

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

Return Service Requested

JANUARY 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 Groups
(kids and adults)



Lenten lunches will soon be upon us.
March 10 – April 14 2025. 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)
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
24	45	7	42
Dec			
1	43	3	44
1	Hanging of the Greens		56
8	41	2	39
15	40	4	48
15	Sunday school Christmas program		37



Cards to our church family as of Dec. 17:

Sharon Hall, Steve & Debby Baum, Grace Hall, Chris & Julie Ramsey, Marvin & Phyllis Nehre, Suzy G., Mary Jo., Gary & Lynn Bowles, Kristy Engle, Tim, Erin & Boys Nehre

*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 10, 2025.**
- **TREASURERS need to turn in their books to the church office or auditor Don King as soon as they have completed their annual report**



Friends & Family: Unspoken Requests, Michelle Dorethy, Jeff Matlock, Ginger Richardson, Tom Rudd, Teresa Glasscock, Ginger Curfman, Mike Gibson, Teresa Jefferson, Ken Mlyniec, Don Hale, Mark & Kelly Neuendorf, Bob & Barb Collier, Bev Brotherton (eyes), Jeanne Taylor, Teresa Brotherton,
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:
Mariam Samir Aziz Hakim – 25 year old Woman



From the Deacon Bench

As we embark on this new year grant us the grace to serve as faithful as Christians following in Jesus’s footsteps by reach out to those in need offering comfort and hope and reflecting your love to the world. Utilize our unique talents to contribute to the church community whatever it be through teach, music or leadership roles.

Yours in His service,
Deacon Tom Brown



**Come
to**



B. E. F.! Bring a friend or 2 or 3 ☺

Wednesday Nights – Huiskamp Hall
6:00 Groups



**Happy
New Year
2025**



Dear Church Family,

It seems good and necessary at this time to go back to some basics and address the importance of being in the services of First Baptist Church each Lord's Day. As I write this, I am mindful that there are many who absolutely would join us if they could, but are kept away by illness and frailty. If you fall into that category, please call me. I would like to visit with you in a way that is most comfortable for you, whether by phone or in person. Then, of course, there are those who work on Sundays. If that is the case, please be present on Wednesday evenings instead. But for those who are physically able, who do not have work conflicts, and who do not attend services, please take note of the following. This is not meant to shame you, but rather to challenge you, encourage you, and help prepare you to meet the Lord.

Why is it necessary to be in the Lord's house on the Lord's Day?

1. Our willing and glad presence in the local church assembly on the first day of the week is mandated by the Lord. In Hebrews 10:25 we read, **"not giving up (NASB—not forsaking) meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching"** (NIV). When you obey that command, it is an act of obedience to the Lord, and he will bless you for your obedience.

Some say, "I can worship just as well while in the woods hunting (while fishing, etc.), as I can in the sanctuary." *Is that true?* When I hear that, it makes me sad, and mad. Why? Because *it is not true*. There are 168 hours in a week. That statement *may be* true 167 hours per week. But there is one hour each week when it is not true—during Sunday worship service. And hey, by the way, you can wear jeans, and we don't ask for money.

Over twenty years ago, when I was between ministries for a year and a half in Des Moines, I took a job driving the city bus. At a local church I attended three services per week—morning worship, Sunday School, and the mid-week meeting. I was a lay person like you, not a pastor, but I was pretty sure that I would be back in pastoral ministry at some point. I prayed and told the Lord that I wanted to be as faithful to the church I attended as a lay person back then as I hoped and expected my future congregation to be faithful.

2. We are all part of the same body, the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:27 says, **"Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it"** (NIV). Each person is a part of the body; some are hands, some are hearts, some are the brains, some are feet, etc. And not only is each person a specific part of the body, but each person has a gift to bring to benefit everyone. Your gift may be teaching, administration, service, or some other gift. Therefore, if you are present but not serving, there is a paralysis in the body. And if you are not present at all, then we have an amputation. Healthy physical bodies do not have paralysis and amputations.

3. There is no other place on earth than the local church that offers its space to live out the dozens of "one another" statements in the New Testament. We call that Life-On-Life here at First Baptist. Here is an example of just one such verse. Romans 12:10 says, **"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor"** (NASB).

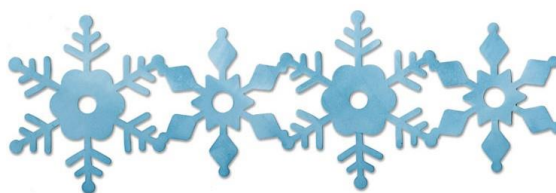
Some of you are doing the above. Some of you need to do better. Quoting Psalm 69:9, Jesus said in John 2:17, **"Zeal for your house will consume me."** Pray for others, and pray for yourself and your soul to have a zeal for the house of the Lord. Pray that you will have the heart of David who said in Psalm 122:1,

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (NASB). The Year of Our Lord, AD 2025 is upon us. In the new year, fix what is broken in terms of your relationship with Jesus, his people, and the church. Some who don't attend, don't read their Bible, don't seek first God's Kingdom, still think it is all good between them and God. You, like most people who are bleeding out of America's churches, are probably overestimating your spiritual condition. The Bible tells pastors to **"...reprove, rebuke, exhort..."** (2Tim 4:2).

Consider this a rebuke to you if you have fallen away from Jesus and his church. For those elderly, sick, or working crazy hours—this is not a rebuke to you. I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Bob Brandhagen



Thank You

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

Pastor Bob, Russell, Steve and Tess.


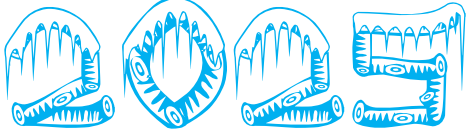


I want to say Thank you to the Effie Linquist circle for the plate of cookies, candy and fruit. It was all delicious.

Grace Hall

Behold
I make
all things
➤ new ➤

Revelation 21:5

May God bless you
this New Year!

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



- 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



Due the 10th



- Bob & Lisa Brandhagen
January 1, 2010

Brandon & Schuyler Gross
January 3, 2014

Tim & Samantha Glasscock
January 17, 1998

Joe & Carol Ryland
January 21, 1961