



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sundays	@	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday school class
	@	10:15 AM	Worship Service
	@	5:30 PM	Life Group at Carr's
Wednesdays	@	5:30 PM	Family meal
	@	6:00 PM	Kid Zone & Youth Zone

Saturday, Oct. 1	8:00 AM	Men's breakfast
Monday, Oct. 3	5:30 PM	Deacon & Worship Board meetings
Tuesday, Oct. 4	6:00 PM	Trustee Board meeting
	6:30 PM	C.E. and M&E Board meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 11	6:30 PM	Council meeting
Sunday, Oct. 16	Quarterly Family meeting following worship	
Tuesday, Oct. 18	1:00 PM	Maxine Bates Circle meeting
Thursday, Oct. 20	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club
Sunday, Oct. 23	No Sunday night Life Group	



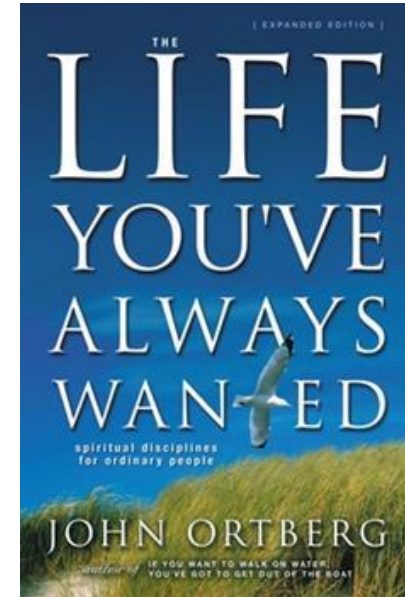
Baptist Tidings

Fairfield First Baptist Church
"A Faith Building Community"



Vol. XLVIII No. 9

September 22, 2022



“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” - Jesus

If Jesus came so that we could have more abundant lives, he must have come so that we could make a lot more money, right? Isn't that what makes life abundant? Or, maybe, an abundant life is one that has all the fun and all the creature comforts a person could want? Is that what Jesus was saying he came to give us?

While money and comfortable surroundings may seem to contribute to a more satisfying life, they aren't a guarantee. Instead, Jesus came to give us the kind of life that isn't dependent on outside factors. Rather, its abundance bubbles up out of our souls, from the inside out. He came to give us life-characteristics like love, joy, peace, patience, and self-control, (these are the kinds of characteristics his Spirit exudes.) Isn't that the kind of life we've always wanted?

We could ask ourselves, “What’s keeping me from more fully experiencing that kind of satisfying and meaningful life?” Or, “How does God make that kind of life happen for a regular people?”

We know that the first thing that has to happen to have this kind of life, is, ironically, to give ourselves away, and give the Spirit of Jesus the authority to take the driver’s seat of our lives. A full and meaningful life starts by letting go of the control of our lives and giving it to the One who created us; by receiving Christ.

But that’s just our new birth. It’s at that point that God begins to “grow us up” and he begins the process of **sanctification**, (making us like him.) This is a process in which he swaps out our fleshly habits and thoughts, attitudes and actions and replaces them with those that are consistent with his heart. Some of our attitudes are changed immediately, but for most of them we have to be taken through a curriculum for us to learn to actively choose his way, to the point that our responses become naturally like his.

Most of us recognize some of the exercises that are helpful to this process. We would all say that Reading/Studying the Bible and applying it to our lives is necessary for us to grow in Christ. We would all say that being a part of a church family is part of that growth. We recognize the part that a prayer-life plays in our growth. But there are so many other Biblical exercises that help strengthen us that we don’t often utilize, like fasting, silence and solitude, secrecy, and celebration. These are just as necessary as Bible Study, prayer and fellowship for our growth, but we rarely put them into practice.

These are the things we’ll look into during this Fall’s “All Church Study” as we read through the book, ***The Life You’ve Always Wanted***, by John Ortberg. This isn’t a self-help book. This is a book that looks to Jesus’ methods for delivering the abundance of his life, to ours. If I could give you all a gift it would be to help you to see how to put these exercises into practice. This is just what this study will do, so I can’t emphasize more strongly how much I hope you will join us for it.

We are meeting on Thursday nights, at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share. Copies of the book are on the Welcome Desk.

“Now may the God of peace himself **sanctify you completely**, and may **your whole spirit and soul and body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.” (1 Thess. 5:23-24)

Running with you all,
Pastor John

PRAYER LIST

Jerry & Sharie Leazer, Roger & Diane McHone, Dewey & Sharon Meinen, Rod Ryan, Henry Salee



THANK YOU NOTE

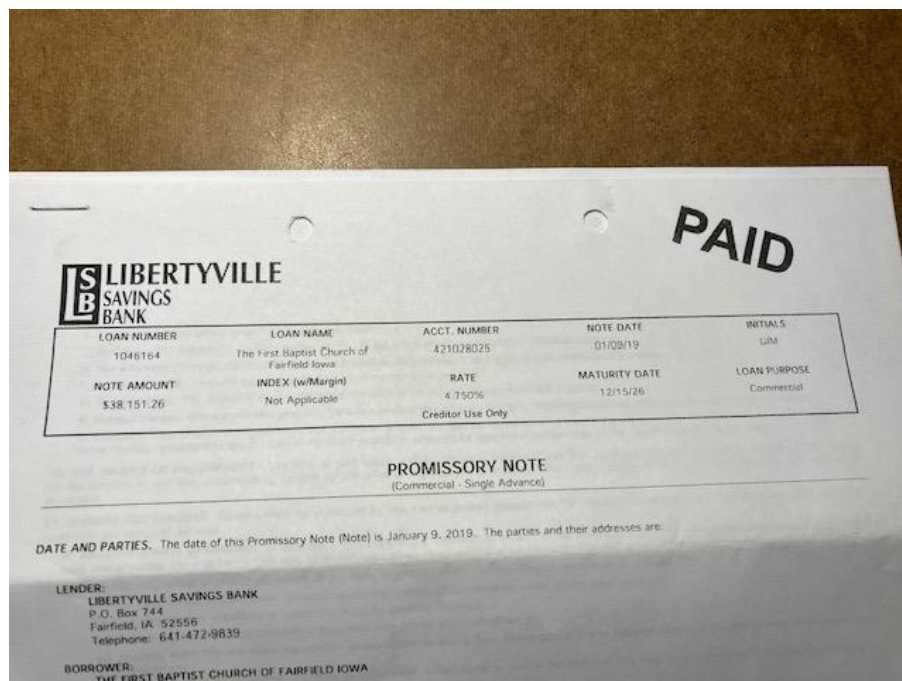
First Baptist Church,

Thank you all for your prayer support during the time I was in the hospital and thank you Deacon Board for the fruit basket & monetary gift. The whole family enjoyed that. Also, thanks to those who have provided meals since I’ve been home.

In Christian Love,
Jerry & Sharie Leazer

PAID-OFF LOAN!!!

The picture below shows a copy of the paid-off note for the new furnaces and air conditioners, as well as the office and library remodel. Praise the Lord for the generous giving of our church family!





May God Bless You on Your Birthday

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 2 Scott Vaughan | 6 Margie Sales | 9 Lisa Crandall |
| 4 Victor Person | 6 Sue Harris | 18 Terry Gates |
| 5 Mick Shondel | 7 Ric McCurren | 25 Amy Kermott |



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 5 Darrel & Brenda Bisgard |
| 9 Duane & Sharon Meinen |

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

HEAD USHERS

- | | |
|------|--------------------|
| Oct. | 2 Bob Keller |
| | 9 Ted Diers |
| | 16 Virgil Symmonds |
| | 23 Marvin Roemen |
| | 30 Sonny Harris |

CHILDREN’S SERMON OCTOBER 16: John Rathbun
COMMUNION SERVERS OCTOBER 2: Harold Munson, Pat Comfort, Lee Muntz, Jan Baird, Ray Woody



REGIONAL BIENNIAL MEETING

This is the year for our Mid-American Baptist Church Regional Biennial meeting, which will be held in Pella, on Friday, September 30th, and Saturday, October 1st. This year's primary speaker is Sharon Koh, who is the head of our International Ministries, and will be sharing the great work that our missionaries around the world are doing! We get to represent our church with 5 voting delegates. Pastor John and Amy will be attending. If you'd like to attend, pick up a registration form from the welcome center.

NEW PROJECT FOR ABW!

Maxine Bates Circle is taking on a new project! They will be providing items and assembling “Birthday Bags” to donate to the Lord’s Cupboard. These bags are given to clients during the birthday month of household members (under 18). The Birthday Bags have been a special surprise for many clients and have brightened many a child’s face when they pick out their bag of birthday goodies! Our Circle is asking the church family to assist in providing items for this project. ABW Circle will then supplement any additional supplies to complete the bags.



For those who wish to contribute to the project, this is the list of items requested for each bag: a birthday-themed gift bag (large enough to place all the other items in it), 1 box cake mix, 1 can of frosting. Also (packaged): candles, paper plates, party napkins, balloons, party favors, and fun stickers. Please place your donations in the wagon in the narthex. Thanks to our church family for your help making a child’s birthday more special!

Maxine Bates Circle will meet in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, October 18th with Joyce Roemen as hostess. Women will be tying a quilt. All ladies are welcome to attend.

THURSDAY NIGHT "ALL CHURCH STUDY" THIS FALL

Following up on our series on our being Spiritual Athletes, we're going to read through John Ortberg's book, *The Life You've Always Wanted*. (Books are available for \$13.00 at the Welcome Center in the narthex. Just add cost to your offering.) This study will help us to see how we can apply the Biblical Exercises that Christ-followers have used over the centuries to help condition themselves, (in the power of the Holy Spirit,) to be more spiritually fit/more like Jesus! Come and learn how to better "train yourself for godliness." (1 Tim. 4:7)



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY THIS FALL (Lisa Greenig)

So far no one has signed up for the Sunday option of the women's Bible study. So it looks like Tuesday (2 - 3:30) afternoon and evening (6 - 7:30) will be our study sessions.

We will start our Bible study in 3 weeks, October 11th.

Encountering God - Kelly Minter

Cultivating habits of faith through spiritual disciplines

This series has seven sessions.

<https://www.christianbook.com/encountering-god-bible-study-book/kelly-minter/9781087730417/pd/730419>

Let me know as soon as possible if you plan to order your own study book, or if you would you like me to order one for you.

Looking forward to growing with you,
Lisa

ABWM AREA IOWA EAST FALL EVENT

All women are invited to attend the ABWM Area Iowa East Fall Event on Saturday, September 24th at First Baptist Church-Church of the Brethren in Cedar Rapids. To register, call or text Donna Hoaglin 319-385-2863.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, October 1 @ 8:00 A.M.

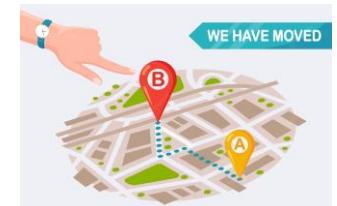
Fellowship Hall

All men welcome!



NEW ADDRESS

Duane "Dewey" & Sharon Meinen
551 Golfview Drive
Sibley, IA 51249



THE LORD'S CUPBOARD

The Lord's Cupboard is beginning to prepare for the Holiday Christmas Meal Box. They accept cash donations to help alleviate the cost of these boxes. Last year it cost \$37 to put together a small holiday box. With the cost of food going up it will cost more this year. In the past, The Lord's Cupboard has distributed 500 Christmas Boxes. A list of items with their current needs is provided. If you are interested in donating needed items or money to help with Christmas Boxes you can contact the Lord's Cupboard at 641-472-8457 or lordscupboardjeffco@gmail.com.



We accept unopened food which is **NOT expired:**

Cans/ Jars

Canned fruits
Canned vegetables
Canned beans
Canned meats: tuna, chicken, beef, pork, chili, fish, Chunky Soups
Peanut butter and other nut butters
Jelly / Jam

Boxed / Dry Goods

Pasta – spaghetti, elbows, egg noodles
Mac and Cheese
Breakfast cereal
Dried beans / lentils / peas
Flour
Sugar

Paper Goods and Soaps

(these items are rarely donated and are NOT covered by Food Stamps!)

Paper towels	Laundry detergent
Toilet tissue	Dish soap
Facial tissues ("kleenex")	Toothpaste
Shampoo	Toothbrushes (child and adult)

Things We Need Around the Cupboard

Black dry-erase markers
Single-window "Release and Seal" business envelopes
Packing tape
Post-it Notes



THINKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS.....(by Lisa Greenig)

I used to do a class "store" every year before Christmas. Students shopped for gifts and took them home wrapped. Students loved it! All for FREE.

Our FBC youth group students want to set up a "store" at church before Christmas. Everything will be FREE! We will offer a cookie and hot chocolate station for adults while they wait on their shoppers.

For this to happen, we need your donations. We're looking for slightly used, in good condition, items. (Knick-knacks, house decor, mugs, candles, items for men, baby toys, etc.) The possibilities are endless! Please no clothing.

When you clean out unwanted items from your home, bring them to church for our store. We will gladly accept wrapping materials, too.

Your youth group is super excited to offer this community service. Please consider how you can help us. If you have any questions, please contact me. – Lisa Greenig 919-4343



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



Through International Ministries' World Mission Offering (WMO), every September and October thousands across the country celebrate and give financial support to ministries that God is using to transform the world.

For more than two hundred years, International Ministries (also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society), has combined resilience, adaptability, and creative approaches to cross-cultural ministry with faithfulness to Scripture. We serve together with and learn from our many local partners in ministry around the globe.

During the month of October, we have the opportunity to contribute to the World Mission Offering. This is a denominational offering that supports ministries of American Baptist Missionaries all over the world.

You will have the opportunity of learning about the work of specific missionaries in various parts of the world, as their work will be highlighted in bulletin inserts on a weekly basis.

Fairfield Baptist Church contributes to the support of Becky Mann who serves in Thailand.

Our goal for this offering is \$600.00. There are envelopes in the pews for contributions to this offering if you would like to participate.

Thank you.....Mission and Evangelism Board

TAKE AWAY HUNGER - RECAP OF SEPT. 18 PACKING

Our 18th packing as a UNITED church family. We reached a milestone during this event. Since the beginning in Fairfield, our United group has packaged 500,334 (that's over half a million meals).

In past years most meals have been distributed to countries such as Haiti and Guatemala. Don Fields informed me recently that covid has forced a change in the way those things are done (covid has changed a lot of things, as we know). He has been distributing thru a group in Oklahoma called North Star Bridge and they have been serving mostly southern states in flood and hurricane communities and that is where our meals are being shipped.

Look up their web-site, they have videos of their missions that would be good to show to our volunteers at packing sessions, that is something we have been trying to get for some time.

Total number of meals packaged last Sunday	11,352
Approx. number of volunteers	75
Started at 1:30; finished about 3:15.	

Meal cost has increased to 27 cents per meal; 1.62 per bag. It seems volunteers are coming back after the covid issue and hopefully we will be able to get back to running 5 tables again or maybe even more. Our funds came out just about right to pay for the supplies this session; once again that must be Divine Guidance. Thank You. I still like the **Power of a Quarter saving plan. If 50 people save 25 cents per day that turns into \$1125.00 in 90 days** and probably does not affect your church budget.

Thank You to the young people that helped with the heavy lifting. Thank you to the local media that helped promote TAH. Thank you to all that promoted with their personal social media. This has only been possible because of the generosity of many people and the many volunteers that give their time to help. Thank you so much to all of those people.

IT'S SO GOOD TO BE A PART OF THE FAMILY OF GOD
Don Henderson

A NOTE FROM PASTOR GREG

In the past few months, I have been able to free up time to work with the ABLDCEN staff. Here are some highlights you all would be interested in.

Pastor Pedro is making great use of the tables and stove that was purchased for the ministry. He had even built a small kitchen where the stove is located. He is averaging 30 to 35 children a week in the children's ministry. This is a strong and stable ministry because of the work that is put into it by Pastor Pedro and the church.

Over the past couple months, I have been working with him evaluating the existing kitchen structure and evaluating possible new construction of a small kitchen. Everything that is needed for the kitchen is already available including the stove, sink table, electricity, and water.

The construction of a building would provide a much safer place for the preparation of the meals for the children. Pastor Pedro has spoken with a contractor and has been able to provide us with the supply list that would be needed in this construction of a kitchen. The cost estimate is \$3000 for materials, labor, and any possible cost that might arise during construction. Any available money left from construction will be utilized for the purchase of food for the children's ministry. We continue to have discussions and prayer for direction on how and possibly when we will need to move forward.

Pastor Angel has been very active in his children's ministry program, and I was able to attend and share a brief message for the ministry's 1-year anniversary. This ministry continues to serve 30 to 40 children weekly. The ministry is well organized with time spent teaching the kids how to pray, Bible teaching, singing, video presentation, and games. Pastor Angel has brought 5 people to Christ through baptism.

The first week of August has been another transitional period as I have moved out of the house I was staying in during my immersion. I had been staying with this family for the past 3 months while I have been attending my Spanish classes. The family I stayed with was very supportive since my arrival. They went out of their way to make sure I was taken care of every day. They even took time to take me out for dinner to celebrate my birthday. They have accepted me

as one of the family which has been very helpful during this transition. They continue to check on me and make sure I am doing okay even though I am not staying in their home anymore.

I am still in classed and will be completing the 2nd phase of my classed this week. Classed are around 2 to 2 ½ hours in the morning and I then go back to the school in the afternoon to work with other students. They practice their English on me and I practice my Spanish on them for an hour or so.

The 1st phase of my classes focused heavily on vocabulary including nouns, adjectives, body parts, things you wear, and verbs. Memorization has not been my strong suit, thus making all this very difficult at times, but with practice retention comes easier. We also did some work with personal introduction statements and basic sentence structure. In the 2nd phase we began to get more in depth with sentence structure and working on fluency. This is a 160-hour course so I will continue to go to classes for another 7 weeks. At the end of this time, we will evaluate where I am at, and I will decide how I want to continue working with the school and possibly take more classes with them. They have offered an additional 3 weeks of training at the completion of the 160 hours, which is something that I will utilize when the time comes. Alianza Americana is a great school and has a wonderful staff. This will be a great resource for me during my time here in Nicaragua.

In summary, things have been going well. I recently had to travel to Costa Rica because my 3-month visa ran out and had to leave Nicaragua so I could reset my visa. I will be continuing classes until mid-October, and it will be at that time I will need to leave Nicaragua again to reset my visa stats again. Many days I feel I am behind in my studies, but I am coming to grips with the fact that even after my classes, I will continue to learn more and more with the learning being ongoing.

Bendiciones,
Pastor Gregory Lentz
Missionary in Nicaragua, VP STLM



First Baptist Church Council Meeting

September 20, 2022

Fairfield First Baptist Church,

Forest Lake Camp and Conference Center is a vital part of Mid-ABC mission to youth, adults, and children in our region. On behalf of the Forest Lake Ministry Team, we want to thank you for our recent donation of \$550.00.

Things are slowing down here at Forest Lake. We still have several groups scheduled throughout the fall. We are staying busy with that as well as cutting firewood for the lodge and the manager's house and planning for camp season 2023. More information on camp will be coming soon.

Some events to look forward to in the spring are the ABW-M Spring rally on April 15, 2023 and the Ladies' Retreat on April 28-29, 2023. More information on the retreat will be coming soon. We would love to see our ladies at one or both of these events.

Once again, thank you for your continued prayer and finance support. It means so much to our ministry.
God's Blessings always,
Forest Lake Ministry Team

First Baptist Church Special Family Meeting

August 28, 2022

Dick Hunt, vice moderator, read the changes proposed to boards and committees. 1. Add Erica Voreis to fill 2-year term as member to Mission and Evangelism; 2. Remove Dick Hunt from Vice Chair of church council to fill remainder of this year as Worship Board Chair. 3. Greg Hanshaw as Vice-moderator to the church council for the remainder of this year and 2 more years after. Ashley Worley made a motion to accept these changes Lee Muntz 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

Pastor John Kermott closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorri Deeke, clerk

Present: John DR Rathbun, Greg Hanshaw, Lorri Deeke, Pat Comfort, Joyce Roemen, Dick Hunt, JoDee Kyle, Pastor John Kermott, Jamie Gates.

For our devotion time, Greg mentioned at least 3 very young children with severe health issues. How important we kept them in prayer. Pastor John opened the meeting in prayer.

John DR made a motion to approve minutes as written Joyce 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

Jamie gave an extensive report about the conference she attended in Nashville recently. She felt it was well worth the cost. She thanked the Worship Board for sending her.

After discussing the problem with the east sanctuary screen, it was the consensus of the council that the Worship Board be responsible to fix the problem.

Dick has asked each council member to pick 10 things from the worship survey they felt is most important to enhance or improve the worship experience. He then asked that our choices be forwarded to him ASAP so decisions can be made at next council meeting.

In a meeting with Pastor John, Jamie, and Dick they found that Facebook is the problem with the blip in-live stream. They found that other churches are experiencing the same problem. The use of u-tube will correct the problem. There must be 50 subscribers to do this. Pastor John will explain how to subscribe with emails and during Sunday church service.

The council discussed having the live nativity again this year. It is the consensus of the council to do it again this year. This year's date is either December 3 or 17.

JoDee made the motion to adjourn. Dick 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorri Deeke, clerk