

# The VISITOR

February 2023

## "I Love to Tell the Story"

As we journey through the Christian year and move from Epiphany, the season of light, to Lent, the season of reflecting upon Jesus' journey to the cross, the lyrics of an old hymn are running through my mind. "I love to tell the story of unseen things above. I love to tell the story of Jesus and his love,...." And if you haven't noticed by now, I really do love to tell the story of Jesus and his love. His story is the grand metanarrative inviting us to follow and join in the grand drama of redemption by allowing the light of his love to shine on, in and through us. Oh, "and when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long!"

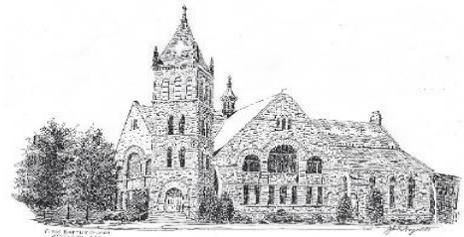
The story of a loving God initiating a relationship with rebellious image bearing humanity. The story of the word become flesh and born of Mary. Oh, the stories of the gospels! Outcasts welcomed, sins and sinners forgiven, tax collectors, fishermen and zealots called to follow, lepers cleansed, demons cast out, kingdom of God life announced and embodied,....I just want to go on telling the story and the stories of Jesus that tell the story of God's loving, redemptive action in the world.

Through the month of February, the season of Epiphany will culminate on a mountain where the light most fully shines on Jesus as God the Father says, "This is my son, whom I love. Listen to him." Yes, listen to him. For what comes next is hard to hear. Jesus, the son of man, the word become flesh, sets his face to Jerusalem for the final time, where he will be falsely accused, put on trial and condemned to die by crucifixion. It is as if Jesus comes down from the mount of Transfiguration to be disfigured upon the cross. Yes, God says, "listen to him."

The last Sunday of this month is the first Sunday of Lent. It is the season where we humans humbly accept we are capable of misunderstanding and accusing the very one who has come to save us. It is the season where humanity's love for power is put on full display in the tragedy of the crucifixion. And it is the season where the power of love from God is put on full display in the beauty of Jesus on the cross saying, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

May we continually listen to and tell the story. May we live into the story. May we be shaped by the story. May we be healed and inspired by these words from Romans 5:8, "For God demonstrates his own love for us in this; that while we still were sinners, he sent Jesus to die." Yes, the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

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 February 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.**

## 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.**



During the next couple of months feel free to check out/in books from the library as you need them.



**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

**Shut-Ins:** Betty Bloomer; Donna Blaue; 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](http://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**

cereal, cake & brownie mix, pasta sides, spaghetti sauce, toilet paper

**Church Leadership**



**Fellowship Committee**

Meeting February 13th, at 9:30am EH

**Stewardship**

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



Church Council meeting is February 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 **March** Newsletter is **February 21st**, 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.



**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.**



During the month of February our outreach committee will be collecting snacks for communities in schools. They are in need of goldfish, granola bars and cheese crackers. They are no longer in need of water.

**February 5**

**Fifth Sunday After Epiphany**

**Gospel Reading Matthew 5:13-20**

**This is the Story of the Light**

**February 12**

**Sixth Sunday After Epiphany**

**Gospel Reading Matthew 5:21-37**

**Togetherness through Highlighting the Crucifixion**

**February 19**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**Gospel Reading Matthew 17:1-9**

**Light on the Mountain**

**February 26**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**Gospel Reading Matthew 4:1-11**

**Human Disobedience vs Jesus Obedience**

**ABWM Book of the Month  
ESTHER**

Esther's story began 103 years after Nebuchadnezzar had taken the Jews into Babylonian captivity. Decades pass, now under new management in Medo-Persia Xerxes is king of Persia.

King Xerxes, a valiant leader in battle, returns home from a victorious campaign with a great deal of celebrating. To spice things up he demands his beautiful Queen Vashti, *who happens to be very pregnant*, to come dance for him and his drunken companions. She Refused. He dethroned her. He Immediately announced a beauty contest to be held throughout Persia.

Esther, a young faithful Jewish girl from Susa, is selected as one of the many candidates. She pleased the king very much and was crowned Queen to replace Vashti. Follow her story, discover how one brave girl saved the Jewish nation from extinction.

**Theme**

**1. God's Sovereignty**

God is in charge. We can take courage.

**2. Racial hatred**

In Persia Jews were a minority.

**3. Deliverance**

The Jewish victory feast of Purim is celebrated on February 28.

**4. Action**

It is not enough to know God is in charge; we must act with self-sacrifice and courage to follow God's guidance.

**5. Wisdom**

We can demonstrate wisdom by respecting what is true and good and humbly standing against what is wrong.

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Praise God Lilly Coultis

Coming in March 2023 1,2 Peter, Jude



**2023 Winter Webinar Series**

**Let the Walls Fall Down: Racial Justice**

[WWW.ABWOMENSMINISTRIES.ORG/WEBINARS](http://WWW.ABWOMENSMINISTRIES.ORG/WEBINARS)  
to register to join the webinars

- **Gathering Our Tools for Building Trustworthy Community**  
Thursday, February 2, 2023 7:30-8:30pm  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Shannon Daley-Harris, author, retreat leader, and child advocate
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Lessons from the Story of Ruth** Thursday, February 16, 2023 7:30-8:30pm  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Christine Smith, ABWM National President and Senior Pastor at Restoration Ministries of Greater Cleveland, Inc. in Euclid, OH
- **Building Lasting Bridges** Thursday, March 2, 2023 7:30-8:30pm  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Katie Choy-Wong
- **Sisters in Prayer** Thursday, March 16, 2023 7:30-8:30pm



ABW will meet Wednesday, February 15 at 9:30 a.m. in Elliott Hall. We will prepare Valentines to send to our shut-ins. Please bring one or two Valentines and stamps. All women are welcome.

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## Visitor

*Published by the First Baptist Church*

[fbcottawa.org](http://fbcottawa.org)

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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**