

He shall cover thee  
with His feathers,  
and under His wings  
shalt thou trust

*Lev. 1:16*



*Glenna Bayer Photography*

## **FIRST CHRONICLES**

**January, 2024**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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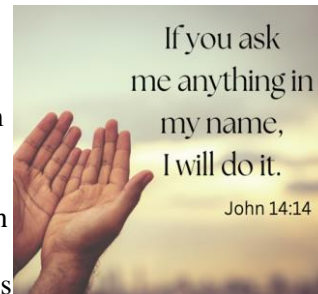
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***“You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you.” – 1 Kings 3:6***

Have you ever thought of relationships as “transactional?” A “transactional” relationship is one where the primary reason for knowing and interacting with the person is to conduct business. When people engage in this type of relationship, they are looking to get something out of it. This type of relationship can be both good and bad. On the good side, we see relationships with cashiers at grocery stores, bank tellers, and insurance agents. When we relate to them in that capacity, we are mainly conducting business. However, there is a down-side too. Taken too far, a person can begin to treat everyone as a potential business associate—family members, church members, friends, etc. This can leave people feeling used.

Many Christians—and most non-Christians who acknowledge God in some capacity—tend to treat God the same way. They come to Him in prayer and *only* ask for things. They only come to God to get something from Him—finances, good health, or help with a situation in life. I’ve called this view of God the “vending-machine god.” It’s true that we are invited by Jesus Himself to “If you ask anything in My name, I will do it,” but we must be careful not to come to Him ONLY to get something from Him. A “transactional” relationship isn’t sustainable.

Solomon knew God. He grew up with a dad who was described as “a man after God’s own heart.” In the verse above, Solomon shows he understood God’s attributes. Even though he fell away later in life, 1 Kings 3:3 describes him as one who loved the Lord. So, when it came time to rule, what did he ask for from God? Was it riches? Was it power? Was it strength, political alliances, or personal glory? No. He prayed for “an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” In other words, he asked for wisdom—and this revealed his reliance on God. He couldn’t do this alone; he needed God.



When was the last time we asked God for wisdom? When was the last time we admitted that we need God and that we can’t do anything without Him? This is our call this year. This is what we need to be devoted to throughout 2024. We need to turn to God for more than what we ask of Him. We need to rely on Him—to find in Him our refuge and strength and wisdom. And the good news is, this is the type of prayer He is pleased to answer. 1 Kings 3:10 says, “It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.” So ask this, pray this, seek this. Pursue a relationship with God that is deeper than “gimme, gimme.” Pursue His wisdom in reliance upon Him. Do this, and we will find that our relationship with God will grow as he makes us to look more like His Son.

In Christ,  
Jesse

# OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS
<b>Sunday, January 7</b> Henry & Joan Boneschans	<b>Sunday, January 7</b> Katie DeBoer
<b>Sunday, January 14</b> Doug & Donna DeBoer	<b>Sunday, January 14</b> Kody den Hoed
<b>Sunday, January 21</b> Greg & Sharon DeBoer	<b>Sunday, January 21</b> Judy Eben
<b>Sunday, January 28</b> Stan & Crystal deBoer Judy Eben	<b>Sunday, January 28</b> Rachel Kramer



January	2	Kody denHoed
	5	Greg & Lesli Kramer Jesse & Breanna Schrick
	7	Sharon Arends
	10	Amber Kooiker
	12	Clinton DeBoer
	13	Presley Schneidermann
	14	George Winter
	17	Stan deBoer
	18	Brenna Kramer (Daniel)
	20	Graham DeBoer
	22	Charlotte Jurrens
	23	Miriam Sternke
	24	Lucas Kooiker
	25	Alan Wagenaar
	27	Jason Christians

# Thank You So Much

Thank you for thinking of me on my birthday! Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, and visits. Thank you also for the caroling and the fruit basket.

-Junior Stubbe

Thank you to the carolers for coming to sing to me and for the fruit basket. I enjoyed seeing every one of you. -Delores Jurrens

Thank you for the care package that I received at college! It was very much appreciated! -Ryan Schneidermann

A big thank you to all those who came to carol for us and for bringing the fruit basket. We loved all of it! -Harold & Helen Eben

Thank you to those who sang Christmas Carols at my house and brought food. It was all very much appreciated. -Gary DeBoer

Thank you for the fruit basket and other kindnesses given to us during this Christmas season. God bless you all for your generosity! -Lena and Marcee Ruddy

We want to thank the carolers that came to sing and for the wonderful fruit basket. Also, thanks to the Awana kids who sent us a nice Christmas card So special! Lastly, thanks to all that attended to Carolyn during her health episode. So thankful to all the medical personnel in our church. We are so grateful.

-Gayle & Carolyn Wagenaar.

Thank you for the flowers when Alexander was born.

-Monica (Winter), Maxwell, & Alexander Ramirez



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

Ted and Dawn had a very busy summer since moving to Brandon, SD. They were blessed with a new grandson born to Kerith and Brendan in Indiana. While on their little trip they were also able to spend time with Micah at Moody.

June found Ted very busy with meetings and planning for fall training. Dawn spent time finalizing wedding plans for Tabitha and Andrews sequel-wedding celebration.

Then in July they flew to Taiwan for Tabitha's wedding. Along with the wedding Ted and Dawn were able to see many friends.

September found Ted and Dawn attending mission conferences and counseling in LeMars, Colorado. They had quite the experience while in Colorado as their car broke down. With many prayers and the luck of the car warranty they were able to get it fixed so they could make their trip home.

October found them visiting different churches each Sunday including ours for our Mission banquet.

Please continue to pray for Ted and Dawn as they continue their work for on-going development of trauma and healing content for troubled places in the world.

Mission Board



- Pastor Jesse and Katie will be hosting Lunch Bunch on January 14, 21, and 28 directly after church. They'll provide the main dish and if you come, please bring a side dish. We're looking forward to a time of food and fellowship!
- All Boards Meeting Night will be Sunday, January 14, at 5:30. This meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall and is for everyone on a Board or 2024.
- The Annual Meeting and Soup & Pie Luncheon will be Sunday, January 21, following the morning service. Group 5 will be working in the kitchen. There will be more details coming.

## January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> No Activities	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship  6:30 PM Discipleship U	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00 PM CHC  7:00 PM Deacon Board Meeting	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM Union Gospel Mission	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship  5:30 PM All Boards Meeting  6:30 PM Discipleship U	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Visitation	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship  11:00 AM Annual Meeting Soup & Pie Luncheon	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School Bell Choir  10:00 AM Worship  6:30 PM Discipleship U Bday/Anniv Celeb	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:30 PM Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study			