

The MESSENGER

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A publication of New Sharon First Christian Church

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WOW Kids ²⁵²

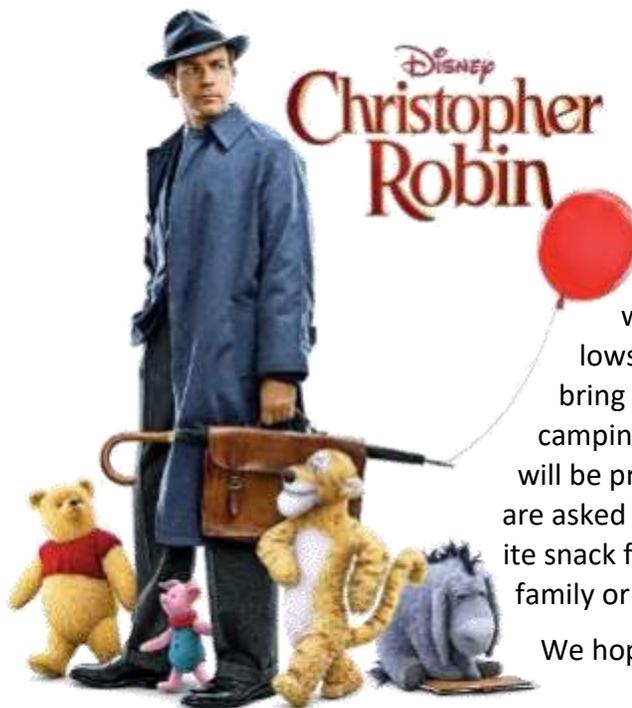
Wednesdays @ 6 - 7:30 p.m.

WOW (Worship on Wednesday) is our mid-week youth program for kids in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Each week, we provide your children with a free dinner and solid biblical teaching. Through our program we offer opportunities for your child to grow in wisdom, faith, and friendship.

This year, we continue to use ORANGE 252 Basics as our curriculum. Orange Basics 252 is used weekly by over 10,000 churches to influence kids towards a lifelong faith in Christ through gospel-focused experiences that emphasize parent and small group relationships.

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Don't miss... NsFCC's Family Movie Night!



Join us for our next exciting Family Movie Night on Saturday evening, March 16, at 6:00 p.m.

Our feature presentation will be one of Disney's newest hit movies, "Christopher Robin." We will meet in the church Fellowship Hall, so feel free to bring pillows, a bean bag, or a camping chair. Popcorn and drinks will be provided by the church. You are asked to bring some of your favorite snack food to share. Invite another family or some friends to join you.*

We hope to see YOU there!

*(*Children elementary age and below must be accompanied by a parent.)*

Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 12th

Set clocks forward ONE hour before going to bed on Saturday so you won't be late for church!

(Time changes 2 a.m. Sunday morning)



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March's Theme

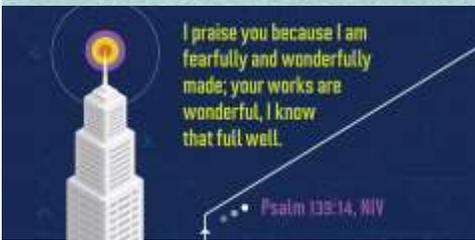
MADE:

Discover Who You're Meant to Be

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN INDIVIDUALITY AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

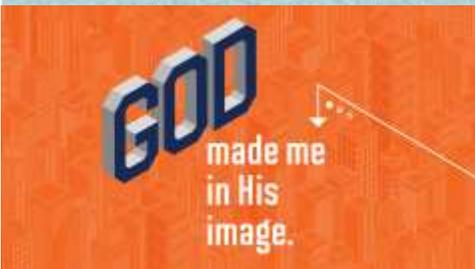
God is one of a kind. He has no beginning and no end. Everything He has created is unique and one-of-a-kind, including people created in His image. Every person is an original reflection of God in how they love, care for others, imagine, create, and solve problems. Jesus lived this out in the way He loved all people, and helped people feel like they had value no matter who they were or what they had done. We can reflect this in the way we live out how God created us.

Our Memory Verse for March comes from Psalm 139:14:



INDIVIDUALITY IS A REFLECTION ON THE CHARACTER OF GOD.

Bottom Line: **God made me in His image.** This month, we hope to help kids understand that being made in the image of God means we can love, show kindness, be creative, solve problems, and care for others all because we reflect and respond to God's character.



From Pastor David's Desk...

There's More to the Story...

Mention the name JONAH and most people think of how he ran from the Lord. How he boarded a ship bound for a destination diametrically opposed to where God had told him to go. How he got on that ship and in the midst of a spectacular storm begged his shipmates to throw him overboard because he was the reason for the storm.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY ... Jonah repented. God gave him a second chance, and he was responsible for a remarkable revival that consumed a city and included a king!

When most people think of PETER they think of a rough, weather-beaten fisherman with salty language and sunburned skin, who had an uncanny ability to say the wrong thing at the wrong time. Even swearing on occasion. People remember how a big, old, tough fisherman flopped like a fish in the presence of a young maiden as he tried to warm himself by the fire and she tried to pin him down as one of Jesus' disciples. Peter turned into a coward by the fire, while a rooster nearby crowed and crowed and crowed.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY ... Peter repented and God relented. Forgiving Peter and giving him the privilege of preaching one of the most powerful sermons ever preached on the Day of Pente-

cost as the Church was launched.

Bring up the name DAVID and watch what happens. People immediately think of Israel's greatest king. But they also remember Israel's most notorious sinner. Sure, they think of a giant named Goliath and a sling and some stones. But who can forget that rooftop bathtub and a beautiful young woman ironically named Bathsheba? They also remember how David had her all to himself until her husband came home and the chickens

came home to roost. An unplanned pregnancy. An unintended complication. A failed attempt at an alibi and a fatal attempt to get rid of his most faithful guy, Bathsheba's husband, Uriah. Who can forget Nathan's finger and forceful pronouncement, "You are the man"?

BUT THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY ... David confessed and God addressed his sin with grace and mercy and forgiveness. In fact, God guided his hand to write the majority of the Psalms, the longest and maybe strongest book in the Bible. In Psalm 119, the longest chapter, we get a glimpse of one of the most godly men who ever lived. God's own testimony about David in 1 Kings 3:14 makes it clear David was a changed man.

What about THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



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Lilies & Bulb Plants for Easter

Easter Sunday is just around the corner and it's time to decorate our church building to reflect the beauty of the season. If you would like to purchase and donate an Easter Lily or a Bulb Plant in memory of or in honor of a loved one, or just because, please contact the church office and let Kathi know as soon as possible. The cost per lily this year is \$9 and the cost per bulb plant is \$11. The flowers will purchased through Montezuma Floral



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in John 4? The woman at the well? People remember where she was sitting when Jesus asked her for a drink. They remember what she must have been thinking and how she must have been shrinking when Jesus pointed out she'd been married five times and was currently living with a man who was NOT her husband.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY ... She gave up and gave in, confessing her sin and giving her life to the One Who had LIVING WATER. Now she would never thirst again. She went back to her city, facing her shame and sharing the Name of Jesus and what He'd done for her. The whole town followed her out into the fields to find Jesus for themselves, and she was responsible for so many being saved.

I love it when there's MORE to the STORY, don't you? The fact is people can and do change. Many times you and I don't know about it or get to see it. But there's more to the story and someone who used to live in sin now lives serving the Savior. Or someone who used to waste their life in selfish, sinful pursuits, makes every

moment count for Christ now, in self-sacrificing service. It happens all the time, all over the world, where people aren't content with the current content of their story. They turn their lives over to God, and He turns the page and writes a new chapter.

When JESUS gets involved in our lives, there's ALWAYS MORE to the STORY! It doesn't matter who we are or what we've done, "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Our unchanging God will change us into the image of His Son, Jesus, if we'll just give Him the pen and permission to re-write our story.

As we journey through this season of Lent leading up to Easter, fall in love with Jesus all over again and watch what God does. He'll write a new chapter in your life.

... And it will be the best one yet!

Pastor David

Did you miss a recent sermon?



Did you know that you can listen to Pastor David's sermons online? Visit the church website and click on the Media tab. You can also subscribe to the podcast using your favorite podcast app and typing "New Sharon First Christian Church" in the search box.

Messages geared to help you live your life 24-7!

PRAYER CONNECT

Connecting to the Heart of Christ through Prayer

Thursday Nights
5:50 p.m.
In the Church Fireside Room
Join Us!



Promise Keepers meets
Wednesdays @ 5:45 a.m.



Women's Study meets
Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m.



Vital Men meets
Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m.



Donations Needed for Church Garage Sale

Our church will be taking part in this year's City Wide Garage Sale on Saturday, April 26. We are accepting donations of the following items. Deadline to donate is April 17.

- Area Rugs
- Kitchen items
- Outdoor Items
- Children's toys (good cond.)
- Small electrical appliances

- Curtains
- Tools
- Baby Furniture
- Books/CDs/DVDs
- Seasonal decorations

- Furniture (in good shape)
- Bedspreads/bedding/decorative pillows
- Knick knacks/wall hangings
- Games/puzzles (must have all pieces)
- Purses/belts/shoes/jewelry

THE MESSENGER

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

206 S. Park Avenue
New Sharon, IA 50207
(641) 637-2251
E-Mail: newlife.nsfcc@gmail.com

Address Service Requested:

CHURCH STAFF

Minister David Hall
E-Mail: david.hall@nsfcc.org
Cell Phone: (641) 638-4762

Administrative Assistant..... Kathi Thompson
E-Mail: Kathi.thompson@nsfcc.org

Sunday School Classes 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Celebration 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night WOW 6:00 p.m.



Our mission is to reach and teach people to become devoted disciples of Jesus Christ: sending them to serve in their families, church, communities, and around the world "until the whole world knows."

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You Are Invited!



Wednesday, March 27th @ 6:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to participate in and join us for the WOW Kids²⁵² and NsFCC

Annual Pinewood Derby

Plan to come on out and race your car (if you built one) or just to cheer the racers on.

Free Dinner for Everyone!

Dinner @ 6:00 p.m.

Races Begin @ 6:30 p.m.