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**January 2023**

**Hearing One Another**



**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.**

**January Worship:**

**January 15 Lamb, Son, Teacher, Anointed, Jesus**

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (In Christ you lack nothing)  
Pastoral Reading: John 1:29-42 (John proclaims Jesus is the Lamb of God)

Notes: Our inclination is to put Jesus into one box, whichever box we need most. He's savior if we need saving. He's the Son of God if we need power. He's teacher if we need clarity. But Jesus is, always has been, more than one dimensional.

**January 22 Foolishness and Power**

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (Squabbles in Corinth)  
Pastoral Reading: Matthew 4:12-23 (John arrested, Jesus starts preaching)

Notes: The will always have it's own amount of foolishness; but how we choose to respond to the world is what matters. Jesus shows us that when the time comes to love the world there is nothing to do but exactly that, love the world.

**January 29 Blessed are the Ones You Least Suspect**

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:25-31 (God turns weakness into strength)  
Pastoral Reading: Matthew 5:1-12 (Jesus teaches the beatitudes)

Notes: There is an upside-down like nature to God's kingdom. A reversal of social standing and power structures. This is a great chance to reflect on genuine blessing where it is born from.

**ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**

I have never been big on New Year's resolutions. I like the idea, the power of a goal is remarkable on the human mind and spirit. But the application and follow-through required for a New Year's resolution has always been tough for me. We aim high, picking some thing that is important to life or seems like a grand goal for an entire year. So we talk about loosing tons of weight, or eating better, or reading a lot of books; all of which are great goals. But the weight of a year is heavy and long and few make it to February before they've abandoned said resolutions.

All that said, I am still going to make a New Year's resolution. Even though it's hard, and even though I know that come February, I'll be tired of winter and ready to do nothing but eat chocolate and watch movies. Even still, a resolution iMac. ***I want to hear people better! That's it. I want to hear others.*** I want to see them, know them, love them, and listen.

I admit it sounds a bit abstract, nonetheless that's my goal.

When Jesus arrived at the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, his friend Lazarus had already passed away. As he was led to the tomb, Jesus began weeping.

When Jesus was brought children to bless. we are told that he defended them and hugged them.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the local religious officials demanded that he quiet the crowd and scold his disciples. But Jesus simply told them that to do so would only make the rocks begin singing. If this wasn't said with a smile on his face, I'll eat my hat.

Jesus saw people, heard them, knew them. And ultimately Jesus loved them.

So, as I follow Jesus into this new year, I will strive to do the same.

I hope you're ready for the new year. For God is alive and working in our midst. What lies before us is mysterious holiness, a divine path that can only be uncovered as we walk the road of Christ. So, let us see one another, hear one another, know one another, and love one another.

Happy New Year!

Serving Together,

Rev. Dr. Rob Collins

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## CONTEMPORARY ISSUES CLASS

Our class for 2023 will meet on January 22; it has been way too long! Our speaker will be Thomas Dennis, managing attorney for Prairie State Legal Services' Peoria and Galesburg offices. Prairie State is a non-profit that offers free legal services to low-income people and those over 60 who would struggle to pay. We know that people need food, clothing, shelter and health care, even if they can't pay. We also know that the state provides legal help to people accused of crimes. But we probably don't think too often about those who have serious legal problems affecting their basic human needs, including domestic violence, rotten landlords, demands to pay bills they may not owe, divorce, child custody and more – and no money to hire a lawyer to help solve them. So we no doubt have a lot to learn from Mr. Dennis. We look forward to getting together at 11:15 in the sanctuary. Barb and Bernie Drake, Class Chairs

## PLAN ON JOINING US! All ages are welcome!

On Saturday, January 28, 2023, from 10:30 -12 noon, Susan Turner will be teaching "Card Class 101". Join us for a morning of paper crafting, an easy, simple and fun way to make cards for every occasion. During the class, you will learn to make one or two cards to share with friends and family. Believe us when we say - they will love to receive them. Samples are available for viewing in the church office.

To ensure sufficient supplies for all participants, please RSVP to the church office via email, office@fbcpeoria.org, or phone, 309-682-5491, no later than January 24th. Light refreshments will also be served.



Different colors  
will be  
available!



## COVID VACCINE AND BOOSTER CLINIC BEING PLANNED!!

The Heartland Health Services is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). They have been asked by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), to help educate the public regarding Covid boosters as well as first time Covid shots.

This initiative will start later in January continuing through May 31, 2023. First Baptist Church will be sponsoring a vaccine clinic sometime during that timeframe.

Please stay tuned for more information coming regarding that clinic.

Deb McGlothlen and Vicki Weatherington, FBC Parish Nurses

## JUST LIKE THAT, ANOTHER YEAR CLOSSES AND WE ARE INTO THE NEW YEAR!!

Here's a brief 2022 recap and what's ahead in 2023 - more details will be shared at the annual meeting to be held Sunday, January 29.

All commitments were paid but receipts were \$2,225 below our 2022 expenses. On the surface, that is pretty good. Our boards did a good job of managing expenses that could be managed. It's no surprise, however, that lower investment returns, higher utilities, existing lease rates set years ago, and repairs that need to happen are not generally manageable. Currently, steps are being taken with some contracts and lease rates to better address those situations. Granted, repairs are not always predictable.

On the receipt side, pledge and plate giving came in at a combined 93% of what was budgeted (down \$22,350). The approved budget did have a sizable, to-be-determined, "plug" number to balance receipts against expenditures and we ended up using unrestricted reserves to finish as close as we did. "It is what it is", but this is not a sustainable approach in the long run. We are in the midst of budgeting right now. I'm excited about the ministries the church is involved in and how we can finance those activities. Our pledge campaign is reflecting a modest upward movement, granted some of our pledges this year gave via plate last year. This gain could be offset by a lower plate expectation but it's always a good sign to see pledge commitments going up.

Thank you for your faithful church pledging and giving. I'm looking forward to what we can collectively do in 2023. **"To whom much is given, much is expected."**

Doug Miller, FBC Treasurer

## ABW January Brunch -

Ladies, Ladies, Ladies!!!

Our ABW Brunch is Saturday, January 14, 10 - 11:30 a.m. The program, "Pages & Stages", will highlight Lee Wenger, Denise Adams, and their daughter.

They will provide backgrounds on famous musicals along with singing. You know this is going to be great!! Invite friends and come to be entertained!!!! The cost is \$5.

Please RSVP to Carolyn, 685-1388, or the church office, 682-5491. We want you to have a seat! Don't forget to register!!

We will be collecting our love gift with boxes on the table! We will also be collecting for our missionaries with envelopes available.

See you on Saturday!!  
Carolyn Ihnken

### PRAYER CONCERNS:

Judy Ryan  
Garland Criswell  
Jerry Edwards  
Alyssa Russell  
Butch and Karen Vickerman  
John Crawford  
Betty Hart  
Cora Lynn Green  
Gordon Brown  
Char Austin



THERE ARE STILL FRUITS  
AND NUTS AVAILABLE!

THERE IS A SALE ON!

If you are interested in a piece of church history, the Trustees have several long pews for the asking. They currently are residing in the back hall empty classroom. If you are interested in taking one, please contact a Trustee or the church office.