



FIRST CHRONICLES

May, 2023

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly... But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us..”

– Romans 5: 6, 8

Who doesn't love to win? I know I do. I have a competitive spirit. Over the years, I've learned to control it so that I and other participants can have fun. But at one point, I was a sore loser. I would get angry if I didn't win or if I didn't get what I wanted. I thought I had deserved to win and that the competition was just a formality before I was allowed in the winner's circle. At the core of this attitude was pride. In my heart, I wanted to be better than everyone else. I wanted everyone to recognize what I believed in my heart: that I was a winner.

If we look up the word “winner” in the thesaurus, we'd see words like victor, champion, conqueror, hero, and even, conquistador! (I think this last one is my favorite...) Connected to winning are also concepts like celebration, rejoicing, and joy. Those are great things by which to be characterized. But if we look up the opposite of these things, we'd find words like loser or failure. We'd find defeat, ineffectiveness, inferiority, and even disappointment.

These words reflect how our society views success and failure. They mark the competitions of our favorite sports, the election of politicians, the efficacy of laws and policies, and even the latest techniques that we try in our occupations and hobbies. And because we all fail at being perfect in everything that we do—whether it is as parents, spouses, children, friends, or Christians, we are set up for a pretty miserable existence. But it doesn't have to be that way. God doesn't want that for us.

If you look at the above verses, you'll notice something very important. It DOES NOT say, “But God shows his love for us in that while we **were still WINNERS...**” In fact, God's Word says that “while we were still **WEAK...**” and “while we were still **SINNERS**, Christ died for us.” Our Heavenly Father, out of His love for us, sent Jesus “at the right time”—when we were weak, when we were sinners, when we were failures. What a great lesson for us! When we were at our absolute worst, God gave the greatest demonstration of His love for us. He didn't require us to be winners before He did that—He gave us His love freely.

Once we realize what God has done, then we also see our responsibility to imitate it. When a fellow brother or sister in Christ sins—when they fail and stumble and demonstrate their weakness—we need to remind them of God's love for them. We need to show them the grace that God has shown us. We need to come alongside them, help them up, and encourage them to continue pursuing maturity in Christ.

This May, be encouraged to be an encourager. Be ready to show grace to those around you. Let's remind each other that in our weakness, He is strong. “At just the right time”—when we fail—share the victory we have in Christ, our Lord.

In Christ,
Jesse

OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS
Sunday, May 7 Darren & Julie Kramer	Sunday, May 7 Rachel Kramer
Sunday, May 14 Daryl & Mary Kramer	Sunday, May 14 Gerri Spangler
Sunday, May 21 Janice Schneidermann	Sunday, May 21 Terresa Wagenaar
Sunday, May 28 Dennis & Gracia Schrick	Sunday, May 28 Donna DeBoer



Ted and Dawn Siemens are missionaries working with TWR (Trans World Radio) in Cyprus.

Ted and Dawn have announced big changes for their work with TWR. As of April, they have moved to Brandon, South Dakota. They have lived in Taiwan, Guam, Amsterdam, Austria and Cyprus during their time serving the Lord working with TWR. With the advancements in how things are done Ted and Dawn will be able to live in the states and continue with their work as well as set up a home base for their children.

Ted will continue his commitment to the global and regional projects he is involved in, such as Disaster Relief Content Coordination, Men of Courage ministry to M men, and the TWR Global Media Training Team. As you can see, he will be very busy.

Please continue to pray for Ted and Dawn as they continue their work from their new home.

Mission Board



May	1	Kory & Dawn Hayenga Mary Eben Jaren Schrick Monica Sufle
	2	Shelby Hayenga
	4	Paul Reemtsma
	5	Caleb Johnson Jameson Wagenaar Kayne Jurrens
	7	Richard & Melissa Swacker Autumn Hayenga
	10	Harlan & LeAnn Doeden Sara Johnson Donna Shelly Brooklyn Spencer
	12	Devon Stowell
	13	Herm & Linda Christians Dan & Jodi DeGroot Knox Spencer
	15	Sophia Beyer Timmy Jurrens
	16	Harold Eben Ben Hanenburg
	17	Lucas Eben Landon Reck Leah Winkowitsch
	18	Elena DeBoer Gloria Kruse Andrew Swacker Kim Winkowitsch
	19	Abby Kramer
	21	Aaron & Autumn Hayenga
	22	Evie Christians Lily DeKam
	23	Brandon & Katie DeBoer Jeff & Cindy Eben Timothy Kramer
	26	Sharon DeBoer Samuel Kramer
	29	Kricket Arends
	30	Mike Reemtsma
	31	Jeff & Stephanie Wagenaar



- ✚ We will be having a graduation breakfast on May 7, at 9 am, to honor high school graduates, Jesse DeGroot and Devon Stowell.
- ✚ Christian Hour Circle will be May 9 @ 7:00
Ladies & Girls Game Night (All Church Ladies)
Bring a game and a plate of goodies to share.
- ✚ First Baptist will be offering a 1-day Vacation Bible School this year on June 3 from 9-3:30. VBS is for age 4-6th grade. Contact Rachel Kramer if you have any questions. We are looking for monetary donations to help purchasing items for VBS. Please give your donation to Crystal deBoer.



Thank you to everyone who helped in Awana. It was a blessing to have such a great number of kids, but not possible without the faithfulness of willing and consistent leaders and prayer warriors. Everyone who helped from kitchen help to van drivers. Thank you and may God richly bless each one of you.

Thank you, Pastor, for the devotional the night of the program and to the kitchen help for providing the lunch.

- Donna & Judy

Praising God for all who prayed, visited, called, sent cards and gifts, and many other acts of kindness while in the hospital and at the care center since January. Thanks to the church for the plant. Roger is home and doing therapy daily to gain strength for upcoming cardiac rehab.

Prayer continues to be appreciated as he continues this journey.

Thank you and God Bless you all! - Roger & Janelle Kooiker

Congratulations 2023 Graduates!



Jesse DeGroot
George-Little Rock



Devon Stowell
Online K12 Iowa University



Autumn Hayenga
University of Iowa
Bachelor of Science Degree
Radiation Sciences



60th Anniversary Open House

An open house for Harlan & LeAnn Doeden, Sibley, Iowa, is being held to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Sibley Senior Center, 612 8th Street, Sibley, Iowa. The couple requests no gifts. Come as you are, visit, and celebrate with them.

They were married May 10, 1963 at the First Baptist Church, George, Iowa.

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 PM Youth 7:00 PM Visitation	4	5	6
7 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Graduation Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM Baccalaureate Tabernacle Church	8	9 7:00 PM Christian Hour Circle 7:00 PM Deacon Board Meeting	10 6:30 PM Youth 7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	11	12 7:00 PM Union Gospel Mission	13
14 Mother's Day 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Graduation GLR High School	15	16	17 6:30 PM Youth 7:00 PM Visitation	18	19	20
21 MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM VBS Leaders Mtg. 5:00 PM All Boards Night 6:30 PM Discipleship U	22	23	24 6:30 PM Youth 7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	25	26	27
28 9:00 AM Sunday School Bell Choir 10:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Discipleship U Bday/Anniv Celeb	29 Memorial Day	30	31 6:30 PM Youth 7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study			