

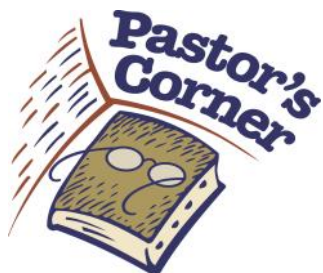
LIGHTING THE WAY

The First Baptist Church of Owego, N.Y.

Volume 28

Issue 6

March 2025



We are instructed not to worship angels, but we certainly should appreciate their vigil over us to protect us from harm.

In Hebrews 12, it says that we are surrounded by the heavenly host. Hebrews 1:14 God has appointed the angels to be ministering spirits to those who are genuine Christians.

Psalms 91:11, they protect us from harm, and they will give an account of your performance at judgement day. Sometimes we are visited by angels, and we are not aware of it. Be assured of this, you never walk alone. Love Pastor

- Transfiguration Sunday — March 2, 2025
- Ash Wednesday — March 5, 2025
- World Day of Prayer — March 7, 2025
- First Sunday of Lent - March 9, 2025
- Daylight-Saving Time begins — March 9, 2025
- Spring Bible Study begins - "The Fruit of the Spirit" March 11, 2025 1:00pm in Church Fellowship Hall
- Second Sunday of Lent - March 16
- St. Patrick's Day — March 17, 2025
- First Day of Spring — March 20, 2025
- Third Sunday of Lent - March 23, 2025
- Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 30, 2025



On Friday February 7, 2025, Sharon Janhonen, our dear sister-in-Christ, a member of our church family, went home to the loving arms of her Lord & Savior.

She fought the good fight and now she is at peace.

See page 6.



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

Joint Executive Council/Board of Managers - meets the 3rd Sunday of every month after worship service in Fellowship Hall.

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 - next planned gathering is April 2025; 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



The nine-week Bible Study re: The Fruits of the Spirit has been put on pause and we will resume Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Did You Know?

- ◆ 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**
 Our monthly communion food offering is Tioga County Rural Ministries [TCRM]

- * March - America for Christ
- * April - Family Life Network
- * May - Joshua House
- * June - One Great Hour of Sharing
- * July - Deacons
- * August - NYS Men's Disaster Relief
- * September - New Hope Center
- * October - World Missions Offering
- * November - Operation Christmas Child [OCC]
- * December - Retired Ministers/ Missionaries [RMMO]

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 - 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, Daisy Fritz -
dzzyfritz@hotmail.com or call 607-748-2798



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.



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 Park View Restaurant. Come and join us on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. and help us to think outside the box. (Daisy Fritz, Facilitator)



The Needle and Thread group thanks everyone for their generous contributions

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 (607-770-0852), Daisy Fritz (607-748-2798)

Birthday Blessings

- 2 - Delma West
- 4 - Eunice Richardson
- 5 - Jim Lyons
- 6 - Damien Brown
- 10 - Gail Haskell
- 19 - Hazel Sherman
- 20 - Cara Slavy
- 26 - Blake Cron
- 27 - Rich Saxton



Birthdays
This Month



has been awarded a special project grant from Mildred Faulkner Truman Foundation in the amount of \$6,000.00 to assist with the continuation of the KIND (Kids In Need of Diapers) program

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2025

GRACE UPON *Grace*

"BE KIND AND COMPASSIONATE TO ONE ANOTHER, FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS IN CHRIST GOD FORGAVE YOU."

EPHESIANS 4:32 (NIV)

Carry on the legacy of good works with your giving!

For over 50 years, generous giving to the America for Christ (AFC) Offering has enabled ABHMS to provide financial support to American Baptist churches and affiliated organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico each year. Some examples of the positive impact your dollars have had on our beloved communities:

- Funding direct assistance to the residents of Youngstown, Ohio, that included food boxes, meals for children, clothing banks and distribution of commodities such as diapers, school supplies, clothing, and housewares.
- Funding youth education and enrichment programs as well as senior services that delivered lunches, health education and socialization opportunities, and groceries in bulk through a food pantry, among other things, to communities in and around Kansas City, Kansas.
- Funding Rainbow Acres, a faith-based residential community with a wide range of programs for developmentally disabled adults from more than 15 states and representing an array of faith backgrounds including American Baptists.

These are just a few of the ways your dollars provide aid and comfort to those in need; there are many more. Please help us continue to bring healing and hope to communities, families, children, and Jesus' disciples in 2025 by giving to the America for Christ Offering..



A Christian Business and Professional Men's Association

THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL



Tioga County Camp

P.O. Box 481

Owego, New York 13827

February 20th, 2025

First Baptist Church of Owego
Rev. Bill Kohler, Pastor
228 Main Street,
Owego, New York

Ref: \$150.00 donation & \$25.00 donation

Dear Pastor Bill, and Church Members:

I want to thank you on behalf of Gideons International for your recent donation totaling \$175.00. Your donation will be used entirely for the purchase and placement of scriptures; NONE will be used for administrative costs!

Below is an excerpt from one of many testimonies from those who have received a scripture from a member of The Gideons International. (February 5th, 2025 | College/University)

Not long after receiving a *Conversations training*, I participated in a Scripture distribution at Gogebic College in Ironwood, Michigan. During one class change, a young lady came near, and I said to her, "I have some Good News for you today," and offered a Testament. She approached and asked what it was. I replied, "A Testament, God's Word, do you want one?" She answered yes and took it. She then went back into the building. A few minutes later she came out, and I said, "I hope you read it." She said she didn't know a lot about it. After introducing myself, I found out her name was Felicia. I asked if I could show her the helpful items in front of the Testament, and she agreed. I showed how she could learn what the Scriptures had to say about anxiety, fear, doubt, or other topics. While showing her what the Testament contained, I asked if she knew about the GPS in it. She didn't. I explained it was God's Plan of Salvation and asked if she would read some of the verses that would make it clear. She agreed. I asked her to read John 3:16 aloud and tell me what it meant to her, she did. It seemed she understood the meaning, she was loved, and God had sent His Son. I asked her to read Romans 3:10 and 3:23, asking what they meant to her. Again, she seemed to understand all, including that she was a sinner. We proceeded through God's remedy for sin. I asked Felicia if she had ever asked Jesus into her heart. She answered no, never. I asked if she would like to do so right then. She said yes. We then read through the Personal Prayer of Salvation in the back of the Testament. Felicia prayed to ask Jesus into her heart. Praise God, a new child of the Kingdom was born! Felicia had such a big smile, and I asked her to write her name at the back of the Testament with the date, as this was her new spiritual birthday.

Because of faithful financial support like yours, The Gideons were able to place, last year, over **48 million Scriptures** (at no cost to the recipient) to students on college campuses, at schools (middle and high), in prisons, in hospitals, in hotels & motels, and in nursing homes in over **200 countries** around the world.

God has promised that His Word will not return to Him void, that it will accomplish what He pleases, and that it will prosper where He sends it. Again, thank you for your generous donation. May God continue to richly bless you and your congregation.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Smalling
Richard Smalling,
Camp President, Tioga County Gideons



In Loving Memory of Sharon A. (Tulley) Janhonen
September 13, 1946 – February 7, 2025

Known for her kindness, generosity, and unwavering faith, Sharon's life was marked by a spirit of service, love, and compassion for others. She touched the lives of many through her work as a nurse, her dedication to family, and her commitment to her community.



Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, Rudolph "Bud" Tulley and Ethel Hall Nace, and her brother, Terry Tulley. She is survived by her three children, Jami Dennis of Bentonville, AR, John Janhonen of Sayre, PA, and Paula Janhonen-Knaul (Mark) of Hebron, IN. She is also survived by nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, who brought her much joy throughout her life.







After retiring, Sharon embraced the role of "Nana," traveling the country to spend precious time with her grandchildren and create lasting memories. She remained a trusted advisor and prayer warrior to her family and friends, always offering wisdom, love, and support.

Sharon was a graduate of Ithaca High School and later trained as a legal secretary. A dedicated mother, she pursued a nursing degree while raising her children and worked as a registered nurse at Robert Packer Hospital, specializing in Dialysis care and Women's Health. She was also an early advocate for AIDS awareness, educating healthcare professionals in the Southern Tier. Sharon was passionate about fighting food insecurity and volunteered for many outreach programs, including the Tioga County Drug and Alcohol Task Force.



A woman of faith, Sharon served at Owego First Baptist Church, where she was involved in the Deacons Board, co-librarian, and the Sunbeam Circle. Her creative spirit was evident in her cooking, arts, and crafts, leaving a legacy of cherished recipes and handmade items. Sharon's zucchini relish won Grand Champion ribbons in two states and second place at the Arkansas State Fair.

Memorial contributions may be made to Tioga County Rural Ministries, 146 Central Ave, Suite 2, Owego, NY 13827.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 9:30am Prayer 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship time - following worship service (Church Fellowship Hall)	24	25	26	27 5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal	28 6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)	1
2 9:30am Prayer 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship time - following worship service (Church Fellowship Hall)	3	4	5 ASH Wednesday 10:00am Ladies Needle & Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)	6 5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal	7 World Day of Prayer 6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)	8 10:00am ABW Ministries of the Broome-Tioga Association Board meeting (Church Fellowship Hall)
9 Lent #1 SPRING FORWARD 9:30am Prayer 10:00am Sunday Worship Service  11:00am Fellowship time - following worship service (Church Fellowship Hall) 11:15am Deacons Board Meeting (Church Fellowship Hall)	10	11 1:00pm Spring Bible Study- The Fruit of the Spirit (SPOT)	12 10:30am InAsMuch Circle - American Baptist Women local (SPOT)	13 5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal	14 6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)	15
16 Lent #2 9:30am Prayer 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship time - following worship service (Church Fellowship Hall) 11:15am Joint Exec Council / BoM meeting (Church Fellowship Hall)	17  St Patrick's Day	18 1:00pm Spring Bible Study- The Fruit of the Spirit (SPOT)	19 10:00am Ladies Needle & Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)	20  First Day of Spring 5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal	21 6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)	22
23 Lent #3 9:30am Prayer 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship time - following worship service (Church Fellowship Hall)	24	25 1:00pm Spring Bible Study- The Fruit of the Spirit (SPOT)	26	27 5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal	28 6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)	29 KIND Saturday (SPOT) 
30 Lent #4 9:30am Prayer 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship time - following worship service (Church Fellowship Hall)	31	1 1:00pm Spring Bible Study- The Fruit of the Spirit (SPOT)	2 10:00am Ladies Needle & Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)	3 5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal	4 6:30pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)	5