.

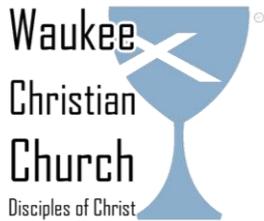
While we are still determining our final protocols for overnight youth camp and cannot completely eliminate the risk of a Covid-19 spread, we can promise that the following measures will be in place: lower bed capacity, physically distanced gatherings, mask requirement in large groups, outdoor recreation whenever possible, and extra air filtration systems in our large group meeting spaces. We will also have written protocols that will be available upon request.

February 2021

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

WINTER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 Ground Hog Day 	3	4 Thank a Mailman Day 	5 	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day	8	9 National Pizza Day	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship National Organ Donor Day	15  President's Day	16	17  ASH WEDNESDAY	18	19 National Chocolate Mint Day	20  SMILEY GRANT : ALL YOUR COFFEE National Love Your Pet Day
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	22  SUNDAY SCHOOL	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship		 <small>Love with your words, your love with your hands. Give your love to your spouse, your children, your neighbors.</small> <small>HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY 2021!</small>				
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:00am-9:00am and 11:00am-12:30pm  DASH  SPLASH +  ASH +						



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E-mail:

waukeechristianchurch@msn.com



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am-9:45 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship Service

...OUR STAFF...

Pastor: Gray Fredericks
Associate Pastor: Pastor Julie Cornelius
Admin. Assistant: Katie De Jong

...Pastor's Office Hours...

Zoom- by appointment.
In Office:
Every other Friday and every Sunday
after church

... CHURCH OFFICE ...

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
7:30AM -12:00PM



Please remember to keep your Revitalize Pledges as current as possible. If you are unsure of the status of your Revitalize Pledge, please call the office.