

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

A church you can call, "home"



We cherish our annual traditions at FBC, and this December is no different! Please mark your calendars with these special Christmas events:

- ❖ Christmas Communion ~ November 27
- ❖ WHS Church Tour ~ December 4
- ❖ Ladies' Christmas Party ~ December 6
- ❖ WHS Brass Quintet ~ December 11
- ❖ Family Christmas Program ~ December 18
- ❖ Christmas Morning Worship ~ December 25
- ❖ Happy New Year ~ January 1

LET'S GET TO KNOW BETTER...JIM & MICHELE WOOD

The Woods are familiar to us all; Michele is the daughter of Larry & JoAnn Gelo and grew up in Waukon, while Jim grew up on a farm near Lansing (which now, coincidentally, belongs to their son, Taylor). The couple is blessed with five grown children and six grandchildren. Michele grew up attending First Baptist and Jim attended the Lutheran church in Lansing. Jim has a witty sense of humor and loves to tease people! Jim & Michele met in high school during Michele's junior year. Michele worked at Hardee's and Jim, Randy Van Ruler, and a few other friends went through the drive-through while Michele was working. After work, Michele met up with them to "cruise the strip" when tragedy struck. Michele's hand got caught in the door of Jim's Blazer as she went to get into his car! Jim felt badly and sent her flowers at school the next day. Fortunately, the story had a good ending! "The rest is history!" exclaimed Michele. The couple was married December 17, 1988 at the former First Baptist Church building. Almost 34 years ago!



Woods, cont.

Jim is an Artificial Insemination Technician and works independently; this job keeps him very busy with not much time off. Michele has been a dental assistant for 30 years and also cleans a few places in town, including our church.

Jim's hobbies include helping his children when he is able; his newest passion is making homemade soap, "Papa Jim's Handmade Soap," and it will soon be available in local shops. He has received positive responses so far! This makes for great Christmas or year-round gifts. If you are interested, call or text Jim @ 563.568.7610.

You will find Michele spending time with her grandkids in her spare time, which she loves doing. She also likes to take walks and read a good book (but not at the same time!).

"I grew up in a Christian home and asked the Lord to be my Savior at a very young age, but I really came to know the Lord when I was about 22; my relationship with Him is continually growing to this day. The church family has helped me tremendously with this process. Throughout the years, they have been faithful to pray for our family in times of need – and that is the best feeling!" Michele's favorite Scripture passage is Ephesians 2:8-9, *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."*

Jim came to know the Lord in 1999 when First Baptist hosted a Creation Seminar which answered many questions he had. He was then baptized at the same time his sons were! His favorite verse is Romans 10:9, *"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

We are blessed to have Jim & Michele be a part of our church family and are grateful for all the activities and events they are involved in. Lastly, thank you for doing a great job as janitor of the church, Michele, and all the ministries you are involved in at church. You are very much appreciated!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December Birthdays

m = missionaries

12/1 Cheryl Bollman
12/2 David Bartling
12/7 Bob Lyford
12/7 Gabriel Goettel
12/7 Dylan Schmitt
12/8 Chuck Bloxham
12/13 Lawrence Lotza
12/13 Vicki Folkers
12/16 Linda Nolting
12/18 Brenda Promnitz
12/21 Nancy Hammond
12/21 Linda Miller
12/26 Mark DeRemer
12/26 Jill Manning
12/27 Victor Souza (m)

December Anniversaries

m = missionaries

12/9 Jeff & Elaine Goettel
12/12 Larry & JoAnn Gelo
12/17 Jim & Michele Wood
12/19 Duane & Cristina Smith
12/20 Gary & Sandy Parker (m)
12/27 Charlie & Betty Jepsen
12/30 Chuck & Maxine Bloxham



January Birthdays

m = missionaries

1/1 Jonathan Thompson (m)
1/2 JoAnn Livingood
1/6 Sue Woodward
1/8 Kristi Walker (m)
1/9 Heather Bartling
1/10 Brady Beyer
1/14 Elyse Stock
1/16 Kayla Scholl
1/18 Sharen Roth
1/20 Philip Clocksin

January Anniversaries

1/28 Larry & Lin Barthel



January Birthdays, cont.

1/22 Jacob Smith
1/28 Iliana DeRemer
1/31 JoAnn Gelo
1/31 Mike Larson