

Good News Letter

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It is hard to believe that it is 2024. I say something like that every year, yet here we are, at the beginning of another journey around the sun. Each new year carries with it great potential and great concern. This coming year will be no different.

Acknowledging that we live in challenging times both for individuals and for the world, I went searching for some kind of blessing for the new year, or prayer. Frankly, I didn't find anything that I liked. In the end, I turned to Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.

Sometimes Paul, when in the middle of giving advice or instructions about some particular concern, or making a sophisticated theological argument, would break into a statement of praise or a benediction or a prayer that would rise above whatever the topic was and speak on a higher level about the life of faith.



Right in the middle of the third chapter of Ephesians there is such an example. In it we find a prayer and a blessing. It provides a good thought and a positive frame of mind to start the new year, no matter what comes our way in 2024. So, from Ephesians 3:16-21:

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know

this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Happy New Year, and may God bless 2024!

Mark

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

January 15, 2024
11-1 OWU
Hamilton-Williams Center

Dr. Hasan Jeffries
Keynote Speaker

January Panera Volunteers

Wed	Thur
Jan 3-Brown	Jan 4-Brown
Jan 10-Lovell / Remlinger	Jan 11-Lovell / Remlinger
Jan 17-Brown	Jan 18-Brown
Jan 24-Faulk	Jan 25-Grubbs
Jan 31-Faulk	Feb 1-Grubbs

Thank you all for volunteering. Adding the second night of pick-ups is going very well. We can always use volunteers. There are still spots available for February and March. The sign-up sheet is on the podium in the Gathering Place. If you wish to help with this and don't know how, talk to Larry or Pam Faulk. You need not sign up for both nights in a week. It is a very flexible schedule. The Thursday morning drop-off is at the United Way food bank at Willis, and the Friday morning drop-off remains at Andrews House.

PERSONALS

-Pastor Mark visited family in St. Louis during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

-Annabelle Ellen Pierce was born on December 18. She is the daughter of Claire and Jake Pierce, granddaughter of Randy Pierce and Jennifer Turner, and great-granddaughter of Jane M. and Jim Snyder. She weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and was 21 1/2 inches long. Congratulations Claire and Jake!

-Pastor Allison had an article printed in the Delaware Gazette on Dec. 2.

-Brennan Howe had oral surgery on Dec. 28.

-Matt Lovell visited from California during the Christmas holiday and joined the choir at church.

-Larry, Pam, and Erin Faulk visited with Jeff Faulk and family in Warren over the Christmas holiday

ABW - Women's Fellowship

December 16th was the Women's Fellowship Holiday Lunch and Ornament Exchange. Eleven women met for a potluck lunch, games, music and fellowship. There was plenty of merriment to make our season bright.

January 20th will be our next gathering. It will be in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30. Please bring a sack lunch and be ready to share stories of your joys of the season and plan 2024 gatherings!

Laura Brown

Mission/Outreach News

As we make plans for the New Year, we reflect on what we have provided to others in 2023. Every month we have asked for a material donation, money, support, and/or your time to help others in our community.

The congregation has:

Made soup for the Place of Warmth.
Given items of need to those at Turning Point.
Provided items for Teacher Appreciation Bags for Conger teachers.

Provided school supplies for students at Conger Elementary.
Given money for shoes to People In Need for students.
Given new underwear to Common Ground Free Store.
Filled Christmas Shoe boxes for children around the world and given money for postage for the boxes.
Donated items from 3 foster children's Christmas wish lists.
Brought food on a regular basis to give to People In Need.
Given your change in Spring and Fall to provide extra for school children's summer lunch program.
Given a monetary gift to Family Promise, Common Ground, People In Need, Helpline, and Andrews House.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



January

3 Bailey Turner
6 Ken & Pam Shears
10 Kip Smith
12 Matt Cooper
Larry Faulk
16 Jane Moore Snyder
18 Matthew Lovell
20 Jennifer Turner
24 Lena Putkonen
28 John Dalglish
30 Calvin Turner
31 Jay Roberts

Please report any errors.

Given monetarily to the America for Christ Offering, World Mission Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, and the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering.

Walked for Crop Walk and given money for food.

Given money to the special Easter and Christmas offerings. Given money to provide tools to Church World Service.

Given money to provide blankets to Church World Service.

Picked up unsold items from Panera on Wed. And Thurs. evenings and distributed them to United Way at Willis School and Andrews House for distribution to those in need.

I am always amazed that this congregation gives so generously, giving what they can with a grateful heart for what they have been given through Christ.

The Mission/Outreach committee met in December and approved the list of opportunities for giving for 2024.

Place of Warmth

We begin January by making soup for our neighbor church, Zion United Church of Christ, that has the Place of Warmth for men that need a place to stay overnight when the temperature is 20 degrees or colder. We are thankful that Zion has this ministry and we can help by providing soup.

We have given some soup to them already from the soup that was extra from Soup and Sing. More will be needed. Contact Mark or Mary Lou(740-369-6041) if you would like to make soup for the men.

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
Dr. Allison's sister	Health Issues
Ken Shears	Health Issues
Janet Lathrop	Health Issues
Jay & Caldwell Lovell	Health Issues
Pat Gosser	Health Issues
Jenni Pedzinski and family	Father's stroke
Donna Brown	Health Issues
Trigg Family	Continued Prayers

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

Family Promise

In January, we will be asking for donations of needed items for Family Promise. Family Promise houses people that do not have a place to live. Family Promise gives them support by helping them find housing, a job, and other ways to help them be independent. They provide meals as well.

Shampoo, tooth brushes, tooth paste, hair brushes, feminine products, mouth wash, towels, wash cloths, and sheets are needed.

Thank You! To:

-Darlene Caulkins for supervising the collection of Christmas Shoe Boxes to bring smiles and God's message to 41 children somewhere in the world.

-Those who have taken food items to People In Need.

-Those who have picked up unsold Panera items on Wed. and Thurs. nights and have taken them to Willis School and Andrews House.

-Candy Lee for ordering poinsettias for the sanctuary.

-All who decorated the sanctuary for making it so beautiful for Advent and Christmas.

-Pat Gosser who is printing the bulletin and Chad for helping her clean.

-Thanks to Laura Brown, Candy Lee, and Pat Gosser for having a wonderful Christmas luncheon for the women.

-Thanks to Larry Faulk for coordinating the collection of new items for 3 foster children bringing smiles to them for Christmas.

Soup and Sing

On December 9th, we enjoyed coming to our beautiful sanctuary to sing Christmas carols. Thanks to Larry for setting up the monitor for the words on the screen. Thanks to Dr. Allison for leading the program and providing information about the carols. Thanks to Randy Turner for leading the singing of the carols. Thanks to Candy Lee for accompanying the carols: also to violinists Deb Lovell and Will Fogle. Thanks to Rolf Remlinger for playing guitar. It was a wonderful evening singing carols of Jesus' birth. Thanks to all who made soup, cornbread, and cookies. So delicious! Extra soup was given to the Place of Warmth.

Gloves, Mittens and Hat Tree

The Christmas tree with the gloves, mittens and hat was filled during December. The gloves, hats and mittens will be distributed to People In Need or Common Ground or Zion's Place of Warmth for the cold winter months. Thanks to all who filled the tree!

Please continue to support our missionaries in prayer:

Bill and Ann Clemmer
Sarah McCurdy
Jeni Pedzinski

Thank You!

Thank You to all for their music for Advent and Christmas Eve

Thank you to the choir for singing Christmas Eve morning and Christmas Eve.

Thank you to Deb Lovell, Barbara Smith, and Will Fogle for playing their violins for the Christmas Eve preludes. Difficult and beautiful music.

Thank you to all choir members who took time to practice and added lovely music to the services:

Pam Shears, Candy Lee, Deb Lovell, Rolf Remlinger, Dave Lovell, Randy Turner and 3 additional singers- Barbara Smith, Andrew Smith, and Matthew Lovell

Thank you to Randy Turner for singing Mary, Did You Know? And O Holy Night

A wonderful group of singers!

Miss a Worship Service?

Visit our Website:

fbcdelaware.org

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.

A MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR

"THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS"

by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others.
To make music in the heart.

First Baptist Church



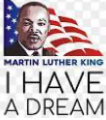
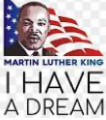

101 North Franklin Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015

January

2024

Dr. Mark Allison, Pastor

Office Hours: by appointment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  New Year's Day	2	3 6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown	4 8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown	5	Epiphany 6 
Baptism of the Lord 7 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service Holy Communion Dedication of Church Officers noon Board of Christian Education	8 5:30 Deacons 	9	10 6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Lovell/Remlinger	11 8:45 Panera Pickup - Lovell/Remlinger	12	13
14 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service	15  Martin Luther King, Jr Birthday 11:00 am MLK Celebration -OWU	16	17 6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown	18 8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown	19	20 8am Men's Breakfast-Bob Evans 11:30am Women's Luncheon Fellowship Hall
Christian Unity Sunday 21 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service February newsletter deadline 	22	23	Holocaust Remembrance Day 24 6:30 Potluck Dinner 7:00 Annual Business Meeting 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	25 8:45 Panera Pickup - Grubbs	26	27
28 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service February newsletter available today	29	30	31 6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup -Faulk	February 1 8:45 Panera Pickup -Grubbs	January Mission Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place of Warmth • Family Promise 	