First Baptist Church 25 N. Eighth Street – P.O. Box 124 Keokuk, Iowa 52632-0124 Non-profit U.S. Postage Keokuk, Iowa 52632-0124 Permit No. 234

**Return Service Requested** 

# November 2020

## Baptist Visitor





Come, Ye Thankful People, Come...



## **REV. BOB BRANDHAGEN, PASTOR**

rememberjesus@ymail.com

Church Office 319-524-3684 Educational Building 319-524-3665 Website: www.keokukfbc.org

#### **SUNDAYS**

9:00 Sunday school 10:00 Morning service 6:00 Youth Group (on hold)

## **WEDNESDAYS**

5:30 BEF Meal (bring your own) 6:00 BEF Adult Group









## The Deacon Bench

Autumn Reminds Us That Jesus Will Return

"Be patient, then brothers and sisters until the Lord returns. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near" (James 5:7-8).

What a hopeful reminder that Jesus will return. In this scripture for autumn, we see a farmer patiently awaiting his bountiful harvest in season. In the same way, we can rest assured that, just as the harvest will come, Jesus will return. Can you imagine? It will be even more glorious than the autumn leaves at their peak.

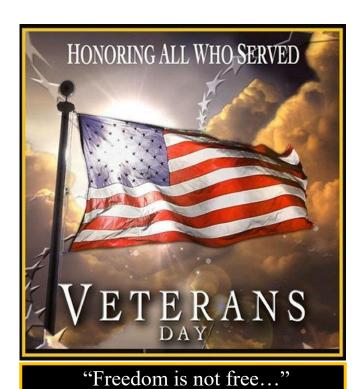


OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 11:30 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

# Stewardship

	SUNDAY	Parking	MORNING	
	SCHOOL	Lot	SERVICE	
SEPT				
27	30	22	41	
OCT				
4	42	19	47	
11	41	17	57	
18	30	22	41	





## December Altar Flowers

It's time to begin thinking about whether or not you would like to provide a poinsettia for the altar this Christmas season. If so, please contact Flower Committee Chairperson Suzy Glasscock at 319-470-9733

More specifics will appear in your Sunday bulletin and the next newsletter!

Christmas cards, 2 year

planners and 2021 Calendars

are available for a small cost.



Stained Glass Preservation Fund . . \$21,468.36



For the food pantry this month we are going for Thanksgiving dinner type food. Candied yams, marshmallows, green beans, jellied cranberry sauce, etc.





October's Prayer Requests: Unspoken Requests, Michelle Dorethy and Family, Ruth Sherman, Becky McAlexander (knee replacement) Doug Roeglin, Carol Ryland, Billy Joe Ryland, Donna Wear, Ginger Curfman, Sonny Wade, Barb Collier, Keegan Pfaffe, Bev Brotherton (Russell), Tom Dickens, Carl Wixom – Serious industrial accident, Tim Ayers (2<sup>nd</sup> Heart surgery Recovering), Vera Neuendorf, Mark & Kelly Neuendorf, Fouad & Noura – Pastor Bob's friends in Egypt and Fouad's parents, Kathy Rader (total knee replacement), Nick Capaldo and his family (kidney Cancer), Family of Tim Nehre (West Nairobi School & Travels & Health), Family of Diana Cook, Dee's stepmom Elsie (broken hip), nephew Wally (moped accident), and her cousin Elvin for hip surgery, Family of Kimi Buerklin, Sherry Dalton (surgery) Family of Bonnie Gilpin,

USA pandemic and riots, Fires Pray that we "do no wrong" and "be made complete"! (2Cor 13:7,9)

## **Eome to** adult



Wednesday Nights – Huiskamp Hall 5:30 p.m. Bring your own meal 6:00 p.m. Adult BEF Group



"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

- Ronald Reagan

## Dear Friends,

Lisa and I arrived back home, sweet home, here in Keokuk yesterday afternoon. Last week I took a class on Systematic Theology at a church in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. It was a long but beautiful drive. The Catskills were ablaze with color from the Ultimate Artist's palette! We stayed at the guest house on the campus of Dock Mennonite Academy, a K-12 school. It was a beautiful place. Check it out at Dock.org. The class was at Central Schwenkfelder Church (which is not Mennonite). I am grateful to have been able to take one of the two weeks per year that the church gives me to pursue further training. And, it didn't cost the church anything (zero dollars to buy me more theological sense (3))!

One thing I learned during a lecture was something I researched on my Bible software as the lesson was being taught. The professor, Dr. Todd Mangum (of Missio Seminary) was talking about Hebrews 11:17—"By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced (NASB—'received') the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son" (NIV). According to Louw & Nida, the word "embraced" (as in, Abraham "embraced" God's promises) means, "to welcome, receive into the home." According to the same source, it also means to "experience, as the recipient of an event." How might this apply to you and me? Hmmm. Let's see.... Pick a promise, any promise from the New Testament. Matthew 28:20 you say? Okay. Let's run with it. In Matthew 28:20b Jesus says, "...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (NIV). (By the way, this really needs to be read in the context of the previous 19 verses where the topic is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.)

So, Jesus is with His followers! Jesus promises His presence with His people, the church. It is a promise we can "surely" and "always" count on until "the very end of the age." Remember what Louw & Nida said above? We must welcome and receive God's promises into the home. We can also experience those promises as the recipient of an event. What events do you enjoy watching? On my list are: 1) energetic high school sports; 2) the slow progress of tugboats as they barge their way up and down the river, and 3) good, decent, funny movies that leave my conscience clean.

Those events—high school sports, river traffic, worthy movies—I welcome them into my life. And how might the Lord bless us if we would welcome His promises into our homes like we welcome friends and family to Thanksgiving dinner? Write God's promises on the walls, and store His promises in your heart. Read them before the prayer at your Thanksgiving table. Oh, that we would receive and experience God's promises! That, instead of merely reading them (or never reading them) and taking no time to meditate on them, no time to ponder them, and no time to pray and inquire of the Lord as to the meaning and application of what 2Peter 1:4 calls those "very great and precious promises." If those promises are, in God's estimation, "great and precious," then those promises deserve great and precious study and attention and sharing on our part. And with the study of a given promise may come the *experience* of that promise.

The word "promise" occurs about 125 times in the Bible. It is a theme worth tracing. Some people are very meticulous in the study of family genealogy. As we read through God's many promises, maybe we can detect a genealogy in them: What are God's promises? Where did they come from? Who they are related to? And what are the great things God has accomplished through those promises? All praise to the Great Promise Keeper, Jesus Christ! About Him the Lord has said, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God" (2Corinthians 1:20). Yours in Christ,

#### Pastor Bob Brandhagen

P.S. God's promises, with you as messenger, can run like an ambulance to the aid of those who are sad and scared due to COVID. Those same promises can be creatively served at your Thanksgiving dinner. Could you pray for yourself to embrace, receive, experience, and welcome God's promises into your heart and home in an Abraham-like way? Could you write a card with a promise from scripture (like Jesus' promise, "I am with you always....") to one of those scared people in your life? Could you find a way to serve the promises of God along with the turkey and stuffing? If you do that, let me know how it goes. I'd like the recipe!



thank you Steve Baum, Sally Brotherton and Russell Brotherton for your help with the Food Pantry Day and to all who donated.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THRUSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK!	2	5:30 Sewing & Craft Group	5:30 BEF Meal (bring your own food) 6:00 BEF Adult Group	5		
8 6:00 pm Movie Night	9 6:30 CE Board	10	OFFICE CLOSED Veterans	9:00 Effie Linquist Circle 6:30 Trustees	13	14
15	Newsletter DEADLINE	17	5:30 BEF Meal (bring your own food) 6:00 BEF Adult Group	19	20	21
22 11:30 Deaconess	23	24 5:30 Sewing & Craft Group	25 5:30 BEF Meal (bring your own food) 6:00 BEF Adult Group	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED Happy	28  Thanksgiving
Tentative 3:00 Hanging of the Greens 3:30 Deacons	30					



- 1 Marissa Neil Steve Page
  - 2 Gage Barnes
  - 4 Leah Hotop
  - 5 Wendy Gilbert Andrew Swanson
  - 6 Merry Powers Shelby Burchett Waylon Weirather
- 8 Jan Varner Jamie Taylor Mike Schrader
- 9 Dee Ruddell Andy Wade
- 11 Tom Dickens Willie Ackley-King
- 12 Bill Seibert
- 13 Ivryel McAlexander Garrett West
- 16 Alisha Atterberg

- 17 Wendy Matlock John Jenkins
- 18 Elyse Bierwirth
- 19 Betty Houston Keitha Harker
- 20 Paul Weirather
- 22 Ron Scott
- 24 Reagan Dickens Erin Anderson
- 25 Becca Cook
- 26 Jeremy Matlock
- 27 Wade Plowman
- 28 Tim Glasscock Teresa Bogener Dakotae Brown
- 29 Brent Ryland Michael Glasscock
- 30 Chris Arrowood











Tom & Dee Ruddell November 6, 1976

Steve & Debra Carman November 6

Travis & Tina Fox November 21, 1992

Chuck & Carol Williams November 23, 1968

The newsletter deadline will be earlier for the months of November and December due to the holidays!