

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

August 2021



Baptist Visitor

REV. BOB BRANDHAGEN, PASTOR

rememberjesus@ymail.com

Church Office 319-524-3684  
Educational Building 319-524-3665  
Website: [www.keokukfbc.org](http://www.keokukfbc.org)

**SUNDAYS**

9:00 Sunday School  
10:20 Morning Service

**WEDNESDAYS**

6:00 BEF



**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Unspoken Requests, Michelle Dorethy and Family, Doug Roeglin, Ginger Curfman, Barb Collier, Bev Brotherton (eyes), Lucy Avery, Don Hale, Vera Neuendorf, Mark & Kelly Neuendorf, Tim Ruddell, Carl Wixom – Serious industrial accident, Fouad & Noura – Pastor Bob’s friends in Egypt, Loza – Fouad’s Mother N Law, Sherry Dalton, Bob & Shirly Brobston (Bob has Alzheimers), Tom & Betty Dickens, Kevin (Tess’s cousin – Lymphoma), Family of Tim Nehre (West Nairobi School & Health as they are experiencing covid/quarantine.), Sarah Ruddell – back, Carol Ryland, Debby Baum, Chuck (Dee’s brother) & Scott (Dialysis), Dee Ruddell, Ella Maxwell’s grandson Jose, Linda Wade, Evonne Young,

**Please pray for Christians kidnapped in Egypt!**

Mariam Maher Nashed	19 yr. old woman
Diana Sameh Maher Nashed	17 yr. old girl
Heba Antar Roshdy	33 yr. old woman
Mina Samuel Narouz	13 yr. old boy
Shereen Mounir Shafiq	25 yr. old woman
Simon Ibram	5 yr. old girl
Karas Maged Siha	4 yr. old boy
Hany Fawzy	34 yr. old man
Makary Shendouda	8 yr. old boy

**“Do not be afraid.... Still others will write on their hand, ‘the Lord’s’.... Do not tremble, do not be afraid”**

**(Isaiah 44:2,5,8, NIV).**

**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

JUNE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	SANCTUARY/ NURSERY	PARKING LOT
20	40	46	8
27	40	49	9
<b>JULY</b>			
4	34	38/2	8
11	42	34/5	6
18	43	47/0	4



## FINANCES

General Missions Maint. Total  
 Needed each week:

(Averages include Maxwell Trust expenditures.)

<b>JUNE</b>	<u>3,120.00</u>	<u>721.00</u>	<u>626.00</u>	<u>4,452.00</u>
20	1,749.00	333.59	265.00	2,347.59
27	1,964.85	246.00	375.00	2,585.85
<b>JULY</b>	<u>3,120.00</u>	<u>721.00</u>	<u>626.00</u>	<u>4,452.00</u>
4	2,534.90	617.00	315.00	3,466.90
11	2,849.00	192.00	245.00	3,286.00
18	2,308.70	595.70	445.00	3,349.40

A belated  
**CONGRATULATIONS**  
*to the* **GRADUATE**



Cassie Powers  
 SCC  
 AA & AS

### OTHER TOTALS FOR JULY

Deacon Fellowship Fund. . . . . \$ 12.00

### OTHER FUNDS TO DATE

Stained Glass Preservation Fund . . \$21,563.98

*Thank you*

We would like to thank the Board of Deaconesses and our church family for the beautiful flowers given in recognition of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to Debby following her recent surgery.

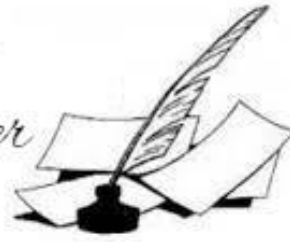
In Christ Love,  
 Steve & Debby Baum

**From the Deacon Bench**



Hope seems to be in short supply these days. It is easy to look around us and see a definite lack of hope, not just in the world at large, but in our community. We look around and see so many people trapped in addiction and poverty. As Christians our hearts should break for the things that break God's heart and seeing so many of God's children lost and hurting should hurt us as well. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within us. This passage is normally used in relation to apologetics (the defense of the faith), but I think it can also be applied to telling someone why we're able to stay positive in the face of so much negativity. We know that we serve a God that loves us and promises to provide for us. We all know at least one person that is lost, lonely, hurting and hopeless. I encourage each of you to share with that person the reason for the hope inside you. Jesus Christ.

Patrick Baum



Dear Church Family,

Yesterday at our mid-week BEF meeting we had a great time as always. We listened and worshiped with Christian songs on YouTube, prayed, heard three one-minute podcasts about biblically responding to issues in our culture, we read scripture together, and signed a letter to a persecuted Christian in Eritrea. We also discussed last Sunday's sermon. The title of that sermon was "Do Not Stop Him" from Mark 9:38-41.

This scripture says that John was reporting to Jesus. He was reporting—it almost seems like tattling—that he and the other apostles saw someone driving out demons in Jesus' name, and that they told the man to stop doing that because he did not follow them. Jesus said in Mark 9:39, "Do not stop him." The Bible doesn't name the man, except to call him "Someone" (v. 38). R.T. France calls him the "Unaffiliated Sympathizer." We don't know too much about him, but I like him. I hope to meet him in heaven. In Mark 9 he was doing a good thing, but the apostles tried to stop him. WHY?!

As we at BEF discussed this past Sunday's sermon further, we were all pondering what in the world Jesus meant when he said in verse 40, "for whoever is not against us is for us." That generated much discussion, especially since Matthew 12:30 says it differently: "Whoever is not with me is against me..." WHAT?! What does that mean? Well, that's one of the purposes of BEF. Though not every week, we often do discuss the sermon from the prior Sunday. I told the congregation the previous Sunday after my sermon that I would print a worksheet that would help people understand the passage better. It was too much to include in the sermon, but just right for BEF.

Yet, even at BEF, as much as we discussed it, I think that all of us were still unsettled and unsure about the meaning of the passage. We were basically saying that we had heard the sermon and the BEF clarification, but we were still thinking, "WHAT?!" and "WHY?" to the sound of this difficult passage. In light of that, here are some things I think helped us. After all, what does one do when they hear it twice and it still doesn't make sense?

1) Understand that the Bible isn't always easy to understand. But some who have barely read the Bible *at all* write it off as too difficult. And some do this without putting forth any effort *at all*. Back on the shelf goes the Bible. They put more effort into learning a new card game or watching a new Netflix mini-series than they ever give to God's word. Peter agrees that some of Paul's writings were hard, for Peter said, "His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction" (2Peter 3:16b).

2) Some of the treasures of God's word can be picked up off the surface, but other things require searching as for hidden treasure (Proverbs 2:1-5). How hard *would you search* if you found out a treasure chest with millions of dollars worth of gold was buried on your property? But how hard *do you search* for Jesus in the Old and New Testaments? In Colossians 2 we read of "...Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." That makes Jesus the ultimate treasure chest, worth finding far more than any amount of gold. Deep sea treasure seekers invest millions on ocean floor rovers and robots to find sunken ships with huge treasures from wars a thousand years ago. How will you invest in finding the treasure of Christ in his word?

3) What else was there to say to those at BEF with many WHAT? And WHY? questions even after studying the passage further? I told them that sometimes, for various reasons, God's word in general, and Jesus's words in particular are deliberately vague. You may remember the following quote from the sermon on Fathers' Day of 2020. "Oddly enough, it is possible for a sermon to be too clear. Jesus was willing to trade clarity for mystery, knowing a mystified person will be more affected by the truth than a bored one" (Dave McClellan).

4) Further, for all your effort, know that some things in God's word will remain a mystery. Walter Kaiser, Jr., teaches that if you have studied a hard passage, did your best, but are still unable to understand, there is something you can do. Thank the Lord for the difficult passage. Then pray something like this: "Lord, though I don't understand this passage, is there one character trait of your divine person that I can take with me, and one expectation you have of me? That would be enough for me, to take that with me, enough for now, until I study this passage again." Amen!





Sincerely in Christ,

Bob Brandhagen, Pastor





# AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 5:30 Sewing & Crafts (prince room)	4 No BEF	5	6	7 8:00 am Men's breakfast
Vacation Bible School						
8	9 6:00 CE Board	10	11 6:00pm BEF	12 9:00 Effie 6:30 Trustees	13	14
15	16	17 5:30 Sewing & Crafts	18 6:00pm BEF	19 Hamilton 	20	21
22 11:30 Deaconesses  Newsletter Deadline	23 Keokuk & Central Lee 	24	25 6:00pm BEF	26	27	28
29 3:30 Deacons	30	31 5:30 Sewing & Crafts				

*Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me... to the place where you dwell.* Psalm 43:3

- 15 Haley Ashworth  
Emory Rose Dickens  
16 Zayne Gabriel Brown  
17 Joe Ryland  
Alicia Pillans  
Kayson Hotop  
19 Heidi Noelle Rose  
19 Joseph Shipman  
20 Teresa Glasscock  
Niky Smith  
22 Bill Ryland, Jr.  
23 Ryan Richardson  
Gabriel Young  
26 Traci Billings  
27 Debra Carman  
29 Justin Helmick  
30 Mark Pfaffe



*Don & Ana King  
August 5, 1972*

*Ryan & LeAnn Brotherton  
August 29, 1998*

*Josh & Kasey Kirchner  
August 29, 2009*



- 1 Anna Thomas  
2 Kasey Kirchner  
4 Chelsey Riffle  
5 Julie Ramsey  
7 Zachary Brobston  
8 Betty Dickens  
9 Victor Kerr  
12 Dottie Pillans  
Tait Matlock  
Jeff Breemeersch  
13 Joe Baker



God blessed Iowa with some of the best home grown sweet corn!