

LIGHTING THE WAY

The First Baptist Church of Owego, N.Y. Volume 27 Issue 12 January 2024



Please be Holy Spirit driven in 2024. Be ever mindful of His presence and working in your life. Even 2023, the worst year of my life, I felt God's presence with me and Dawn. Now we have 3 months of dark dreary winter to contend with.

Isaiah 43:3 "When thou passeth through the deep water, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow Thee. When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned for I am your God I will be with you and deliver you."

I get lonely at home, so I'm usually in my office five days a week from 9:00am till 11:30am. Stop by and chat with me.
love Pastor Bill

Congregational Meeting



When: Sunday, January 28, 2024

Time: 11:15am following Sunday Worship Service

Where: Church Fellowship Hall

What: This annual meeting is to provide you, as the congregation, a report booklet with all information from 2023. We will also be voting on the General Fund & Benevolence budgets for the new year.

All Board / Committee reports are due to Marilyn on or before January 18th

Please plan to join us; all are welcome.

This meeting will begin during our regular fellowship time. If you are able, please bring a dish to pass.

Weekly & Monthly Events

Sunday Morning time of Prayer - Come early at 9:30am and join Pastor Bill in Fellowship Hall for a time of prayer before service.

Circles of Concern: meets on the 2nd Wednesday, see page 4 for more information

Needle & Thread Missions Group [sleeping bags for the homeless] - meets 1st, 3rd & 4th Wednesday @10:00am - SPOT

Deacons Board - meets 2nd Sunday in Fellowship Hall after worship

Joint Executive Council/Board of Managers - meets 3rd Sunday in Fellowship Hall after worship

ACT (Allied Christians of Tioga) Dinner - served from FBCO church back door as "take away" every Thursday 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Rule 62 AA Group - meets every Friday at 6:30pm Fellowship Hall

Golden Age Group - April 8th at 4:00pm Church Fellowship Hall; contact Paula Slavy with any questions

Men's Monthly Fellowship lunch - meets 3rd Friday; 11:30 at the Parkview Restaurant, Owego. Questions? Contact Rodger Fritz / Rich Saxton

Last Saturday of every month, 9:00am - 11:00am



[Free diapers, pull-ups [all sizes] wipes, creams [A&D, Desitin], body wash/shampoo]



FBC Orientation session:

Grab a coffee/tea, etc and join the Deacons at the table for additional information about church activities, American Baptist, Covenant, Baptism or church membership.

They will be holding this session- time & date to be announced - in the Fellowship Hall following the church service. If you cant stay, watch for another date & time and know that a Deacon is always available for any questions.

Did You Know?

- ◆ The Kitchen Krew would like you to please label anything you put in the 'fridge with your name/ initials and date.'
- ◆ We are still able to use eye glasses for the Lion's Club. **PLEASE NOTE: we are not collecting used batteries, please recycle at your nearest location that accepts all varieties**
- ◆ That after every worship service we like to gather in the fellowship hall for a time of fellowship? Hope to meet you there!
- ◆ We have a church library? In the back room of the SPOT, many shelves contain different titles, themes, videos and cd's. Our Church Co-librarians are Sharon Janhonen and Pat Kishpaugh
- ◆ **You've Got Mail!** - be sure to check your mail before or after worship service. The "mail" box is located on the back table in Sanctuary.

Anniversary & Birthday Blessings

- 2 - Jim & Penny Lyons
- 3 - Sally Guydosh
- 6 - Gretchen Guydosh
- 12 - Greg Morehart
- 13 - Cindy Blount
- 14 - David Berry
- 16 - LaRonda Cron
- 23 - Christian Dickson [C. Murray son]
- 24 - Marilyn Murray
- 27 - Jamie Soprano
- 30 - Dianna Buckreis

Prayer Requests

call or email church office

- UNITY - God's direction
- Salvation for all
- Unconfessed Sin
- Our Country
- Our President
- PEACE
- Missionaries
- Our BTBA Churches
- Those with cancer
- Our economy
- Our families
- Those in nursing homes
- Shut-ins
- Our Pastor
- World Peace
- Homeless
- Elimination of Cancer



Many times we have urgent prayer needs that should be shared immediately.

Please contact: Daisy Fritz - 607-748-7298

- **Masking & social distancing requirements are lifted.**
- A greeter will meet you at the door, A table with masks, hand sanitizer, tissues, bulletins and collection plate will be inside each door. Please take a Bulletin and place your tithes and offerings in the offering plate on the table. .
- Hand sanitizer stations are located in the back of the Sanctuary, by the restrooms and by the back door



****We request that if you have health issues or other concerns related to gathering at this time, please remain at home.**

**** The online service will be available by 7pm Sunday evening in most cases. Please allow time for editing and upload of the service recording.**

First Baptist Owego Website

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

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@firstbaptistowego8648>

Thank you.

Ponderings at the end of a day — or year

Dutch Catholic priest and theologian Henri Nouwen found it useful to reflect on several questions at the end of the day: "Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing?" Pondering such questions may prove valuable at the end of a year as well: "How did I contribute to peace in the world this past year? Did I bring smiles to others' faces? Did I offer words of healing?" Nouwen continued, and we can too: "Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?"

Many of us set New Year's resolutions for self-improvement, asking, "What are my goals? How can I better myself, my weight, my work-life balance, my habits?" But Nouwen said of his self-inquiry: "These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and [in] the life to come." His resolution was to share God's love with others. With God's help, it can be ours as well, for each new day and each new year.

<https://churchart.com>

Two ships

The year like a ship in the distance
comes over life's mystical sea.

We know not what change of existence
'tis bringing to you or to me.

But we wave out the ship that is leaving
and we welcome the ship coming in,
although it be loaded with grieving,
with trouble, or losses, or sin. ...

The new ship comes nearer and nearer,
we know not what freight she may hold.
Hope stands at the helm there to steer her;
our hearts are courageous and bold.
Sail in with new joys and new sorrows.
Sail in with new banners unfurled.
Sail in with unwritten tomorrows.
Sail in with new tasks for the world.

—from "New Year," Ella Wheeler Wilcox
<http://churchart.com>



Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality
is a Heart, a loving Father who works through
history for the salvation of his children. Man
cannot save himself, for man is not the meas-
ure of all things and humanity is not God.
Bound by the chains of his own sin and finite-
ness, man needs a Savior.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

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

*First Baptist Owego Women's
Missionary Circles*

**We gather together to support our missionaries and
our local missions in the area.**

BE STRONG, BE COURAGEOUS

.... is the theme for the American Baptist Women
(ABW) for 2023-2024. This is based o Joshua 1:9, "*Have
I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do
not be afraid, do not be discouraged. For the Lord your
God will be with you wherever you go.*"

The ABW sponsors two Circle which meet from Sep-
tember to May on the Second Wednesday of the
month.

- ◆ The InAsMuch Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. in the
Spot. Those that can, go to lunch at the Park View
following the meeting (Daisy Fritz, facilitator).
- ◆ The Sunbeam Circle meets at 2 p.m. in the Spot.
(Peggy Kirch, facilitator).

◆
You are welcome to come and visit any of the Circles,
they are open to all.

The Special Mission Project for this year is the Cap Hai-
tien, Haiti, Eye Clinic. We have in the past sent used
eyeglasses to them but they will now use monetary
donations to provide: boxes of injections, Cataract sur-
gery for children and adults, eyeglasses and surgical
knives. We still do collect used eyeglasses and give
them to the Lion's Club.