

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

Return Service Requested

December 2024



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Baptist Visitor

REV. BOB BRANDHAGEN, PASTOR

rememberjesus@ymail.com

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

**SUNDAYS**

9:00 Sunday school  
10:20 Morning service

**WEDNESDAYS**

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



**Christmas Eve**  
Service at 6:30 pm



**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](mailto: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
27	45	5	57
Nov			
3	52	4	51
10	47	2	43
17	44	5	45
Family Fall Festival October 20 =			175



**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 2024 credit is Sunday, December 29, 2024.



*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 10, 2025**

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

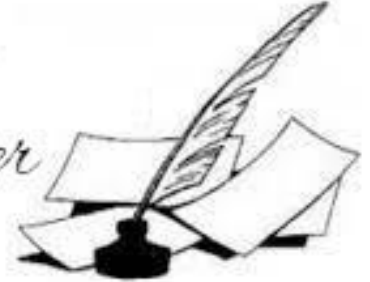


# B. E. F.!

6:00 p.m. Groups

Adults in Fellowship Hall and Kids in Huiskamp Hall

## Pastor Bob's Corner



Dear Church Family,

It is interesting and often amusing to go around the room at Christmas with friends and loved ones and talk about the best gift that we have ever received. It is 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 most do. For those who have recently, or in the distant past, lost loved ones in death, Christmas can be a very difficult time.

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 maybe we can look at Christmas through a new lens. If it was a horrible year, thank God for that. If it was a really good year, thank God for that also. 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. Less about "Santa Baby," and 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 over many decades and generations. 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, generously *giving* gifts of time and presence (even if it's virtual), and *dining* on the deep, holy, and beautiful truth of the Christmas story. I still remember as a child coming home from church, late on Christmas Eve, reading part of 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

Yes, Christmas is coming, and with it the excitement of activities with families, church, and our communities.

November has its special times also. We have become a more thankful country over the past few years in recognizing our military personnel who have served to continue to make America a land of the free. Thank you servicemen and women!

November is also the month of Thanksgiving for family, which includes not only our parents, brothers and sisters, and children, but also our church family.

When we turn to church we think of the hymns which speak of thanks – Come Ye Thankful People Come – is one that speaks to coming to God to worship and praise Him. We find Jesus giving thanks for the food given to Him before feeding the 5000, and His giving thanks for the bread cup with communion at the Last Supper.

We need to give thanks for ALL God has given us.

May your Thanksgiving and coming Christmas season be one of J O Y – (Jesus, Others, Yourself) and giving thanks.



Marvin Nehre

## Ladies' Progressive Luncheon

Saturday, December 7

11:30-1:45



#### **Appetizers:**

Home of Sally Brotherton  
2381 340th Street

( Take Hwy 218 to 340th, turn left opposite the airport.  
Go about 1/2 mile, turn right when you see blue signs  
with addresses. Sally's house is just right of the large 3  
door shed)

#### **Light Lunch:**

Home of Phyllis Nehre  
211 Navaho Drive, Keokuk



#### **Dessert:**

Home of Debra Carman  
915 Milton Drive, Keokuk

Let's take some time early in the season to celebrate the gift  
of coming together! Along the way we'll have some fun and  
some treats as we commemorate the birth of King Jesus!

For added fun, carpool, if possible. We hope you can make all  
three stops, but if your schedule only allows for one or two,  
please come when you can.

RSVP by Wednesday, December 4 by leaving a message at  
319-524-2610 or speaking to one of the hostesses.

 *Let's celebrate  
Christmas together!* 



To send Christmas greetings to your  
church family via the church  
newsletter, please have your  
Christmas card on the secretary's  
desk by December 15. 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, Michelle Dorethy, Jeff Matlock, Ginger Richardson, Tom Rudd, Teresa Glasscock, Ginger Curfman, Mike Gibson, Bob & Barb Collier, Bev Brotherton (eyes), Mark & Kelly Neuendorf, Jeanne Taylor, Teresa Brotherton, Don Hale, Teresa Jefferson, Lisa's Dad, Kim & Gloria Reid, Family of Don Davis, Ken Mlyniec,

**Missionaries:** Doug & Amy Roeglin, Kristy Engel, Tim & Erin Nehre, Shawn & Teresa Ott (Forest Lake),

**Political:** Nations of the World

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

Marina Sameer William – 23 year old Woman





*The Deacons will receive a Christmas love gift for Pastor Bob and Lisa. Please give your gift to one of the Deacons by December 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*Thank you*



To all of our church family at First Baptist Church we would like to thank you for the prayers, love and support you gave to our family during the difficult loss of my brother. It was so greatly appreciated and helped ease our pain. I am so blessed to have such a loving and supportive family here at First Baptist Church.

Many thanks,  
Samantha Glasscock





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 3:00 Hanging of the Greens	2	3 Noon Sewing & Crafts 4:00 Prayer	4 6:00 BEF	5	6	7  Ladies Progressive Luncheon
8 11:30 CE Board 3:30 Deacons	9	10 Noon Sewing & Crafts 4:00 Prayer	11 6:00 BEF	12 9:00 Effie Linquist 6:30 Trustees	13 <b>Don't be Late</b> 	14 
15 11:30 December Meeting 6-7:30 SS Christmas Program	16	17 Noon Sewing & Crafts 4:00 Prayer	18 6:00 BEF	19 9-2 Food Pantry	20	21
22 Cantata during morning service 11:30 Deaconess	23	24 OFFICE CLOSES AT 12:00 Noon 6:30 pm Candle Light Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29	30 	31 4:00 Prayer Time <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>	January 1 			
						

- 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



- Dale & Linda Thomas  
December 28, 1985
- Gary & Mary Jo Bowles  
December 9, 1962