

FIRST CHRONICLES

APRIL 2019

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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April 2019
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I believe in God's presence in our lives.

We hope you do, you say. After all, you're our pastor. But I mean a real, experiential presence. A lot of people believe God exists and his son made it possible to have a relationship with him through his commitment to die for us. They have even made a decision to trust him for eternal life.

However, when it comes time to interact with Jesus, for all appearances we treat him like he's not really there. Practically speaking, before we make a decision, before we travel somewhere, before we eat or do any one of the 101 things we do everyday or before we speak with the grocer or the man across the back fence or the next section over, we don't invite his attention or conversation. We treat him as though he doesn't exist in our practice.

Some pastors teach that the kingdom of God is still coming in the future. In light of this viewpoint, daily life depends on the Bible, the word of God, until Jesus returns. However, this view is a one-legged stool.

The Bible is important, of course, but I read the Bible and find it teaches that God has always been sovereign over the universe, that the kingdom is his in-breaking into the world and into people's lives and he has always done so, and that he is now making everything new, starting with his son's resurrection and with each believer who trusts in him. His project begins with transformation of each disciple into the perfect image of his son, a process that takes a lifetime until we see him face to face. This radical remaking of the world will continue until he completes it with the return of Jesus, the creation of a new heavens and new earth, and with eternal existence in his presence. The difference emerges when we understand that the Kingdom is *now* present and is moving toward that day of completion.

Like a three-legged stool we rest on orthodoxy (biblical teaching and belief), orthopraxis (right living in obedience to our God), and orthopathos (right heart conditions of our emotions such as love). You can't really sit on less than the three legs. And our Lord is involved in the transformation of the whole person.

Now I turned too theological in an article I hoped would be practical. So what does this all mean in practical terms? If he is really there, what does it mean for us?

(1) When we worship God, his presence is among us so we can experience him together. We're not simply talking "about" him, but talking to him. If there is a limit to this experience, it's probably our fault, not his. We invite his presence. If we don't experience it, who do you suppose goofed. Our enjoyment of our God emerges in our praise and thanks for who he is in our lives. Worship becomes essential to know God's presence.

(2) When we pray, the Lord sits next to us or across from us and we speak directly to him in a real sense. Each of us converses with others, and we know that is real. So we speak with the Lord; it's just as real. "You have not because you ask not." Ask, and he will respond to you because he is there. Listen more; speak less. Do you hear him?

(3) When we share our life experience in Christ with a co-worker, a friend, a family member, or a stranger, we enjoy his presence through the Spirit. He prompts us, gives us words to say, works despite our weaknesses, strengthens our interactions, and blesses others because he has promised to do so. His presence is there. We doubt, stammer, end too quickly, talk too much and listen too little, but God makes the whole conversation a holy moment because he is there.

Envision that I wake in the morning, and he is there. Good morning. I eat, shave, shower, dress – and he is there. I read and understand and don't understand, and he is there. I try to remember to respond – good morning; what does that mean? Should I speak with that person? Should I smile, wave, or move on? Every phone call, every conversation, every thought – he's there. It's been a good day. Thanks, Lord. Sleep well, he says.

I'm trying to grow in my experience of his presence. I encourage all of us to try to grow in this way.

We do believe he is here, don't we?

I believe his presence is in my life and in yours. Let's act like it.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



April 2 George Stratman
3 Brett Block
8 Molly Kooiman
9 Cindy Eben
11 Lynette Wagenaar
12 Jace Schrick
16 Bridgett Block
Dan DeGroot
17 Nolan Kooiker
20 Bob Arends
Brian Harms
23 Mary Kramer
Debbie May
27 Alyssa denHoed
Sandy Doeden
Mavis Kanengieter
Stephen May
Chantel Tiedeman
28 Jolene Schneiderman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



April 1 Mitchell & Bridget Gravenhof
16 Roger & Janelle Kooiker



SCHEDULES

GREETERS



Sunday, April 7

Harold & Helen Eben

Sunday, April 14

Jeff & Cindy Eben

Sunday, April 21

Roger & Charlotte Jurrens

Sunday, April 28

Roger & Janelle Kooiker

NURSERY WORKERS



Sunday, April 7

Donna

Sunday, April 14

Terresa

Sunday, April 21

Lynette

Sunday, April 28

Jolene

AWANA (6:30-8:00 P.M.)

Awana shirts need to be worn every club night!

Wednesday, April 3

Come and Be Ready to Play Games!

Game Night.

Wednesday, April 10

Super Section Night #1

Unlimited sections, double shares!

Wednesday, April 17

Last Night of Awana

Last chance to get those verses done!!

Wednesday, April 24

Awana Awards Night

Invite the whole family! Let's celebrate!



May 5th~ Graduation Breakfast

June 29th~ Bible School

June 30th~ Sunday School picnic

THANK YOU!!!!!!

First Baptist Church~ Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement. ~The Family of Myrna Eben



The Easter Sunrise service will be on April 21st at 8:30 am. The youth involved in the service need to be at church by 8:00 am. Breakfast will follow afterwards at 9:00 am.



VBS will be Saturday, June 29th. Kids will be getting a form during Awana. Please have this form back by April 24th. Thank you.

MISSION NEWS

Ted and Dawn Siemens are missionaries working with TWR (Trans World Radio). They have worked with TWR for more than 25 years and are presently working from Cyprus. Cyprus is a small island south of Turkey and East of Lebanon and Syria.

In November, Dawn was called home to Sioux Falls, due to the illness and death of her father, Roger Hunt. Mr. Hunt was a Jag Lawyer for the Navy as well as a 10 time Representative for South Dakota. Continue to keep Dawn in your prayers.

The Siemen's are working on getting the Silk Road Transmitter up and transmitting. It is a powerful 200,00 watt AM signal to reach roughly 60 million people. They are planning on reaching people in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, with the Good News of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

It looks like they got most of the needed funds, but now many Prayers are needed to get the Transmitter components from Europe to Central Asia.

~Mission Board





Step By Step He'll Lead Us
The Middendorps
April, 2019



It's been a long hard winter for the homeless. We've had many nights below zero. Thankfully, as far as we know everyone made it through. A lot of churches and cities came together for emergency shelters. Our building at The Salvation Army was an emergency warming center during the day.

Some of you remember Jackie, our homeless friend in her 80's, is now safe in a nursing home, long term care. She still calls all the time worried about her son. He continues to be in and out of jail, and we rarely see him.

Ed, another homeless friend, really needs prayer. He has been sleeping outside most of the winter. We did hire him as a bellringer, but that income was quickly depleted on tobacco and a few hotel nights during some of the coldest nights. He has a criminal record from 30 years ago, but that still prohibits him from getting into any shelters and most jobs. He is a really nice guy, but made some mistakes a long time ago that keeps holding him back.

We've been blessed with a lot of donations this winter: coats, blankets, personal hygiene items, backpacks, etc.

Prayers and Praise:

~Please pray for Ed and others needs a 2nd chance.

~Please pray for BilliJo's knee that is slowly improving, that she can learn to walk again and wean off crutches.

~Praise God for the opportunity that Deb had to work at Territorial Headquarters in the circulation department while another employee was on maternity leave.

~Praise God that our family can enjoy a vacation before Brandi goes off to college this summer.

*Bill, Deb, Darien, Brandi,
BilliJo, and BobbiJo
420 West Touhy Ave ~ Lot 149
Des Plaines, IL 60018*

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 P.M.- Awana (Come and Be Ready to Play Games-Game Night) 7:00 P.M.- Youth 7:00 P.M.- Visitation	4	5	6
7 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.- Sunday School 10:00 A.M.- Worship 7:00 P.M.- Discipleship U	8	9 7:00 P.M.- Christian Hour Circle 7:00 P.M.- Deacon Board Meeting	10 6:30 P.M.- Awana (Super Section Night #1- unlimited sections, double shares) 7:00 P.M.- Youth 7:00 P.M.- Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	11	12	13
14 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.- Sunday School 10:00 A.M.- Worship 7:00 P.M. - Discipleship U	15	16	17 6:30 P.M.- Awana (Last Night of Awana) 7:00 P.M.- Youth 7:00 P.M.- Visitation	18	19 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 P.M.- Good Friday service	20
21 EASTER MISSION SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.- Sunrise Service 9:00 A.M.- Breakfast 10:00 A.M.- Worship	22	23	24 7:00 P.M.- Awana Awards Night	25	26	27
28 9:00 A.M.- Sunday School 10:00 A.M.- Worship 7:00 P.M.- Discipleship U	29	30				