

# LIGHTING THE WAY

The First Baptist Church of Owego, N.Y. Volume 27 Issue 15 June 2024



Living alone is very unpleasant. I envision the presence of God like the Good Shepherd in Psalm 23, who watches over my daily activities.

He is with me by the still waters, when I reflect on my life. He lies down next to me in green pastures and assures me that I am His own. I know that He will comfort me when I walk through that valley someday to be with my wife .

He sits next to me as I drive to church each Sunday to be surrounded with those I love.

Love Pastor

Flag Day, in the United States, a day honoring the national flag, observed on June 14. The holiday commemorates the date in 1777 when the United States approved the design for its first national flag.

The idea to set aside a day to honor the national flag came from several sources. Bernard J. Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher, in 1885 urged his students to observe June 14 as "Flag Birthday." He later wrote an essay published in a Chicago newspaper that urged Americans to proclaim this date as the day to celebrate the flag. In 1888 William T. Kerr of Pennsylvania founded the American Flag Day Association of Western Pennsylvania, an organization to which he dedicated his life. A lesser-known claim is that of George Morris of Connecticut, who is said to have organized the first formal celebration of the day in Hartford in 1861.



In 1916 Pres. Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as the official date for Flag Day, and in 1949 the U.S. Congress permanently established the date as National Flag Day. Although Flag Day is not an official federal holiday, Pennsylvania celebrates the day as a state holiday. Each year the U.S. president delivers an address that proclaims the week of June 14 as National Flag Week, and all Americans are encouraged to fly U.S. flags during that week.

## Father's Day is June 16th

### The Best Father

Unlike an earthly prince, God didn't take a high-and-mighty title, notes 17th-century British preacher Thomas Watson.

Instead, God calls himself Father to encourage us to pray to him.

But God isn't just any father. Watson offers these reasons why God is "the best Father":

- ◆ He is the most ancient (Daniel 7:9).
- ◆ He is perfect (Matthew 5:48).
- ◆ He is the wisest (Romans 16:27).
- ◆ He is the most loving (Zephaniah 3:17; 1 John 4:16).
- ◆ He has unsearchable riches (Ephesians 3:8).
- ◆ He can reform his children (Acts 9:11).
- ◆ He never dies (1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 1:8).

*newsletternewsletter*

## 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.

**Circle of Concern** - see page 3 for more information

**Needle & Thread Missions Group** [sleeping bags for the homeless] - during June, July & August will meet every Wednesday @10:00am - SPOT

**Deacons Board** - **we will take the summer off, next meeting will be in September**

**Joint Executive Council/Board of Managers** - **Note: we will take the summer off unless we need to meet FTF, next meeting will be in October**

**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** - please contact Paula Slavy 607-624-4377

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



**Please join us for Bible Study on Tuesday's at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall.**

**Our next Nine-week study began on Tuesday, May 28th.**

**We will be exploring the Fruits of the Spirit. Please let Steve Paro or Annette Chamberlain know if you would like to join us - there is still room at the table.**

## Did You Know?

- ◆ The Kitchen Krew would like you to please label anything you put in the 'frig with your name/initials and date.'
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **The online service will be available by 7:00pm Sunday evening in most cases. Please allow time for editing and upload of the service recording.**

◆ **First Baptist Website**  
<https://fbcowego.org/worship-service/>

◆ **YouTube**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@firstbaptistowego8648>

- ◆ **Monthly Communion Offerings**
  - \* July - Deacons
  - \* August - NYS AB Men's Disaster Relief Fund
  - \* September - New Hope Center
  - \* October - World Missions Offering
  - \* November - Operation Christmas Child

## Prayer Requests

- 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 nursing homes
- Shut-ins
- Our Pastor
- World Peace
- Homeless
- Elimination of Cancer



*For God so loved  
the world that he  
gave his one and  
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV



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

**Please contact: Daisy Fritz - 607-748-7298**



- 9 - Tom Thomas
- 16 - Winnie Allen
- 17 - Grace Gydosh
- 29 - Rebecca Peterson

**Celebrating**   
*An Anniversary This Month*

- 5 - Rich & Kandi Saxton
- 18 - Rodger & Daisy Fritz
- 22 - Doug & Marilyn Murray
- 24 - Jason & Kaija Fritz
- 30 - Roger & Pat Hansen

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES

American Baptist Women's Ministries is a Christ Centered 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. You are welcome to come and visit any of the Circles, they are open to all.

### **BE STRONG, BE COURAGEOUS**

.... is the theme for the American Baptist Women (ABW) for 2023-2024. This is based on 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."

**Circles of Concern:** 2nd Wednesday of the month in the middle room of the SPOT from Sept to May

- ◆ InAsMuch Circle - See you in September!

- ◆ The Needle & Thread group provides sleeping bags to the homeless. They meet every Wednesday in the SPOT @ 10:00am. As Spring Cleaning is in full swing, please consider a donation of used blankets, sheets, quilts, and mattress pads [used as fillers for inside of sleeping bag]



- ◆ Questions please ask Daisy Fritz or you can call her. 607-748-2798

The Special Mission Project for this year is the Cap Haitien, 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 surgery for children and adults, eyeglasses and surgical knives. We still do collect used eyeglasses and give them to the Lion's Club.

## *With Gratitude*

June 2, 2024 - Minjeong Kim

In my childhood, I spent much time at church, as my parents were devout Christians. I sang in children's choirs, played piano with them, and studied for Bible quiz competitions (I grew up in Korea, the land of competition!). By the time I was ready for college, I set my mind on studying literature, and my life drifted away from being part of music making at church. Now, fast forward to the completion of my Ph.D in literature when I re-discovered the joy of music. I resumed piano lessons after 10+ years of hiatus. The piano that I experienced as an adult learner was so different from the piano that I knew as a child, and it was so much fun. I got locked in, and one day, I decided to go back to graduate school to study piano.

In August 2021, I started the Master's program in piano performance at Binghamton University. In hindsight, I was incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to do so. All the factors miraculously lined up in support of my piano studies: I had a piano teacher who was dedicated to my belated music studies, a phenomenal Graduate Director in the Binghamton Music Department who went above and beyond, looking for ways for me to fulfill undergraduate music credit requirements, and a husband who understood my mid-life crisis and supported what looked like a career setback. My dad used to often recite, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13), and August 2021 was truly one of the many moments when this verse came to pass in my life.

In March 2022, I joined FBCO. It was a few weeks before my first recital for the degree, and I was struggling with stage fright. My husband suggested that playing for a church audience every Sunday could help to overcome my stage fright, and right at the same time, my friend who lives in Owego informed me that FBCO was looking for a pianist. We may think we design our lives and make plans, but every move we make is embedded within a larger scheme that God orchestrates. Once again, in hindsight, March 2022 was another moment when the Philippian verse came to pass in my life.

The last two years when I served as a full-time pianist at FBCO decorate one brilliant corner of my musical career. Not only did I achieve my intended goals – staving off stage fright, improving sight-reading skills, learning how to play with singers – but also I have received overwhelming love and support from the FBCO congregation. They have responded to every correct note I play with smiles and warm hearts and cheered me up with unwavering support for every wrong note I play. While I went through hysterectomy and two eye surgeries, the FBCO congregation prayed for a quick recovery and patiently waited for my return. I couldn't ask for a more caring, understanding congregation. Everyone I met at FBCO has been incredibly kind and meaningful to me. Special thanks go to David Berry, the best Music Director of my life, who has trusted me from Day One and guided me, Michael Salmirs, my piano instructor, who monitors our FBCO Youtube recordings and gives me helpful suggestions, and the FBCO choir members, who have delighted my ears with their voices and moved my heart with their commitment. Nicholas Guydosh sent me notes and encouraged my love of Schubert's music. Thank you. FBCO has reminded me of what it means to build and maintain a loving Christian community, and words utterly fail me when I attempt to describe how thankful I am for the last two years. I trust that you already know how much I love and appreciate every one of you.

God continues to bless me, and after finishing my music degree, I returned to my old job of teaching writing to college students. Since September 2023, my piano practice time has significantly decreased, as I focus much of my time and energy to get settled in my new position. It was a difficult decision to resign from the FBCO pianist position. Nevertheless, my love for you and dedication to FBCO remain steadfast. I will be happy to be a guest pianist when FBCO needs it, and I will be unfailingly there for you whenever you need a classical pianist. For your birthday party, retirement party, or everyday party, please don't forget I am only one email or text away. My phone is 607-765-7002, and my email [mkim15@binghamton.edu](mailto:mkim15@binghamton.edu).

When school is in session, I will pass through Owego at least three times a week, and I will always think of you. Please allow me to say thank you again for having me as your pianist. It was an unforgettable privilege and honor. God bless you.

In God's love,  
Min

See next page



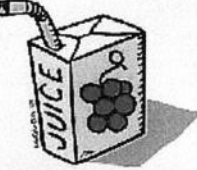


*Thank you Min!!*









# Tioga County Annual Kids Picnic Saturday August 3, 2024




Free  
for Children of all ages  
**12:00 - 4:00 pm**  
at Marvin Park, Owego







Food, Drinks, Bounce Houses,  
Tractor Drawn Hayrides, Bicycles to Raffle  
and more! IT'S ALL FREE!!



**Free Bicycles to give away  
Drawing at 3:00 pm  
on the day of the picnic  
Must be present to win!**



**Sponsored by: VFW Post 1371 & It's Auxiliary  
American Legion Post 401**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Worship Service 9:30am Prayer</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Memorial Day</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1:00pm FBCO Bible Study - Fruits of the Spirit (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00am Ladies Needle &amp; Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>2</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Worship Service 9:30am Prayer</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>1:00pm FBCO Bible Study - Fruits of the Spirit (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Ladies Needle &amp; Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Worship Service 9:30am Prayer</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:00pm FBCO Bible Study - Fruits of the Spirit (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Ladies Needle &amp; Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>5:00pm Angel Face Pageants - Strawberry Festival (Church Sanctuary) 6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>20224 Strawberry Festival</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Worship Service</p>  <p>9:30am Prayer</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1:00pm FBCO Bible Study - Fruits of the Spirit (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am Ladies Needle &amp; Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:30am Men's Fellowship Lunch 6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Worship Service 9:30am Prayer</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1:00pm FBCO Bible Study - Fruits of the Spirit (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Ladies Needle &amp; Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>9:00am The KIND Project (SPOT)</p>
<p>30</p> <p>10:00am Sunday Worship Service 9:30am Prayer</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:00pm FBCO Bible Study - Fruits of the Spirit (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00am Ladies Needle &amp; Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>6</p>





**First Baptist Church of Owego**  
228 Main Street  
Owego, NY 13827



**We GATHER In Worship,  
We GROW In Christ,  
We GO In Service**

**Return Service Requested**



Sunday Worship - 10:00am

**Church Office:** 607-687-4394

**KIND Project:** 607-972-8232

Messages are retrieved throughout the day

**Emergency Contact:**

Rodger Fritz [H]607-748-2798

Pastor Bill Kohler [H]607-748-0319

[office@fbcowego.org](mailto:office@fbcowego.org)

<https://www.fbcowego.org>

<http://facebook.com/firstbaptistowego>

**Church Officers  
and Staff**

**Pastor**

Reverend William "Bill" Kohler

**Richard Saxton**

Church Moderator  
Joint Executive Council /  
Board of Managers, Chr.

**Marilyn Murray**

Office Manager

**David Berry**

Music Director

**Kandi Saxton**

Christian Education  
Committee, Chr.  
Director of K.I.N.D.

**Steve Paro**

Board of Deacons, Chr.