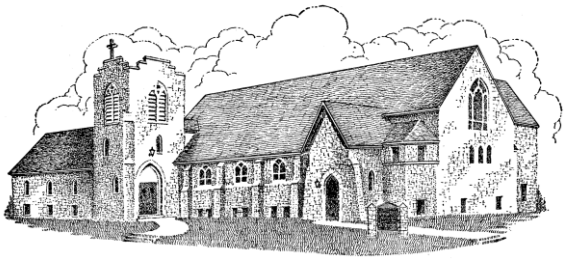

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
Serving as the hands and feet of Christ

THE BAPTIST BOOSTER

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October 2026

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"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right and pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me–everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:8-9 (NLT)

These words seem to be a theme for me lately as I have had the opportunity to encourage others in their faith journeys and as I reflect on my own journey and attitude. Loved-ones, it is so easy to let the voices of "the world" get the best of us. We get down on ourselves and one another, we let the news and social media and the entertainment industry dictate how we view the world and one another. Let us reclaim the ability to find joy in our world and to see where God is working.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance, the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart". Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

May you live each day in the joy of knowing and being known by our gracious God!

May you live each day reflecting that joy and shining the light of love into this world where God has placed us.

Because of Christ,
Pastor Janell

Special Dates for October 2026

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion Sunday, *October 4, 2026*
- Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Sunday, *October 11, 2026*
- Columbus Day, *October 12, 2026*
- Indigenous Peoples Day, *October 12, 2026*
- Canadian Thanksgiving, *October 12, 2026*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 25, 2026*
- Reformation Day, *October 31, 2026*

Seeds of Victory

Months before the U.S. victory at the World War II Battle of Midway, important work was happening far from the ocean. Code analysts were quietly studying Japanese messages, using early tools that came long before the computers we know today. Their careful work helped crack a code and gave American forces the warning they needed to avoid an ambush.

It makes you wonder what those long days felt like. Did the analysts ever grow tired of searching for answers? Did they wonder whether their efforts mattered? Did they feel discouraged when the breakthrough had not yet come?

We can understand that feeling. Christians sometimes grow weary, too. We wonder whether teaching children about Jesus is making a difference. We wonder whether

small acts of kindness, quiet prayers or faithful service will ever bear fruit. We see sin, sorrow and brokenness around us and wonder how victory will come.

But God sees what we cannot. No faithful work done for him is wasted. The Spirit who helps us plant seeds of truth and love is also able to bring the harvest. And because of Christ, the final victory is already secure.

(From: *The Newsletter, Newsletter, October 2026)*

(From: *The Newsletter, Newsletter*, October 2026)

Member's Death

Mary Jane Haglund, living at the Eastern Star Masonic Home in Boone, age 80, passed into the arms of her Savior on August 31, 2026. A funeral was held for Mary at First Baptist Church of Boone on Friday, September 4, 2026 with Pastor Janell Bloem officiating. A luncheon was held in fellowship hall after the service. Visitation was held at Schroeder-Reimers Memorial Chapel on Thursday, September 3, 2026 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Burial was in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Boone. The funeral arrangements were arranged by Schroeder-Reimers Memorial Chapel in Boone, Iowa.

(The picture of Mary is from the obituary at the website of Schroeder-Reimers Memorial Chapel, Boone, IA.)

A Few Announcements:

Salvation Army Applications: Christmas Assistance Applications can be applied for online on October 1 at www.SAAngel-tree.org. In-person applications for assistance will be October 19th through the 23rd 10:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information email: naomi.jobsonusc.salvationarmy. The location of the Salvation Army is 509 Benson St., in Boone.

Trunk or Treat: We are collecting candy for the downtown Trunk or Treat that is happening on October 22nd. Please bring your donations and place them in the "school house" that is in the corner of the parlor. Thank you. Pastor Janell

MISSIONARY NEWS

THE MATOS FAMILY

A New Baby! Sarah and Luis Matos welcomed a new baby boy to their family on July 13, 2026. His name is Luca Nash. Sarah and Luis are our American Baptist Global Servants in Oaxaca, Mexico.

From their summer 2026 newsletter, the Matos family is requesting a few prayers in support of their ministry and their family.

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to comfort the Matos/Nash/Wylie family after the loss of Sarah's mother, Becdy, on July 22.
- Prayers for the Matos family to find their footing as they create new routines as a family of four persons.
- Prayers for safe travels and good goodbyes during this season of transition and grief.

(From: The Matos Family Summer Update, International Ministries, 1003 W 9th Ave, Ste A, King of Prussia, PA, CR 2022: September 3, 2026.)

AN UNEXPECTED THANK YOU

To: First Baptist Church From: A hungry and tired soul with gratitude: I will visit again, God willing. Saturday, 09/2/2026: Today I was delighted to have a bench to sit upon and have my lunch. I appreciate the bench in Memory of Vernon & Helen Johnson outside. And, it was such a nice day that I didn't want to move on. So, I didn't, and this note was made for whomever it concerns. Love you.

(A donation was also enclosed with the note and the accompanying anonymous envelope.)

October Business Meetings

1. Please add a quarterly business meeting of the congregation to your October schedules on October 25th after worship service in fellowship hall. The members of the Church Board will bring refreshments, serve the same, and cleanup after the business meeting on October 25.

2. The October Church Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8th at 5:30 p.m. in fellowship hall.

CHURCH BOARD RETREAT

On Saturday, November 14, 2026, the Church Board will have a fall retreat. More information is forthcoming as the date draws closer.

Bible Quiz

Psalm 103 (ESV) begins: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his _____." What should we "not forget"?

A. goodness
B. kindness
C. gifts
D. benefits

Answer: D (Psalm 103:2)

(From: *The Newsletter, Newsletter,* October 2026)

Women's Retreat @ Dayton Oaks

Lauri Bouk, Betty Babberl. Mary Bruscher, Karen McCool, Joleen Vale, Lynelle Tabor

Nine ladies gathered for the annual women's retreat this September 11 & 12 at Dayton Oaks Camp. In this picture, Matt Siebert took the time to show the group around the camp. Pictured (from left to right) are Betty Babberl, Lauri Bouk, Karen McCool, Mary Bruscher (the back on the right) Lynelle Tabor, Pastor Janell Bloem, and Joleen Vale. **(Pictures by Janell Bloem)**

Pufferbilly Days 2026

The Pufferbilly Day's float from First Baptist Church was awarded second place in the nonprofit category this year by the judges at the event. Above is a picture of those who participated on parade day, and our conductor is pictured in the smaller picture next to the engine of "*The Pufferbilly.*" ***(Pictures by Pastor Janell Bloem)***

◄ Sep 2026

October 2026

Nov 2026 ►

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-Dayton Oaks Workweek: October 12-17 -Pack the Pews: October 11 & Picnic @ Herman Park after worship (Meat provided/Bring casserole or side dish to share & own plate/silverware.)				1 Book Study 9:30 a.m. Boone Ministerial Assoc. Mtg. Noon @ Grace Community Church(Janell out)	2 Regional Gathering, St. Paul, MN, St. Paul Pilgrim Baptist Church- Janell out to Regional Gathering, Pastor out Oct. 2&3 Office Closed	3 Regional Gathering in St. Paul, MN – Pastor Janell attending
4 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Facebook Streaming 10:30 Fellowship Time 11:30	5	6 Gathering @ Dutch Oven Bakery 9:30 Book Reading 6:00	7 Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 6:00	8 Book Reading 9:30 Church Board 5:30	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10
11 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Facebook Streaming 10:30 **(Pact the Pews Sunday)** **Picnic @ Herman Park Pavillion 11:30 or so**	12 Columbus Day (Federal Holiday) Dayton Oaks Camp has a workweek all this week.	13 Gathering @ Dutch Oven Bakery 9:30 Book Reading 6:00	14 Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 6:00	15 Book Reading 9:30	16 Office Closed	17
18 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Facebook Streaming 10:30 Fellowship Time Bloem Soup Supper 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.	19	20 Gathering @ Dutch Oven Bakery 9:30 Book Reading 6:00	21 Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 6:00	22 Book Reading 9:30 Trunk or Treat Event 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Facebook Streaming 10:30 Fellowship/Quarterly Bus. Meeting 11:30	26	27 Gathering @ Dutch Oven Bakery 9:30 Book Reading 6:00	Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 6:00	29 Book Reading 9:30	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 Halloween

YOU'RE INVITED TO

PACK THE PEWS

Share the News

10-11-2026

FAITH | FOOD | FUN

Join First Baptist Church for a special Sunday
of wonderful praise and celebration
as we sing and talk about the great works
God has done!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

10:30 AM WORSHIP
AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FOLLOWED BY A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP,
GRILL OUT, AND GAMES
AT HERMAN PARK PAVILLION

MEAT & BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED.
PLEASE BRING A SALAD OR DESSERT TO SHARE.
ALSO, PLEASE PLAN TO BRING YOUR OWN TABLE
SERVICE