

Good News Letter

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According to Advent tradition, hope and peace, joy and love are the themes associated with the four weeks leading up to the celebration of Christ's birth. They are not fully realized in today's world. They have never been. Rather, they are partially realized, and anticipated.

The promise of their fulfillment is a part of the gospel message, assuring us that because of Christ's sacrifice and victory over the grave, we can live with full confidence of the triumph of peace, joy and love, both in us and in the world. Thus the Christian hope.

I thought of stories of transformation, because like healings and reconciliations, all miracles really, they point to this fulfillment. The following story is an example. In Telling the Truth, Frederick Buechner describes a fairy-tale that expresses this hope, written by someone named Max Beerbohm. The title of the tale is, "The Happy Hypocrite," and is about, in his words,

" . . . a regency rake named Lord George Hell, debauched and profligate, who fell in love with a saintly girl, and, in order to win her love, covers his bloated features with the mask of a saint. The girl is deceived and becomes his bride, and



they live together happily until a wicked lady from Lord George Hell's wicked past turns up to expose him for the scoundrel she knows him to be, and challenges him to take off his mask. So, sadly, having no choice, he takes it off, and lo and behold beneath the saint's mask is the face of the saint he has become by wearing it in love."

May we all don the saint's mask, believing in the holy dreams of peace and joy and love, and hope, and all the rest, not because they become true if one believes them hard enough, but because they are true in themselves. We are instructed to wear them like a garment in the faith that the true light of Christ in us will shine forth.

"Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-23.

I pray for you all a blessed Advent season and a Merry Christmas,

Mark



Soup and Sing

Join us for an evening of Christmas carols and soup.
Saturday, December 6th
at 4:00pm



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Please join us for our Christmas
Eve Candlelight Service.
Preludes will begin at 6:45 p.m.

December Panera Volunteers

Wed	Thur
Dec 3 -Lee	Dec 4 -Brown
Dec 10-Faulk	Dec 11-Faulk
Dec 17-Faulk	Dec 18-Faulk
Dec 24-Brown	
Dec 31-Gosser	Jan 1-Brown

There is a new sign-up sheet for the winter quarter in the Gathering Place.
Thanks to all who volunteer.

PERSONALS

- Ivy Jones Pierce, daughter of Claire and Jake Pierce, was born on November 2. She weighed 9 lbs. and was 21 inches long. Congratulations to Claire, Jake, and Annabelle.

- Jeanne Ekelberry recently spent time in West Virginia with family, including her 2 brothers who had been in the hospital. Allen is fine and back to preaching. Jack had double pneumonia and blood issues and is waiting on test results. She attended several church functions, including a "Bean and Cornbread Dinner," which was cooked outdoors all day in the old style apple butter container. There were all kinds of side dishes and desserts and lots of fun. It was all free with no offering given. She says it is an active church with 107 attendees on the Sunday she was there.

- Ben Trigg and his girlfriend Evelyn were crowned Homecoming King and Queen at Anderson High School in Cincinnati.

- Beth Trigg just completed an 8-week mentoring class at Hayes High School. The program, which is through "Connections" in Delaware was called 'Sages and Seekers.' There were lots of good

interactions and communication and over all was a great experience.

- Jane Faulk was selected for top 20 Under 20 in Trumbull County for the second year in a row. Jane is a junior at Warren G. Harding High School and received this award last year as a sophomore. It is usually given out to seniors and a few juniors and very rarely a second time. Her brother Cullen also received this award when he was a junior. Jane was also tapped for National Honor Society and was named First Team all Conference and First Team all District for volleyball recently.
-Deb Lovell and Rolf Remlinger hosted Thanksgiving dinner for OWU foreign students who stayed on campus.

- The sister-on-law of Candy Lee and Pat Gosser was recently hospitalized with a brain bleed. She is Brennan Howe's grandmother.

- Bailey Turner's mother recently passed away suddenly from carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Matthew Lovell and Charity Madrid were married on November 13th at the Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE

This is the theme for the 2025 Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO). It comes from First Corinthians 16:14. RMMO celebrates, thanks, and lifts up our retired ABCUSA clergy and missionaries who have dedicated themselves faithfully in worship, in service, and in mission. The RMMO funds are distributed as thank you checks to retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who

have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA, as well as surviving spouses. A certain portion of the funds are also allocated for direct emergency assistance. The goal that our church has set is \$1000. Please prayerfully consider giving to this worthy cause during the month of December.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE

In November we brought our loose change to church for the Change for Change offering. Our coins totaled \$299. This money is used to supplement the Summer Lunch Program for Delaware children. Thanks to all who brought their coins.

CARE PACKAGES

In October our church sent "care packages" to our college students. The following is the thank you note from Connor Trigg who is at OWU.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



December

- 3 Kari Davidson
- 4 Erin Faulk
Jim Snyder
- 8 Phyllis Beasley
Joyce Roberts
- 12 Samuel Allison
Patty Spear
- 17 Pat Gosser
- 18 Annabelle Pierce
John Dagleish/Lena Putkonen
- 25 Carol Grubbs
- 27 Jim & Jane Snyder
- 28 Sharon Baker
- 29 James Craig Reynolds

Please report any errors.

Dear Church Family,
Thank you all so much for your continued prayer and support of me. It is so great to have people who have always supported me since I was a little boy coming in with my grandmother to clean. I hope to find time to continue my faith journey soon. Thank you all so much!

Love,
Connor
p.s. Go Bishops!

A NOTE FROM BETH TRIGG

As Christmas approaches, Archie and I would so very much appreciate if you dropped Evan a Christmas card. His address is in the church directory. I imagine the recycled cards in the Gathering Place may offer some "freebie" cards. Thanks.

Mission/Outreach News

We continue to pray for the work of Ann and Bill Clemmer, our missionaries, who reside in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the Congo-Rwanda border, where they serve as regional consultants in the town of Goma working with IM partners, HEAL Africa and IMA World Health. Bill provides support to healthcare workers, hospitals and clinics that provide life-saving maternal and child health services. Ann coordinates programs to provide educational and relief assistance to widows, orphans, and vulnerable children. During Advent please think of how they are doing God's work and how many lives they are helping.

Prayer List

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

Name	Reason for Prayer
Dr. Allison's sister	Health Issues
Ken Shears	Health Issues
Jenni Pedzinski and family	Father's stroke
Bill & Ann Clemmer	Safety
Tim Lee	Health Issues
David Salyer	Health Issues
Connie Roberts	Health Issues
Ben & Bailey Turner condolences on the death of Bailey's mother	

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

Thanksgiving Offering

Thanks to all who gave to the Thanksgiving offering. It was given to People In Need to support those in need of food. The need is great. Thanks to all who continue to give throughout the year.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all who filled a Christmas shoe box or boxes for children and donated money to send the boxes around the world. Children will be thankful with their surprises that they find in the boxes for themselves! Children who receive the boxes may never have received a gift before. Thank you for showing God's love in this way.
Thanks to Darlene Caulkins for delivering the boxes to the assigned church. 35 boxes were given: that's 35 children that will know someone was thinking of them and sent their love to them.

Christmas for Foster Children

Thanks to all who are buying clothes and other items that are listed on the easel in the Gathering Place. You will bring so much happiness to those 3 children that receive them. Place items you are giving under the easel in the Gathering Place. Items are due by Sunday, Dec 7th.

Panera Pick Up

Thanks to all who continue to do Panera pick up ! I spoke with Mel at Andrews House when I delivered the items. She was telling me how great the need is and how much they appreciate our dedication to bring the bread each week. I asked if they give peanut butter for the bread. She said that they do when they have it.
When they provide a free meal for the public they sometimes have 100 people!

Christmas Offering

The offering in the "Christmas" envelopes will go to Andrews House to support their work in the community.

Calling All Bakers Who Like to Make Cookies

Andrews House is having their Christmas Cupboard Fundraiser on December 6th from 9 am to 1 pm. They will have cookies and other items to buy. They need help to fill the cupboard shelves! They need lots of cookies- decorated cut-out cookies are the "stars" of the Christmas Cupboard. Any cookies are appreciated as well as Buckeyes. Box cookies in non-returnable containers labeled with your name and/or group name. Drop-off items at Andrews House between 9am-9pm on Friday, Dec. 5th

Soup and Sing

Mark your calendars for December 6th at 4 pm! Please come and bring relatives and friends who like to sing Christmas carols! It is a sing-a-long! The more people we have singing, the greater will be the wonderful sound to praise God for Jesus' birth! Following the sing-a-long, we will go to the fellowship hall to enjoy homemade soup, cornbread, and cookies. Please sign up to make your favorite soup so we have a large variety. We will need crackers, cornbread and cookies as well. The sign up sheet is in the Gathering Place on the lectern. Remaining soup will be given to Zion UCC for their Place of Warmth which is open for men at night when the temperature is below 20 degrees.

Benevolence Need

The board of deacons' benevolence fund is in need of some contributions in order to

fulfill the mission of helping those in need in our fellowship and community. Your gifts are appreciated.

January Newsletter Late

The January newsletter will publish a week late on January 4th due to the holiday schedule.

American Baptist Women

The holiday season is now upon us but ABW has already been a flurry of activity. November 15th, seven ladies traveled to Der Dutchman for our annual lunch and shopping trip. In the fall we decided that we would have our holiday party on Tuesday November 25th. Eight women met and enjoyed a potato bar lunch provided by Pam Faulk and side dishes provided by the other ladies. Merriment included an ornament exchange. Afterwards, the ladies went to the Sanctuary and decorated the Christmas tree with the beautiful Chrismon ornaments.

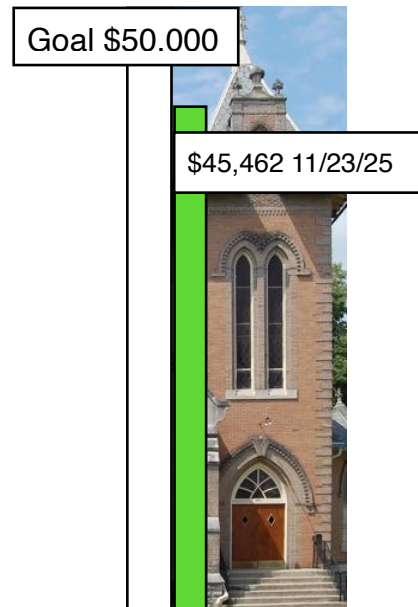
The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is at hand with the First Sunday of Advent being November 30th and Soup and Sing on December 6th. Our next meeting will be January 17th at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a sack lunch and share your tales of memories, joys and adventures. Praying for safe travels for all!

- Laura Brown

Tower Repair Completed Project Nearly Funded

On October 22, Durable Slate completed the tower repair project, replacing any missing or damaged slates on the upper tower roof and repairing the roof overhang. The slate over the

lower portion of the roof was replaced along with new gutters and some painting.



The cost of the project was \$49,550. As of November 23rd, we have received \$45,462 for the project. Your pledges and donations are appreciated. You may also contribute online by selecting "donate" on our website: fbcdelaware.org.

Directory Update

Bev Cox
Avalon of Lewis Center
8875 Green Meadows Drive North.
Room 119
Lewis Center, OH 43035

Mary Sealey
26 Chestnut Street
Delaware, OH 43015
740 -833-6063
maryann.sealey@gmail.com

Tim Lee
95 Elizabeth St, Apt 405
Delaware, OH 43015

First Baptist Church









101 North Franklin Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015

December

2025

Dr. Mark Allison, Pastor

Office Hours: by appointment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November 30</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service</p> 	1	2	3	4	5	<p>9-1 Andrews House Christmas Cupboard</p>  <p>4 pm Soup & Sing</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Second Sunday of Advent Pearl Harbor Day</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service Holy Communion</p> <p>Foster Kids Gifts Due RMMO begins</p> 	8	9	<p>Human Rights Day 10</p> <p>6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk</p>	11	12	13
<p>14</p> <p>Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service</p> <p>RMMO continues</p> 	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>21</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Advent First Day of Winter</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service</p> <p>RMMO continues Christmas Offering - Andrews House</p> 	22	23	<p>Christmas Eve 24</p> <p>6:45 Candlelight Service</p>  <p>8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown</p>	<p>Christmas Day 25</p> 	26	27
<p>28</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service</p> <p>RMMO continues January newsletter deadline</p>	29	30	<p>New Year's Eve 31</p>  <p>8:45 Panera Pickup - Gosser</p>	<p>January 1 Happy New Year</p> <p>8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown</p>	<p>December Mission Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMMO • Christmas Offering - Andrews House 	