

FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

JUNE 2021



THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

There are a lot of things that go into the DNA of each church. For example, our congregation has a long history of caring about missions, worship, fellowship, and community. Of course there are many other things that our church has cared about over the years, obviously I'm just naming a few. There are all kinds of aspects that make up any given congregation. Spiritual formation, Bible study, discipleship, social justice, racial equity, communion, the liturgy, recovery, healing, and even gardening are just some of the many things that a church can be built of as we work and serve in the name of Christ. But all of these aspects are birthed from the same season, pentecost.



With the coming of the Holy Spirit, in the early part of the book of acts, we see the birth of the church. That is where the earliest congregations were formed. Long before they were called churches, these were the first ones. It's also the time when the first missionaries set out to tell people about Christ. They traveled the known world and crossed multiple boundaries to do so. Fellowship leaders eventually became pastors, communities wrestled with cultural issues, and the understanding of grace began to take shape. Acts details the exciting birth of our church and our heritage.

This summer we will be exploring the book of Acts as our worship series. This worship series will dive into the historical, cultural, theological, and spiritual events of the first century Christians. Together we will learn about their journey and reflect on what that means for our own journeys.

This worship series will begin on June 20th, and I can't wait to jump in with all of you.

We have a wonderful year planned ahead. With the continued vaccination of our community, we will be able to gradually open up more and more. We're already preparing for the annual summer concert, I can't wait for that. So enjoy the warm weather (it felt like the winter lasted forever)! It's beautiful out there.

Continue to serve one another, serve the community, and live in the love of Christ.

Serving Together,

Dr. Rob Collins
Pastor

Contact Us:

Dr. Robert Collins, Sr. Pastor
Mark Grizzard, Music Dir./Youth. Leader
Dr. Joshua Russell, Organist
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WORSHIP UPDATE

During the first 2 weeks in June, while Rev. Collins is enjoying a well-earned vacation, First Baptist will welcome two guest pastors to the pulpit. Reverend Paul Gibson, ABC Great Rivers Region Executive Minister will lead worship on Sunday, June 13th, and Reverend Daniel Siems, Great Rivers Region III Area Assistant will lead worship on Sunday, June 6th.

A photo and some information on each gentleman is included below.

Reverend Collins will return to lead worship on Sunday, June 20th. Anyone in need of pastoral care while he is on vacation is asked to contact Paul Grove, Diaconate Board Chair.



REV. PAUL GIBSON

The Rev. Paul Gibson, a native of North Dakota, is the Executive Minister of the Great Rivers Region of American Baptist Churches. Rev. Gibson came to this position from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND. Having served as pastor of churches in Arizona, Nevada and Missouri as well as North Dakota, he assumed his new position on January 1, 2016. He and his wife, Melissa, reside in Springfield, IL

Rev. Gibson received his graduate degree, Master of Divinity, from the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley, CA. Before that he graduated from Valley City State University in ND and has done graduate work toward a Doctor of Ministry at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He is presently Regional Board President of the American Baptist Churches of the Dakotas. Paul and his wife have two grown children. Hunter is in the U.S. Marines and located in California. Emily is a Communication Specialist located in Minneapolis, MN. Mrs. Gibson is a legal secretary.



REV. DANIEL SIEMS

Dan is the Great Rivers Region Area III Assistant. He grew up on Burlington, IA and during his growing up years attended the Oak Street Baptist Church. He married between his sophomore and junior year. He attended the University of Iowa until his junior year, until he sensed that his major was not what he wanted.

He left school and started working for his father, who had a John Deere dealership. During that time he received a draft notice and decided to enlist in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear machinist. After six years, he left the Navy and began working for the U.S Forest Service in Darby, Montana at a Job Corp. Daniel returned to the University of Iowa in 1982 graduating with a BBA in accounting, then went on to Northern Baptist Seminary receiving and Master of Divinity in 1988. His first church as a senior pastor was in Springville, NY where he served for nine years. Daniel received a call to Galesburg in 1997 and served there until his retirement in 2017. Daniel's general call to ministry is to help people respond to the great love of God to us in Christ Jesus.



On June 20 we will be celebrating the 10 year work anniversary of Mark Grizzard, Leigh Grizzard, and Joshua Russell! In May of 2011, Mark was hired as our worship and music director. Shortly after being hired he was asked to find an accompanist and a handbell director. He tracked down Leigh and Josh, and the rest is history. We have been so blessed to have these three leading us in worship over the past decade and on June 20 we are going to take time in the service to recognize their years of service. Please bring notes of encouragement or cards for our worship leaders on that day. You can also send them into the office, and we will make sure that they get to them. There will be baskets set up at the church, and we will have a special recognition in the service on that day. Oh how blessed we are at First Baptist Church of Peoria!

Rob Collins
Sr. Pastor



One Great Hour

O F S H A R I N G



Let love flow.

Dear Friends,

"Let love flow." is the theme this year for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, ("began 72 years ago in response to the devastation of World War II"). Today, this offering provides Emergency Relief, Refugee and Immigration Ministries, and Sustainable Development assistance to people in over 80 countries around the world, including ours, through the ecumenical efforts of eight Christian denominations in the U.S. and the Church World Service ("founded in 1946 and supported by 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the United States").

For us here at First Baptist Church of Peoria, this year's offering is an opportunity to send money as well as love to people around the world who are in desperate need of relief during these especially tragic times of the COVID Pandemic. Together, we can work towards the goal expressed by the prophet Isaiah thousands of years ago that there will be *"Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs."* —Isaiah 49:10.

Many, many thanks to those who are able to contribute to this effort, scheduled in our church for the two weeks of June 13-27. The generosity, love, interest, and prayers of every single one of you are greatly appreciated!

Mary Little
Mission Board
OGHS Coordinator

Let love flow.

One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

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www.abc-oghs.org



First Baptist Church

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THE MISSION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO MINISTER TO OUR CONGREGATION, THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD, SO THAT ALL MAY EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Betty Hart	Sharon Polakow
Mark Stanard	Sharon Stanard
Jerry Edwards	Jim Middleton
Leon & Karen Vickerman	Alyssa Russell

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Tom Maulding. Tom passed away on May 6th. A visitation and memorial service were held at First Baptist Church on Tuesday, May 11th.

Our sympathy and prayers go also to the family and friends of Betty Frank. Betty passed away on May 6th. Memorials may be made to the Walk to End Alzheimer's, Grandview Alzheimer's.

Sympathy and prayers are sent to Sally Heathcoat and family on the death of her husband, Charlie, on Saturday, May 15th. Services were held at First Baptist Church on Friday, May 22nd.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Bob & Marti Atwater as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 27th.

To Ron & April Jacobs who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 19th. Their children will be hosting a celebration for Ron & April at the Lindenhof, 7601 N. Harker Dr., Peoria on June 19th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Ron and April extend an invitation to their church family to come and celebrate with them. Please RSVP by June 4th to Ron at 309-232-7023. No gifts please.

THANK YOU

The Kellogg Family would like to thank the members of First Baptist Church for the use of Fellowship Hall to celebrate the birthday of Jaquelyn Kellogg. She turned 100 on May 11th, and the family was able to gather and celebrate with her on May 8th. Thank you everyone for sharing the space with our family.