

# **The VISITOR**

## **July 2024**

### **Summer Vacation?**

Here at First Baptist Church Ottawa, we are in an exciting season of activity, progress and mission. Rather than sitting back and relaxing for summer vacation, we are fully immersed in a myriad of positive endeavors.

We celebrate last month's Vacation Bible School, "Take Faith to the Max." Thank you to all of the volunteers, to Mike and Glenda Mann who provided an engaging program and an extra special "thank you" to Jordan Fritz for spearheading, organizing, advertising and visioning this VBS! It was such an encouraging week that we are already dreaming of next year.

The trip to Branson to the Sight and Sound Theater to see Queen Esther was also a great time and such a success that an overwhelming majority of people are ready to go again next year. Thank you Grace Duderstadt for inspiring us to go and thank you to Cathy Duderstadt, Christy Jones and others involved in planning and organizing the trip.

The Stewardship Committee has enthusiastically taken on a number of projects around the church. Look for the Homebuilder's room to be completed soon and the exterior painting begins this month! It will not only protect the building but will also wondrously highlight the very special and sacred space we have. Thank you to those who are giving so much of their time.

A group of youth just returned from Green Lake and they will be sharing in worship on July 21.

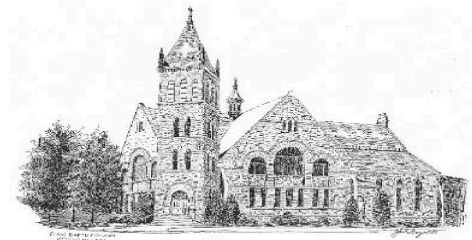
#### **An Opportunity for increased generosity**

We are a church on the move, a church that is renewing, growing, increasing capacity for ministry while also maintaining and improving our facilities. We have a part time youth minister, have need for a paid nursery worker and more. Increased capacity makes room for increased gospel/kingdom impact.

Additionally, the exterior painting begins this month and not only will the wood and other surfaces be protected, the building will be even more majestic and striking than it already is!

Here is the opportunity and invitation: As a way of supporting growing our capacity for impact and also maintaining our building, consider beginning to give extra to the regular budget. No special offerings, just a special invitation to give a bit more. Small sacrifices by all leading to increased giving by all will make a huge difference in allowing us to continue growing our ministry capacity, maintain and enhance our building and stay prepared for future ministry and building opportunities. Thank you in advance for beginning a season of increased giving as we follow Jesus along the way. There will be ongoing communication regarding the opportunity for increased generosity, but feel free to begin giving a bit extra now. Thank you in advance.

Grace, peace and love,  
Pastor Tiger



**JOIN US**  
**SUNDAY MORNINGS**  
**WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30**  
**785-242-2713**  
**OttawaFBC@gmail.com**  
**fbcottawa.org**  
**410 Hickory Street**  
**Ottawa, KS 66067**

Follow us on Facebook:  
**@firstbaptistchurchottawa**  
**Live Stream of worship each week!**  
**You are invited and welcome.**



First Baptist Church of Ottawa is part of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABC/CR and American Baptist Churches, USA (ABC/USA).

**First Baptist Church Ottawa is a Welcoming and Affirming Congregation**  
*The radically inclusive love of Jesus inspires us to be a fully welcoming and affirming congregation. All are loved here. All are safe here. All are invited to full participation in our life together.*  
*Based upon calling, gifting, talent, experience and maturity, we celebrate baptism, communion, marriage, leadership, teaching and ordination with any gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation or identity.*



**Sunday School following worship**  
**for all ages!**

#### **Communion July 7th**

Celebrating the Lord's supper.

Those of you worshipping with us at home, please have your elements ready so that you are able to take communion along with us.



**Continuing this Sunday, whenever we celebrate communion, we will encourage giving to the deacon's fund for benevolence.**

#### **Newsletter Deadline**

Deadline for the **August** newsletter is **July 24th**, please have any information emailed to the office by this date for inclusion in the newsletter. Information received after the deadline will be published in the next month's newsletter.

**If you are interested in being a part of a men's Bible study and/or breakfast group, please call or text Russ Testorff at 785-248-6534. You can also email him at bethruss0710@gmail.com. Let's band together to be agents of God's love.**



**PRAYER TIME: Wednesdays at 12:30 EH.** If you have a prayer request for Wednesday let Pastor Tiger know or call or email the church office.

**PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER**

Bob Lovett (Kim Randel's father); Norma Coble (Dana Coble's mother); Glenda Schmidt; Nathan Ball; Shelly Frank; Tom Lantis (Kelli Ball's father); Mattie Willhite; Mason Sweeney; Janet Wolken; Diane Caryl; Bill Kern; Marsha Hermreck; Carol Fenton (Janet Wolken's sister)

**Shut-Ins:** Betty Bloomer; Dana Coble; Doris Grogan; Sylvia Starky; Bev Hughes; Golden Peterson; Gloria Terrill; Carol Allen

**Military Service People:** Sgt. Nate Plaschka-Fort Hood Texas; Brad Davis-Kuwait (Bill & Janice Kern's grandson); PFC Aaron Bigge-Fort Meade, Maryland (Sandy Holbert's grandson); Lt. Matt Ashwill in Kuwait (Melissa Ashwill's son)

*We make every effort to keep this list updated. Please inform us when there are changes.*

**TITHE ONLINE**

*It's simple!!*

Through First Baptist's website (fbcottawa.org)



you now have the capability to make your contributions electronically using Tithe.ly. It can be a one-time gift or recurring. To make a contribution, go to the **Give** tab and click on **Donate**. Contributions will be tracked through our membership software & reflected on contribution statements.



**We will be collecting for Hope House the first Sunday of each month.**

spaghetti sauce, pasta noodles, saltine crackers, pancake mix, pancake syrup, sugar 2 lbs, flour 2 lbs

\*No longer needing plastic containers

**Radio Ministry**

First Baptist Church believes it is important to keep the Radio Ministry funded, as this is a blessing to many in our community.

**Please designate contributions**

**to: Radio Fund.**

**Thank you Cathy Duderstadt for planning and organizing our first trip to Branson! Many people are excited about going again next year.**

**Church Leadership**



**Fellowship Committee**

Meeting is July 8th, 9:30am EH

**Outreach**

Meeting is July 10th, 6:30pm



Church Council meeting is July 16th, 7:00 p.m. EH

Committee chairs, please have your previous meeting minutes emailed to the Church office.



July 20th at 9:30am in Elliott Hall there will be time to fellowship with one another and discuss the book we have been reading. Everyone is welcome to come join us! If you have any questions please contact Jordan Fritz at 785-342-0539.

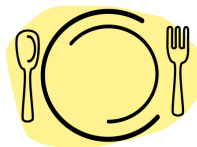
**Help Support Our Church**



Price Chopper Gift Cards are available at the office for purchase. We get 5% for each sale and YOU get the FULL VALUE of each card you purchase.

**Thank you for your support!**

**Price Chopper cards can only be purchased in \$100 increments.**



Our next Thankful Thursday gathering will be July 25th from 5-6:30pm

**The office will be closed on Thursday July 4th  
Christy will be out of the office Thursday July 11th**

Our Annual **Back 2 School Bash** will be Saturday **August 3rd 9-noon**. We can use help setting up Friday, **August 2nd from 10am-noon**. List of school supplies will be in the bulletin each Sunday. For more information call Beth Testorff at 785-248-1676

Exterior painting will begin soon on the Sanctuary and the Education Building. We look forward to preserving the buildings and updating the look to continue to be a crown jewel of downtown Ottawa.

## OGHS FBC offering will be in July

On Easter Sunday in 1949, on nation-wide radio, Christians were challenged to donate one million dollars in one hour to help people devastated by the aftermath of World War II. Faithful Christians answered the challenge and the goal was met. That was the beginning of the **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** offering!

In 1973 American Baptists formally joined the movement that had been carried forward by several Protestant denominations. Giving to OGHS in 1973 was \$82,045.

Over the decades since, American Baptists have increased their support for the offering and in doing so have been sharing the light in all corners of the world—at times during some of the darkest moments in human history. Providing for the myriad needs that result from famine and hunger crises, displacement of people due to war and natural disasters, and recurring and extraordinary natural disasters have been the focus of OGHS. But not just in the immediate aftermath. Today OGHS continues to provide emergency relief after disasters while at the same time supporting development work around the world that seeks to address chronic conditions that linger for years or decades longer.

I love Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of these verses in Matthew 5, and the clear commission they give to show up brightly in the world and be generous with our lives. That is the invitation extended in this year's theme, **Share the Light**. And it's an invitation that American Baptists have accepted and responded to for over 50 years.

SHARING THE LIGHT FOR 75 YEARS A LETTER FROM YOUR WORLD RELIEF OFFICER "Let me tell you why you are here... You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world... Keep open house; be generous with your lives." (Matthew 5:13-16, The Message)

The scriptures tell us that huge crowds were gathering, drawn to Jesus by his teachings and the miracles of healing he performed. So Jesus climbed a hill and delivered his "sermon on the mount" to an audience captivated by his message and ways. He offered them blessings, affirming them in ways probably no one had before.

Then he described a life of discipleship characterized by prayer, humility, love of one's enemies, and a steady practice of being 'salt and light,' generously sharing the goodness of God in all the world.

One Great Hour of Sharing is a beautiful opportunity to do just that. When we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, we become a dazzling prism of light scattering blessing in places that desperately need it. We offer hope to people forced to flee their homes in search of safety and new promise. We support life-giving recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities and lives. We empower partners in their labors to build sustainable futures. We plant seeds of peace where war has multiplied despair and destruction.

This is why we are here: to be shining witnesses of uncommon love and enduring hope and to be generous with our lives. I hope you will invite giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year with the same spirit of joyful generosity you have for so many years!

FBC Visitor July 2024

PHILIPPIANS

KEY VERSE:

**"Rejoice in the Lord always.**

**I will say it again Rejoice." (4:4)**

Paul wrote Philippians to dear friends. Wm. Barkley calls this "the loveliest letter Paul ever wrote." It has been called *The Epistle of Excellent Things* and sometimes *The Epistle of Joy*." As we read Philippians note "Rejoice" and "Joy" recur often. He is writing to special friends. (1:1-11) Paul's greeting is informal, as to friends. (1:12-26) Paul is a prisoner in Rome. His message of Christ rapidly spread through Rome. Through his captive audience he taught the importance of a believer to **Stand firm amid persecution** (1:27-30). **Be united by Humility** (2:5-11). **Imitate Christ** (2:5-11). **Be a Light in a Dark World.** (2:12-18)

Paul illustrates his encouragement through metaphors as in **1.** 1 Corinthians (9:24-27) **2.** he speaks of **training for a race.** **3.** Philippians (3:13,14) **focus on winning.** **4.** 1 Timothy (4:7-10) training, & spiritual **exercise** to grow in faith and character.

**Recurrent Thoughts,**

"Entire Consecration to Christ,  
"Love for his church," and  
"Spiritual joy."

**Divine Preparation**

for the Needs of believers.

Overflowing blessings ps.23:5

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows."

Treasures of Goodness Ps.31:19

"Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind."

Paul says (1:27) "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner **worthy** of the gospel of Christ."

Philippians is a letter worthy of studying.

Humbly submitted for you,

ABWM BOM Lilly C.

**ABWM**

ABWM national conference will take place July 18-21 in Roanoke, VA

Looking forward to a wonderful lunch together during our next meeting in August.

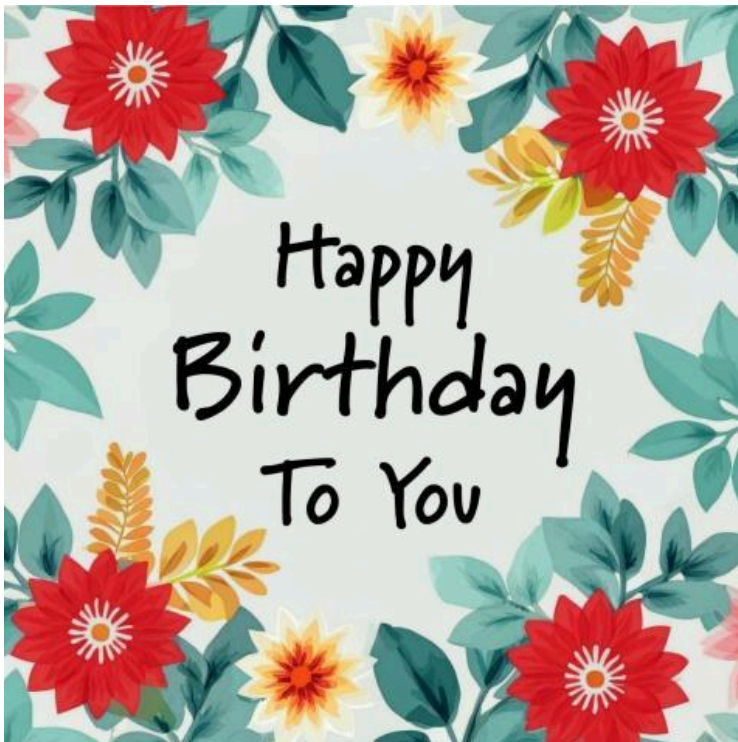
# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## Visitor

*Published by the First Baptist Church*

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Ramon Schmidt 7-31

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