



**FIRST CHRONICLES**

**September, 2020**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Racism is a terrible word. It doesn't matter what term is used – prejudice, stereotyping, profiling, ethnic slurs (derogatory names for ethnic peoples, varying with the particular group), “people of color” – the ugly side of human depravity emerges.

The Bible says all lives matter (“For God so loved the world . . .”). Jesus came for the Jew first, then for the Gentiles (the rest of the world). In the First Testament, Cain hated Abel. No reason is given that stood the test of logic, except for Cain's poor relationship with God. The Edomites, Ammonites, and Moabites hated Israel, fought constantly with their cousins, and ultimately received God's punishment for their attitudes.

Even in the NT the Hellenistic Jews and the Hebraic Jews were at odds with each other. Of course, the “Gentiles,” like the Greeks and Romans, were despised and viewed as inferior by both Jewish groups. That was alright because they didn't much care for the Jews either.

When immigration came to North America, racism surfaced at every turn. The indigenous peoples were viewed as inferior because they did not have writing nor the same intellectual perspectives and dressed funny. Of course, they hunted better, dressed better for the weather and conditions, and hated the invaders even more vehemently. As cities grew and natives were displaced, old prejudices from the old world re-emerged, especially aimed at the Irish, Jews, and blacks. Italians didn't fare well either. Over time, almost every new ethnic group making its way onto our shores found people waiting to shift their ire towards them.

As believers in a God who in love sent his son to address the sins of all humans, we should stand out as the people who love all peoples. Our sins have been taken care of, so, we are free to act differently than the rest of the world. We *know* we are flawed. That's why we asked God's forgiveness. The rest of humanity who don't believe yet – dark skinned, light skinned, tall, short, skinny, fat, almond shaped eyes, big blue eyes, dark cow eyes, good teeth, bad teeth, you name it – are flawed, too. They all need the grace of God to begin the transformation of their inner persons into the people God intended.

Is there any reason that inequalities among these various groups should exist? Don't all have rights to the same pay for the same job or the opportunity to live where they want if they can afford it or the same health care as others or the advantage of the same level of education for advancement. Yes, black lives matter, but so do all lives.

If a particular group is not treated the same as the rest, let's correct it. If we don't help all peoples, how will they hear that God loves them? How will they ever change like we have changed? Paul tells us to live peaceably with all (Romans 12:18) and to love one another (Rom 13:8). God's will is “good,” and we are asked to overcome evil with good (Rom 12:2, 21). Let's find a way to make it right for all.

Lord, start with and through me.

-Pastor Mike

# OUR SCHEDULE!

## GREETERS

**Sunday, September 6**  
Daryl & Mary Kramer

**Sunday, September 13**  
Janice Schneidermann  
Jolene Ackerman

**Sunday, September 20**  
Dennis & Gracia Schrick

**Sunday, September 27**  
Alan & Terresa Wagenaar

## NURSERY WORKERS

**Sunday, September 6**  
Donna DeBoer

**Sunday, September 13**  
Katie DeBoer

**Sunday, September 20**  
Judy Eben

**Sunday, September 27**  
Rachel Kramer

# Happy Birthday & Anniversary

September	2	Austin & Shelby Hayenga Ed Kruse
	3	Jeffrey Wagenaar Merlin Winter
	4	Harold Schneiderman Dennis Schrick
	7	Ronda Arends Trevor Doeden
	8	Florence Eben
	9	Greg & Sharon DeBoer Tiffany Middleton
	10	Gerald & Alyssa denHoed
	12	Rachel Thompson
	14	Carolyn Wagenaar
	15	Linda Christians
	21	Charlie Johnson
	23	Dawson DeBoer Lynelle Winter
	24	Bob & Rhonda Kruse
	25	Jacey Eben
	27	Ridley Gravenhof Dean Shelly
	28	Ashley DeBoer Jessica DeBoer Kevin Wagenaar
	29	Kelly Doeden Brandon Kramer



Brandon and Marci Jones and family are serving in Porto Alegre in Brazil. As we can imagine, the Covid-19 pandemic affected many countries around the world and Brazil was in its path. They have been contained since mid-March.

Before the pandemic, a group from the Gathering Baptist Church from Kansas City, MO, paid a visit to look at a sister-partnership with Igreja Batista de Canoas. The two churches realized their churches held similar core values and philosophies even though they were from two different cultures.

The prayer is that both North American and Brazilian churches can send teams to one another to build relationships. Since that time, many programs, church services, and learning are all being done online.

In April, Marci's father lost his battle with cancer. This was an extremely hard time for the families and just as Marci was going to make plans to come to America, the traveling bans were put in place. Since there was a possibility that she would have to be gone from her family in Brazil for a long time, she decided to stay in Brazil.

On August 6, the children will begin another year of school, which will be conducted online. Daniel will begin 11th grade and can take a class that will be taught in Portuguese. Monica and Olivia will also have their classes online. Please continue to pray for the family.

Brandon and Marci are continuing their language course online and working on launching the Kairos Project. The new launch means their seminary will be in partnership with Sioux Falls Seminary. This program is a rethinking and restructuring of the current way they do seminary. Each student will have a team of mentors who will work with them throughout the program.

Brandon has found himself working on coding the online platform, changing it over from English. Marci has been developing a website and making videos.

Prayer requests are for the future of the seminary and the launching of the Kairos Project and continued acculturation to the new language and home.

-The Mission Board

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Thank  
you

•MODERN CALLIGRAPHY•

Thank you for the prayers, cards and messages as I was recovering from my surgery. I really appreciate it! -Amber Kooiker



Christian Hour Circle Family Fun Event  
Meal & Games  
Everyone is invited!  
Sunday, September 13  
Following the Morning Service

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Please join us on October 13 at 7 P.M. to hear our special speaker, Shelley Hoogers, from Sheldon. Shelley has George connections as she is a member of the Korthals family, and she has also filled the pulpit at Ebenezer Presbyterian in George.

Shelley is the Director of Outreach & Discipleship at First Reformed Church in Sheldon. She provides quality Christian education classes for all ages and is fulfilling the church's mission to reach the local community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Shelley received her Associate of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from Central Bible College, Bachelor of Arts Degree in Secondary Education from Dordt College, Master of Education Degree also from Dordt College, and Master of Divinity from Sioux Falls Seminary. She's married to Dave, and they have two daughters, Rose and Grace.

This is a night for all women of our church, and we hope to see you there to hear what God has laid on Shelley's heart to share with us.