

# LIGHTING THE WAY

The First Baptist Church of Owego, N.Y. Volume 27 Issue 16 Summer 2024



As I write this article it is 93 and very humid. Wow! summer came and hit us right between the eyes. Those 40-degree days don't seem so bad now.

I have two young men putting a new roof on my house. Can you imagine the heat standing on that hot roof? One man is 46 and carries those heavy bundles up a 24' ladder, I told him, "I'm twice your age, I'm in no hurry, wait until it is cooler to get on the roof". "Pastor you are different, everyone else wants us to hurry and get it done".

James 1:3. Know this, that the testing of your faith worketh patience.

Let patience have its perfect work in your lives.

*love Pastor Bill*

## *Down Memory Lane*

It's been 145 years but let me try to tell you a little bit about what the women of Faith, that lived their lives with arms and hearts wide open in God's service, accomplished. Around 1879 the Ladies Aid Society was formed and dedicated to service, albeit to the church itself. The ladies did set aside 2 cents a week for missions. Later mission-oriented groups were established: "Farther Lights", "Kings Daughters", "Lend-a-Hand". In 1891 the ladies rallied together and raised money to purchase the building next to the church for a parsonage. White Cross began in 1920 to provide supplies for missionaries which became important during and after World War II. In 1945-46 the ladies reported they were unable to get material for White Cross work and therefore a very few of them made only 15 pairs of hospital boots, 11 girls dresses, 21 pajamas, 54 boys' shirts and 5 baby layettes.

Time moved on and ladies' groups became Women's Circles named Evening Circle, Friendship Circle and InAsMuch Circle. A group began the Clothing Center in the basement of the church (old Boy Scout room) for gently used clothing available to the community for a small cost of usually 25 cents. Another group visited the Binghamton Psychiatric Center once a month to bring love and cheer to otherwise forgotten patients. White Cross work continued to be a large part of the Circle programs until a few years ago. Now it's easier for missionaries to purchase needed items on-line.

In 1999 a tea was held for recognition in faithfulness of the members of the Women's Society with 30 years of service. Two of those members remain: Joan Gibbs and Daisy Fritz, now with 55 years of service. Forty-two (42) members attended that tea. Now times and needs have changed again.

The Evening and Friendship Circle combined to the Sunshine Circle which Peggy Kirch chaired for over 21 years until it disbanded in May, 2024.

*"Many thanks, Peggy, for all your years of leading the women in service and ministry to people."*

In September the InAsMuch Circle will resume on the Second Wednesday of the month, at 10:30 a.m. in the Spot (back entrance). At 11:30 a.m. the women will enjoy lunch and continue in fellowship at the Parkview. All women are welcome and invited to join in this Circle.

May we continue in Faith to keep our arms and hearts wide open in whatever lies before us as we continue to serve our heavenly Father.

## 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 starting on Tuesday, September 10th at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall.**

**We will be exploring the Fruits of the Spirit. Please let Steve Paro 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**

**The choir will be on summer break soon and resume in September.**



**Please let David know if you would like to do a solo during the summer break. Music would need to be given to David for Benjamin or if you are using digital music you will need access to provide. If you need help from David with music selection, let him know so he can assist you. There is a calendar up in the choir loft if you would like to pick a Sunday to contribute your time and talent to our Sunday Worship Service.**



**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. 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.



### **July Birthdays**

- 1 - Courtney Benjamin
- 2 - Pat Hansen
- 5 - Penny Lyons
- 6 - TJ West
- 8 - Matt Willis
- 8 - Pastor Bill
- 14 - Brian McBride
- 15 - Kandi Saxton
- 16 - Elle Jo Howard
- 29 - Melissa Saxton O'Flanagan

### **July Anniversary**

- 4 - Greg & Freedom Morehart
- 17 - Ed & Pat Greene



### **August Birthdays**

- 1 - Andrea McBride
- 11 - Ryan Saxton
- 12 - Carol Conrad
- 12 - Betty Kuenzli Stewart
- 19 - Chelsi Murray
- 20 - JoEllen Goulet'
- 20 - Declan O'Flanagan
- 29 - John Chandler Jr.

### **August Anniversary**

- 25 - Matthew Willis & Sierra Thomsen
- 30 - Nick & Sally Guydosh

## **Operation Christmas Child**

*Just a reminder..... Many retailers have "Christmas in July Sales" and usually they start their back to school specials too.*



*If you are traveling this summer out of state, check out the other discount shops too.. You just never know what you will find!*

*There will be a box set up in the Sanctuary if you would like to place a donation of physical items to help out instead of packing your own box.*

## **DO NOT INCLUDE**

- Food, candy, or gum
- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
- Scary or war-related items
- Wearable traditional camouflage
- Seeds or organic matter
- Liquids
- Medication
- Money
- Breakable items
- Matches, fire starters, or aerosols
- Knife, saw, or razor blades



**Lets make it our goal to pack 50 boxes this year.**

Thank you for your ongoing support & dedication to this project, as we continue to give a simple gift of a smile to a child.



**American Baptist Women  
Broome-Tioga Association**

**SUMMER LUNCH (CRUNCH) BUNCH**

(formerly Summer Salad Supper)

**TUESDAY, August 20, 2024**

**Blue Dolphin, 7670 State Route 434, Apalachin**

**12:00Noon - Gathering for Lunch (order from menu)**

**Reservations helpful - Contact Memorial Park Baptist Church  
Phone # 607.785.3757**

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**“KIDS IN NEED OF DIAPERS”**

**Ministry of First Baptist Church, Owego**

**Daisyanna Fritz, Presenter**

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**“K.I.N.D.” PROJECT - suggestion of items to bring**



**Diapers - any size;  
Baby wash/shampoo fragrance free  
Desitin, A & D creams;  
Baby wipes, fragrance free**

**GIFT CARDS: TARGET or WALMART  
and CASH DONATIONS**


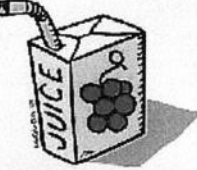
**American Baptist Women, Husbands, Pastors, Church Board Members  
and Church Families are invited to join us.**

Host Church: Memorial Park Baptist Church - Marilyn Reynolds contact



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# 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**





On Friday, June 14th the Strawberry Fest Block Party was held in the Village of Owego and Angel Face Pageants owned and operated by Deborah Smith and her daughter, Rochelle was held in the Sanctuary of First Baptist Church Owego.

Angel Face Pageants is a fun, family oriented system that believes in "Making Memories!" Angel Face USA Pageants offers a unique combination of glamor and elegance to the world of pageantry. We welcome first time pageant entrants and seasoned veterans to join us. Regardless of experience, Angel Face Pageants offers something for everyone. Here at AF Pageants we are a family. To us pageantry is about making friends and memories all while helping each young lady gain confidence, self esteem, poise, and interview skills that will help her for her future! Our number one priority is to make sure each family has an unforgettable experience



with us! As you can see from the pictures, many attend this event every year and we have hosted this event for the past several years. Every year there is a crowned Strawberry Fest King & Queen and then all of the contestants walk in the Strawberry Festival Parade held the next morning.

On Saturday, June 15th the 42nd annual Strawberry Fest was held in village of Owego. For many years folks from the First Baptist Church have assembled a group of volunteers, a serving tent on the corner of our lot and our Mission is to share the love of JESUS, conversation, and smiles while we served up Oscar Mayer all-beef bun length hotdogs. This year we were not able to assemble a team to accomplish this mission.

Thank you to all who gave donations, who gave their time and to our community that came to support our fundraiser.

**We pray & hope to see you all in 2025!**





**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

***Benjamin Coddington***

Pianist

***Kandi Saxton***

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

***Annette Chamberlain***

Board of Deacons, Chr.