



Shout the News

It's March. Of course you know that. Just look at the temperature swings: one day it's 80 degrees and the next 40 if we are lucky. And we need to remember that when summer comes and we are complaining about how hot it is for days on end.

But I don't want to talk about the weather. I want to talk about working together to bring peace in our world. Most of us will not be able to go to the heads of world governments and plead for peace. But we can start by getting along with our family, congregations, Mission Center and communities. Do I welcome my neighbor or do I judge him? Do I find out what is happening in my congregation to cause such stress, or do I blame someone? Do I gossip about others, or do I go to the person and find out the reason they are doing what they are doing?

The cartoon really says it all. I find it entertaining that the artist used mules for this illustration because they represent stubbornness. But you will notice that when they work together, they both get what they want. It's hard to claim to be a church bringing peace to the world when we can't work together at home.

Thank you for considering this. Peace starts with me. Evelyn Dustin, MC President

What happened?

At New Canton, on February 15, 2026, the Blessing Sacrament was held for Cooper William Richards, son of Haylee Smith and Weston Richards. He was blessed by Brad Benge and Cherry Miller. His mother, Haylee Smith, is the Great Granddaughter of Bill and Mary Jo Phillips. Lunch was enjoyed after the service.

Game Night was held at the Nauvoo Church on March 12th. Fun was had and everyone was a winner.

Saturday, March 14th, Nathan Benge, Caleb Clark, and Trent Chamness competed in a 3 on 3 basketball tournament in Iowa City. It was a nail biter overtime win, receiving the Gold as first place winners. The boys' team had a special invitation to compete in the Drake Relays. Fayth Chamness helped take her team to first place, winning her a Gold medal. Wyatt Bernhart was also a winner with his team taking home the Bronze medal. So proud of their hard work, and practice time spent sharpening their skills. Good luck at the Drake Relays!

Carolyn Baker will be the pastor for the Fort Madison Congregation. We all want to thank Steve DePriest for all his years of service and dedication.

Aida Ward, Elaine Overton's bonus daughter, was lucky enough to escape any serious injuries from a head-on collision. Both drivers were shaken and had minimal injuries. Aida's Guardian Angel was working overtime that day!

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Emeritus Service

Approximately 63 people attended the emeritus service honoring Lee and Karen Ourth, and Hugh Ferguson at the Nauvoo Congregation on March 8, 2026 followed by a potluck.

Brad and Julie Ourth Benge presided over the service with Joanie Ourth Finlay offering the invocation.

Jill Ourth Phelps honored Karen's dedication and quiet ministry, showing compassion and true concern.

Joe Ourth spoke of his father's priesthood calling to church ministry at age eighteen. He has served faithfully for over seven decades. He served for many years directing camps and caring for the campgrounds at Camp Nauvoo.

Tonya Ferguson talked about Hugh's years of service as Pastor at Keokuk and leadership for many years at Camp Nauvoo.

Others who spoke during the service included Lois DePrima, Linda Hardy, Skylar Benge, Tarla Price, Jeri Ourth, Diane Poplett, and Dan Burford.



Karen Ourth, Lee Ourth, and Hugh Ferguson

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The Ourth Family

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The “Love the Lord with all Your Heart” Retreat was held at Camp Nauvoo on February 21 and 22. There were 45 participants.

Saturday afternoon’s activities included a mixer, crafts and jigsaw puzzles. After supper we had games of bingo followed by devotions and a campfire. We discussed how to draw closer to God and prepare ourselves for the Easter season.

The evening ended with bedtime snacks and lights out.

The Sunday church service message was given by Brad Bengé focusing on the gifts and sacrifices of the season of Lent and how we can renew our dedication to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The retreat ended after lunch with clean up and goodbyes.

Coming Up

There will be a Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt for ages 0 - 6 years at the Fort Madison Church Saturday, April 4th from 1:00 - 4:00.

Fort Madison church will host the Young Peacemakers group starting April 16th from 5-7:00 p.m. Ages Kindergarten - 5th graders are welcome to attend. Contact grandmagiggles1971@gmail.com for more information.

Please join the Nauvoo congregation for our Easter worship with brunch to follow.

MINISTRY & MISSION WITH YOUNGER GENERATIONS

***What:** World Church guest ministers Tyler Marz, Humberto Tinsman, and Doug Roberts will facilitate a retreat focusing on embracing the spirituality and leadership of young people and exploring what faith, formation, and leadership look like in a changing world.*

When: April 10-12, 2026

Where: Camp Nauvoo

Who: Adults and young adults (post high school)

Worship: Sunday worship service for entire MC at 10:30 AM

Registrar: Dawn Durgin (durgindawn74@gmail.com)

[Click here for informational flyer](#)

[Click here to register online](#) (PLEASE pre-register!!!)

If you are interested in this retreat, you would need to register early. It should be a fun and exciting event for those who can make it.

Camps

Don’t forget to register for reunion, family camp, and junior, junior high, and senior high camps. Go to <https://cvnmc.org> to register.