

THIS WEEK

TODAY 7-21

8:30 a.m.—Common Ground
 9:00 a.m.—Sunday School
 Fellowship Time/Common Ground
 9:30 a.m.—Ushers & Greeters Prayer
 10:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
 Communion
 11:15 a.m.—Semi-Annual Meeting
 Youth returning from Mission Trip

MONDAY 7-22

9:00 a.m.—Staff Meeting

TUESDAY 7-23

6:30 a.m. Elder Prayer
 Noon—Community Prayer

WEDNESDAY 7-24

Youth working at the food shack at the Fair

FRIDAY 7-26

Office Closed

SUNDAY 7-28

8:30 a.m.—Common Ground
 9:00 a.m.—Sunday School
 Fellowship Time/Common Ground
 9:30 a.m.—Ushers & Greeters Prayer
 10:00 a.m.—Morning Worship

REMINDERS

This Week

Nursery (9:00) Jeff & Becky Nielsen
Nursery (10:00) Katie Collins & Family
Greeters: Scott & Pat Ostermann

Next Week

Nursery (9:00) Marcie Larson
Nursery (10:00) Matt & Joy Ites, Faith Nielsen
Greeters: Paul & Connie Swanson

GIVING UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$6,600

General Fund Offering--7-14-19: \$5,613.00

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for these people with health issues or other concerns

David Peterson Josh Johnson Nancy Anderson Stacy Anderson
 Doug Kneisel Blanche Friedow

- For God to give us a passion to see Christ move in our community
- Servicemen & Women—including Chaplain Charles Causey
- Missionaries including Chad & Rachel Fincham with Youth for Christ
- Sunday School—including High School—Pastor Jesse
- Life Group Leaders—including Paul Swanson
- Youth Pastor—Pastor Jesse
- Interim Pastor Randal & Linda Kay
- Pastor Steve & Carol Couch as they finish up in Kenya and prepare to begin ministry here!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING TODAY at 11:15 a.m.

We will have a short break after the Morning Service and then gather back in the Sanctuary for the meeting. The Report has been put in member's mailboxes. Members, please be sure to sign in at the table in the foyer.

NEW DEVOTIONAL BOOKS FOR FAMILIES—

The 3 yr . old-6th grade Sunday School classes are beginning the New Testament material. If there are any families that would like the 10 minute devotional book to go along with the new material, please let Lois Uitermarkt or Katrina Peterson know.

BRIDAL SHOWER is being planned for August 24 for Kate Tobin, bride to be of Jon

Christians. If you would like to be on the committee, please call or text Diane Johnson (641-430-3773). A planning meeting will be held sometime soon.

TAKING SEALED BIDS FOR EXTRA PEWS

We will be taking sealed bids for the extra pews left after the stage renovation. If you would like a pew or pews, please write down the amount you are willing to give for them and which one(s) you are interested in. Put them in an envelope and turn them into the church office by August 25th.

4 pews -6 ft. long 1 pew -4 ft. long 1 pew from old church 78" long

TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

There comes a time in life when the prayers and comfort given by friends is so needed and so appreciated! Thank you for the pretty basket of green plants given in memory of our dear daughter, Jodi. Thank you, Pastor Randal & Linda for your visit and words of comfort. Thank you, church family for the many prayers lifted up during Jody's illness and now as we grieve. She is now at home with her Heavenly Father and "I Can Only Imagine" what her eyes are seeing! We claim Jodi's favorite verse... "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will run and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31 Don & Judy Anderson

Shhhhhhhhhhh.....it's a SURPRISE! Matt Rounds is organizing a **Surprise 20th Anniversary Party** for his dear wife, Tenille. Yes, it was **20 years ago** that they tied the knot! It's still holding tight! He has requested that our church family be invited. Everyone is welcome! Save the date: July 28th from 2-4:00 here at the church with a short program beginning around 2:30. Please come and celebrate with the Rounds and Schulz families. Please RSVP to 515-320-5148 (call or text) if you are able to attend.

THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF BRITT

810 2nd Ave. NW, Britt, IA 50423

Website: www.brittfreechurch.com

Phone: 641-843-3861

Wifi: EFC Guest Wifi or EFC Guest Wifi 5G—Password: brittfree82

Youth Pastor—Jesse Bewley—brittfreechurch.jesse@gmail.com—331- 999-4615

Office Staff—Cherlyn Johnson, Katrina Peterson—brittfreechurch@gmail.com

Custodian—Tom Kardoes - 515-320-3349

Prayer Chain—Marlys Perkins 843-3319

“Packing Light—Part 3”

Matthew 7:1-2

Notes

The Shepherd's Staff
Pastor Randal

July 21, 2019

A Person is a Person

Theodore Geisel, aka Dr. Suess, wrote his book, “*Horton Hears a Who*” after visiting the devastation in Japan in 1953, witnessing in person the wreckage of property and life brought about by the two atom bombs. During the second world war, Geisel drew political cartoons that often belittled the Japanese held in detention camps here in the United States. After returning to the USA after his visit to Japan, Geisel apologized in the best way he knew how; he wrote the children's book, “*Horton Hears a Who*” where the important message is given; a person is a person, no matter how small. (taken from *The Dignity Revolution*, by Daniel Darling)

Human dignity must be afforded to all people, even those with whom we disagree. The key reason for this granting of human dignity is because we were all created in God's image. The writer of Genesis reminds us, “*So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*” (Genesis 1:27 TNIV)

There are many people with whom we do not see eye-to-eye. Sometimes our disagreements are justified, but how we respond must still be with the compassion that the LORD provides. No matter gender preferences or what side of the aisle a person is, we are still called to show the love of God. We are to love as we have been loved, (1 John 4:19) and we are to forgive as we have been forgiven (Matthew 6:12; 14-15) Sure it's tough, often doing the right thing is tough. But we must still give it our best.

Todd Pickett, one of my professors at Biola University, stated that when faced with someone we disagree with to stop and 1) thank God for them, 2) to consider our own failings 3) pray for them (not against them.) This will help us see that person as one created in the image of God and thus is to be loved.

Remember, Jesus commanded us to love our enemy and to pray for those who persecute us. (Matthew 6:43-44) And in the story of the Good Samaritan, we are told that our neighbor is anyone we come upon who needs our help. (Luke 10:30-37)

So, my friend, who do you stand against this day? How will you express the love of God to them?