



Photos by Kelley Garrett, California

[Genesis 1:6-8 NIV](#)

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning there was morning, .

[Genesis 1:14 NIV](#)

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—

[‘Spring’](#) **BY William Blake**

Sound the flute!
Now it's mute!
Bird's delight,
Day and night,
Nightingale,
In the dale,
Lark in sky,--
Merrily,
Merrily, merrily, to welcome in the year.

Little boy,
Full of joy;
Little girl,
Sweet and small;
Cock does crow,
So do you;
Merry voice,
Infant noise;
Merrily, merrily, to welcome in the year.

Little lamb,
Here I am;
Come and lick
My white neck;
Let me pull
Your soft wool;
Let me kiss
Your soft face;
Merrily, merrily, to welcome in the year.

Music Around the Mission Center

Moline is blessed with a musical family—

Kevin and Valeree Pieper and family, are members of the Moline Congregation who are multi talented. Val is a life long member of Community of Christ, and has been the Music director for the about 30. years. We are blessed to have their music so generously shared. Valeree wrote:

Kevin and I met at Quad City Music Guild in 1981, during the production of My Fair Lady. We both came from musical families. I graduated with a degree in Music Education & taught choir & general music for five years in Clinton until we started our family. Once the girls were both in school, I went back to teaching music in the Moline School District for another 21 years before retiring. I taught voice lessons at Blackhawk College for 20 years & continue to teach private voice lessons at home. In addition, I have been the director of the Quad Cities Music Guild Youth Chorus for 10 seasons. Kevin was involved in choir & band in college & active in musicals after graduating. We've both done over 50 productions at Quad Cities Music Guild either on stage or on staff. I sang with Quad City Choral Arts for 5 years, & Kevin continues to sing with Quad City Singers.

Heather & Hillary both graduated college with degrees in music. Heather started teaching right after graduation in 2009. Hillary started in music business working for the Lyric Opera & Chicago Symphony & later added music education to her degree & is now the choral director at Wilson Middle School where Heather teaches general music. The girls are involved in directing the musical at Wilson Middle School in addition to being actively involved in Quad Cities Music Guild. Both sang with Nova Singers. Heather married Adam Beck who teaches music in Rock Island. Hillary is married John Erb who is a social worker for BHASED and sings with Quad City Singers.

Cedar Rapids Rocks

Russell, and Gloria Hoke, have been members of Community of Christ for many years as has their son Reed who is multi-talented, and who blesses our people with music & talents.

With Reed Hoke at the keyboard, on the guitar, the drums or singing, the Cedar Rapids Congregation and our Cedar Rapids Nauvoo Mission Center are blessed!

As a child, Reed was always singing and his talent grew along with him. He studied Music Appreciation at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. And now teaches Choir and music appreciation at Wilson Middle School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He has also expanded his talents into musical instruments and plays the piano, guitar, ukulele, recorder, and African drums.

Among his many talents, Reed rotates as the Congregation Music Minister, and leads the choir and has directed "Shek, Jr." and "Madagascar, Jr" He shares his talents with others at Community Theater, concerts, solo singing and playing at different restaurants, and sings the National Anthem for the Cedar Rapids Baseball team, the "Colonels".

Cedar Rapids Pastor, Andrew Webber wrote: Music holds the power to evoke deep feelings & emotions, & Reed masterfully harnesses this gift to minister through his melodies, touching the very soul of those who listen. His generosity knows no bounds as he shares his exceptional talents not just within our congregation but reaches out beyond the church's walls, enriching lives far and wide. We are immensely fortunate to count him among us—a man of remarkable spirit whose partnership with his husband has been a blessing to our congregation & the wider community. I am profoundly grateful for Reed's presence in our lives & eagerly anticipate the continued impact of his ministry, resonating with souls both inside & outside our sacred space.

When you listen to the Pieper Family or Reed sing, it's like listening to angels: Always moving in perfect pitch & perfect connection with the song. As they sing, they paint a picture of the subject, that is seen in our hearts & souls. Their gifts are ever giving. While listening, we are transformed into our own personal space & time and are moved to a new level of understanding love. Their gifts are truly remarkable.

SPRING IS SPRUNG AND WE'RE SINGING IN THE RAIN



Let your light Shine!

We might remember the little song we sang as children “This Little Light of Mine!” It was a childhood favorite and always reminded us to be a shining light of positivity and hope. Some days one doesn't feel positive and hopeful and that's ok. Take the day! Some days we just need the day to have a “Pity Party”. But we are like flowers and trees. In the fall, the flowers and trees lose their buds and leaves, but in the spring they pop right back into full bloom. So dance in the rain, and when you have had your “Pity Party”, soak in light from others and know you will be radiant the next day.

Jesus is our light – Let us dance in His light. Become HIS light. Glow from His light, Glow as a beacon!

We are not alone. His light gives us hope and the strength to go on.

Let your light shine, bask in His glow; May your light always shine bright ~

Don't hide your light under a bushel.



MOTHER'S DAY May 12, 2024

Celebrate your Mom:

- 1) Send her flowers
- 2) Make her breakfast
- 3) Bake her a cake
- 4) Do a chore that you normally would not do
- 5) Write her a sweet note
- 6) Give her a potted plant
- 7) Give her an evening off—make her dinner and draw a nice bubble bath afterward
- 8) Create a coupon book that shows things you can do for her
- 9) Write an “Newspaper” article about your mom that talk about how wonderful she is, how unique she is, or write her a poem.
- 10) Read your Mom a story.

Father's day June 16, 2024

Father's Day is a day we celebrate our Fathers, wherever they may be. We look to our Dads for advice, a shoulder to lay our heads on or just a crazy “Dad Joke”.

“What did the tree say when spring finally arrived? What a re-leaf”

So give your Dad a re-leaf:

- 1) Wash his car
- 2) Vacuum the car
- 3) Mow the lawn
- 4) Clean the garage
- 5) Straighten the basement
- 6) Buy him a book
- 7) Take him to a ball game
- 8) Buy him a new hat
- 9) Take him to a movie
- 10) Spend an afternoon walking along the river

*Around the Mission Center
Continued:*

*An Emerging Congregation:
"Followers of the Way"
of Community of Christ*

Happiest of Happy Birthday!

Vivian Gunsolley, of the Burlington congregation, turned 99 on March 30.

There was a celebration at Klein Center, Happy Birthday Vivian!

People, People, People

There were 26 people from around the Mission Center who met at "The Pink" in Lomax, Illinois for Chicken dinner on February 21. There was plenty of food, fun and fellowship for all. Please join us in Iowa City, Iowa at the Pizza Ranch, 171 Hwy 1 West, Iowa City, IA 52246 on Friday, May 10 , 6:00 pm



Hannibal "Ladybugs"

is a group of Christian women who love God, one another, & our community. We eat, talk, and laugh (some us even sang) & we started a journey through anothering to true friendship. This is the kind of friendship where true love for your fellow beings exists, the kind of relationship others seek and fail only because they lack one factor in their friendships-Jesus Christ. Join us at 5:30 on Tuesday, May 7

A small group of us began "Followers of the Way" in January of 2020. We wanted a congregation that was accessible by internet so that travel would be less and so that we could offer an option for those looking for a different type of worship. We did and do not want to compete with existing congregations and so planned to meet on Wednesday nights or on Sunday afternoons. Little did we know that the world would be shutting down within a couple of months.

Within two months many of us were only able to worship online. More people began to share with us on Wednesday nights, although they remained members of their home congregations. Currently, we now have only 10 actual members. However, we normally draw 25 to 30 attendees.

We have people who attend from Iowa, Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri and from time-to-time other states. We have laughed and cried and most of all learned to love one another.

Things that distinguish us from other congregations is that we do not have a building and therefore have almost no bills. (Interestingly, the World Church requires structure insurance be paid to them even though we do not own a structure.) Our congregation does not take up an offering although our members do give to the World Church and to our own congregation. With no actual bills, we can pay for projects at Camp Nauvoo & Cedar Valley Grove, etc.

By Deb Batey

Reminders, Reminders, Reminders



The Community
of Christ Historic
Sites Foundation
Church History
Tour of Italy
October 4-14,
2024

The ten-day journey will explore the historic sites and museums in Rome, Vatican City, Assisi, Florence, Pisa, and more. Guests also have the option of extending their travels abroad with a pre-tour to the Amalfi Coast and a post-tour to Switzerland. Journey with us to Italy for an unforgettable experience filled with history, art, fellowship, delicious foods, and more! For more information go to the website: <https://www.historicsitesfoundation.org/2024-tour-of-italy.html> or call (800) 247-0017 ext. 500 or by email at: eo@travelwithus.com

Cedar Valley Nauvoo Mission Center Events!

SUMMER CAMPING EVENTS 2024

* Reunion @ Camp Nauvoo: June 15-21

[Click here to register online](#)

[Click here to download a paper registration form](#)

[Click here for additional information](#)

* Family Camp @ CVG July 4-6

[Click here to register online](#)

[Click here for additional information](#)

* Jr Camp @ Camp Nauvoo: June 22-26

* Jr Camp @ Cedar Valley Grove: June 30-July 3

* Jr High Camp @ Cedar Valley Grove: July 7-11

* Sr High Camp @ CVG: July 28-Aug 3

[Click here to register online](#)

[Click here for additional information](#)

* SPEC @ Graceland University: July 13-20

[Click here for additional information](#)

CVG PAINT YOUR HEART OUT #2 FUNDRAISER May 3-5

Location: Cedar Valley Grove Campground

Cost: \$55/person food and supplies

Contact: Gaelane Rosinski

Email: grosinski1125@gmail.com or

Ph: (847)525-3073

[Click here for more information](#)

[Click here to register online](#)

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE

Register for reunions, camps, retreats and trips ASAP so we can plan for activities supplies, staff, and food. Thank you

Family Camp vs Reunion

By this time, you may have heard that we will not be holding a traditional reunion at CVG this year. However, rather than cancelling the reunion all together, Reunion will be replaced with **Family Camp**. Kind of a rebranding of reunion! Here are a few answers to some questions I thought you may have.

Is this reunion for just young people, **NO**. We will do our best to have activities for all ages.

Do I have to stay all week, **NO**, come for the times that work for you and your family.

Do I have to stay at CVG for the nights. **NO**, but you will miss the campfires and camping at CVG :)

How will it be different from Reunion. The schedule will be more like camp. There may be some singing at meals with a few trips around the flagpole!

Will there be services every night? **NO**, there will be plenty of worship opportunities, but our evening activities will inter-generational. Just a few ideas, Murder mystery, escape room, etc.

What kind of activities will there be? Planning is still in the works, but potentially golf, frisbee golf, bucket golf, pickle ball, swimming, canoeing, Trip to Amana colonies. Glad to have your suggestions.

Will There be fireworks? **YES**, we will travel to a local town, most likely Mechanicsville for fireworks.

Lisa Hill and I will be directing this camp. This will be a camp for all ages and be run more like a youth camp. We will have class schedules for all ages in the morning, activities on and off grounds in the afternoon and more inter-generational activities in the evenings. As you can imagine we don't have all the entire camp put together yet, and we are certainly open to your ideas. Here comes the great part! **I am very hopeful that each of you will bring your camp experience to Family Camp**. I know it's a lot to ask. I also feel that this is very important work and may determine not only the future of our campgrounds, but in many ways the future of our church. I really hope that we can bring entire families to join us at CVG due to this fun, flexible and exciting camp structure. Family Camp is **July 4th to July 6th**. So, please review your calendars and plant to attend.

Feel free to email or call me with questions or ideas for

Family Camp. Scott Gelande sgelande@gmail.com

Or (563) 508-1102

Reunion 2024 @ Camp Nauvoo

The Camp Nauvoo 2024 Reunion Committee has been meeting since early January and meets most weeks. The camp directors are Julie and Brad Bengé and Deb Batey. Joe and Carolyn Baker and Pam Tisdale.

This years theme as set by World Church is "Heal the Earth" Each daily theme is linked to an enduring principle. Dates for this year's reunion are Saturday, June 15 through noon of June 21st.

Our guest minister will be Vince Lewis from the West Des Moines, Iowa congregation. He is a retired long time school educator and administrator. Currently, he is a member of the unity and diversity team of the Community of Christ.

This year we are offering some of the same activities we have had in the past as well as new ones. We strive to make our camp family friendly and finance it by free will offering.

We are excited to meet new friends and renew friendships with old friends. It truly will be a "reunion".

For questions, call Deb Batey at 319 750 5065. For reservations, please contact Camp Nauvoo caretaker, Dawn Durgin at 217 453 9930 or email at durgindawn74@gmail.com.



CVG WORK DAY !!

**3rd Saturday of each month
Please bring your own tools**



A HEAD START TO THE CAMPING SEASON

Food for thought:

**Is our Campground welcoming as soon as campers enter our space?
Does our Campground tell us it is a sacred space? Does it represent
our way of life? What can we do to show who we are?**

Everyone is welcome to help around the buildings and grounds.

WORK TO BE DONE:

INSTALLING LIGHTS IN THE LODGE: Reed Hoke is installing new lights in the Lodge and could use some help.

PICK UP THE GROUNDS: There are sticks and limbs that need to be picked up.

EQUIPMENT: This is the time of year equipment is checked to see what needs repair from the winter. Such as the skid loader needs repair at the dealership. This is also the time to get all the mowers and lawn equipment out to see what needs to be repaired there.

WINDOWS AND ROOFS: There are windows and roofs that need repair. And windows to be cleaned

ICE MAKER: There is an ice maker that needs to be installed.

CAMPFIRE WOOD: Wood needs to be cut and split.

RV PADS: There are holes that need to be dug to make electrical repairs in the lower portion of the RV pads.

TOILETS TO BE INSTALLED IN THE CEDARS: There are 8 toilets to be installed in the Cedars.

We will meet at CVG about 9am each Saturday. Please bring your own lunch, and drinks.

Our experiences at camp and reunions are lifetime experiences that need to continue. Do you have ideas for retreats, fund raisers and/or other get togethers?

Please share your ideas with the campground Operation Groups!

CVG "GROCERY LIST"

Our campground manager has asked to post the following items that are needed to update and/or repair our campgrounds. If you could donate one or more items or time, please contact Gaelane at (309) 524-3648 or grosinski1125@gmail.com

ITEM NEEDED	PRIORITY	NUMBER/AMT NEEDED
Blankets for queen beds	M	3
Blankets for twin beds	M	40
Cash donations	H	
Ceiling Fans w/light kits	H	8 - 72 - 84" for the lodge
Ceiling Fans w/light kits	M	19 - 42" for Cedars
Doors for cabins	L	
Dry Wall	M	
Flooring for Cedars	M	
Help with carpentry	H	
Help with electricity	H	
Help with plumbing	H	
Hours w/ Electrical Work	H	
Work w/ Plumbing Work	H	
Insulation	M	
Liquid Nails	M	
Nails	M	
Mulch	H	50 bags
Pillows for Cedars	L	40
Plumbing materials	M	
Sheets for Queen beds	M	3
Sheets for twin beds	M	40
Stain - Redwood Color Stain	H	20 gallons
Toilets for Cedars	H	8
Twin Mattresses for Cedars and cabins	H	40

Camp Nauvoo Workday Reminder!!



Camp Nauvoo is having a work weekend to get the camp opened up and ready for the season on **April 19th and April 17 (starting at 9). Come for an hour or overnight! Lunch provided on Saturday, so let Dawn know you are coming to give her an idea of how much food to prepare.**

Work list includes:

Removing old deck boards from around the lodge to get ready for new ones.

Cleaning cabins

Yard and tree cleanup

Moving bunk beds from different cabins

Loading metal recycling items

Lots of hands are needed! Bring saws or rakes if you want to work outside, and drills or screwdrivers for removing deck boards.

We have a lot to do, but many hands make light work, and have fun doing it!!

See you then!

Nauvoo Campgrounds "GROCERY LIST"

Our campground manager has asked to post the following items that are needed to update and/or repair our campgrounds. If you could donate one or more items or time, please contact Dawn Durgin at

(217) 453-9930 or durgindawn74@gmail.com

Multiple pillows for the rooms and tiny houses

Waterproof mattress pads in twin and queen size.

Volunteers to help with maintenance and lawn work

Cash donations



SPECIAL MISSION CENTER CONFERENCE APRIL 21, 2024

**This message is shared on behalf of Co-Mission Center
Presidents Evelyn Dustin and Kent LeVan:**

The mission center will be holding a **special conference April 21, 2024 at 2:30 PM at Camp Nauvoo** to consider and vote on two resolutions to be presented at the 2025 World Conference.

[Click here to view the resolutions](#)

[Click here to view the Standing Rules](#)

For questions contact Kent or Evelyn directly.

RESOLUTION



We are a traveling people:

Join us as we travel by bus to visit the Creation Museum and Noah's Ark Encounter in Petersburg, Kentucky.



Creation Museum At the Creation Museum we will travel through biblical history, stunning exhibits, botanical gardens, planetarium, zoo, zip line Adventure course, and much more. The facility is 75,000-square-foot is in Petersburg, Kentucky. For more information on this stunning exhibit visit their web site at:

<https://creationmuseum.org/>



At the **Ark Encounter** we will visit a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. It is 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high. For more information visit

<https://arkencounter.com/about/>

It's all about the details!

Leave from a yet to be determined location on September 5 and visit exhibits September 6 & 7, returning home late September 7.

A onetime fee includes, Trailways Bus, hotel, breakfast and lunch and exhibit entrance fee. On the trip to Kentucky we will have donuts and coffee to share - please bring a sack lunch for the day.

[Click here to register online](#)

All above for \$485.00 or less if you share a room. For more information, contact Pat Reaves (309) 762-6322 or Gaelane Rosinski (309) 524-3648

OUTREACH CAN BE FUN AND FRIENDLY WITHOUT A WHOLE LOT OF FUSS

C.O.F.F.E.E Christ Offers Friendly Fellowship Every day to Everyone

If your church has the space, or if you have individuals who like to host gatherings in their homes, here's an idea. Why not set up a weekly C.O.F.F.E.E. gathering?

Invite family, friends, neighbors, to come and have a cup of coffee, tea, juice, or other cold drinks, as well as a sweet treat (a light snack), and some conversation around the kitchen table. It is amazing how quickly the conversation turns to God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

Suggestions for success:

- 1) Have multiple people willing to host the gathering, so that no one gets overwhelmed.
- 2) Call the people who came the previous week to remind them of where and when, and to let them know you want them to return.
- 3) Life gets busy. If they can't come, don't give up. Keep inviting!
- 4) Listen intently to their likes and interests
- 5) Plan a future event in which they want to participate, something to look forward to doing together.
- 6) Be patient! It takes time to build rapport, and trust.
- 7) Let them know you care about them and their concerns.

Some churches are doing this and finding success weekly. If I can help you set this up, please feel free to call or email Pat at (309) 762-6622 or preaves55@gmail.com



Cedar Valley Grove Campground FUNDRAISING

Our group is working to help grow our Cedar Valley Grove community and make necessary improvements and repair. You can help too by purchasing these delicious nuts, snacks, and chocolates. Every purchase bring us one step closer to our goal.

Please help us with a purchase today!

A portion of every product sold on this fundraising website benefits Cedar Valley Grove Campground! <https://www.terri Lynn.com/>

Orders to each person ship FREE anywhere in the U.S. when their items total \$30 or more!

Please remember—this is your newsletter! Anything you would like to share is welcome! The goal is to print by the 15th of the first quarter month. So please have your information in by the 13th.

If you have information you would like to share with the mission center, please feel free to Gaelane Rosinski at:

Email: grosinski1125@gmail.com or Ph: (309) 524-3648