



First Baptist Church
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March 2015
Happy St. Patrick's Day
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

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"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: Ken Bird, Mark & Margret Heitmann, Ken House, Stewart Smith, Phyllis Smith, Stephen Springer, Helen Webb, Mike White, our missionaries, our nation, and our denominational and local church leaders.

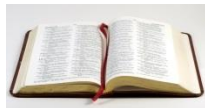
PRAYER FOR MARCH

Lord and Savior, almighty king;

we remember your sacrifice and thank you for your passion, especially during this Lenten season. Help us to realize that we must repent, that we must seek your will in our lives. Forgive us when we fail, when we are less than the persons you have called us to be, and point us back toward the cross. We praise your most Holy Name!

-Amen.

VERSE OF THE MONTH



If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.
(Genesis 4:7)

MEETING NIGHTS

Trustee 's	March 1 st	after church
Christian Ed	March 8 th	after church
Deacon's	March 10 th	6:30
Pastoral Relations	March 15 th	after church

WITNESS ARTICLES

All witness articles for April are due by March 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.

Free Lunches Once A Month



This is open to the public in our community to help those who are hungry. Each month on the last Tuesday of the month we will serve free lunches for those who are hungry. It will start at 11:00 serve till 1:00. Please tell everyone you know so we can advertise this event. This is our chance to help those in need right here in our community.

Attention All Boards



There is a lot going on and it's nice to know what's going on at each board. So, please write an article and submit it by the 20th of each month. After all this is your newspaper.

General Information



If anyone is in need of a notary, please contact Randi Driesen at 345-4891. She can bring her stamp to church with her if you let her know.

Ladies!



Is anyone interested in forming a crochet and knitting club? I am really trying to teach myself how to crochet and need lots of help and guidance! And I don't think I am the only one who would like to learn this! You never know, this could lead to something big for our church!

Please let me know if there is any interest and we can set up some times to discuss this. Thanks!

Randi Driesen

Soup on Sunday



March 15th

The AB women will be hosting their annual soup on Sunday following services March 15th. If anybody would like to contribute it is always welcome.

Easter Egg Hunt



Following services March 29th; Palm Sunday AB Women will hold their 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt!!

AB women will be collecting plastic eggs, and small candy to fit inside. Women will meet to put the eggs together Tuesday March 24th at 11:00.

Birthdays for March



Lizzy Rotundo – 27
Linda Heer – 23

Anniversaries



Rich & Dail Mizerski – 25

Pictorial Directory

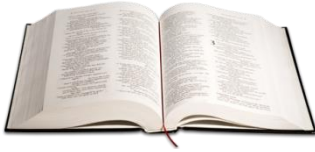


On April 7th, Lifetouch will be here at the church from 2-9pm for our new church directory. Everyone gets a free 8 x10 for having your photo taken, as well as a copy of the directory, please call the office, see me at church, or e-mail me for a sign-up slot. They are first come first serve. You may have photos taken with extended family who do not attend our church; they will just not be included in the directory. Photos will be back in time for Mother's Day, and, make great gifts!!!!!!

The Watch

In the spirit of Jesus praying in the garden the night before his arrest, we would like to offer the same type of experience for our church family. Maunday Thursday we will have a service at 7pm. Beginning at 8pm, we would like to have someone begin praying in the church. The idea is that each hour a new person comes and takes the next watch, this would continue overnight, with the final person praying from 11am-noon. At noon, we will hold a short prayer service in honor of Good Friday. So that no one is in the church alone, Pastor Meg will be staying in her office overnight, and is willing to cover the hours that no one signs up for. The doors to the church will be locked at all times for safety purposes. Consider prayerfully joining in on this amazing experience.

Pastor's Corner



All any of us want is to be accepted and loved, right? Sometimes we try far too hard. That is my desire, anyway, to do well, to be pleasing to God. There are times that I am successful in my mission, and there are times that I fall flat on my face. What I appreciate most, is that we have a loving and forgiving God who understands that I will fail, at times and will love me anyway. There will be times that I will have to ask for God's forgiveness as well as the forgiveness of my congregation. Even though we will have those moments, don't give up on me, God has plans for us, we are far from finished.

There are some folks in our church family who have taken on a very important project, free community lunches. This was born out of an association meeting at Port Byron when we found out that the church had stepped out on faith and started free lunches with no start-up money.

There are many people who live in poverty, and struggle to pay bills and eat. Central Square only has one food pantry, at Divine Mercy Parish. I appreciate that we collect food once a month and contribute to the food bank, because before I accepted this call, my family was one that used our local food bank on a monthly basis. Even though I worked full-time as a nurse, it was not enough to sustain a family of five. While I was a full-time student and working as many hours as I could, we received food stamps, but the \$267 a month we were given did not stretch very far. I know what it is to come in after going to the grocery store and say "Okay, this is it. When this food is gone, we have nothing." "Let me tell you, it was wonderful to be able to buy Christmas presents and have food in the pantry this year.

I have said over and over that we need to reach beyond our own doors into the community, and I honestly believe that. I am so encouraged by the things we have begun to do and by the ministries that have restarted in order to reach out to others.

Let us be the hands and feet of Jesus. As you spend time in prayer, ask how you might be a part of the ministry here? What would God have you to do? It may not be something that we are doing now; it might be a future ministry. If God is speaking, please listen, and if you are willing, share it with me. I thank God for each and every one of you, and the ministry of this church.

See you in church,

Pastor Meg

Lay Leaders and Greeters

We need your help!!! We are taking volunteers for those willing to serve as worship leaders. We will enter you into the rotation, and remind you when it is your turn. If we have young people who would like to read the passage for the week, we would love to have your help as well. We are in desperate need of greeters before the service. Please consider prayerfully helping out. Please speak with Pastor Meg if you are willing to help.