

LIGHTING THE WAY

The First Baptist Church of Owego, N.Y.

Volume 29

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Little babies are attractive but to keep them healthy takes a lot of work. They are dependent and demanding, they are unable to feed themselves, they are unable to stay out of messes, they love to be the center of attention, they are driven by impulses, such as hunger, pain and sleep, they are irritated when they are dirty, even though they made the mess. They have very little attention span. Now these traits are natural as a part of babyhood, but when you see these same traits in adults, it is tragic. The Christian who is not interested in growing up wants to be waited upon and entertained. They want a diet of milk and not meat. They insist on having it their way. 1st Corinthians 13:11 When I became an adult, I put away childish behavior. As we mature, we are to handle adult responsibility and be considerate of others. We should value other people as important as ourselves. And respect them. Love Pastor Bill

First Baptist Church of Owego Marks 195 Years with Special Organ Concert and Reunion Celebration

First Baptist Church of Owego will commemorate its 195th anniversary with a special organ concert and reunion celebration on **Sunday, October 11, 2026, at 4:00 PM.** The event will be held at **First Baptist Church, 228 Main St., Owego, NY**, and will feature renowned local organist **David Jackson**.

The celebration is open to members, former members, friends, families, neighbors, and the wider community. Guests are invited to gather for an afternoon of music, fellowship, remembrance, and gratitude as the church honors nearly two centuries of worship, service, and community life.

David Jackson brings a distinguished musical background to the anniversary program. He earned both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Music from Ithaca College, where he studied with Frank Eldridge. Jackson has served as a vocal music teacher in the Spencer-VanEtten School District and as Dean of the Chemung Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He also recorded the two-organ program *Organa Dupla* with Dr. George Edward Damp.

Founded on September 20, 1831, First Baptist Church of Owego was organized by thirteen men and seventeen women and became the second church organized in the village. The congregation is historically noted as the first anti-slavery church in the country, and its legacy includes connections to Washington Gladden, Frederick Douglass, J.D. Rockefeller, General Henry Martin Robert, and the Truman family of Owego.

"This anniversary is an opportunity to remember the faith, courage, and service that have shaped First Baptist Church of Owego for 195 years," said a church representative. "We look forward to welcoming the community for a meaningful afternoon of music and reunion."

[We are putting together a memento of your memories at FBC. Please submit to Rodger/Daisy Fritz by September 20th. - rfritz@stny.rr.com](mailto:rfritz@stny.rr.com)

Pastor Bill Announces He Is Stepping Down

After eleven years of faithful service, Pastor Bill announces that he will be stepping down from his pastoral duties here at FBC of Owego. His final day of pastoral service with our church will be **Wednesday, September 30, 2026.**

For more than a decade, we have been blessed to have Pastor Bill walk alongside this congregation through many seasons of church life. Pastor Bill's time with our congregation has been part of his 50 years, and counting, of ministry since his ordination. He has preached and taught the Word of God, led us in worship, prayed with and for us, visited those who were sick or in need, comforted families during times of grief, celebrated with us in times of joy, and faithfully carried out the many responsibilities entrusted to him as our pastor.

Eleven years of ministry represent countless days of preparing for Sunday services, many prayers offered on behalf of this congregation, numerous conversations and visits, baptisms, weddings and funerals, meetings and special services, and many quiet acts of ministry that often take place beyond public view.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, **"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven"** (Ecclesiastes 3:1, KJV). As this particular season of ministry draws to a close, we want to recognize it not simply as an ending, but as an opportunity to give thanks to God and to express our sincere appreciation for eleven years of dedicated service.

We congratulate Pastor Bill on completing this significant chapter of ministry. We thank him for his commitment, his dependability, his perseverance, and the many ways he has served this congregation throughout these eleven years.

In the lead-up to September 30, you are encouraged to personally express your appreciation and gratitude to Pastor Bill for his years of service among us. We will be formally expressing our appreciation to Pastor Bill in the Fellowship Hall following Service on Sunday, September 20, 2026.

Remember with gratitude all that God has accomplished during these years, and that we surround Pastor Bill with our prayers, encouragement, and Christian love as he completes his pastoral responsibilities and begins the next season of his life and ministry.

Pastor Bill, thank you for eleven years of faithful service. We congratulate you, we appreciate you, we love you, and we pray that God will richly bless you in the days ahead.

“Keep Running the Race”

Hebrews 12:1–3 (NIV)

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

On Sunday, August 9, 2026 we recognized and celebrated with Rich Saxton as he has run his race, accomplished his goal and completed his journey to become a Certified Lay Pastor of ABC - NYS!

Congratulations!



Prayer Requests and Concerns

- UNITY - God's direction
- Salvation for all
- Unconfessed Sin
- Our Country
- Our President
- Our Pastor
- PEACE
- Missionaries
- Our BTBA Churches
- Those with cancer
- Our economy
- Our families
- Shut-ins



PRAYER CHAIN prayer requests are sent 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. Please contact our prayer coordinator, Daisy Fritz - dzyfritz@hotmail.com or call 607-748-2798

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

1 - Jim Conrad
 9 - Steve Paro
 13 - Daisy Fritz
 15 - Jason Fritz
 29 - Kaija Fritz
 30 - Ken Blanchard
 23 - Blake Cron & Sheronda Patnode
 24 - John & Dailyn Chandler
 27 - JoEllen & Stephane' Goulet

Thank you to all who donated shoes to Twin Tier's Honor Flight. The truck picked up 129 bags last week!

So keep them coming! Our Veterans going on the Honor trips benefit from your shoe donations. Thank you!



Thank you Ben! August 2, 2026 was a day to say farewell to Ben Coddington who joined us on June 6, 2024 as our church/choir accompanist. Ben has so



much talent and has a musical gift that only God can give.

Ben has taken a position at Baylor University in Waco, Texas as Staff Accompanist and will also have the opportunity to take some classes as well.

We pray for God's continued blessings on Ben and all of his endeavors

Weekly & Monthly Events

- ♦ **Sunday morning time of prayer** - 9:30am, join Pastor Bill in FH before worship service.
- ♦ **Men's Monthly Luncheon** - will meet the 3rd Friday - September 18th at **Parkview** @11:30am. Questions? Please contact Rodger / Rich
- ♦ **Women's Monthly Luncheon** - will meet on 3rd Wednesday - September 16th at **Mario's** @11:30am. Questions? Please contact Daisy Fritz.
- ♦ **Deacons Board** - meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month in Church Fellowship Hall after worship service.
- ♦ **Joint Executive Council/Board of Managers** - meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month in Fellowship Hall after worship service. [subject to change]
- ♦ **ACT (Allied Christians of Tioga) Dinner** - served as "Take Away" from FBCO church back door every Thursday 5:00pm to 6:00pm
- ♦ **Rule 62 AA Group** - meets at 7:00pm every Friday in Fellowship Hall
- ♦ **Sober on Sunday AA group** - meets at 6:00pm every Sunday in Fellowship Hall
- ♦ **The KIND Project** - Last Saturday of the month 9:00am till 11:00am
- ♦ **The Needle and Thread Group - sleeping bags for the homeless** Stop by the Church office building (Spot) 1st, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, from 10am-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)



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 (20th) 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.

This meeting is during our fellowship time and if you are able, please bring a dish to share.

Please submit all board/committee reports no later than Sunday, September 13th

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. 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 -FBC Harvest of Treats
 - * October - World Mission offering
 - * November - New Hope Center
 - * December - Retired Ministers and Missionaries [RMMO]

Harvest of Treats October 31st

First Baptist front yard between the church and the SPOT building @5:00pm. We would love to have you join us this year, there is plenty of room and we have lots fun. Plan to arrive between 3:30 and 4:00pm



On Sunday, September 6, 2026 - our Communion Sunday offering is being taken to help with this mission outreach. Usually we ask that 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.

PRAYER FOR LIGHT

Lord and Savior, Light of the world, whenever we gather in your name, in our church, and among our brothers and sisters in Christ,

Bring a light of hope to in times of darkness

Bring a light of peace when we are restless and impatient

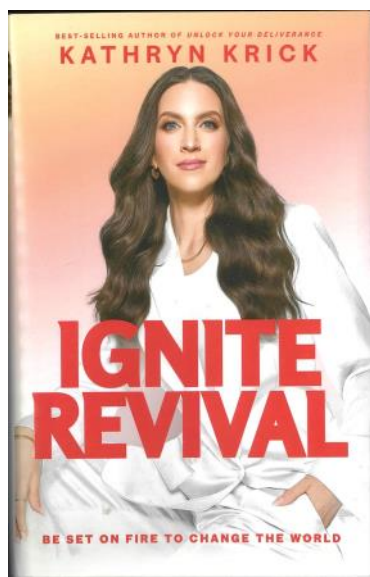
Bring a light of joy when we see only brokenness

Bring a light of love when we don't know how

And make us like you, reflecting your light of hope, peace, joy, and love.
Amen.

The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful and virtuous.
—Frederick Douglass

Kathryn Krick is an apostolic global minister, speaker, author, and lead pastor of 5F church in Los Angeles. The church is home to members from nations across the world and welcomes international guests weekly. Through her ministry, the prophetic anointing flows powerfully, resulting in miracles, healings, deliverance and lives transformed.



Kathryn Krick is great granddaughter of Reverend Clifford Elsbree, pastor here at First Baptist Church Owego in the 1950's. She and other family members were in Owego this summer and stopped into the church to share memories

Find out more about her and about 5F church at the following:

5fchurch.org

apostlekathrynkrick.com

[Youtube.com/apostlekathrynkrick](https://www.youtube.com/apostlekathrynkrick)

[Facebook.com/apostlekathrynkrick](https://www.facebook.com/apostlekathrynkrick)

[Instagram.com/apostlekathrynkrick](https://www.instagram.com/apostlekathrynkrick)

This book is available in our church library in the SPOT.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30am Prayer 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship time - following worship service (Church Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Sober on Sunday - AA Meeting (Church Fellowship Hall)	31	1	2 10:00am Needle & Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)	3 5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal	4 7:00pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)	5
6 9:30am Prayer 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship time - following worship service (Church Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Sober on Sunday - AA Meeting (Church Fellowship Hall)	7 Labor Day	8	9 10:00am Needle & Thread Sewing Group (SPOT) First Day of School	10 5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal	11 7:00pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall) Patriot Day	12
13 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) 6:00pm Sober on Sunday - AA Meeting (Church Fellowship Hall)	14	15	16 11:00am Women's Monthly Luncheon	17 5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal	18 7:00pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall) 11:30am Mens Luncheon	19
20 9:30am Prayer 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship time - following worship service (Church Fellowship Hall) 11:15am Fall Business Meeting (Church Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Sober on Sunday - AA Meeting (Church Fellowship Hall)	21	22 First Day of Autumn	23 10:00am Needle & Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)	24 5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal	25 7:00pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)	26  9:00am KIND PROJECT (SPOT)
27 9:30am Prayer 10:00am Sunday Worship Service 11:00am Fellowship time - following worship service (Church Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Sober on Sunday - AA Meeting (Church Fellowship Hall)	28	29	30 10:00am Needle & Thread Sewing Group (SPOT)	1 5:00pm Allied Christians of Tioga County [ACT] Community meal	2 7:00pm Rule 62 AA (Church Fellowship Hall)	3



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

office@fbcowego.org

<https://www.fbcowego.org>

<https://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.