



MAY CALENDAR

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

Monday, May 1	5:30 PM	Deacon & Worship Board meetings
Tuesday, May 2	5:30 PM	Trustee Board meeting
	6:30 PM	CE & M&E Board meetings
Sunday, May 7	9:00 AM	Sunday school
	10:15 AM	Worship Service
	11:30 AM	Pizza Planning Pow-Wow
Tuesday, May 9	6:30 PM	Church Council meeting
Saturday, May 13	8:00 AM	Men's breakfast at Joe & Melody Hird's
Sunday, May 14	9:00 AM	Sunday school
	10:15 AM	Worship in Central Park
Tuesday, May 16	1:00 PM	Maxine Bates Circle meeting
Thursday, May 18	Noon	"SALT" group potluck luncheon
	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club



Baptist Tidings

Fairfield First Baptist Church
"A Faith Building Community"



Vol. XLVIII No. 4

April 27, 2023



Celebrate Your Graduations

"Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong. (Hebrews 5:14)"

'Tis the season for graduations. (Fa la la la la, la la la la. ♪ ♪)

Each spring we celebrate with family and friends when a loved one is graduating from high school or college. Our church family is celebrating Erin Epperson and Lacey Wilson's graduation from high school, among others, this year. Congratulations, ladies!!

When I was young my family moved to Walworth, WI, just in time for me to get in on their tradition of having a graduation from 8th Grade into High School. One town we lived in celebrated kindergarten graduation. Whatever the level, moving on from one step to the next is always a great accomplishment and should be celebrated! This is true, even if, like some of us, we barely skimmed by, yet somehow got moved on, (probably so the teacher didn't have to put up with us for the next year.)

Life is a series of graduations.

We may not be involved in formal education anymore, but that doesn't mean we're done receiving instruction. In fact, I believe the very point of our existence is to go through a curriculum of learning that God laid out for us before we were even created. That curriculum is different

\$	March Finances	\$
	Giving: \$23,809.67	
	Expenses: \$19,518.07	
\$		\$

for every one of us, but the path is the same: learn the stuff he puts in front of us in the form of our circumstances and experiences and graduate on to the next level of maturity toward Christlikeness.

That's what Paul told the church family in Corinth,

“And we all...are being transformed into the same image [Jesus' image,] from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

(2 Cor. 3:18 ESV)

Every time we take a step of growth toward Christlikeness, we have a spiritual graduation. We grew up a little more to the point that we look a little more like Jesus. We took on a little more of his glory, which then was preparation for the next course of study, which God will use to develop in us another degree of glory...another graduation.

So, what might one of your graduations look like? It might be something very simple. Maybe, after years of frustration of having to drive behind slower drivers you finally let it go and became content and patient enough to just take the journey as it comes. Congratulations, Graduate!!

Or maybe it's something more significant. Maybe, you have lived in fear and anxiety over the ways your life, or the life of a loved one, could seem to come to harm, and you finally gave yourself up to completely trust him to provide for you, regardless of the difficulty. Congratulations, Graduate!!

No matter how significant the growth might be, every step is a graduation worth celebrating in our lives! Some of these steps, maybe most, won't even be perceptible, it may be the Father has worked on us at the subconscious level, but we can always celebrate all of God's lessons and the ways he's growing us up.

One other cool thing is that he says we can join him in helping others in their spiritual education!

“He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.”

(Col. 1:28 NIV)

That's what we're committed to doing at Fairfield First Baptist Church! So, let's keep on graduating, and helping others to graduate. And let's remember to celebrate the growth God's producing in us!

Celebrating your Graduations,
Pastor John

PRAYER LIST

Rod Ryan, Niki Mathis, Lulu Reed, Sharie Leazer, Lindsey Jansma, John Wilson, Henry Salee, John Louk, Lisa Greenig's niece, Alyssa, Nolan Stevenson, JoDee Kyle's dad, Jim Currier, Greg Jansma, Lindsey Jansma, Kay Steele



THANK YOU NOTES

First Baptist Church family,

Thank you for your prayers and meals while I recover from the latest health adventure I have just experienced. I know it is prayer that made the difference. Hopefully I'm soon back to normal (for me) activity. Thanks for continuing to pray for Jerry, too.

In Christian Love,
Sharie Leazer

First Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for many things....

- *Being our Brothers and Sisters in Christ
 - *Loving and respecting our mother, Dorothy
 - *All the support teams & people which made Dorothy's Memorial Service possible
 - *The wonderful meal
 - *The use of the church facilities
 - *The gifts & talents you provide every day as a church family
 - And for always being there in love and compassionate caring!
- Dorothy Rathbun's Family



WORSHIP IN THE PARK IS BACK!

We will be gathering in Fairfield's beautiful Central Park on the second Sunday of each month, May – September. May's outdoor service will be May 14th; Mother's Day! Come and celebrate God's gift of "Moms"!





MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Hailey Ryan	13 Ashley Worley	24 June Workman
4 Lundy Anderson	17 Janelle Epperson	25 Kellen Copeland
5 Henry Salee	19 Lulu Reed	28 Marvin Roemen
7 Iris Voreis	22 Roger Wright	28 Mark Epperson
11 Portia Bisgard	22 Halibel Baerg	30 Rod Ryan



May Anniversaries

15 Greg & Deb Fritz	22 Dick & June Workman
19 Virgil & Jane Symmonds	23 Greg & Julie Hanshaw
21 Jason & Lisa Crandall	27 John & Amy Kermott

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

HEAD USHERS

May	7 Randy Baird
	14 Paul Greenig
	21 Ted Munson
	17 Ralph Paulding

COMMUNION SERVERS May 7th: Virgil Symmonds, John Rathbun,
Margaret Stephens, Bob Keller, Lisa Greenig
CHILDREN'S SERMON May 21st: Harold Munson

PIZZA PLANNING POW-WOW

Following Worship on **Sunday, May 7th**, the CE Board is inviting the Church Family to stay for Pizza and a bit of prayerful and thoughtful planning for what our Children's ministries will look like for next fall. Our church has some awesome families with neat kids involved in our KidZone and YouthZone ministries. We want to seek God for his direction for the best ways to help each one get to know Him and His Word better and better. We'll give you a penny for your thoughts!



MAXINE BATES CIRCLE

Many hands make light work! Maxine Bates Circle will meet to tie a quilt on Tuesday, May 16 @ 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. You don't have to be a seamstress or quilter to do this! It's actually a very easy process.

Janet Morris will be hostess. All women are welcome to join them.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Due to a conflict, the men's breakfast has been moved to **May 13** – 8:00 A.M. at Joe & Melody Hird's, 505 Fairfield Road, Libertyville. All Men welcome!

SALT GROUP



"SALT" group potluck luncheon will be Thursday, May 18th at Noon in Fellowship Hall. All senior adults age 55 and over are welcome. Margaret Stephens will be hostess. Please bring one food dish to share and your own table service.

POOL PARTIES

Kids entering 6th grade or above are invited to our summer pool parties. Dates are June 7, July 5, and August 2. These will be held at Greenig's house, 804 E. Fillmore Avenue from 5:30 – 7:30 P.M. Supper will be 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.)



FOREST LAKE SUMMER CAMPS 2023



It's time to sign up for summer camp! Sign up **NOW** (by 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
6th – 12th Grade June 19-21

Cost: \$125 (\$110 before May 1)

1st – 3rd Grade Camp
June 22-24

Cost: \$125 (\$110 before May 1)

Horse Camp 6th – 12th Grade
June 25-27

Cost: \$150 (\$135 before May 1)

Fish Camp 4th – 12th Grade
June 25-27

Cost: \$95 (\$80 before May 1)

Special Needs Day Camp
(fill out special needs camp form)
June 28-29 Optional overnight –

Cost: \$125 (\$110 before May 1)

Cost: \$165 (\$150 before May 1)

4th – 5th Grade Camp
July 10-15

Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)

6th – 8th Grade Camp
July 17-22

Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)

9th – 12th Grade Camp
July 24-29

Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)

Family Camp

June 30-July 2

For the **WHOLE** family

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.

2023 QUEST

First Baptist plans to take our youth to Quest at Green Lake Conference Center the week of July 16-21. This conference is for youth between 6th and 12th grades, who are regular attenders. Cost is \$340/person. Scholarships are available and we plan to do some fundraisers to help cover the costs.

Please talk with Pastor John if your son or daughter is interested in being part of this learning and growing experience.

First Baptist Church Council Meeting

April 18, 2023

Members present: Greg Hanshaw, Bob Keller, Joyce Roemen, Ted Munson, Dick Hunt, Virgil Symmonds, Jason Crandall, Pastor John Kermott

Devotion and opening prayer by Pastor John, A.W. Tozer “Courageous Prayer”.

Virgil motioned to accept previous minutes, Joyce seconded. Motion passed.

Ted gave an update on C.E. Board.

Worship Board and M&E Boards have been discussing greeters.

All-church picnic is scheduled for August 20th, following church.

Fun committee will be an ad hoc committee reporting to M&E Board.

Pizza Planning KidZone Pow Wow will follow Worship on May 7th.

Bob summarized the Financial Report.

Bob explained that the city reimbursed the church for the bill for the city sewer blockage.

Council okayed to have the ABW-Ministries Spring Event next April 6, 2024. It was offered to have the men of the church serve the women at that event. Hot dogs were suggested – in jest!

Greg gave an encouraging word about the good things that are happening at Fairfield First Baptist.

Dick closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor John

2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Erin Epperson is the daughter of Mark & Janelle Epperson. Erin will be attending UNI in the fall to major in vocal music education and minor in communication theatre teaching. She is a 2023 Fairfield High School Graduate.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A GRADUATION PARTY
MAY 20, 2023
12:00 – 3:00 P.M.
RREVIVE ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX
111 SOUTH 17TH STREET
FAIRFIELD, IOWA



Erin Epperson

2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Lacey Wilson, daughter of John & Deanne Wilson, had been taking on-line classes through Cam High School in Anita, Iowa. She will graduate from Cam High School on May 20, 2023. Lacey's plans are to take a year off and continue working at Brown's Shoe Fit. She will then choose and attend a college of her choice.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A
GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023
11:30 A.M.
(following Worship Service)
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL



Lacey Wilson

A Message from Greg Lentz...Shining the Light Ministries

I spent the 1st ½ of the month back home visiting churches and family. I appreciate everyone that took the time to spend time with me and share my experiences during my 1st 9 to 10 months here in Nicaragua. Also a special thanks to all those who helped in a variety of different ways from financially, to supplying me with a vehicle while I was there, so I was able to accomplish everything that I needed to do while I was back home.

While I was home, Pastor Pedro, in Las Parcelas, continued his work with the children and pastoring his church. The children's ministry on Wednesday continued to grow and we are continuing to move forward in this ministry. The construction of the kitchen has been a strong foundation for stabilizing this ministry and providing opportunity for continued ministry.

We are averaging 45 children every Wednesday afternoon. The children are being provided an opportunity to worship, learn, and practice in prayer. It has also been an opportunity for parents and adults in the community to share the gifts that have been given to them by God in the help they provide to make the ministry functional. There was also a challenge in mid-January to the congregation to have 4 families or people to begin growing gardens at their homes to help provide valuable vegetables to the meals being provided to the children. Upon my return, there were 2 gardens already started with two others needing seeds to begin growing the gardens. Seeds and fertilizer were provided and have been placed in seed beds.

I was able to meet with Pastor Rudy from Gracias a Dios last year while I was working with Pastor Pedro and his children's ministry. This last week I was able to meet with Pastor Rudy and revisit our previous conversation with him. Pastor Rudy Church began a project 4 years ago that was going to be an addition to the church to provide a place for the children to go to receive their lesson during the church service on Sundays. They began taking offering through the church to complete this construction and simple was not able to raise enough money for the construction. They were able to raise some and began construction but it has never been completed. The children receive teaching every Sunday, but it is outside and weather permitting. The completion of this project would be a great blessing to the church and the children of this church. This is a picture of how far they were able to get on the addition to the church for the children.

Along with the completion of this construction there are needs for a variety of teaching materials needed to assist in the teaching every Sunday. We have provided some books to help in the teaching of the

children and to help organize the Pastor and teacher future Sunday teachings. To finish this construction and get the needed supplies to help in the teaching of the children we would need \$2500.00. I ask you to join Pastor Rudy and me as we continue to pray for the vision and ministry moving forward.

It was my 1st time at this ministry last week. I was able to spend some time with the Pastor on one day and then actually attend the ministry on another day. This is a fairly large ministry that serves and teaches children 3 times per week. When I attended there were roughly 50 children in attendance. Along with the children there were roughly 15 adults that were elderly or pregnant women from the community that also received a meal after the time of teaching for the children. A rice / soy blend is provided to help in the feeding of these people from Ocar who meet with pastors once a month who are feeding children. As long as the pastor attends that meeting to provide feedback on their ministry they provide this rice / soy blend to feed the children, and other vegetables to be added to the meal for more nutrition.

The pastor is responsible for all other items they wish to feed the children. On the day I was there, there was a little chicken, vegetable, and plantain mixed into the rice / soy mix to try to add a little flavor and added nutrition. There is also the added cost of things like oil. To be able to provide what they have been adding to the rice / soy has been \$12 to \$15 a meal.

This children ministry just began a month or so ago and has the potential to reach many children. During this time with the children they take time for an activity which includes singing and a chance for the children to actively participate. There is also a time for teaching with this week's teaching being about the story of Jonah. It is after the teaching that there is prayer and the time for the meal. Some of the needs that were mentioned were things like books to help them teach, which I provided for them. There are also needs for things like glasses, plates, oil, chicken, and other vegetables to be added to the meal for more nutrition. We had 4 baptisms in mid-March which is a testimony to the work Pastor Pedro is doing in the community with the gifts and resources being provided through Christ.

The other two communities are new projects that I will be continuing to work with over the next few months and look forward to sharing the progress of all of these ministries in the coming months!

Blessings, Pastor Greg Lentz

First Baptist Church Quarterly Family Meeting

April 23, 2023

Members present: 29

Moderator, Greg Hanshaw, opened the meeting with prayer.

Ralph Paulding made a motion to accept minutes as written from January annual meeting and two special meetings. John Rathbun seconded. Motion was approved.

Deacon Board – John Rathbun talked on ways the deacons have been stepping into action to serve. They are exploring apps to have prayer requests on it. Congregation has been generous in supporting the deacons. He explained the laying of hands on people for healing. They are discussing the next 18 months of deacon projects.

Worship Board – Dick Hunt praised Jason Crandall and Mary Keller for the good work they did in taping Dorothy Rathbun's Memorial Service and putting it on the web. The board is trying to get the speakers in the narthex working for pre-service music. There is a list of secret greeters being put together. A lot of ideas came out of the worship survey.

Mission & Evangelism Board – Virgil Symmonds talked about ways to serve the community such as soup kitchen, community meals, etc.

Christian Education Board – Ted Munson said Wednesday night was a success. He gave a lot of credit to Sarah Stiemsma. In the fall, they will be doing meals on Wednesday nights again and asked for volunteers.

Trustee Board – Ray Woody said work week at Forest Lake Camp got a lot accomplished. Trustees are working on insurance policy renewal and getting quotes from another company for comparison.

Financial Report – Ray Woody reported that we maintained status quo and holding our own for the last six months.

Pastor's Report – Pastor John Kermott said we're going in a good way and doing a lot for our size of church. Our church ranked #78 out of about 5000 churches in giving to United Missions!

There will be a Pizza Pow-wow on May 7th after Worship to get ideas for our children's and youth programs. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Fun Team will be doing more planning on future fun family activities.

Pastor John closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Stephens, clerk

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE PAGE

Check out the memorial tribute page on our website! A beautiful tribute for Dorothy Rathbun, along with her memorial service is found there. Special thanks to Jason Crandall for recording the service and to Mary Keller for putting it on our website.

TAKE AWAY HUNGER

THE POWER OF A
QUARTER
IF 50 PEOPLE SAVE
25 CENTS PER DAY
THAT WOULD BE \$12.50
IN 90 DAYS (3 months) THAT
WOULD BE \$1125.00
ENOUGH TO PROVIDE
3375 MEALS



A THANK YOU LETTER FROM CAMP

Forest Lake Camp and Conference is an important part of the Mid-ABC mission to youth, adults, and kids in our region. On behalf of the Forest Lake Ministry Team, we want to thank you for your recent donations of \$162.50 towards a special project and the cleaning supplies and paper products. We are so thankful for all your prayer and financial support.

Here is a list of **ALL** the donations that were given to Forest Lake at the ABW Ministries Spring Rally on April 15th.

87 rolls of paper towels	2 bars of hand soap	2 toothpaste
2 deodorant	4 toothbrushes	13 rolls of foil
4 bottles liquid soap	2 bottles of bleach	19 pkg. paper plates
30 boxes storage/freezer bags	1 bottle aloe vera gel	1 bottle sunscreen
12 bottles of dish soap	3 cans of Lysol	3 air fresheners
25 lbs. of flour	6 cans of Febreze	1 box magic erasers
4 bottles hand sanitizer	7 boxes trash bags	10 pkg. napkins
57 sponges/scrubbers	8 boxes fabric softener	
210 rolls toilet paper		

God's Blessings Always,
Forest Lake Ministry Team

