

First Baptist Church of Central Square

December 2019

701 North Main Street
P.O. Box 476
Central Square, NY 13036

www.fbc-cs.com
315-668-2138
fbccsny@gmail.com

Birthdays:

Alexander Springer 8

Stephen Springer 8

Ken Bird 10

Matt Shanahan 10

Cody Nelson Jr. 11

Heather Bettinger 12

Ed Baxter Jr 15

Shaylee Woolson-Smith 15

Hannah DeFalco 23

Joshua Heitmann 26

Dale Bort 27

Nicholas Heitmann 31

Nathan Heitmann 31

Anniversaries:

Cheryl & Karl Backman 12

Please submit witness articles and prayer requests to

fbccsny@gmail.com

Christmas Eve Service

Our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be at 8pm this year. It will be led by our wonderful interim pastor, Pastor Lillian Cabral.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be January 19th, 2019 after church. Please bring a dish to pass and a happy attitude. It is essential we have enough members to vote so please be there!

Pastoral Search Committee

The pastoral search committee is currently reviewing applications as they come in and will notify you with any updates as they come. Please continue praying.

Trustee Updates

We are continuing to look into fixing the roof leak.

Thanks to a donor, we have a brand new printer! We are thankful for the generous help and look forward to getting it set up quickly!

Diaconate Updates

The deacons are working through membership to ensure we have an accurate member count. Look for their caroling event in the weekly emails.



Upcoming Events

December 3

Pastoral Search (6:30)

December 5

Christmas Tree Setup
(5pm)

December 15

Cantata (10am)

Wisemen (11am)

December 24

Christmas Eve Service
(8pm)

January 19

Annual Meeting (11am)



Christian Education Updates

Wisemen:

The wisemen will be visiting the children of the church during fellowship on December 22nd, after the cantata. Please notify Roxanne Spink if you plan to have children with you that day so we can ensure enough gifts.

White Gifts:

After intense discussion between the facilitators and the board, our church will not be participating in white gifts this year. We understand how disappointing this is and we hope to continue this tradition next year. Please donate your time and gifts to other local charities and missions this year.

Family Craft Day

Due to the last few years' participation in Family Craft Day dwindling, the AB Women regretfully announce that there will be no craft day this year.

O Tannenbaum and Pizza

What is the HAPPIEST time of the year? This is!
And the Worship Committee can prove it on **Thursday, December 5th 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?!

Worship Committee, Dail Mizerski 675-3271

I asked God to take away my pain. God said, No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said, No. Her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience. God said, No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations. It isn't granted, it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness. God said, No. I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain. God said, No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said, No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

The Christmas Story Poem By Jack Zavada

Before the earth was molded,
before the dawn of man,
before there was a universe,
God devised a plan.

He looked into the future,
in the hearts of unborn men,
and saw only rebellion,
disobedience and sin.

They would take the love he
gave them
and the freedom to decide,
then turn their lives against
him
in their selfishness and pride.

They seemed bent on
destruction,
determined to do wrong.
But saving sinners from
themselves
was God's plan all along.

"I will send a Rescuer
to do what they can't do.
A sacrifice to pay the price,
to make them clean and new.

"But only One is qualified
to bear this heavy cost;
My spotless Son, the Holy
One
to die upon a cross."

Without hesitation
Jesus stood up from his
throne,
"I want to give my life for
them;
It is my task alone."

In eons past a plan was
formed
and sealed by God above.
A Savior came to set men
free.
And did it all for love.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things.

I ask God to help me LOVE others, as much as he loves me. God said... Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.



Mission Project

Our church is making Health Kits again! The health kits will be used by Church World Service to meet the needs of those who have been misplaced due to hurricanes, flooding, nor-easters, or other disasters; many of which are in our own area. If you would like to participate, please put the following into a gallon ziplock bag:

- One hand towel (approximately 16' x 28')
- One wash cloth
- One wide tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap in wrapper (bath size)
- One toothbrush in original packaging
- Six bandaids

DO NOT ADD ANY OTHER ITEMS!

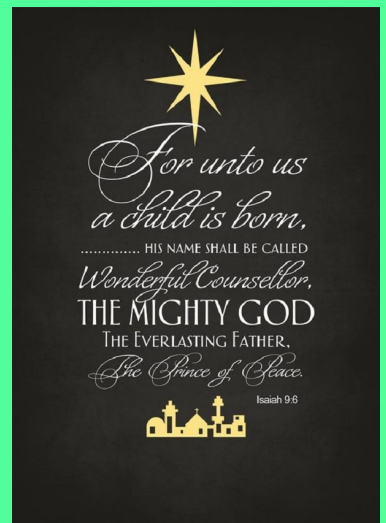
Bring your care packages to church so we can collect them to send out. Thank you Nancy Leamon for your continuing mission work!

Want to keep Christ in Christmas?

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.

- Steve Maraboli

instagram & pinterest: stevemaraboli



'Tis
The
Season



'Tis
The
Reason



The Pastor's Corner



Each man (and woman) should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Advent – a time of expectant waiting - not without impatience - for something we know already happened: the long desired birth of the Messiah, Jesus. We also wait for something that hasn't happened yet: the return of Jesus, as promised.

We don't talk a lot about His return. That is something unfamiliar because nothing like it has ever happened. So we concentrate on what we do know. Christmas and gift giving. We shop til we drop looking for the perfect gift for that someone special. Of course, there are those who are already done with the shopping and probably the wrapping too. But for most of us the challenge is alive and well.

All of that shopping and dropping seems a bit silly sometimes. Aren't we blessed that the Ultimate Gift Giver gave us the most precious gift ever? God gave us the gift of life. He wrapped it up tightly and said, "Here, is your present. Enjoy it and find happiness in it." And He promises to top it off with the gift of eternal life with Him.

We are instilled with the joy in giving. I love to see those I love opening the gift I bought especially for each of them. I believe we all love seeing the excitement in the eyes of children as the wonder of Christmas unfolds in front of them; the cookies, the decorations, the gifts they receive. What joy God must feel when we open the gifts He gives!

This is also the time of year when it seems we are overflowing with requests for charitable giving. I know my mailbox is full daily with requests from familiar organizations and organizations I have never heard of before; all asking for financial support. I must admit there are days when I want to say, "Get a job! I work hard for my money." But I don't. I gratefully accept the thousands of return address labels they send me and recycle the rest of the information. I'm pretty sure I already have enough of those labels to last the rest of my life but they keep sending them anyway.

I have a sheet of paper that goes in great detail about the difference between a job and a ministry. Basically, it says if you feel you have to do it, it's a job; if you enjoy doing it, it's a ministry. God wants giving to be part of our ministry. He tells us to give what we can; whether it's a financial gift, a gift of our time or a gift of our talent. He doesn't want us to put ourselves in a position of hardship, just give what we can. He also wants us to give it with a cheerful heart.

As a family of believers, all we ask of each other is to give what you can with a cheerful heart and we will be thankful and able to bless "the least of these".

Have a blessed Holiday season, Merry Christmas

Pastor Lilly

Joyful AND Grateful!

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This is your copy of *The FBC Witness*:

