

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

Return Service Requested

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

December 2020



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)  
(New Website up and running)

SUNDAYS

9:00 Sunday school On hold  
10:00 Morning service  
6:00 Youth Group (on hold)

WEDNESDAYS

5:30 BEF Meal (bring your own)  
6:00 BEF Adult Group

Baptist visitor



Christmas Eve

Service at 6:30 pm  
(Tentative due to Covid)



*Thank you*

Thank you to the Effie Linquist Circle for the Thanksgiving plate of cookies, candy and fresh fruit. It was very much appreciated and greatly enjoyed. May you be blessed for all you do.

Maxine Baum  
Steve and Debby Baum

The Christmas Schedule – Tentative due to Covid.



Christmas Program – Dec. 13th

Taste of Heaven Cookbooks!

Need a quick, convenient, lasting Christmas present for the cook of the house? Winter wedding coming up?

Check out our "Taste of Heaven" Cookbooks located in Fellowship Hall. Each book contains not only 188 pages of tried and true recipes from the ladies at FBC, but also a section of Helpful Hints, Equivalency and Substitution Charts, Pantry helps and more. It's a gift that will just keep on giving!! Please contact Dutch Salama at 319-524-1749.



# Stewardship

## ATTENDANCE

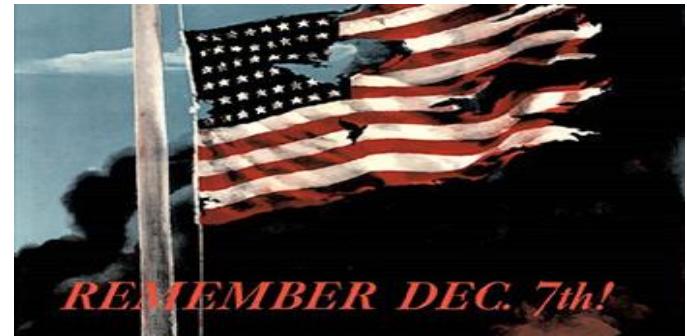
Oct.	SUNDAY SCHOOL	PARKING LOT	SANTUARY
25	29	16	34
Nov			
1	32	9	39
8	40	17	41
15	0	19	32

No Sunday school on 11/15 due to covid.



### Poinsettias

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary for the Christmas season, be sure to contact Suzy Glasscock at 319-470-9733 as soon as possible and let her know what sentiment you would like to use and whether or not you would like it delivered to someone special. You may provide your own poinsettia if you would prefer. Just call Suzy and let her know what you are planning so we can schedule accurate deliveries.



### REMINDER

- Last day to turn in contributions for 2020 credit is Sunday, December 27, 2020.

*Praise and glory and wisdom  
and thanks and honor and  
power and strength be to our  
God forever and ever. Amen!  
Revelation 7:12*



**ANNUAL REPORTS DUE  
January 8, 2021**

Chairpersons or secretaries of each committee, board or group are responsible for submitting an annual report. Names of committee members will also need to be turned into the church office by the committee chairperson by January 7. This includes Auditing, Flower, Music, Hospitality, Missionary, Ushering, Nursery and Transportation.

**Treasurers:** As soon as your annual report is finished, please turn your books in to either the church office or to Bobbi Lutzen for auditing. This includes: General Fund, Maintenance Fund, Memorial Fund, Ministers and Missionaries Education Fund, Pfaffe Memorial Medical Scholarship Fund, Missionary Fund and all Financial Secretary information



# B. E. F. !

Wednesday Nights – Huiskamp Hall 5:30 p.m.

## BAD WEATHER POLICY

When Keokuk schools are closed on Wednesday due to bad weather, ALL BEF is cancelled.

If weather worsens in the afternoon, a decision will be made concerning any cancellation



Dear Friends,

In a recent staff meeting we did an icebreaker to get to know each other better. The topic was favorite gifts that we had ever given or received. It was fun to listen to the answers. I know of a boy—you probably have heard of him also—all he wanted for Christmas was his two front teeth. That's not much to ask, is it? I heard of a boy who would not stop asking his parents, “What are you going to get me for Christmas?” Mom and Dad were growing weary as their son badgered them with that question week after week. Finally Dad said to his son, “Get, get, get, is that all you can think of? You need to start thinking about *giving*.” The son replied, “OK, what are you going to *give* me for Christmas?!?”

It is hard to think of Christmas without thinking about Black Friday, buying (or chopping down) and decorating the Christmas tree, Christmas cookies, big meals, strings of lights, Santa Claus, Christmas songs on the radio, gingerbread houses, gathering the family, and opening gifts. Those traditions are great, and I look forward to them just like most people do. We may be looking forward to Christmas more than usual this year. It has been a year of wildfires, floods, hurricanes, rioting, looting, distancing, masking due to the pandemic, and (still) election angst. I'm probably not the only one who is praying to be able to be with family during Christmas and the New Year. We hope 2021 will be better.

And yet, it hasn't been all bad. Through the past ten months since COVID changed our lives, many of us have drawn nearer to the Lord who does not change. In fact, we read in Malachi 3:6, **“For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed”** (NASB). Sure, we may be discouraged by the things noted above (rioting, etc.), but I can personally say that I have seen and learned much about the character and acts of God this year. I have learned anew that God is good, kind, patient, and merciful. Psalm 103:10 says that God **“does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities”** (NIV).

Especially this year, at the end of 2020, as we look back we may be glad to see this year be gone. But there is One Big Deal before the New Year, and that big deal is Christmas! Since so much at the human level has changed, maybe we can look at Christmas through a new lens. Less about what we are going to get, and more about what we are going to give. Less about the tree we buy and more about the tree on which the newborn Jesus would one day die. And *pleeeease...* less about “Santa Baby” and more about Jesus coming as a baby to earth as God in flesh to save us from our hopeless condition.

Many are distressed and saddened by how secularized and commercialized Christmas has become. Luke 12:15 says, **“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”** One of my daughters gave me a book by John Mark Comer called *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*. The author talks about minimalism versus materialism. He poses the questions (p.194ff):

“What if the formula ‘more stuff equals more happiness’ is bad math?”

“What if more stuff often just equals more stress? More hours at the office, more debt, more years working ... more time wasted cleaning and maintaining and fixing and playing with and organizing and reorganizing and updating all that junk I don’t even need.”

“What if more stuff actually equals *less* of what matters most?”

“Notice (in Matthew 6) how Jesus connected money and stuff to *worry*? ”

Just some thoughts. May your Christmas be filled with the *singing* of hopeful hymns (“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!”) generously *giving* gifts of time and presence (even if it’s virtual), and *dining* on the deep, holy, and beautiful truths of the Christmas story. (I still remember as a child coming home from church, reading Luke 2, the story of Jesus’ birth, and then opening presents. Good memories!)

As I close the Lord has a message for you—**“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger”** (Luke 2:10-12, NIV).

With Love in Christ,

Pastor Bob Brandhagen



## From the Deacon Bench

A very nice day outside with the sun shining in the early morning. Wet dew from the night before covers the grass and leaves. Animals are already out looking for their days meal or getting ready for the coming winter.

Any day we can open our eyes, get out of bed, is a good day. God blesses us in many ways, yet so many times, we wake, get busy and forget to give thanks to God as the great creator he is.

Today, we look at Jesus when he taught his 12 apostles to pray. The first thing he taught them is give glory to God, to glorify his name. He ends glorifying Gods name and great power.

The last of The Lord's Prayer was found in the old Greek manuscripts, but was partly omitted by the scholars of the bible. The prayer ends with, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever, amen, yet when Jesus was teaching the crowds on the Sermon on the Mount. The prayer ends with - deliver us from evil. The prayer Jesus taught his 12 apostles was basically the same with a lot left out. So, two different prayers, yet both were the same, with parts left out including the rest of the Greek cornicles of how the Lord prayer ends, though there are times we see it wrote the way it should have been. The way I learned it as a child.

Our father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever, amen.

That could be Jesus just gave his apostles a short outline, they had just heard the Sermon on the Mount.

There is so much more to talk about in the lords' prayer, some other time maybe, but I leave you with this.

James wrote in James 1, 6-7

6. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave on the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

7. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

May the Lord protect and bless you in these times of trial. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Thomas Rudd



**Prayer Requests:** Unspoken Requests, Michelle Dorethy and Family, Becky McAlexander (knee replacement) Doug Roemlin, Ginger Curfman, Barb Collier, Bev Brotherton (eyes), Vera Neuendorf, Mark & Kelly Neuendorf, Donna Wear, Carl Wixom – Serious industrial accident, Fouad & Noura – Pastor Bob's friends in Egypt, Tom & Betty Dickens, Kathy Rader (total knee replacement), Tori Kenel family (Rose Marie Depew's granddaughter), Family of Linda Wade & Kathy Rader, Family of Tim Nehre (West Nairobi School & Travels & Health), Joe Baker – Pancreatic attacks – pending MRI, Dee's cousin Elvin Harker for hip surgery, Sujata Buerklin and twins, Sherry Dalton, Junie Weirather, USA pandemic and riots, Fires.  
“Pray for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all Godliness and dignity” (ITim 2:2, NASB).



To send Christmas greetings to your church family via the church newsletter, please have your Christmas card on the secretary's desk by December 12. Thank you.



Thank you so much Jeanne Davis, for the Mocha Frapp!!!!



### Attention Effie Circle Ladies

This is a reminder we are bringing baby items for our birthright box at our December meeting.

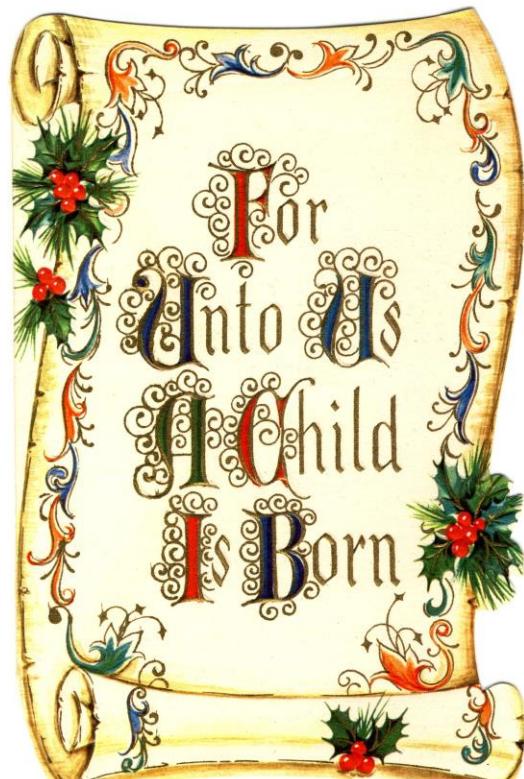
## Missions Notice

Normal practice when a missionary speaks is to take up a free will offering and have a carry-in dinner where they can answer any additional questions. Since there will be NO dinner this year, donations and questions may be left in the office or put in the offering plate, earmarked for the Nehres, at any time before December 13th. Plans now are for them to depart for Kenya on December 17th. Thank you.

Thank  
You

We would like to thank our church family and friends for all your prayers. Thank you for all the cards and memorials given in Sonny's name. Thank you Tom & Truda for the fruit tray and the plant sent from the church. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and all the Christian love you have shown to me. Thank you to Pastor Bob for officiating at his funeral.

God Bless you all.  
From the family of Sonny Wade



**Remember** to check the Missions bulletin board in the Eighth Street vestibule for the latest communications received by the office.



Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year! God Bless!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 5:30 Sewing & Crafts  7:00 Church Council	2	3	4	5
6 6:00 Movie Night	7 	8	9	10 9:00 Effie Linquist  6:30 Trustees	11	12
13 (Tentative) Sunday school Christmas Program	14 6:30 CE Board	15 5:30 Sewing & Crafts	16 	17	18	19
20 11:30 December Meeting	21 	22	23	24 6:30 pm Candle Light- (Tentative)	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26
27 11:30 Deaconess  3:30 Deacons	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 5:30 Sewing & Crafts	30	31		



1 Autumn DePew  
Zachary Glasscock  
3 Rose Marie DePew  
Lynn Bowles  
4 Sydney Schafer  
5 Maxine Baum  
Rachel Benedict  
8 Micah Ruddell  
Lucas Dorothy  
9 Chris Ryland  
Diana Cook  
Joel Rose

10 Shane Dickens  
13 LeAnn Brotherton  
14 Herman G. Johnson  
Dan Glasscock  
15 Tim Ruddell  
16 Lauren Dorothy  
18 Sean Brobst  
Michelle Phillips  
Joe Powers  
19 Julee Wixom  
Harper Taylor  
Adylee Brotherton  
20 Garrick Brotherton  
Sara Young  
21 Shari Dunagan  
Grace Buerklin  
Braden Glasscock

23 Howard Piersee  
25 Lucille Hayden  
Kim Buerklin  
28 Sue Mallory  
29 Marie Snodgrass  
30 Mike DePew, Jr.  
Caelan King



Scott & Rose Marie DePew  
December 23, 1978

Dale & Linda Thomas  
December 28, 1985

Gary & Mary Jo Bowles  
December 9, 1962

