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JUNE 2023



Summer Has Arrived!!

The sun is out, snow cones are selling, people are getting ready to travel, and the air conditioner is turned on (well at least at this Texan's house it is). I know that plenty of our congregation will be traveling this summer, but as you journey to the water, or wherever your soul calls, I want to remind you of a few things.

Our **Summer Fellowship will be happening on Wednesday nights in July!** Every Wednesday in July, we will have family fellowship at First Baptist. There will be an adult Bible study, a program for junior and senior high school youth, and a summer music program for our Sunday school kids. Watch for more information to follow. Mark your calendars now for July 5, 12, 19, and 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m. We hope you will be able to participate each week. You are welcome, however, to come on whatever dates work for your family. A nursery will be provided.

The sermons in the month of June will be coming from the book of Habakkuk. Why, Pastor Rob, are we going to be looking at Habakkuk, you might be wondering. That's a great question. For starters, in 22 years of preaching, I have never preached from this book or heard a sermon from this book that I can remember. So I like the challenge. But also, there's a powerful story of justice and honesty and faith to be discovered within Habakkuk. So **our June worship series will be "The Oracle of Habakkuk."**

*"The righteous ones shall live by faith"
Habakkuk 2:4*

Later in June the **American Baptist Churches Mission Summit will be meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.** Casey and I will be traveling there to represent the church and to enjoy a tiny bit of fun too. I will be spending time with International Missionaries, servants from ABC Home Missions, Great Rivers Region staff, and many pastors from across the country. Filling the pulpit while we travel will be Rev. Daniel Siems on June 25th and Nathan Johnson on July 2nd. Please welcome them kindly while I'm gone. I look forward to reporting back to you all that I learn while there.

Also, don't forget that our theme for this church year is **"JUMPING IN"** as we seek out God's guidance on the future of First Baptist and what our calling might be in that future. Part of that journey is the continued prayer from you, the church, for our congregation and for our work in the world. Another part is to keep you informed on the health of our church. With that in mind, we'll be gathering for a **mid-year "checkup" of sorts on August 6th** after church. There will be a luncheon and presentation to allow you a chance to check the pulse of our church and join us in praying for its future.

Together let us keep listening to God. Let us keep seeking out God's will. And let us do so with all that we are, living by faith in God's love and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Serving Together,

Dr. Rob Collins
Senior Pastor

Contact Us:

Rev. Dr. Robert Collins, Sr. Pastor	(309) 682-5491	rob@fbcpeoria.org
Dr. Mark Grizzard, Music Dir./Youth Leader	(309) 310-9927	mark@fbcpeoria.org
Dr. Joshua Russell, Organist	(309) 682-5491	joshua@joshuarussellpianist.com
Leigh Grizzard, Bell Choir Director	(309) 682-5491	Leigh.Grizzard@gmail.com
Cindy Courtney, Church Administrator	(309) 682-5491	office@fbcpeoria.org

First Baptist Church of Peoria
411 West Lake Avenue
Peoria, IL 61614-6093
Phone: (309) 682-5491
E-mail: office@fbcpeoria.org
Website: www.fbcpeoria.org



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.

During Sundays in June we will be collecting for the Church World Service Blanket+ project. In times of disaster Church World Service is among the first responders to meet the needs of the victims. Whether it be blankets, health kits, school kits, or baby layettes, your contributions offer a ray of hope to those who have lost everything. CWS is there to distribute needed essentials and offer Christian compassion.

Please stop by the display in Fellowship Hall to pick up more information and give your contribution of \$10.00 per blanket. We appreciate your participation. Thank you from the ABW!

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Judy Ryan
Garland Criswell
Jerry Edwards
Alyssa Russell
Butch and Karen Vickerman
John Crawford
Betty Hart
Gordon Brown
Char Austin
Gloria Hall-Graham
Robert Jackson
Greg Potts
Beryl Fredell
Ken Maubach
Larry French
Barb Petroski
Chris Hall
Diane Tomsovic

It's officially the second weekend of summer and extreme temperatures continue to affect many parts of the U.S. **Try these summer safety tips from the Mayo Clinic:**

- **Apply sunscreen.** Lather up a broad spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30, though preferably SPF 50, to prevent skin cancer. Pay attention to the nose, ears, back of the neck and scalp, as these areas are easily missed and are common skin cancer locations. It is also important to use waterproof sunscreen if you are going to be outside for long periods of time. Reapply sunscreen about every two hours or more often, especially if swimming or sweating excessively.
- **Stay hydrated.** It is important not only to drink plenty of water but also plenty of electrolytes. Sports drinks are a good way to ensure your body gets the electrolytes it needs to keep you hydrated. Electrolytes guide water into the cells and are necessary for the body to function. Without them, you won't be hydrating effectively.
- **Avoid alcohol.** Alcohol causes your body to waste the water it needs, causing you to become dehydrated much quicker. Being in the sun and drinking alcohol can be a dangerous mix, as both increase your dehydration risk.
- **Protect your eyes.** Remember to wear sunglasses if you are going to be outside for long periods of time. UV light can permanently damage your eyes.
- **Know when to throw out food.** Be careful about leaving foods, such as potato salad, out too long in the sun as this can increase the risk of food poisoning. In addition, be sure to thoroughly cook meats and wash your hands with soap and water after touching raw meat to reduce your risk of food poisoning.

Summer is a great time to spend outdoors with your family and friends. Take time to be prepared, use caution and know the risks.



Financials Status Thru May 31

This past week we emailed statements for YTD giving through May 31. Thank you for your prayerful giving. If you didn't receive one or have questions about what you received, please contact the church office. I don't have full accounting details for disbursements in May, but I can report that through April our disbursements were \$141,022 actual against a budget of \$147,715 - that's good to see. I'm speculating that May disbursements should continue under budget but uncertain how much. Our boards are doing well in managing expenses while continuing to keep programs and activities fully supported. Pledge and plate YTD receipts continue to be strong at \$138,000 against a budgeted amount through April of \$100,500. A fair number of contributors provide their annual commitments in full during the first three to four months of the year (not a bad thing). The Executive Board is grateful for that line of sight and commitment.

Finally, I'd like to thank those givers who have communicated intent and increased giving in response to our "Jumping In" campaign. The annualized additional revenues so far are at \$8,450 (toward offsetting the \$87,632 budgeted receipts gap). We've got a challenging hurdle in closing that gap! Thank you for your prayers and actions in that regard. Questions about Jumping In? see elsewhere in this newsletter or contact the church office. In Christ, Doug Miller, Treasurer

Dessertarians



The Dessertarian groups continue to meet in homes every month. **In June, they will meet the fourth Sunday, June 25th**, instead of the third Sunday due to Father's Day. The group meets from 6-8 p.m. for dessert and fellowship. If you would like to join this group, call the church office or Marti Atwater at 309-231-4948.



First Baptist Church of Peoria Jumping In 2023 Church Goals



Please remember to be lifting our church up in prayer as we continue to seek out God's will and plan for our congregation. Each year brings new challenges for churches across the world and FBC Peoria is no exception.

As mentioned at our annual meeting, we will be having a mid-year gathering to discuss where we are and how our goals are being met. That luncheon will be after church on August 6th at 11:15am.

Save the Dates!!!

American Baptist Men's Gathering 2023

Theme: Sharing His Story by Helping Others
James 2:14-17

August 4-5

First Baptist Church of
Edwardsville
534 St Louis St.
Edwardsville, IL 62025

The FBC bridge group will be playing on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month **beginning June 15**, 1:00-3:30 p.m., in room 228 (first room on the right coming in from the parking lot). Both experienced and beginners are welcome, but please contact Lacie Atkinson, 309-435-7061, or the church office for more information prior to the game date.

The FBC mahjong group will be playing on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month **beginning June 29 (deviation from schedule)**, 1-3:30 p.m., in room 228 (first room on the right coming in from the parking lot). Both experienced and beginners are welcome, but please contact Lacie Atkinson, 309-435-7061, or the church office for more information prior to the game date.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

This summer we will continue to have Sunday School each week. Our kids will come into the Sunday School room for their lesson and Bible time. However, after the lesson, instead of a craft or worksheets, we will go outside for some fun activities. We will have some playtime in the playground, bubbles, chalk, games, painting, and other surprises. We suggest that your children dress for these activities. We do not want to worry about paint and bubbles on good outfits. **We hope that your children will continue to join us for Summer Sundays!!!**



PLAN ON JOINING US! All ages are welcome!



On Saturday, **June 17, 2023**, 10:30-12 noon in the Parlor, Susan Turner will be continuing Card Design! **THERE IS NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NEEDED!** Join us for paper crafting, an easy, simple and fun way to make cards for every occasion. During the class, you will make one or two cards to share with friends and family. Believe us who are attending, it is easy and fun getting together. 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 June 14th. Light refreshments will also be served.