

Good News Letter

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For some time now, at least the last twenty years or so, it has become a habit for me to concentrate on the gospels during the winter months. This habit applies not so much to preaching texts as just attention given in my thoughts. The explanation could simply be that the two most significant days in the Christian Faith are Christmas and Easter, and that in between the two, the gospel narratives seem appropriate, because they focus upon what happened in the life of Jesus.

There is a great amount of material to sift through; there are parables like The Good Samaritan and The Prodigal Son, or shorter ones like the Mustard Seed or the Treasure Buried in the Field. Since there is only space to scratch the surface here, it seems necessary also to at least mention some of the lesser known parables; the Talents, The Wedding Banquet, the Unjust Steward, the Sheep and the Goats.

There are many stories about encounters between



Jesus and his family and disciples, with Pharisees and Sadducees, lepers and demoniacs, and crowds that followed him around to hillsides where he preached to them and fed multitudes. There were Sabbath worshippers at various synagogues, a funeral procession, and even a Centurion and a Syro-Phoenician woman, and several other Gentiles.

The stories often include powerful deeds, sometimes called signs, often involving the healing of some malady or another; blindness, deafness, paralysis, or a fever. There are also miracles of nature like the Calming of the Storm or the time when Jesus walked across the lake on the water.

Everything started out successfully but then disfavor set in, often

associated with something he had preached or taught. In the Sermon of the Mount we find the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, and the Golden Rule. Some of his instructions include going the extra mile and turning the other cheek.

After Peter confessed him as the Messiah, Jesus offered the challenging idea that if they wanted to be disciples, they must deny themselves, and take up their cross; that if they want to save their lives, they will lose them, but if they lose their lives for his sake, and for the sake of the gospel, they will save them. There is much more.

So if you are looking for something to read on these cold winter days, consider one of the gospels. My prayer is that God will bless our reading, guide our thinking and our serving throughout the year.

Blessings,
- Mark

February Panera Volunteers

Wed	Thur
Feb 5-Lovell	Feb 6-No Pickup
Feb 12-Grubbs	Feb 13-Grubbs
Feb 19-Faulk	Feb 20-Faulk
Feb 26-Faulk	Feb 27-Faulk

Thanks to all who volunteer.

PERSONALS

-Evan and Devin Allison had a baby boy on January 9. They named him Lachlan Mark Allison. He weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and was 21 3/4 inches long. Congratulations to Grandpa Mark!

-Mike Reynolds was our guest pastor on December 29 while Pastor Mark was away.

-Laura Brown would like to thank everyone for their prayers for her recovery and prayers for Rachel and Brian who got to visit over Christmas.

-Carol Grubbs was hospitalized over Christmas and would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards.

-Jane Snyder and her daughters Jennifer Turner and Melissa Mercer recently visited northern Ohio to attend the funeral of their friend Bev and to visit another friend.

DISASTER RELIEF

Please remember that you can give money to the One Great Hour of Sharing for disaster relief at any time during the year. Just make a note on your check that the money should go to OGHS-disaster relief.



GAME NIGHT

We will be having a game night on Saturday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite board game and a snack to share and meet in the Fellowship Hall for a good time. All are invited, so bring a friend.

UPGRADES

Thanks to Larry Faulk, we not only have taller toilets in the bathrooms, but now we have grab bars too. There is also an "instant on" light in the elevator since the switch to the regular light is often hard to find in the dark.

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN

Our January meeting met in the Fellowship Hall. We spent time improving our manual dexterity by coloring a page from Color the Words of Jesus.

Our next meeting will be February 15th. We will again meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30. Bring a sack lunch and join us!

Laura Brown

Mission/Outreach News

January's outreach was to donate needed items to Family Promise. The basket has been filled with many of the items on the list and will be appreciated by those who are staying at Family Promise. Thank you for supporting them in their time of need.

Continued Thanks to All Who Do Panera Pickup

Thank you to those who continue to pick up the unsold bread, rolls, bagels, and other baked goods from Panera. It is a help to those in need in the community.

If you have time on Wednesday night and/or Thursday night to take the bins and go to Panera at 8:45 to pick up unsold items, repackage them and deliver the Wednesday pickup to Willis School on Thursday morning, and /or the Thursday's pickup to Andrew's House on Friday morning, please sign the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place. If you have questions about doing this, ask Larry Faulk.

People In Need

At this time of year, it is a wonderful blessing to fill the People In Need basket in the the Welcome Center of the church with canned goods and nonperishable food items for those in the community. Thanks to all who bring in items often.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



February

4 Candy Lee
8 Samuel & Grace Allison
13 Lana Palmer
24 Emilie Showalter

Please report any errors.

Soup

We will continue to make soup on an as-needed basis for the Place of Warmth at Zion UCC church for men needing a place to stay when the temperature is below 20 degrees.

Thanks to all who have made soup.

Turning Point

February's mission will be to provide needed items to Turning Point. Turning Point is a women's shelter in Delaware that provides a place for women and their children to stay when they need to leave their home due to domestic violence. The shelter provides bedrooms, meals, a common area, and counseling to enable them to feel secure and find work and a place that is safe to live.

We will be collecting these items to donate:

- garbage bags
- paper towels
- cleaning supplies
- personal care products
- body wash
- batteries
- pajamas (women's XS-3X)
- grocery gift cards
- gas gift cards
- women's new socks
- women's new underwear
- copy paper
- postage stamps

Fourth Quarter Financial Update

In the fourth quarter, our general fund income exceeded expenses by \$1,755. We contributed \$7,474 to missions and received \$6,000 in memorial contributions as well as \$6,540 in capital

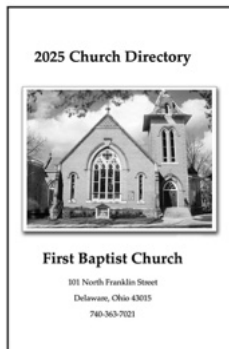
Prayer List

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
Janet Lathrop	Health Issues
Jenni Pedzinski and family	Father's stroke

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

improvements donations. A detailed financial report is available in the Welcome Center.



2025 Church Directory

During the month of February, a draft copy of the 2025 directory will be available for review in the Gathering Place. Please check your information and let me know of any changes or corrections. See me to update or include a new photo.

- Larry Faulk, editor

Miss a Worship Service?

Our website contains links to videos of previous worship services as well as newsletters (dating back to 1969), sermon manuscripts, bulletins, and audio of archived services.

Website History

Take some time to visit our website: fbcdelaware.org and checkout some of the expanded history elements. FBC History, Historical Special Services, and a Photographic Tour have been added.

In addition to our archived newsletters dating back to the first Good News letter published in 1969, we have archived Order of Worship / Bulletins dating back to 1897. A special thank you to Carol Grubbs for sharing her library of past bulletins which has filled in many of our missing bulletins, especially those in the 1990's. If you notice any missing bulletins that you may have in your library, I would love to add copies to our collection. If you have other historical items that could be included on our website, please share them with me.

-Larry Faulk, editor

Tower Repair Project

We are hopeful that work on the Tower Repair Project will begin either later this winter or early in the spring. The project will include 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 will be replaced along with gutters and some painting.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$49,550. We are seeking gifts, donations, and memorial contributions to offset the cost of the project. Our goal is to replenish our Capital Improvements Fund within five years. As of Jan. 19th, we have received \$10,130 for the project. Your pledges and donations are appreciated. You may also contribute online by selecting "donate" on our website: Fbcdelaware.org.

Goal \$50,000



\$10,130 1/19/25

Directory Update

Mike & Cathy Reynolds
421 Snowdrop Dr
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

After Feb 24. 2025

Interested in Membership?

There are several ways in which you can join our fellowship:

- 1 - By profession of faith and baptism
- 2 - By a transfer from a sister Baptist congregation
- 3 - By a statement of faith from other Christian faith traditions

We are mindful that some who wish to be a part of the FBC family life may not be interested in formal membership. Please don't feel any pressure. For those who are interested, mention it to Dr. Allison, and he will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Then in a worship service where there can be a formal affirmation, we will present your decision to join.

Sermon Manuscripts Available

If you would like to read some of Dr. Allison's sermons, they are available on our website. Sermons from the last quarter of 22024 have just been added.

February

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February Mission Focus: • Turning Point		January 28	29	30	31	1
9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service Holy Communion Groundhog Day 	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service Noon Board of Christian Education March newsletter deadline	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	March 1