



## APRIL CALENDAR

Sundays	@	9:00 AM	Ray's Sunday school (zoom)
	@	10:15 AM	Worship Service
Wednesdays	@	5:30 PM	Youth Group
		6:30 PM	Faithweaver (zoom)

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Sunday, April 4	7:00 AM	Sunrise Service in Chautauqua Park
	9:00 AM	Ray's Sunday school (zoom)
	10:30 AM	Easter Egg Hunt
	11:00 AM	Easter Service in Central Park
Monday, April 5	5:30 PM	Deacon & Worship Board meetings
Tuesday, April 6	6:00 PM	Trustee Board meeting
	6:30 PM	C.E. & M&E Board meetings
Thursday, April 8	5:45 PM	Pastoral Relations Comm. meeting
Tuesday, April 13	6:00 PM	Church Council meeting
Thursday, April 15	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club
Sunday, April 18		Quarterly church meeting following worship
Tuesday, April 20	1:00 PM	Maxine Bates Circle meeting

We'll still be providing a Worship experience through Facebook Live. You can tune into that worship by clicking on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/Fairfield-First-Baptist-Church-104294022934947/>

Deadline for newsletter articles – April 26<sup>th</sup>

## Baptist Tidings

First Baptist Church, Fairfield, Iowa  
 "A Faith Building Community"

Vol. XLVII No. 3

March 25, 2021



### The Heroism of the Resurrected One

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup> to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Galatians 1:3-5)*

One of the most common descriptions of Jesus in the scripture, and among us as his followers, is "Savior". John, clearly and concisely, wrote, "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world." (1 John 4:14) And as Matthew recorded, the angel told Joseph, "you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

The Biblical writers also refer to him as our defender, our protector and advocate. He gave his life to rescue us, as the verses above relate. The New Living Translation team of interpreters, in translating Hebrews 12:2, refer to Jesus as, "...the *champion* who

initiates and perfects our faith..." But it's just recently occurred to me that the Biblical writers never describe him as our "hero". It certainly isn't that the writers didn't know the word. In fact our English word comes directly from the Greek, "ἥρωζ", (*heros*,) which, literally, means, "defender" or "protector", or "one of great bravery and valor."

I'm guessing the Biblical writers didn't use that word because of the connotations it brought along with it from its origin in Greek mythologies, in which the demi-gods, Hercules, Apollo, Achilles, Zeus, and others, were described as heroes. But, as CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien wrote, these fictional myths were powerful stories because they tapped into the human need for a defender, protector, and savior. These myths, they said, were the fictional myths which, even as secular writing, pointed the hearts of humanity to Jesus, our true Savior, who was all in all, as fully God, and fully man.

We still see this heart's cry being expressed in our popular culture, today. Of the Top 10 highest grossing movie franchises of all time, six of them are built around comic-book Superheroes, like Superman, Spiderman, and Ant-man, etc., and they take in over two-thirds of the Top 10 box-office profits. This doesn't include the Star Wars, or Harry Potter franchises, which come in at #2 and #3 on the list, which are also, clearly, heroic tales. (As is The Lord of the Rings, which comes in at #11 all time, who's hero is the unassuming Frodo Baggins.) In fact, the main character of every story is called its "hero", whether in book or play or movie form. As Bonnie Tyler's hit song from the mid-eighties exclaimed, "We need a hero!"

Those who study such things, say that the characteristics we use to define a hero are bravery, moral integrity, and altruism. It's a self-sacrifice that gives itself out to defend and protect the defenseless.

So, since, for good reason, the Biblical writers don't use the word, "hero" to describe Jesus, I won't either. But I will say that nothing has been done in human history that is more heroic than Jesus' altruistic actions on behalf of all of us, through his life, (fully given over to the Father's will,) his death, (as the atonement for our sin,) and in his victorious resurrection, where he put death to death.

Our greatest heart-felt need is for such a Savior! Everyone knows it in their soul. So let's celebrate Jesus, the Resurrected One!

Happy Easter!  
- Pastor John

## PRAYER LIST

Tiff Widmer, Niels Nielsen, Candy Bryant, Mary & Ralph Paulding, Mary Grimes, Mary Laux, Alice Parsons, Darrel Bisgard's aunt (Gloria), Deanna Wilson, Becky England, Jane Symmonds, Mary Keller, Marilyn Holmes, Donna Cowen, Amy Kermott's parents

We extend our sincere Christian sympathy to June & Dick Workman on the recent passing of June's mom, Marjorie Royer.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

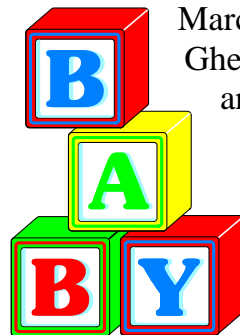
Receiving FHS 2021 Bowling awards include Peanut Taylor (notable improvement), Christopher Kyle (most improved), and McKayla Taylor (most improved). Congratulations bowlers!



People's Choice Award Winners of 2020 were Paul Greenig's Auto Body (auto body shop), Tammy Dunbar (real estate agent), and Lisa Greenig (teacher) Congratulations to all of you!

## BIRTHS

Ledger James Ghent was born to Sage and Willie Ghent on March 10, 2021. Staci & Roger Wright and Katie Ghent are grandparents; David & Margaret Wilson are great-grandparents.



Chance & Dani Crandall became the parents of a girl, McKenzie Ammelia Crandall, on March 13, 2021 in Iowa City. Jason & Lisa are the proud grandparents! Great-grandparents are Allen & Susan Crandall.

Congratulations to all of you!

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4	Chuck Comfort	16	Dave Bisgard
5	Pat Comfort	19	Chasity Dunkin
7	Jan Hunerdosse	20	Brenda Bisgard
10	Rylan Anderson	25	Genevieve Rathbun
13	Taryn Ryan	28	Sage Crandall
13	Sarah Stiemsma	30	Scott Reneker
13	JoDee Kyle		

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4	Ken & Astrid Burns	16	Randy & Jan Baird
10	Roger & Diane McHone		

Note: If your birthday or anniversary is this month, but is not listed, please call the church office with that information.

## HEAD USHERS

April	4	Chris Kyle
	11	James Kyle
	18	Nick Taylor
	25	Darrel Bisgard

CHILDREN'S SERMON April 18<sup>th</sup> :

# Easter SERVICES

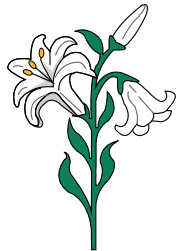
## EASTER WEEKEND PLANNED

We'll kick off our Easter services with our traditional Sunrise Service at Chautauqua Park at 7:00 A.M.

Then, we're planning to have our Easter Sunday Worship Service in Central Park at 11:00 A.M. We'll have an Easter Egg Hunt prior to the service. Breakfasty foods and drinks will be provided. Bring a lawn chair to sit on, a heart to celebrate and worship the resurrected and Living One, and pray for warm, clear weather!

## EASTER LILIES

You are welcome to donate an Easter lily in memory of a loved one to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Lilies may be brought to the church the week before Easter on Monday thru Friday. If your lily is in memory of a loved one, please let Jane know.



## MAXINE BATES CIRCLE

Maxine Bates Circle will hold their regular meeting Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. No agenda has been set yet. Hostess will be Margaret Stephens. All women are invited.

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for a few volunteers to be put on a schedule to mow and trim the yard at the church on a weekly basis. Ideally it would be nice if we could fill the position with at least 4 to 5 people so you would be responsible for a week a month. The equipment is there at the church so you don't have to bring your own. If we don't get volunteers we will have to hire this done and with our shortfall this will be difficult.

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Mark 10:45  
Please call Bob Keller at 641-680-0001.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU MAY TITHE ONLINE?** Visit our website [www.fffbc.org](http://www.fffbc.org). Click on the gift tab. If you haven't already set up your account, it's very easy to do. You can also keep track of your giving in your account.



## **CHURCH OFFERING**

### **February 28 - \$4248.12**

General - 3675.62	H.S. Youth - 12.50
HVAC - 555.00	Our Daily Bread - 5.00

### **March 7 - \$21,747.46**

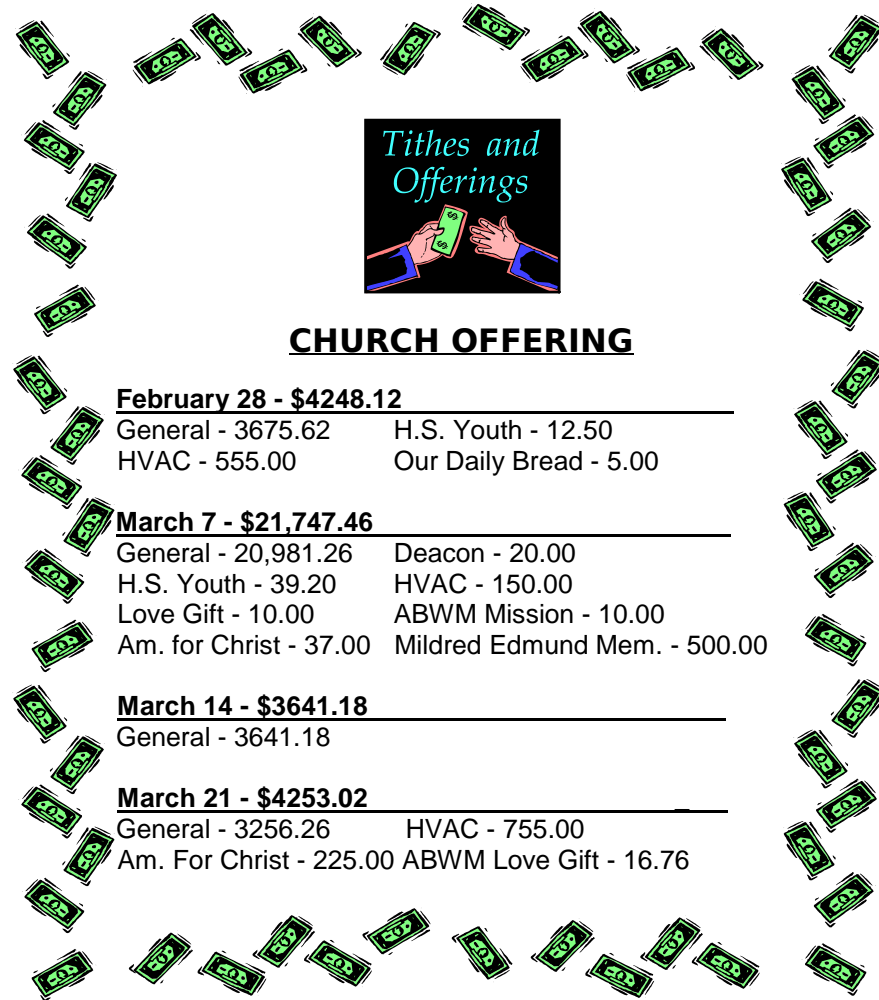
General - 20,981.26	Deacon - 20.00
H.S. Youth - 39.20	HVAC - 150.00
Love Gift - 10.00	ABWM Mission - 10.00
Am. for Christ - 37.00	Mildred Edmund Mem. - 500.00

### **March 14 - \$3641.18**

General - 3641.18

### **March 21 - \$4253.02**

General - 3256.26	HVAC - 755.00
Am. For Christ - 225.00	ABWM Love Gift - 16.76



## **THANK YOU NOTES**

Fairfield First Baptist Church,

I wish to thank everyone for the prayers at the time of Mom's passing. Also, thanks for everything that anyone had done for Park & Mildred over their years at First Baptist.

Thanks, Mark & Kay Edmund

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot express how blessed and thankful I am for all the concern and prayers said for me the past couple of weeks. Also, cards were sent and several meals were brought out to us during my recovery and were very much appreciated! Thanks so much, Jane Symmonds

## **ATTENTION CAMPERS**

Forest Lake Camp & Conference Center is holding a t-shirt contest to design their 2021 camp shirt using next year's theme, "Finding Your Treasure". Scripture verse is from Matthew 13:44. **Campers need to send in their design by April 1<sup>st</sup>.** They can send them via email at [forestlake@mid-abc.org](mailto:forestlake@mid-abc.org), or Forest Lake Camp facebook, or mail them to Forest Lake Camp, 11733 Copperhead Road, Bloomfield, IA 52537. The winning design will be used for the 2021 camp shirts and the top three winners will receive \$10 credit to snack shack for summer 2021!



## **TO SHAVE OR NOT TO SHAVE IS THE QUESTION!**

(You get to help decide the answer!)

As most of you know, our camp manager, Shawn Ott, has quite the beard. He has decided to sacrifice his beard in the name of camp scholarships. The only requirement is the camp has to raise \$3000 or more. There will be 2 teams: the **shave** and the **not to shave**. Whichever team raises the most money (as long as its \$3000 or more) wins! The winning team will be announced and the beard will be shaved or not at camp kickoff on May 29, 2021.

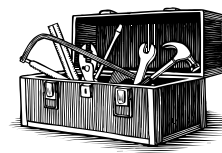
Donations can be sent to Forest Lake Camp or the region office. Be sure to include what team your donation goes to.

Forest Lake Camp and Conference Center  
11733 Copperhead Road  
Bloomfield, IA 52537

## **WORK WEEK AT FOREST LAKE CAMP - April 19 - 23**

Work week at Forest Lake Camp is scheduled for April 19-23.

Lodging and meals are provided for those who attend. There are many different ways you can help get camp ready for the season. If you want further information about this event, contact the camp at [forestlake@mid-abc.org](mailto:forestlake@mid-abc.org) or 641-684-8908.



## FOREST LAKE SUMMER CAMPS 2021

Camping season will be upon us before we know it! Plan **NOW** to attend and get signed up **before May 1<sup>st</sup>** to receive the early bird discount! Even greater news; if you are a regular attendee on Sunday morning or Wednesday night, you qualify for a 50% scholarship.

Please return **ALL** registrations and deposits to the church office **before** May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Brochures and registration forms are on the table in the narthex.

**Camp Kickoff** 10:00 A.M. to ??? (free will donation)  
May 29 Picnic lunch provided

**Outdoor Adventure/Pioneer** Entering 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
June 21 - 23 Cost: \$110

**Deep & Wide Camp** Entering 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grades  
June 24 - 26 Cost: \$110



**Collide Camp** Entering 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
July 5 - 10 Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)

**Encounter Camp** Entering 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades  
July 12 – 17 Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)

**Impact Camp** Entering 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades  
July 19 – 24 Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)

**Contact Camp** Entering 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
July 26 – 31 Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)

**Senior High Canoe Trip** Entering 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades  
Aug. 1 - 3 (4 P.M.) Cost: \$60

**Family Camp** The WHOLE family  
Aug. 20 – 22 Program fee: \$50/family  
(food & lodging extra)

**Young Adult Retreat** Ages 18-30  
Oct. 1-3 Cost: \$110

**Bring a friend:** Campers can bring one friend who has never been to camp for **FREE!** One friend per camper, please.

## CAMP DESCRIPTIONS

**Outdoor Adventure Camp:** In this camp, campers will experience the outdoors as they “rough it” at our pioneer camp facility. They will sleep in camp provided tents, work as a team, and learn more about creation.

**Deep and Wide Camp:** A safe camping experience in which children will learn through Bible stories, craft projects, and outdoor activities how “Deep and Wide” God’s love is for them.

**Collide Camp:** (Formerly called Sick & Twisted) this camp gets its name from the unusual games and exercises the campers can experience. While no camper must participate, even the most squeamish seldom fails to be a part of the fun. All of this fun is smashed together with times of deep spiritual thought, worship, and discussion.

**Encounter Camp:** This camp will explore not only people from Bible times who took new paths in discovering the riches of God, but we will also explore the camp to see the many places where we can discover God.

**Impact Camp:** It’s a cool place to be with other cool kids. There is fun and adventure where young Christians can express their enthusiasm about life together in a loving, forgiving, and accepting environment of God’s people.

**Contact Camp:** At this camp, students will explore what it means to follow Jesus. They will participate in combined worship experiences, discussion, games, and outdoor activities. Also, there will be small groups with learning activities, and discussions.

**Senior High Canoe Trip:** Designed to provide an opportunity for high school students to get away from it all. They will spend time discussing the importance of faith on the journey of life while out in the beauty of creation as they float down the Des Moines River in camp provided canoes.



## HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

Do you have a job that you are unable to tackle by yourself? Sometimes even the smallest task is too big to do...like changing a high-hanging light

bulb, taking the trash out to the curb, or washing windows! Well you're in luck! Our church has a Helping Hands Program through the Deacon Board ministry that is waiting to complete such a task for our church members and attendees. Just call the church office (472-5205) any weekday morning or contact one of your deacons and we will try to fulfill that need.



Jan Baird	472-5293	Lisa Greenig	919-4343
Darrel Bisgard	472-6201	Sharie Leazer	472-3892
Ken Burns	451-4207	Harold Munson	472-8895
John Rathbun	472-1452	Lee Muntz	919-3337

## AFRICAN VIOLET FOUNDATION

AVF's annual prom event will be held on Saturday, April 10, from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. We do need some women to help with this event. Call Staci Wright at (641) 919-4306 for more information.



The African Violet Boutique is looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in helping, call Staci Wright at (641) 919-4306 for more information.

The AVF Board recently met with Jayson Henry from The Well and we are looking forward to working together in the future. The board has tentatively agreed, pending finances, to hire someone 8 hours per week to work in the store when nobody is shopping to keep it orderly and organized. We will post that position when it becomes available. Finally, we have reopened. Masks are required but we are not requiring appointments any longer. We will not allow more than six people in the boutique at once during normal shopping hours due to social distancing requirements. Current store hours are:

Thursday: 4:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

Friday: 9:00 A.M. to Noon

Saturday: 9:00 A.M. to Noon



## MISSION MOMENT

Recently, there has been a lot of buzz about The Well coming to

Fairfield! The Thrift Store portion is now open, donations continue to flow in, and volunteers are being accumulated. Hopefully, not far down the road, will be the establishment of The Well Resource Center ministry space. This mission will be a focus on building relationships to help others reach long-term stability. Through community partnerships, there will be innovative programs geared to meet physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Our church is a financial contributor to The Well. The Ministerial Alliance has also aligned themselves to this ministry. It is the hope of your M&E Board that perhaps individuals in the church family will also choose to support The Well in some way. Volunteering through the Thrift Store is one option right now! Some tasks could be: intake of donations; sorting the variety of donations; checking toys/games for working condition; pricing items (flawless system); putting items on display racks; cleaning; assemble racks; minor furniture repair; check electrics for working condition; working the sales area; painting... and so many more!

Consider giving of your time and talent to this very worthwhile ministry. The Thrift Store will eventually be able to financially support all the portions of The Well Center – how amazing is that!

Additional information can be found on The Well website. Applications to volunteer can also be filled out online or in-person. [www.thewelliowa.org](http://www.thewelliowa.org)

- By Mike Carr for the Missions & Evangelism Board

## Deacon Board Meeting

March 1, 2020

Jan shared a devotion. Lee opened with prayer.

We reviewed our in-touch list.

Discussed needs within the congregation. If anyone knows of a need, please reach out to a deacon.

Pray for peace within the church family and community as we continue to navigate the pandemic.

## Worship Board

March 1, 2021

Sue will check with Jane on ordering palms and putting information in the newsletter and bulletin for people wishing to purchase Easter lilies. A few months back a suggestion was made to occasionally have a theme “dress-up” day for morning worship. Perhaps it could add a bit a fun during our sometimes lackluster schedules. So, be thinking how to incorporate fun! (Time for Cubs gear!)

Tammy reported on the Branding Committee progress. They will be meeting again next week and are still gathering ideas for ways to spread the logo and its intended message around our church family and the community. Please contact her if you have suggestions.

Sue shared an idea for adding a spot in the Worship service for an Offering Moment (or whatever term is decided) – something completely different from passing offering plates. It could include the sharing of how people in our church family offer our gifts of time, talents and resources. Without even mentioning names, just tell one or two situations from the past week or so when things have been done to serve others. Then, if applicable, tell about something coming up in the near future where people would have the opportunity to use their gifts to honor God and demonstrate their love for him. Also, then could remind the congregation of the offering plates in the narthex. These moments could end with the Doxology, a scripture, a prayer, Special music – or any combination or variety. In just our small board discussion, these ideas expanded to many more possibilities. The idea will be brought to Council in the hopes that at least some of it will be used in our worship service.

*Beautiful Feet Ladies Retreat*  
**April 30-May 1, 2021**

*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.  
Romans 10:15*

**Forest Lake Camp & Conference Center**  
11733 Copperhead Road  
Bloomfield, IA 52537  
641-684-8908  
forestlake@mid-abc.org

Registration fee (include meals, lodging and program materials)  
Through April 16<sup>th</sup>  
\$50, program materials guaranteed

After April 16<sup>th</sup>  
\$60, program materials not guaranteed

Optional one day only:  
\$30, program materials guaranteed  
before April 16<sup>th</sup>

Checks should be made out to  
"Forest Lake Camp"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\*registration confirmation will be e-mailed to you\*

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Allergies/Food Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

**Registrations and payments should be mailed to:**  
Forest Lake Camp & Conference Center  
11733 Copperhead Rd.  
Bloomfield, IA 52537



**A Happy Easter**

## Trustee Board Meeting

March 2, 2021

Previous minutes were approved.

General Fund balance is \$2,881.15. Furnace and air-conditioning note balance is \$20,564.19.

We talked about having a sign-up sheet for summer lawn mowing.

We are still waiting on a quote for new lighting in the sanctuary.

We talked about applying for the Small Business Administration (SBA), Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan in the amount of \$25,419 through First National Bank. This loan has 1% interest rate. After the loan proceeds are spent on our payroll, then the loan is forgiven! Ray made a motion to proceed with presenting this loan program to the Council, second by Chuck. Motion passed. If the Council approves, then this will be taken to the congregation for a vote to go forward. Pastor Chuck recommended advertising the on-line giving program and to remind our church family this form of giving is available.

## Christian Education Board Meeting

March 2, 2021

JoDee and Jamie gave an update on the event they hosted with Barb's group. Jamie and Melody plan to host a March event. Melody and Sarah will host April. Anyone who would like to get involved should contact Jamie.

Amy and Jamie gave an update on the Branding Team progress. We discussed local printers to check into for creating branded items to offer.

We plan to offer the ½ \$ scholarship for campers again this year.

Amy is going to organize the youth to begin painting backdrops for VBS.

## QUARTERLY MEETING

We will have our quarterly family meeting right after the church service on April 18<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to attend.



## Mission & Evangelism Board

March 2, 2021

- Update on the Well provided by Mike Carr. Discussed ways of providing ongoing information to the church family regarding the opportunities of services for persons within the local community which are available on various levels at the Fairfield location. Additionally, the need for volunteers was discussed. Mike will write the April Mission Moment article for the newsletter.
- Update on Branding Project provided by Jamie Gates focusing on what is being done to get the Church name and ministries out into the community.
- Update on Welcome and Nurturing. Joe and Pat will work on establishing a “know how” training for people designated to fill specific roles in this aspect, using previously received materials. To be completed in March.
- America for Christ Offering. John will utilize screen information provided by the denomination during the month of March to highlight the purpose of this offering. James will encourage the congregation to join in meeting the goal of \$800.00 for this offering.
- Mission Moment written conversations began in the March Newsletter and will continue each month. Board members volunteered to provide written content for various months regarding the mission groups to which the church provides funds so that the church family will have an ongoing knowledge and understanding as to how their mission monies are being utilized in the furtherance of God's work both locally and internationally.
- March – Pat Comfort – One Collaborative – Heckenbergs
- April Mike Carr – Fairfield Well
- May – James Kyle – Forest Lake
- June – Janelle Epperson - African Violet Foundation
- July – Pat Comfort – Republic of Congo – Chapmans
- August – The Lord's Cupboard