

# First Baptist Church

## "Staying Connected"-July 2025

**Interim Pastors: Rev. Gundar Lamberts and Rev. Deb Harkness  
(Alternating Sundays)**

### **A Devotion from Pastor Deb**

A few weeks ago, I read a devotion on the biblical story of Nabal and Abigail that is found in First Samuel. The author made the point that the story teaches us how powerful our words can be. Nabal and Abigail used the same 22 letters of the Hebrews alphabet but in two different ways. Nabal's words were cruel and brought destruction. By contrast, Abigail's words were encouraging and life-giving. This is one of the many examples that we have in Scripture about the power our speech has. No wonder, God's Word has so much to say on this topic! Our words can build up or put down those to whom we are speaking. Words can bless and encourage or do the opposite. With our mouths, we can speak truths or tell lies. Proverbs 15:4 says, **"Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit."** So... we have 26 letters in our alphabet that we can choose to use for good or for evil.

One the greatest ways that we can use our voices for good is telling others about God and His goodness to us. In Psalm 96, the psalmist writes, **"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."** With our mouths, our voices, our words, we can tell others about God's great work in our lives. We can share how He has blessed us in the past and what He is doing in the present. We can also share the hope that we have in Christ. In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter tells the church, **"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gladness and respect."**

Brothers and Sisters let's come to using our voices to share with others the good news of Jesus!

### **Church Council Updates**

#### **Quarterly Business Meeting – July 13, 2025**

First Baptist Church "worship" will be the main agenda item at the July 13 Quarterly Business Meeting. Please share your thoughts, suggestions and questions with the congregation at this meeting.

New Heights Church has not announced the September start date or the time of day when they will add a second worship service. The sanctuary will be available on Sunday after 1:30 p.m. We will share more information as it is available.

Please keep this in your prayers!



July 13 – Following the Business Meeting  
Lunch prepared by Pastor Gundar

Menu  
Iowa Chops  
Cheesy Hash Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Toss Salad  
Dessert



Thank you for your support to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Goal \$700.00 Received **\$580.00**

## Community & World

Pray for First Baptist Church as we discern our worship schedule.

Pray for all Christians around the world.

Pray for all Global Servants as they serve God around the world.

Pray for those serving our country at home and abroad.

Pray for God's guidance of all government leaders.

Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit as we reach out into the community.

Give thanks for all of God's blessings.

## Dates to Remember

July 2 – Choir Practice

July 2 – Church Council Mtg.

July 4 – 4<sup>th</sup> of July

July 13 – Qtly Business Mtg & Lunch

July 23 – 28 Warren County Fair

July 25 – Aug. 2 National Balloon Classic

## Contact Info

### Interim Pastors

Pastor Deb Harkness 618-967-6344

Pastor Gundar Lamberts 515-745-2982

### Thank You

Habitat for Humanity of Warren County thanks you for your generous gift to assist them in providing safe and affordable housing for those in need in Warren County.

They plan to start building house #23 soon.

### Thank You

Thank you so very much for your recent monetary donations! We really appreciate the support! Thank you for caring about our community and helping feed hungry lowans!

Rachel Klein, Executive Director,  
Helping Hand