

July 2020



Blaine

VISITOR



8:30 am & 10:00 am

Each service is a combination of Praise & Worship. Please wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines.

During the summer months there will not be regular Sunday School and children will remain with their parents in worship. There are activity packets for them that goes with the children's message. Online worship is also available on Sundays. You will continue to receive online resources for use with your children at home if you choose to do in home worship.



Vacation Bible School 2020 Scheduled in August Has Been Cancelled

Due to the social distancing and concern of numbers for safety, the church has decided not to hold VBS this summer. This was a tough decision since VBS has been part of Blaine's ministry to children for many years. We are looking forward to next year and the fun we will have when we can all gather together for the faith filled week of learning and growing.

Important Upcoming Events:

- **Sundays - Worship Services at 8:30 & 10:00 am**
- **Mondays**
Lois Ministries, 1:30 pm
Men's Bible Study, 7 pm

July 3-5 - Tables & Chairs RSVD
July 8-11 - Tables & Chairs RSVD
July 9 - Elders Meeting, 6:30 pm
July 24 - Blaine Visitor Deadline

Need a phone number to volunteer, join, or help a working committee?

STAFF:

Office Manager, Dede Nugent 352-9148
Congregational Fellowship, Missions, Property Bonnie Putney 352-4940
Christian Education, Membership & Evangelism Carolyn Waterson 882-9802

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Christian Education:

Jenny Caylen, 882-9004

Congregational Fellowship:

Maggie Baker, 616-915-2620

Membership & Evangelism:

Chairperson needed

Missions: Terry VanHeyningen,

231-275-1070

Property: Pete Nugent, 383-3702

Worship: Kari MacDonald, 231-871-0079



FROM WHERE I SIT

The last few months have been an extremely difficult time for everyone. For some, the unknowns of the Coronavirus have been tough to manage. For others, the isolation has been a strain. For still others, all of the extra “things” that need to be done has put stress at an all-time high. And for all of us, not being able to Worship together has been monumental. I am so thankful to our Elders, Shepherd Ministry, Care Ministry, Staff, Committees, and the entire Congregation, for working diligently to keep us connected and informed. And I am so thankful to our Executive Board, and our Leadership, and for all of the Volunteers during this time. I simply do not have the words to express my gratitude! So, Thank You!

One of the challenges in a time like this is often financial. But again, a great big Thank You! This Church has been so generous, and such great stewards, even with homelife in disarray. We are all truly Blessed! And we, in turn, have been a Blessing to each other, and to those outside our doors.

Some of the unexpected consequences of this time, though, have been the mental and spiritual health dimensions. Relationship have also been strained. Anxiety and Fear, are at times, quite high. Stress seems to run rampant. And then, there are the actually health concerns themselves! It is critical that we resume being the Church! But it is also critical that we do it in safe ways! You may see some changes in the days ahead. Some of these, you may not like. But be patient, please. And remember, they are temporary. This Covid-19 scare IS UNUSUAL, and IT WILL NOT LAST!

I am excited about this next leg of our journey together, and to seeing what God has in mind for us! I think we should take this next time period (12-14 months) as one of “Recovery and Revitalization”. In my mind it is the image of “catching our breath”, but then beginning to “run again”. Let’s build up our Committee Structure, our Elders and our Staff! Let’s look at what works well, and what doesn’t, and make changes accordingly! Let’s reinvigorate our Long-Range Plan, and grow into who God is calling us to be!

I honestly feel that in, “such a time as this”, Believers need the Church more than ever! And I honestly feel that Non-Believers need to be welcomed into this Bastion of Hope! After all, we are called to be a “light” in some potentially dark times, right! So, I do believe we need to reopen the Church as fast as is safely possible. And I do believe we need to keep both ends of that spectrum ever-before-us, both “Fast” and “Safe”. And bear in mind, that during this process, not everyone will see things the same way you do. So please, pour on some huge amounts of Grace!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob

MONTHLY FINANCE UPDATE		
2020		
2020 General Fund Budget: \$ 218,724.00		
Monthly General Fund Need: 18,227.00		
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Over / Short</u>
January	\$ 18,557.00	330.00
February	23,776.00	5,549.00
March	17,785.00	- 442.00
April	25,898.00	+ 7,671.00
May	25,116.00	+ 6,889.00
June*	14,353.00	- 3,874.00
	\$ 125,485.00	+ 16,123.00
*As of June 22, 2020		

**TO BE DETERMINED UPON
FURTHER OPENING OF CHURCH**

SERVING IN JULY

8:30 a.m. Praise & Worship Service

Worship Leader -
Greeter -
Usher -
Welcome Center -

10:00 a.m. Traditional Service

Elders -
Worship Reader -
Diaconate Servers -

Diaconate Preparer -
Greeter -
Usher -
Welcome Center -

JULY

Birthdays



1 Ed Howard
4 Bob Larimer
7 Shelli Merrill
11 Kate Masell, Theresa Fuller
12 Dave Harden, Wayne Margetson
16 Sara Tiller
17 Dede Nugent
19 Stonna Spalding, Mike Brief
20 Mary Lou Noble
21 Doug Erdman
24 Judy Spohn
25 Mike Evans
27 Cassidy Mobley, Ellice Franklin,
Neil Nugent
28 Nancy Green
30 Jenny Bradford, McKenzie Larimer
31 Mary Barnum

**SERMON SCHEDULE
JULY 2020**

July 5: 1st Reading: James 1:1-4, 19-24
2nd Reading: James 3:1-2, 13-18
Title: "Grow Your Garden"
Gary Waterson

July 12: 1st Reading: Romans 8:1-11
2nd Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Title: "Soil Conditions"

July 19: 1st Reading: Romans 8:12-25
2nd Reading: Matthew 13:24-30,
36-43
Title: "Weeding a Messy Garden"

July 26: 1st Reading: Romans 8:26-39
2nd Reading: Matthew 13:31-33,
44-52
Title: "The Kingdom"

Anniversaries

1 Thomas and Jonnine Rumney
14 Steve and Jeri VanDePerre
15 Wayne and Lynda Faber
20 Asa and Traci Kelly
23 Dave and Laurie Puccio
26 Wayne and Nina Margetson
31 Bob and Deb Larimer



**August Blaine Visitor Deadline:
July 24, 2020**

Information can be e-mailed or dropped
off at the church office.



“ When I open my home (church), when I connect with others by extending hospitality, I live into the generosity of God’s design”

As much as we would love to serve you our special coffee hours right now, the church will have to consider ways to stay safe from Covid-19. Maggie and Bonnie are planning coffee hours within our leader’s guidelines. The most important part is having us back in worship and fellowship together safely.

Maggie and Bonnie,
CF Committee Chair and Staff



Due to the continued uncertainty of church activities for the next few weeks we will not be scheduling our Secret Sister reveal at a later date. Please continue to pamper your current SS until we are able to get together again! Any questions, feel free to call one of us.

Love and prayers for all!
Dee, Nina and Donna



About fifteen years ago, a family was visiting some friends at Blaine. Their daughter was pregnant at the time, and the baby had a medical issue. The doctors said the baby would not live. We prayed for them in worship, and then sent them a Prayer Shawl. The baby was born healthy.

They sent me the "Thank You" card a few weeks ago, on the baby's fourteenth birthday! They thank Jesus and our Church!

We just never know who we touch in the Lord's Name! Thank you, and the entire Ministry, for all that you do!

Love, Bob

STAY CONNECTED

We have a new YouTube Channel for the Blaine Tech Team to post Sunday’s sermons.



Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqGkzIFfuC35FIrlv4Z2mnw/>

Sunday Morning Worship:

The goal is to post the video from the first service before 10am. This will let those who are watching at home to worship "together" along with the second service. Please check the page around 10am on Sunday. Pastor Bob will continue to email the link to the video recording of the service AFTER the second service.

You can subscribe to the page and get notifications by email when new videos are added.

--Follow the link to the channel page....

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqGkzIFfuC35FIrlv4Z2mnw/>

--Subscribe to the channel

(Click the red subscribe button)

--Sign up for notifications

(Click on the bell next to the subscribe button, select "All")

The YouTube Channel is also accessible through our website, blainechristianchurch.org. On our homepage, click on the YouTube icon and it will take you directly to our channel.

CALL SOMEONE EACH DAY



With in person worship happening, there are those who cannot come because of health issues and others that choose to do online worship. In helping to keep the church family connected, you are encouraged to call someone each day and say “Hi, how are you?”. You might even choose someone you don’t know very well, and in this way get to know them better. Especially think of those that live alone and it would be helpful to hear your voice to brighten their day.

Greetings from your Executive Board:

Psalm 26:2-4

"Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you."

The Good News: Accept the world's challenges with patience; be secure in the love of God.

Thank you to the many people who made it possible to not only offer on line services for our worship but who put together protocols to assure your safety and wellbeing in opening the church for in person services!

We would also like to thank our staff for working through the challenges of working from home and would like to let you know that they are back to work at the church offices again. We are asking that during this time you limit your visits to the offices and if you need to come for any reason, to call ahead to let them know when you plan to stop by.

The Monday through Friday entrance is the North East door (nearest the small sanctuary). There will be a sign-in and out sheet and self-check area as well as sanitizer for your use. Masks and social distancing are required at this time. Masks will be provided if you forget one.

We miss you all so very much and hope that you are staying healthy and safe. If the church can be of any help to you in any way, do not hesitate to contact us.

LOOKING AHEAD

Planning is starting for fall studies and ministries. If you have an idea for a study or ministry that you think our church should offer, please make that idea known to a staff person or committee chair. It is great when we can offer new programs that help people grow in their understanding of God and what His word has to say about living like Jesus and serving others. Ministry offerings will be planned as we know more about how to best meet and share with each other in a safe way.

Special Music

For the summer months there is the opportunity to share your musical talent for special music in our Sunday worship services. If you would like to share your talent in this way and help lead our church family in worship, please contact Carolyn Waterson for open dates. The music may be instrumental or vocal. Thank you in advance for those that will volunteer in this way. During the month of June we were blessed to have the following folks share with the church family: Kari MacDonald, Carolyn Bell, Martin Gehrke and Carolyn Waterson, and Deb Kessler.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAMETAGS

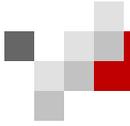
Please wear your nametag on Sunday mornings. It is easier to recognize each other while wearing face masks.

If you need a nametag, contact the church office, 352-9148 or blainechurch@gmail.com.



CLEARANCE REGISTRY

It is that time of year when you are asked to renew your clearance registry information for the next year. The church asks any adult who works with children and youth to have this clearance done each year. This is a way we help assure parents of the safety of their children when they are a part of a ministry at Blaine. Beginning in mid- July there will be paperwork available at church to fill out for this clearance. So if you are a Sunday school teacher, youth leader, Kid's Kare helper, nursery person or do occasional childcare for church events, transport children, or are a Kids Hope mentor, please plan to participate in the clearance registry this year. Thanks for your help with this important part of being a caring church.



From Robin Paulus, Executive Director
231-723-6613

We are working on plans to reopen the office at minimum Mon, Wed and Friday starting June 15th. Please pray for us as we will need healthy volunteers to expand hours and serve more needs, especially in the areas of cleaning, donation pickups & delivery of Comforts of Home furniture to clients, Benzie Store personnel, MANNA Pantry, Benzie & Manistee Family Life Center teachers for classes & cooks, servers and cleaners for meals, and those with IT experience to help us as we create online class options.

Safe Harbor of Manistee, which normally closes at the end of March- right when COVID-19 was reaching our area. We remain open and expanded to meet the Stay Home order keeping the guests safe. We were able to remain open until June 1st. What a blessing!! Attached is a letter from our Family Service Director, Lisa Clarke, who directs our Safe Harbor ministry.

Safe Harbor 2019-2020

Just when the season was about to close, it became a need to find a way to secure those who could not “Shelter at Home”. We were able to stay open at The Tabernacle Church for the first 2 weeks. COVID brought stress and fear into the program. We called around to get pricing at local motels. We knew it would cost to keep our 7 remaining guests safe. Generous people stepped up to offer help. The blessing amazed me, but God, our Way Maker, was not done yet.

Just days before checking into the Riverside Motel, NMCAA contacted me and had money to keep our guests secured until the executive order was lifted; 3 meals a day, and cleaning supplies. The original plan for 2 weeks stretched into 9.

The last week, June 1 three guests remained. One planned to reconnect with his daughter, another found a room with a friend and the last one wanted to go down state – no buses. I found him walking, as I pulled away from the curb, a man came running up waving his arms. The man asked him if he needed work, if he had a place to sleep and if he was clean and sober (yes because of Safe Harbor). At the end of the conversation the guest had a job, a place to sleep and transportation the next night down state. That is the WAY Maker.

God doesn’t care about your color, income, or where you have been sleeping He loves the soul. He is certain to make a way in these uncertain times,

Lisa Clark
ECHO His Love

PRAYER CHAIN & E-PRAYER

When you have a need for an intercessory prayer or other prayer requests, please contact Pastor Bob 651-9472 or Bonnie Putney at 499-6788. We will start the prayer chain; and we have backup if the prayer chain cannot be started by Bonnie.



Blaine Christian Church has an E-Prayer, sent out each week after Sunday's prayer requests. If you would like to receive the e-prayer; e-mail bonnieputney@gmail.com and you will be added to the prayer chain.



LOIS MINISTRIES Mondays 1:30 PM

Lois Ministries is a prayer ministry for mothers and grandmothers praying together for our church, our pastor, our children and grandchildren. We are once again meeting in our homes. July dates are: 6, 13, 20, and 27.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength!

Deuteronomy 6:5

FAITH STEP, at home, sing Jesus Loves Me, and know that Jesus loves you beyond measure.

Blaine Christian Church
FAMILY
Picnic
AUGUST 1, 2020 6:00 PM
Finch Park in Arcadia
BRING A DISH TO PASS | TABLE SERVICE PROVIDED

A row of six icons representing picnic items: a picnic basket, a fork and knife, a hamburger, a grill, a spatula, and a hot dog.

What can we do as a community to lift each other as we press forward during this time? While there may be questions about this season one certainty is that this community has positioned BACN to continue serving. We have experienced exceptional generosity-to feed Neighbors, provide personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, and more. Another certainty is our upcoming annual Summer Match Challenge, generously provided by the John L. Mulvaney Foundation. Between June 1 and August 31, the Foundation will match dollar for dollar every donation given up to \$50,000. This drive traditionally provides 20% of our annual operating fund.

I'll wrap this update with a sense of gratitude. As a community, we're finding what we're made of, and we're finding it's good. As Art Buchwald said, "The best things in life are not things." Thank you all for being the best in life.

Warmly, 231-882- 9544



Preparations for Operation Christmas Child will be coming in September and October 2020. I was notified that we will not need to sanitize while packing our boxes. Precautions and required procedures will be handled later. Watch for announcements and posters.

July Blaine Visitor

Our Mission

Our purpose at the Blaine Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is to live and share the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Together, we seek to learn, teach, hear, minister, support, grow and worship as a community of faith. As Christ's disciples, we accept the call to reach out with God's love to those outside the church. Thus, as part of the Church Universal, we intend to serve both the physical and spiritual needs of our immediate community and the world. To this end we commit ourselves to witness and serve in the fellowship and traditions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Rev. Robert D. Larimer, Pastor
(231) 352-9148

www.blainechristianchurch.org
email: blainechurch@gmail.com

SUNDAY MORNING **SCHEDULE**

8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Combined Services of Praise & Worship



Blaine Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
7018 Putney Road
Arcadia, MI 49613

