

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Rev. Regan Stoops, Pastor

www.firstbaptistmp.com

How to Reach Us

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Office Hours
8-12 M-Th

Pastor's Hours
9-12 & 1-4 M-Th



Great News
First Baptist Church Mt. Pleasant

September 2011

THE NEXT STEP

“Where do we go from here?” Do you ever ask yourself that question? I think it’s one of the most important questions we can ask in our journey of following Jesus. It’s an important question for a new believer who puts his faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection for the first time. It’s an important question for a believer who has just become a partner in the ministry of the local church through baptism or transfer. It’s an important question for each of us for one major reason. Our life with Jesus is a journey. At no point have we “made it”; whether as individuals or a church community. We are constantly in transition as God’s Spirit is molding us into the people and the church He wants us to be.

But standing still is so much more convenient. Sometimes I just want to take a break from the journey and just stay in one spot for awhile. But like Jonah, that’s following my will not God’s.

As a church, we sometimes feel the same. I think today we can be very tempted to stand still. A few years ago, attendance was down, resources were thin, and there was apprehension in our church that we would not be able to continue for long. That fear gave us the drive to move; to step forward in faith, and it’s exciting to see the fruits of that labor.

But now attendance is up, ministry is growing, and it would be nice to just take a break and be content where we are. But

like Jonah, that’s following our will, not God’s. Jesus wants us to continue on our journey toward His kingdom. He wants us to better Live the Great Commandment and Share the Great Commission. He wants us to take the next step.

I believe the next step for us as a church body is to become externally focused. It is so easy to stand still, tread water, and focus on us; but that’s not who the church is meant to be. We are called in the Great Commandment to love God and love our neighbors. So we need to get out and love our neighbors. That means, we need to get out and serve people in this community. We can speak love all day long, but we have to show it with our service.

And as we’re also called to the Great Commission, our service to others builds relationships and trust so that we can show and tell them about Jesus.

But here’s the key: this isn’t a “church growth” strategy. This is a Kingdom growth strategy. To be externally focused is to serve with one motivation: love. This isn’t a way to add more bodies to the pews on Sunday, or to get our church name out there. In fact, our church name may be nowhere to be found. Come take the next step with us beginning with The Externally Focused Life series in September and October. And let’s go.



It is nearly time to compile budget requests for 2012. Would the chairmen of all church boards, committees and ministry teams please submit your budget requests for 2012 to Finance Trustee, Carol Collett, as soon as possible.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

DEAN KING
MARY KING
QUINTIN LEE
ALLIE LOOKER
ALLIVIA SHEPHERD
CLAYTON TITUS



Everyone is invited to a Fish Fry on Sunday, September 18, at 5:30 pm. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit Community Action.

ON THEIR BAPTISM SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, AT FOREST LAKE CAMP.

THE EXTERNALLY FOCUSED LIFE Beginning Sunday, September 11

Remember to sign up for a small group! Different times and places are available. You will find a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer. Sign up for the time that is best for you.

Books are now available. We would like each family to have one.



*Cora Glover & family on the death of Glenn.
The family of Betty Brown.*

The Deacons are asking members and nonmembers to be on a Reach Team. Teams plan visits, make phone calls, write letters and pray as they work to care for one another and for our world. Sign up in the foyer for one Monday night a month and help reach out to others.

Jeremy & Amy Mullenix celebrated the birth of their son, Lucas Bernard, on July 18. He weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Brothers, Dayton, Dawson and Ethan welcome him home.

Dave & Nhoth Myers celebrated the birth of their daughter, Gabriella Kavanh, on August 19. She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Brother Gable welcomes her home.

SEPTEMBER NURSERY WORKERS

	<u>Babies</u>	<u>Toddlers</u>	<u>Preschool</u>
4th	Mersihda	Amber Kenzie	Beth
11th	Sheryl	Judy Kayleigh	Carolyn
18th	Tena	Diana	Maxie
25th	Judy Kayleigh	Melissa	Deb Brandi



MAKING DISCIPLES: THE NEW NORMAL
Saturday, October 1
First Baptist Church, Indianola, IA



Rev. Dr. Jeff Johnson



Rev. Dan Buttry

The speakers for this event will be Jeff Johnson and Dan Buttry. Jeff serves as the ABC Director of Evangelism Ministries with American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Dan is one of our ABC global consultants, working through International Ministries in the areas of conflict transformation, peace and reconciliation ministries.

A short business meeting will be held in order to elect at-large delegates to the Board of Region Ministries.

A simple meal will be served. Watch the bulletin for registration information.

We would like to have a good representation from our church there. If you would like to attend please contact Pastor Regan.

THE EXTERNALLY FOCUSED LIFE

You're wired to serve—it's how you grow. How your trust in God deepens. Where your faith finds traction.

Here's help embracing a lifestyle of service—one motivated by more than duty or obligation. That sets you free to discover new meaning in...

Love—as you embrace a lifestyle of loving as Jesus loved.

Intersections—sensing God's hand in moments your life intersects with the lives of others.

Fortune—experiencing what you've been given (whether much or little) as not yours alone, but something to share as God directs.

Eternity—seeing your story as significant—and celebrating how you can experience the purpose of a life that's more than just about yourself.

You'll meet ordinary people who are making a remarkable impact through their service—and discover that their story can be yours. *Should* be yours—because they're having a ball as they become externally focused.

Join us on this six week church-wide experience:

- Join a small group to dig deeper with others
- Read the appropriate chapters of the book each week
- Come to weekend worship for messages that bring it all together
- Enjoy the fulfillment of living the life God created you for

Starts Sunday, September 11



September 2011

September Birthdays

Jarod Conrad 8
 Lindsey Myers 9
 Charlie Huff 13
 Paul Olson 13
 Megan Thornton 16
 Stacy Hunsaker 18
 Ellen Donnolly 26
 Zander Myers 27
 Carter Myers 28
 Ron Septer 29

September Anniversaries

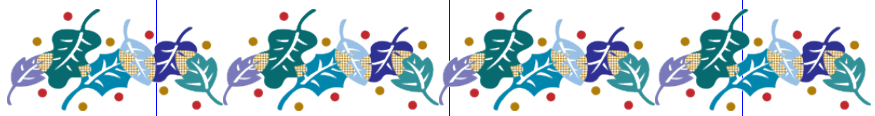
Jeff & Tena Scarbrough 5
 Bob & Joyce Stull 6
 Art & Jodi Campbell 20
 Ted & Yvonne Ogier 22

Please inform the church office of any birthday or anniversary additions or corrections.

September Communion

Preparer: Carol Collett

Servers: Jim Arnold, Judy Septer
 Sheryl Cook & Charlie Huff

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 am Prayer Meeting 4:00 pm Praise Team Practice	2	3
4 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship & Communion	5 LABOR DAY Office Closed	6 10:00 am Coffee Hour @ Tazza Bella 11:30 am Ladies Lunch @ Jerry's 7:00 pm Deacons Mtg.	7 6:45 pm BYG	8 10:00 am Prayer Meeting 4:00 pm Praise Team Practice 5:30 pm F.U.T.U.R.E. 6:30 pm Seekers Circle	9	10
11 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	12 7:00 pm Missions Team Meeting 7:00 pm Reach Team 7:00 pm Discipleship Team Meeting	13 10:00 am Coffee Hour @ Tazza Bella 1:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ SunnyBrook	14 6:45 pm BYG	15 10:00 am Prayer Meeting 4:00 pm Praise Team Practice 7:00 pm Link Circle	16	17
18 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 5:30 pm Fish Fry - Fell. Hall	19 12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm Reach Team	20 10:00 am Coffee Hour @ Tazza Bella 6:00 pm Trustees Mtg. 7:00 pm Leadership Team Mtg.	21 6:45 pm BYG	22 10:00 am Prayer Meeting 4:00 pm Praise Team Practice 5:30 pm F.U.T.U.R.E.	23	24
25 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	26 7:00 pm Reach Team	27 10:00 am Coffee Hour @ Tazza Bella 1:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ SunnyBrook 7:00 pm Outreach Team Mtg.	28 6:45 pm BYG	29 10:00 am Prayer Meeting 4:00 pm Praise Team Practice	30	