

Good News Letter

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What a blessing it was to hear the organ on Christmas Eve, a sound that has not been heard in our church for about five months, and it lifted us! In the coming year, we look also to the repair of the church tower, which hasn't received comprehensive maintenance since it was built in 1898.

Many churches these days are not building towers or steeples as they did in the past. When the ones that are still left are gone, it will be a loss of an architectural design that points to the sky and reminds us, like the music, that *we have been* lifted up. Tall things have always raised the spirits of the faithful by pointing to heaven itself.

I am reminded of the 121st Psalm:

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth."

The tallest mountain in the world is a little more than 29,000 feet. That seems impressive, until the realization



that it is less than six miles high, which if it was laid down from its base to its peak, would stretch only from somewhere on the east side of Delaware to somewhere on the west side.

Human achievements are even more earthbound; skyscrapers, which, like spires and towers cause us to look up, can reach around 2,500 feet (the tallest is now 2,700), although most are in the 1,000 to 1,500 foot range. The world record in the high jump is a mere 8 feet, which *is* actually amazing if you are standing next to it when someone does it.

When we extend our gaze upward, and look away from the earth below, it is possible to stretch our imaginations to the stars, and to acknowledge our earthly home as the beginning place of a journey that leads to the heights, from which God reaches down to bless us with the hope of eternal life, and to give meaning to earth's own grandeur, and to the human

feats that are otherwise not as impressive as they at first appear.

The language of being high and lifted up comes from the Book of Isaiah, and I thought I would leave off with a reference that catches the spirit of what I am trying to say;

"For this is what the high and exalted One says—

he who lives forever, whose name is holy:

I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite." Isaiah 57:15

Throughout this new year, as we see the work on the tower completed, may our eyes and hearts be directed to the skies, and may our spirits be lifted up by God's eternal promises.

**Happy New Year,
-Mark**

January Panera Volunteers

Wed	Thur
Jan 1-Faulk	Jan 2-Faulk
Jan 8-Faulk	Jan 9-Faulk
Jan 15-Brown	Jan 16-Brown
Jan 22-Open	Jan 23-Open
Jan 29-Gosser	Jan 30-Open

Thank you all for volunteering. As you can see, there are still some open slots for January.

PERSONALS

-Laura Brown was recently hospitalized at Grady and at Dublin Methodist Hospitals.

-Carol Grubbs was recently hospitalized at Grady.

-Pam Faulk recently had knee replacement surgery and is recovering well. She thanks everyone for their prayers, cards, and thoughtful gifts of food.

-Jim and Jane Snyder traveled to West Virginia during the holidays.

-Pastor Mark traveled to see family during the holidays.

-Thanks to Mike Reynolds for being our guest pastor during Pastor Mark's absence

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN

Our Christmas Luncheon was held on December 14th. Nine ladies attended and there was plenty of merriment and fellowship going into the Christmas rush. Our next meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall on January 18, 2025. Please bring a sack lunch, and at 11:30 let's share any highs or lows from the holidays

Laura Brown



**Kathryn
"Kathy"
(Hope)
Chesser**

Kathryn "Kathy" (Hope) Chesser, 74, of Cranston, passed away on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the loving wife of the Rev. Tim Chesser for fifty-four years. Born in Atlanta, Georgia, she was the daughter of the late Wynson L. and Patricia (Street) Hope.

Kathy was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who created a warm and loving home for her family. She was particularly dedicated to providing her grandchildren with a good education. Kathy was a member of Warwick Central Baptist Church in Apponaug.

Alongside her husband, Rev. Tim Chesser of Cranston, she is survived by her beloved children, Donald R. Chesser of Radner, OH and Rev. Sam E. Chesser (Lindley) of West Warwick, and her grandchildren, Taylor, Xander, Jayden, Spencer, Eliza, and Milo, and her great-grandson, Roman.

Her funeral service was held on Saturday, November 30, 2024 at 11:00AM at Warwick Central Baptist Church, 3270 Post Road, Warwick.

Memorial donations may be made to: Warwick Central Baptist Church, 3270 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thanks to Mary Lou Lovell, the choir, all the soloists and instrumentalists who provided the congregation with such wonderful music during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. It was especially wonderful to have our organ back in service for Christmas Eve and for Mary Lou to end with the Hallelujah Chorus. What an awesome postlude!

Thanks to all who contributed to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering during the month of December. As of Christmas Eve, we were very close to meeting our goal of \$1000.

Pam Faulk

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 Dalgleish
30 Calvin Turner
31 Jay Roberts

Please report any errors.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

On January 22 we will have our annual church business meeting when we review the past year. We will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with a potluck supper. The meeting will begin at 7:00. All are invited to attend.

MLK Celebration

FBC will host a table at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at OWU on January 20, 2025. The doors will open at 9:45 with brunch at 10:00 and the program at 10:30. Let Dr. Allison know if you would like to join us.

Mission/Outreach News

At the beginning of the year I think of the many ways the congregation has reached out to others in the community and the world. Our congregation has:

Given soup to Zion for the Place of Warmth for men needing a place to stay on cold nights

Given needed items to Family Promise and Turning Point

Given school supplies, money for shoes, and appreciation bags to staff at Conger Elementary

Provided food items for People In Need

Given new underwear to Common Ground Free Store

Given gifts to children in foster care for Christmas

Filled Christmas shoe boxes for children in the world through Samaritan's Purse

Given loose change to support Andrews House summer lunch program for children

Made and donated cookies to Andrews House Christmas Cupboard sale

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
Jay Roberts	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!

Given to America for Christ, One Great House of Sharing, World Mission, and Retired Ministers and Missionaries offerings

Given to Blanket Sunday and Tools of Hope offerings

Given to special Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings

Given monetarily to Family Promise Common Ground, People In Need, and Helpline

We are truly blessed to be able to do this mission work! Thank you to all for your generosity in giving.

A HUGE Thank You to ALL who have participated in Panera Pickup!

Several members of our church have been dedicated to pick up unsold items from Panera on Wednesday night at 8:45 , repackage items, and deliver them to Willis School on Thursday morning. Also, to pick up from Panera on Thursday night, repackage items, and deliver them to Andrews House on Friday morning. Thank you soooo much for doing this and blessing others.

We could use more help from others to do this, due to health issues. If you would like to help one or two of the nights, the sign up sheet is in the Gathering

Place. Please consider helping with this outreach.

January Outreach

We will need more homemade soup for Zion on cold nights. If you would like to make soup, let Mark of Mary Lou Lovell know and we will make sure it is taken to Zion when needed.

Family Promise

I contacted Family Promise for a list of need items. I was given a list that we could choose to give. We will collect these during the month of January.

Plastic utensils-forks and spoons, toilet paper, paper plates, paper cups, take out containers, Pine-Sol, towels, pillows, paper towels, lysol spray, lysol wipes, dish soap laundry detergent (pods), chap sticks, lotion, shower curtain (x3) wash cloths, bike lock x2, pillow cases, twin bed sheets, soap container for bar soap, baby bath, wash and lotion, hand and toe warmers, multi surface cleaner (for bathrooms and rooms)

When I talked to Kathy from Family Promise, she asked if we had provided meals. We have in

the past. She asked if we would like to help with this again. They have dates when meals are needed. If you are interested, I will get more details about the number of meals we would be making.

Some of the dates are:

Jan. 1 - 4

March 9 - 15

March 16 - 22

There are other dates open throughout 2025.

Mary Lou 740-369-6041.

THE ORGAN IS WORKING!

Thanks to Peter White for his persistence in making phone calls to find a place to repair the motor, lining up men to take the motor for repair and to pick up when repaired. Thanks to Randy Turner for transporting the motor and Rolf Remlinger, Ben Turner, and Will Fogle for lifting the motor. Thanks to Matt Remlinger for getting information for an electrician to Dave Lovell to meet with him and get the organ running on Monday afternoon before Christmas Eve service on Tuesday.

It was so wonderful to be able to play the organ again, especially this Christmas Eve!

Thanks to ALL for making it happen!

Mary Lou Lovell

Singers, Pianists, and Violinists

Thanks for the wonderful music for Soup and Sing! Thanks to: Annette and Ken Swartz and Rolf Remlinger (In a Jam) for singing the Christmas Hallelujah and selected carols.

Randy Turner for leading carols Jennifer Turner and Candy Lee for playing piano.

Deb and Will Fogle for playing violin.

Dr. Mark Allison for presenting information about the carols and composers.

Thanks to all who made soup, brought corn bread and cookies Thanks to all who came to enjoy singing the carols of Jesus' birth It was a great evening of singing, enjoying soup, and fellowship. Put it on your calendar for next year!

Thanks to Pam Shears, Candy Lee, Deb Lovell, Rolf Remlinger, Randy Turner, and Dave Lovell for beautiful choir anthems throughout Advent.

Thank you to Claire Pierce for singing O Holy Night so beautifully and singing with the choir on Sunday, December 22nd. Thanks to Candy Lee for playing the Away in a Manger duet with Mary Lou.

For Christmas Eve Service, thank you to:

Deb Lovell and Will Fogle for playing violin selections: Ding, Dong, Merrily on High, Once in Royal David's City, In the Bleak Midwinter and O Holy Night

Thanks to Barbara and Lucas Smith for joining the choir to sing for Christmas Eve.

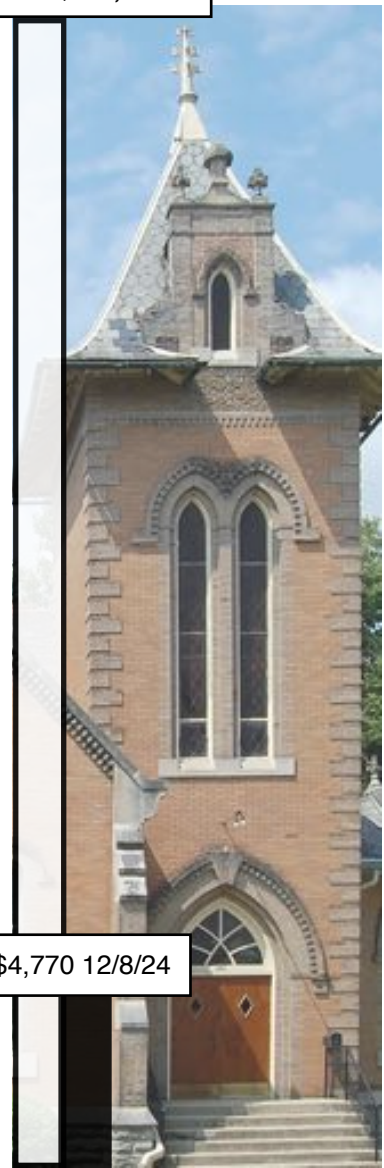
Thanks to all for providing beautiful music for the Christmas Season.

Tower Repair Project

At our quarterly business meeting on October 23rd, the fellowship approved moving forward with the Tower Repair Project. This 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. This expense will exhaust our Memorials and Capital Improvements Funds. Our goal is to replenish the Capital Improvements Fund within five years. We are seeking gifts, donations, and memorial contributions to offset the cost of the project. As of Dec. 8th, we have received \$4,770 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



\$4,770 12/8/24

(Poinsettia dedications on the back of the calendar)



Poinsettias In Honor/Memory

Carol Grubbs – In Honor of Jim & Anna Brown, In Memory of Charles & Ruth Brown, Nicholas Haycox and Jeannie Stephenson

Richard & Laura Brown – In Honor of Rachel Brown & Brian Nicholson, In Memory of David Brown

Jim Snyder – In Honor of Jane Moore Snyder, In Memory of Mary Alice Snyder, Olive Fern Snyder and Brooks Snyder

Pam Shears – In Honor of Janet Lathrop

Larry & Pam Faulk – In Honor of our Children and Grandchildren, In Memory of our Parents

Candy Lee & Brennan Howe – In Memory of Phil Lee, Raleigh Gosser, Bim Howe, Jim Howe and Glenn Howe




Mary Lou & Dave Lovell – In Memory of Jay Lovell, Richard Lovell, Robert & Jennie Lovell, Raymond Morby, and Margaret Morby

Dartene Caulkins – In Memory of Dr. Robert Caulkins

Mark Allison – In Honor of Evan, Samuel and Jonathan Allison

January

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January Mission Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Promise • Place of Warmth 		New Year's Eve 31 	New Year's Day 1  4:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	2 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	3	4
←		Dr Allison on vacation		→		
5 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service Holy Communion	Epiphany 6	7	8 6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	9 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	10	11
12 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service	13 5:30 Deacons	14	15 6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown	16 8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown	17	18 8 am Men's Breakfast-Bob Evans 11:30 am ABW Luncheon Fellowship Hall
19 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service February newsletter deadline	9:45 MLK Celebration 20 	21	22 6:30 Potluck Supper 7:00 Qtrly Business Meeting 8:45 Panera Pickup - Volunteer Needed	23 6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Volunteer Needed	24	25
26 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service February newsletter available today	27	28	29 6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Gosser	30 8:45 Panera Pickup - Volunteer Needed	31	February 1