

The VISITOR

March 2023

“Learning to See the Along the Way”

The season of Lent could be characterized as learning to see love along the way towards suffering. The gospel stories from the lectionary for this Lenten season are each about significant, mind bending, perspective shattering encounters with Jesus. And in each of the encounters, Jesus is literally and figuratively giving the ability to see.

In John 3:1-17, Nicodemus comes to Jesus seeking more, perhaps hoping to see more clearly who Jesus is. While it was still dark, he begins by complimenting Jesus regarding his miraculous works demonstrating God’s presence with him. The conversation ensues as Jesus seeks to focus Nicodemus on his need to be born from above(born again) which will enable him to see the transformative truth of “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Nicodemus came from a world of insiders and outsiders, religious and irreligious, Jew and Gentile but Jesus redirects him to see God’s love for the whole world, a love most clearly and paradoxically demonstrated when Jesus is high and lifted up,.....on the Cross.

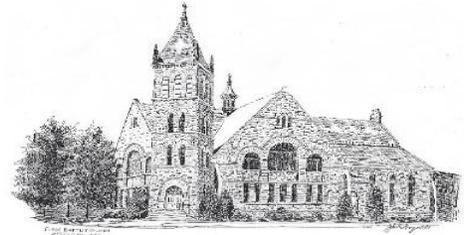
In John 4:5-42 the Samaritan woman at the well gets such new vision that she can’t even see what she leaves behind when she runs back to her people in Samaria. Jesus sees her not as a foreign woman married many times who worships the wrong way in the wrong place, but rather as a beloved daughter of God. He breaks social and religious norms in order for her to see her divine worth, to see herself as created in the image of God, to see herself through the lens of God’s acceptance rather than through the lens of male rejection.

Jesus causes quite a stir through the giving of sight to a blind man in John 9:1-41. The ensuing conversation and debate revolves around who is a child of Abraham and who may in fact be a child of Satan through refusing to see.

In John 11:1-45, Jesus weeps with sisters Mary and Martha over the death of their brother and his friend Lazarus. Jesus enters into the suffering of grief, teaching Mary and Martha to see him with them in and through all things. He is preparing them and us to see him with us along the way of every death while demonstrating death will never have the final word.

May we learn to see the co-suffering love of Jesus with us along the way of Lent this year. And may we, like blind Bartimaeus cry out, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

Grace, peace and love,
Pastor Tiger



**JOIN US
SUNDAY MORNINGS
WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30**

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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).



*Sunday School following worship
for all ages!*

Communion March 5th

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.



Thankful Thursday Gathering

We will begin serving meals to people in need on March 23, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00pm. These meals will be served the 4th Thursday of each month. We are seeking to fulfill a need, by simply providing a warm meal, a smiling face, and good friendship with people from our church.



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.



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; Darlene Dryden (Cheryl Dryden’s mother in law); Susan Flory (Wayne Jones’ daughter); Tom Lantis (Kelli Ball’s father); Rachel Morsett; Jane Smith; Warren Smith

Shut-Ins: Betty Bloomer; Donna Blau; Dana Coble; Doris Grogan; Sylvia Starky; Bev Hughes; Golden Peterson; Gloria Terrill

Military Service People: Nicholas Hermreck (Virginia); Sgt. Nate Plaschka-Germany; Zach Edwards-Poland

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.

Hope House Needs



Sugar, flour, dry milk, cereal, canned fruit, tuna, canned tomatoes, bars of soap, shampoo

Church Leadership



Fellowship Committee

Meeting March 6th, at 9:30am EH

Stewardship

Meeting is scheduled for March 13th, 5:30pm EH



Church Council meeting is March 21st at 7:00 p.m. EH

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

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the **April** Newsletter is **March 23rd**, please have any information emailed or to the office by that time for inclusion in the newsletter. Information received after the deadline will be published in the next month’s Newsletter.

Senior Adult Retreat

You won’t want to miss the opportunity to come together with other Senior Adults for the Annual Retreat on April 26-27, 2023. Rev. Dr. Jerry Cain will be the guest speaker at the Retreat to be held at West Side Baptist Church, 304 S. Seneca, Wichita, KS.

Registrations are due by April 10, 2023 in order to prevent the assessed late fee. Housing is not provided but there are many reasonably priced hotels/motels in the Wichita area.

<https://www.abccr.org/senior-adult-retreat>

Many fun activities have been planned by the Sr. Adult Retreat Committee.

These will include:

Bible Study led by Dr. John Clark

Bells led by Jan Smith

Virtual Tours of 7 churches led by James Callaway

Chair Exercises led by Morgan Bandy

Region Moving Forward led by Rev. Dr. Gregg Hemmen

Getting on Down the Tracks Interest Group led by Janet

Crowl

“All Aboard” craft led by Lois Chiles

Choir led by Bob Artz

Fun coloring contest, puzzles, more fun, and fellowship.

Hope to see you there!



Alan Cunningham 3-2

Steven Brown 3-5

Marrel Macy 3-10

Jane Smith 3-11

Vangie Webb 3-18

Jay Ball 3-25

Sandy Holbert 3-29

Brandie Zentz 3-30

American Baptist Women's Missions
Books of the Month
1 & 2 Peter & Jude

1 Peter A witness of Christ suffering (v5:1). Peter witnessed the anguish and brutality others inflicted on Jesus. He knew, he experienced shame for denying Jesus was his friend. Peter says "Be alert and of sober mind, your enemy, the devil, prowls around like roving lion looking for someone to devour". (v5:8) Peter advises us to remember who you are and whose you are. His instructions are to Grow in: *Faith, *Christian conduct, *Grace, *Suffering & *Submission.

2 Peter "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his glory and goodness." (1:3) key verse.

When we know Christ we have the tools to grow as Christians, in knowledge and wisdom and to identify false teachers, we have the promise Christ will return.

Jude A letter written to all Christians everywhere. He stresses be prepared to identify false teachers and we must diligently fight for God's truth. Jude ends with the Doxology

American Baptist Women of FBC
You are invited to come
Wednesday March 14, 2023
930 am Elliot Hall

Master Police Officer Swab and his CPU partner Megan Thomas will be guest speakers. Come learn about this new Community Police Unit (CPU) service and what we need to know to be better prepared to assist the less fortunate in our community.

Mercy, peace & love
FBC American Baptist Women
April Book of the Month **Jeremiah**

ABW will meet on Wednesday, March 15 at 9:30 a.m. in Elliott Hall. The program will be given by Ottawa Police Department's new Community Policing Unit Officers Swab and Thomas. We will learn how they are serving the Ottawa community. Anyone interested in this program is invited to attend. The project will be an offering to help the work of global servants Anita and Rick Gutierrez in South Africa.



AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2023

Jesus teaches us to "Love your neighbor as yourself" Matthew 22:39. Our church follows the teaching of Jesus by reaching out to the community and providing for our neighbors needs, physical and spiritual alike.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the 2023 America for Christ Offering (AFC 2023) which seeks to raise \$1,500,000. To support American Baptist mission and ministries throughout churches and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico. Your missions committee has set a goal of \$1,500. For FBC, Ottawa. We seek to reach this goal by the end of March.

The AFC theme of 2023 is "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."

You may give by using the AFC envelopes and designate AFC on your check.

How AFC 2023 Funds are Utilized

Our gifts to AFC support regions, churches and community organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico with grants for a variety of purposes including:

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

AFC dollars also fund scholarships for which our own members may apply, and our church is eligible to apply for ABHMS grants as well. ABHMS does not retain any AFC funds for operations or overhead. One hundred percent of our AFC dollars support vital ministries.

AFC gifts also benefited Alaska Ministries, Asian Ministries, Latino Ministries and Native American Ministries.

AFC 2023 empowers us to provide "Grace Upon Grace". We are asking you to give generously to this year's AFC offering and to help us reach our goal as we partner with ABHMS to provide support and share the Good News!

Missions Committee,
Jane Smith and Vangie Webb

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Visitor

Published by the First Baptist Church

fbcottawa.org

410 S. Hickory Street P.O. Box 308
Ottawa, KS 66067



Child receives critical care due to a caring young doctor at Vanga hospital

You and a caring young doctor provided a young boy with critical care because you support the continuing work at Vanga Hospital. Thank you!

Recently a 7-year-old boy was hospitalized here in Vanga [Democratic Republic of the Congo] and found to have a hole between the main chambers in his heart. Dr. Pimba, one of the residents on the pediatric ward, called his colleagues in Kinshasa to see if there was some way to get this patient the surgery he needed. To his surprise, a visiting team of pediatric cardiac surgeons were concluding their time in Kinshasa. Dr. Pimba came to our house one evening to request funds to support the transport of this child to Kinshasa immediately so he could be evaluated prior to the end of the program. The mother had never traveled outside the local area, so Dr. Pimba

offered to accompany this mother and child to Kinshasa to assure all the necessary connections were made.

By God's grace, they made it to Kinshasa and were eligible for surgical treatment! He has successfully undergone surgical repair and is currently recovering well. This trip (in addition to a part of the normal salary for this resident) is supported by funding from you, our financial partners. We are so thankful to our partners who help make this possible.

We also want to thank all the donors that generously contributed above and beyond their normal contributions in December. We were able to make up a large part of the deficit we experienced earlier. We are truly grateful.

We are looking forward to the upcoming fistula surgical campaign coming at the end of February. With the help of our donors and new partners, we will be providing care for fifty women who have been suffering with loss of control of urine and/or stool after childbirth injuries.

God is at work! Isn't God always at work? We just forget to look for Him sometimes.

From the banks of the Kwilu river, *Tim and Kathy Rice*