



**First Baptist Church**  
701 N. Main Street  
PO Box 476  
Central Square, New York 13036  
[Info@fbc-cs.com](mailto:Info@fbc-cs.com)  
(315) 668 – 2138

**December 2015**  
**Merry Christmas!**  
**This is your copy of The Witness**  
**We wish God's Blessings on**



## THE WITNESS

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Central Square

Church Office Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays from 9:00-12:00

Phone Number 315-668-2138

[Info@fbc-cs.com](mailto:info@fbc-cs.com)

"Our mission as a church is to share and respond to God's love for each person by welcoming all. Together, we can return God's love by becoming witnesses and followers of the teachings of Jesus Christ throughout our daily lives. We allow these things to help us become new people in Christ."

Lynn Bort, Moderator  
Megan Biddle, Pastor

Linda Heer, Church Clerk  
Cindy Cuny, Church Secretary

Victor Vrooman, Organist  
Cindy Cuny, Witness Editor

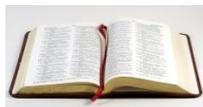
News and Upcoming Events about our Community of Faith  
Notices Concerning Our Affiliated Denomination – The American Baptist Churches in the USA  
Information to Help Live a More Fulfilled Life

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**



Please keep these members and friends in your prayer: Adam Backman, Melody Clark, Ken House, Stewart Smith, Phyllis Smith, Springer Family, Helen Webb, and our missionaries, our nation, and our denominational and local church leaders.

## **VERSE OF THE MONTH**



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the messiah, the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11 NRSV

## **PRAYER FOR DECEMBER**

Son of God, I am awed that you chose to come as a helpless child. May I, like Mary, treasure that truth in my heart. Help us to remember the reason we celebrate this season, and not all the things we feel we must do and gifts we must buy. May we share the love, hope, joy, and peace you give with everyone we meet. -Amen

## **MEETING NIGHTS**

Deacons            December 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30  
Executive          December 13<sup>th</sup> after church

## **WITNESS ARTICLES**

All witness articles for January are due by December 20th. All boards should submit an article and any members who would like to put an article in. If you need help with a topic just ask.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



**Aubrey Biddle 2**  
**Alexander Springer 8**  
**Stephen Springer 8**  
**Ken Bird 10**  
**Heather Bettinger 12**  
**Pastor Meg Biddle 19**  
**Joshua Heitmann 26**  
**Dale Bort 27**  
**Nathan Heitmann 31**  
**Nicholas Heitmann 31**

## DECEMBER 3rd O TANNENBAUM AND PIZZA!!



What is the HAPPIEST time of the year? This is! And the Worship Committee can prove it on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 PM. Free pizza and salad will be available at fellowship hall and after we eat we get to put up our magnificent sanctuary Christmas tree. PLEASE come to help even if you can't get there right at 5. We need branch open-uppers (who get to sit in the pews), light testers, ornament placers, and for a select few, ladder climbers. So, please come for a Happy time. We need a head count for the pizza so please call us and leave a message or sign up on the sheet in the hall at church. Did I mention that we really need Your Help? For the Worship Committee, Dail Mizerski 675-3271

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 1<sup>st</sup> - AB Girls meeting 6pm  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 6pm  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Christmas tree Decorating  
December 5<sup>th</sup> - Craft Show 9-4  
- SNIC 5pm  
December 6<sup>th</sup> - Family Craft Day after church  
December 8<sup>th</sup> - Deacon's meeting at 6:30  
December 12<sup>th</sup> - Children's Christmas Pageant at 5pm  
December 13<sup>th</sup> - Executive Meeting after Church  
December 19<sup>th</sup> - Deacons gift bags & caroling at 1  
December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Service at 7pm & 11pm

## CRAFT SHOW



On December 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am-4pm we will be having our annual craft show. The church will have a booth with food and baked goods. If you can donate food and baked goods please let Randi Driesen know. She would also like help selling and making the food at the booth.

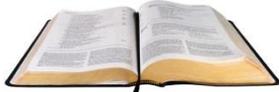
## GIFT BAGS



Please come join the Diaconate as we continue a great First Baptist Tradition. On Saturday, **December 19<sup>th</sup>** we'll be meeting at the Fellowship Hall at 1:00pm to assemble the gift bags, and we expect to leave to deliver the baskets at about 1:45pm. If we have enough people willing to sing, we will do caroling as well! Shut-ins and the others we visit greatly enjoy and appreciate these visits, and you will too!

- The board of Deacons

## PASTOR'S CORNER



Hopefully everyone emerged from their turkey coma, and survived Black Friday shipping. Now we can move on to much more important things, like Jesus.

Advent is the start of a new year in the church. We focus on love, hope, joy, and peace during Advent. Since we have a new year, what will be our focus?

First, people are more important than things. People matter! According to Jesus, things are to be used and people are to be loved. Make sure you get those in the right order. Never – people are to be used and things are to be loved. The best way to show our love for God is to love one another.

Second, discipleship is costly. You can't be a person of faith and live by the law of selfishness. That is a contradiction. "Deny yourself take up your cross... count the cost... follow me." The price is high, but it's worth it. The only thing more costly than caring is not caring.

There is no perfect gift that you will find in the store. The perfect gift was from heaven was love, wrapped up in a baby.

Love is a gift you will never need to return. It is always the perfect size. I suggest that we focus on love, today and every day. May you and your family have a blessed Advent season.

See you all in church.

Pastor Meg

## SNIC



SNIC will meet Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm for our regular service. December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm will be the Youth Christmas Pageant. SNIC will be taking a break for the holidays, and return in 2016.