



FIRST CHRONICLES

July 2024

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” – Colossians 3:16

One of my greatest joys as a pastor is gathering on Sunday mornings, worshiping together, and teaching God’s Word. Every week, we have the opportunity to gather as a body of believers to encourage one another and to grow together. The only reason we are drawn together is the blood of Christ. If it wasn’t for His gift of salvation, we wouldn’t give up our Sunday mornings. We’d probably be fishing, sleeping, or doing chores (among the millions of other possibilities). But because Jesus saved us, we want to gather with one another. It is such a joy when we do so. The Spirit moves in our midst when we’re together.

Over the past few months, I’ve focused on the first part of our mission statement and what it means to glorify God. We’ve seen how glorifying God is displaying humble reverence before Him, how all of creation is wired to praise Him, and how worship is evangelistic. These are important concepts to understand and to put into practice. But when we think about glorifying God and worshiping, the most natural thing that comes to our mind is the singing we do during our Sunday morning service. That is good to do—we shouldn’t neglect this aspect.

We see this in the verse above. For the word of Christ to dwell in us richly, we must teach, admonish, and sing. The act of teaching and admonishing is

entrusted to each person in our congregation—we are to do this to (and with) “one another.” This is a responsibility we all carry. But singing is also our responsibility. The Bible tells us to sing different types of music so that the word of Christ can dwell in us richly. That’s right, we’re encouraged to lift our voices in praise! This encouragement isn’t given just so that we are all “participating” in worship—nor is this primarily about our own individual selves. This is for each other. This is to help each other grow in our relationship with God. To the extent that we ignore singing on Sunday morning is the same extent that we demonstrate that we don’t care if the word of Christ is dwelling richly in other people. Not singing is failing not only in our responsibilities to worship God but also in our responsibilities toward other believers.

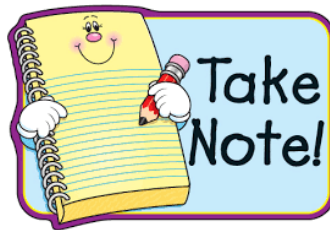
So, as we grow in our understanding of worship, be encouraged this month to lift your voice in song when we gather for worship on Sunday morning. We all know that none of us are professionally trained singers—so don’t feel the pressure to be. God desires us to worship Him—not only because He deserves the praise, but because it will help the rest of the congregation as well. Focus on worship. Focus on glorifying God. He is worthy of all praise, honor, and glory. Amen.

In Christ,
Jesse



OUR SCHEDULE!

| GREETERS | NURSERY WORKERS | CHILDREN'S CHURCH |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday, July 7 Alan & Terresa Wagenaar | Sunday, July 7 Terresa Wagenaar | Sunday, July 7 Katie DeBoer |
| Sunday, July 14 Henry & Joan Boneschans | Sunday, July 14 Donna DeBoer | Sunday, July 14 Rachel Kramer |
| Sunday, July 21 Doug & Donna DeBoer | Sunday, July 21 Katie DeBoer | Sunday, July 21 Kayla Reck |
| Sunday, July 28 Greg & Sharon DeBoer | Sunday, July 28 Kody den Hoed | Sunday, July 28 Abby Kramer |



- If you were a Sunday School teacher last year, we will plan on you teaching again in the Fall. Please contact Alyssa den Hoed if you won't be able to teach, or if you'd like to start teaching.
- Coming up on Sunday morning July 21 (weather permitting), we will be holding our Sunday Morning service at the Depot in George. Join us there at our regular time, bring a lawn chair, and worship with us!
- If you are interested in helping AWANA this year, please let Rachel Kramer know by July 28. If you volunteered last year in AWANA, we will plan on you helping again unless you tell us otherwise (please let Rachel know by July 28 if you can no longer help). Thank you!



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| July | 1 | Julie Kramer |
| | 2 | Caleb Kooiker |
| | 3 | Dawson & Bethany DeBoer |
| | 7 | Trenton Kaufman |
| | 8 | Trisha Jacobson |
| | 11 | Andrew Kaufman |
| | 14 | Brandon & Taylor Kramer |
| | 17 | Maci Arends Dawn Hayenga |
| | 18 | Eric & Sarah Gruis |
| | 20 | Kevin & Lynette Wagenaar Hank Arends |
| | 21 | Sarah Gruis |
| | 25 | Dennis & Kim Winkowitsch Ryan Arends Jemma Kramer |
| | 27 | Charlotte Kramer |
| | 29 | Miriam Kooiman |
| | 30 | Doug & Donna DeBoer Herman Christians Danika DeBoer |
| | 31 | Norman & Gwen Winter |



First Baptist Church, George IA is a member of the North American Baptist (NAB) Conference. NAB was started by an immigrant missionary in the 1840s to meet spiritual and physical needs in a changing world. The NAB Conference of churches has a rich history that reveals God at work and a future rooted deeply in His truth, mercy, mission and power.

Today the NAB Conference continues to honor that beginning throughout the US and Canada as well as in countries such as Cameroon, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines and Eastern Europe. The ministry covers evangelism, discipleship, church planting and developing Biblical and pastoral training of leaders, counseling and camping, as well as care for the elderly.

From July 11-14, 2024, the NAB will hold its Triennial Conference in St. Paul, MN. Members of the NAB community will come together to "embrace what it means to know the peace of God in our lives." It will be an "opportunity to celebrate God's working in and among and through us."

"Pray that the 2024 Triennial Conference in St Paul would be a significant moment of God speaking to His people in the NAB and for unity as a Conference and for clear discernment of God's leading."

(Information and quotes taken from the NAB website).

Mission Board

Thank You So Much

Thank you, First Baptist, for the birthday card and gifts. The wall hanging and flowers are a wonderful addition to our home! I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. I am truly blessed to serve with each of you at First Baptist. Thanks again! -Katie Sterneke

Thank you to all those who donated items or their time for VBS this year! You are all amazing and very appreciated! -CE Board

Thank you for the beautiful plaque given to us in memory of our dad. You have loved us well!

-Bill & Lori Jongewaard, Lyndon Bleeker, Gregg & Linnae Maakestad

I want to thank you for the snack box for the first semester. I also want to thank you for the gift card to help me finish out the year. I really appreciate all the thoughts and prayers. -Jesse DeGroot

Thank you for the flowers that we received when Nicole was born. We appreciate you thinking of us! -Brandon & Taylor Kramer

A great big Thank You to everyone who helped with driving campers, providing sack lunches, sending notes along with campers, and financially supporting so that children could attend camp. We've heard many grateful parents expressing gratitude for the financial support. May God Richly Bless! - Alyssa & Donna

Sunday School Picnic

The Sunday School Picnic will be on Sunday, August 18 following the morning service. Group 3 will work in the kitchen. We will be having grilled hotdogs and hamburgers. Please bring your own salads and desserts to share. We will have small inflatables and yard games.

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| Appointment Committee CE Board | Buying Alyssa den Hoed Donna DeBoer |
| Bean Bag Tournament Abby and Bradley Kramer Bryan and Rachel Kramer | Collecting for the Buying Committee Merlyn Winter Daryl Kramer |
| Lemonade Jim & Sharon Douglass | Ice Cream Dippers Sunday School Teachers |
| Table Set up Ushers | |
| Kitchen Committee (Group 3) Rhonda Kruse Linda Christians Kayla Reck Terresa Wagenaar Amber Kooiker Breanna Schrick Dawn Hayenga Abby Kramer Rachel Kramer Taylor Kramer | |