

The Messenger

February 2021

Thank You from Co-Interim Pastor

Dear First Baptist friends,

I never thought that I would serve in pastoral ministry again after retiring in 2006. I shifted my focus to a part-time second career as a college soccer coach, and for the past 15 years, I have been the Assistant Coach/Goalkeeper Coach for four different colleges.

Even though I was very hesitant to return to pastoral ministry, I agreed to serve as the Co-Interim Pastor with Carol after realizing that the church needed pastoral leadership and that I had gifts that God could possibly use. Fortunately, Carol and I know the congregation well and it would have been extremely difficult to find an outside interim in these circumstances.

I will be ending my Co-Interim position on February 28 after 8 months of service. I never imagined that I would serve the entire interim without ever appearing in an in-person worship service. These are certainly challenging times, and it has not been easy to provide ministry in a year filled with struggles for racial justice, an on-going pandemic, and a bitterly contested election.

I know that this puts the church in a difficult situation since we do not yet have a new pastor. I must resign now, though, because our 2020 soccer season at Wartburg College was shifted to this spring because of the pandemic. We begin training sessions at the end of February, and when we are in season, it is more like a full time job.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve again for the past eight months. It brought back many treasured memories of the years I previously served as your Senior Pastor. Those were the best years of ministry for me in my whole career as a pastor.

I will continue to pray for our Pastoral Search Committee. I look forward to the day, hopefully soon, when a new pastor arrives.

Thanks for your faithful support in so many ways. It was a challenging, but very enjoyable, eight months of ministry with Carol, Susan and Fernando. May God continue to guide us and keep us together as we move forward with confidence and hope and trust in God.

With great hope,
Leonard Harmon

Meet and Greet

Wednesday, February 10; 7:00 p.m.

A February Meet and Greet will be held by Zoom on Wednesday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m. Be thinking about the things that you love to do. Be prepared to share those things with others that night. This is a great opportunity to get to know other church members better and to stay connected in the midst of this pandemic. A Zoom link will be sent by e-mail the morning of February 10.



Soothe Your Soul Virtual Event

Cook and Soothe Your Soul

Friday, February 21, 2021; 7:00 p.m.

Beautifully Fed Food will lead you on a 90-minute cooking class making Stuffed Squash. It's a wonderful recipe that is fun and easy to make. The best part is that it can be stuffed with pretty much any vegetable that you have at home. This event is for women of all ages. To register for this virtual event, go to www.abwomensministries.org and click on Events.



The 40 Days of Lent

The season of Lent is a 40-day fast, beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding Holy Saturday (Sundays are not included). The number 40 was chosen for its significance in the Bible, most notably that Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days. Today, many Christians observe a fast for 40 days by choosing to spend more time in prayer, Bible study, meditation, and reflection.

We will observe Ash Wednesday with an online worship service on February 17. A YouTube link will be emailed to the congregation on Tuesday, February 16.

February Birthdays

2/1 - Bob Shafer	2/18 - Mary Jane Shafer
2/2 - Abigail Agan	2/20 - Jean Nelson
2/5 - Winnie Riley	2/27 - Bishop Barnes
2/5 - Hazel Zondo	2/27 - Jason Stanford
2/13 - Richtricia Gbeynie	

Send a card to Jean Nelson as she celebrates her **96th** birthday Lakeview Landing, 332 Southbrooke Dr., Waterloo, IA 50702.

February Anniversaries

2/3 - Roberta & Harold Barber
2/8 - Carol & Toby Teare
2/9 - Patty & Chuck Stilwill (**54 years**)
2/12 - Shirley & Robert Jones

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Watch our online worship services on the following:
www.firstbaptistwaterloo.org
(Worship: Up-Reach tab)



[Facebook.com/First Baptist Church Waterloo, Iowa](https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchWaterlooIowa)



[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) FBC Waterloo Iowa channel

Waterloo Mediacom Cable:
Channel 17 or 79-4
Wed @ 6pm / Thurs. @ 9am

Cedar Falls Cable:
Channel 18
Thurs. @ 9am and 6pm

Condolences to...

Donna Nelson & family on the passing of her sister, Debby.

MY ONE WORD FOR 2021

What is one word that inspires you and can be your theme word for 2021? That was the question that Leonard asked in the January virtual Meet and Greet. Several people who attended that event have submitted a photo of their word and have been featured in our online worship services.

You are invited to choose a word and share it with our congregation by taking a photo with you holding a sign with your word on it and emailing it to the church office.

Take a moment and consider the following when selecting your word for this year:

- *Make a list of words or phrases that capture the characteristics of the kind of person you want to become.
- *Pray, look over your list, and start marking off the words that resonate the least with you.
- *Look up the remaining words in the dictionary and their synonyms. Look them up in the Bible.
- *Pick one word from the list to be your word for this year.
- *Choose a Bible verse that speaks to you about your word.
- *Keep your word in front of you daily.
- *Record your journey with your one word in a journal.

Borrow a copy of *My One Word* by Mike Ashcraft & Rachel Olsen from the church library to read more about changing your life with just one word.

First Baptist Staff

Rev. Carol Teare
Co-Interim Minister

Rev. Dr. Leonard Harmon
Co-Interim Minister

Susan Price
*Office Manager /
Christian Ed. Director*

Dr. Randall Harlow
Organist / Accompanist

Don Huff
Lay Minister

Abi Agan
Youth Coordinator

Bishop Barnes
Custodian

Office Hours:
Monday, Wed., & Thursday
9:00 am-1:00 pm

Thank you for your support!

Please continue to contribute regularly to support the work of the church, including the communion offering.

Make out a separate check for your regular offering from the special offerings such as communion, COVID fund, etc.

Mail your tithes and offerings to First Baptist Church, 434 Baltimore Street, Waterloo, IA 50701.

If you do online banking, set up a recurring payment of your offering mailed directly to FBC.

Financial Report (as of 12/31/20)

Checking/Savings \$51,292.44
RBC \$70,103.02

Foundation \$72,546.28

Dec. Contributions \$21,853.00

Dec. Expenses \$13,541.22