

Harvest Church



About Harvest Church:

- Pastor Doug Harvey
- 481 South Linn Avenue
New Hampton, IA 50659
- (641) 394-4380
- Visit us online at:
www.harvestcares.com
www.facebook.com/HarvestNH
- Office E-mail:
office@harvestcares.com
- Pastor's E-mail:
dougharvey@harvestcares.com
- Secretary Office Hours:
Tuesdays 10 am - 4 pm
Thursdays 10 am - 4 pm

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THE BEACON

May 2021 Newsletter



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DOUG

SLOW, FAITHFUL PLODDING

In late April, Pat and I attended the DHF National Conference. DHF is the fellowship of churches that Harvest belongs to.

It was a great experience for several reasons.

First, it was one of the first conferences I know of that went ahead with live meeting. Connecting with people online is just not the same as being together. I'm part of a DHF Zoom group that meets online weekly, and it's become a key part of my life and ministry. But none of us in the group had ever been in the same room with the rest of the group at one time. Our Zoom time had laid a great relational foundation, but being face-to-face was dramatically different. When we met online a few days later, the dynamics were far deeper.

The personal connection was great, but even better was the spark of fresh life in the whole group. DHF has added new churches and new pastors over the past several years, and this conference manifested the energy and joy of an expanding family.

How did we get to a new level of connection and relationship? Years of slow work. DHF didn't spring into a new level of life and connection in a few months. It built a piece at a time for many years. What looks like sudden breakthrough came on the shoulders of several years of creative change and outreach.

(Continued...)

Happy Mother's Day

From the Desk of Pastor Doug (Continued)

I recently read, "Much of the time ministry is slow, faithful plodding." Usually, when you look behind the scenes, where it looks like sudden growth or renewal, you find it came on the heels of years of "slow, faithful plodding."

I'm watching the farmers prep their fields and plant this year's crops. It takes long hours on the tractor where you don't really see crops or yield. But if a farmer doesn't faithfully do that hard, boring work, he's never going to see a harvest, either.

For most churches and individual Christians, the last year has involved slow, faithful plodding, keeping the faith, working without seeing much return, and wondering if there's a quicker way. As we emerge into a post-Covid world, our hard work is going to pay a great dividend. Stay strong, stay hopeful, keep plodding!

-Doug

CONVERSATION WITH GREAT PLAYS DAYCARE

Over the last several months, Harvest's leadership has talked with the leadership of Great Plays Daycare about possibly renting them space in our building during the week. We had a very positive conversation, but state regulations simply made it impossible for us to come to an agreement. Great Plays worked hard to be flexible, but the clincher was that state regulations would have forced us to lock virtually everybody except staff out of the entire building for 72 hours per week. Anyone else coming in for any reason would have to be physically accompanied by a staff person the whole time they were here. There were other issues, all because of state mandates, but this was the straw that broke the camel's back. We regret that this didn't work out, as there is a huge need for daycare in New Hampton.



Harvest Church donated an assortment of 10 dozen cookies for the "Their Fight is Our Fight" 5K on April 30th. This event was created to raise awareness of the mental health crisis and suicide prevention in Chickasaw County.



PASTOR DOUG'S MAY SERMONS:

May 2nd

Acts 10:1-7

“Cornelius: Qualities of a Man Ready for Service”

May 9th

Acts 10:9-23

“Peter: Qualities of Man Ready for Breakthrough”

May 16th

Acts 10:23; 27-29

“All are Welcome”

May 23rd

Acts 10:34-43

“The Core of our Message”

May 30th

Acts 10: 44-48

“Responding to the Message”

National Day of Prayer

The Chickasaw County observance of the National Day of Prayer will take place at the Veterans' Memorial at the Chickasaw County Courthouse on Thursday, May 6th. The event will begin at noon. If there is inclement weather, please meet in the courthouse lobby.

JENNIFER'S SCHEDULE CHANGES

During the long Covid period, Jennifer has been working primarily from home, just coming into the office on Thursdays. Things are getting busier, and she is now coming in on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-4.

Jennifer will be on vacation May 7-15.

CHANGE OF FOCUS FOR KWIKSTAR CARDS

For several years we have added to the youth group fund through the sale of KwikStar cards. The cards sell for face value, but KwikStar returns 5% to the youth fund, plus another 5% for purchases made inside the store. These funds have helped greatly in underwriting our summer youth trips.

Right now the youth fund has built up a significant surplus while the group has not been functioning and no summer trips are planned.

Rather than just build up an unused fund, the Elders have suggested that after May 1 the money from the sale of the cards be put in the Elder Compassion Fund, with the understanding that when the youth program reactivates, the income stream will go back to that fund. The money already in the youth fund will remain there, this is just a change of where future income is placed.

The Elder Compassion Fund is used to offer help to individuals and families who could benefit from a little extra help during hard times.

Purchasing KwikStar cards is a great way to help the church with its youth and/or compassion ministries. You get a 100% return from the purchase of the card and the church's ministries get blessed as well. Rod and Lisa Reicks oversee the cards. If you're not already using KwikStar cards, please talk with them.



KWIK STAR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Gene Kleiss - May 3rd

Jessica Rochford - May 4th

Noelle Schwickerath - May 15th

BAPTISM

We rejoiced on Sunday, April 25, as Heather Riha was baptized at the end of the worship service. Heather has been attending for several months and sings with the worship team. Heather is a social worker who lives in Cresco.

Welcome, Heather!



VBS 2021

SAVE THE DATE!

JULY 5-9

6-8 P.M.

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	3	4 11:00 a.m. "Harvest Connection" 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council Mtg.	5	6 12:00 p.m. National Day of Prayer Chickasaw County Courthouse	7 11:00 a.m. "Harvest Connection" on Facebook	8 7:00 a.m. Trustee Meeting
9 Mother's Day! 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	10	11 11:00 a.m. "Harvest Connection" 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	12	13	14 11:00 a.m. "Harvest Connection" on Facebook	15
16 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	17	18 11:00 a.m. "Harvest Connection" 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	19	20	21 11:00 a.m. "Harvest Connection" on Facebook	22
23 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	24	25 11:00 a.m. "Harvest Connection" 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	26	27	28 11:00 a.m. "Harvest Connection" on Facebook	29
30	31					