



AUGUST CALENDAR

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

Wednesday, Aug. 2	5:30 PM	Youth Pool Party at Greenig's
Saturday, Aug. 5	8:00 AM	Men's breakfast at Joe & Melody Hird's
Monday, Aug. 7	5:30 PM	Deacon & Worship Board meetings
Tuesday, Aug. 8	5:30 PM	Trustee Board meeting
	6:30 PM	CE Board meeting
Sunday, Aug. 13	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday school
	10:15 AM	Worship in the Park
Tuesday, Aug. 15	6:30 PM	Church Council meeting
Wednesday, Aug. 16	5:30 PM	Family Pool Party at Greenig's
Thursday, Aug. 17	Noon	"SALT" group potluck luncheon
	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club
Sunday, Aug. 20		All-church picnic at Jefferson Co. Park



Baptist Tidings

Fairfield First Baptist Church
"A Faith Building Community"



Vol. XLVIII No. 7

July 20, 2023



Evidence that Demands a Verdict

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." (1 Peter 3:15-16)

Have you ever heard someone say something like, "Faith is believing in something when you don't have any evidence." Maybe you've even thought something like that, too. While it's true that trusting in Christ requires a step of faith, there's a wealth of solid evidence that supports belief in God, His Word, and the importance of His Church.

The problem we're finding is that more and more people are falling into the idea that it's more reasonable to believe that there is no God, that the universe can be explained by natural processes, and that religious belief is just wishful thinking with no evidentiary basis. Very few people have seen the impressive scientific, sociological, and philosophical body of evidence supporting Christian belief.

\$	June Finances		\$
	Giving:	\$13,247.45	
	Expenses:	\$19,618.91	
\$			\$

On the flip side, you rarely find an atheist who has taken the time to examine the foundations of their belief. Those who reject a belief in God often seem to think that their position is the rational one, and they often hold that belief without examining the strength or weakness of their own position. In my opinion, and in the opinion of a growing number of scientists, an atheistic view raises many more problematic questions, and answers fewer of them, than a theistic view. Many who really take the time to examine the strength of both worldviews come away from the exercise saying, "It takes more faith to believe there is no God, than it does to believe that God exists." If you read that last sentence and you think I'm blowing smoke and exaggerating a bit, you need to get filled in on some of the amazing arguments that help to answer questions about life and faith.

This fall I want to arm you with ammunition. I want to provide you all with some of the evidence that supports our faith in Christ. We really need to understand how much support there so that it can strengthen our faith, our resolve, and our witness.

So, on Wednesday nights, while KidZone and YouthZone are happening we'll also have an AdultZone, where we can examine and discuss the impact of the evidence. I want to encourage every member of Fairfield First Baptist to come out on Wednesday nights. You're invited to come at 6:00 PM and enjoy the scrumptious meal that our Wednesday Night Hospitality Team puts together throughout the school year. You'll get to rub shoulders with all the cool families that are connecting with KidZone and YouthZone, and you'll find out how fun and funny the kids are. This will also help to develop more of the multigenerational relationships that make our church so beautiful. Then, at 6:30, we'll go to a separate room to learn about and discuss the evidences for our faith.

Several years ago Josh McDowell wrote a book called ***Evidence that Demands a Verdict***. This book gathered together some of the evidence that had been gathered over the history of Christianity. In this book McDowell made the point that the evidence for faith in Christ is so strong that it demands a verdict from each person as to what they make of it. Is Jesus guilty of being who he claimed to be, (the very God, who created all things, living among humans, in human flesh,) or was he a fake. There's so much more evidence available now than there was at the time he wrote that book.

Please come. Give your verdict. I'm confident it will really strengthen your faith in Him.

With You, in Him, John

PRAYER LIST

Rod Ryan, Nolan Stevenson, Ruth Leazer, Jeremy Roland, Niki Mathis, Ray Woody's niece (Clair), June Workman, Jan Baird, Ted Munson, Marvin Roemen, Mary Godwin



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!





AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 Wayne Berndt	12 Eli Stiemsma	23 Dixie Hickenbottom
9 Trudy Oliver	18 Ruby Diers	24 Cameron Worley
10 Lacey Wilson	23 Sharie Leazer	29 Manon Kermott



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

2 Dick & Deb Hunt	9 Joe & Melody Hird
2 Ed & Trudy Oliver	

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

HEAD USHERS

August 6	John Rathbun
13	Greg Hanshaw
20	Randy Baird
27	Sonny Harris

COMMUNION SERVERS August 6: Ted Munson, Bob Keller, Margaret Stephens, John Rathbun, Margaret Wilson

CHILDREN'S SERMON August 20: ???



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, August 5 at 8:00 A.M. at Joe & Melody Hird's, 505 Fairfield Road, Libertyville. All Men welcome!

SALT GROUP

"SALT" will meet for a potluck luncheon on Thursday, August 17th 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.



Beginning September 6th on Wednesday nights!
Watch for details.....



YOUTH POOL PARTY

AUGUST 2

5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Greenig's house

804 E. Fillmore Avenue

Supper served at 5:30.

This is for kids entering 6th

grade or above. 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

July 26

Hayride at Ted Munson's

3199 Wheat Blvd. Lockridge

5:30 – 8:00 P.M.

Please bring lawn chairs, beverages, and a side dish to share.



August 16



Pool Party at Greenigs

804 E. Fillmore Ave.

5:30 – 8:00 P.M.

Please bring lawn chairs, beverages, and a side dish to share. Also, bring towels & goggles for swimming.

August 20

Church Family Picnic

Jefferson County Park

(after church)

Please bring lawn chairs, beverages, and a side dish to share.

Also, bring outdoor fun family games if you wish.



QUARTERLY FAMILY MEETING – JULY 16, 2023

Moderator, Greg Hanshaw, opened the meeting with devotions from Our Daily Bread; reading from John 16.

Motion by Harold Munson, second by Lee Muntz to accept minutes as written from April 23 meeting. Motion approved.

Reports:

Christian Education Board – Ted Munson reported they are still looking for a leader for Kid Zone/Youth Zone. They are looking forward to fall activities.

Pastor's Report – Pastor John Kermott praised on what the congregation and boards are doing. He said it's an honor serving alongside our church and gave a big THANK YOU!

Financial Report – Ray Woody said giving is in a decline for April, May, and June with expenses up.

Old business – none.

New business – Jan Hunerdosse made a motion to approve the transfer of membership of Aaron & Michelle Kooiker to Central Church in Carroll, Iowa. Motion seconded by Lisa Greenig. Motion approved.

Meeting closed in prayer by Pastor John.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Stephens, clerk

First Baptist Church Council Meeting

First Baptist Church Council Meeting
July 18, 2023

Members present: Virgil Symmonds, Greg Hanshaw, Ted Munson, Joyce Roemen, & Margaret Stephens.

Moderator Greg Hanshaw had devotions from Our Daily Bread, “Doing Something Right.” He then opened in prayer.

Virgil Symmonds made a motion to accept previous minutes and Ted Munson seconded. Motion passed.

It was agreed to have board meetings on September 11 & 12 and council meeting on September 19.

Church picnic is August 20 and the shelter in the park has been reserved.

Recreational events will be listed under line item #405 Service Ministries.

We talked about the live Christmas Nativity and how changes may be made to make it better. We will discuss more next month.

Virgil closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Stephens



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

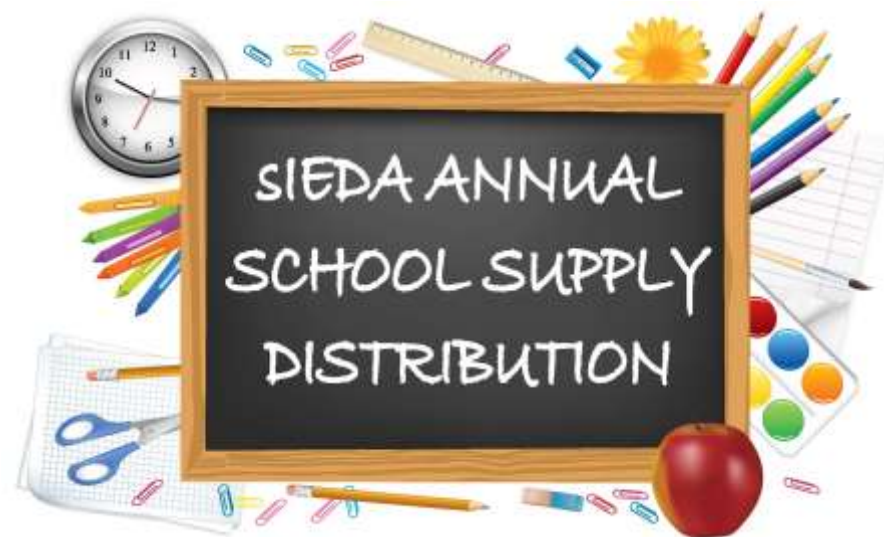
Darrel Bisgard 472-6201
Sharie Leazer 472-3892
Harold Munson 472-8895
Lisa Greenig 919-4343



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!