



APRIL CALENDAR

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

Saturday, April 1	8:00 AM	Men's breakfast at Joe & Melody Hird's
Sunday, April 2	1-3 PM	Friends & Family bowling
	1:30 PM	Packing for Take Away Hunger
Monday, April 3	5:30 PM	Deacon & Worship Board meetings
Tuesday, April 4	5:30 PM	Trustee Board meeting
	6:30 PM	CE & M&E Board meetings
Sunday, April 9	7:00 AM	Sunrise Service in Chautauqua Park
	9:00 AM	Sunday school
	10:15 AM	Resurrection Celebration
Tuesday, April 11	6:30 PM	Church Council meeting
April 17 – 21		Work week at Forest Lake Camp
Tuesday, April 18	1:00 PM	Maxine Bates Circle meeting
Thursday, April 20	Noon	"SALT" group potluck luncheon
	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club
April 28-29		Ladies' Retreat at Forest Lake Camp



Baptist Tidings

Fairfield First Baptist Church
"A Faith Building Community"



Vol. XLVIII No. 3

March 30, 2023



Jesus' Resurrection: Give it Some Thought "He opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures." (Luke 24:45)

The events surrounding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are the most significant events in all human history, (with the possible exception of Jesus' conception and birth.) So, it makes sense that these events have been lifted up and celebrated throughout the world, now, for two millennia. A Rasmussen Survey taken last year found that 73% of Americans celebrate Easter in some way. Of those, 33% celebrate it as a religious holiday, 15% as a secular holiday and 22% as a combination. Of those surveyed 46% said they would attend Easter Sunday morning services. It's encouraging to hear that so many still regard Easter as a significant part of their yearly celebrations.

If you're like me, though, you find that it's easy to end up just going through the motions in our celebrations. It's not that our hearts are in the wrong place, it's just that, often, we have so many traditional family customs to maintain that we can pass over the meaning of Jesus being our Passover Lamb. We don't leave room to ruminate on the significance of Jesus total victory over death to give us life.

Since the earliest years following Jesus' resurrection, his followers have tried to find good ways to help them reflect on the things Jesus accomplished for humanity on that terrible, but joyful weekend.

Irenaeus, who was taught by a guy named Polycarp, (who, himself, had been taught by John the Disciple,) wrote that his forefathers had been intentionally putting practices into place in order to help them properly grasp the importance of Jesus' resurrection each year. This means these practices were those of Jesus' disciples, themselves. Irenaeus was primarily talking about the use of fasting.

Fasting, of course, is the choice to refrain from eating food for a certain amount of time. Today it's thought of as something we do before a medical procedure or as a health or diet plan. But as a Christian practice its purpose is to heighten a person's attention on a truth or a goal. There are many reasons that fasting helps us focus. One is that we can use the time it takes to prepare a meal, and to consume it, to reflect on what it is we're highlighting in our life at the time. Fasting is also a natural "notification system" as each hunger pang is like an alarm we can use to draw ourselves back into thoughtful, intentional reflection each time it "goes off".

Over the years the Church has encouraged people to start purposeful reflection on the meaning of Jesus' work on the cross, and his resurrection, 40 days prior to Resurrection Sunday. This preparation time, called "Lent", is meant to be a "spiritual spring-time" where we're waking up to the Son in fresh ways. People practiced fasting during this time in different ways; eating only one meal each day, or skipping one meal/day, or refraining from certain types of foods on certain days, (like eating fish rather than other meat on Fridays.) More often, today, the season is seen as a time of just "giving something up". Which is better than nothing if used properly.

Whether any of these practices are actually meaningful and healthy for us depends on whether or not they actually help us to consciously reflect on the meaning and accomplishments surrounding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Lent means nothing if it isn't deepening our love and trust in Jesus and his work on our behalf. Still, our love for Jesus, as for anyone else, doesn't deepen unless we cultivate it, and cultivation requires time and attention.

Here are some things you can do to help cultivate your appreciation for Jesus this Easter season: Fast for one meal during the week prior to Easter Sunday and use that time to read from the Gospel of John, chapters 14-21. Let your hunger remind you to pray and ask God to understand what Jesus has done for you. We can also take advantage of the Holy Week services at noon each day of the week leading into Easter. Take time to give it some thought.

Celebrating the joy set before him,
Pastor John

PRAYER LIST

Rod Ryan, Niki Mathis, Lulu Reed, Sharie Leazer, Lindsey Jansma, John Wilson, Henry Salee, John Louk



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

We want to thank you for the prayers, texts, cards, and phone calls during the loss of our mothers, Dorothy Rathbun and Mary Grimes.

We celebrated Dorothy's life here at the First Baptist Church on March 25 and will have Mary's Celebration of Life on April 21 at the First United Methodist Church at 11:00 A.M.

We appreciated all your concerns and support.
John and Connie Rathbun



We wish to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts for Lindsey during her health issues following the birth of Krew. They were very much appreciated!

Greg & Lindsey Jansma
Ed & Trudy Oliver

NEW BABY!

Greg & Lindsey Jansma welcomed Krew Alan Jansma into their family on March 8, 2023. Krew weighed 9 pounds, 1 oz. and was 21 inches. He has two siblings: Mackenzie (4th grade) and Kooper (Kindergarten). Grandparents are Ed & Trudy Oliver.

Congratulations to all of you!



Services in Central Park:

May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 4 Chuck Comfort | 14 Madi Wallace |
| 5 Pat Comfort | 15 Ted Munson |
| 7 Jan Hunerdosse | 16 Dave Bisgard |
| 10 Rylan Anderson | 20 Brenda Bisgard |
| 13 Taryn Ryan | 22 Leona Woodson |
| 13 Sarah Stiemsma | 25 Geneyieve Rathbun |
| 13 JoDee Kyle | 28 Sage Crandall |

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 2 | Greg Fritz |
| 9 | Virgil Symmonds |
| 16 | Sonny Harris |
| 23 | Greg Hanshaw |
| 30 | Greg Fritz |

COMMUNION SERVERS April 2nd: Lee Muntz, Jan Baird, Joyce Roemen, Dick Hunt, Jason Crandall

CHILDREN'S SERMON April 16th: Ashley Worley

LET'S GO BOWLING!

We are thrilled to invite you to a very special event at Flamingo Lanes on Sunday, April 2nd from 1 - 3 P.M. We encourage you and your family to attend and participate. This is a freewill donation event as we do not want cost to be a prohibiting factor in making memories



with your family. For those who plan to cover their expenses, it is \$10 per person. This is open to the community, but we do ask that you RSVP to Lisa Greenig (919-4343) due to space limitations at the lanes. Let's GO BOWLING!

MAXINE BATES CIRCLE

Maxine Bates Circle will meet again Tuesday, April 18th @ 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. Joyce Roemen will be hostess. All women are welcome to join them.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

April 1 – 8:00 A.M.
 May 6 – 8:00 A.M.
 At Joe & Melody Hird's, 505
 Fairfield Road, Libertyville.
 All Men welcome!

SALT GROUP

Next "SALT" group potluck luncheon will be Thursday, April 20 at Noon in Fellowship Hall. All senior adults age 55 and over are welcome. Lorri Deeke will be hostess. Please bring one food dish to share and your own table service.



Forest Lake Camp work Crew Day – Monday, April 17, leaving from the church at 8:00 A.M. Sign up on the table in the narthex.

THE HEARTLAND PREGNANCY CENTER began serving Ottumwa and surrounding areas in 1992, as a non-profit organization. Since that time, they have assisted over 7500 clients through their commitment to educate and help the community, strengthen the value of the family, help men and women heal from past abortion experiences, and affirm abstinence before marriage.

The basket in the narthex will remain until Mother's Day and is for your generous donations toward Heartland Pregnancy Center in Ottumwa. (Sponsored by Jefferson County Right to Life)

TAKE AWAY HUNGER

Packing for Take Away Hunger will be April 2nd, at Word of Life Church from 1:30 til 3:30. All volunteers are welcome. Feel free to work as little or as long as you can.



ABW SPRING RALLY –

The women's Spring Rally will be held April 15, 9:30 – 2:00 @ Forest Lake Camp. Below is a list of items that are needed at camp for the camping season. If you would like to donate items, please leave in the office by April 14th so our women can take them over when they attend the Spring Rally.

Forest Lake Camp 2023 Needs List

Toilet Paper (no Charmin or 1 ply)
Clorox Wipes
Hand Soap
Gallon Size Freezer/Storage Bags
Quart Size Freezer/Storage Bags
Sandwich Bags
Air Fresheners
Lysol Disinfectant Spray
Floor Cleaner
45 Gallon/13 gallon trash bags
Paper Plates
Dawn dish soap

Paper Towels
Napkins
Hand Sanitizer
Foil
Bleach
Sponges/scrubbers



First Baptist Church Council Meeting

March 14, 2023

Present: Margaret Stephens, John Kermott, Dick Hunt, Jason Crandall, Greg Hanshaw, Joyce Roemen, Bob Keller, Virgil Symmonds, and Ted Munson joined us by way of facebook from Arizona.

Moderator, Greg Hanshaw, shared a passage from Oswald Chambers. Pastor John opened in prayer.

Bob Keller made motion and Joyce Roemen seconded that minutes from last meeting be approved. Motion passed.

Greg Hanshaw welcomed new members to the council.

Bob Keller said they had a great cleaning day and a very productive one. He said the old blue office furniture will be taken downstairs in the youth room and wondered about putting choir chairs in narthex. Discussion during clean-up day was that it would cost too much to ship old V.B.S. supplies and used Sunday school materials to Christian Salvage Mission. Will check with region office about where these items could be used.

Some closets downstairs still need cleaning. We need to find a place for blue plastic chairs. Bob said electronic items will be kept.

Pastor John said we will get a replacement podium because the first one came cracked.

Fun team consists of Lisa Greenig, Sarah Stiemsma, Ashley Worley, Erica Voreis, and JoDee Kyle. A family bowling night is planned for April 2 from 1-3 P.M.

Worship in the Park will be the second Sunday each month - May through September. A complaint about noise in the park was discussed. Pastor John passed out booklets on the Gospel of John.

It was mentioned that Christian Education Board is working on children's ministry calendar items.

Financial Report: Bob Keller said it was a good month of giving. The heating bill was a little high.

The Deacons' Fund has been replenished.

Meeting was closed with a prayer by Jason Crandall.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Stephens



Bearing Fruit, Honoring God

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

Ladies Retreat

April 28-29, 2023

Forest Lake Camp & Conference Center

Registration fee is \$50.00 through April 15th (includes meals, lodging, and program materials). After April 15th, cost is \$60.00 and program materials are not guaranteed. Optional one day only: \$30. Registration forms are at the welcome center.

First Baptist Church Special Meeting

March 5, 2023

A brief meeting was held on March 5, 2023 following the worship service to vote on church officer changes.

Greg Hanshaw opened the meeting.

With the resignation of Moderator, Aaron Kooiker, who accepted a city position in Carroll, Iowa, the moderator position needs to be filled. Vice-moderator and M & E Board chairman positions also need filled. Nominations for these positions include: Greg Hanshaw as moderator, Jason Crandall as vice-moderator, and Virgil Symmonds as M & E Board chair.

Lisa Greenig made a motion and Jan Hunerdosse seconded that Greg, Jason, and Virgil be approved to these positions. Motion carried.

Meeting closed.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Stephens, clerk



During Holy Week, FAMA invites all area congregations to come together in unity around our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Each day at 12:05 to 1:00 P.M. there will be a short service with worship and a devotional thought, followed by a luncheon fellowship. Those who need to leave earlier to get back to work are invited to go through the lunch line first.

Here is the scheduled for the week:

Monday, April 3	Fairfield Friends, 1209 S. 6th
Tuesday, April 4	First United Methodist, 201 N. Court
Wednesday, April 5	St. Mary's Catholic, 3100 W. Madison
Thursday, April 6	First Christian, 1905 S. Jct. Rd.
Friday, April 7	Immanuel Lutheran, 1601 S. Main

The free will offering for this week will go to the Fairfield Area Ministerial Association to help those in need.

EASTER SUNDAY

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

Then, we'll have our Resurrection Celebration at 10:15 A.M.



EASTER LILIES

You are invited to donate an Easter lily 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.

Good afternoon and hope all is well with everyone!

First to begin I want to update everyone on the children's ministry at Las Parcelas with Pastor Pedro. The construction of the kitchen we completed last year has been a blessing. Since the Wednesday children's ministry began, we have served over 700 meals since the beginning of November 2022. We have also started four gardens in the community to help provide fresh produce for the meals on Sunday. We already have some squash and tomatoes available from the gardens that will be used to help provide for the meals. Within the next couple weeks we hope to see peppers and cucumbers to add to the other produce. We are also exploring other things that can be planted like watermelon, cantaloupe, onion, corn, and radishes. Pastor Pedro is in charge of all of this and monitors the 4 gardens every week to communicate with me on needs and future needs.

We will be getting a projector next week that we will be using to help in teaching the children. I was able to bring a donated computer back with me in February. The combination of these two items will allow Pastor Pedro to expand his resources and allow him to present the teaching to the children in a variety of ways to help keep the kids engaged in the teachings.

This past Sunday Pastor Pedro baptized four people (2 adults, 2 children). The kitchen did not only provide a safe place to cook food, but also provide a place for adults to share their gifts and be active in the church. Please continue to pray for this ministry!

I would also like to take this moment to share with you a new children's ministry that is in need of a classroom. Pastor Rudy began this project 4 years ago and has been unable to complete the construction of the classroom. I have been working with Pastor Rudy and his wife over the past few months and while I was back shared some about Pastor Rudy's vision for this project. I believe this is another great opportunity to serve children in another community and help bring the vision that God has placed on Pastor Rudy's heart 4 years ago into a functioning classroom for the children to learn about Jesus. We ask that you pray for this ministry as well!!

We would like to begin the construction within the next month or two before the rainy season. If interested in contributing to this project please contact me via email or message me. This will allow me to keep track of everything and determine when construction can begin. All donations will be going through Shining the Ministries.

Blessing and Thanks for Your continued Support!!!Pastor Gregory Lentz

Children's Ministry Classroom Construction



Goals: To partner with Pastor Rudy and his wife to finish the construction of the classroom and establish the foundation needed to provide the needed space to continue the growth of these children and future opportunities to serve these children.

And to be able to provide some needed resources to assist in the teaching of the children and create a strong learning environment for the children.

Needs: 1) To raise \$2300 to complete the construction of the classroom (11 ft. X 16 ft.)
2) To raise \$700 to purchase needed supplies and equipment for the classroom (learning materials, ie. books color pencils, crayons, paper, craft material, etc., computer, projector, desks.

I would like to ask that you pray for Pastor Rudy and this ministry and if God places it in your heart to help in support and partner to complete this classroom, it would be a blessing to have you become a part of this vision and make it a reality in God's Kingdom!

Blessings, Pastor Greg Lentz

FOREST LAKE SUMMER CAMPS 2023



It's time to sign up for summer camp! Plan **NOW** to attend and get signed up **before May 1st** 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 through our church.

Registration forms are available at the welcome center.

Outdoor Adventure/Canoe Cost: \$125 (\$110 before May 1)
6th – 12th Grade June 19-21

1st – 3rd Grade Camp Cost: \$125 (\$110 before May 1)
 June 22-24

Horse Camp 6th – 12th Grade Cost: \$150 (\$135 before May 1)
 June 25-27

Fish Camp 4th – 12th Grade Cost: \$95 (\$80 before May 1)
 June 25-27

Special Needs Day Camp Cost: \$125 (\$110 before May 1)
 (fill out special needs camp form)
 June 28-29 Optional overnight – Cost: \$165 (\$150 before May 1)

4th – 5th Grade Camp Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)
 July 10-15

6th – 8th Grade Camp Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)
 July 17-22

9th – 12th Grade Camp Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)
 July 24-29

Family Camp For the WHOLE family
 June 30-July 2 Program fee: \$50/family (food & lodging extra)
 Registrations due by June 16th for family camp.

Please return **ALL** registrations and deposits to the church office.

\$	February Finances	\$
	Giving: \$15,300.85	
	Expenses: \$15,403.51	
\$		\$

