

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

Return Service Requested

December 2025



Baptist Visitor

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

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!! Only \$10. Please contact the Church at 319-524-3684

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
26	38	5	41
Nov			
2	41	4	37
9	41	3	40
16	38	5	50
Family Fall Festival October 26 = 90			



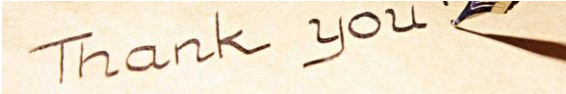
Poinsettias

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 2025 credit is Sunday, December 28, 2025.



Thank you to everyone for the love, support, gifts, cards and food provided to Dutch and our family during her illness and passing. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

The family of Dutch Salama

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE
January 12, 2026

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 12. 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 the church office for auditing. This includes: General Fund, Maintenance Fund, Memorial Fund, Ministers and Missionaries Education Fund, Pfafe 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 a favorite gift that we have 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 we all 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 of it. 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 these 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, and generously *giving* gifts.

The gifts may be material. Or the gifts may be 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

THE SUFFICIENCY OF JOY

Unless you have joy in Jesus, your joy is not full. What is the secret to finding this joy? Jesus said He spoke “these things that your joy may be full.” By “these things,” Jesus is referring to His words in John 15:1: “I am the true vine and my father is the [gardener].” Our relationship with Jesus is like that of a branch to a vine. A branch is absolutely dependent upon a vine. Do you depend upon Jesus totally and absolutely?

It is Jesus, the vine, that produces fruit; and we, the branches, *bear* the fruit, including the fruit of joy. Here’s how the joy of Jesus gets out of Him and into me: As I am in union and communion with Him, as my life is blended with His and His life infuses mine—just as the sap flows from the vine into the branch—the life of Jesus Christ flows into me and the joy that is in Him is now in me.

You belong to God just as the branch belongs to the vine. When you start seeing your life in that relationship you will find in your heart a miraculous joy because the joy of Christ which is the life of Christ is going to be flowing out of Christ and into you.



Mark Pfaffe
October 2024



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, Joe & Carol Ryland, Mike Gibson, Wes Davis, Teresa Brotherton, Family of Dutch Salama, Joe Ryland – Heart Attack, Jeff Matlock, Ginger Richardson, Lucille Starr, Don Hale, June Hahn, Taylor, Tony King - Heart, Ginger Curfman, Ken Mlyniec, Mark & Kelly Neuendorf, Bev Brotherton (eyes), John & Jeanne Sue Mallory, Mike Glasscock, Tina Gibson, Evonne's son Eric – cancer is back, Baby Dalton – Donated his heart

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

Political: Nations of the World

Please pray for Christians being persecuted.





The Deacons will receive a Christmas love gift for Pastor Bob and Lisa. Please give your gift to one of the Deacons by December 21st.

Thank you

To Effie Linquist Circle



Thank you so much for the yummy plate of goodies and the beautiful Thanksgiving card. We appreciated it.

Julie & Chris



Thank you so very much for the plate of yummy goodies and the beautiful Thanksgiving card. We really enjoyed it!

Yates & Tess and Steve & Debby Baum



Thank you for the wonderful tray of goodies the day I arrives home. Was certainly appreciated.

Blessings,
Art Carlson



To member of First Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for allowing our Chapter EG T.T. T. ladies to use the Ed building to weigh and package our nut & snack mixes. Your facility is a perfect set-up so we can use table and kitchen areas.

Very much appreciated,
Chapter EG T. T. T.



Quilters of the First Baptist Church



To my surprise I received the most beautiful quilt on my birthday at the Montrose Health Care Center.

May God Bless each one of you,
Art Carlson





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Deacon Of the Month Don Davis	1	2 Noon Sewing & Crafts	3 6:00 BEF	4 11:15 Prayer	5	6 11:30-1 Ladies Luncheon
7 11:30 CE Board 	8	9 Noon Sewing & Crafts	10 6:00 BEF	11 9:00 Effie Linquist 11:15 Prayer 6:30 Trustees	12 <u>Don't be Late</u> 	13
14 6-7:30 SS Christmas Program	15	16 Noon Sewing & Crafts	17 6:00 BEF	18 9-2 Food Pantry 11:15 Prayer	19	20
21 11:30 December Meeting 	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSSES AT 12:00 Noon 6:30 pm Candle Light Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 11:30 Deaconess 3:30 Deacons	29	30 	31 			
						

1 Autumn DePew
Zachary Glasscock
3 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 Lillard
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 Carmalita Baum
30 Mike DePew, Jr.
Caelan King



Dale & Linda Thomas
December 28, 1985

Gary & Mary Jo Bowles
December 9, 1962