

# Good News Letter

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As December approaches, one is drawn to thoughts about the meaning of the season. The primary winter holidays are Christmas and New Year's Day, both of which are associated with beginnings, and birth. Every ending is a new beginning.

The world is in need of a new birth. Each time there is an innovation that brings something new, it only takes a few decades for the new thing to become old. It seems like smart phones have been around forever. Times change. In my lifetime there was the Cold War that seemed to dominate everything, until it ended, and now it seems like ancient history. Its end created the need to move on and make a new way of thinking and acting in the world. International boundaries changed, new countries were formed, the age of information and internet came, and global terrorism, all challenging us to make something new. We are still working on it. Working on it gets old.

Our individual lives are also in need of renewal. There doesn't seem to be any stage of life that allows us to get settled in before something changes; the children grow up, jobs change, moves are made, aging happens. With every change

## December



comes anxiety about the future and longing for the past. With every change comes a little chaos and confusion.

It is no wonder that having followed the cycle of the seasons to this point, at the "end" of the year, when the daylight hours are at their shortest, we celebrate not merely the revolution of the earth around the sun, but the whole concept of new birth, with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, which represents for us the beginning of a new era, the era of Redemption.

Redemption means the reclaiming of something old by transforming it into something new. Paul writes in Galatians 6:15 that nothing else matters, only a "new creation." And again in 2 Corinthians 5:17 he writes that, "If anyone is in

Christ, that person is a 'new creation,' that old has passed and the new has come."

Life is transformed and healed by this belief in the new creation in Christ. It compels us forward without fear; it enables us to forgive and love, and to accept the changes that come our way. It fills us with hope. That is what the season is all about.

Merry Christmas,  
- Mark

### Holiday Performances

Today, November 24 - Annual Handbell Festival at Gray Chapel, 7-8 p.m.

Saturday, December 7 - Arena Faire's production of "Bing Crosby Christmas," 2:00 and 7:00 at the Willis Education Center Auditorium. Tickets are \$15.

Sunday, December 8 - Delaware Community Chorus, 3 p.m. at Powell United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$15

Sunday, December 15- Central Ohio Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert, 2:00 and 4:30 at Gray Chapel. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$6 for students, and \$4 for children.

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**



### **December**

- 4 Erin Faulk  
Jim Snyder
- 8 Phyllis Beasley
- 11 Hannah Nace
- 12 Samuel Allison
- 17 Pat Gosser
- 25 Carol Grubbs
- 27 Jim & Jane Snyder
- 28 Sharon Baker
- 29 James Craig Reynolds  
Harold & Deb  
VanBroekhoven

*Please report any errors.*

## **Volunteers For December**

### **Fellowship Time**

- Dec 1 Lovell
- Dec 8 Faulk
- Dec 15 Moore/Snyder
- Dec 22 Lee
- Dec 29 Grubbs

### **Panera Pick-Up**

- Dec 5 Faulk
- Dec 12 Faulk
- Dec 19 Faulk
- Dec 26 Grubbs

Thanks for volunteering!

## **Christmas Offering**

The offering in the special Christmas envelope will go to Andrews House this month.

## **Youth Christmas Party**

The youth Christmas Party will be at Pastor Allison's home on Thursday, December 19th at 6:30pm.

## **Personals**

> Jane Moore Snyder recently had knee replacement surgery. She thanks everyone for their cards and prayers.

> For the first quarter, Aidan Ferguson and Will Fogle were named to the Distinguished Honor Roll at Hayes and Bowen Nace, Gabe Fogle, and Hannah Nace were named to the Merit Roll. Congratulations to our Teens.

> Erin Faulk has moved into her new home on Pagoda Loop but is still unpacking.

## **Women's Fellowship**

Our annual Christmas luncheon will be on Saturday, December 7 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please note that this is a week earlier than usual. Once again Candy Lee and Pat Gosser will be hosting, and they ask that we bring desserts and a gift for a white elephant exchange. This has always been a well-attended, fun afternoon that we all look forward to. We have invited the ladies from Second Baptist to join us again.

## **Holiday Wish Program**

FBC is sponsoring two foster children for Christmas this year: Charlie (age 8) and Kimberley (age 5). Wish lists can be found on the bulletin board in the sanctuary. We encourage you to donate items to make their Christmas a joyous occasion. Toys, clothes, and gift cards or money to buy gifts are welcomed. Please do not wrap the gifts, just label them for each child. We will need to have the gifts at the church by Sunday, December 8th.

## **Mission Outreach News**

The Mission/Outreach Committee met on Sunday November 17, 2019 after church. Eight people attended. We reviewed the completed November Mission goals. The Change for Change offering totaled \$326.50. This was the largest amount given for this outreach. The money will be given to Andrews House for the Delaware City Schools Summer Lunch Program.

Thanks to the volunteers who served the free community dinner on Nov. 8th at Andrews House.

Our church congregation has begun collecting items for Christmas for 2 children who are in foster care.

The Thanksgiving offering will be given to People In Need. Our congregation continues to fill the basket with items to be given to People In Need.

Our December Missions focus will be:

Giving to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering and giving to the Christmas offering which will be given to Andrews House. On Dec. 7th from 9 a.m. -12:00 the Holiday Clearing House will be held at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. Anyone is welcome who would like to help pack bags of donated food for families in need. They will be delivered on Dec. 8th. Andrews House Christmas Cupboard is Dec. 7th beginning at 9 a.m. There is a cookie, ham and bean soup and bake sale.

## Soup and Sing

Please mark your calendars to attend the Soup and Sing on Dec. 14th at 4 p.m. Check the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place to list your name and your favorite kind of homemade soup to bring and/or corn muffins, and cookies. All extra soup will be donated to the Place of Warmth at Zion UCC Church for men who stay there when the temperature is lower than 20 degrees.

## Calling All Bakers!

If you enjoy baking, Andrews House would like you to donate Christmas cookies and baked good items for the 2019 Christmas Cupboard Fund Raiser on Dec. 7th from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

If you can make cookies or baked goods, please deliver them to Andrews House on Friday, Dec. 6th from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. If you would like to let Andrews House know what you are making and the amount, you can go to Andrews House Christmas Cupboard online and follow the link to sign up genius. (If you would like to bake and can't take goods to Andrews House on Friday, see me about taking them, -Mary Lou) Each year they have a cookie sale (cookies that have been donated) on Dec. 7th and you can buy a container and fill it with the cookies of your choice to take home for your holiday season. (Come early, as the cookies sell fast).

Andrews House will also have ham and bean soup for sale and have a Silent Auction. Thanks to all who bake and share their wonderful Christmas specialties.

## Honoring the Service of God's Servants

In celebration of the rich 40-plus year legacy of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, we gratefully acknowledge the loving devotion of those who have so faithfully answered their call to serve God. Our theme this year, RMMO- Honoring the Service of God's Servants, uplifts the generosity, grace, and tireless work of retired ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses and families who have dedicated their lives to serving the body of Christ.

As Christians, we are called to honor one another with the love of Christ as found in the scripture from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 which teaches, "Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work."

The long-standing tradition of the RMMO established in 1977 supports ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses who

have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA. This offering is unique because it provides individual recognition to those who have served the ABCUSA family. The RMMO is a personal offering, one rooted in thanks for the countless ways ministers and missionaries guide members of the church toward faithful and committed discipleship and diligent service in mission. We want to commemorate the unique legacy of RMMO and remember those who play a vital role providing guidance and inspiration to their congregation and community.

Our church's participation in RMMO makes it possible to provide emergency assistance in times of crisis and to send an annual "Thank You" check to those who are eligible. Throughout the month of December we will be asking you to contribute to this offering. Our goal is \$700. Please prayerfully consider your gift.

-Pam Faulk

## Prayer List

This list is prepared by the Deacons.

Please send changes to Larry Faulk ([lfaulk01@aol.com](mailto:lfaulk01@aol.com)).

Name	Reason for Prayer
Alvin Cox	Health Issues
Raleigh Gosser	Health Issues
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Raeleen George	Health Issues
Steve & Sharon Baker	Health Issues
Ken & Genevieve Peterson	Health Issues
Dr. Allison's father & sister	Health Issues
Keith Anderson	Health Issues

Remember daily all the men and women in the military — Those stationed in the USA and those deployed throughout the world. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

## Thanks to a Generous Church Fellowship

Our church fellowship is so generous. Our World Mission Offering in October was \$868, well above our \$700 goal. Our Change for Change offering in November was the highest it has ever been with a total of \$326.50 given in change. Thank you First Baptist!

## Online Giving

If you would like to make an offering or donation to FBC, but cannot attend a worship service or would rather not have to write a check and mail it to FBC, you can now make an offering online.

Visit our website at [FBCDelaware.org](http://FBCDelaware.org) and click on the link: "Make an online Offering or Donation."

The link will take you to a page describing the current giving options. Click on the link: "Click Here to make an Offering or Donation Online." On the Donation page you can input an amount that you would like to offer for any or all options for giving.

You can choose to give by credit or debit card, or electronically from a checking or savings account. After entering your name and address, you can process your giving and save your profile to simplify future online giving.

If you need assistance in the process, please contact me at [lfaulk01@aol.com](mailto:lfaulk01@aol.com) or 614-204-1098. Your gifts to FBC are appreciated.

-Larry Faulk, treasurer

## Communion Available

Have you missed a Communion Sunday, or you cannot get out to church when you want, or you are recovering from an illness or surgery, or you feel "shut-in"? We would like to come and share a little time and communion with you.

Let Mark or one of the deacons know that you would like communion in your home and we will make arrangements to bring you communion.

- Larry Faulk, deacon chair



## Greetings from Jeni Pedzinski

Greetings from Chiang Mai, Thailand! As most of you know, from August 29 - November 4, I traveled far and wide throughout the United States...It was a wonderful tour of 20 churches over the course of 10 weeks. The pace was demanding, but it was refreshing to reconnect with so many of you who have shown me such care and lovingkindness. Some churches I visited had actually never met me in person, but have been supporting my work and New Life Center for nearly five years! What a blessing to give and receive love - in person!

- Jeni Pedzinski

## Soup and Sing



Join us for an evening of Christmas carols and soup.

You are invited to the First Baptist Church

Saturday,  
December 14th  
at 4:00pm

We will gather in the sanctuary to sing favorite Christmas carols and then share a soup dinner and fellowship in our fellowship hall.  
All are Invited!

# First Baptist Church








101 North Franklin Street  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

# December

2019

Dr. Mark Allison, Pastor  
Office 363-7021

Office Hours: Mon. to Thurs. 9 to 12  
and by appointment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> <b>1</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship - Communion 1:30 Brothers All Beginning of Liturgical year RMMO begins 	<b>2</b> 6:00 Piecemakers Christmas Celebration	<b>3</b> 6:00 Board of Christian Ed dinner	<b>4</b> 6:30 Choir	<b>5</b> 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	<b>6</b> Cookie drop-off at Andrews House 9am - 9pm	<b>7</b> -Parish Council Planning -Christmas Cupboard -Holiday Clearing House -noon - Women's Luncheon -Arena Faire
<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> <b>8</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 3:00 Delaware Community Chorus Last day for JFS children gifts 	<b>9</b> 6:00 Deacons at Amato's	<b>Human Rights Day</b> <b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30 Choir	<b>12</b> 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 4:00 Soup & Sing
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> <b>15</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 2:00 and 4:30 COSO 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 Choir	<b>19</b> 6:30 Youth Christmas Party at Dr. Allison's House 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	<b>20</b>	<b>First Day of Winter</b> <b>21</b> 8:00 Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <b>22</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Jan newsletter deadline today 	<b>23</b>	 <b>24</b> 6:45 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>Christmas</b> <b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> 8:45 Panera Pickup - Grubbs	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:30 Fifth Sunday Coalition Jan newsletter available today	<b>30</b>	 <b>31</b> <b>New Year's            Eve</b>	<b>January</b> <b>1</b> <b>New Year's            Day</b>	<b>2</b> 8:45 Panera Pickup - Fogle	<b>December Mission Focus:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)</li> <li>• Christmas Offering - Andrews House</li> </ul>	