



JANUARY CALENDAR

Sundays	@	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday school class
	@	10:15 AM	Worship Service
Wednesdays	@	5:30 PM	Family supper
		6:00 PM	KidZone/YouthZone

Saturday, Jan. 6	8:00 AM	Men's breakfast at Hird's
Monday, Jan. 8	5:30 PM	Deacon & Worship Board meetings
Tuesday, Jan. 9	5:30 PM	Trustee Board meeting
	6:30 PM	CE & M&E Board meetings
Tuesday, Jan. 16	1:00 PM	Maxine Bates Circle meeting
	6:30 PM	Council meeting
Thursday, Jan. 18	Noon	"SALT" soup luncheon
Sunday, Jan. 21		Annual Family Meeting following worship

\$	\$
November Finances	
Giving:	\$19,901.73
Expenses:	\$19,446.27
\$	\$



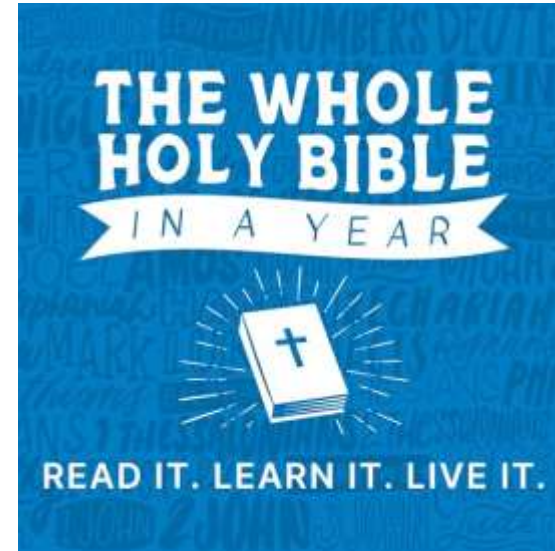
Baptist Tidings

Fairfield First Baptist Church
"A Faith Building Community"



Vol. XLVIII No. 12

December 28, 2023



"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

(Hebrews 4:12)

Each year I present a new focus for our church family to pursue throughout the year. For 2023, as a way of rebuilding our connections coming out of Covid, I had us focus on the things the Church started out with at the very beginning, (as Luke shared in Acts 2.) "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." So we devoted Sunday morning messages to the Apostle John's teaching in his gospel. We got together for fellowship and enjoyed meeting at each other's homes during our Summer Staycation Series. And we started a "Fun Team."

This year I'd like to have a focus on reading God's Word!

Throughout 2023 Dick and Deb Hunt have been following a Bible Reading plan that has been put together by the Lutheran Church of Hope, in Des Moines. (It happens to be one of the fastest growing churches in the U.S. according to Outreach Magazine.) Dick has

shared with me how much they've gotten out of the process for themselves and the great conversation it's sparked between them.

I'm sure many of you have done similar Bible Reading plans, and if you have a system that works for you, then, by all means, stay with what you're doing. But I thought it would be fun, encouraging and deepening for our whole Church Family to be on the same page as we work our way through the Word of God in 2024!

The plan in general will have us reading one chapter from the New Testament and four chapters from the Old Testament, each day. This will probably take about 15-20 minutes/day. Find a time and a place that work best for you and develop a habit of meeting the Father then and there, every day.

The Lutheran Church of Hope provides some great tools for those who are following the plan in order to enhance the experience as we read. We'll include a print-out of the plan in a separate email. Here's a link to their "Through the Bible in a Year" webpage. <https://lutheranchurchofhope.org/whole-holy-bible-in-a-year/>

They have lots of great resources on this page, explaining how to go through the plan, a link to sites where you can find the audiobook of each day's readings, (so you can listen while doing other things,) and a podcast that's put together by the Pastor and other church staff where they discuss the reading and help provide understanding. It's really well done and I'd encourage you to catch that podcast when you have a chance.

My encouragement to you is to try to not look at this as a chore, or something just to check off each day, (though it does feel good to check things off a daily to-do list.) Instead, try to think of it like you've gotten a letter from a loved one, (which it is,) each day, and you can't wait to hear from them!

It can sometimes be hard to read through the Old Testament books, especially. We might find it hard to relate to the situations described. But remember that Jesus said that the Old Testament writings all point to him. We may not be able to catch it each day. Just try to keep it in the back of your mind as you read that each passage is, in some way, trying to get us to know Jesus better.

I look forward to going on this journey with you all!

Happy New Year,
Pastor John

PRAYER LIST

Rod Ryan, Nolan Stevenson, Ruth Leazer,
Ralph Paulding, Jan Hunerdosse, Ed Hoyle



THANK YOU NOTES

POINSETTIAS... Thank you to those who donated:



Margaret Stephens, in memory of her late husband, **John Stephens**

John and Amy Kermott, in memory of **Ron and Barbara Harbold**, and **William Kermott**

Sue Middlekoop and family, in memory of **John Jr. and**

Dorothy and Tom Middlekoop

Thank you so very much for the generous donation to the Fairfield Milestones Meals on Wheels. It is so greatly appreciated!

-Milestones AAA

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank my church family for the retirement party and love gift that was presented to me. Thanks to everyone who came to the party and showered me with love and appreciation. Special thanks to Rachel for making all the beautiful decorations and center pieces, and to Diane & Amy, Tammy & Jeff, and Melody for setting everything up for the party (I think Virgil had something to do with it, too)! I was surprised and overwhelmed with everything that was done just for me!

After 36 ½ years of serving the Lord in this position, I am going to miss it, but a new adventure is calling!

Thanks again, Jane Symmonds



Dear Church Family,

Thank you to all those who helped plan my surprise 85th Birthday Party. It was the biggest party that I have ever had! Lorri Deeke



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 7 Addie Crandall | 23 Joyce Roemen | 25 Lexi Crandall |
| 9 Nigel Baerg | 23 Karley Ryan | 26 Deb Fritz |
| 13 Julie Hanshaw | 24 John Van Winkle | 31 Ted Diers |
| 15 Justin Morehouse | | |



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 1 David & Margaret Wilson |
| 17 John & Diane Yule |

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

HEAD USHERS

- | | |
|-------|-----------------|
| Jan . | 7 Greg Fritz |
| | 14 Paul Greenig |
| | 21 Dave Bisgard |
| | 28 Sonny Harris |

KIDZONE

- | | |
|------|-----------------|
| Jan. | 7 Lisa Greenig |
| | 14 |
| | 21 Lisa Greenig |
| | 28 Amy Kermott |

COMMUNION SERVERS JAN. 7: Lee Muntz, Joyce Roemen, Jan Baird, Dick Hunt, Darrel Bisgard

CHILDREN'S SERMON January 21st: Jan Baird

MAXINE BATES CIRCLE

Maxine Bates Circle will meet in the New Year on Tuesday, January 16th at 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. They will be making Friendship Kits and putting together birthday bags for the Lord's Cupboard. All women are invited to join them.



Another project this group will be taking on in late January and during the month of February is to have a food drive for The Lord's Cupboard. They are inviting the congregation to bring non-perishable, non-expired food items and leave by their display in the narthex.

"SALT" POTLUCK

The January gathering of "SALT" will be Thursday, January 18th @ Noon in Fellowship Hall. This will be another soup luncheon.

Soup will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. All senior adults age 55+ are invited.



Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, January 6
8:00 A.M.

First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Plan to attend our annual meeting on Sunday, January 21st. It will follow our morning worship service. The main item on the meeting agenda will be the approval of the 2024 budget.

Also, all newly elected board and committee members will officially take over their duties at this meeting.



KIDZONE NOTES

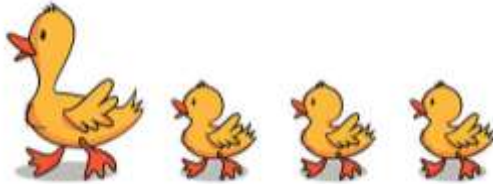
Kids Zone went very well during 2023. There are almost 50 kids and youth registered. The curriculum we are using seems to fit very well for Kids Zone and Children's church.



The highlight of every Wednesday evening is the kids telling me something they learned from the bible story as they get their treat before meeting their parents.

As usual Amy did a great job picking music and practicing for the Children's Christmas Program. In fact she did so well with practice, that when she became ill and couldn't attend the Sunday of the program, the team stepped in and did a great job leading the kids through the program. Special thanks to Diane and Sarah.

By – Lorri Deeke



Date Night

*Do you need a night without the kids?
We have what you need!
Leave your kids with us at church*

*Saturday, January 13th
5:30 to 8:00 P.M.*

*Your kids will have supper,
followed by a movie and activities until 8:00.*

*Please call the church office (472-5205) to RSVP.
This will help us know how many children to plan on serving.*

First Baptist Church Council Meeting

December 12, 2023



Members present: Bob Keller, Joyce Roemen, John Rathbun, Virgil Symmonds, Dick Hunt, and Margaret Stephens

Absent: Greg Hanshaw, Pastor John Kermott, Ted Munson, Jason Crandall

Bob Keller led the meeting. His devotion was from the church website about personality. Virgil Symmonds opened with prayer.

Joyce Roemen made motion to approve minutes of last council meeting; second by Dick Hunt. Motion passed.

Council members, John Rathbun, Virgil Symmonds, and Ted Munson will be away during January and February.

Bob Keller announced trustees will try to find a couple people to fill in for secretary when Amy is gone. It will not be a paid position.

Retirement party for Jane Symmonds is to be December 17th after church on Sunday.

Financial Report: Income for November was \$17,770. Expenses were \$19,446.00. General Fund balance is \$11,398.65.

A list of church policies was reviewed. They might need to be updated.

Margaret Stephens announced that Maxine Bates Circle will be hosting a food drive for The Lord's Cupboard starting January 27th and running through the month of February.

John Rathbun made motion to close the meeting; Virgil Symmonds seconded.

John Rathbun closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Margaret Stephens

