

Garden Gleanings

December 2025

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church



Shoeboxes!

Garden collected a total of 164 Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! The youth group packed 150 of them after shopping with money donated from people within the church. Thank you to everyone who packed a box or who gave money or items towards this project. A dedication service was held for all the boxes on November 23. Continue to pray for the kids who will receive these gifts and hear the gospel this Christmas season!



BAPTISM

Macy Wohlgemuth and Josh Koehn both took a step of obedience in baptism on November 30. They each shared how God has lead them to this point in their lives in their walk with Him. Both of their dad's had the privilege to baptize their daughter and son.



Christmas Caroling

The 3rd—6th grade Garden Kids packed sacks of goodies to be handed out to the Hickory Homes residents when they went Christmas caroling on December 3rd. Pray that the love of Jesus shone through to the residents as the kids ministered to them through songs.



CAROLS & COOKIES

The Fellowship Hall was filled with sounds of Carols and the smell of cookies on December 7th for our Annual Carols & Cookies.



...Craft... NIGHT

Women's Ministry hosted a Ladies' Craft Night on November 14. Erin (Miller) Busenitz was invited to come and share a short devotional before the crafting began. There were 4 different "crafts" available during the evening, Erin lead a group on Bible journaling, Carmen Selzer lead a group on making Butter horn Rolls in the kitchen. There was also a station to make homemade potpourri and Tonia Busenitz's daughter-in-law helped ladies create earrings. Of course the evening wasn't complete without snacks!





Vonnie's Views

A couple of decades ago, I found myself discouraged by how my life was “turning out.” Doubt and anxiety felt like constant companions. One afternoon, I met a friend for lunch in McPherson and poured out all my frustrations—especially my feeling that God hadn’t given me the “desires of my heart,” even though I had tried to be faithful.

After listening patiently, she quietly said, “You don’t know your God, do you?” Her words stung, and instantly made me angry. But at the same time they also rang true. Without realizing it, I had slipped into believing that if I did “A,” then God owed me “B.” It was a transactional view of faith; one that left no room for mystery, suffering, or the deeper purposes of God.

That conversation sent me back to Scripture with new eyes. I wanted to know who God *really* is—rather than who I assumed Him to be. I read the entire Bible slowly, more than once. I read theology, Puritan writings and authors such as RC Sproul, JI Packer, Jerry Bridges and AW Tozier. Over the next decade, I discovered a God far bigger, wiser, and more beautiful than the version of God I had created in my mind.

I learned to know a God who...

...created a beautiful and good world that displays His glory.

...calls to all people everywhere to acknowledge His existence, seek Him, and intimately know Him.

...loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to bear the full weight of sin so He could restore a relationship with us.

...grieves over sin but never abandons His people, continuing to pursue their hearts.

...shows mercy, justice, patience, and steadfast love.

I discovered a God who is so faithful that he does the very best for me—most generally by shaping for me a life *does not* follow my shallow plan. This God cannot be reduced to a formula and certainly cannot be manipulated. But this God is absolutely trustworthy and good, *always good*. He does not give up on us, no matter how often or how far we stray from Him. And He can be trusted—deeply, fully, wholeheartedly.

This Christmas season, I invite you to reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation—God choosing to come near to us; to save us. Whatever disappointments, sorrows, or unmet dreams you carry, bring them to the God who specializes in redemption and restoration. He is better than we imagine—and nearer than we think.

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done.

I will be filled with joy because of you.

I will sing praises to your name, O Most High.

But the Lord reigns forever, executing judgment from his throne.

He will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness.

The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.


Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for you.

Psalms 9:1-2,7-10 NLT

JANUARY

Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: Psalm 103:8—The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Praise God for He alone is righteous and true.	2 Pray for God's wisdom in decisions you make.	3 Ask God to stop you when you get off track & correct your course.
4 Pray for lost people to see God's love & turn to Him.	5 Pray for Christians who are living in disobedience to be convicted & repent.	6 Pray for young married couples to build their homes on Christ as Lord.	7 Pray God's truth permeates all we do for His glory.	8 Pray for God's provision & clear direction for Drew Hiebert.	9 Ask God to heal the deep hurts of our hearts.	10 Ask God to open your eyes to blessings you are not seeing.
11 Pray for the church in Brazil to have deep roots in scripture & wide reach of love to others.	12 Ask God to guard our words that we don't speak carelessly.	13 Pray for the seeds of the gospel sown last year to bring forth abundant fruit!	14 Pray New Hope Shelter is able to help some find deliverance & peace in Christ.	15 Pray those in the workplace conduct themselves in a way that honors God.	16 Pray students do their best, learning to serve God where they are.	17 Take time to be still before God and to listen to Him.
18 Praise God for your home, food, & needs being met.	19 Pray God's peace in letting go & accepting limitations.	20 Pray for the families of church members - lost, struggling, hurting.	21 Pray for soft hearts that are teachable & open to God's instruction.	22 Praise God for beauty and wonder in this world.	23 Thank God for His forgiveness of ALL your sins.	24 Pray for parents to love God more than they love their kids.
25 Ask God to make our marriages ones that honor & glorify Him.	26 Praise God He is the light in the deepest darkness & He knows the way.	27 Praise for Pastor Dizzy & family to have joy.	28 Pray for clear guidance for the search committee.	29 Pray for an opportunity to meet someone's need in the name of Jesus.	30 Pray those who serve in our church are blessed in the doing & not burdened.	31 God is God alone. There is no other.

Thank you for praying!



The picture is the transmitter that took four of us to fix. The four were my friend Terry, Bennett, a Navajo technician, myself, and the Lord. The transmitter in Tuba City, Arizona, broke and we were able to help Bennett, over the phone, to get the transmitter working again. I give praise to God because he did it. I had given up, out of ideas. It seemed like Bennett had given up. Terry was able to remember some important things that I had forgotten. He instructed Bennett, who was able to get the transmitter going. He then prayed with Bennett, giving the credit to God.

Thank you for your prayers for us. We did not know this was going to happen, but the Lord was able to use all of us to get the transmitter back on the air. Now all five transmitter sites are on the air with the message of hope in Jesus available around the clock in Navajo and English.

Tim Zook, *Broadcast Services Department Technician*

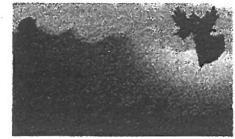
SonSet Solutions

+1 574.970.4252 Ext. 236

<http://sonsetsolutions.org>

Technology for abundant life!

WHERE IS THE "CHRIST" OF 'CHRISTMAS'?



You can't find Him in Santa Claus, or elves working with glee,
He can't be found in Santa's pack or the "Community Tree",

He's not in "Happy Holidays", in reindeer, or in toys,
You can't even find him by being good, sweet girls and boys,

He's not in wreaths, holly, glitter, or even in bright lights,
You can't find him at parties, drinking late into the nights,

He's not on many postage stamps, or even Yuletide cards,
He can't be found in decorations in many people's yards,

He certainly is not in the place He rightfully belongs,
Not even in the programs or the many lovely songs,

It's time we tell the children, and let them clearly see,
That Christmas is '**THE CHRIST-CHILD**', born for you and me,

He was born in a manger, that led him to the cross,
He died and gave His Precious Blood, suffering anguish, shame and loss,

He took our sins upon himself, What love! How can it be!
That we could live with Him someday, this was God's great plan.

He died and arose the 3rd day to bring us glorious victory,
And one day soon we'll be with Him for all eternity!

There was no other One who the price for sin could pay,
Jesus, the Truth, the Life, He is the only Way!

If we receive Him as our own, He'll come in to stay,
He'll do just what he promised and take all our sin away.

Here **CHRIST** lives, whom we adore, and we'll someday bend the knee,
When we see His glorious face, when at Home at last we'll be!

By Evelyn Schrag

WE WISH YOU A 2025 CHRIST-FILLED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!



Norv & Ev Schrag
The back side was for Norv's message,
Sorry, but he was sick when this was due.



Christmas 2025

Dear Friends,

As I sit here thinking of what to share with you this year, I can't help but think of a song that we enjoy singing with the kids that come to after school Kids' Bible Club. The song goes: "JESUS and OTHERS and YOU, what a wonderful way to spell JOY. JESUS and OTHERS and YOU in the life of each girl and each boy. "J" is for Jesus, for He has first place, "O" is for others you meet face to face. "Y" is for you in whatever you do, put yourself third and spell JOY."

We thank the Lord for the many opportunities that He gives us to share about Jesus. Our little country church has kept the doors open, except for a couple of Sundays when the roads were not plowed or were so icy that we didn't have church. We average between 12 and 15 on a Sunday morning. Every other month we host a Community Hymn Sing on Sunday evening and what a wonderful time of fellowship we have after the singing.

We had our Vacation Bible School the last week of June with an average of 24 children, and we had a good number of adults to help. Our theme for this year was "Little Is Much when God Is in It." What a JOY to be able to share about Jesus.

God has given us many opportunities to reach out to others as well. A JOY in our lives is the two Kids' Bible Clubs that we have each week. Again, the number isn't large, but He has sent us 7 special young people, three of which are new this year. Five of them are faithful in coming both days and two more usually join on Tuesday. It is exciting to see how even the youngest, second graders, can find the right verse when I tell them to turn to a certain scripture. Each one wants to take a turn to read the verse. We pray that as these children go home, that they take with them what we have talked or sung about in class because only one of them comes from a solid home situation. You can pray for us as we have this contact.

Another group that we get to reach out to is on the other end of the spectrum: residents in a care center and/or a retirement center. Each Monday evening, we go to the care center in town to have a Bible study with the residents. We have been blessed this year with a good attendance, usually 15 or more. They enjoy singing with us for about 15 minutes before Edwin does a Bible lesson. Every other month we go there for the Sunday afternoon chapel service. Each month that there are five Sundays, we go into a town about 15 miles away to a retirement center and do their chapel service. We were asked to come a Sunday evening in November to do a

“Community Hymn Sing.” This is the first time they have had one, so the attendance wasn’t large, but we’ve been asked by a few residents when we are coming back to do it again.

Put yourself third: we have had a full year. The year started off on a sad note. Eloise lost her youngest sister, but it was good to be with family members and friends that we haven’t seen for a long time. Eloise’s family tries to get together each August for a couple of days in Sioux Falls, SD. Those that get together are usually her siblings and maybe a niece or nephew or two; this year there were even some “greats” there. We also got to see Edwin’s sister, Connie, as she came back from Oregon for the memorial service of a cousin. We took our two major trips again this year. In April we went to the Rural Home Mission’s Rural and Small-Town Church conference in Morton, IL. Then in July we attended our church’s annual conference, this year close to Lancaster, PA. That was a very special time, getting to meet up with those we see each year at conference. But this year we were able to visit several retired missionary couples whom we knew in Taiwan and who have now retired to the Lancaster area. Yes, we did some sight-seeing along the way stopping at Gettysburg and also stopping to see the site where the plane, Flight 93, went down in PA on 9/11.

As we continue to age there is often a subject that comes up – health. It was with great JOY for us as Eloise got an all-clear report from her oncologist, saying she could stop taking her medicine and that she doesn’t need to return for further appointments. We both had a pre-cancer spot or two removed.

We trust that you have had a year filled with JOY as well. As we look forward to 2026, we don’t know what is ahead, but what JOY there would be if the Lord would return to take us home to be with Him. We look forward to hearing from you in the next weeks/months.

Edwin & Eloise

Edwin and Eloise Jordan
1897 294th Street
North English, IA 52316
(319) 664-3568

Edwin’s cell: (319) 461-3154
Eloise’s cell: (319) 660-0158

Email: edwinjordan@netins.net
Email: hardereloise@gmail.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2025!

What a wonderful holiday, especially for those of us who know the REASON FOR THE SEASON IS JESUS CHRIST. The verse is LUKE 2:11, "*For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*" Verse 13 tells us, "there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and saying '*Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*'"

To me (Chuck), the most important word here is Savior, one who saves. If you know Jesus as your Savior, join your voice with the angels in Praise and Thanksgiving. If you are not saved today, consider a verse like John 1:12 and John 3:16. Today is the right day to make this decision.

An outline of my message a few weeks ago was: *Who was Jesus? What has Jesus done for you (His purpose)? What is your response to this?* In Luke 17:15-17, only one of those healed of the disease of leprosy returned to Jesus, glorying, giving thanks, and praising God. Are we that one who returned to be thankful to Him or are we among those others who went on their way?

We have just finished putting together our large Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. We will be doing it again for Christmas. We always include a copy of a daily reading booklet to encourage them to look to the Lord for their needs and daily guidance. We have had several visitors in the last few months. It is very encouraging.

This being our last letter of the year, we want to leave you with a message from Philippians 1:3-5. We thank the Lord for you with special prayers for partnering with us to reach others with the message of Jesus Christ. We want to encourage others to be ready to meet Him.

As we prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus, we remember that He came from a throne, to a manger, to the cross, and to rise again. He loved each of us so very much. May you feel God's presence as you think about what the Savior's birth means to you.

We would like to hear about you and your prayer and praise reports as we look to the New Year coming. We thank you for your prayer and financial support as you join us in this mission work in leading others to and in their walk with Jesus. May you have a blessed New Year.

Because of Him,

Chuck and Connie Myers

1716 Luna Drive, West Plains, MO 65775 ♦ 417-256-1393 ♦ ccmyers2@gmail.com

OUR 2025 FAMILY UPDATE

Our family tree numbers have not changed since last year – 8 kids and spouses, 22 grandkids, and 12 great-grandkids.

JOYCE (RAMOLD) and DAVID CHRISTOPHER live here in West Plains. JOYCE and DAVID are both retired but Joyce is still working part-time for the Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation. Joyce and David are active in volunteering with Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child through the making of items for the shoeboxes and encouraging others to participate in the ministry.

ED RAMOLD lives in the Detroit, Michigan, area and is Director of Facilities of a large church. He has 2 daughters.

CHUCK and LUELLA MYERS live in Lincoln, Nebraska. CHUCK is Small Group Director at church, teaches Sunday School, preaches occasionally, and also does some delivery services. LUELLA works for a medical billing company. They have 4 sons and 10 grandkids.

LARRY and TRACY MYERS live in Central City, Nebraska. LARRY is Director of Sales and Marketing for Strobel Companies and is substitute teaching at Central City Public School, in the areas of Physics, P.E., and English. TRACY works part time with a shipping company and helps with Awana and the Coffee Bar at church. They have 5 children and 2 grandchildren.

BRYAN and DIANE MYERS also live in Central City. BRYAN is a Physician Assistant for Employers Health Care. DIANE works part time as a medical transcriptionist. They have 5 children.

SONYA and KIRK HOLMES live in Richfield, Nebraska. SONYA does bookkeeping for their family business and has started volunteering at Heartland Hope Mission. KIRK continues to paint. They have 2 sons.

STEVEN and RAYSA MYERS live in Colorado Springs, Colorado. STEVEN's business is Myers Flooring, installing tile and stone in bathrooms, kitchens, floor, etc. RAYSA has the best job, staying home with their family. They have 2 sons.

PAUL MYERS also lives in Colorado Springs. He works for El Paso County as a Public Information Officer. He has 2 children.

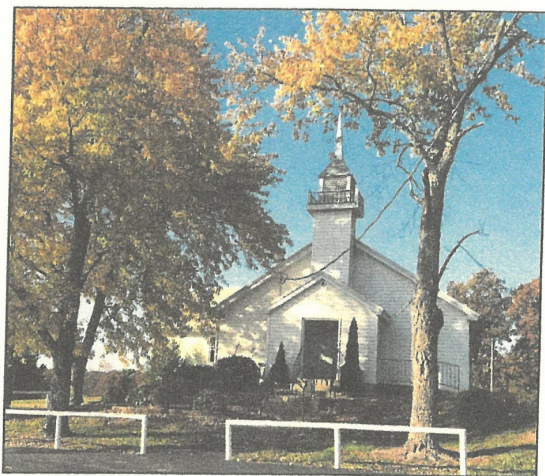
Dear *Garden Community Church*

And a good morning to YOU! I woke up this morning with this phrase bouncing around in my head GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS. Does that praise make you think of a 'song'? And does it also make you think of a Bible verse in the Old Testament book of Lamentations? Great verse and would you agree with me that our Lord has been very good to all of us. He certainly has been faithful and YOU have been faithful in sharing with us the support you have sent. Your support through RHMA, or directly to us, has been so appreciated. We do try to use it very wisely. I'm sure that you are fully aware of the rising 'cost of living'. God also knows this and has promised to "supply all your (our) needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus". Phil. 4:19.

Over the years, Connie and I have learned (or better, are learning) that we can put any of our 'needs' in the Lord's hands. He will continue to 'supply our needs'. We do however ask for your support in prayer for us as we continue to serve Him and for our church.... Hilltop Chapel (see the picture enclosed) Here is the good news....We are seeing some definite progress during this last year. Some are new families and some with young families!!

We are grateful for you and wish each of you a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Chuck & Connie Myers



Hill Top Chapel



Garden Community Church
Blessings to each of you
this Holy Season.

Pastor and Connie Myers