

First Baptist Church  
100 E. Webster St.  
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Rev. Regan Stoops, Pastor

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#### How to Reach Us

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Pastor's Hours  
8:30-4 M, T & Th  
1-4 W



# Great News

First Baptist Church Mt. Pleasant

November 2011

## SEASONAL...

The signs are obvious. Leaves are orange and on the ground, a chill is in the air, and it's getting dark outside earlier and earlier. Fall is definitely here and winter is just around the corner. Can I just say how much I hate winter? I dread the winter every year. In the middle of summer, when it's 90 degrees and humid, I'm thinking about how soon it's going to get cold. No more going to the park with the boys, playing baseball in the backyard, opening windows for fresh air, or taking walks with the dog and family to what Carson calls "The Ice Cream Factory". (Dairy Queen)

But actually, I think I'm a little more optimistic about this winter than usual. Maybe that's just because I got a snow blade for my mower and don't have to shovel my driveway for hours on end. I think I'm more positive towards the changing seasons because I'm realizing how much I love the effects of them. I love Spring and Summer in Iowa. I love the green grass in my yard, the bushes and blooming flowers, and the beauty all around. But none of that would happen without the changing seasons. My friends in Arizona—whom I normally envy for their constant summer—have rock yards instead of green grass, and cacti instead of colorful fall leaves.

I've noticed that I am beginning to appreciate the changing seasons in life as well. James says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James understands that those difficult seasons in our lives

give us strength and perseverance for future storms. They also help us to appreciate the Springs and Summers of our lives. There are times we need to stop and take stock for a moment how blessed we truly are. And the difficult seasons help us to do that.

While I hate the cold, I've noticed that the darkness of Winter is my biggest complaint. I dread the night beginning at 5pm; affecting my mood and attitude. If only the sun would remain in Summer form through the Winter, I would celebrate the light even when it's cold.

Thankfully, in our lives, the tough seasons don't have to be dark. We can celebrate the light in the midst of difficulty because Jesus does not go away no matter the season. If we'll look for His light, it will be there to sustain our joy no matter the hardship.

So maybe this winter won't be so bad. It'll be cold, it'll be snowy, and it'll be dark. But God is using those things to bring blessings to His creation.

You may be in the middle of a Winter season in your life too. But God is working in that too. He's willing to light your way through, and He's taking advantage of it to grow you, teach you, and love you if you'll let Him. Let's celebrate the Light and celebrate the seasons together.

So if you catch me complaining, remind me of God's work, and I'll do the same for you.

every day  
is thanks giving



Everyone is invited to our

### ANNUAL CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER

Sunday, November 13  
12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

The turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy and stuffing will be furnished, please bring a couple of dishes of food to add to this delicious meal.

We will be decorating the church for the Christmas season at the end of the month. Please watch the bulletin for more details on this event.



**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!**  
**to Jarod and Megan Conrad who were married October 15.**

## THANKSGIVING

The community is invited to a  
Community Thanksgiving Service  
Sunday, November 20  
at 7:00 pm  
at the Iowa Wesleyan College Chapel

**45 YEARS OF SMILES IN EVERY AISLE. HOW MANY SMILES IS THAT? A LOT!!! CONGRATULATIONS DICK ROSS FOR ALL OF YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE AT HY-VEE!**

On Wednesday, November 9, the Youth will be bussing tables at Pizza Ranch beginning at 5:00pm until closing. The tips that they receive will go towards postage to send the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.



Then on Wednesday, November 16, come and enjoy a free soup supper and help the Missions Team package and wrap the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.



## The Fellowship Cup Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Boxes

Items are being collected for the Holiday Food Boxes.

- Turkey
- Ham
- Cans of Green Beans
- Cans of Corn
- Cans of Pumpkin
- Angel Food Cake Mix
- Gravy Mix
- Box of Mashed Potatoes or Stuffing

Donated items can be dropped off at the Fellowship Cup.

Thanksgiving distribution is November 19.  
Christmas distribution is December 17.

## THE FELLOWSHIP CUP NEEDS

Cooks, not chiefs, are needed each Thursday to provide a cooked sample of the items in the food bag for our neighbors.

Ceiling Grid Panel installers are needed to install the exterior grid work for the community kitchen. Base mop board installers are needed to push the kitchen into completion. Painters are needed to update the community room to be as beautiful as the new kitchen.

Servants are needed to pass out Christmas Food Boxes on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Can you give a Saturday morning from 8:00-10:00 am or 10:00-12:00 am as your Christmas gift to the community?

Small groups are needed to hang clothes at the Quarter Store. The Quarter Store sustains the ministry of the Fellowship Cup. Can you gather a few to laugh as clothes are hung?



Sunday, November 6

Monday Night Family Volunteer Night 6:30 pm-8:00 pm at the Fellowship Cup. Come help finish the community kitchen, bag Thursday food bags, organize coupons, bag bulk food, or whatever needs to be done.

Dear Loved One and our supporters,

The staff and the patients of our eye clinic have come to greet and to say thank you to you for your prayers and your supports. The eye clinic organized two days of glaucoma screening, September 22 and 23. The first day was at our clinic where 221 patients were seen in that one day and the second day it was at Justinien hospital, the general hospital in the city of Cap-Haitian. Three doctors: Guerline Roney, Lucien Carmelle Guerrier and our own Dupy Luc Pierre worked together to see and to counsel patients. The doors of the clinic did not close until after 5 PM.

On Thursday October 6, we had a day of Retina screening. We saw 44 patients. Eye glasses and sun glasses were given to those who really needed them. Dr. Olson from the States helped in screening some of all those patients.

The eye clinic continues its ministry of caring for the vision of those in need. Because you care for us, we, in turn care for those who are unable to care for themselves. Together we are all being the feet and the hands of Jesus Christ in a difficult place like Haiti.

Please continue to pray and to think of the Cap-Haitian eye clinic.

Yours,  
Nzunga & Kihomi serving Him in Haiti.

Dear friends,  
The eye clinic continues to provide vital medical care for the poor in northern Haiti. They are in desperate need of updated equipment especially for Glaucoma screening. If your eye doctor would donate this equipment it would be a tremendous blessing. Please ask him/her if they would have excess or obsolete equipment that could be used in Haiti.  
Peace,

Dennis Shewell  
Mission Partnership Team Communications Advocate and Convener  
Nzunga and Kihomi Ministry  
E-mail: [deshewell@gmail.com](mailto:deshewell@gmail.com) **Please note new email address!**  
Phone: 812-569-1352

Other team Members:  
Les Roberson  
Diana Peysha  
Shawna Gorman  
Terry Bivens-Fry  
Charles Newman

# BYG News



Our Region Youth Event (RYE) is November 4-6 and it's going to be a great weekend! Greg Speck is back to challenge us, Daniel Bailey will lead us in worship, and Fishsticks will make us laugh all weekend long. We're excited to be taking 15 kids to this GAMECHANGER themed event.

Thanks for the support of our youth program and for the scholarships provided to send our kids.

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If the weather should become inclement on a Sunday, a decision to cancel Sunday School and Worship will be made by 8:45 that morning. It will be announced on KILJ 105.5 FM and 1130 AM. It will also be put on the church's answering machine and on the church's website.



On November 18<sup>th</sup> our BYG will be freezing outside as we learn what it feels like to be homeless for a night. During the month, we will be asking for pledges to sleep outside in the cold. All proceeds will go to Community Action and their work with homeless in Henry County. Then on the 18<sup>th</sup>, we will camp out on the church lawn in shelters made of cardboard boxes. We'll have a huge bonfire, have food, and have a Best Box Shelter contest. It will be both fun and challenging as we learn what it's like to be out in the elements in winter.

We'll be out there snow or shine.  
(Unless it's sub-zero temperatures or lightning.)

Please support this new mission by pledging and by bringing us large empty boxes you have.

