



Baptist Tidings

Fairfield First Baptist Church
 "A Faith Building Community"



Vol. XLVIII No. 3

March 31, 2022

APRIL CALENDAR

Sundays	@	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday school class
	@	10:15 AM	Worship Service
	@	6:00 PM	Bible study/discussion at church (through April 10 th)
Mondays	@	10:00 AM	Women's Life Group (resuming April 18 th)
Wednesdays	@	5:30 PM	Family Meal
		6:00 PM	Kid Zone/Youth Zone

Sunday, April 3		Farewell for Greg Lentz following Worship
	5:00 PM	Life Group at Carr's
	6:00 PM	Bible study/discussion at church
Monday, April 4		No Women's Life Group until April 18 th
	5:30 PM	Deacon & Worship Board meetings
Tuesday, April 5		6:00 PM Trustee Board meeting
	6:30 PM	Christian Education Board meeting
		No M & E Board meeting in April
Sunday, April 10	1-4 PM	Bowl-A-Thon (youth fundraiser)
Monday, April 11	12:05 PM	Lenten Service at First Baptist
Tuesday, April 12	1:00 PM	Maxine Bates Circle meeting
	6:30 PM	Church Council meeting
Sunday, April 17	7:00 AM	Sunrise Service in Chautauqua Park
	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday school
	10:15 AM	Easter Worship in Central Park
Thursday, April 21	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club
Saturday, April 23	5:30 PM	Date Night



"Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. (Revelation 1:17-18)

We've experienced a world-wide pandemic over the last two years. Russia has invaded another sovereign country and the Western world has responded with a war of economics. China is threatening to bring Taiwan back under its oppressive hand. Our political parties are operating under two very different world-views, creating an uncivil war that seems to be leading us to the downfall of our once great nation. Brothers are turning against brothers.

None of these conditions would seem to be the will of our Great and Loving Father. What's more, despite the prayers and cries of his children, his response seems to be on mute. Fear grips us. The future looks to be growing darker rather than lighter. Some might be tempted to abandon all hope and trust in a Good and Loving, Powerful God.

The message of Easter, and the message of the whole of the revealed Word of God, is that, whatever it looks like at any particular point in human history, God isn't done yet.

The One who had such promise to bring health to human events was silenced and the world, literally and figuratively, was darkened. The days leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, and those where he laid buried in the tomb, could be seen as a microcosm of human history. The disciples of Jesus were at a loss as to what to do, and we often find ourselves, this generation of Jesus' disciples, at a loss as well.

But, finally, the Father spoke. Jesus turned the tables on death and brokenness and irreconcilability and the Dayspring from on High lit up the world. While it looked like God was done speaking, the Resurrection proved that God wasn't done yet. This is the promise of our day, that Jesus is the beginning and the end, that he once was dead, (but wait!) he's now fully and forever alive, and he has mastery over all! My conclusion is that, if it were better for the world to be different God wouldn't allow it wrong to stand. The pain, suffering, heart-break and misery that the world experiences will one day be turned on its head and will be shown to be the prescription for healing, leading to something more beautiful than could have been accomplished without it.

Jesus said. "My Father is working up until this very day, and I'm working, too." The Father, Son and Holy Spirit aren't done with the creation, yet. It, too, will be resurrected and we, who know Christ, along with it. Through Jesus, the Father will, finally, "reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." (Col. 1:20)

In the meantime, we can be at work alongside him by reconciling with one another. Is there anyone with whom you need to be reconciled? The world may be blowing up with wars and incivility, but you can be part of the fresh, new, resurrected life being brought about by Christ when you speak peacefully and make right a relationship that's broken, and Christ will bring light to our little corner of the world.

So don't be afraid. Check it out! Jesus was dead, but now he's more alive than ever, and he's not done, yet.

Waiting for His response,
- Pastor John



PRAYER LIST

Jerry Leazer, Pastor Kermott's mom, Steve Crane, Aaron Kness, Mike Adam, Becky Stagers, Trudy Oliver, Mike Norbutas, Sabrina Reneker, those fighting Covid, people of Ukraine

THANK YOU



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for thinking of our family during this time of grieving our sister-in-law Marilyn Holmes. We appreciate all the prayers you offered up on her behalf during her illness. Thanks, also, for the fruit basket and your cards, texts, and phone calls during this difficult time. Marilyn will be missed dearly by our brother Chuck, her children Matt and Jenny, grandchildren Claire, Grace, and Henry, and many other family and friends.

Greg and Julie Hanshaw

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

Our Helping Hands Program, through the Deacon Board

Ministry, is available to help you with 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 picking up a few groceries! Our church members and attendees are blessed to have such a program. Just call the church office (472-5205) any weekday morning or contact one of your deacons and we will try to fulfill that need.



John Rathbun 472-1452
Margaret Wilson 472-5594
Jan Baird 472-5293
Lee Muntz 919-3337

Darrel Bisgard 472-6201
Sharie Leazer 472-3892
Harold Munson 472-8895
Lisa Greenig 919-4343



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4 Chuck Comfort	15 Ted Munson
5 Pat Comfort	16 Dave Bisgard
7 Jan Hunerdosse	19 Chasity Dunkin
10 Rylan Anderson	20 Brenda Bisgard
13 Taryn Ryan	25 Genevieve Rathbun
13 Sarah Stiemsma	28 Sage Crandall
13 JoDee Kyle	30 Scott Reneker

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

10 Roger & Diane McHone
16 Randy & Jan Baird

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

HEAD USHERS

April 3	Virgil Symmonds
10	Greg Fritz
17	Greg Hanshaw
24	Ralph Paulding

COMMUNION SERVERS April 3: Harold Munson, Pat Comfort, Lee Muntz, Jan Baird, Ray Woody

CHILDREN'S SERMON April 17: Sue Carr

MAXINE BATES CIRCLE

All women are invited to join the Maxine Bates Circle. Their next meeting will be Tuesday, April 12 at 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. Sue Carr will be hostess. Ladies will be making Easter baskets for nursing home residents. **They need wrapped Easter candy to put in the baskets** – donations are welcome.



The Circle is also asking for bingo prizes of small items like coloring books, colored pencils, crayons, playing cards, etc. for the nursing homes. There are a lot of these kinds of things at the dollar stores. Please give to Lorri Deeke or Margaret Stephens, or leave in the church office.

We wish to thank everyone who made a combined total of 56 birthing kits to send to the Republic of Congo this year. And thank you to those for the donations of items to make and/or complete the kits. Last year 43 kits were sent and 37 kits were sent the previous year!

BOWL – A – THON

Youth Group Fundraiser

Sunday, April 10, 2022

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Flamingo Lanes, 301 North 16th St., Fairfield, IA 52556

Participants will seek donations of sponsorship for the bowl-a-thon. Sponsorship should be a flat rate donation. Donations are payable to

First Baptist Church Youth Group and are tax

deductible. Each bowler is asked to raise a minimum of \$25 in pledges to participate.

Bowlers are encouraged to raise more than \$25. Participants will bowl 3 games or until time runs out. Lanes are reserved from 1 - 4 P.M.



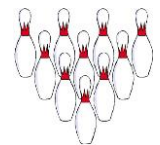
Participation is **open to everyone!** See Lisa

Greenig for a pledge sheet or additional information.

Prizes will be awarded for the person who raises the most money, rolls the highest game, and the lowest game. Good luck!

This is a fun family activity. Invite friends and family to join you in raising money for **First Baptist Church Youth Group**. Be creative! Let's all promote participation for a fun afternoon.

Questions should be directed to Lisa Greenig. 641-919-4343 or greenigalisa@gmail.com.



DATE NIGHT! ... SATURDAY, APRIL 23 ... 5:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Date Night is back by popular demand! The February event was so appreciated by parents, we are hosting another date night. We need as many volunteers as possible to support another date night for parents. Mark your calendar and come have some fun with the kids. We will supervise children from 5 to 8 P.M. To do this, **we need volunteers from 4:30 to 8:30.** If you are willing and able to help with this community service event, please let Lisa Greenig know @ greenigalisa@gmail.com or 641-919-4343.

\$	March Finances:	\$
	Giving: \$27,626.32	
	Expenses: \$36,398.74	
\$		\$



*Prayer Warrior Boot Camp
Ladies' Retreat
April 29-30
@*

Forest Lake Camp & Conference Center

Registration fee \$50.00 (includes meals, lodging, and program materials) if paid by April 15th. After April 15th, cost will be \$60 (and program materials cannot be guaranteed). Can't make it overnight? There is an optional one-day only fee of \$30.

Registration forms may be found on our welcome center.

"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words. - Psalms 17:6

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Community Holy Weeks services will begin at 12:05 PM and lunch will be served at 12:30 PM. Those individuals on a lunch hour will be served first. All are welcome to attend! A freewill offering for the lunch will be accepted each day. Proceeds will go toward FAMA and their ministerial needs.



Here is the schedule for this year:

- Monday, April 11 =====First Baptist Church
- Tuesday, April 12 =====First United Methodist Church
- Wednesday, April 13 =====St. Mary's Catholic Church
- Thursday, April 14 =====undecided
- Friday, April 15 =====undecided



EASTER WEEKEND PLANNED

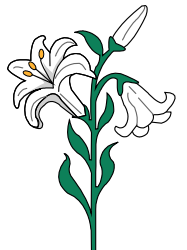
We'll kick off our Easter services with our traditional Sunrise Service at Chautauqua Park at 7:00 A.M.

Then, we're planning to have our Easter Sunday Worship Service in Central Park at 10:15 A.M. 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 invited to donate an Easter lily in memory of a loved one to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. If your lily is in memory of a loved one, please let Jane know. Lilies may be brought to the church any weekday morning the week of Easter.





American Baptist
 Women's Ministries
"Helping the Walls Fall Down"
 Area IA East ABWM Spring Event
 Saturday, April 23, 2022
 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.
 @ Forest Lake Camp & Conference Center
 Speaker: Karen Higgins,

Executive Director of Milwaukee Christian Center

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Register by April 11, 2022 to: Donna Hoaglin @ 319-385-2863

FOREST LAKE CAMP 2022 NEEDS LIST

Our church will be collecting items for Forest Lake Camp to help get ready for the camping season. You may choose from the list and drop off items in the designated area in the church narthex. Women will be delivering items to the camp on Saturday, April 23rd.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Toilet paper (no Charmin or 1 ply) | Floor cleaner |
| Paper towels | Bleach |
| Napkins | 45 gallon trash bags |
| Clorox wipes | 13 gallon trash bags |
| Hand soap | Foil |
| Gallon size freezer/storage bags | Paper plates |
| Sandwich bags | Hand sanitizer |
| Air fresheners | Dawn dish soap |
| Lysol disinfectant spray | Sponges/scrubbers |

SPRING WORK WEEK

@

FOREST LAKE CAMP

May 9-14

For information contact camp @ 641-684-8908

MISSION MOMENT

Fairfield Treehouse is relatively new to the community, beginning June 28, 2021. They are nonprofit, serving 7th-12th graders with a mission to end hopelessness among teens. The group is currently meeting at The Well for peer group on Monday nights from 6:00 to 8:00. Dinner is provided from 6:00 to 6:30. The large group has a lesson on self-worth from 6:30 to 7:00 and then they break into small groups of no more than 6 kids. Using emojis, the kids are asked to share 3 emotions they experienced in the last week. There is an understanding that what is shared stays in the group so that everyone knows it's a safe place to share feelings and what the kids are going through. The adult volunteers are mandatory reporters, so if there is something that has been or could be harmful; it will be addressed.



The Treehouse does have a van, so they are able to pick kids up who do not have a way to peer group. They are consistently seeing around 23 kids each week. There have been as many as 30 kids at a time. Most of the kids are middle schoolers. The Treehouse has begun individual mentoring and would like to expand this area more.

If you are interested in helping out Fairfield Treehouse, their biggest request is getting the word out about them and what they offer. A few other needs are volunteers for Monday nights and mentoring (prior online training required), food for meals, gas cards, and of course monetary donations. The monetary donations would help pay for the use of The Well, routine maintenance and insurance for the van, and the liability insurance they are required to carry.

To get in contact with Brad at Fairfield Treehouse, you can call 641-226-0900, message him through their Facebook page, or email brad@minuteministries.org.

First Baptist Church Council Meeting

March 15, 2022

Present: Joyce Roemen, Dick Hunt, Bob Keller, Lorri Deeke, JoDee Kyle, Pat Comfort, Pastor John Kermott, John {JDR} Rathbun
JoDee opened with devotion.

{JDR} made a motion to approve minutes as written, Joyce 2nd, motion approved.

{JDR} reported a formal contract with Jordan St Cyr, a Christian entertainer, has been made for June 10. Jordan will introduce the congregation to his music and will give testimony of his Christian life. Pastor John spoke about the church logo, what it means, and the message it gives. Then we will be able to explain it when asked. The leaf represents life, the broken lines represent our lives; they are not perfect or complete.

{JDR}, deacon chair, said the deacons have 4 goals: 1. Seek to deepen the heart of First Baptist Church; 2. Accept His love, faithfulness, and sacrifice; 3. Engage in special nights in His name; 4. Rejoice with an open heart.

Council should email Sue Carr (Worship Board) with ideas for survey that is being prepared.

Dick Hunt made a motion for quarterly meeting to be April 24 as Easter is the week before. John {JDR} 2nd motion. Motion approved.

The consensus of the council is to have Community Lenten Service and luncheon on April 11.

Bob is checking with committees to see if old tables and small divider are still used. If not, they will be disposed of to clear the excess from Fellowship Hall.

The council approved Pat Comfort's request to honor Greg Lentz during service with a luncheon following on April 3 as he is leaving for his assignment in Nicaragua on April 20.

Bob is pleased with the giving recently and reported the balance on hand is \$64,119.63.

There are plans to add to the available Praise team and special music group.

On recommendation of the Worship Board, consensus of council is to have first Outdoor Service in the Park on Easter Sunday, April 17 and continue once a month through September. A team will work on some things to improve and enhance the outdoor services.

Dick reminded the council to pray about nominations for next year for council and committees.

Dick made a motion to adjourn, Bob 2nd motion. Meeting adjourned.

Pat closed in prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Lorri Deeke, clerk

CHOIR IS BACK!

Beginning April 3rd, anyone interested in adding a little something special to our Sunday morning worship service is welcome to join our no-practice, informal choir. Here's how it works: Each week, we'll post the next week's song in the bulletin. Throughout the week, anyone wishing to participate should brush up on (or learn!) whatever part they typically sing for that hymn (soprano, alto, tenor, or bass). Sunday morning, at 10 A.M., in the open space in the basement, we'll hold a rehearsal/run-through with the pianist. Rather than wear robes and sit in the loft through the entire beginning of the service, everyone will choose a seat as they normally would, and we'll assemble in the choir loft for the practiced hymn, just after the offering and before the sermon. This is a new way for us to approach a choir anthem, but we're hoping it will be a beautiful addition to our worship service. If you have any questions, or if you need a hymnal for practicing, please see Jamie Gates (641-919-3177).



FOREST LAKE SUMMER CAMPS 2022

Sign up for summer camp soon! Plan **NOW** to attend and get signed up **before May 1st** to receive the early bird discount! If you are a regular attendee on Sunday morning or Wednesday night, you qualify for a 50% scholarship through our church.

Information, brochures, and registration forms are available in the narthex. Please return **ALL** registrations and deposits to the church office.





Husband. Father of two boys and two girls. Singer.
Songwriter. Storyteller. Sharer of God's Word.

June 10th, 7PM – First Baptist Church, Fairfield IA

Jordan St Cyr

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY, FRIENDS &
COMMUNITY ARE PRIVILEGED TO HOST
JORDAN JUNE 10TH 7PM.**

I grew up at a Christian camp. My Dad played the music there and I was five or six years old, really young and really open to what God was saying. I saw this amazing community of believers who served one another. Their hearts were so open to what God was showing them...it's really stuck with me.

It was like God solidified something in my heart as a very young child and he's just taken me from there... That's what I hope for my kids.

It was when Jordan served with Youth With a Mission (YWAM) as a teen that he found the inspiration to pursue music as a career.

I think my songs are for everybody; people of faith, people who are searching for something more in life. My prayer is that these songs would bring comfort and joy to those who hear them. I pray that listeners would be hopeful and open to the depths of God's love...

I can face anything, 'Cause You're here with me
I can do all things, 'Cause You strengthen me