

# Good News Letter

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Last year when I came to the task of writing about the end of one year and the beginning of another, I offered the following words:

“The celebration of Christmas is all about birth, not only the birth of Jesus, but the birth of faith in Christ. Faith then gives birth to inner peace and hope, and a love which overrides whatever threats and hardships are running through our lives. It makes all the old things new and instills in them energy and vibrance and fills the heart with anticipation about what is next around the bend. So let us think of 2020 in terms of the new things that will begin in it, rather than the familiar things that will continue, or the worn out things that might come to their end.”

It is always interesting to look back and see what one was thinking at any time in the past. How could I have known about the way 2020



would play out? I did not know about the coronavirus and the pandemic that would ensue. Of course, foregoing meeting together in favor of online worship was unforeseeable.

2021 is also difficult to predict. I hope and pray for the time when we can resume in-person worship safely. It is true in every moment that we do not know the meaning of what we are living through, nor what new things are about to happen, but we always look forward to the new year and pray that it will be blessed. And we do the same this year. Our confidence is strong that before long we will be able to look back on 2020 and see more clearly God's presence in it, guiding and strengthening us, and planting seeds of new life.

Thus, our hope for this year is the same as it was for the last. Whatever happens, my prayer for each of you is that 2021 would be filled with meaning and joy. I wish for you the best of new years.

God Bless 2021

- Mark

**People in Need (PIN)  
Family Promise  
Envelopes  
Prayer Chest**

The church will be open on Saturday, Jan 9th from 9 - noon to drop off contributions for PIN and Family Promise.

Also pickup your 2021 offering envelopes box.

The Prayer Chest has been refilled. Pickup a prayer slip (or several) for your prayers.

## Panera Volunteers for January

- Jan. 7 Faulk
- Jan. 14 Faulk
- Jan. 21 Grubbs
- Jan. 28 Shears

Thanks to all who volunteer

## Personals

> Aidan Ferguson was pictured in the Delaware Gazette on December 2 in an article about Hayes High School's virtual concerts.

> Carol Serviss has shown some improvement, but Ray now has the COVID virus.

> Dr. Bob and Darlene Caulkins have a new great grandson, Alden Wilcox, born Dec. 3rd.

## Thank You Notes

-Thanks to all who put together such a wonderful virtual Christmas Eve Service.

-We received the following note from Lana and Jerry Palmer:, I am writing to thank you for all your prayers for our great-grandson, Adrian. He is definitely an example of the power of prayer. After having been hit by a car driven by a woman who left the scene, it has to be a miracle that he escaped (with three broken ribs, a bruised lung and badly skinned forehead and temple and assorted other bruises...) but without a concussion or serious internal organ injuries. He has been a very brave little boy through it all. I believe this is due to all the

prayers that have surrounded him since the frightening episode happened. We praise God for His mercy in this situation and for giving us wonderful friends, our Church Family at FBC!  
Love,  
Lana and Jerry

## Mission/Outreach News

### Soup Will Be Needed!

I surely missed not having the Soup and Sing event this year. It is always so good to hear and sing the Christmas carols at the church with all of you. I am looking forward to next year when we can be together and raise our voices in song for the Lord's birth. I also missed tasting all the delicious different kinds of homemade soup. All people who like to make soup, we will be calling on you to help with the

Place of Warmth at Zion United Church of Christ. When the temperature is below 20 degrees, Zion opens it's doors to men who need a place to stay for the night. In the past, after our meal at Soup and Sing, we have donated your delicious homemade soup for the men to eat at Zion. We will continue this through the winter. Please let Mary Lou Lovell (740-369-6041) know if you would like to make soup. Dr. Allison will let us know when it is needed.

## Mission Focus for January

During the month of January we will collect items for Family Promise and make soup as needed for the Place of Warmth at Zion United Church of Christ.

Drop off time at church is 9-noon on January 9th for donating food for People In Need and items for Family Promise. If it is more convenient, you may bring items to church M-Th mornings when Mark is there. Give a call to make sure he is there. Monetary donations to Family Promise are always welcome.

"Family Promise is an interfaith hospitality network to help homeless families achieve lasting independence." They provide shelter, food, and assistance with obtaining employment and their own housing. It is located on Washington St.

### Family Promise Items Needed:

liquid laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels, liquid dish soap, large bottles of shampoo, hand soap, disinfectant wipes.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### January

- 6 Ken & Pam Shears
- 10 Kip Smith
- 12 Matt Cooper  
Larry Faulk
- 16 Jane Moore Snyder
- 18 Matthew Lovell
- 20 Jennifer Turner
- 24 Ben Geary
- 30 Calvin Turner
- 31 Bowen Nace

*Please report any errors.*

## Panera Pick Up Continues

Thanks to all who have picked up the unsold bread and baked goods from Panera in 2020. You have provided food for those in need. Each Thursday at 8:45 p.m. someone from First Baptist has been at Panera to pick up the unsold items. They bag them and deliver them to Andrews House about 9:30 a.m. on Friday. Mel is always so appreciative to get what is given so that she can provide something to eat for those who are in need. If you can help with this mission, contact Pam Faulk (740-362-8637).

## 2020 Giving Continues Despite COVID

As I look back in the year of 2020, I am amazed at the generosity of those at First Baptist, in spite of the church being closed from March through December with a mere 6 weeks of being open during those months. You have given to the America for Christ offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, the World Mission offering, and the Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering. You gave for Blanket Sunday, Tools of Hope and 2 Change for Change offerings to be used for Delaware City Schools summer lunch program. You gave to the Easter and Thanksgiving, Christmas offerings and CROP WALK. You gave needed items to Family Promise, Turning Point, Common Ground Free Store, gifts for children in foster care, school supplies for children at Conger Elementary School, money for gift cards to purchase shoes, and food for People In Need. You are an amazing and caring congregation!

## 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
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Raeleen George	Health Issues
Ken & Genevieve Peterson	Health Issues
Dr. Allison's father & sister	Health Issues
Ken Shears	Health Issues
Ray & 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!

## Update on Christmas Shoe Boxes for Samaritan's Purse

The final tally for the Christmas boxes was an amazing 74 boxes! Thanks to Darlene Caulkins for heading this up and Bev Cox for her work on it. They contacted many people and asked if they would like to be a part of giving a child a gift for Christmas.

Not only that, all postage was covered (\$9.00 PER BOX), AND an additional \$480.00 was given for this mission. Fantastic! Bless you all who had the fun of filling the boxes and making this happen at First Baptist this year! Let's start gathering items for next year's boxes.

I tracked our 4 boxes and found that children in Guatemala will receive them.  
Thank You!

2020 has been a year of COVID illness, sadness, aggravation, learning curves in which we have needed patience, understanding, flexibility, cooperation, and love. I can say that I have had all of these feelings during this time.

How about you? Thankfully, we have God as our rock to get through this time. I am very thankful that we have had many people who eagerly responded to having services online when our church was closed due to COVID.

Our online services have been a blessing for many people.

Thanks to Dr. Allison for recording his encouraging and inspiring messages.  
Thanks to Randy Turner for recording solos.  
Thanks to Claire Turner for recording solos.  
Thanks to Jennifer Turner and Candy Lee for their piano selections.  
Thanks to Will and Deb Fogle for their violin music.  
Thanks to Will Fogle, Colin Ferguson, and Aidan Ferguson for their Christmas Eve carols from 2017.  
Thanks to previously recorded quartets and quintets from 2017 to enrich the Advent season; Claire Turner, Randy Turner, Jennifer Turner, Pam Shears, Linda White, and Dave Lovell.  
Thanks to all who read scripture.  
Thanks to Jeanne Ekelberry for displaying the Nativity quilt.

Thanks to Brennan Lee for lighting the candles.

Thanks to those who decorated the church for Advent and Christmas.

Thanks to Erin Faulk for her beautiful photography.

There is not a Big Enough Thank You for Larry Faulk who has put all the parts and pieces together to make wonderful online services. He has spent so many hours making each service better than the last. WE APPRECIATE YOU!

We pray that 2021 will be a time of being together to worship again, bring a vaccine, health, and many blessings.

-Mary Lou Lovell

### **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)**

To date, \$1,195 has been contributed to the RMMO offering. Thank you for your support.

### **Christmas Letter from Ivy and Emerson Wu**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Peace and greetings from Taiwan! 2020 thus far has been a tough year for everyone globally. The fear of being infected with the COVID-19 impacts every aspect of life, our body, mind and soul. Thankfully, God has given mankind wisdom to adapt to challenges and strength to thrive. We are grateful that in September we were approved by IM to relocate to Taiwan. In February we finished a work trip in Taiwan but were forced to stay because of the virus outbreak, global travel restriction and the new implementation of Hong Kong National Security Law. Our omnipotent and omniscient God

had already led us to a more well-pandemic-controlled place—Taiwan. We continue our previous ministry in overseeing the COVID Relief in Hong Kong with the Swatow Baptist churches and NGOs, and in Taiwan there are new opportunities for us to serve the Christian Hakka Seminary and the Research Center for Supporting Families of Children with Special Needs of Chung Yuan Christian University. In Seminary we are sponsoring theological education. In the Center we provide spiritual support, discipleship and administrative consultation for the staff, volunteer students, clients and their families. During this unexpected stay, in July, through the connection with the Hakka churches, we helped establish a new and the first Hakka church in southern Taiwan. The church serves the neighboring Hakka community along with college campus ministry.

With much gratitude we praise the Lord for His leading and protection. We are fine, healthy and having lots of new learning experiences in this environment. We often watch international news and though we feel trapped here, we pray more for you, friends, churches, country, overseas partners and the world. YES! Apart from “We miss you very much”, we echo the same deep lament with you, “HOW LONG will the pandemic be?” People may look to the COVID-19 vaccine as the savior, but Jesus Christ is the true Savior for life. As we prepare for the upcoming Christmas, we think of James 1:17-18 (NIV), “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he

created.” These verses remind us that in spite of the trials that believers face, God’s gift to us is unchanging. This gift is, of course, His son Jesus. And it is through this gift that we receive eternal life.

May you and your family have a Blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year!

In the peace of Christ,  
Ivy and Emerson Wu

#### **Directory Update**

Steve and Tammy Ferguson’s email has changed:

[ferguson@noanger.org](mailto:ferguson@noanger.org)

# First Baptist Church




101 North Franklin Street  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

# January

2021

Dr. Mark Allison, Pastor

Office Hours: by appointment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<b>January Mission Focus:</b> • Family Promise		29	30	31	New Year's Day 	2		
Online Service Available <a href="http://fbcdelaware.org">fbcdelaware.org</a> Online Communion Service available	3	4	5	Epiphany Wise Men Seek Him Still 	6	7	8 9 am - noon church open for PIN, Family Promise donations, prayer slip & offering envelop box pickup	
Online Service Available <a href="http://fbcdelaware.org">fbcdelaware.org</a>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Christian Unity Sunday Online Service Available <a href="http://fbcdelaware.org">fbcdelaware.org</a>	17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 	18	19	20	21	22	23
Online Service Available <a href="http://fbcdelaware.org">fbcdelaware.org</a> Feb newsletter deadline today	24	25	26	Holocaust Remembrance Day	27	28	29	30
Online Service Available <a href="http://fbcdelaware.org">fbcdelaware.org</a> Feb newsletter available today	31				7:45 Panera Pickup - Shears			