

Good News Letter

Published in the Cause of the Abundant Life by the First Baptist Church
101 North Franklin Street, Delaware, OH 43015•740-363-7021•www.FBCDelaware.org

There was a time when on the Sunday before or after Thanksgiving, whichever preceded the first Sunday of Advent, I would simply ask a question, and that would be the message for the day. The question was, "What are you thankful for?" After that, people in the congregation would offer thanksgivings until the time ran out.

Family, friends, health, faith, country, work, blessings of all kinds would be offered up in the acknowledgment that all of life is grace and we have been richly blessed. I remember one woman who went on for a bit about her happy childhood, and then transitioned into her career and lifelong friends and her church, and then spoke about all of her travels and activities in retirement, before she concluded, "I guess I have just had a happy life." (more than one person noted afterward, and jokingly, that she had never married). I am sure there was more trouble in her life than she let on. She was in the Women's Marine Corp Reserve in WWII, and there must have been some challenges then, as at other times in her life.

Nevertheless, we do not have such an opportunity this year to share in-person

December



thanksgivings because of the pandemic and the restrictions on our gathering together. But it strikes me that at a time when our traditional habits must be limited, as we see suffering in our community that we can do little about, the question is as relevant as ever. I hope each of you will spend some time thinking about it, maybe even in a more intense way this year.

I am never very good at these kinds of things. My deepest feelings are kept silent for lack of words. Maybe some of you are the same way. I am thankful for God's salvation and for the providential way God has sustained me and my family through the years. A good part of that care is the faithfulness found here in Delaware in our congregation. In these last several months as we have tried to negotiate this crisis together, I greatly

appreciate the support for each other and for me that I have seen and known among you all.

I hope your holy day season is meaningful despite not being able to see family and friends as much, and that soon we will be able to begin meeting again.

God's blessing to everyone. Happy Thanksgiving, and the best of all Christmases.

- Mark

People in Need (PIN) JFS foster children gifts Candles

The church will be open on Saturday, Dec 5th from 9 - noon to drop off contributions for PIN and gifts for JFS foster children.

Also pickup a candle for your Christmas Eve Candlelighting.

Panera Volunteers for December

Dec. 3 Lovell
 Dec. 10 Faulk
 Dec. 17 Grubbs
 Dec. 24 open, volunteer needed
 Dec. 31 Faulk

As you can see, there is an opening for Christmas Eve. At this time, Panera could not verify their hours for that day, but it is possible that they will close early. We will have to keep you posted about that. We will gladly do New Year's Eve because we are not celebrating this year, but we hope to be in Warren for Christmas Eve and cannot volunteer for that one. If anyone feels that they can do the Christmas Eve pick-up, please contact Larry or Pam Faulk. We realize this is difficult because of the holiday and also not knowing the time frame, but we do need a volunteer.

Christmas Offering

The offering in the Christmas envelope will go to Andrews House. The offering in the Thanksgiving envelopes went to PIN.

Personals

> Carol Serviss has been in the hospital due to complications from the Covid virus. She is home now.

> Congratulations to our teens!!! For the first quarter of the school year, Aidan Ferguson was named on the Distinguished Honor Roll at Hayes, Gabe Fogle, and Brennan Howe were named on the Honor Roll, and Hannah Nace was named on the Merit Roll.

> Harold Van Broekhoven sends greetings from Georgia. He and Deb have been "hunkering down" like the rest of us and are doing well.

Holiday Wish Program

FBC is again sponsoring gifts through the Holiday Wish Program of Jobs and Family Services for foster children. We are sponsoring 3 children this year: Andy, a 3-month old male, Andrea, a 4-year old female, and Jeffrey, a 15-year old male. Their wish lists were given in the November newsletter, and many of you have already signed up to fulfill some of those wishes. There will be a drop off day on Saturday, December 5 from 9-noon at the church. Please bring all gifts (UNWRAPPED) to the church no later than Sunday, December 6.

Hope For Today, Hope For Tomorrow - RMMO

Congregants have always looked forward to coming together to worship in the house of the Lord. During these unprecedented times, this type of fellowship has been disrupted, and pastors have been called upon to offer greater outreach to congregations and communities in need of hope, promise, and support. On behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) is a personal offering rooted in thanks for the immeasurable ways ministers and missionaries continue to guide members of the church toward faithful and committed discipleship. This year, to honor this tradition and acknowledge the current circumstances, ABCUSA chose "Hope for Today, Hope for Tomorrow" as their theme. This theme encompasses the true strength and dedication of ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA. Christians facing uncertainty and difficult situations today can take comfort in the text from Jeremiah 29:11-13 which states, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Through your generosity in 2019, RMMO provided thank you checks to more than 3,432 eligible recipients, some of whom are our very own members or former members. The goal for our church is \$700. I hope you will prayerfully consider supporting the RMMO during the month of December. Because we are

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.

currently not having in-person worship, you may give to the RMMO through our online giving site, or you may take or mail your offering to the church and make a note on your check the amount that should go toward RMMO.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

-Thanks to all who helped us reach our goal in October with the World Mission Offering. We received \$900.

Pam Faulk

-Thanks to all who brought their loose change for the Change for Change offering. We received \$193.90 which was sent to Andrews House for the Delaware Summer Lunch Program for Children

-Thanks to all those who filled 61 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse and thank you, Darlene Caulkins, for bringing this ministry to our attention and for taking the shoeboxes.

Thanks to Linda White for the beautiful cornucopia that graced our altar for Thanksgiving.

-Thank you so much for your donation of \$100.00 to Common Ground Free Store which we received on 9/8/2020. Your gift makes it possible for us to serve thousands of needy families in Delaware County and surrounding areas. Last year we were able to provide hot meals, clothing, and household goods to more than 9,700 families - more than 14,500 individuals! We would not be able to feed and gift necessary items to so many without thoughtful generous people like you... Because of you, we are able to share God's love with our community in

Prayer List

This list is prepared by the Deacons.
Please send changes to Larry Faulk (lfaulk01@aol.com).

Name	Reason for Prayer
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Raeleen George	Health Issues
Ken & Genevieve Peterson	Health Issues
Dr. Allison's father & sister	Health Issues
Ken Shears	Health Issues
Carol Serviss	Health Issues
Candy Lee's sister Trudy	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!

practical and meaningful ways. If you would like a tour of the store, please call any time. I would be honored to show you the impact your financial gifts are making. Jill Ignaszewski, Development Director and Volunteer Coordinator

-Family Promise would like to express our deepest gratitude for your donation. It has allowed us to keep trying to transform the lives of our families. Thank you for your faithful support. Family Promise

-First Baptist Church Family, Thank you so much for the lovely plant you sent in Alvin's honor. We are thankful that you have shown so much love and support to Dad. He had many friendships from the church. We appreciate the love you will continue to show to Mom. Thank you to all who attended, as well. Love, Family of Alvin Cox

Candy Lee would like to thank everyone for their prayers for her sister Trudy.

-Mark and Members of First Baptist, Bob and I want to thank you for the beautiful flowers that adorned

the sanctuary at the memorial services for Mom and Jeannie. They were unexpected tributes to both of them and we want to thank you and the congregation and to tell you that they were deeply appreciated. Ted Stephenson

Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10 — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights(UDHR). The UDHR is a milestone document that proclaims the inalienable rights which everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world.

2020 Theme: Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights

This year's Human Rights Day theme relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and focuses on the need to build back better by ensuring Human Rights are central to recovery efforts. We will

reach our common global goals only if we are able to create equal opportunities for all, address the failures exposed and exploited by COVID-19, and apply human rights standards to tackle entrenched, systematic, and intergenerational inequalities, exclusion and discrimination. 10 December is an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of human rights in re-building the world we want, the need for global solidarity as well as our interconnectedness and shared humanity.

Pickup a Candle

Due to the continued surge in Covid-19 cases, it appears most likely that we will not be able to worship in person throughout the Advent Season. This means that our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will probably be online. If you would like to pickup a personal candle to use during your virtual participation in that service, candles will be available in the Welcome Center during the open time on Saturday, December 5th from 9-noon. If you would like a candle, but cannot stop in then, contact Mary Lou Lovell and she will get you one.

Soup without Sing

Traditionally we have enjoyed a Soup and Sing fellowship time during the Advent Season when we gather to sing carols and share a soup dinner. After the dinner we share our leftover soup with Zion UCC to support their Place of Warmth mission which allows homeless men a shelter when the temperature drops to 20 or below during the winter.

This year we will not be able to gather for our Soup and Sing, but the need for soup at Zion during the winter continues. We would need 3-4 volunteers to prepare soup that we can freeze and make available to Zion as it is needed. If this is something that you can help with, please contact Mary Lou Lovell to volunteer.

Donate a Poinsettia

While it is unlikely that we will be able to worship in person during this Advent Season, we will decorate the sanctuary as usual. If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia, you can donate \$8 for each one by adding it to your regular donation and noting it on your memo line as well as who it is dedicated to. You can also do so on our website.

First Baptist Church









101 North Franklin Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015

December

2020

Dr. Mark Allison, Pastor

Office Hours: by appointment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December Mission Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMMO Offering • Foster Children Wish Lists 		1	2	3	4	5 9 am - noon church open for PIN & Foster Children Christmas Gifts
Second Sunday of Advent 6 Online Service Available fbcdelaware.org Gifts due for foster children 	Pearl Harbor Day 7 	8	9	Human Rights Day 10  human rights 7:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	11	12
Third Sunday of Advent 13 Online Service Available fbcdelaware.org 	14	15	16	17 7:45 Panera Pickup - Grubbs	18	19
Fourth Sunday of Advent 20 Online Service Available fbcdelaware.org Jan newsletter deadline today 	Winter Begins 21	22	23	Christmas Eve 24 Online Service Available fbcdelaware.org ?? Panera Pickup - ?? 	Christmas 25  Merry Christmas!	26
Online Service Available fbcdelaware.org Jan newsletter available today 27	28	29	30	31 7:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	New Year's Day 1 	2