

First Baptist Church of Central Square

701 North Main Street, Central Square, NY 13076

www.fbc-cs.com T: 315-668-2138

Prayer Concerns: Bob Chamberlin, Joan Brown, Eastwood Baptist, Shetsky Family, Debbie Allbright, the Darrow Family Nana, Smith Family, Maggie Heitmann, Morris Reels, Melody Clark, Cheyenne Hughes, Emmie Brooks, Rejina Moore, our nation, our military.

Birthdays:

Victor Vrooman 14	Jacob Biddle 16	Bob Chamberlin 28
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Mystery Member:

January's Mystery Member: Benjamin Springer

February's Mystery Member was a redheaded freckled child, they love to swim and fish, and believe they are a pretty awesome corn hole player. Can you guess who it is?

Update

The church now has a new email. Questions, concerns, prayers, or any other needs can be sent to this new email!

New email: fbccsny@gmail.com

Witness Articles

Please send anything you would like published to the email Kahminder@gmail.com by February 24th.

Donations

We are need of paper plates and kitchen size ziplock bags. Please help support our church! (:

Quote by George Burns

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.



Upcoming Events

February 2, 9, 16, 23

Bible Study (6:30)

February 11

LuLaRoe Fashion Show
(Noon)

February 12

Diaconate Meeting (11:15)

February 17

Young Life (6:30)

February 19

Executive Meeting (11:15)

February 25

Pork Roast Dinner

February 28

Free Lunch (11:30-1)



Free Lunch

This month's Free Lunch will take place on February 28th 11:30am - 1pm. The menu this month will be Ham and Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetables, Dinner rolls, & Brownies.

LuLaRoe Fashion Show and Luncheon

On Saturday Feb 11th at noon the First Baptist Church will host a LuLaRoe Fashion Show and Luncheon. LuLaRoe is a brand of clothing with very exciting prints! Reservations can be made by calling Cheryl Backman at 668-2230. The deadline to reserve your seat is Monday February 6th. Space is limited. The cost of the Fashion Show and Luncheon is \$5. The LuLaRoe clothing will be available to purchase after the fashion show, no need to order, take home that day. Also if you're interested in modeling call me ASAP, as it's coming up fast, and we'll have to meet with Jennell before the show to try on our outfits. Ladies come join in this afternoon of food and fun. Look forward to seeing you there!

Thursday Bible Study

Every Thursday at 6:30 we meet! Our group has decided to study faith traditions different than our own. It is important that we make no assumptions, and instead, get answers. We plan to have guest speakers on Thursday evenings when available. All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We usually meet on Thursday afternoons for knitting/crocheting, prayer, and fellowship and we'd be happy for you to join us. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Cheryl Backman at 668-2230. For those unable to join us, we welcome anyone who knits or crochets at home to help us out. We also need your continued help in notifying us if you know of anyone who may be comforted by a prayer shawl or blanket. Thank you and God Bless.

Board of Christian Education Update

The annual Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering started on January 15th and will end on February 5th. Our church's goal for this year is \$417 which is \$99 less than last year's goal. Anyone who is not in the area and wishes to contribute to this offering may send their donation to the church. To insure that your contribution is designated to this offering please write "Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering" on the envelope. Planning for 2017 is underway but with the upcoming changes in the church's constitution, we are proceeding slowly. Roxanne Spink, Board of Christian Ed Chairperson

Church Officers

Reverend
Meg Biddle

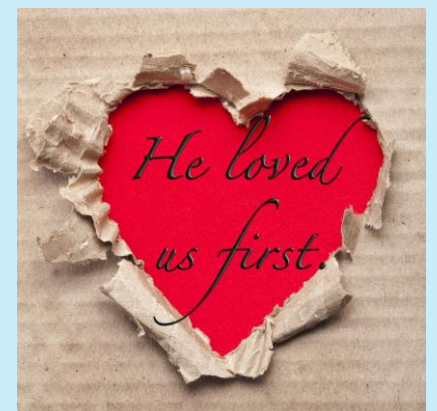
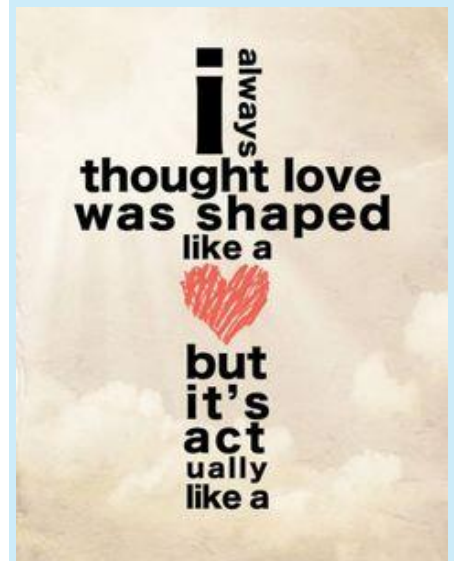
Moderator
Lynn Bort

Church Clerk
Rebekah Springer

Treasurer
Elizabeth Rotundo

Financial Secretary
Grace Fuller

Sunday School Supt.
Misty DeFalco



The Cracked Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole that he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers on your side of the path but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Trustee Update

Nothing new to report. Please see Annual Meeting Minutes.

Diaconate Update

Nothing to report. Please see Annual Report Minutes.

Drawing

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Be Quiet

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Through the Eyes of Peter Woodin

By Delores Olin

A continuation...

Big smiles again as Peter Woodin sees Bud Adams ministry that helped us through the 9-11 crisis. He held special services guided with helpful seminars, innovative preaching and teaching. Community outreach is important. The Concert in the park outreach was well received as we're the worship at the picnic at Taft Bay Park.

As founder of this church, he is very pleased with what he sees that hopes each of you will feel moved to continue God's work by using your gifts in anyway you can to continue the successfulness of our church for many more years. Here's to spreading the good news in Central Square - Oswego County - New York State- United States of America - the world.



From the Reverend

Dear Friends,

On January 8th, I invited you to join me in intentional prayer for this church. We are seeking God's vision for the ministry of our church. It is more than a challenge that I issued. This is serious business. It is not a game. There will not be a prize given out for those who complete all 100 days. We are praying for God to reveal to us HIS vision for this church. It is frightening and exciting all at the same time.

What if God says something that we do not want to hear? It would not be the first time that ever happened. Remember Jonah? God told Jonah to take his word to the people of Nineveh, only Jonah didn't want to. Instead of listening to God, Jonah attempted to run off to Tarshish. That didn't accomplish anything, and Jonah ended up in the belly of a whale instead. Jonah eventually did end up in Nineveh, but got angry with God because he had compassion on some of the worst behaving people around.

Martin Luther once wrote, "To be a Christian without prayer, is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." Prayer is about communication with our creator. We are cultivating our relationship with the divine. Prayer is about God, not us. It includes us, but God is primary. God is not only found in the answers to our prayers, he is found in the prayers themselves. Be bold in your prayers; don't hold back. No one is going to scold you for saying what is on your heart. Can I quit? No. Just because you have been praying for three weeks and you have not received an answer, does not mean that you can give up. For many of us, this is an exercise in patience and trust. The opposite is true; if you have heard from the Lord, please do not stop praying. Encourage others to keep on praying, and to wait on the Lord.

I don't know how to pray. Let me help you out. Prayer is personal communication with the Almighty God, who knows you by name, and knows everything about you. If God knows everything, do you still need to pray? Remember, this is about relationship. I am including one of the prayers I am using over 100 days of prayer. You are welcome to use it or adapt it as you wish.

Merciful Creator, we desire as a church to take hold of the vision You have for us and pray that You would lead and guide us to take a collective step of faith in the direction that You would have us go. May we be sensitive to Your leading and guidance. Prevent us from seeking to implement our own inferior ideas instead of Your plans and purposes. Draw us closer to each other and to You, as we seek your face together in prayer. May we be united together in the unity of faith and prompted to carry out Your plans and purposes to Your greater glory. We pray that the church vision that emerges in our hearts will have been prompted by the Holy Spirit, for the edification of the saints to Your praise and glory. All these things we pray in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN

I look forward to praying for you and with you as we continue our journey through 100 days of prayer.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Meg



**"For God so loVed the world,
That He gAve
His onLy
BegottEn
SoN
That Whosoever
Believeth In Him
Should Not perish
But have EVerlasting life."
-- John 3:16**

**For this Valentine's day
Jesus asks you...**

