

First Baptist Church
25 N. Eighth Street – P.O. Box 124
Keokuk, Iowa
52632-0124

Non-profit
U.S. Postage
Keokuk, Iowa
52632-0124
Permit No. 234

Return Service Requested

APRIL 2022

Baptist Visitor



Forest Lake Summer Camp Kickoff!

11733 Copperhead Road
Bloomfield, IA 52537

REV. BOB BRANDHAGEN, PASTOR

rememberjesus@ymail.com

Church Office 319-524-3684
Educational Building 319-524-3665
Website: www.keokukfbc.org

SUNDAYS

9:00 Sunday School
10:20 Morning Service

WEDNESDAYS

5:30 ~~BEF~~ Meal On Hold
6:00 BEF Groups

May 29th at 10:30 a.m.

Moms! Dads! Prospective Campers!
Brothers! Sisters! Grandparents!
Everyone is invited to this day of food, fun,
activities and learning all about what Forest
Lake has to offer.



HELP WANTED

Sunday School Teacher
2 and 3 year olds

Contact Liz Swanson

STAFF

Teresa (Tess) Brotherton (secretary@keokukfbc.org)
 Julie Ramsey, Organist
 Russell Brotherton, Custodian



OFFICE HOURS
 Monday-Friday
 9 a.m. – 11:30
 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Stewardship

ATTENDANCE

FEB	SUNDAY SCHOOL	PARKING LOT	SANCTUARY
27	35	5	41
MAR			
6	37	1	42
13	40	5	41
20	37	1	45



FINANCES

General Missions Maint. Total
 Needed each week:

FEB 3,105.00 721.00 626.00 4,452.00

(Averages include Maxwell Trust expenditures.)

28 1,398.00 257.00 210.00 1,865.00

MAR 3,105.00 721.00 626.00 4,452.00

(Averages include Maxwell Trust expenditures.)

6 3,915.00 596.00 260.00 4,771.00

13 2,983.43 983.10 595.00 4,561.53

20 1,917.00 624.33 270.00 2,811.33

America for Christ Offering (inc. in "Missions): \$207.05

OTHER TOTALS FOR FEBRUARY

Deacon Fellowship Fund. \$ 10.00

OTHER TOTALS FOR MARCH

Food Pantry \$ 125.00

OTHER FUNDS TO DATE

Stained Glass Preservation Fund . . \$22,624.94



2022 First Quarter Reports due April 8.





April, The Year of Our Lord 20

Dear Family of God,

After Jesus' prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane, and after his arrest, we read, "**Then all the disciples deserted him and fled**" (Matthew 26:56). Then we read in 26:58, "**But Peter followed him at a distance.**"

Probably by now many among us are sick and tired (or healthy and tired!) of "social distancing." Peter's following Jesus "at a distance" was not social distancing, but rather spiritual distancing, born out of fear. But it was not always that way. In fact, early on in the ministry we read that Peter and the other disciples "**pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him**" (Luke 5:11).

In the Old Testament the Lord made it easy for his people to follow him. He was their one and only provider who gave them their food, shelter, presence, and protection. In the Old Testament God's people didn't have to pray about where to go and when to go. God appeared as a pillar of cloud by day and as a pillar of fire by night. When and where the pillar of cloud and fire moved, God's people moved. When and where the pillar of cloud and fire settled, there they settled. If the pillar of cloud and fire traveled for a day or for five days, God's people were to travel for a day or five days. If the pillar of cloud and fire settled for one day, one week, one month, or one year, God's people were to set up camp and settle there—for one day, one week, one month, or one year—until the pillar of God's presence moved on again. Then the people also would move on again. Yet even being so well-led, fed, and cared for, the people still whined, murmured, and grumbled.

But let's get back to Peter following Jesus "at a distance." Some things *cannot* be done at a distance, like shaking someone's hand, or giving them a hug, or following Jesus. In this age of technology, devices, and social media, it seems that there are fewer and fewer things that *cannot* be done at a distance. Even just 20 years ago there was no Zoom, Facebook Messenger, or Skype, etc., that now allow people to see and hear each other in real time, though they may be a mile or 12,000 miles away from each other.

Last week Lisa and I were visiting our kids and grandkids in Madison. While there I was driving through the university campus. It was very busy due to the boys' state high school basketball tournament. As I sat in a traffic jam, I saw two food delivery robots. They are called Starships. I watched as the robot navigated crossing the streets when the lights went green. The person to whom the robot would deliver his lunch did it all at a distance. He/she would have ordered online, paid online, and waited for the food robot to deliver it. No humans directly involved!

So again, there are fewer and fewer things that *cannot* be done at a distance. You can even buy a car or a house online, and in another state, without even leaving your home. Remember Matthew 26:58, "**But Peter followed him (Jesus) at a distance....**" In our relationship with Jesus, being "at a distance" is not good. Most of us could say that we can relate to Peter more than to any of the other apostles of our Lord. Peter made a lot of mistakes. Following Jesus at a distance was one of them. Following Jesus "at a distance" is *never* a good idea.

But let's cut Peter some slack. In following Jesus "at a distance" he was better than the remaining Ten, because they were nowhere to be found. They were not following Jesus at all, not even at a distance. They were hiding. So, I suppose that following Jesus "at a distance" is better than not following Jesus at all. But then again, maybe not...? The Lord has no stomach for lukewarm "followers." "**So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth**" (Revelation 3:16, NASB).

The Distance—Peter's following Jesus "at a distance"—paved the way for The Denial. That infamous three-fold denial. Regrettably, Peter *did* follow Jesus "at a distance," and that *did* pave the way for the denials. But after Jesus forgave and restored Peter, from then on Peter no longer followed Jesus at a distance. He was right on Jesus' heels.

Right now, if you are following Jesus at a distance, you are setting yourself up to fall. If you consider yourself a believer and there is distance between you and Jesus, get that fixed. How do I fix it? Through

confession. Through repentance. Through fellowship. Through time in God's word. Through worshiping with brothers and sisters in Christ on the Lord's Day.

Whenever we follow Jesus "at a distance" we will be easy pickings for Satan and his temptations. A lion will take down, strangle, and devour a wildebeest, and it will likely be the one following the herd "at a distance." 1Peter 5:8-9 says, "**Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.**"

Some professing Christians are waaaaay in the back of the herd. That is where the danger is the greatest. *The lack of fellowship alone will kill your spiritual life.* If you know you are distant from Jesus, and you don't take heed to the remedy I am offering, then you are only growing even more distant from Jesus. If that happens, then the next step after The Distance will most likely be The Denial. The Distance between you and Jesus, left to fester and grow even more distant, will lead to Denial. That was what happened in the case of Peter. Distance *from* Jesus will lead to Denial *of* Jesus. Remember that.

What does The Distance (following Jesus at a distance) look like in our lives? We may no longer be telling others about Jesus...his miracles, grace, parables, death on the cross. We may have long since stopped reading God's word. We *feed* sin instead of *starving* it. We *feel* sin instead of *fleeing* it. We *love* sin instead of *hating* it. If we intend to "go the distance" with Jesus, in time-and-eternity, then we cannot be content to follow Jesus "at a distance" in the here-and-now.

Yours in Christ,

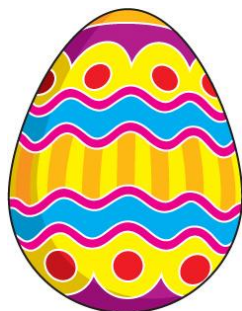
Pastor Bob Brandhagen

FROM THE DEACON BENCH

At the time I'm writing this, it's 70° degrees outside, suns shining, birds are chirping, and spring is in the air. Tulips are coming up and the grass is getting green and that means mowing grass isn't far away. LOL Anyway, we are in the middle of Lent and the Lenten Lunches are going well. Such a great ministry of the church. Lent is meant to be a time of repentance that's not a feeling of shame, but an awareness that sin separates us from God and of what it cost to be reunited with us. Shame has its place but feeling shame over sin is not the same thing as repentance from sin because our tempter can take our disobedience to God and turn it into a source of pride. Repentant sinners seek cleansing from sin, but also freedom from shame. Their repentance leads to a 180°-degree change in direction, requires true brokenness but repentance starts with regretful acknowledgment of sin with commitment for change. That is why conflating (combining) Lent with New Year's resolutions is dangerous. This time of fasting should not add religious encouragement to a difficult goal but should be a time to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the cross.



In Christe Service,
Tom Brown
Deacon



March's Prayer Requests

Unspoken Requests, Michelle Dorethy and Family, Doug & Amy Roeglin and Family, Ginger Curfman, Barb Collier, Bev Brotherton (eyes), Chris & Valerie, Don Hale, Vera Neuendorf, Mark & Kelly Neuendorf, Sherry Dalton, Minnie Kolditz, Fouad & Noura – Pastor Bob's friends in Egypt, Loza – Fouad's Mother N Law, Family of Tim Nehre (West Nairobi School & Health), Carol Ryland, Kevin & Andrea, Tom & Betty Dickens, Teresa Brotherton, Doris Adkins, Kristy Engel – Health & Travel, Simon Bentzinger (11 yr. old in Warsaw cancer free now), Evonne Young – John, Sylvia, Lexia Rau – thyroid and heart age 20, Emma, 3yr old ran over by pick-up, Herman Johnson, Matthew Tippey and family (his heart), Nations of the World (Ukraine) Stanton's in Hungary,

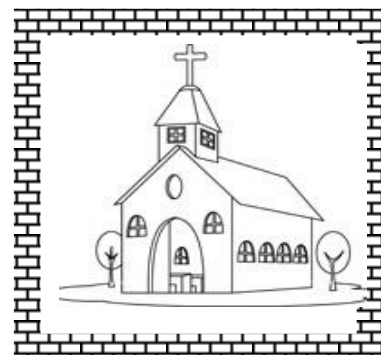
Please pray for Christians kidnapped in Egypt!

Batool Shehat Naseem	6 yr. old girl
Sousana Nader Mourad	16 yr. old girl
Heidy Emad Moussa	14 yr. old girl

Mother-Daughter Banquet

Saturday May 14th @ 12 noon

Huiskamp Hall



Come to



B. E. F. !

6:00 p.m. BEF Groups including Elementary, Middle School & High School

Forest Lake Summer Camp Schedule

SENIOR HIGH CAMP

AGES: Children entering 9th-12th Grades

DATE: July 25-30

COST: BEFORE May 1: \$250 – AFTER May 1: \$275

Formerly known as "Sick and Twisted", This camp gets its name from the unusual games and exercises the campers can experience. While no campers must participate, even the most squeamish seldom find themselves to be a part of the fun. All this fun is smashed together with times of deep spiritual thought, worships, and discussion.

4th – 5th GRADE CAMP

AGES: Children entering 4th – 5th Grades

DATE: July 11-16

COST: BEFORE May 1: \$250 - AFTER May 1: \$275

This camp will explore not only people from Bible times who took new paths to discover the riches of God, but we will also explore the camp to see the many places where we can discover God.

JUNIOR HIGH CAMP

AGES: Children entering 6th – 8th Grades

DATE: July 18-23

COST: BEFORE May 1: \$250 – AFTER May 1: \$275

It's a cool place to be with other cool kids. This camp brings fun and adventure where young Christians can express their enthusiasm about life together in a loving forgiving, and accepting environment of God's people.

Bring A Friend

Campers can bring one friend who has never been to camp for FREE. There is an information card to fill out that will be sent with your registration form.

1st – 3rd GRADE CAMP

AGES: Children entering 1st – 3rd Grades

DATE: June 16-18

COST: \$100 before May 1. After this \$110

A safe camping experience in which children will learn through Bible stories, craft projects, and outdoor activities how "Deep and Wide" Christ's love is for them.

CANOE TRIP

Entering 6th grade -12th grade

Dates: July 31 (4pm) – 2,

COST: \$80 before May 1. After this \$95

Designed to provide an opportunity for high school students to get away from it all. They will spend time discussing the importance of faith on the journey of life while out in the beauty of creation as they float down the Des Moines River

SAVE
FOR
FUTURE
REFERENCE

FOREST LAKE CAMP
11733 Copperhead Road
Bloomfield, IA 52537-8073
TELEPHONE: 641-684-8908
EMAIL: forestlake@mid-abc.org
WEBSITE: www.forestlakecamp.org

Earning camp points for Forest Lake continues through May, so contact Diana Cook with any questions you might have. Registration forms, health forms and brochures are available in the church office.

FOREST LAKE VENTURE WORK WEEK will be Monday, May 9th – 14th . There are several projects on the schedule for lumberjacks, carpenters, leaf rakers or cabin cleaners. Let Diana Cook know if you are available for one, two or all days of the work week.

FAMILY CAMP: August 19-21, Program Fees \$50

Additional fee for food and lodging. See family camp registration for details. Scholarships are available.

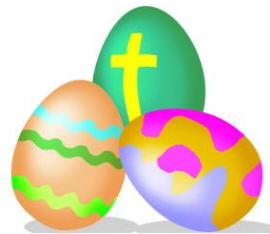
Camp kick-off in the ED building like we always have is to be determined.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<h1>2022</h1>		1 	2 8 am Men's Breakfast
3 11:30 Church Council meeting	4	5 5:30 Sewing and Craft	6 6:00 BEF Groups	7 9:00 Effie 6:30 Trustees	8 QTR. REPORTS DUE	9
10 6:00 Movie Night	11 6:00 CE Board	12	13 6:00 BEF Groups	14  6:00 pm service	15 OFFICE CLOSED 	16
17 Easter Services 7:15 am 	18 	19 5:30 Sewing and Craft	20 6:00 BEF Groups	21	22	23
24 11:30 1 ST ¼ BUSINESS MEETING 11:30 Deaconess 3:30 Deacons	25	26	27 6:00 BEF Groups	28	29	30



- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Natalie Rae Cook | 13 Megan Newlon |
| 4 Jeanne Taylor | Nikki Schrader |
| Don Davis III | 14 Charley Dunagan |
| Cassie Powers | 16 Trevor Ryland |
| 5 Charles Williams | Raylan King |
| Megan Glasscock | 17 Jenna Happs |
| Rylee Matlock | 20 Teresa Brotherton |
| Brady Glasscock | 21 Emily Hasson |
| 6 Courtney Kaehler | James Heagy |
| Tim Nehre | 22 Debby Baum |
| 8 Melinda Plowman | 26 Angela Breemeersch |
| 9 Hila Cook | Jeff Dorethy |
| 11 Benjamin Nehre | 27 Alan Herzog |
| 12 Iversen Hotop | Gabe Rose |
| | 28 Rylee Glasscock |
| | 29 Amy Roeglin |



*Bruce & Traci Billings
April 2, 1988*

*Mike & Nikki Schrader
April 11, 2003*

*Doug & Amy Roeglin
April 20*

*Dan & Alyssa Glasscock
April 29, 2009*

