

**You Are Invited to Worship With Us!**  
**Rev. Jonathan Singer, Pastor**  
**10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship**

Sunday, March 5 - Message by Marcia Street & Chris Iehl. Music: Adult Sanctuary Choir.  
Communion Sunday, March 12 - Music: Children's Choir. Worship Leader: Clare Palmer.  
Sunday, March 19 - Music: Sanctuary Choir. Worship Leader: Rye Lange.  
Sunday, March 26 - Music: Sanctuary Choir. Worship Leader: Dwayne Price.

**Tithes and Offerings**

Please continue to contribute regularly to support the work of the church, including the communion offering. Make out a separate check for the regular offering from special offerings such as communion and mission offerings.

Please mail your tithes and offerings to First Baptist, 434 Baltimore St., Waterloo, IA 50701.

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

**Financial Report**  
(as of 1/31/2023)

Checking/Savings \$48,520.00  
Jan. Contributions \$22,897.63  
Jan. Expenses \$35,929.19  
Foundation \$175,365.53

*Striving to serve our neighbors, community, and world with open hearts and open doors for over 168 years.*

**First Baptist Church**  
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**Waterloo, Iowa 50701**  
**(319) 234-1537**  
**waterloofbc@yahoo.com**

Watch our online services at:  
[www.firstbaptistwaterloo.org](http://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

Want to know what's happening in our Region?  
Sign up to receive the bimonthly e-newsletter known as  
**Body Builder**

Go to [www.mid-abc.org/news](http://www.mid-abc.org/news) to subscribe.

# The Messenger - March 2023

**Lent and other oddities**

There is an odd little house shaped box in my neighborhood. Found at the intersection of two streets, it's one of those lending libraries where you are invited to share or take a book. I've used a similar one back when I worked for AT&T, and discovered a fantasy author (David Eddings) that I really enjoy. Maybe you didn't know it, but there is also one by the northeast corner of the church parking lot, near the 4th Street steps. I had never noticed it before. The other day I was leaving the church when a car raced by me, zipping through the parking lot, parked at a strange angle, then someone jumped out of the car and walked over to the little house shaped box and deposited a book, grabbing another. "Oh," I thought, "That's why they are here." Then what they were doing made sense.

It got me thinking about the things we do at Church that make no sense to those on the outside. Think about Communion for example. Our Catholic brothers and sisters believe the elements literally becomes the body and blood of Christ, a process called transubstantiation. Our Lutheran brothers and sisters believe that the elements are simultaneously bread and wine physically, and body and blood spiritually, a process called consubstantiation. Our belief is that the presence of the body and blood are simply symbolic. (FYI that's hundreds of years of church history compressed to a paragraph!)

No matter what you believe, it's odd, weird, and from a certain perspective, kind of gross. Odd enough that ancient critics accused Christians of being cannibals. Most of us don't think about it, but it's important we do. For us the oddity has been normalized, but when we invite unchurched people or those who don't really know what we believe, this is one ingredient in

our spiritual souffle. Like everything else it makes little sense out of context. Communion is something we do in remembrance of our Lord who gave himself for us. We intentionally connect ourselves with Jesus, the one we love. We do this in remembrance of Him. There is beauty and wonder at the communion table, once it is understood in context.

Lent too is odd. Fat Tuesday (a day of excess) is followed by Ash Wednesday, a day where people walk around with dirty faces. What's that all about? No fish Friday? You gave up chocolate? What?

Ash Wednesday is day one of the 40 days before Easter. It begins an intentional period of reflection, remembrance, resolve, and self-discipline in honor and remembrance of what Christ gave up for us. In our worship services we will sing more songs in minor keys, and our choirs may sing songs that talk more of the suffering of Christ. We may be challenged to forego something we usually do, spending that time to intentionally reflect on Christ and the life He gave for us. We may gather together for simple meals (like our Lenten Lunches through month of March), or study God's Word anew to glean new truths (like *The Chosen* video study).

Fellow oddballs, embrace your oddity! We are so weird and do it well together. Join me this Lenten period as we remember and reflect on all that Jesus has done and is doing through us.

I hope to see you at the Lenten Lunches and in worship throughout this season of reflection.

Odd and proud of it.

Pastor Jon

**America for Christ Offering**  
**Received the month of March**  
**Goal \$1,500**

“Grace Upon Grace” (John 1:16-17, NRSVue):  
 “From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

Our gifts to AFC support regions, churches, and community organizations across the U.S. & Puerto Rico including:

- \*Chaplaincy and spiritual caregivers support
- \*Aid for children living in poverty
- \*New, innovative ministries
- \*Developing church leaders
- \*Promoting discipleship

100% of AFC dollars support vital ministries and 29% of the offering supports our region.

We are asking you to join us in giving generously to this year’s AFC offering and to help us reach our goal!

-FBC Mission Team

**“The Chosen” Video & Discussion**  
**4-week offering on Wednesdays**  
**Beginning March 1 - March 22**  
**12:30-2:00 p.m.**

Sign up for the 4-week video & discussion offering based on “The Chosen” series about the life and ministry of Jesus. The series centers on Jesus and the different people who met and followed him. We will watch an episode followed by a time of discussion. Sign up under **Activity #3** on the attendance card or contact the church office.

**Friends Club News**

The Children’s Celebration Choir will be singing in church on Sun., March 12th, 2023. Please plan on having your child here at 9am for rehearsal. There are *no Friends Club activities on Wed., March 15th* as it is Spring Break week. The Children’s Choir will also be singing April 2nd, for the Palm Sunday service. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 9th.

**Wednesday Lenten Lunches**  
**March 1 - March 29, 11:30 a.m.**

Lent is a time of introspection, an intentional daily/ weekly spiritual exercise that centers our whole selves – mind, soul, and body, on the work that Jesus accomplished for us.

You are invited to a period of Lenten Reflection. Beginning on March 1st and continuing through the month of March, you are invited to meet for a series of Lenten Lunches at the church. We will begin in the Sanctuary with a short meditation at 11:30am followed by a light lunch and fellowship.

Please sign up under **Activity #2** in worship on the attendance card each week or email the church office with your lunch reservations.

**Schedule & Chef:**

March 1	Sue Harty
March 8	Vicki Hembree
March 15	Dwayne Price
March 22	Sandee Harmon
March 29	Terri Anderson



**ABWM Project**  
**Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

Everyone is invited to come to church on Thurs., March 9th at 6:30 p.m. to work on a special mission project making sanitary pads. Did you know that the sanitary pad was developed by Mary Beatrice Davidson who also invented the bathroom toilet paper holder? Contact Shirley Baldwin for more information.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**American Baptist Women’s Ministries**

IA East Spring Event  
 Saturday, April 15, 2023  
 Forest Lake Camp

**March Birthdays**

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 3 - Kristin Anderson | 21 - Debra Isaacson |
| 3 - Cheryl Deahl     | 23 - Anne Lange     |
| 5 - Bryce Anderson   | 23 - Courtney Penne |
| 7 - Martha Everman   | 25 - Randy Hess     |
| 7 - Riley Satterlee  | 25 - Taylor Newman  |
| 9 - Athena Chandler  | 25 - Amanda Penne   |
| 9 - Debbie Drewes    | 25 - Belinda Penne  |
| 13 - Chloe Anderson  | 28 - Diane lehl     |
| 17 - Nina Jenkins    | 31 - Carol Teare    |
| 21 - Grace Elliott * |                     |

***\*Send a card to Grace Elliott for her 98th birthday to 5311 Blue Bonnet Dr., 50702.***

**Team Meetings & Administrative Council**  
**There will be NO meetings in March.**

The next meeting night is Monday, April 10, 2023.

**Drive-thru Community Meal**  
**Wednesday, March 29, 2023**  
**5:00-6:00 p.m.**

Please sign up on the hallway board to help with this vital ministry. Volunteers are needed to prepare and package the food, hand out meals in the entryway, and bring cookies for dessert.

**CALENDAR**

**ABWM Board** meets Thurs., Mar. 2 at 2:00 p.m.  
**Prayer Shawl** meets Mon., Mar. 6 at 1:00 p.m.  
**Unity Circle** meets Thurs., Mar. 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
**Friendly Stars Circle** meets Thurs., Mar. 16 at Friendship Village for lunch at Noon.  
**Quilters** meet every Tues. at 12:30 p.m.

**Holy Week & Easter**

**Sunday, April 2** - Palm Sunday worship led by the Celebration Children’s Choir at 10:15 a.m. and a Taize Service at 6:00 p.m. led by Rev. Carol Teare.  
**Thursday, April 6** - Maundy Thursday worship at 6:30 p.m. with music by the Sanctuary Choir. Holy Communion will also be celebrated.  
**Sunday, April 9** - Easter Celebration worship at 10:15 a.m. with music by the Adult Choir & Bells.

**THANK YOU...**

Amazon has announced that the Amazon Smile program has ended. We want to thank all of you who have used this program as a creative way in which to support First Baptist Church.

**CONDOLENCES...**

We extend our deepest condolences to Ed, Nick, and Brandon Murray on the passing of their wife and mother, Brenda on February 22, 2023.

**Irving Elementary News**

Our PIE (Partner in Education) school needs snacks donated for spring testing for their 3-5 graders. If you’d like to give towards this need, please give money to Susan in the office or write a check to FBC with “PIE” on the memo line. Irving is also collecting Hy-Vee receipts, Box Tops & Moola caps.

**SPRING CLOTHING GIVEAWAY**  
**Saturday, April 22, 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

**Sacred Heart Gym**

Start collecting your donations of clothing, shoes, bedding, etc. for the Spring Clothing Giveaway! Place the donated items in the bin found in the church entryway.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

On Sunday, May 7th, we welcome composer & pianist, Mark Hayes to FBC for our 10:15 a.m. worship service. On Monday, May 8th at 7 pm, you are invited to a Community Choir Concert with Mark Hayes at Gallagher Bluedorn on the UNI campus. The concert will feature nine church choirs singing together with our own FBC choir! Tickets for the concert are \$15 per person. This concert is part of the Metro Community Concert Series.

**Holy Week Experience**

A Service of Singing, Silence & Scripture  
 Sunday evening, April 2, 2023, 6:00 PM  
 First Baptist sanctuary  
 This meditative Holy Week experience will be led by Rev. Carol Teare & string ensemble.