

# First Baptist Church of Central Square

January 2022

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

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

## Birthdays:

Karl Backman 1  
Maizie Jane Casatelli 3  
Emily Schaefer 6  
Lynn Cuny 9  
Pat Harrington 20  
Mark Heitmann 22  
Kay Springer 25  
Jeffery Desrosiers 25

## Anniversaries:

Maggie & Scott Heitmann 30

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! Per the mandate, all must wear masks to attend. 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.

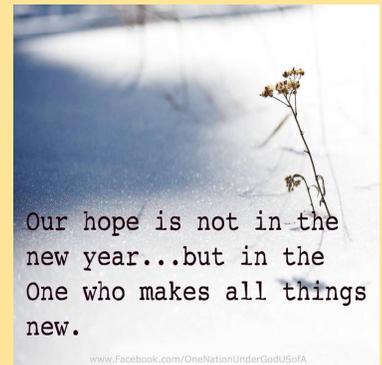
## Food Pantry

In December we are collecting: - Canned Fruit & Cereal



January 14 -  
Red Cross Blood Drive

January 26  
Free lunch - Grilled  
Cheese, Vegetable beef  
soup, cookies



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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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You are never too old  
to set another goal or  
to dream a new  
dream.  
— C.S. Lewis



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### Trustee Updates

No Updates.

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### Sunday School

Join us at 9am!

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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
- Femine Products

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

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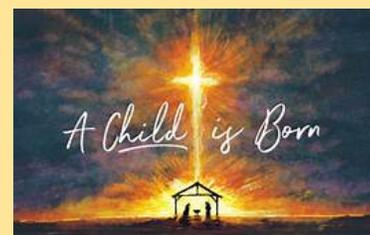
### AB Women

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*

Lamentations 3:22-24 NIV

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

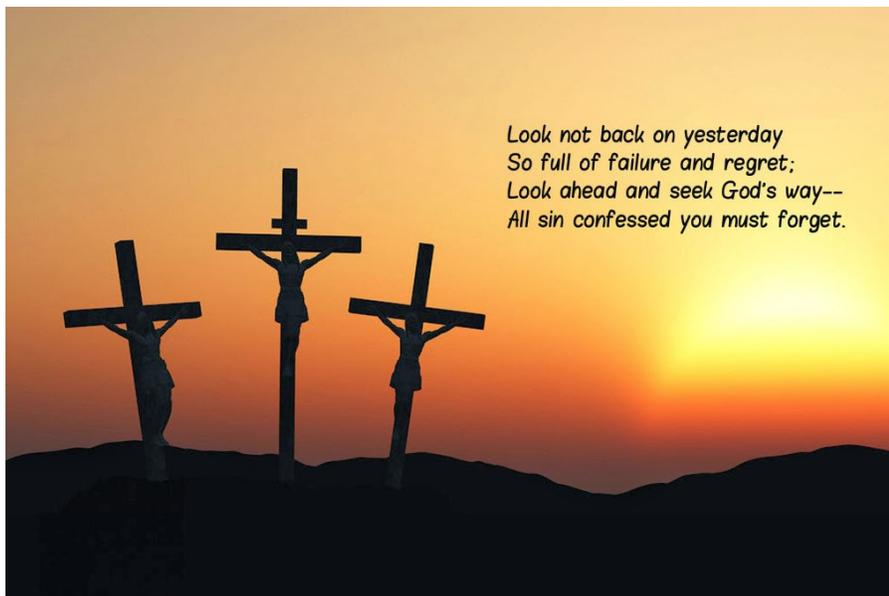
Happy New Year!

I don't know about you, but I'm praying for a healthier 2022 for all of us. Just when we thought things were getting better WHAM! We are punched again. But the Lord is our strength and our portion. He will get us through all of this craziness. All we have to do is be patient! (HA! Easy for me to say.) I'm a pretty patient person, so I've been told. (I wonder about that at times.) But I have to admit this pandemic is getting old. So, with all of you, I'm waiting for the Lord to smite this thing. Does He still smite? I hope so, at least viruses.

As of November, I have been your pastor for three years and I just want to thank you for the love and support I have received from all of you during this time. In some ways, it feels like I've been here a long time and in others, not so much. But I'm looking forward to many more years of service. I feel this is exactly what God had been preparing me for all those years. I've felt a change in my spirituality and seen a change in the emotions here. I came to a depressed church family and you are alive again and feel blessed to be a part of your liveliness.

So it's important that we continue to let God be our strength and guide in order for us to move forward as His people in Central Square where others can come and worship and feel instantly welcomed by this family. A place to feed the hungry, physically and spiritually.

Have a blessed month ahead,  
Pastor Lilly



*From the  
Pastor*



# **Bible Based Resolutions**

Adapted from

<https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/happy-new-year/bible-based-christian-new-years-resolutions-for-2021.html>

## **Stay connected with the local faith community**

Between lockdowns and uncertainty and chaos, we have seen the power of remaining in community with God's family. It shouldn't surprise us that participating in a faith community has benefits. Scripture tells us where two or more are gathered in His name, Jesus is more evident (Matthew 18:20). Hebrews instructs us to encourage one another daily, even more so as time goes on (Hebrews 3:13), which was two thousand years ago! The writer of Hebrews continues to say we should not forsake our assembly to protect us from a heart of unbelief. Also, not surprisingly, we have a spiritual enemy that seeks to keep us from meeting together and enjoying those benefits. It doesn't have to be in large groups or a church building. It can be in homes or parks or on Zoom. But resolve to continue meeting together and encouraging one another in the faith.

## **Remain flexible and open to what God is doing**

We get stressed when plans change. And a great deal of our plans went out the window last year. Vacations were canceled. People lost jobs or had to start working from home while trying to get their kids on virtual school. But God is still good among the stress. We saw people respond with great creativity. We learned new things, found new ways of accomplishing goals. Sometimes better ways we never would have otherwise. Make plans loosely, knowing that we aren't promised a perfect adherence to our plan but that whatever happens, God is at work and will use it all for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28). In this, we can see these "plot twists" as opportunities.

## **Slow down; take time to rest**

Our American culture is fast-paced, filled with constant entertainment and activity. But it is God's heart that we take time to rest. It is not when we are running a million miles a minute that we understand He is God, but when we are still (Psalm 46:10). Lockdowns and social distancing have forced many to be still and invest in relationships in the home and with God, where before we hid behind furious activity. Take the times of solitude and being in small groups as opportunities to invest in relationships that are priorities. First, alone with God. Then with immediate family and close friends. 2020 and 2021 showed us what we couldn't do, weren't able to do. Resting includes trusting that it isn't all up to us. We rely on God who is living and active and able to do anything. We find our rest in Him.

## **Speak the life of the Gospel into the chaos of the world**

More than ever in our generation, in the midst of great uncertainty and fear, the world is searching for something that is real, secure, loving, good. Guess what? That's what we have to give. No better solution than Jesus and the Gospel of the Kingdom (Matthew 4:17). Each of us has an influence in our relationships, whether family, friends, coworkers, or social media, whether large or small. Be a good steward of that influence by speaking the hope and life of the Gospel into those relationships (1 Peter 4:11). Don't get dragged down into arguments that don't matter (2 Timothy 2:23). Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Encourage others and lift their eyes to God (1 Corinthians 8:1). That's what they need to hear.

## **Love your neighbors**

Churches came together more than they ever have before. Pastors and leaders crossed racial and denominational lines to pool resources to get food to the hungry, homes to the homeless, support for kids and families in education, and more. Without any regard for the growth of their own church or ministry, these leaders inspired and gathered others to bring relief to those in need in our community. Find ways to reach out to neighbors. Be intentional about participating in bringing relief to those in need in your community (Hebrews 10:24). That is the heart of God and part of preaching the Gospel (Matthew 5:16).

# January 2022

Food Pantry Collection: Canned Fruit & Cereal  
Other Collections: Health Supplies

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



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This is your copy of *The FBC Witness*:

