

# First Baptist Church of Central Square

December 2021

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  
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](mailto:fbccsny@gmail.com)

## Tithes

You can now place your offering in the plate as we pass or mail it to:

Attn: Cherie House  
P.O. Box 476  
Central Square, NY 13036

Our church is truly blessed with so many generous givers that keep our church going financially. If you are a pledged giver and want to know where you stand with your pledge, please feel free to contact me:

Cherie House, Financial Secretary via 315-391-5408 text or voice mail or at [CherHou3@gmail.com](mailto:CherHou3@gmail.com)

I will be happy to send you a statement to date for 2021. As always, all known givers will receive an end of year statement sometime in the beginning of January 2022, this can be mailed traditionally or emailed. If you have a preference please let me know.

Cherie House

## Covid Update

We are OPEN! We are strongly suggesting mask wearing and masks are required for those unvaccinated. Come join us on Sunday mornings while following all safety guidelines. For those who are choosing to stay home still, follow the link below to the sermons!

<http://www.fbc-cs.com/media.htm>

## Diaconate Updates

Please see a diaconate if you have a need.

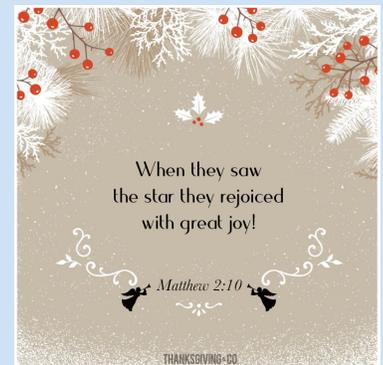


December 12th  
Christmas Cantata

December 24th -  
Christmas Eve Service  
(7pm)

December 25th -- Merry  
Christmas

December 29th - Free  
lunch - Ham, scalloped  
potatoes, Brussel  
Sprouts, Cake



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### Food Pantry

In December we are collecting: -- Cereal & Mac + Cheese

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### Music Committee

We are trying different ideas with our opening praise songs. Let us know if you have any requests! All singers are welcome to join us at 9 AM on Sunday morning for rehearsal.

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### Mission Committee

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### Health Supplies

The Homeless Women in the Oswego County Shelters need supplies. Some suggested supplies

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Bar Soap
- Feminine Products

Please place items in a ziplock plastic bag.  
Thank you for all you do to help those in need.

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### Trustee Updates

No Updates.

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### Sunday School

We will be doing a 6 week study\*\* "Advent Of The Savior ". This is open and welcome to anyone that wants to join for this bible study time on Sundays at 9:00 am before service. This may be a good way to prepare for the holiday season. Interested? See Roxanne Spink. The study guide is for 6 weeks but in reality we know it may take a few extra to get through the content allowing for everyone to participate in discussion.

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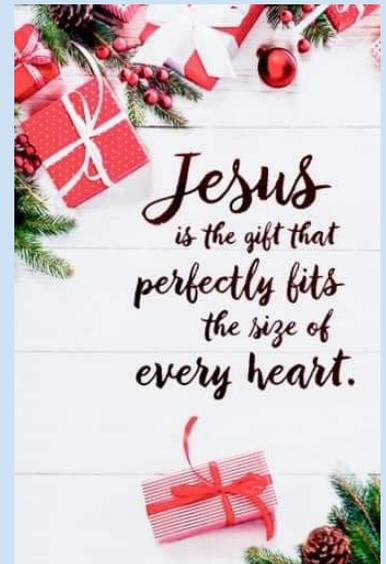
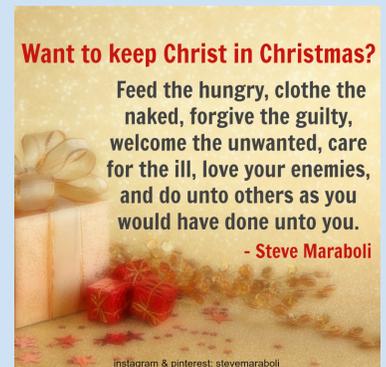
### AB Women

If you have any questions please reach to Misty:  
abwomen.firstbaptist@gmail.com Text/Call 315-935-6267.

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### Fundraising Committee

For Outreach we have been having a free lunch! Let Mary know if you want to help.



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### From the Pastor

*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18-19*

This is one of my favorite scriptures. Whenever life gets uncertain and crazy, I remember God is doing a new thing. God never changes but He is always up to something and to us it is a new thing.

Over two thousand years ago, God did do something new; something He hadn't done before. Oh, He had been putting the plan in motion for more years than we will ever know but it was new to humankind and certainly a surprise. We can wonder why it was so unexpected to many in the day, but isn't that how we work? We get into our routine, our perspective, of what our life is or should be and when something comes along that is out of the ordinary we are shocked! How patient God is with us. I often wonder how and why He puts up with us and loves us so much.

Some people were watching, waiting and paying a bit of attention but they weren't expecting a baby to come and save them from themselves. NOPE! They wanted a warrior king and believed that was what God would send. A mighty warrior to lead the battle against the oppressive enemy and remove the enemy for good. But God was doing this new thing. He was going to take human form and live and experience all that mankind did and still does. Oh, He mentioned it a few times to the prophets but somehow the waiters skipped over that part. They believed they needed the warrior and by gum, God was going to deliver what THEY wanted.

Boy, aren't we still like that? "This is what I want God; this is what I need God; please deliver it ASAP!"

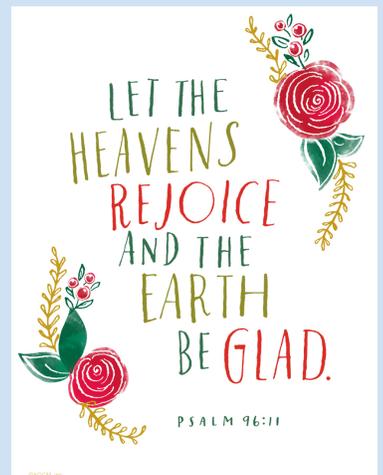
And when He doesn't jump when we say so, we get discouraged and wonder why He doesn't do what we expect. Like we have some control; like we are in charge. OUCH!

This time of year is full of emotions. We're supposed to feel hope, peace, joy and love. Too often we actually feel stress, exhaustion, overwhelmed, grief and depression. How are you coping as you wait for Jesus to arrive? Life is hard at times but God is doing a new thing; do you not perceive it? Keep Him close. Let Him comfort you, protect you, provide for you whatever your need might be. He loves YOU! He laughs with you. He parties with you. He cries with you. Take Him with you always.

Have a blessed Christmas season. To God be the glory, Amen.

Pastor Lilly

## From the Pastor



# December

Food Pantry Collection: Mac & Cheese & Cereal  
Other Collections: Health Supplies

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12  Christmas Cantata	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24  7pm	25 
26	27	28	29 	30	31	

## The Gold Wrapping Paper - An Inspirational Short Christmas Story

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.





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This is your copy of *The FBC Witness*:

