

# **The VISITOR**

March 2024  
"The Good News Bears"

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news."

My first love was baseball. I lived it, played it, dreamed it, loved it. And truth be told, I was pretty good at it. I also remember the movie the "Bad News Bears." Now while the movie was cute, funny and ultimately somewhat inspirational, the pathetic baseball playing of the "bad news bears" was anathema to my baseball loving soul. Their baseball playing was bad news and they desperately needed to repent and believe the good news! They needed to believe the good news that they could indeed be better and then repent by practicing new habits of throwing, fielding, pitching and hitting. Only new beliefs and new practices would transform the bad news bears into good news bearers.

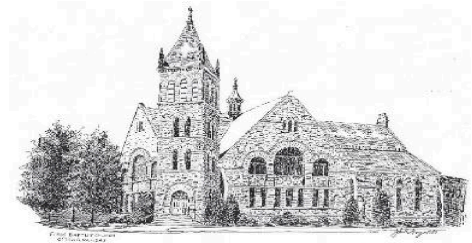
I wonder if God sometimes looks at us and sees bad news bears. People clumsily succumbing to errors of pride, gluttony, greed, racism, homophobia, contempt, nationalism, militarism, divisiveness and so much more. We bumble around and make mockery of the cherished game of life.

Yet God in his great love for us sends us an encourager, a coach, a model player, a teacher, a deliverer and a Savior. He sends Jesus who emerges from the wilderness temptations exhorting us to repent and believe the good news. Repent from limiting beliefs, false narratives, destructive ideologies and error producing practices. Believe that life and the world can indeed be better, resembling the life of the kingdom surrounding Jesus. Believe the good news that we are not stuck in endless cycles of bad news, whether internal or external. As we believe in new possibilities we also practice new thoughts and behaviors. We can live and play differently as we are inspired to trust in the reality of good news.

I'm quite sure we humans are quite like the stumbling bad news bears but the way things are not the way they have to be. We can heed Jesus' plea to repent and believe the good news! May it be so!

*Let us pray: Eternal and loving God, forgive us for all the calamitous errors of our own making and inspire us to repent and believe the good news. Forge in us the hope of good news that motivates us to new practices and behavior. For the sake of and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

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).



*Sunday School following worship  
for all ages!*

## **Communion March 3rd**

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 **April** newsletter is **March 22nd**, 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 March 28th from 5-6:30pm.

Daylight savings time begins on March 10, set your clocks forward one hour before bedtime on the 9th



**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; Angela Audiss; Janet Wolken; Diane Caryl  
**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.



**Hope House Needs**

Spaghetti noodles, pasta noodles, instant oatmeal, canned vegetables, dessert mixes, pancake syrup, sugar, ramen noodles

\*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.**

**Ottawa University Finals**

We will be collecting snacks for OU students during March. Finals are the first weeks in April. Snack ideas: cheese crackers, cookies  
 individual pkgs: nuts, chips, popcorn, fruit snacks

**Church Leadership**



**Fellowship Committee**

Meeting is March 18th, 9:30am EH

**Stewardship**

Meeting is March 11th, 5:30pm EH

**Outreach**

Meeting is March 20th at 6:30pm



Church Council meeting is March 19th at 7:00 p.m. EH

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



March 23rd 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.**

**Benefit Rummage Sale**

There will be a benefit rummage sale in Elliott Hall Saturday March 2nd 8-4. All proceeds will support Rachel Morsett. This will include a bake sale and raffle items.

Please join Bill and Janice Kern in celebrating their **60th Wedding Anniversary!**

**Saturday March 9th 2:00** in Elliott Hall. Please join the celebration ceremony & toast at 2pm  
 Light appetizers and cake will be served  
 Your presence is the only present desired  
**RSVP to Melissa Clissold call or text 913-259-8486**

## GALATIANS ABWM BOM

As you read Galatians, try to understand the first century conflict between grace and law, faith & deeds, but be aware of modern parallels. Like Paul, defend the truth of the gospel and reject all those who would add to or twist this truth. You are free in Christ – step into the light and celebrate.

Paul's mission was to plant churches in Galatia which was mainly populated by Gentiles.

His purpose was teaching Jesus Christ Gospel. With Jesus crucified and resurrected the OT Laws changed. Christ fulfilled the laws except: Love God and Love your neighbor as yourself.

Faith Believe in Christ alone – never add to or twist the truth.

Freedom Faith in Christ brings us true freedom from sin and from the future attempt to be right with God by keeping the law.

Holy Spirit When the Holy Spirit leads us he produces his fruit in us just as we are saved by faith and not by deeds.

“Salvation is a gift: Love God, faith, trust and obey is the ticket to heaven. Daily talk to God, He is always available and hears our prayers.”

Chapter 1: 1-5, Paul addressed the issue of Judaizers. A group of Jews loyal to the OT Law of circumcision, were really perverting the Gospel.

Paul points out no one can fulfill the Law of the OT. Even Abraham, the father of the Jews, was justified, declared righteous before God by faith, not by works. Paul builds his justification by faith by appealing to what the Judaizers held most scared: the OT and its law (2:6-9).

The Gospel is Good News. When Jesus cried. “It is finished” (John 19:30) on the cross, all our sins were forgiven.

Don't take from the gospel, don't add to it. Jesus is enough. Nothing more, nothing less. In him alone is our salvation, our righteousness, our joy-both now and for eternity.”

Resource: The Jeremiah Study Bible NIV  
Dr. David Jeremiah

Grace, Faith and Peace  
Lilly Coultis

### ABWM News for March

**The regular meeting of ABWM will be the third Wednesday of March, the 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am** in Elliott Hall. Miriam Lemp will be hostess, Vangie Webb will lead the Bible Study and the program about our Central Region project will be presented by Jan Lee. Come and

enjoy the fellowship and learn about all that is happening in our local group, our region and the national ABWM organization. A special offering will be taken for the Central Region project. If you can't attend the meeting you may make a contribution just designate for ABWM Project.

During the month of March we will celebrate Women's History Month each Monday with a special 30 minute online presentation at 11:00 AM. You can register to be connect to these presentations at [www.ABWMINISTRIES.ORG/EVENTS](http://www.ABWMINISTRIES.ORG/EVENTS)

We will be hosting the board meeting of the Luther Rice Association on March 26. If you can help with food for this group please contact Jane Smith 785-214-2936.

### LOOK AHEAD TO SUMMER

Central Region conference at FBC, Topeka. June 7 & 8.

National Conference at Roanoke College, Salem Virginia, July 18-20.

## BE STRONG, BE COURAGEOUS



**Alan Cunningham 3-2**

**Steven Brown 3-5**

**Ed Randel 3-5**

**Marrel Macy 3-10**

**Devin Allison 3-11**

**Jane Smith 3-11**

**Marcus Martin 3-17**

**Vangie Webb 3-18**

**Jay Ball 3-25**

**Sandy Holbert 3-29**

**Brandie Zentz 3-30**

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## Visitor

*Published by the First Baptist Church*

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

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

## AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024

The 2024 AFC biblical theme is based on Lamentations 3:22-23. “Because of God’s great love, we are not consumed, for God’s compassions never fail. They are new every morning; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” God’s love for us, even in times of despair, never wavers.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies is promoting the 2024 AFC offering which seeks to raise \$1,500,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministries through our churches and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico. We have set our church goal at \$1,800. We will emphasize this offering during the month of March but you can give throughout the year. Special envelopes are provided or you may just designate on your check or give on line. This is an over and above gift and not part of your regular pledged giving.

You might wonder just how these funds are used. Each year American Baptist Home Mission Societies awards grants from the donations that they receive from AFC. Here are some of the areas that are funded by AFC:

- Grants to churches to fund ministry initiatives such as camps, daycare and youth and young adult initiatives
- Grants to American Baptist seminaries and colleges
- Grants to American Baptist Partners training opportunities, funding of learning opportunities that involve travel and housing, repairs, and upgrade to preserve our critical American Baptist spaces
- American Baptist Regional Offices

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

AFC 2024 empowers us to provide “Grace upon Grace.” Join us in giving 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