

The VISITOR

February 2024
"Seeing in the Dark"

The month February finds us embroiled in the long slog of winter with occasional teases of spring. Love makes its Valentine's Day appearance and the Kansas City Chiefs make yet another appearance in the Super Bowl. (How 'bout those Chiefs?!) Ok, enough about weather, sports and holidays. The real news of February is the beginning of Lent.

The month of February hints at the end of winter's darkness but the Christian calendar invites us to embrace the darkness through Lent. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, which ironically occurs on Valentine's Day this year, we are invited to observe, resist, acknowledge, confess and wrestle with the darkness of sin as we journey with Jesus towards the Cross. And we will observe Ash Wednesday with a brief, reflective service with the imposition of ashes at 4pm on the 14th.

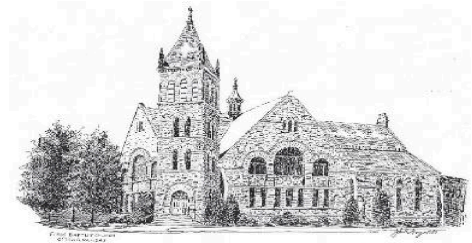
The story of the Christian year, the unfolding story of Jesus repeated over and over, never grows old. In Advent, the world waits for the light. At Christmas, the light is born into the world. And through Epiphany, the world is drawn to the source of the light that shines upon the entire world. But how does the theme of light fit into Lent?

Lent urges us to examine all the ways we deny the light, hide the light, misuse the light, refuse the light and choose rather to embrace and walk in darkness. Jesus, the light of the world, is all too frequently misunderstood, misappropriated and maligned by the religious community of his day and in our own day. All too often, we don't like what the light reveals so we choose to kill the messenger. This season of the church year calls for humble reflection upon our complicity then and now in the crucifixion of Jesus.

The season of Lent reaches its end on a Friday at a place called Calvary, the place of the skull with the beaten, bruised and bleeding body of Jesus nailed to a Roman cross. As Jesus came near to breathing his last breath the gospel writers tell us that darkness covered the earth, even though it was mid-afternoon. And then Jesus is laid in the darkness of the tomb only to descend further into darkness on Saturday, where he descends not only into death, but even to the place of the dead where he made "proclamation to those in prison."

Lent can be seen as a paradoxical descent into darkness where the darker things appear, the brighter the light of God's love in Christ shines. When we see the love and forgiveness demonstrated through the Cross, the light shining even in death, we learn to see in the dark. Even as we confront our own darkness and even before Easter morning, may we learn to see in the dark and join the soldier at the foot of the Cross in saying, "Truly this man was the Son of God."

Grace, peace and love,
Pastor Tiger



JOIN US
SUNDAY MORNINGS
WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30
785-242-2713

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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 February 4

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 **March** newsletter is **February 21st**, 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.



Our next Thankful Thursday gathering will be Thursday February 22nd from 5-6:30pm.

Our annual business meeting will be Sunday February 4th after church.



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); Rachel Morsett; Mattie Willhite; Amber Fast; Mason Sweeney; Wayne Jones; Geneva Stocker (Cynthia's mom); Angela Audiss; Janet Wolken; Diane Caryl

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

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.



Hope House Needs

Canned beans, toilet paper, sugar, pancake mix, pancake syrup, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, instant oatmeal

*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.

Mountain and Prairie Youth Conference is a high school youth conference sponsored by ABC of the Central Region. The conference is located at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado June 6-10. **Registration is due by April 15.** More information on the bulletin boards and in the office.

Church Leadership



Fellowship Committee

Meeting is February 12th, 9:30am EH

Stewardship

Meeting is February 12th, 5:30pm EH

Outreach

Meeting is February 14th at 6:30pm



Church Council meeting is February 20th at 7:00 p.m. EH

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



February 24th 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.

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES meeting was canceled last month due to weather, this month's meeting will be **Wednesday, February 21, at 9:30 a.m.** in Elliott Hall. Miriam Lemp will share about this year's Scholarship Recipients. Our project this month is an offering for the Central region scholarship fund. Women who can't attend may also contribute to this project.

Marsha Hermreck is hostess, and Jan Lee is Bible study leader. Vangie Webb will report on Missionaries. The usual Love Gift will also be taken. Hope to see you there.

We need 60 dozen cookies brought to the church on **February 4th or the morning of the 5th**. Please package 2 cookies in each sandwich bag if possible. We will meet to finish packing up cookies on the **5th at 10am** to deliver them to our schools to our wonderful teachers and staff.

Joel ABWM BOM

Joel 1:1 “The Lord spoke to Joel the son of **Pethuel**”: (pata thōō’əl). Names are significant. In Hebrew (*pata*) is ‘to expand aimlessly & (*el*) is God’; combined means ‘the infinite expansion of God’ Joel name means: (**Jehovah is GOD**). Joel probably lived in Jerusalem, about 400 years before the birth of Christ, when the Lord spoke to him with instructions to be delivered to his people of Judah. Warnings of tough love. Joel's mission was to tell the people they were experiencing the judgment of God.

LAMINATION In the days of Joel swarms of locusts invaded the land creating complete devastation of all crops which destroyed the economy. **Joel 2:25; Deut. 28:38; Joel 1:8** “Mourn like a virgin in sackcloth grieving for the husband of her youth.”: **Prov. 2:17** Mourn like a wayward women that left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made with God. INSTRUCTIONS: Remember what your God has done. Teach your children your history. See also: **Exodus 10:2; Psalms: 78:4; Deuteronomy 4:32; Isa.7:17.**

A CALL TO REPENTANCE: Joel 1:13-29 Mourn, declare a Holy fast. For the Day of the Lord is near. **Joel 1:13-29; Joel 2:2-11** warning; **2:25** redemption; **Matthew 3:4**, hope.

WAKE UP **Isaiah 5:11** Woe to those who have no regard of the deeds of the Lord, No respect. **Isa 32:10** Ladies don't get too comfortable in your cushy life, things are about to change.; **Nahum 1:9** “What your foes plot against the LORD, He will bring it”.

THE DAY OF THE LORD – Key Verse

Joel 1:15 Alas for that day! The day of the LORD is near. **Isa. 24:11**, All joy turns to gloom. **Jeremiah. 7:34** “I will bring an end to the sound of joy and gladness..”; **19:9; 25:10; La 5:14; Eze 26:13; Hosea 2:11; Amos 8:11; Rev. 18:11-19.**

BLESSINGS FOR GODS PEOPLE Hope

Joel 3:16-21 “The LORD will be a refuge for his people..17 then you will know that the LORD is your GOD!” GOD is trustworthy and truth the hope, always available. “Joel’s message pairs with discipline and consolation, destruction and restoration”

Are we ready for THE DAY OF THE LORD?

February 14 Celebrate love and every day.

Blessings Lilly Coultis ABWM

Imagine an area half the size of North Carolina without an X-ray machine in any hospital

IM Global Servants Katherine and Wayne Niles serve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo). They strive to provide integrated, holistic, and sustainable interventions that increase access to quality health care. One day, Dr. Heritier Ngandu, director to the Sala Evangelical Hospital, shared about the need for an X-ray machine in remote Sala in the DR Congo. This burden soon became a commitment in faith. Shortly after, Katherine learned from a missionary colleague about a digital X-ray machine for sale for \$15,000, considerably more affordable than the \$75,000 units in the DR Congo. After a long journey to obtain the X-ray machine and get it to operate, bone fractures are now routinely repaired in Sala, through this God-ordained partnership between Dr. Ngandu and Global Servants Katherine and Wayne Niles. Thank you for helping us build God’s kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven!

Mid Winter Missions Conference

Four ladies from First Baptist traveled to Emporia KS January 19 and 20 for the Mid Winter Missions Conference. The conference featured the work of Jon and Amanda Good. They have spent the last six years as Global Servants for American International Ministries in Hungary. They are currently in the US on Home assignment.

The Hungarian population is eager to learn English. Being multilingual is highly valued in Hungary. The Goods used the Bible to teach English. They found numerous and very creative ways to do this. It was fascinating to listen to how enthusiasm has grown among the people not only to learn English but to learn about Jesus. Since only a very small percentage of citizens are Christian, this is a specific need.

Opportunities are becoming known within the community for ministry and education as the work they are doing is becoming more widely known.

We also enjoyed inspiring worship services and meeting people from other congregations in the area as well as fellowship around good food.

Lilly, Marsha, Miriam and Vangie

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Visitor

Published by the First Baptist Church

fbcottawa.org

410 S. Hickory Street P.O. Box 308

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Adrian Zentz 2-1

Sally Fowler 2-6

Julianne Testorff 2-12

Peyton Wolken 2-14

Amanda Ball 2-17

Cliff Burke 2-23

Janice Kern 2-23

Kevin Eichner 2-24

Rhonda Eaker 2-25

Michael Campbell 2-26

