

LIGHTING THE WAY

The First Baptist Church of Owego, N.Y. Volume 28 Issue 1 January 2021

Pastor's Corner

In Ecclesiastes Chapter 13, Solomon said there is a time to every purpose under heaven.

A time to weep and a time to laugh. 2020 was a year of weeping that concluded with a 44" snow storm.

The verse says that God has a purpose especially evident during hard times. This last year we prayed more and out our trust in God that he would see us through..

Man is like a tea bag: he comes to full strength when he is put into hot water.

I'm sure you will agree that God is not happy with the way man is indifferent to his presence. In 2020, God got our attention.

In 2021, God has given us another opportunity to serve him and others more fully.

The most important commodity that man has is time. Fill the unforgiving minute with 60 seconds worth of distance run.

Psalm 90:12 - Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

So ask yourself - What would I like to accomplish in my life in service to God and others while I still can? Love Pastor Bill



When: Sunday, January 24, 2021

Time: 11:00am [after worship service]

Where: Church Sanctuary

Subject: secret ballot vote for three Executive Council members, Financial Secretary, Church Treasurer, & Moderator

A complete report booklet will be available for you to pick up that day too.

Please provide all written board/committee reports and financial reports to Marilyn by Friday, January 15th.

The following groups are cancelled until further notice.

- Deacons Board
- Golden Agers Group
- Circles of Concern
- Broome-Tioga ABW prayer meeting -Emerson House in Endicott

The following groups are meeting online via ZOOM

Joint Executive Council/Board of Managers

The following groups are now/ will be meeting while following social distancing guidelines and wearing face masks

Bible Study & Prayer - Tuesday evenings @6:00pm in the SPOT

Needle & Thread Missions Group [sleeping bags for the homeless] - Every Wednesday of the month @10:00am - SPOT

Scout Troop 60

Every Wednesday evening in Church Fellowship Hall from 7:00pm.

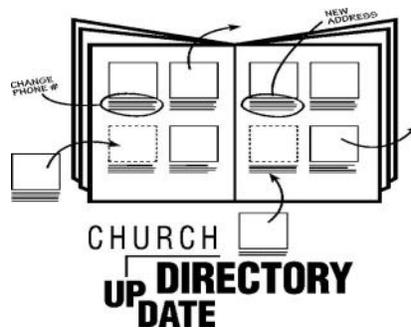
ACT (Allied Christians of Tioga) Dinner - serve at 5:00pm

The ACT Dinner continues each Thursday afternoon/evening at FBC-O. FBC-O's participation each Thursday is to assist with set-up and serving. Please see Rich Saxton if you would like to participate



Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 - Jim & Penny Lyons
3 - Sally Gydosh
6 - Gretchen Gydosh
13 - Cindy Blount
14 - David Berry
16 - LaRonda Cron
23 - Christian H Dickson [1yr]
24 - Marilyn Murray
27 - Jamie Soprano
30 - Dianna Buckreis



Please review your current directory or the directory that will be on the table in back of sanctuary. **Please let me know via email or drop a note in my mail file if there are any additions or corrections to be made on or before February 15th.**

Thank you for your help.

Marilyn



- * UNITY, boldness
- * PEACE
- * WISDOM
- * Our President
- * America
- * Our Church
- * Our Leaders
- * Pastor Bill
- * Our BTBA Churches
- * The KIND Project
- * Those in the Nursing Home
- * Our Shut-ins
- * Unspoken (s)
- * Deliverance from addictions
- * Salvation & hope for the lost
- * Jail Ministry
- * Complete healing for those in pain, hurting emotionally, disease, sickness
- * Relationships
- * Our Families
- * Cure for Cancer
- * Vaccine and a cure for Corona Virus
- * healthcare workers during this pandemic
- * All victims and families of COVID-19 and all those on the front lines;
- * God's direction during this time of transition.
- * Pray God's Glory across the earth



Prayer Requests

Please contact Dawn Kohler with prayer concerns. H-607-748-0319 C- 607-239-1686

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)

Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)

Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

Aim for a perfect, mature faith (Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

—Gus Nichols, newsletternewsletter.com

A lady went to the Pastor of her church and said, "I won't be attending Church anymore."

He said, "May I ask why?"

She said, "I see people on their cell phones texting and typing during the service, some are gossiping, some just aren't living right, some are sleeping, some are staring at me, they are all just hypocrites."

The Pastor was silent. Then he said, "Can I ask you to do something for me before you make your final decision?"

She said, "Sure, what's that?"

He said, "Take a glass of water and walk around the church two times and don't let any water fall out of the glass."

She said, "Yes I can do that!" She went and got the glass of water and walked around the church two times. She came back and said proudly, "It's done."

The pastor asked her these questions; "Did you see anybody on their phone?; Did you see anybody gossiping?; Was anybody living wrong?; Did you see anyone sleeping?" She said, "I didn't see anything because I was so focused on this glass, so the water wouldn't spill out"

He told her, "When you come to church, you should be just that focused on God, so that you don't fall. That's why Jesus said, 'Follow Me', He did not say follow Christians."

Don't let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate with God. Let it be determined by how focused you are with God.

When they saw

THE STAR, *they rejoiced*
exceedingly with great joy

Matthew 2:10

What is Epiphany?

Are you acquainted with the word "epiphany"? It is derived from the Greek word, epiphaneia, and means "an appearance."

Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6th, the 12th day after Christmas, and called that day Epiphany, intending for it to refer to the revealing of Jesus as the Christ to the Wise Men who were Gentiles. The very first followers of Christ were Jewish. The story of the revelation of Christ to the Wise Men, who were non-Jewish, is a reminder that God meant for Christ to be the Savior of the whole world. As an old hymn puts it; "The light of the world is Jesus." The whole world! Have a Merry Epiphany!

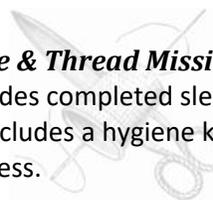
—Charles Ferrell, NewsletterNewsletter, vol.21 #1



American Baptist Women's Ministries is a Christ Centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God.

Circles of Concern - will NOT meet
2nd Wednesday of the month due to COVID

Needle & Thread Missions Group
- provides completed sleeping bags, that includes a hygiene kit, for the homeless.



First Baptist Owego Officers

President - TBD, **Secretary** - TBD

Treasurer - Daisyanna Fritz

Mission & Service Ministries and Love Gift - Sally Guydosh

White Cross Chairwoman - Pat Greene

B-T Association Officers

President - TBD

Secretary - Nancy Holbert

Treasurer - Barbara Cron

Love Gift - Acquanetta Young

Personal Development Ministries
T.J. West

Co-Church and Community Ministries
Kay Hollister, Carol Seidel

Mission and Service Ministries
Daisyanna Fritz

White Cross Chairperson
Nancy Stephens

The women's Circles of Concern will NOT meet from January to May 2021 due to COVID 19 not being under control.

The two Circles were able to meet from January to March 2020. During that time, they made four Baby Layettes for the Congo (gown, hat, blanket and plastic sheet); cut fleece and created 31 scarves for use in the sleeping bags for homeless project; put 12 Health Kits together (soap, hand towel, washcloth, wide tooth comb, toenail clippers, toothbrush, and 12 band aids put into a Ziplock bag) for Church World Service.

Sent old fashioned Valentines to the shut-ins; enjoyed PowerPoint presentations on "Panama" and "Missionary Updates".

Some of the women knitted/crocheted hats, mittens and scarves during the year and in the fall gave them away as a "keep warm" present to the community. Some extra hats went to the First Presbyterian Church, Johnson City along with some sleeping bags and hats/mittens also went to Christ Church (Episcopal) in Binghamton.

By wearing masks, keeping social distance and a vaccine available, we hope to gather again in fellowship on September 2021.

Sufficient for the day

John Newton (1725-1807), author of "Amazing Grace," wrote: "We may easily manage if we will only take, each day, the burden appointed for it. But the load will ... be too heavy for us, if we carry yesterday's burden over again today, and then add tomorrow's." This maxim might be easy to dismiss unless we knew about Newton's troubled life. Having been pressed into naval service and then slavery, Newton was finally rescued but became a slave-ship captain. He faced abuse, contemplated murder-suicide, suffered a stroke and was caught in a storm. When he cried out to God, the waves subsided, prompting a spiritual conversion for Newton, who became a priest and abolitionist. We never know how God will transform our sinful past into future good, but we can trust he will. That adds power to Newton's advice, which echoes Jesus' words: "Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34, ES ~from newsletternewsletter.com

The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts. We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah. —Travis Cunningham, tvcre-sources.net ~from newsletternewsletter.com



Open with Restrictions -

At FBC-O, we are doing everything we can to be compliant with all regulations and ensure your safety as we re-gather.

We will be adhering to the guidelines set forth by the Department of Health, CDC, Church Mutual Insurance Company and the American Baptist Churches New York State office.

*****We request that if you have health issues or other concerns related to gathering at this time, please remain at home. We will continue to provide Service on-line following the live Service for those who are not able to join us in the Sanctuary.***

<https://fbcowego.org/worship-service/> ;

Or you can go to YouTube to view prior services too.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=first+baptist+owego

The online service will be available by 7pm Sunday evening in most cases. Please allow time for editing and upload of the service recording. Thank you. If you cannot access the service please call or email the office - or send a text message to Marilyn: 607-624-1001 .

For the safety of all participants and to follow the requirements issued by “Reopening New York”, below is a list of guidelines we will be following to enable us to worship safely:

- ◆ A gloved and masked greeter will meet you at the door (will open door for you if not already open)
- ◆ The greeter will log your name and take your temperature. If temperature exceeds 100.4 degrees F (the Health Department-mandated limit), you will be asked to return home.
- ◆ A table with masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, tissues, Bulletins and collection plate will be inside each door. Please place your tithes and offerings in the offering plate on the table. We will not be passing the plates during Service. The greeter will hand you a Bulletin.
- ◆ Face Coverings are required while you are in the church building at all times unless seated. (if you forget yours, we will provide one; please do not give it back to us, take it with you)
- ◆ Hand sanitizer stations are located in the back of the sanctuary, by the restrooms and by the back door
- ◆ Reminder - We must social distance: As we enter the church, no hugging or hand shaking
- ◆ **In the Sanctuary**
 - Not all pews can be used. The pews not available for seating have the cushions turned up. Pews available for seating are marked with a strip of yellow duct tape on the floor. Once you choose a pew position, that will remain your “assigned seat” until seating restrictions are rescinded.
- ◆ Coffee, snacks and gathering in our fellowship hall **will not be** available after service.
- ◆ After service, please dismiss yourselves in an orderly fashion, maintain 6 feet distancing and congregate outside if you wish.



Broome-Tioga Baptist Association

BTBA PRAYER SCHEDULE FOR 2021

BTBA Program Board continues to encourage our Churches to Pray For One Another on a regular basis as we move into the New Year. The idea would be to mention one of our nine Churches in Prayer at every Sunday Morning Worship Service ... and to encourage Prayer for the same Church for the following week. The week before a Church is to be prayed for, the Pastor or Secretary of such Church would EMAIL to all the other Churches (Pastor & Secretary) a few specific Prayer Requests so that intentional and informed Prayers might be offered.

Church To Be Prayed For & Dates

Community Baptist Church

January 3, February 28, April 25, June 20, August 15, October 10, December 5

Conklin Avenue First Baptist Church

January 10, March 7, May 2, June 27, August 22, October 17, December 12

Cornerstone Community Church

January 17, March 14, May 9, July 4, August 29, October 24, December 19

First Baptist Church, Deposit

January 24, March 21, May 16, July 11, September 5, October 31, December 26

First Baptist Church, Endicott

January 31, March 28, May 23, July 18, September 12, November 7, December 5*

First Baptist Church, Owego

February 7, April 4, May 30, July 25, September 19, November 14, December 12*

Memorial Park Baptist Church

February 14, April 11, June 6, August 1, September 26, November 21, December 19*

Spencer Federated Church

February 21, April 18, June 13, August 8, October 3, November 28, December 26*

*DUPLICATES TO COMPLETE THE 2021 YEAR

