

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

Return Service Requested

**JANUARY 2024**

**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 Groups  
(kids and adults)



Lenten lunches will soon be upon us.  
Feb.19 – March 25 2024. More info to come.

We are still broadcasting the service over the radio. Park close to the church or in one of our parking lots, tune your FM radio in to 90.1 and you can listen to the service.



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

Nov	SUNDAY SCHOOL	PARKING LOT	SANTUARY
19	37	5	41
26	38	3	37
26	Hanging of the Greens		34 Meal 33 Program
Dec			
3	34	5	41
10	45	3	49
17	63	1	60
17	Sunday school Christmas program		94



Cards to our church family as of Dec. 18:

Grace & Brenda Hall, Steve & Debby Baum,  
Chris & Julie Ramsey Marvin & Phyllis Nehre,  
Suzy Glasscock, Tom & Betty Dickens, Gary,  
Mary Jo & Lynn Bowles, Jamie Gilbert &  
Family

*In his mind  
a man plans his course,  
but the Lord directs  
his steps*

*Proverbs 16:9*

## REMINDERS

- **ANNUAL REPORTS and NAMES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS due Friday, January 12, 2024.**
- **TREASURERS need to turn in their books to the church office or auditor Bobbi Lutzen as soon as they have completed their annual report**



**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, Teresa Brotherton, Jeanne Davis, Evonne Case – John, Sylvia, Rowdy Savage, Elsie Sherwood, Ginger Richardson, Teresa Jefferson, Lois Mlyniec (healing), Ginger Curfman, Mike Gibson’s mom-Tina, Jeanne Taylor, Grace Hall, Julie Wixom, Tom Rudd, Kathy Coover, Jackie Saxon, Gary Martin, Chuck Williams, Rhonda Bloyd – cancer, Monica, Mike Burdette (Julie’s brother-in-law), Bill Wixom, Jeff Matlock, Family of Junie Weirather, Family of Virgil Reeves,

**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



From the Deacon Bench

As we come to the end of the year that’s generally the time when we take some time to reflect on the past year. Many times, people make resolutions going into the new year. They either plan to start doing this or that or they plan to stop doing this or that. I don’t know how many of you still make resolutions, I generally do not. However, since we’re faced with the hope that a new year brings, let’s resolve to renew our desire to for God. Our desire to see lives changed and his kingdom furthered. Let’s resolve to take seriously that command of Matthew 28:18-20 which says, “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Patrick Baum



Come  
to



**B. E. F.!** Bring a friend or 2 or 3 ☺

Wednesday Nights – Huiskamp Hall  
6:00 Groups







Dear First Baptist Church Family,

“Pain is just fear leaving the body.” I saw that on a Marine Corps t-shirt years ago. Is that quote technically, scientifically true? I don’t think so. But in a patriotic, poetic sense, I like it. And even if I didn’t like it, I wasn’t about to tell the Marine wearing the shirt! At any rate, I want to write today about what might be considered the opposite of fear, and that is *courage*.

These are days of election angst, social unrest, more COVID concerns, wars in Ukraine and Gaza, and inflation, to name only a few of our national problems. Add to that your own personal concerns—whether financial, health, or relational concerns. *Fear is the default mode for many people*. But the Lord would not have His people shaking in their shoes and wringing their hands. Our God is bigger than any problem that we have. The Lord has left us words to live by and meditate on in the following Bible verses that deal with fear:

Joshua 1:5-6 (NIV)—“No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. **Be strong and courageous**, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.”

2Corinthians 5:6-8 (NASB)—“Therefore, **being always of good courage**, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—**we are of good courage**, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

Philippians 1:14 (NASB)—“And that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, **have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear**.”

These verses have been a beautiful blessing to me for many years. To a lesser extent I have been blessed by the following quotes by Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his *Letters and Papers from Prison*. He was imprisoned under Hitler’s Third Reich in a Nazi concentration camp. Bonhoeffer’s emphasis is not so much on courage in general, but on *civil* courage in particular:

“Some seek refuge from the rough-and-tumble of public life in the sanctuary of their own private virtue. Such men, however, are compelled to seal their lips and shut their eyes to the injustice around them. Only at the cost of self-deception can they keep themselves pure from the defilements incurred by responsible action.”

“Who stands his ground (in the face of the evils in society)? Only the man whose ultimate criterion is obedient and responsible action in faith and exclusive allegiance to God. The responsible man seeks to make his whole life a response to the question and call of God.”

“Civil courage . . . can only grow out of the free responsibility of free men. . . . Free responsibility depends upon a God who demands bold action as the free response of faith, and who promises forgiveness and consolation to the man who becomes a sinner in the process.”

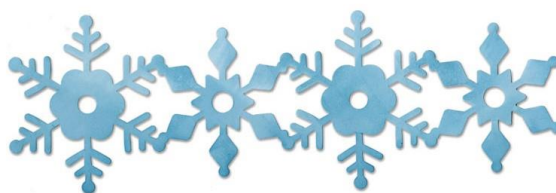
We must be determined not to be outraged critics or mere opportunists. We must take our full share of responsibility for the molding of history, whether it be as victors or vanquished. It is only by refusing to allow any event to deprive us of our responsibility for history, because we know that it is a responsibility laid upon us by God, that we shall achieve a relation to the events of history far more fruitful than criticism or opportunism....”

The ultimate question the man of responsibility asks is not, 'How can I (free) myself heroically from (this deadly challenge)?' but, 'How is the coming generation to live?'" Think on these things. And remember, Jesus said, “**Fear not**...!”

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob Brandhagen

Pastor Newsletter Article January 2024.docx



# Thank You

Thank you, Effie Circle for the plate of delicious goodies at Thanksgiving time!!

Pastor Bob, Russell, Steve and Tess.

Thank you, Effie Circle, for thinking of me with the goodies and card.

Doris Adkins

Such sad news. Today's economy is tough all over. Don't let this be your Church.

**GILMAN, Iowa —**

**Dec. 17, 2023**




The Gilman Community Church has been holding services for over 150 years, but it will close its doors for the final time in a few weeks.

Behold  
I make  
all things  
➡ *new* ⬅

*Revelation 21:5*

May God bless you  
this New Year!



						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2  4:00 Prayer Time  5:30 Sewing & Crafts	3	4	5	6
7	8	9  4:00 Prayer Time  5:30 Sewing & Crafts	10  BEF 6:00 Groups	11  9:00 Effie Linguist  6:30 Trustees	12  	13
14  6:30 CE Board	15	16  4:00 Prayer Time  5:30 Sewing & Crafts	17  BEF 6:00 Groups	18	19	20
21	22  	23  4:00 Prayer Time  5:30 Sewing & Crafts	24  BEF 6:00 Groups	25	26	27
28  11:30 Deaconesses  3:30 Deacons	29	30  4:00 Prayer Time  5:30 Sewing & Crafts	31  BEF 6:00 Groups			



- 1 Barbara Collier  
Sharon Hall  
Gracie Brotherton
- 3 Tracy Adams  
Kali Daniels  
B. J. Billings  
Talmadge Derr
- 4 Theresa Derr  
Trisha Derr
- 5 Amber Glasscock  
Cherith Brotherton  
Clint Glasscock
- 6 Alyssa Glasscock  
Courtney Derr
- 8 Suzy Glasscock
- 10 Tom Ruddell
- 11 Bobbi Jo Page  
Landon Cook  
Scott Kirby

- 12 Mersayds Dickens
- 14 Marilyn Wixom
- 15 Carol Ryland
- 16 Chris Ramsey  
Joshua Nehre
- 16 Trudy Rudd
- 17 Ginger Curfman  
Alicia Riffle  
Travis Fox
- 18 Scott Jones
- 19 John Ross Page
- 20 Sally Brotherton  
Jenny Reed  
Bill Atterberg
- 22 Bill Wixom  
Tanya West
- 24 Gracie Glasscock  
Gabe Brown  
Kathy Rader
- 25 Drew Plowman
- 29 Erin Nehre
- 30 Yates Brotherton



- Bob & Lisa Brandhagen  
January 1, 2010
- Brandon & Schuyler Gross  
January 3, 2014
- Tim & Samantha Glasscock  
January 17, 1998
- Joe & Carol Ryland  
January 21, 1961