



August 2026
Volume 4, Issue 8

First Forum

In writing a paper, I was forced to ask myself this question.

What does a successful church look like?

In 2001, Jim Collins wrote a book called *Good to Great*. It's an excellent book that looks at how some companies make the move from just being a good organization to being a great organization. The book has sold millions. And then he wrote a short "monograph" a few years later called *Good to Great in Social Sectors*. Its focus was on social services organizations: groups that have, or should have, as their primary goal, improving society, not making money. His first line in this 35-page document is this: "We must reject the idea – well-intentioned but dead wrong – that the primary path to greatness in the social sectors is to become "more like a business." It's difficult because America has a business worldview. Bigger and more is a sign of success. But shouldn't bigger and more only be signs of success if the goal is to be bigger and have more? Neither of which describes what your purpose is, only that you will increase in size and quantity.

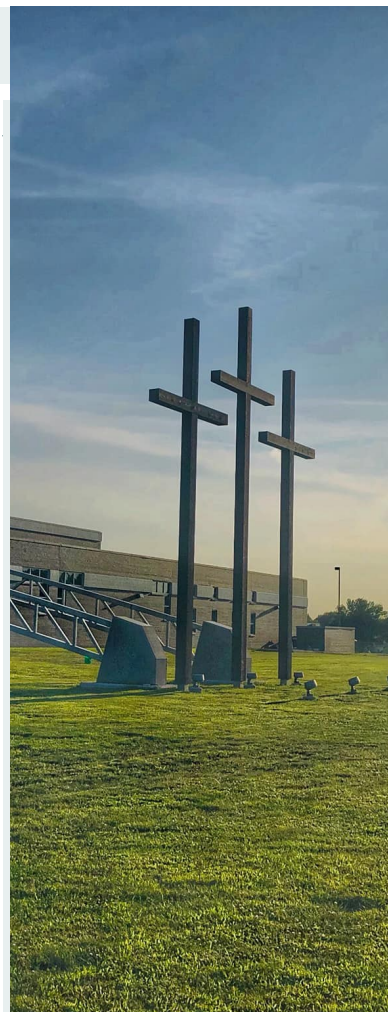
So, what does a successful church look like?

Commonly, the definition of a successful church is based on attendance, but often it can also be tied to finances and facilities, or even how "active" the church is. But isn't success tied to achieving the task one is given? I have yet to hear that this year the Huskers will be successful because of attendance. It's not a good argument. A running back is not a success for the amount of running he does behind the line regardless of how active he is. A football team is successful by fulfilling the tasks it is given by the coach. These tasks tend to revolve around two objectives: scoring points and preventing the opposition from doing the same. The metrics for success are based on the fulfillment of tasks and purposes. So, if attendance and activity are not valid metrics for success why are these often applied as a standard of success for churches?

So, what does a successful church look like?

The Bible uses family imagery for churches. Certainly, a family must manage finances well, and it does help to have a home that provides adequate protection from the elements. However, these are not typically the main ways we gauge a healthy family. When we think about the health of a family or marriage, it is unlikely that we would say, "I know my marriage is successful because we have money in the bank," or "I know my family is a success because we all show up for dinner." These are not the measurements we would use. The metrics instead change to things like: "How do they talk to and about each other? How do they resolve disputes? How do they help one another? How do they treat others? Do they love each other? What is their treatment of others, their work ethic, their character?" We would listen to the stories about their day, their hopes, their struggles, and watch for the family interactions with these to see what it says about the health of the family. If we are to start evaluating the success of a church, we need to change the way we think to a new paradigm where success is evaluated by fulfilling the tasks given to us by God, primarily making disciples (helping people grow in their relationship with God through interaction), and in becoming the people he has called us to be. We need to continually define success through a Biblical lens.

~ Pastor Mark



RENTALS & RESERVATIONS

If you would like to reserve or rent a ROOM in the church (for Bible studies, events, weddings, etc.) or rent the gym, please contact the church office at (308)234-2311 or LReed@kearneyfb.org. New rental forms will be required for ALL reservations (including in house) in 2025. These forms are available at <https://kearneyfb.org/room-reservations/> or through the church office. Please **NOTE** the facility use reservations are visible on the calendar via the church website. *Please double check your reservations on that calendar.*

NOTES FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

August Finance Committee Update:

Hello from the Finance Committee. The numbers are in for the first 2 quarters of 2026 and giving is about on pace for this time of year. As of June 30th we have received 46.5% of projected annual giving. Thanks again for continuing to support the church and the general fund diligently with your tithes. Despite being close on the projected giving we are still in a bit of a short fall prediction for the year since the High School project did not come to fruition; and the Trustees continue to work on cost saving as much as possible. The church received just over \$75,000 in May which is average for the month over the past few years. The finance committee and trustees appreciate your continued prayer and faithful giving.

Capital Campaign Update:

The chapel is in use now and the exciting news is we have made the first Principle reduction payment to the bank of \$250,000 from the Capital campaign funds! We have seen such a good work in the project and visual completion of the chapel, and now it is exciting to see the second half of the campaign goal start to take effect. The Trustees will continue to make lump sum principle payments as funds allow. Remember, we are hoping to have all pledged giving accounted for in May of 2027.

As always, the finance committee appreciates your continued financial support as well as your prayer. Numbers 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord turn his face toward you, and give you his peace."



2025 Capital Campaign Update

« Mortgage Reduction Chapel & Restroom Buildout »

TOTAL PLEDGED
\$2,136,115

TOTAL RECEIVED
\$1,450,675

*Funds will be collected thru May 2027.



Hebrews 12:1-2
FAITHFULLY FORWARD
Thank you for your faithful support!





Fall Ministry Kick-Off

Starting Wednesday, September 9th

6pm - Youth Group

6:30pm - Adult Choir

6:30pm - Kearney Kids Go!

Sunday, September 13th

Church on the Lawn

Starting September 20th

Next Steps Class



Diaper Depot

This month's Diaper Depot will be held
Saturday, August 22nd from 10am to noon
in the East Lobby.

For more information, or to make a
donation, please contact Tonya Cretacci
at 308-224-4090.

Hello Kearney First Baptist! We are so thankful for your partnership in the gospel advancing here in Kearney among college students! Here are a few things that have been going on, and a few ways you can pray for us!

Overseas Trips:

This summer we've sent our first students overseas on a few different trips. In June, we sent our first student to South-East Asia where he was able to share the gospel with Muslims in an unreached nation! One of the islands they went to welcomed visitors for the first time in almost 45 years! This means they heard the gospel and the good news of Jesus possibly for the first time in 45 years. Two more students went to the same country in July and are currently teaching English to students of that country. In addition, they are supporting current missionaries in gospel efforts. Finally, a handful of students are in Mexico leading VBS and helping a church with ministry efforts in the area! God is using Kearney, Nebraska to make an impact on the world.

Summer Oaks:

This summer we are serving local students by inviting students into our home once a week for dinner and a Bible Study through the Psalm. It has been a privilege to walk alongside students over the summer and see them continue their spiritual growth. We have had a number of students in and out, because of the nature of summer, but many of them have expressed gratitude to have opportunities for growth and fellowship. In addition, each week we rotate which student leads the Bible Study, so many of them are getting new opportunities to grow in their leadership skills.

Fall Preparation:

Lastly, we are preparing for new and incoming students in the Fall and another year of ministry! This summer has consisted of a lot of prayer and strategic planning as we launch a new leadership team to help reach the campus. We have decided to study the book of Ephesians this Fall. Additionally, at New Student Enrollment we had the opportunity to meet a majority of incoming freshmen. Many of them expressed interest in spiritual growth and we are excited to engage them as they move to Kearney this fall.

Pray Requests:

- That we would stay centered on Christ, and keep Him at the center of our ministry.
- That God would prepare the hearts of incoming students to hear the gospel and respond to it.
- That God would empower and embolden our leaders to boldly proclaim Christ and make disciples this upcoming school year!

That we would continue to adjust well to being a family of 4!

Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support.

In Christ,

Ryan & Catie Jonas!



O A K S

INTERNATIONAL®



Our Deacons Fund exists to provide financial assistance in times of need to those in both our congregation and our community. The ways we are able to help through this mission are endless....rental assistance, utilities, gas vouchers, grocery vouchers, medical assistance, vehicle repairs.

No general funds go to support our Deacons Fund. It is strictly supported and funded by donations specifically earmarked for this purpose.

If you would like to give to support our Deacons Fund and its mission, you may do so through a check, bill pay, or cash. Please note in the memo that the donation is specifically for the Deacons Fund.

You may give through Venmo or Every.org, but please note that a fee will be deducted by each of these companies prior to the church receiving the funds. (Please also note on these donations that they are specifically for the Deacons Fund.)

We are thankful to those who give towards this specific mission, allowing us to help so many in our church and our community each year in times of their greatest need.

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.
Proverbs 17:17

August 2026

Celebrations



Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast will be August 15th at 7:30am in the Multi-purpose Room!

Questions? Contact William Bolen at 308-627-5915

DATE	BIRTHDAY	ANNIVERSARY
August 1	Sean Dougherty	
August 2	Bill Clarke, Sr. Jennifer Liljehorn	Brent & Andrea Upson, Steve & Laura Bush, Zach & Lindsey Ondrak
August 3	Jessica LaVassaur, Linda Salter, Cecelia Goodwin	
August 4	Vera Clinger, Ashley Bush, Soren Farrell	
August 5	Pat Hird, Enid Hansen, Landin Fredericks	Jim & Jan Fruhling
August 6	Norman Hicken, Brent Upson, John Keeney	Kris & Becky Pedersen
August 7	Jim Baer	Andy & Julie Compton, Caleb & Ashlyne Svoboda
August 8	Gary Barth, Jordan Cretacci, Isla Ibach, Rutheah Rodehorst, Stefanie Clang	
August 9	Gabriel Bennett	Gary & Jenny Barth, Gavin & Leah Kenney
August 10		Mark & Leanne de Kluyver
August 11	Carmen Limbach, Jessica Bradley, Braylen Luke	
August 12		Dick & Sandy Lebsack
August 13	Brian Peterson, James Estes, Marvin Ebinger, Mallory Dougherty, Heath Perez	
August 14		Jeff & Pam Smaha
August 15	Don Davis, Cheryl Still, Tanya Cawley, Simon Woods, Marvin Gillming, Andrew Couto, Aiah Schmidt, Dusten Vermeire	Keith & Nora Borer, Ken & Lea Martin
August 16	Oscar Hanson, Olivia Hanson, Michael Langerberg, Jarvis Culler, Ella Evans	Lee & Maurita Barthelman, Ron & Jolinda Drake, Rob & Vicki Clevenger
August 17	PJ O'Neill, Jan Pollat, Tim Kotschwar, Niya Trelka, Guydon Clang	Ed & Theresa Hemenway, Derek & Heidi Hoeffler
August 18		Ron & Patty Mason, Jerry & Pam Hill
August 19	June Kenton	
August 20	Matt Harsch	
August 21	Ezekiel Nordhues	Jeff & Cresta Dunn
August 22	Mike Webb, Elizabeth Reed	Randy & Diane Hays
August 23	Christy Clarke, Tim Farrell	Brian & Sarah Danielson
August 24	Joshua Olson, Brooke Barth	Stan & Pam Murdoch
August 25	Oakleigh Jacobs, Nika Farrell	Clint & Meghan Schneringer, Tucker & Heather Gruntorad
August 26	Ellen Paist, Sutton Gangwish	
August 27	Carol Rowedder, Dietrich Rice, Jovie Keeney	Dale & Marlee Kabes
August 28		
August 29	Andy Compton, Cheryl Krueger, David Wagner	Kerry & DeeDee McNish
August 30	Cresta Dunn	Connelly & Sally Rice, Charles & Glenda Legates
August 31	Chuck Lien, Sam Thomas, Ashli Estes, Tom Maxson	



“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2

Card List

At Northridge

5410 17th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845
Carl Gangwish #146
Lula Cepel #11
Alex Gangwish, #22
Jo Wright, #245

At Autumn Village

1712 E 39th St
Kearney, NE 68847
Marvin Ebinger #4
Rose Hullinger #14
Beryl Topps #6

At Prairie View Gardens

1705 Prairie View Place
Kearney, NE, 68845
Jeanne Chamberlin #211

At Mother Hull

125 E 23rd St
Kearney NE 68847
Shirley Rosenthal #20

At Cambridge Court

4107 Central Ave
Kearney NE 68847
Linda Salter, #116

At Mount Carmel

412 W 18th St
Kearney, NE 68845
Gary Hansen #114

At St. John's

3410 Central Ave
Kearney, NE 68847
George Bundy E 15

At Brookstone Gardens

2615 W 11th St
Kearney, NE 68845
Norman Hicken Apt 404

At Kearney Manor

2715 Ave I
Kearney, NE 68847
Carol Abramson, #12
Carol Baetz, #81
Charlcy Hoff, #28

At Homestead

4205 6th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845
Ron Mason, #26

At The Regency

Doris Van Vleet
208 E 48th ST, #107
Kearney, NE 68847

Mrs. Faith Kamm
2309 W 42nd Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Richard & Arlys Kleckner
(Mailing address only,
Contact office for visitation
info)
44770 Highway 40
Sumner, NE 68878

Mary Lou McFarland
44086 Rd 768
Sumner, NE 68878

Pat Hird
2005 7th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845

Quidon Brown
1909 W 38th St, #4
Kearney, NE 68845

Roger Anderson
515 W 1st St
Minden, NE 68959

Doug DeNeui
Nebraska Veterans Home
4510 E 56th St.
Foxtrot 2 Rm 215
Kearney, NE 68847

Andy & Julie Compton
1421 Ave E
Kearney, NE 68847

Sam & Merrilee Thomas
5095 Long Island Rd
Kearney, NE 68845

Marvin Gillming
c/o Jerry Gillming
1711 Eastbrooke Dr
Kearney NE 68847




A Man's Mission
Men's Retreat
August 21-22
Camp Comeca

Register at kearneyfb.org
Scripture, Steak, and Fire

August 2026

August 2026							September 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1 Gym Closed for Resurfacing
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Communion Sunday 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	9:30am PRAYER GROUP	7:00pm Praise Team	Gym Closed for Resurfacing 6:00pm Youth Group 8:00pm Men's Group	9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom) 12:00pm 2026	6:00am Men's Basketball 12:00pm Godly Men in the Workplace (Pizza)	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	9:30am PRAYER GROUP	7:00pm Praise Team	Gym Closed for Resurfacing 6:00pm Youth Group 8:00pm Men's Group	9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	6:00am Men's Basketball	7:30am Men's Breakfast
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Gym Closed for Resurfacing 8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	9:30am PRAYER GROUP	7:00pm Praise Team	6:00pm Youth Group 8:00pm Men's Group	9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	Men's Retreat 6:00am Men's Basketball	10:00am Diaper Depot
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	9:30am PRAYER GROUP	7:00pm Praise Team	6:00pm Youth Group 8:00pm Men's Group	9:30am Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	6:00am Men's Basketball	
30	31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5
8:30am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm Radio Broadcast	9:30am PRAYER GROUP					

Did you know...

The calendar is also available to view on the church website? <https://kearneyfb.org/calendar/>

Kearney First Baptist
3610 6th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68845

Phone: 308-234-2311

E-mail:
contact@kearneyfb.org

SCAN FOR GUEST INFO



KEARNEY
FIRST BAPTIST



KFBC Staff

Sean Dougherty
Senior Pastor
sdougherty@kearneyfb.org

Jason Purdy
Youth Pastor
jpurdy@kearneyfb.org

Lori Reed
Office Manager
Lreed@kearneyfb.org

Doug Samuelson
Custodial Manager
dsamuelson@kearneyfb.org

Leola Hill
Youth Intern
Lhill@kearneyfb.org

Mark de Kluyver
Associate Pastor
mdekluyver@kearneyfb.org

Brandon Jacques
Children's Director
bjacques@kearneyfb.org

Jennifer Liljehorn
Business Manager
jliljehorn@kearneyfb.org

Dustin Turner
Worship Leader
dturner@kearneyfb.org