

You Are Invited to Worship With Us!

**Rev. Jonathan Singer, Pastor
10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship**

Sunday, May 7 - Message by Mark Hayes. Music: Sanctuary Choir. Worship Leader: Rev. Carol Teare.
Mother's Day Sunday, May 14 - Music: Celebration Choir. Worship Leader: Terri Anderson.
Sunday, May 21 - Music: Sanctuary Choir. Worship Leader: Anne Lange.
Sunday, May 28 - Music: Band of Light. Worship Leader: Patty Jenkins.

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 3/31/2023)

Checking/Savings \$122,397.38
Mar. Contributions \$86,680.74
Mar. Expenses \$18,953.02
Foundation \$174,889.50

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

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

Watch our online services at:
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 to subscribe.

First Baptist Staff

Rev. Jonathan Singer
Pastor

Rev. Carol Teare
Minister of Music

Susan Price
Office Manager

Dr. Randall Harlow
Organist/Accompanist

Dr. Melody Steed
Children's Choir Director

Candace Newman
Children's Ministries Director

Bishop Barnes
Custodian

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday:

**9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship**

Rev. Singer's Info:

Cell # 774-994-3180
Email: jnsinger@gmail.com
Address: 2004 Ashworth Dr.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Office Hours: 10am-1pm
Mon-Wed or by app't

The Messenger - May 2023

Useful Conversations

Susan was out of the office today, so I was talking to her helpful replacement, Sue Harty. (Thank you Terri, Sue, Dianne, Sandee, and Vicki for filling in while Susan was out). Her eleven year old granddaughter was given an assignment, and she had to give a presentation on a specific topic. She didn't get to choose the topic, those were curated to some of the wedge social issues of our day. Think, gay rights, gender identity issues, school shootings, etc. Sue made the cogent comment that she thought these issues were too much for eleven. When I was eleven, I gave a report on the state of Florida. Not exactly a wedge issue then, thought it might be now. I probably should remember something of that report, but I don't. For those who need to know, turns out the state bird is the mockingbird, and the flower the orange blossom. Who knew? Not me, apparently.

Back to presentations... It's hard to imagine children can be conversant in the same subjects that have are so controversial that they have stymied their parents ability to speak and act civilly. So often these issues trigger and tweak us and make very hard to find common ground. Our polarized world draws us like magnets, our emotions get engaged and we struggle to have conversations with even longtime family members. How then do we navigate this world as Christians?

I think one of the challenges is we feel the pull to "choose a side". The screens in our lives and the talking point pundits urge us with their words and media spin to choose, red pill or blue. What if you are like me and are Viking's fan, purple through and through (notice my tongue is firmly in cheek)? Our challenge as followers of Jesus is to move beyond these choices to the

context, to move beyond principles (which are important) to people (who are even more so), and to discover how to be the compassionate people of God in our fractured world.

I want to invite you to a time of conversation about how we talk to one another. We will discuss issues, recognizing the range of viewpoints that Christians hold to, and discovering and understanding what it is that makes good people, even ones we truly respect, "believe that." My hope is that as we journey we can move from being simply passionate to compassionate, not only in our principles, but in how we think of others.

So join me beginning on May 17th for ***Christian Thoughts: How we talk about things that matter...***

We will gather together for four weeks, ending in early June, gathering from 5:30-7:00 pm.

Our conversation topics are going to include what we might term "wedge issues". Our goal is not to create wedgies, but instead to have conversation. On the subjects of guns, women's equality, gender identity, and LGBTQIA+, I am going to approach them using the R.E.S.T rubric of Reason, Experience, Scripture, and Tradition, and invite you to bring resources to help inform our discussion. We will listen to one another, try to understand, and attempt to hear the marginalized voices we usually drown out.

Please come, our world is so good at not listening to each other. We can provide and model something better.

Pastor Jon

WE WELCOME MARK HAYES!

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. Enjoy a night of music featuring ten area church choirs singing together with our own First Baptist choir! Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the door the night of the concert. This concert is part of the Metro Community Concert Series.



May Communion Offering

Please consider contributing to the May Communion Offering anytime this month. The offering received will go to replenish our Student Scholarship Fund. The Christian Education Team receives applications each spring and they distribute money in the fall from the Scholarship Fund to support the educational endeavors of our church family.



SPRING WOMEN'S SOCIAL
Thursday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m.

All women and girls are invited to bring a salad and join us for a salad potluck on Thursday, **May 11th** at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel. We will have a memorial service to honor Connie Drewes, Diana Clark, Renea Roster, and Brenda Murray, ladies who have passed away since last May.

We would like to encourage everyone to bring along their hobby or craft they enjoy doing to share with others.

Sign up under **Activity #1** in worship or contact the church office for reservations.

Christian Thoughts:
How we talk about things that matter...

Join us for conversations beginning May 17th about important issues, but also about how we engage with others on issues that are close to our hearts and where we have difficulty finding common ground.

Our conversation topics will include: all about guns, LGBTQIA+ equality, Women's Equality in pay and choice, and gender identity.

How can we better communicate our values and be heard? Let's talk together beginning at 5:30pm.

Summer Events in Church Row

Sat., May 13 - Church Row Clean Up Day, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm in Waterloo First United Methodist church parking lot.

Sat., May 20 - Fun in Washington Park, 3-6 pm
Bike repair, Safety directions, Banner painting, Making ice cream, Humane Society, Scavenger Hunt, Catapult building, and More! Free hot dogs, chips and drink served at 5:00 pm.

Tues., August 1 - National Night Out, 6:30-8 pm
Free entertainment, food and games in Washington Park.

May Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 4 - Roxane Runge | 19 - Rye Lange |
| 5 - Larry Moser | 20 - Bob Jenkins |
| 7 - Shirley Baldwin | 21 - Sheleah White |
| 8 - Samantha Satterlee | 22 - Dianne Van Gorder |
| 10 - Marshall Walker | 23 - Chris Iehl |
| 12 - Maxine Stone* | 26 - Karen Hoppes |
| 13 - Quinn Anderson | 26 - Clare Palmer |
| 16 - Carly Turner | 31 - Jayda Haywood |

***Let's celebrate Maxine Stone's 99th birthday by sending a card to 600 Park Ln., Waterloo, IA 50702.**

May Anniversaries

- 19 - Liz & David O'Malley
- 21 - Kim & John Chandler
- 31 - Anne & Rye Lange

Team Meetings & Administrative Council
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023

ALL current members, new members, and those going off their teams are invited to attend this May meeting to ensure a smooth transition with new ministry teams forming for the coming program year.

6:15 p.m. All Team members gather in the Chapel
7:30 p.m. Administrative Council meets

Please make every effort to attend!

Sit Down Community Meal
Wednesday, May 31, 2023
4:30-6:00 p.m.

We are returning to a meal inside the church! Please sign up on the hallway board to help with this vital ministry. Volunteers are needed to serve the meals, clean up and to bring cookies or bars for dessert.

CALENDAR

Prayer Shawl meets Mon., May 1 at 1:00 p.m.
ABWM Board meets Wed., May 3 at 1:00 p.m.
Quilters meet every Tues. at 12:30 p.m.

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2023 for Memorial Day.

Congratulations to Alex & Kiariah Chandler on the birth of their son, Ezrah, on April 3rd. Proud Grandparents are Kim & John Chandler.

SAVE THE DATE!

David & Clare Palmer will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday, June 11th with a luncheon following worship in the social room. Please make your reservations by calling the office or signing up in worship under **Activity #4**.

Region Teams

Did you know our MidAmerican Baptist Church Region covers 125 churches over all of Minnesota and Iowa? Just as our church needs ministry teams who plan and lead us, so does our broader church family. Two persons from our church have agreed to serve this year. Marcia Street is the chairperson of Mission and Stewardship Team and Rev. Carol Teare is serving on the Nurturing Professional Leadership Team. There's always a need for others to get involved!

Free Summer Feeding Program
June 19 through July 7

We are excited to once again collaborate with the Waterloo Community Schools on bringing the Summer Feeding Program to FBC for breakfast and lunch for 3 weeks this summer! In doing so, we will need volunteers each day to set up tables and chairs as well as take them down after lunch.

Waterloo Schools is asking that we also provide someone on hand at all times to supervise the meals as necessary for safety. Breakfast begins at 8:30AM so tables/chairs need to be up by 8AM and lunch begins at 11:30AM with everything put away at 12PM. The program runs June 19 through July 7th, with no meals July 3 and 4th.

There will be a volunteer sign up sheet on the hallway bulletin board. Thank you for your support of this wonderful program!

Christian Education Team - Lizzie Zondo, Sue Schlette, Shanna Bravener, Gwen Ramsey, Candi Newman, Donna Huff