

# First Baptist Church of Central Square

701 North Main Street, Central Square, NY 13076

[www.fbc-cs.com](http://www.fbc-cs.com) T: 315-668-2138

**Prayer Concerns:** Bob Chamberlin, Joan Brown, Shetsky Family, Nana, Smith Family, Melody Clark, Cheyenne Hughes, Rejina Moore, Frank VanBuskirk, Jeannie VanHoevan, Ken Gleason, DeFalco Family, Morris Reels, Gagnon Family, Joan Brown, Alberry Family, Bobbi Biddle, Helen Webb, our nation, our military.

## Birthdays:

Lynda Heer 23

Liz Rotundo 29

Nancy Leamon 31

## Anniversary



Dail & Rich Mizerski  
25



## Mystery Member:

February's Mystery Member: Cheryl Backman

March's Mystery Member used to tend bar and ride motorcycle. 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](mailto:fbccsny@gmail.com)

## Witness Articles

Please send anything you would like published to the email [Kahminder@gmail.com](mailto:Kahminder@gmail.com) by March 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Free Lunch

This month's Free Lunch will take place on March 28<sup>th</sup> 11:30am - 1pm. The menu this month will be Chili, Garlic Bread, tossed salad, and yummy cupcakes! All are welcome!



## Upcoming Events

### March 1

Ash Wednesday Service  
(6:30pm)

### March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Bible Study (6:30)

### March 3 & 17

Young Life (6:30)

### March 5

Trustee Meeting

### March 12

Soup on Sunday

### March 14

Diaconate Meeting (6:30)

### March 19

Executive Board Meeting  
(8:30 am)

### March 28

Free Lunch (11:30-1)



## Holy Services

As we prepare to enter the Lenten season, we will offer the following services at our church:

Ash Wednesday, March 1st- 6:30pm.

Palm Sunday, April 9th- 10:00am.

Good Friday, April 14th- 6:30pm.

Easter Sunday, April 16th- 10:00am.

## AB Women's Annual Soup on Sunday

Join us March 12th following service for the Women's Annual Soup on Sunday! ALL ARE WELCOME! Please donate what you can!

If you're interested in bringing a soup or dessert please contact Misty DeFalco.

## Young Life

Young Life Youth Group is a non-denominational group for those ages Middle School- High School. It is for those who are churched and non-churched. Homeschoolers are also welcome. All meetings begin at 6:30pm, pizza, snacks, and awesome door prizes are always provided. All are welcome!

March 3rd- Our Church

March 17th- Mallory Wesleyan

April 7th- Our Church

April 21st- Mallory Wesleyan

## Save the Date

We will have a brunch on April 9<sup>th</sup> after Worship to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Liz & Ryan.

## LuLaRoe Fashion Show and Luncheon

I would like to thank everyone that made this event successful; including all those who helped prepare the food, fashion models, and all those who came and shopped. Because of you, \$400.00 was raised for the Church. Thank you Jennell Thurn for donating 10% of the sales to our Church!

## 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.

## Save The Date

On Sunday, April 30, Interfaith Works will be joining us during our worship time. Interfaith Works helps with settlement of refugees in our area, as well as promoting unity in a time of religious and cultural diversity. I hope you will join us for a time of sharing and conversation.

## Church Officers

Reverend  
Meg Biddle

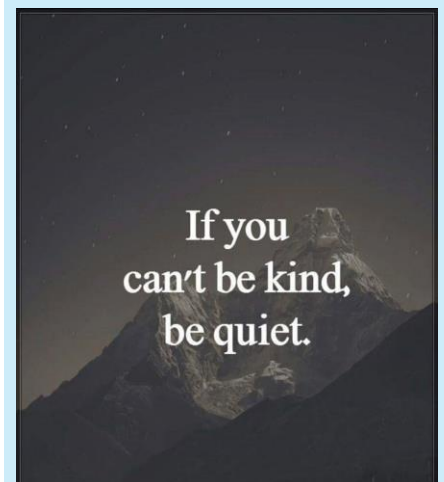
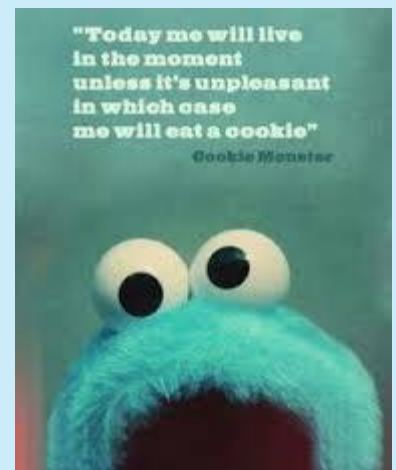
Moderator  
Lynn Bort

Church Clerk  
Rebekah Springer

Treasurer  
Elizabeth Rotundo

Financial Secretary  
Grace Fuller

Sunday School Supt.  
Misty DeFalco



## Hosts Needed

On June 10th and 11th the "Glad Ringers" Hand Bell Choir from Columbus, Indiana will be visiting New York to perform a concert or two for us. Your help is needed! There will be approximately 18 ringers visiting, and we need to house them Saturday night, June 10th. If you would be willing and able to provide a bed or couch for a couple of ringers, please let Pastor Meg know asap. Your only requirement for this adventure, is to offer a bed and a bite to eat Sunday morning. These folks are people that I know and love from my home church, and I know you will enjoy spending time with them! Call me, see me at church, or e-mail me at [mnbiddle@anderson.edu](mailto:mnbiddle@anderson.edu) if you have questions or if you would like to offer space in your home.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

We continue to meet weekly for knitting and fellowship. We would like to thank Steve Springer for all his help behind the scenes and his beautiful crocheted blankets and shawls. As always, we would welcome anyone who would like to help us out with this blessed ministry.

We also need everyone's help by notifying us of anyone that may be in need of a prayer shawl or lap robe. It doesn't have to be someone in our Church or even in our community, we have sent them all over the country!

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Our last big project was to send out baby blankets to Wounded Knee Indian Reservation as they have a great need there. I am happy to report that with assistance from the Divine Mercy and our group we sent out 37 baby blankets. God continues to bless our ministry including to keep our arthritic fingers moving. Praise God!

## Board of Christian Education Update

The annual Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering ended on February 5th. Our church's goal for this year was \$417 which was \$99 less than last year's goal. As of Sunday February 19th we had collected \$352 which still leaves us \$65 short of our goal. We will still accept donations for this offering. Anyone who has not contributed or 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. In March we will start collecting for the annual America for Christ Offering. The goal for this offering will once again be \$417. Planning for 2017 continues and we look forward to a productive year.

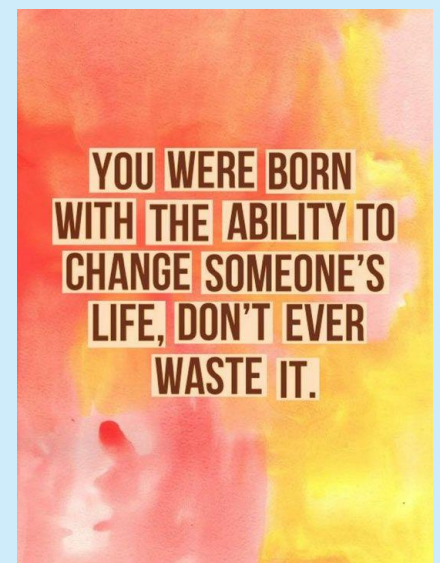
Roxanne Spink, Board of Christian Ed Chairperson

## Pork Dinner

The Pork Dinner hosted by Maggie Heitmann raised about \$500 dollars for the church. Thank you for all you do Maggie!

## God's Boxes

I have in my hands two boxes,  
Which God gave me to hold.  
He said, "Put all your sorrows in  
the black box,  
And all your joys into the gold."  
I heeded His words, and in the  
two boxes  
Both my joys and sorrows I  
stored,  
But though the gold became  
heavier each day,  
The black was as light as before.  
With curiosity, I opened the  
black.  
I wanted to find out why,  
And I saw, in the base of the  
box, a hole  
Which my sorrows had fallen out  
by.  
I showed the hole to God and  
mused,  
"I wonder where my sorrows  
could be?"  
He smiled a gentle smile and  
said,  
"My child, they're here with me."  
I asked God why He gave me  
the boxes,  
Why the gold and the black  
with the hole?  
"My child, the gold is for you to  
count your blessings.  
The black is for you to let go."



## Through the Eyes of Peter Woodin

I would like to thank and praise Delores Olin for her wonderful writing piece titled "Through the Eyes of Peter Woodin." It has been posted piece by piece in all Witnesses for the past year. As we have finished, I have decided to post all the pieces together in case you missed a week. We will treasure this wonderful piece of work for years to come.

Through the Eyes of Peter Woodin  
By Delores Olin

Gazing down over Oswego County at the churches he started, he's shaking his head. There's Hannibal Community Church merged with Presbyterians, and Fulton also joined them. Caughdenoy is a Methodist town. That church in California, he's not sure what happened there. Smiling, he looks down on the First Baptist Church of Central Square, still a vital part of the community – weathered ups and downs ever since he built it – completed in June 1845. He remembers some of the parishioners, a relative of Marion Chesebro that contributed lumber. Let's see, there have been 30 pastorates including many interim pastors. Two pastors served twice.

There have been many changes, mostly all improvements, keeping that original building looking very good. He's wondering how many descendants of that ministry are attending there now. During D. D. Owens ministry, the first time, the kitchen was added. He served again later for one year. It was while A. E. Knapp ministered as a student that the church had its first ordination. Looks like from 1892 until 1904 it was business as usual with exceptions of 1900 – 1902 when Reverend had a large number of new members. How he's enjoying the stained glass windows and new pews installed during Reverend Weinhouer's ministry. Again, he is wondering how many of this congregation know any of the people the windows memorialize.

Look at that – a new building next door – the new parsonage built by Reverend Russell. He only has to walk next door to church! That ladies auxiliary is busy raising money for God's work. Reverend Rawson's announcing a fair at the grange, probably to help with the remodeled kitchen and redecorated dining room. They thanked Reverend Woodin for the quilt frames he gave. Hear that bell toll! It was recast in 1910, possibly calling attention to the new baptistery just built. Do you hear that new baby cry? Bet that's baby Erwin Flower born when all these things were going on. Thought that light in the parsonage was dim – just got it wired for electricity during Reverend Miller's pastoring. Reverend Shaw is beaming – one of his congregation is being ordained – that's Grace Fuller's relative, Carlos Fuller.

Reverend Baker is a busy guy! He does everything from the preaching business, to gardening, to doing farm work for his

Aspire  
to inspire  
before we  
expire.

WITHOUT GOD  
our week would be  
SINDAY  
MOURNDAY  
TEARSDAY  
WASTEDAY  
THIRSTDAY  
FIGHTDAY  
SHATTERDAY  
7 days without God  
makes ONE WEEK

WE CAN  
CHOOSE  
TO BE  
grateful  
NO MATTER WHAT

GRATITUDE  
TURNS  
WHAT  
WE  
HAVE  
INTO  
ENOUGH

parishioners in need. A bequest was used to remodel the church parlors and build a garage to replace the stables where the horses were kept during worship. Hey! An electronic clock is now in the sanctuary. It was purchased by the bays class – better to time those sermons the Baker children wiggle through. Now warm hearts and bodies – two new furnaces were installed. The dining room ceiling was raised and the floor lowered. Do you hear the baby cry I bet that's baby Jack baker born in the parsonage.

More new additions during reverend Guckert's ministry - a Christian flag choir loft enlarged, a lightened Cass and blue curtains. Wait a minute this pastor single -who are those people in the parsonage? Ruth and Lowell Gregg are sharing this home until they are settled. Wow! 100 years already! Rev. Clymer is helping out with a grand celebration - certificates are being sold to finance this event. Reverend Baker's first pastorate brought 45 new members and 28 more this time. He's keeping those boys in shape gardening, shoveling, and whatever else he feels they need to be doing.

Do you hear those beautiful sound coming from the church? It's the new organ purchased during Reverend Vanderlinder's pastorate. He is part time but he's doing very well. Reverend Owens came as a full-time pastor and also brought many changes. First Baptist was incorporated, annual meeting change from May to January, the Ladies Auxiliary and Mission Circle merge to become American Baptist Women. There's that fellowship hall renovated again! There are new hymnals in the pews and new robes are hung in the new storage cabinet. Baptisms are warmer with the hot and cold water system.

Mr. Neil Gilmour was the first moderator. George Maunt and Lowell Gregg were deacon emeritus. Two new classes joined Baraca – Philathea – Hearthstone and Fry –C. The Klatz property was purchased for an office, nursery, and classes. New church school curriculum was tested when Rev. Morrison was pastor. A Palm Sunday Community Choir was enjoyed. Bertha Harrington and Ester Codder established the church library. Boy Scout Troop 334 was sponsored by the church – another community outreach.

A study and office were built into the church building. A new organ was given as a memorial. The Iroquois Association was established. Always fresh maple syrup for Easter Breakfast thanks to the Holland's tapping the maples. Rev. Anderson was ordained at First Baptist. This pastor was never bothered by the fire siren because he was a firefighter. See that sanctuary – it's been beautifully refurbished. Another celebration, 140 years! Makes Peter Woodin proud to see how this church has progressed in the good works for God.

The year 1987 was groundbreaking for the additions. In spite of many difficulties, the building proceeded. When Reverend Spencer arrived, it was dedicated in 1991. The "Heart Song" concert drew



community interest. Ruth Spencer and Pat Harrington organized the AB Girls "Rosebuds" – and broad smiles for 150 year celebration! Pastor Carlson organized the "Praise Band," a community outreach with coffee house. He earned his doctorate while here. 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.

### **Sunday School Superintendent Room**

Next time you walk by the Sunday School Superintendent Room, take a peek inside to see how clean and organized it is! Alexander Springer, Randi Driesen, Cheryl Backman, and Rebekah Springer spent the last week in February making it useable again! All historical documents were moved to the "library" room across from the office.

### **The Scorpion**

There was this Christian who saw a scorpion floundering around in the water. He decided to save it by stretching out his finger, but the scorpion stung him. The man still tried to get the scorpion out of the water, but the scorpion stung him again. A man nearby told him to stop trying to save the scorpion that kept stinging him. But the Christian said: "It is the nature of the scorpion to sting. It is my nature to love. Why should I give up my nature to love just because it is the nature of the scorpion to sting?" Don't give up loving. Don't give up your goodness. Even if people around you sting.

### **Trustee Report**

Mike McGregor, our electrician, will install smoke detectors throughout the church. Estimate forthcoming. The dishwasher in the parsonage is broken, and will be replaced the week of Feb 27. Mike McGregor will do this also. Cost of GE dishwasher from Vellas in Constantia \$380. The LulaRoe fashion show/fund raiser was a big hit, as well as a lot of fun. The church received 10% of the sales. With the sales and lunch, \$420 was made for the general fund. Cheryl Backman performed her magic again!

### **Diaconate Update**

Nothing to report.

### **Mission Reminder**

We are still collecting "Health Kits" to be sent to areas in our country that have experienced a disaster and folks have lost their home and possessions. These kits are given to them in shelters as many of them only have whatever was on their bodies. Please do not ADD anything to the following list. Toothpaste will be added by the Church World Service as this is a dated item. If you have any questions regarding the kit or the program please contact me either at church or by calling me at 668-5370. The deadline for this program will be **April 9th**.

#### MISSION PROJECT HEALTH KITS

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-eastern, or other national disasters. Many of which are in our own area.

#### **Please include the following:**

- **One hand towel (Approx. 16" x 28")**
  - **One washcloth**
  - **One wide-tooth comb**
  - **One nail clipper**
- **One bar of soap (bath size) in wrapper**
- **One toothbrush (in original packaging)**
  - **Six (6) band-aids**

**DO NOT ADD ANY OTHER ITEMS!**  
**Place these items in a gallon plastic zip-lock bag.**

"To believe is to care...To care is to do"

I am also collecting eye glasses (with or without case) including readers, hotel size toiletries, and single package toothbrushes. Thank you for your help in these projects for our sisters and brothers who are without basic needs.

- Nancy Leamon

## From the Reverend

Dear Friends,

This year feels as though it is flying by. "Prepare for Lent," is scribbled on my to do list, larger than anything else I have yet to complete. How does one prepare for the Lenten season?

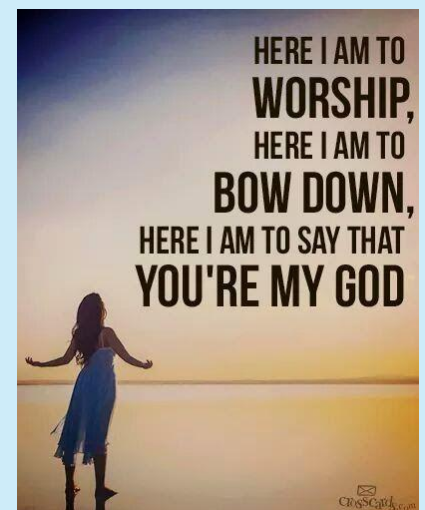
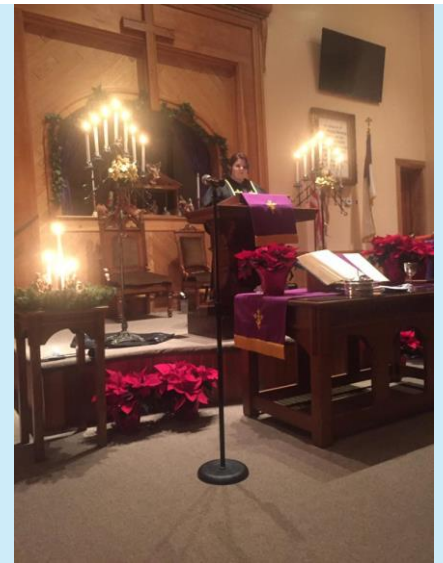
I am not sure about you, but for me, Lent seems like an awkward season. I have never been confused about where Lent leads to-Easter. Lent is a holy season of the church that begins in the middle of the week, on a Wednesday instead of a Sunday. For most of us, the important seasons in our church life began on Sunday. But Ash Wednesday often sneaks up on me, and if I am not careful, I am behind on the Lenten journey before I know it. Part of the reason for this is that the American Baptist Church in the Midwest does not normally observe Ash Wednesday in any sort of service.

If the date of Easter were not a moving target, Lent might not seem so awkward to navigate. We know that Christmas is going to be on December 25th, but Easter moves around. And because Lent is attached to Easter by forty days, its date also moves around. It's an awkward, seemingly unpredictable point to track. Part of the confusion is that one cannot count backward forty days from Easter and arrive at Ash Wednesday. The early church mothers and fathers designated Sundays as a day for celebration, so Sundays do not count. This is because they wanted those who observe the practice of fasting as part of their Lenten observation to be able to celebrate with their Christian community.

Some Christians begin the Lenten journey with a cross-shaped smudge of ash on their foreheads, if they remember to mark Ash Wednesday on their calendar, that is. Some choose to give up a habit or pleasure as a gesture of penitence. Some of us travel the season of Lent by carefully stepping over it from one Sunday to the next, gathering up curious pieces along the way, and making a final festive leap straight from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, bypassing Holy Week's difficult and tragic turns. Others of us move more slowly, guided by daily prayers, not missing one single Holy Week station toward the Cross, as brutal as they are for all who dare to love Jesus. The good news for is, no particular Lenten journey is more perfect or right than another. Our journey to Easter is ours and no one else's. No other person can travel there for us, nor can we for them; and yet we will end up at the same destination on Easter morning- outside the walls of Jerusalem! And because we have adjusted our lives a little or a lot to follow Jesus through the ups and downs, the deserts and roads of Lent, we can also count on one other truth that will become when the dust settles: we all will find ourselves at a different place than where we began.

"Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long;" (Psalm 25:4-5).

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Meg



May your troubles be less  
and your blessings be more  
And nothing but happiness  
come through your door

