

# THE BELL RINGER

Calling all to gather in His name



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## Greetings in Jesus' Name

We are so glad you're interested in our church. We are people who love Jesus and who want others to know the joy and purpose that come with following Him. We are a friendly American Baptist Church committed to Jesus Christ and the work of His kingdom. We aim to be a loving, growing family in Jesus, and we seek to walk humbly with God, obedient to His Word. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are working to love and serve others. We invite you to join us in experiencing and sharing this abundant life.

## From the Pastor's Desk



Pastor Jerry Springston  
Minister-at-Large

### "The Busiest Month"

***"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place...and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit."*** [Acts 2:1, 4]

As a pastor of two Iowa congregations, over a period of 35 years, I found the most stressful month was May. Why May? Because May had four Sundays which required special attention. It started with Mother's Day, but after a decade or more of preaching on

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mothers, what do you say that will hold everyone's attention while making your remarks biblical?

May concluded with Memorial Day, but unlike my home state of Colorado, where Memorial Day is a holiday marking the beginning of summer, in Iowa people actually remember people who have died. For fifteen years in Charles City, I would show up at the American Legion Hall at 6:00 a.m. to begin a ritual which would continue past 12:00 o'clock noon. We would visit every cemetery, five rest homes, the "county farm" and the city square for the raising of the colors, prayer, the mayor's remarks. This all concluded with the ritual of the Navy Mothers placing a floral wreath in the Cedar River.

An equally demanding weekend was high school graduation (in Colorado it was in June, in New York it was July). The church always had several graduates and each one would have a personal reception at their home. (How many sandwiches and how much cake and punch can one person consume in a single Sunday afternoon?)

Amid all of May's activity and excitement, Pentecost was almost an afterthought. Marking the giving of the Ten Commandments and the early harvest, Pentecost is the second holiest day on the Jewish calendar. For Christians it's the birthday of the Church and, more importantly, it marks the moment when all believers were given the gift of the Holy Spirit! What began as an unrepeatable "happening" continues as an unrelenting reality! Many Christians will tell you they "have the Holy Spirit," and while that is true, more important is the question, "***Does the Holy Spirit have us?***" After all, did not Jesus say, "***You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be witnesses of me.***" [Acts 1:8] Now, that's something worth both affirming and celebrating!

Jerry Springston  
Minister-at-Large

## Spirited Moments

Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

*Jesus (John 13:14)*

The one thing for which we are all being disciplined is to know that God is real. As soon as God truly becomes real to us, other people become shadows.

*Oswald Chambers*

Can we stand with the believers at Thessalonica, who did not seek comfort and fulfillment but endured hostilities brought on by proclaiming God's Word?

*Franklin Graham*

## LOL

Somebody has well said that there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

## Sympathies and Concerns



Let's continue to keep all unsaved loved ones in our prayers, as well as members of our church family who are unable to join us on Sunday mornings due to illness or other difficulties.

John Candage still needs prayers as he recovers from his recent kidney stone surgery.

Ron and Cherry Stanko also need prayers, especially a prayer that Ron will be able to visit Cherry soon without COVID restrictions.

## Member News

We heard that Wayne and Ruth Hutchins have returned from their winter sojourn in Florida. We understand they're busy catching up with their great-grandchildren. Ruthie says:

After seeing Briella only a handful of times because of Covid and 4 months in Florida, Great Grammie and Grampa are home and we are all vaccinated, so let the Sunday Night Suppers begin!



Rob and Patty Clapp recently spent time visiting their daughter, Lydia, and her family in Ohio. Looks like

they enjoyed their time with the grandchildren, Robin and Luke. Those two are growing like weeds!



Speaking of growing like weeds, one of our youngest members celebrated a birthday in April. Tommy Astbury is now THREE years old!



We've received wonderful news from our friends, Paul and Ginger Doyle. You'll recall that we've been

keeping them in prayer since hearing about Ginger's recent cancer diagnosis. Ginger writes:

I am happy to report I will have my last radiation treatment on Tuesday.

Everything is going great and I am so blessed my breast cancer was found early and I had so many people saying prayers!

As a reminder, please spread the word on the importance of having regular mammograms.

With love to all,  
Ginger Doyle

If you'd like to drop a note to Paul and Ginger, here's their new address in South Carolina:

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Doyle  
2 Caravel Circle  
McCormick, SC 29835

## Signs of Faith



## Foster Parents Notice

We received a message this week from a volunteer for A Family for ME (part of the Department of Health and Human Services organization) who wanted to get the word out to area churches that foster parents are needed who can provide temporary care to babies and young children who are in the process of reunification with their birth families; who can accommodate larger sibling groups to allow these siblings to remain connected in the same home; and who can provide care for older youth with challenging behaviors resulting from their exposure to traumatic events.

If you are interested in fostering children, you may contact Program Supervisor Rebecca Beal at (207) 233-5308.

# MEMORIAL DAY

An Essay by Michael A. Astbury

Last year's Memorial Day celebrations were very different from any previous year. We did not have a parade. Blue Hill's Main Street was not lined with crowds waving American flags and enjoying the sights and sounds of the parade. There were no prayers or speeches at the bridge or Seaside Cemetery. The firing of rifles to salute our cherished service veterans was not heard ringing over Blue Hill Bay. Greeting people from all over the peninsula who came to watch the parade did not take place. It truly was a very sad day.

For as long as I can remember, our family has celebrated Memorial Day by attending the Memorial Day parade. Each of our families had continued that same tradition until last year. I can't remember a time when Blue Hill did not have a Memorial Day parade. We always prepared for Memorial Day and the parade well in advance. We especially wanted to honor our father, Maynard "Mike" Astbury, a World War II veteran, and our mother, Mary McGraw Astbury, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, as well as all other veterans and members of the American Legion. All members of our family, at one time or another, marched in the annual Memorial Day parade. I think I marched as a Cub Scout and as a Boy Scout, and at least once, I carried the base drum in the George Stevens Academy Marching Band. When the parade ended, we all gathered for a cookout at my parents' home on Hinckley Ridge Road, these days fondly known as "The Homestead."

At times, the First Baptist Church participated in the Memorial Day parade. One year, we spent a lot of time decorating a trailer owned by our company, on which some of our members, dressed as biblical characters, rode in the parade. Our church always has held special Memorial Day services honoring all veterans who joined us at our regular Sunday morning worship service.

At past Memorial Day parades, we saw people from the very old to the very young, people of many different persuasions, different views and opinions. Nonetheless, everyone came together with smiles, handshakes, hugs and greetings of good cheer as we gathered to honor the great people who had given so much for our freedoms.

As the years went by, I learned about my father's service in the Navy during WWII. Dad was on the U.S.S. *Knapp*, a destroyer deployed in the Pacific Ocean. As I learned about Dad's service, I learned a lot about his life. When I was young, he didn't talk much about the war at all. Later, however, he opened up about what it was like.

Dad joined the Navy as soon as he graduated from high school with his best friend since kindergarten, Linwood Carter. The two young men enlisted the same day, went to the same training camp and were called to serve on the same ship during the war! Among the stories Dad told me was one about the U.S.S. *Knapp* going through a typhoon that devastated a large number of ships in the area. During that horrible storm, the Navy lost many of its ships, particularly destroyers and smaller ships from their very large fleet. Thousands of men were lost at sea during the typhoon. Thank God, the U.S.S. *Knapp* made it safely through.

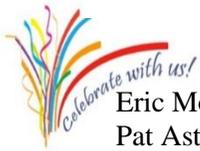
During WWII, our nation came together like no other time in history. Everyone gave their all for whatever needed to be done. They sacrificed as much as they could; many made the ultimate sacrifice. They were a strong people, the Greatest Generation, and they forged a new way forward. They worked hard to make a better world for their children and future generations. They didn't always agree with each other, but they listened to each other and talked to each other. There will always be different ideas and different ways to go forward, but I believe the Greatest Generation worked to get along and they compromised when they needed to, for the common good.

My mother and father were good friends with the other veterans and their wives in the area and stayed in touch over the years. They supported each other, sharing good times and bad, and they were always willing to help each other when help was needed. Our American Legion was very active and strongly supported by the Greatest Generation. Today, we still have great leaders who carry on the traditions of the American Legion.

As we suffer through this coronavirus pandemic, being restricted by so many rules and guidelines, we need to remember and to honor the sacrifices being made by our military, police, nurses, doctors and all others who work hard to take care of us and our loved ones. Let us also rely on our God, who is always in control. All good things are from our God. Though we don't understand why such things happen, God knows the plan. Even though the times are bleak and we don't know what the future holds, we know God is good and in control. Maybe it is our time, maybe it is we who will forge a new way forward for generations to come!

After all, we live in the greatest country in the world, a country that many generations before us gave up everything to preserve. Memorial Day is the time we should come together to honor all those people who served our great nation during times of war and conflict, sacrificing their lives for the good of others and preserving the freedoms we enjoy today as citizens of the United States of America.

# Birthday and Anniversary Greetings



Eric Mote May 5  
Pat Astbury May 7  
Hunter Dorr May 8  
Annette Candage May 16  
John Candage May 18  
Genevieve Gribbin May 18

## Happy Birthday to

Cordell Snow May 22  
Bonnie Benedix May 24  
Hank Fenders May 27  
Ken Charles May 27  
Mark Clapp May 31

## Happy Anniversary to

Robert and Deborah Carter

May 1

Blaine and Nancy Stoner

May 16



Are you on our Birthday or Wedding Anniversary list? If not, please let us know by e-mail to [fbcbbluehill.office@gmail.com](mailto:fbcbbluehill.office@gmail.com) so we might celebrate with you!

## Kids Korner

Color me!



# May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Temporarily suspended						
2	3 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m. 	4 Trustees 6:30 p.m.	5 	6  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	7	8
9 	10 Women's Bible Study 1 p.m. 	11 Christian Ed 6:30 p.m.	12	13  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	14	15
16	17 Women 1 p.m. Men 4:30 p.m. 	18 Deacons 6:30 p.m.	19	20  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	21	22
23	24 Women 1 p.m. Men 4:30 p.m. 	25	26	27  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	28	29
30	31 REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED  ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL				<i>When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.</i> Prince Philip	

### In-person Church Attendance Guidelines

- ✓ If you come, physical distancing must be maintained.
- ✓ **Masks must be worn.** Please bring a mask with you. Should you not have one, we have a limited supply.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer is available.
- ✓ Attendees assume the risk.

### Notes
