

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

Return Service Requested

December 2022



Baptist Visitor

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
6:00 1st Sunday of the month
Song & Scripture service

WEDNESDAYS

5:30 Meal
6:00 BEF Adults in Fellowship Hall
Kids in Ed. Bldg.



Christmas Eve

Service at 6:30 pm

The Christmas Schedule



Christmas Program – 6:30 Dec. 11th



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

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.

STAFF

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



OFFICE HOURS

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

Stewardship ATTENDANCE



Oct.	SUNDAY SCHOOL	PARKING LOT	SANTUARY
23	41	4	33
23	Family Fall	Festival	150
30	31	5	40
Nov			
6	44	8	51
13	49	3	44
20	41	2	39

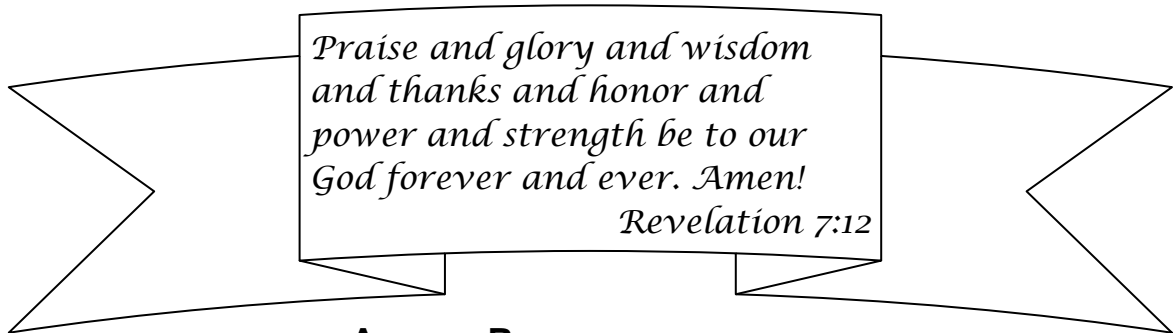
Poinsettias

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 2022 credit is Friday, December 30, 2022.



**ANNUAL REPORTS DUE
January 10, 2023**

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 – 5:30p.m. Meal & 6:00 p.m. Groups
Adults in Fellowship Hall and Kids in Huiskamp Hall

Pastor Bob's Corner



Dear Church Family,

In a staff meeting one year we did an icebreaker. 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 also heard of a boy who would not stop asking his parents, "What are you going to get me for Christmas?" His mom and dad were growing weary as their son badgered them with that question week after week. Finally, the 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 will you be *giving* 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 we all do. In fact, we may be looking forward to Christmas more than usual these days.

The scripture that we find in Malachi 3:6 is always a great encouragement as we approach an uncertain new year. That verse says, "**For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed**" (NASB). Sure, we may be discouraged, sad, and scared by things like school shootings, inflation, health problems, etc., but I can personally say that I have seen and learned much about the character and acts of God through all that. 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).

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, get, get, and more about what we are going to be *giving*. Less about the tree we buy and more about the tree on which the newborn Jesus would one day die. And less about "Santa Baby," more about Jesus coming as a baby, to earth, as God in flesh, to save us from our otherwise 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 us—"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



Some folks miss the point of Christmas. Oh, decorations are displayed. Parties are attended. Gifts are bought and exchanged, but somehow it never dawns on them that it is someone's birthday and that someone, is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:21 says, "She shall bear a son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins". Have you missed Christmas because you've missed Jesus Christ? He is God's gift to you. Jesus Christ the Savior came to forgive us and cleanse us of all our sins.

Yours In Christ
Tom Brown, Deacon

Thank you

I would like to thank the Effie Linquist Circle for the plate of goodies I received. The cookies were delicious! It's nice to be remembered. Thanks to Phyllis Nehre who delivered them.

Ruth Ann Ricker

thank you!

Effie Linquist Circle for the wonderful plates of goodies!

Pastor, Tess & Russell



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. Don't forget when mailing anything to the church please use our PO Box 124 as we do not have a physical mailbox at the church!



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 Young – John, Sylvia, Rowdy Savage, Elsie Sherwood, Minnie Kolditz, Teresa Jefferson and her mom Dolly, Simon Bentzinger, Lois Mlyniec (healing), Diana Cook – (Cheryl, her friend had cancerous growth removed), Jeanne Taylor, 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, Julie Wixom, Autumn Ferguson, Family of Chuck Williams,

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!

Dina Samir Girgis - 22 yr. woman, Nancy Mounir Antoun Mikhail -?

Marina Samy Mikhail – 19 yr. woman

Global Weather



NOTE TO ALL BEF KIDS AND PARENTS

We have several things planned for the month of December for the Wednesday night BEF Youth Group.

On December 2nd the City of Christmas will be sponsoring a food drive for the First Baptist Church at entrance to the park. Any children who would like to help can be picked up on the church van and taken to the park to receive the food donations and place them in the van that night from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Let Katie Bierwirth know on messenger if your child is interested in participating.

Also, we will be taking our Wednesday night Youth by van to Christmas Carol at some of the homes of our older church members on Wednesday, December 7th starting at our usual time of 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. On December 14th we will have our BEF Youth Group Christmas Party 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. with games and presents. This will be our last BEF night until January 4th, 2023!!!

We are also planning to take part in the First Baptist Church Sunday School Program on Sunday, December 11th from 6:30 to 7:30 by performing a skit with any child who would like to participate. Parts will be handed out to the children, but if your child can't be there please let us know ahead of time. If there are any questions, you can call Katie at 319-795-1566 or Don at 319-524-9597.



The Deacons will receive a Christmas love gift for Pastor Bob and Lisa. Please give your gift to one of the Deacons by December 18th.

Thank you



**IS COLLECTING CAN/DRY GOOD FRIDAY
DECEMBER 2ND FOR THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FOOD PANTRY**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 4:00 Prayer Time 5:30 Sewing & Crafts	7 5:30 Meal 6:00 BEF 	8 9:00 Effie Linquist 6:30 Trustees	9	10
11 6:00 Sunday school Christmas Program 	12 6:30 CE Board 	13 4:00 Prayer Time 5:30 Sewing & Crafts	14 5:30 Meal 6:00 BEF	15 9-2 Food Pantry	16	17
18 11:30 December Meeting 11:30 Deaconess 3:30 Deacons	19	20 4:00 Prayer Time 5:30 Sewing & Crafts	21 No BEF 	22 OFFICE CLOSES AT 12:00 Noon	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 6:30 pm Candle Light Service
25 No Sunday School 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 4:00 Prayer Time 5:30 Sewing & Crafts	28 No BEF	29	30	31



- 1 Autumn DePew
Zachary Glasscock
- 3 Rose Marie DePew
Lynn Bowles
- 4 Sydney Schafer
- 5 Rachel Benedict
- 8 Micah Ruddell
Lucas Dorethy
- 9 Chris Ryland
Diana Cook
Joel Rose
- 10 Shane Dickens
- 13 LeAnn Brotherton
- 14 Herman G. Johnson
Dan Glasscock

- 15 Tim Ruddell
- 16 Lauren Dorethy
- 18 Sean Brobston
Michelle Phillips
Joe Powers
- 19 Julee Wixom
Harper Taylor
Adylee Brotherton
- 20 Garrick Brotherton
Sara Young
- 21 Grace Buerklin
Braden Glasscock
- 23 Howard Piersee
- 25 Kim Buerklin
- 28 Sue Mallory
- 29 Marie Snodgrass
Carmalita Baum
- 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

