

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

Return Service Requested

December 2023



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

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



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



Baptist Visitor



Christmas Eve
Service at 6:30 pm

December 17 *** 9-10am *** Fellowship Hall

Come for breakfast – pizza, donuts, fruit, juice and coffee.

Tim and Erin Nehre will be sharing an update on their mission work in Kenya.

A free will offering will be accepted.

Mission Committee

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
29	44	0	58
29	Family Fall	Festival	150
Nov			
5	32	5	41
12	41	3	50



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 2023 credit is Friday, December 31, 2023.



*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 12, 2024

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.!

6:00 p.m. Groups

Adults in Fellowship Hall and Kids in Huiskamp Hall



Dear Church Family,

How do unbelievers and/or atheists deal with Thanksgiving? According to DesiringGod.org, the atheist William Ernest Henley wrote his poem, *Invictus*, when he was 27 years old. He battled tuberculosis of the bone for years, and lost a leg. The disease eventually killed him at age 53. He wrote in his poem, "...I thank whatever gods may be...." Henley tips his hand by showing his massive uncertainty (and irreverence).

Henley wrote *Invictus* in the late 1800s. In the early 1900s, Dorothy Day penned a poem to respond to Henley's. Her poem is titled, *Conquered*. She wrote in her poem, "...I thank the God I know to be...." Day tips her hand to reveal her great certainty (and reverence).

Henley's poem is arrogant and blasphemous. Dorothy Day's poem of response is brilliant, joyful, and dazzling. Fitting for the Christmas season!

Jesus does not fall under the category of "whatever gods may be." Rather, Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords!

Read both of the poems below, but believe just one. Henley's is fatalistic, while Dorothy Day's is full of hope. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Bob Brandhagen

Invictus

By William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.

"Invictus" Redeemed

In the early part of the 20th Century, Dorothy Day responded to Henley's manifesto with this poem that she titled, "Conquered":

Out of the light that dazzles me,
Bright as the sun from pole to pole,
I thank the God I know to be,
For Christ - the Conqueror of my soul.

Since His the sway of circumstance,
I would not wince nor cry aloud,
Under the rule which men call chance,
My head, with joy, is humbly bowed.

Beyond this place of sin and tears,
That Life with Him and His the Aid,
That, spite the menace of the years,
Keeps, and will keep me unafraid.

I have no fear though strait the gate,
He cleared from punishment the scroll,
Christ is the Master of my fate,
Christ is the Captain of my soul!

I praise you, Lord, for autumn: for falling temperatures and morning chill, trees turned gold and red, brown and orange, falling leaves and blowing leaves, the smell of burning leaves, the joy of leaf-pile jumping.

I praise you, Lord, for autumn: the interplay of outside temperatures and inside warmth, the promise of cider and pumpkin bread, the blessing of blankets and sweaters.

I praise you, Lord, for autumn: the beauty and hope in the change of season, the promise that the coming of autumn heralds another ending, a new beginning and the wonder of another winter, another spring, another summer, yet to come.

(<https://guideposts.org>)



Yous In Christ
Tom Brown, Deacon

The FBC Voices Presents I Hear the Prophet Callin'

Sunday, December 24

Words and Music by **During Morning Service**
Pepper Choplin



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!



The FBC Food Pantry is in need of your help. We rely on donations. We need nonperishable food items, cleaning supplies and toiletries. Thank You!

Prayer Request for December

Friends & Family: Unspoken Requests, Ruth Ricker, Michelle Dorethy and Family, 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, Julie Ramsey, Teresa Jefferson and her mom Dolly, Lois Mlyniec (healing), Ginger Curfman, Jeanne Taylor, Grace Hall, Julie Wixom, Tom Rudd, Becky McAlexander, Kathy Coover, Jackie Saxon, Gary Martin, Chuck Williams, Rhonda Bloyd – cancer, Monica Ginger Richardson, Jeanne Davis, Mike Gibson's mom-Tina, Family of Tom Price, Mike Burdette (Julie's brother-in-law), Bill Wixom, Jeff Matlock,
Missionaries: Doug & Amy Roeglin, Kristy Engel – Health & Travel, Tim & Erin Nehre (West Nairobi School & Health), Shawn & Teresa Ott (Forest Lake),
Political: Nations of the World
Please pray for Christians kidnapped in Egypt:
Demiana Erian Bishay Abdel Malak – Female age 19



LADIES, YOU ARE INVITED



What: Progressive Christmas Luncheon
When: Saturday, December 9, 2023 11:30-1:45
Where: 11:30 2 Greenbrier Court
12:20 915 Milton Drive
1:10 211 Navaho Drive

Finger foods will be served at each location, beginning with appetizers, followed by specialty sandwiches, and ending with Christmas cookies/muffins. Along with tasty food, lighthearted Christmas activities will also be served up at each location!

For added fun, carpool, if possible. Each location requires no more than 1 step for entrance/exit and driveway accommodations will be made for anyone currently having mobility issues.

RSVP by Wednesday, Dec 6, by leaving a message at 319-524-2610. But if you forget, don't let that keep you from coming.

Lets celebrate Christmas together!



The Deacons will receive a Christmas love gift for Pastor Bob and Lisa. Please give your gift to one of the Deacons by December 17th.

Thank you

A Christmas TO BELIEVE IN



All Sunday School classes will rehearse in the sanctuary on the following two dates...

- Sunday, December 10, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m., AND
- Sunday, December 17, 4:30 – 5:30, just before the actual Sunday School Christmas program

Sunday School Christmas Program
Sunday, December 17, 6-7:30pm





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2023					1	2
3	4	5 4:00 Prayer Time 5:30 Sewing & Crafts	6 6:00 BEF	7 	8	9 Ladies Progressive Luncheon
10	11	12 4:00 Prayer Time 5:30 Sewing & Crafts	13 6:00 BEF	14 9:00 Effie Linquist 6:30 Trustees	15 Don't be Late 	16
17 11:30 December Meeting 11:30 Deaconess 3:00 Deacons 6-7:30 SS Christmas Program	18	19 4:00 Prayer Time 5:30 Sewing & Crafts	20 6:00 BEF	21 9-2 Food Pantry 	22 OFFICE CLOSES AT 12:00 Noon	23
24 6:30 pm Candle Light Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 Prayer Time	27 No BEF	28	29	30
31		<div>Sewing & Crafts will meet in the Prince Room through the winter months. Going forward please do not miss the newsletter deadline as once it is printed... it is too late for changes. Thank you</div>				

- 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