

# First Baptist Church

grace for all

## THE MESSENGER

JULY 2017  
www.clintonfbc.net

### From Your Pastor's Heart to Yours

July is the month for VBS! This is a great ministry to our own kids and to the kids in our community! It is always exciting to see our dedicated volunteers pull this ministry together and implement it with such excellence each year. I hope that you (and your kids, grandkids, neighbor kids) take the opportunity to be involved in this wonderful ministry this month (July 9 through 13 From 6:00 until 7:30). If you have any questions, feel free to speak with James McDonnell, Karen Johnson, Shari Ruehling or call the Church Office.

There are a couple of other great opportunities to engage our community this month: one is the annual Fourth of July Festival on July 4. You can volunteer to join us in setting up tables, chairs and booths at Riverview Park by the Bandshell that morning from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Come and pitch in for as long as you can. even an half hour can help make a difference! The second opportunity will be on July 8, beginning at 9:00. We will be joining with Vision8 and local neighbors to clean up Neubauer Park across from Mercy South. The project should last about one to two hours and will be a great way to make a positive difference in our community!

All of these opportunities are in keeping with our Lord's command to *Love your neighbor as yourself.* Each one can also be a witness to our community that our church is here for them and not just for ourselves, an important principle that we learned from our involvement in the Missional Church training our church participated in.

However, you choose to get involved, let's all do our best to represent well our Lord, His Kingdom and our faith!

- Rev. Ronald Lott, Senior Pastor

### For Such a Time As This

#### Esther 4:14 (HCSB)

*14 If you keep silent at this time, liberation and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father's house will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this."*

If you've ever read through the book of Esther, you'll find a remarkable scenario take place that not even Steven

Spielberg could concoct. It's an amazing tale of undermining, betrayal, overcoming, and resolution. You see, Esther was in an awkward position, in her new royal position as queen, she wasn't simply allowed to enter the king's court without an invite, she couldn't merely seek him out and share her issues with him. Frankly, she was afraid for her own life if she was to try to talk with him about her people. Haman, was a high ranked official for the king, and as a man jealous of Mordecai, he hated the Jewish people. It was this hatred that led him to undermine the king, manipulate the situation, and create a law that would have Mordecai and all his people killed. Queen Esther, happened to be Jewish, not something Haman plugged into his plan.

In the face of great danger, Esther willfully put herself in a position that could end bad for her, and in doing so, she saved her people. It was Mordecai that penned that famous saying *For Such a Time as This.* She was put in a place of royalty at a unique time, for a unique reason, because she would be the only one able to save God's people from the atrocity that was about to take place. We today, are here for such a time as this. Our nation has become not just godless, but even anti-god. Just look at some of the persecution Christians go through for their faith and belief in Marriage. Nevertheless, we are here for such a time as this.

We are here to stand for our faith, to face off against possible persecution to make sure that the Word of God is honored in our actions and our words. Church, We are here in this timeline, because God wants us to stand on truth, not hide from it, not pretend to fit in with others, but to be different, to be about God's Word. In your life, you will have opportunities to stand for what is biblically right and just, can I encourage, that no matter how hard it may be, standing for truth is much better than hiding in shame.

- Associate Pastor, Jerry Danzinger

### Dare 2 Be Different Youth

The July Dare 2 Be Different Youth Schedule:

- Wednesday nights at FBC 6-7:30 p.m. Bring your Bibles! We are working through a study of the book of Matthew.
- We will NOT meet on July 26th.
- On Friday, July 28th at 6:30 p.m. we will have a Youth bonfire at the Danzinger's house!

"The purpose of First Baptist Church is to love God and to share His love with this community and the world." First Baptist Church, Est. 1856

## Pastor's Texts for July

During the month of July we will continue our annual, "Sermons In A Bag"! Since we have not yet, as of this writing, had time to pray and consider the objects we have received (it is a continuing process), we will just have to surprise you for this month as far as texts and titles! Our prayer is that this series will prove helpful to you in your personal walk with Christ.

*Did you miss a week? Visit [www.clintonfbc.net](http://www.clintonfbc.net) to view **SERMON VIDEOS** and printable sermon notes! You can also go to the video archives to see previous weeks.*

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## Women's Retreat: Seaside Escape

Better than a day at the beach! Longing for the time to slow down, wiggle your toes in the sand, and bask in the warmth of God's present? Join us at Seaside Escape. It's a beach-themed retreat where you'll experience meaningful Bible Study and worship, connect with other women, and have time for quiet reflection and plenty of laughter! Look for our registration table to sign-up!

Deadline is: Sunday, July 23rd  
Location: Hidden Acres in Dayton, Iowa  
Date: Friday, Aug 4th - Sat., Aug 5th  
Cost: \$60 (funds are available if needed)

For more information contact:  
Tammy Kirk at 563-249-7373



## Men's Breakfast

All men are welcome to join us on **Thursday, June 6th at 6:30 a.m.** We meet each first Thursday of the month at Jenny's Diner (517 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.) at 6:30 a.m.

## 55+ Group Monthly Event

Our group will meet for lunch on **Wednesday, July 19th at 11:30 a.m.** We will be going to Krumpet's in Fulton, Illinois. All adults age 55 and over are welcome.

## Library News



Thank you to all who bought books at the church's recent book fair. A total of \$93 was raised to be used for the children's and youth programs. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Happy reading.

- Ann Watt, (*The Library Lady*)

## Quarterly Meeting

All FBC members are encouraged to attend the next Quarterly Meeting scheduled for **Sunday, July 23rd** immediately following the worship service. Items on the agenda include reports from each of the church boards.

## Vacation Bible School

This year's Vacation Bible School will be on **July 9-13**. A free dinner for all children will be available prior to VBS starting at **5:30 pm** with VBS running from **6pm - 8pm** each night. Our curriculum is "Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God". We will be learning about "super heroes" of the Bible and how to stand up for God. There will be exciting stories, crafts, games and food for all participants. We would like to thank this year's VBS coordinator, James McDonnell!



If you have any questions concerning VBS please feel free to ask James or myself. We ask that the church congregation pray for all of us!

- Shari Ruehling,  
Christian Education Board Chairperson

## ALL-CHURCH POOL PARTY

Following the week of VBS we will celebrate with a **FREE** Pool Party on **Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at the Clinton Pool. Everyone is welcome! Concession stand will be open.

## Operation Christmas Child

Creative Christians for Operation Christmas Child - "CCOCC" continues to meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month. In July we will meet on the **6th and 20th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at the church. Please join us to learn how you, your family, a friend, and any age boy/girl, or man/woman can help put together different kits and items for Operation Christmas Child. CCOCC will put together sewing, first aid, hygiene, tool, and fishing kits between now and November. Also, we will need help with various steps to put together Rag Dolls and Dresses for Girls ages 3-14. Please attend, no talents needed, and bring ideas to share with us. If any questions, please contact Pam Sheridan: 563-243-7830 or 563-249-1443.



## Helping Hands Knitting Group

Join us on the first and third Thursdays each month and get involved in our current projects. In July we meet on the **6th and 20th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

## CLINTON 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL

**TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2017**  
RIVERVIEW PARK

<p><b>9:00 AM</b> VOLLEYBALL WHIFFLE BALL &amp; PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENTS</p> <p>TENNIS LESSONS</p>	<p><b>10:30 AM</b> BAGS TOURNAMENT</p>	<p><b>11:00-6:00</b> UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MOBILE MUSEUM</p>	<p><b>11:00-4:00</b> FOOD RIVERVIEW PARK</p>	<p><b>1:00 PM</b> PARADE RIVERVIEW DRIVE</p>	<p><b>2:00-6:00</b> INFLATABLES GAMES LIVE MUSIC PETTING ZOO</p>	<p><b>2:30 PM</b> FIREFIGHTER WATER WARS</p>	<p><b>4:00 PM</b> HOLLY'S DOGS HOTDOG EATING CONTEST</p>	<p><b>6:30 PM</b> CLINTON LUMBERKINGS HOST BURLINGTON BEES</p>
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## Stewardship Insights

*A monthly compendium of Biblical wisdom relating to life, faith, finances and our roles as stewards.*

This month from an online devotional by Rick Warren:

### **"God Can Give You a New Heart"**

*"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10 NIV)* God spoke the world into existence, and he spoke you into your mother's womb. Even now, he can speak into the chaos of your life to bring it shape and form (Psalm 51:10).

This is a Genesis event, where God speaks into the void and the darkness of your life, creating for you a new beginning.

God can create something from nothing. He can take a heart that is broken, impure, or failed and turn it into a heart that is whole, pure, and purposeful. God wants to see you pure, so he takes an active role in creating your new heart and bringing order to the chaos of your life.

Your job is to submit to his sovereignty, humble yourself before him, and ask for his help.

Lord, speak a Genesis moment into our hearts and into the circumstances of our lives. We acknowledge *"everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ"* (1 Corinthians 1:30 MSG).

Renew in us a steadfast spirit (Psalm 51:10), no longer chaotic or controlled by events, circumstances, or feelings. Give

us lives shaped by you and by your Spirit flowing through us.

### **Talk About It**

- Give God your chaos. Let God speak into your life, creating a new beginning, a new hope, and a new energy.
- Pray, *"God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life"* (Psalm 51:10 MSG).

### **Wisdom from the Web: Knowing Jesus**

(From the Graced Again newsletter)

"[The Apostle] Paul never slips into giving pointers for life, because he has much bigger goals in view. He pleads with God that he would open our hearts to know Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. So we don't dare read the communications discussion at the end of Ephesians 4 and only say, 'Paul teaches four key principles. (1) Tell the truth, rather than lying. (2) Keep short accounts and deal with your anger daily. (3) Speak constructive rather than destructive words. (4) Forgive others, rather than becoming argumentative, or gossipy.' Now those are terrific principles! But they are gutted of the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which is the point of human life and the power and reason to obey in Truth...The motive is not self-reformation or success in interpersonal relations. The motive is to know the Lord."

(A passage from David Powlison in *Seeing With New Eyes*)