

LIGHTING THE WAY

The First Baptist Church of Owego, N.Y. Volume 28 Issue 1 September 2024



As we age it becomes increasingly harder to stay motivated. When faced with pain the body just wants to rest.

Never give up, that is what Satan wants you to do.

The doctors are not always right. Fourteen years ago, after having two stents put in, the heart doctor said I had degenerative heart disease and didn't have long to live. He did not know the power of God. When I said, "God is Good" his reply "God is good when He wants to be".

Now my blood pressure is normal my blood tests are good, and I never see the heart doctor.

Dawn never complained about her back until the kidney doctor said when he did an x-ray, he found her back was broken and needed to be repaired. From that time on she complained about back pain. When you are discouraged and in pain, don't give up, stand up and take it to the Lord in prayer. It's no secret what God can do.

love Pastor



It's time to **Fall** back into the swing of things and that includes joining together as a part of the family of God on the third Sunday of September (15th); Reports will be shared to inform you of events since our last meeting in May.

We value your input, both as a member of this church and as our regular attendees & visitors; we would appreciate if you would stay after worship service and participate with us as we conduct this meeting in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Please bring a dish to share as this meeting takes place during our regular fellowship time.

Harvest of Treats October 31st

First Baptist front yard @5:00pm. We would love to have you join us this year, there is plenty of room.

Plan to arrive between 3:30 and 4:00pm to set-up and decorate your vehicle.

The next time you are out shopping would you consider including a donation of snacks such as the small snack bags of chips, packs of crackers, small packs of cookies and/ or bags of candy. The snack bags were very popular with the kids last year.



Thank you for your help in this outreach.

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.

InAsMuch Circle / Needle & Thread Missions Group - see page 3 for more information

Deacons Board - meets the 2nd Sunday of every month after worship service in Fellowship Hall beginning September 8th

Joint Executive Council/Board of Managers - meets the 3rd Sunday of every month after Worship Service in Fellowship Hall beginning on October 20th

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



Bible Study



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 'fridge 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**

- * September - New Hope Center
- * October - World Missions Offering
- * November - Operation Christmas Child
- * December - Retired Ministers / Missionaries

K.I.N.D. (Kids In Need of Diapers)

Many thanks to the ABW of Broome-Tioga Association who had K.I.N.D. as their project for their Summer Event. A luncheon was held at the Blue Dolphin, August 20 with 24 (20 plus 4 youth) attending. Sally Guydosh, Sandra Marsh and Daisy Fritz attended.

K.I.N.D. received \$310 plus a \$25 gift card to Walmart along with a table full of diapers, wipes, creams, etc.



SAVE THE DATE

The American Baptist Women of the Broome-Tioga Association invite you to enjoy lunch at the Red Oak Restaurant on State St., Binghamton on Tuesday, October 8 at 11:30 a.m. You will order from the menu.

You will hear from our Global Servant, Christine Lafferty, Nicaragua. Christy facilitates short-term mission opportunities, engages churches as partners in long-term ministry and helps share the stories of lives being saved and transformed in Nicaragua.

The significance of Patriot Day

Three months after the 2001 terrorist attacks, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 as Patriot Day. Every year, we pause to remember the lives lost and changed on that autumn morning.

The resolution requests that each year the president issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities. Those include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence and flying the U.S. flag at half-staff.

In his 2023 proclamation President Biden said, "Together, may we continue to demonstrate that the rights and freedoms that those terrorists sought to destroy on September 11, 2001, remain unwavering — strengthened by generations of Americans who have dared all and risked all to defend, protect and preserve our democracy."



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.



From September to May women are invited to join together and be in service at the local and international level. We do this through the InAsMuch Circle which meets the Second Wednesday of the month, 10:30 a.m. in the church office building (Spot). Use the back door off of the parking area. Following a short gathering we continue in fellowship for lunch at the ParkView Restaurant.

Come and join us on Wednesday, September 11 at 10:30 a.m. and help us to think outside the box. (Daisy Fritz, Facilitator)



The Needle and Thread group are in need of material to make the Sleeping Bags for the homeless. We have basically run out of used sheets (any size), blankets, mattress pads. We can also use drapes, curtain panels, bedspreads - anything that is large in size and a smooth fabric. The group has been sewing away for 13 years and has constructed 369 sleeping bags. They have been distributed in Owego, Johnson City and Binghamton. Stop by the Church office building (Spot) on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday, from 10-12 noon, pick up a needle or just enjoy the gab fest. For more information contact Sandy Marsh (770-0852), Daisy Fritz (748-2798)



- 1 - Jim Conrad
- 9 - Steve Paro
- 13 - Daisy Fritz
- 13 - Sharon Janhonen
- 15 - Jason Fritz
- 29 - Kaija Fritz
- 30 - Ken Blanchard
- 24 - John & Dailyn Chandler

Prayer Requests and Concerns

- 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
- Shut-ins
- Our Pastor
- World Peace



PRAYER CHAIN is trying something new. We are now sending out prayer requests to the Church Family through e-mail. It eliminates the need for repeated phone calls and

gets the message out correctly. Those without e-mail will still get a phone call but will not need to call anyone.

There is great power in prayer, as we willingly and joyfully link our prayers together for others in times of need.

Questions please contact our prayer coordinator at 607-748-2798

Operation Christmas Child

Just a reminder..... It's back to school, many retailers are holding their special sales



Dollar Tree has many finds to include in a Christmas Box.

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.

Calling all CHOIR SINGERS

....looking for new members!

Rehearsals Begin

Monday, Sept 9 & every Monday after
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Lakeview Chapel
185 Day Hollow Rd, Owego, NY

Concert Scheduled for Sun, Nov 24

Director - Melanie Thornton

Accompanying Pianist – Susan Zanovitch

No audition required

For more info call Annette at (607) 759-9305

Like & Follow **Owego Community Chorus** 

Your Voice Is Needed

High School Students Welcome

MISSIONS

Dear Friends from Owego First Baptist,

The date is quickly approaching as we look to a major transition in our lives. We will be retiring from missionary service with International Ministries on September 30th of this year. After that date we will no longer be in need of the financial support (targeted giving for salary) that you have so generously given.

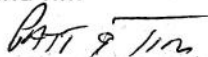
Our appointment as missionaries with International Ministries in March of 1984 began four decades of ministry in Latin America and the Caribbean. We could not be more thankful for International Ministries over all these years, a time, of course, that has witnessed many organizational adaptations, necessitated by the changing times in which we have lived. The uncertainties that often accompany such changes have been countered by a sure sense of God's call and one important constant in our lives as cross-cultural witnesses, that being the support of partners who have donated to our needs and held us up in prayer for 40 years now.

After September 30th, Tim will continue some of his ministry in equipping of women and men called to church leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean. As such we encourage you to support the ministry of theological education through IM colleagues who continue to build their missionary partnership team. In particular we highlight the work of Mercy González-Barnes, a dear colleague for over twenty years now, and an integral part of the administrative team and faculty of Palmer Seminary's Masters in Theological Education, Latino/a Ministries degree. For more information on Mercy and how to support her, see her profile on the IM website (www.internationalministries.org).

We also encourage you to check out the website for support of the Masters in Theological Studies, Latino/a Ministries degree itself. There you will find information on the program and the pressing need of scholarships for current and future students. It is truly a remarkable program that, in the six years since its first graduation, has seen 215 graduates serving now in 18 countries. We include here the link for this ministry:
<https://internationalministries.org/latin-america-mts-scholarships-in-latinoa-ministries/>

In appreciation,

Patti and Tim



If you have not seen our 'thank-you' retirement video, please check it out at the following website:

<https://vimeo.com/860262749?share=copy>



July 9, 2024

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

Dear Friends:

Many thanks to you for your wonderful gift of \$500.00. As we approach our summer season, we also approach a time when needs are abundant and our programs are in high gear.


This is the time of year when our spending is rather robust. Our ramp building is ongoing. We have completed nine, to date. Youth are now home from school so food costs rise for families. In addition, our Farmers' Market Initiative has also begun. We are helping 78 participants with a \$100 line of credit for fresh produce. We are just ready to start our ever-popular Back to School program where each teen is given \$200 to spend on new clothes/shoes; we send youth to Mapleridge Ranch and split the per child cost with Mapleridge. We have 19 youth registered for camperships! And finally, on August 3rd, we host our Free Food GiveAway here at the Ministry.

With all these programs on tap, I hope you can see how valued your support is and how it truly enables us to lend a hand to neighbors in need. We absolutely could not do what we do without you.

Jeff is one whom we recently helped with rent and a NYSEG bill. His words are more than apropos:

"I cannot explain how grateful and thankful I am for the help you gave to me. I am not one who usually asks for help. I usually figure things out on my own. And the help you gave to me at a time where I was losing hope, faith, trust and anything good. It was very generous and a shock to me. A big thank you for all you do and for restoring my faith in this world."

Gratefully,


Sr. Mary O'Brien, CSJ
Executive Director

Thank you for your marvelous support. May our loving God bless each of you and your families.



Donations Needed

**TIOGA COUNTY RURAL MINISTRY IS IN NEED OF TOILETRY
AND HYGIENE ITEMS FOR OUR PANTRY (TOILET
PAPER,PAPER TOWELS, LAUNDRY DETERGENT,
SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER, DISH SOAP)**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



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

<https://www.fbcowego.org>

<http://facebook.com/firstbaptistowego>

***Church Officers
and Staff***

Pastor

Reverend William "Bill" Kohler

Annette Chamberlain

Board of Deacons, Chr.

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.