

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

Return Service Requested

APRIL 2023

Baptist Visitor



REV. BOB BRANDHAGEN, PASTOR

rememberjesus@ymail.com

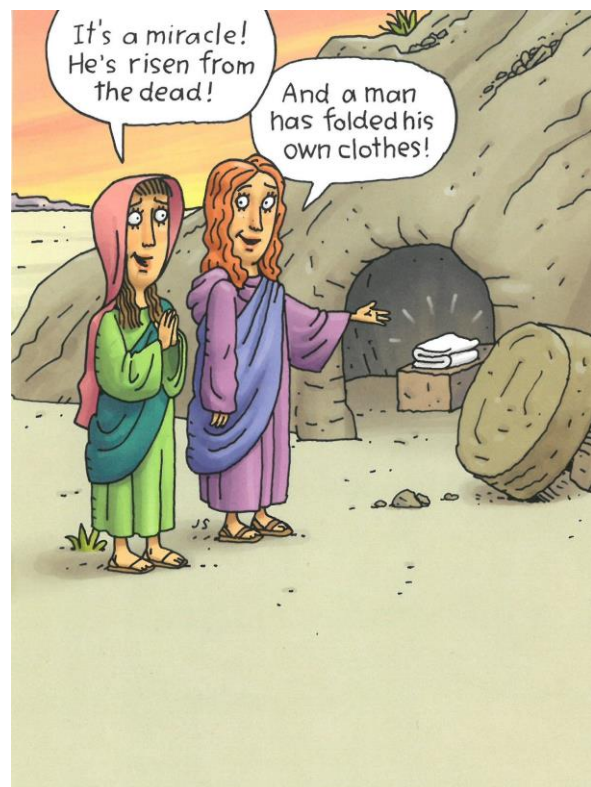
Church Office 319-524-3684
Website: www.keokukfbc.org

SUNDAYS

9:00 Sunday School
10:20 Morning Service

WEDNESDAYS

5:30 BEF Meal
6:00 BEF Groups



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
26	38	4	46
MAR			
5	38	3	38
12	33	0	35
19	34	1	33



2023 First Quarter Reports due April 10.



I will only be printing the number of tickets we have seating for so when they are gone, they are gone! We will do our best to have plenty of seating available. We will need a head count please!

Saturday, May 13 5:30pm



Keokuk First Baptist Church's
Annual Mother Daughter Banquet
"Down on the farm"

Come join us and wear your favorite bandanna!
Live entertainment by the gospel group "Anticipation"!
A fun menu of: Pork sandwich, potato salad, chips, veggies, dump
cake, lemonade, tea, water.
(There is a 75¢ pop machine.)

A free will offering basket will be available.

Location: First Baptist Church at the Ed. Bldg.

Chris and Erica Himmel with their son Graham out of Hannibal, MO. We look very forward to having them here and seeing them perform. To find out more about them check out their web site at;
<https://anticipationministries.com>



Thank you, Kathy Rader!



April, The Year of Our Lord 2023 (article repeated from April, The Year of Our Lord 2022)

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. ⁹ 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 waaaaaay 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.



Continued

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



What is Easter? It's not about the eggs to hunt, It's not about a bunny, It's not about brand-new clothes or candy as sweet as honey.

On this day many years ago, a man named Jesus Christ died upon a cross for you and me, gladly gave his life.

Not for sins that He had done or crimes He must repay. He did it all for you and me, for our sins He did that day.

But that's not the end of Jesus Christ. They put Him in a grave, but three days later He rose again. Our sin debt had finally been paid.

So this Easter as you hunt for eggs dressed up in brand new clothes, don't think about the Easter Bunny, think about why Christ arose. (reachstudios.com)

In Christe Service,
Tom Brown
Deacon



March's Prayer Requests

Friends & Family: Unspoken Requests, Michelle Dorethy and Family, Ginger Curfman, Barb Collier, Bev Brotherton (eyes), Don Hale, Mark & Kelly Neuendorf, Doris Adkins, Fouad & Noura – Pastor Bob's friends in Egypt, Loza – Fouad's Mother N Law, Sherry Dalton, Carol Ryland, Tom & Betty Dickens, Mike Gibson, Teresa Brotherton, Evonne Case – John, Sylvia, Rowdy Savage, Elsie Sherwood, Minnie Kolditz, Teresa Jefferson and her mom Dolly, Simon Bentzinger, Lois Mlyniec (healing), Abby Schrader, Tim Ayers, Jeanne Taylor, Chuck Williams, Grace Hall, Danielle Allsup & Lonnetta Sutterfield – both medical and both family friends to Dutch, Noah (coma), Family of Lucas, Ginger Richardson, Tom Brown's daughter Courtney, Bill Wixom, Julee Wixom, Autumn Ferguson, Rhonda Bloyd – cancer, Killian King (Tom & Debby Brown's grandson),

Missionaries: Doug & Amy Roeglin and Family, Kristy Engel – Health & Travel, Family of Tim Nehre (West Nairobi School & Health),

Political: Nations of the World (Ukraine), Stantons in Hungary,

Please pray for Christians kidnapped in Egypt!

The following six girls/women. All of them were kidnapped late last year:

Marian Nashaat Samir (16); Marasta Atef Samuel (17); Mariam Osama Nabil (16); Mira Sameh Ghaly (21); Joumana Fady Moussa (14); Nadia Ezzat Fawzy (19),

Global Weather

Come to



B. E. F. !

5:30 Meal

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 24-29

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 10-15

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 17-22

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.

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

1st – 3rd GRADE CAMP

AGES: Children entering 1st – 3rd Grades

DATE: June 22-24

COST: \$110 before May 1. After this \$125

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.

Outdoor Adventure/Canoe Camp

Entering 6th grade -8th grade

Dates: June 22-24,

COST: \$110 before May 1. After this \$125

In this camp, campers experience the outdoors as they “rough it” at our pioneer camp facility. They will sleep in camp provided tents and work as a team and learn more about creation.

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 April 17-21. Meals & Lodging provided. 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: June 30-July 2, Program Fees \$50

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
			<div>2023</div>			<div>1</div> 
<div>2 11:30</div> <div>Church Council meeting</div> 	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>5:30 Sewing and Craft</div>	<div>5</div> <div>5:30 Meal</div> <div>6:00 BEF Groups</div> <div>NO ADULT BEF</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div>
<div>9</div> <div>Easter Services</div> <div>7:15 am</div> 	<div>10</div> <div>QTR. REPORTS DUE</div> <div>12 noon</div> <div>Last Lenten Lunch</div>	<div>11</div> <div>5:30 Sewing and Craft</div>	<div>12</div> <div>5:30 Meal</div> <div>6:00 BEF Groups</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9:00 Effie</div> <div>6:30 Trustees</div>  <div>6:00 pm service</div>	<div>14</div> <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>  <div>6:00 Prayer Time</div> <div>Pastor's house</div>	<div>15</div>
<div>16</div> <div>11:30 1ST ¼</div> <div>BUSINESS MEETING</div> <div>6:30 CE</div> <div>3:30 Lionize @ McDonalds</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>5:30 Sewing and Craft</div>	<div>19</div> <div>5:30 Meal</div> <div>6:00 BEF Groups</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9-2 Food Pantry</div> 	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div> <div>11:30</div> <div>Deaconess</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>5:30 Sewing and Craft</div>	<div>26</div> <div>5:30 Meal</div> <div>6:00 BEF Groups</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>
<div>30</div> <div>11:30 Music committee</div> <div>3:30 Deacons</div>						



- 3 Natalie Rae Cook

4 Jeanne Taylor

Don Davis III

Cassie Powers

5 Charles Williams

Megan Glasscock

Rylee Matlock

Brady Glasscock

6 Courtney Kaehler

Tim Nehre

8 Melinda Plowman

9 Hila Cook

11 Benjamin Nehre

12 Iversen Hotop
- 13 Megan Newlon

Nikki Schrader

14 Charley Dunagan

16 Trevor Ryland

Raylan King

17 Jenna Happs

20 Teresa Brotherton

21 Emily Hasson

James Heagy

22 Debby Baum

26 Angela Breemeersch

Jeff Dorethy

27 Alan Herzog

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