



JULY CALENDAR

Sundays @ 9:00 AM Adult Sunday school class
 @ 10:15 AM Worship Service

Saturday, July 1 8:00 AM Men's breakfast at Joe & Melody Hird's

Wednesday, July 5 5:30 PM Youth Pool Party at Greenig's

Monday, July 10 5:30 PM Deacon & Worship Board meetings

Tuesday, July 11 5:30 PM Trustee Board meeting

6:30 PM CE & M&E Board meetings

Wednesday, July 12 5:30 PM Family Fishing at Van Winkle's

Sunday, July 16 Quarterly Family meeting following Worship

Tuesday, July 18 6:30 PM Church Council meeting

Thursday, July 20 Noon "SALT" group potluck luncheon

6:30 PM Sac & Fox Lapidary Club

Wednesday, July 26 5:30 PM Hayride at Ted Munson's



May Finances

Giving: \$15,768.58

Expenses: \$22,178.45



Baptist Tidings

Fairfield First Baptist Church
 "A Faith Building Community"



Vol. XLVIII No. 6

June 29, 2023



Staycation Series *Update!

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people." (Acts 2:42, 46-47)

Last night we had our second **Staycation Event** of the summer! This one was called **Fun on the Farm!** We had a good turn-out with lots of good, relaxing conversation, food, and fellowship. We had tractor rides, a hayride, and we got to watch the cows come home at Randy's call...which reminded us of Jesus' words when he said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27)

We've planned these events to go along with part of our 2023 Vision, which is to re-emphasize getting together for some tight fellowship, just as the early Church family did, as recorded in those verses in Acts, quoted above.

Way back, (waaayyyy back,) in my seminary days, in a class that was researching cultural trends, we looked at predictions from marketing strategists like Faith Popcorn, (yes, that's her real name, and I'm jealous of it.) Popcorn recognized a trend toward personal isolation way back in 1981, and she coined the term, "cocooning" to describe it. Even then, she was noticing our tendency to cocoon ourselves in our homes, since we didn't have to go out for food, (as more restaurants were delivering. VCR's allowed us to stay home for entertainment instead of going out to the movies. We cocooned in our homes, or in our offices, and made cocoons of our cars in between. Her prediction couldn't have been more "right on" over the years with the rise of the internet and binge-watching, and with Amazon and local grocery stores delivering to our door. On top of these trends we got hit with a pandemic, and we were told it was wrong even immoral, to get together with other people; even with our families at Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

Contrast 21st Century societal tendencies with those of earlier generations throughout human history and we find ourselves in what can only be described as social and spiritual malnutrition, to the point of starvation. If the people of the First Century needed to make a point of gathering together for fellowship, how much more do we?

During these Staycation Events we have a chance to connect with each other. We get to find out what's happening in each other's lives through natural and easy conversation. Our joys and concerns for one-another grows and we find ourselves knit-together with a more cohesive bond. We're strengthened to be healthier in spirit and we find ourselves enabled to better serve the needs of those around us.

You can check out the continuing events this summer in the announcement section of this Newsletter! Stay tuned to more fun and exciting events to come throughout the year!

One last thought...Facebook and other social media sites are no substitute for real human interaction. Instead, let's reboot our social and spiritual lives so we can "...live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people..."

I hope to see you for our next Staycation and in Worship!!

Together, with you,
Pastor John

PRAYER LIST

Rod Ryan, Nolan Stevenson, Ruth Leazer

Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended to Amy Kermott and family on the passing of Amy's dad on June 17th and to Deb Muntz and family on the June 26th passing of Deb's dad.



Worship with us in Central Park.

Aug. 13 @ 10:15 A.M.

Sept. 10 @ 10:15 A.M.

Bring your family, friends, lawn chair, and a heart to worship in the great outdoors!

Please note: The service in the park on July 9th has been cancelled. The July park service may be rescheduled for a Sunday later in the month. We'll keep you posted.





JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Everly Adler	16	Janet Morris	28	John Kermott
5	Naomi Stiemsma	17	Dick Workman	29	Dave Goehring
6	Ed Hoyle	19	John Wilson	30	Bob Keller
11	Erin Epperson	21	Jane Symmonds		

July Anniversaries

6	Chuck & Pat Comfort
10	John & Connie Rathbun
12	Roger & Staci Wright
22	Mark & Janelle Epperson



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

HEAD USHERS

July	2	Marvin Roemen
	9	Roger Wright
	16	Ted Munson
	23	Dick Hunt
	30	John Van Winkle

COMMUNION SERVERS July 2: Lee Muntz, Jan Baird, Dick Hunt,
Joyce Roemen, Ted Munson

NO CHILDREN'S SERMON IN JULY



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast -
Saturday, July 1st at 8:00
A.M. at Joe & Melody
Hird's, 505 Fairfield
Road, Libertyville. All
Men welcome!

SALT GROUP

"SALT" will
meet for their
monthly potluck
luncheon on
Thursday, July 20th
at Noon in



Fellowship Hall. All senior adults age 55 and over are
welcome. Please bring one food dish to share and your own
table service.



QUARTERLY FAMILY MEETING

It's that time again! Our quarterly family meeting will
take place in the sanctuary following our worship service on
Sunday, July 16th. We encourage you to attend to see what
our church family has been up to.



JULY 5 & AUGUST 2

5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Greenig's house

804 E. Fillmore Avenue

for

Kids entering 6th grade or above.

Supper served at 5:30.

If it rains,

there will be indoor activities.

Have your ride pick you up at 7:30.

A one-piece suit is preferred for the ladies.

Bring your own towel and goggles.



SUMMER FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES

June 30

Family Fun Night
(at church)



July 12

Fishing at Van Winkles
1468 Pleasant Plain Rd.

July 26

Hayride at Ted Munson's
3199 Wheat Blvd. Lockridge

**LET'S GO ON
A HAYRIDE**



August 16

Pool Party at Greenigs
804 E. Fillmore Ave.

August 20

Church Family Picnic
Jefferson County Park
(after church)



All events are 5:30 – 8:00 P.M. except the Church Picnic. Please bring lawn chairs, beverages, and a side dish to share.

First Baptist Church Council Meeting

June 13, 2023

Members present: Bob Keller, Joyce Roemen, Ted Munson, Dick Hunt, Virgil Symmonds, John Rathbun, Margaret Stephens, & Pastor John Kermott.



For devotions, Pastor John talked on refocusing on church mission with a better discipleship in church. He discussed a book, Master Plan of Evangelism, and Rick Warren's books, Purpose Driven Life, The Great Commandment, and The Great Commission.

He also talked about our Staycation Series that we are doing this summer. He then opened in prayer.

Motion made by Joyce Roemen to approve last council meeting minutes. Bob Keller seconded. Passed.

Bob Keller reported that Trustees will check on a security plan with Church Mutual Insurance.

In the Financial Report, Bob said the church spent more than what was brought in last month. Also, not enough money was budgeted to pay for insurance.

There was discussion as to which budget line item to use for Fun Committee. Tabled until next month.

M & E Board: Virgil Symmonds reported the board approved \$900 to support Jason Crandall in getting his Master of Divinity Degree.

Church Picnic will be August 20. Pastor John will reserve Shelter #1 at Jefferson County Park.

Christian Education: A job description for Children's Ministry Coordinator is being put together. There is \$17,440 in the budget for this position. Council affirmed C.E. Board's direction.

Ted Munson closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Stephens



LITTLE FREE PANTRY/LITTLE LIBRARY

The M&E Board, with the assistance of Bob Keller, has installed a Little Free Pantry and a Little Library on the west side of the church. While these two structures look similar (and will be getting some artistic flare from Amy Kermott), they serve two different purposes.

The motto for the Little Free Pantries is "Take what you need, give what you can." You are encouraged to do just that! If you have a need, please use the pantry. If you can give, please pick up a few extra items as you do your personal shopping. We encourage you to add them to the Little Free Pantry or the donation box in the narthex. Shopping suggestions are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Non-perishable items (peanut butter, pancake mix, oatmeal, boxed/canned/bagged fruits, vegetables, pasta, protein, etc.) including hygiene items, are great for the pantry.

Matthew 25:35- "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took me in...." (NIV version).

The Little Library promotes neighborhood book exchanges. We encourage you to fill the library with spiritual texts, religious-themed books, and/or non-offensive reading material for all ages.

Thank you for giving in this small, yet much needed way! God bless you through this ministry!
M&E Board

Hola and Blessings!

6/16/2023

I apologize for the time between updates since my return to Nicaragua. There have been many things going on over the past couple months. As I mentioned in the last update I was working with Pastor Rudy in the community of Gracias a Dios on adding on and finishing the Sunday school classroom for the children. This was a project that Pastor Rudy began a few years ago and was never able to finish due to the lack of resources for completing the project.

Over the past couple months we have been able to receive some support for this project and began construction in mid-April. The process has been slow and we have made great progress in the construction classroom.

The construction of this classroom has brought new energy to the church. Each week the children are taught from the materials and books provided to them and I was also able to get some donated craft materials from another missionary here in Nicaragua. They are also provided with a small meal and snack after their teaching.

We have also been continuing our work in Las Parcelas with Pastor Pedro and the children's ministry. This ministry has become very strong and has brought the congregation closer expanding into the community where we have families with gardens to help with the food needed for the children. Pastor Pedro had a few chickens that roamed the property so we fixed his chicken coop and gathered all the chickens up so we could begin gathering eggs to help in feeding the children. He started with 12 chickens and we provide food for the chickens to help in egg production. Over the past couple months this project has become very successful. Pastor Pedro has used the eggs for his family and the children's ministry. He has also had eggs left that he has been able to sell along with some of the tomatoes and peppers from the garden. With the money he was able to make, Pedro utilized for the purchase of 5 more laying hens to help increase the production. Pastor Pedro is now able to buy his own feed for the chickens because of the increase in eggs, produce sales, church offering, and our weekly love offering. This ministry is not completely self-sustainable yet, but continues to make progress in accomplishing this goal for the ministry. We continue to have 40 to 45 kids each Wednesday afternoon. Since the start of this ministry we have been able to serve 1,272 meals to the children. I have spent time with Pastor Pedro and the congregation as I have continued to teach about stewardship and the responsibility we have as stewards

with the provision that God has provided to this ministry and the church.

Pastor Pedro, Pastor Rudy, the children and myself are truly grateful for the support that has been received to keep Pastor Pedro's children's ministry going and establishing the classroom for the children at Pastor Rudy's Church. The kitchen and classrooms are the foundations that have allowed us to establish these ministries. We have seen the growth and commitment these Pastors have to share the Word of God to these children and empower the people of the congregations to serve God through these ministries.

We still have some more work to do at the church in Gracias a Dios as we are looking to put in a new latrine with proper waste management. The space is very limited and the ability to dig a hole and keep moving it is not a feasible long term solution. I have had an opportunity to see a septic system built in another community that we are currently exploring and evaluating the space needed for installation.

I will be continuing to work with Pastor Rudy to explore solutions to this problem along with continued support to finish up the classroom and build this ministry with educational supplies. Windows for the classroom will be purchased in the coming week and installed. As I am able to gather more information concerning the latrine / bathroom I will share with everyone.

Once again thanks everyone for your support and prayer! It is a blessing for me to be here serving God and working with and empowering these pastors to follow through on the vision God had placed on their hearts with your loving support! Bendiciones!

Greg Lentz



Pastor Rudy Laying Blocks



Bible Teaching

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



2023 School Supply Distribution

Sieda Jefferson County Resource Center
Wednesday, August 23rd
8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
2200 W Jefferson Avenue, Fairfield
For information call 641-472-6140.

Eligibility is based on heating assistance guidelines.
There will be no early distributions



Jefferson Co. Resource Center 2023 School Supply Distribution

Items of Need:

Water colors, composition notebooks, loose leaf paper, colored pencils, 24ct crayons, backpacks, scissors, expo markers, erasers (big & pencil top), highlighters, sticky notes, 3 ring binders, pencil cases (hard & soft), pencils, pens (blue & black), spiral notebooks, glue sticks, folders, rulers, markers.

Please leave items in the church office.

Items will be needed no later than August 16th, 2023. We greatly appreciate all of your help!