

First Baptist Church
434 Baltimore Street
Waterloo, IA 50701-2699



The Messenger **March 2019**

The Difference of a Single Letter: *Followup to a Sermon*

One snowy Sunday last month, when plows were still out clearing streets and some churches were open while others had closed in anticipation of heavy snowfall, I found myself being inspired at our church by the “text of the morning.” What I mean is the sum total of all the elements of the day working together: a beautiful children’s choir song, cheery worship leadership, a challenging sermon text, a pristine view outdoors, and a very good listener. After worship, this good listener, who always has a wise word of wisdom to share at just the right moment, a skill developed no doubt by years of listening to and cultivating the brilliance of children, said to me: “One letter between *woe* and *wow!*” My mind reacted instantly, leaping with delight at the full weight of her energetic exuberance.

The sermon text, in case you missed it, was from Luke 6: the sermon on the plain (which I have been told some commentators believe was really the same message as Matthew 5’s sermon on the mount, just in different clothing). In it, Jesus shared some fairly searing words of “blessing and woe” with his disciples and hearers. Believe it or not, the pastor learns quite a lot from sermons, too! So I was struggling with how to process or put voice to my unease and the wider socio-economic implications of Jesus’ teaching. After all, being a Christ-follower doesn’t mean not being able to think for oneself, either checking reason at the door on the one hand, or, on the other, having to have it all put together. On the contrary, we are invited to ponder deeply how our attitudes, actions, words, and habits affect others and help build God’s vision of loving community.

So I drifted back across the words the kids sang: “Lord, lead us day by day,” the positive perception the worship leader shared, “It’s beautiful out there,” and the words of this wise teacher, “One letter between *woe* and *wow*,” and something clicked. Sometimes how we experience life can come down to such small adjustments. Will we be *woeful* about our circumstances, or will we be *wow*-ed that we follow Christ who walks with us in every circumstance?

The big lesson for me that wonderful, worshipful morning was that, when I begin to see “woes” as places “*Where Opportunities Exist*,” it puts me on better ground to relate to the experience of others around me. When we all begin to see our need of and express our appreciation for God’s grace, together, we put ourselves in a great position to share and enjoy God’s blessings. I will be praying our church will do just that as we “march” together into a new month.

Loquaciously yours, Pastor Joe

p.s. I also rediscovered the joy of childhood sledding and learned that my kids are way better at it than I am – whew! – along with the delights of spending time with family and friends.



Striving to serve our neighbors, community, and world with open hearts and open doors for over 161 years.

434 Baltimore St.
Waterloo, Iowa 50701
(319) 234-1537
Email: waterloofbc@yahoo.com
www.firstbaptistwaterloo.org



Facebook.com/First Baptist Church Waterloo, Iowa

Check out our pictures and church news!



We are a Blue Zones church!

Sunday:
Sunday School - 9:00 am
Worship - 10:15 am

Rev. Joe Greemore
Pastor

Rev. Carol Teare
Pastor

Susan Price
*Office Manager/
Christian Ed. Director*

Don Huff
Lay Minister

Dr. Randall Harlow
Organist/ Accompanist

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

The 40 Days of Lent

Lent is part of the rich history of the Christian church, dating back to the third century CE. The season began as a 40-hour fast of preparation for those who were going to be baptized on Easter, to coincide with the belief that Jesus spent 40 hours in the tomb.

Over the years, it was expanded to include all the faithful and was lengthened; the church finally settled on a 40-day Lenten fast, beginning on **Ash Wednesday** and concluding **Holy Saturday** (before Easter. Sundays are not included in the count, as each Sunday is a 'little Easter,' a weekly reminder of the Resurrection).

The number 40 was chosen for its significance in the Bible, most notably that Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days.

Today, some Christians observe a fast for 40 days. Many choose to spend more time in prayer, Bible study, meditation, and reflection.

Lent and Easter 2019

The Sanctuary for Lent devotional book contains brief readings for each day of the season, including a short scripture passage, a devotion, and a prayer. The devotional is available on the hallway table near the office. Pick one up as you journey through Lent from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day.

Easter Sunday, April 14

Sunrise Service at 6:20 a.m. held at RiverLoop Amphitheatre with breakfast following.

Join us in the sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. for **Easter celebration** with music by the Sanctuary Choir.



Holy Week

Come Worship With Us

Lent 2019: "Provision in the Wilderness"

Mar. 3 - Transfiguration Sunday

Holy Communion
Text: Luke 9:28-36
Message by Pastor Joe
Music by Sanctuary Choir

Mar. 6 - Ash Wednesday Service, 6:15 p.m.

Mar. 10 - First Sunday in Lent

Text: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Message by Pastor Joe
Music by Celebration Choir & Bells

Mar. 17 - Second Sunday in Lent

Text: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Message by Pastor Joe
Music by Sanctuary Choir

Mar. 24 - Third Sunday in Lent

Text: Isaiah 55:1-9
Message by Pastor Joe
Music by Sanctuary Choir

Mar. 31 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Text: Joshua 5:9-12
Message by Pastor Joe

Apr. 7 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Apr. 14 - Palm/Passion Sunday

Procession of palms by the children.
Music by Celebration Choir and Bells of Praise. Join us for this special morning!

Apr. 18 - Maundy Thursday

Worship in the FBC Sanctuary at 6:30pm

Apr. 19 - Church Row Good Friday Service

Worship at 12pm noon with
Community Choir
First United Methodist, 614 Randolph
11:30am procession from Zion ELCA
to First United Methodist Church

March Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 3 - Kristin Anderson | 21 - Grace Elliott |
| 3 - Cheryl Deahl | 21 - Debra Isaacson |
| 5 - Bryce Anderson | 22 - Scott Bradfield |
| 5 - David O'Malley | 23 - Anne Lange |
| 7 - Martha Everman | 23 - Courtney Penne |
| 7 - Riley Satterlee | 25 - Randy Hess |
| 8 - Bruce Foust | 25 - Taylor Newman |
| 9 - Debbie Drewes | 25 - Amanda Penne |
| 13 - Chloe Anderson | 25 - Belinda Penne |
| 14 - Robin Baldwin | 28 - Diane lehl |
| | 31 - Carol Teare |

Worship Leaders

- Mar. 3 - Susan Price
- Mar. 10 - Dave Schlette
- Mar. 17 - Chuck Stilwill
- Mar. 24 - Carol Teare
- Mar. 31 - Shelby Greemore

Greeters

- Mar. 3 - Jessica & Zach Turner family
- Mar. 10 - Anne & Rye Lange family
- Mar. 17 - Chris & Diane lehl
- Mar. 24 - Patty & Chuck Stilwill
- Mar. 31 - Dwayne & Rachel Price

Coffee and Fellowship

- Mar. 3 - Trustees Team
- Mar. 10 - Diaconate Team B
- Mar. 17 - Mission Team
- Mar. 24 - Trustees Team
- Mar. 31 - Diaconate Team A

Welcome New Members to FBC!

Jane Nelson - was born and raised in the Finchford area and she and her late husband spent over 20 years living in Laredo, TX before returning to the Waterloo area. Jane has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 1 great-grand with another on the way. She is a volunteer at Highland Elementary helping 1st grade.

Patience Zahn - has been living in Waterloo for just 4 months. She is from a family of four; two brothers, her mother and herself. Her niece, Richtricia, also attends church and is involved in our Wednesday night activities. Patience likes to watch movies and go out with friends. Please welcome Patience and Jane to our church family!

Team Meetings

Monday, March 11, 6:15 p.m.
Administrative Council meets at 7:30 p.m.
Please make every effort to attend your C.E.,
Mission, Diaconate, or Trustees meeting.

Our next meeting night is April 8.

Community Meal

Wednesday, March 27, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Invite your friends & neighbors to our meal.
Sign up to help prepare, serve, and clean up.
Salads and desserts are also needed!

Please sign up to help on the church hallway board.

Financial Report (as of 1/31/19)

Checking/Savings \$70,281.85
RBC \$57,026.95
Foundation \$55,784.15
January Contributions \$30,710.00
January Expenses \$15,926.10

Please contribute regularly to the *communion offering* on the first Sunday of each month. The funds received help your Diaconate Team and Pastors Joe and Carol reach out to people in need in our congregation and the community.

Communion offering collected in March has been designated for the AB Women's Ministries White Cross quota which supports requests from International Ministries and local Baptist Home Mission Society Ministries.

Thank you for your support!

THANK YOU to Diane lehl for providing meals for our Wednesday night children and youth for the past 2 years! Diane & Chris served delicious, nutritious meals for 45-50 people on Wed. nights along with lots of love and devotion. Diane has started a new job at UNI and we wish her well. Please thank her for all she's done at FBC when you see her at church.

February Team Meetings

Teams did not meet in February due to the weather.

Soup Therapy Lunch Sunday, March 10, 11:30 a.m.

Join your FBC family for some soup therapy on Sun., March 10th after worship. Bring a pot of your favorite soup or dessert to share. Please sign up under **Activity #1** in worship and indicate if you are bringing soup or dessert.



Do You Have Questions About the New Tax Laws?

The 9th Annual Gift Planning University
March 5, 2019 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
4125 Westown Pkwy, Ste 104, W. Des Moines

Learn the essential information and tools needed to create long-term sustainability for FBC through Gift Planning and donor cultivation by attending a one-day event.

Gift Planning University will give you the tools you can use to guide you and your church leadership through the Gift Planning process to provide for the future sustainability of FBC and its mission.

Registration is only \$69 per person. Register online at:
www.eventbrite.com/e/gift-planning-university-2019-tickets-55416297638 or by calling Johnne Syverson at 515-277-4050.

AmazonSmile

What is AmazonSmile? - It is a simple and automatic way for you to support First Baptist every time you shop, at no cost to you.

How do you shop at AmazonSmile? - Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer.

How do you select First Baptist to support when shopping on AmazonSmile? - On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, you need to select First Baptist Church 434 Baltimore to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Can you use your existing Amazon.com account?
- Yes, you use the same account.

Which products are eligible for charitable donations? - Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on the product detail page.

How much of your purchase does Amazon donate?
- The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible purchases.

Please consider this easy way to help support FBC!

Church Row Needs Your Help!

The Veteran Affairs and The Church Row Historic Neighborhood Association are working together to completely remodel a home and make it available to a deserving, caring veteran family at an affordable price. The home is located at 1417 W. 4th St., just down the street from our church. Volunteers are needed to help complete the remodel. Please call Veteran Affairs at 319-291-2512 if you'd like to help.



America for Christ Offering "Healing Communities" (Gal. 6:9-10) Received March 10 - March 31 Goal \$1,600

The "Healing Communities" theme is a passionate reminder to join with diverse communities in engaging existing resources, expanding our understanding, and nurturing community healing that encourages mutual transformation. Your generous AFC gifts supported the following ministries last year:

- "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico" — rebuilding the island one church and one building at a time.
- Scholarships and Emerging Leaders — providing scholarships to students to help ease the debilitating effects of excessive student-loan debt.
- Immigration and Refugee Resettlement — partnering with organizations that have resettled more than 100,000 displaced persons from across the world.
- Rizpah's Children — partnering with agencies that provide support to children living in poverty.

Additional supported ministries include Disaster Response, Volunteer Mobilization, Prisoner Re-Entry and Community Outreach Ministries.

AFC 2019 encourages us to engage in service to the church and the community. For many, that may be the way they experience the love of Christ in us. We are asking you to join us in giving generously to this year's AFC offering and help us to reach our goal.

-Your Mission Ministry Team:

Marcia Street, Karen Hoppes, Marshal Iehl, Jim Girres, Keith Dewey, Clare Palmer

AB Women's Ministries

Church Women United World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 1st at 1:00 pm
Payne AME Church, 1044 Mobile St., Waterloo

White Cross Blizzard Event

Saturday, March 9, 2019
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Male and Female, Young and Old!
Come and win a Dairy Queen Blizzard!

Friendly Stars & Unity Circles Meet Together

Thursday, April 11th at 6:30 pm
All women are invited to attend.
We will meet at the church to carpool to House of Hope for a tour at 7:00 p.m.

AB Women's Ministries Spring Rallies

Saturday, April 27
FBC Eagle Grove & Forest Lake Camp
Stay tuned for more details!

Church Garage Sale: May 3 & 4

Held at the Van Gorder residence

PLEASE save garage sale items for this mission trip & AB Women's Ministries fundraiser and price your items before the sale.

Mid-AB Women's Conference

Saturday, June 1
Hosted by FBC Waterloo
All women and AB Girls are invited!

Join us as we host women and girls from our region for a one-day conference event. Keynote Speaker/Bible Study Leader is Rev. Dr. Cindy Halvorson, Lunch, Hands-On Projects, Bible study, and Fellowship!

FBC History Quiz

1. Which of the following was the church mission statement in Sept. of 1968?

- A. "Holding Forth The Word of Life" Since 1854
- B. Striving to serve our neighbors, community, and world with open hearts and open doors for over 161 years.
- C. Making New, Making Great

2. Which of the following were actual names of church groups at FBC?

- A. Married Peoples Class
- B. Friendly Folk
- C. Bel Canto Choir
- D. All of the Above

How did you do? If you were part of our church family in the mid-1960's, then you probably knew the answers. Look at how far our church has come and is still changing and striving to connect with our neighbors and the world!

Answers: 1. A 2. D

Student Scholarship Applications

The Christian Education Team is currently accepting applications for student scholarships for the 2019 fall semester. Student Aid Fund was established for use at accredited schools and colleges and will be awarded to students who are active at First Baptist Church. Deadline for accepting applications is April 30, 2019. Contact Susan Price for an application.

Beulah Clark/First Baptist Church Scholarship

One of our beloved members, Beulah Clark, passed away in 2017 and named FBC as a beneficiary to establish and administer a scholarship fund. The scholarship is for any member of FBC attending post high school education in the health field. Applications are now being accepted and can be obtained from the church office until April 30, 2019.

Prayers for the Hendrix Family

FBC members Jenna, Grant and baby Adelaide Hendrix are leaving Waterloo this month. Grant has accepted a new job in Fort Dodge, IA and begins March 1st. Jenna's last Wednesday leading our youth group was February 27th. This will leave 8 weeks of youth group this semester. Ideally, this will give some time to work towards finding someone to fill the Youth Coordinator position.

"We have immensely enjoyed our time with this congregation and are sad to be leaving it. You all have offered me, Grant, and recently, our daughter, a home and much love and encouragement. We plan on returning for many visits to fellowship with you all once again and will continue to cherish the relationships we have built. I appreciate all of you!"

-Jenna

We are so grateful for Jenna's participation and leadership in Band of Light, Sanctuary Choir, our music program, in the lives of our young people, for the joy she brings wherever she goes, and for the time we have shared with Jenna and family.

Spring Clothing Giveaway

Spring is near, and it's time to clean out your closets for our annual clothing giveaway to be held here on **Saturday, April 6th**, 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the social room.

Please bring donated items such as clothing, shoes, and bedding to our church by April 3rd. All donated items will be made available **free** to the people in the neighborhood and community. **PLEASE make sure all donations are clean and in good repair.**

Volunteers are also needed to set up the items in the social room on Friday, April 5th between 9am -4pm. Please contact the church office or Wini Dewey if you can help.

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2019 Lent Theme: "Provision in the Wilderness"			America for Christ Offering received 3/10-3/31		1 1pm Church Women United @ Payne AME Church	2 9:30 am -2 pm Region ABW Board meeting
3 Transfiguration Sunday 9:00 S. School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Nominating Comm. meets 12:00 Church Row Coalition @ FUMC	4 9:30 am Staff 7:30 pm NA	5 6pm Masons 6:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry	6 Ash Wednesday Noon Lunch & Learn 4:30 Bells of Praise 5:00 Dinner 5:30-6:10 Friends Club, Youth Group & Mom's 6:15 Ash Wed. Service 6:45 Adult Choir	7 6pm NA	8	9 10am White Cross Blizzard
10 Lent #1 Spring Forward - Daylight Savings Begins! 9:00 S. School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Soup Therapy Lunch	11 9:30 am Staff 6:15 pm Team Meetings 7:30 Admin. Council 7:30 pm NA	12 Noon-Quilters 6:30-8:30 pm Hawkeye Cooking Class	13 4:30 Bells of Praise 5:00 Dinner 5:30-6:45 Friends Club, Youth Group & Mom's 6:45 Adult Choir	14 6pm NA 7pm Unity Circle	15	16 10am Lehl Bridal Shower
17 Lent #2 9:00 S. School 10:15 Worship	18 7:30 pm NA	19 Noon Quilters Noon Pastors Lunch	20 NO Activities due to Spring Break	21 Noon Friendly Stars Circle 6pm NA	22	23
24 Lent #3 9:00 S. School 10:15 Worship	25 9:30 am Staff 7:30 pm NA	26 Noon Quilters 6:30-8:30 pm Hawkeye Cooking Class	27 4:30 Bells of Praise 4:30 Community Meal 5-6:45 Friends Club, Youth Group & Mom's 6:45 Adult Choir	28 6pm NA	29	30
31 Lent #4 9am S. School 10:15 Worship						