



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BLAINE CHRISTIAN CHURCH | DECEMBER 2020

ADVENT A Time of Peace

The season of Advent began on Sunday, November 29 with the theme of “*A Time of Peace*”. Advent devotionals on this theme were delivered to many homes along with the “loaves of love” in November. Plan to use it as you pray for peace for our country and world and prepare to celebrate God’s great gift of love, His son Jesus, being born into our world. Children’s calendars/advent chains/and activity packets for families with younger children were also delivered. Enjoy time with your children during this special season.



Church Events

- **Mondays - Lois Ministries at 1:30 pm in own home**
- **Dec 10 - Elder Meeting 6:30 pm**
- **Dec 21 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am**
- **Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service 10:00 pm**
- **Dec 25 - Merry Christmas!**
- **Dec 28 - Blaine Visitor Deadline**
- **Dec 30 - Year End Deadline**

2020 Christmas Offering
REJOICE
A special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund

The Christmas Offering is received in most congregations December 13 and 20 and supports the work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Michigan.

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”

Matthew 2:10

The work of the Christian Church in Michigan makes our hearts rejoice! Your gifts inspire, support, and connect us to live out the Gospel call in Christ. We do it through camps, assemblies, clergy support, retreats. As well as mission projects, enrichment, and by connecting us to one another and our neighbors.

What makes you rejoice? Visit the regional website, www.michigandisciples.org to make a donation online or write a check to Blaine Christian Church and memo it Christmas Offering.

As you celebrate this season of giving, think about how you can help someone else with a gift by donating to organizations that help with basic living needs and special circumstances.

GIVING TO HELP OTHERS

- * Benzie Area Christian Neighbors
- * Habitat for Humanity
- * ECHO His Love
- * Blaine's Mission Discretionary Fund

Checks can be made out and sent to the organization or to the church and designated to the fund you desire. These gifts may be given in honor or memory of someone as your gift for them.

LETS CELEBRATE!



Blaine Christian Church received a gift to honor the partnership with Operation Christmas child and Blaine Church. For the last five years, our church has dedicated their time and talents to support this ministry as a Drop Off location. It is with sincere appreciation that we have been acknowledged for our dedicated service to the Northwest Michigan Area Team in the Great Lakes Region of OCC. We received a framed picture with plaque in appreciation for our partnership with OCC. The picture is displayed on the table in the north entrance of the church.

“May God continue to bless you as we journey together spreading Good News of Great Joy to the ends of the Earth!”

Jenna Lupo, Regional Manager

THANK YOU!

- Thank you so very much to all the volunteers who helped make Loaves of Love so successful! It is such a blessing to be part of a church that has so many people willing to help.

Maggie Baker,
Congregational Fellowship Chair

- Thank you for all the beautiful cards I received when I was sick. I'm so grateful for this congregation and how we take care of each other.

Christmas Blessings and Love,
Bonnie Putney

WINTER 2021 BIBLE STUDIES

MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This group meets at 6:00 pm in the down-stairs' classroom as protocol allows.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

An 8-week study beginning Jan 5, 2021

"Matchless-The Life and Love of Jesus" by Angie Smith. *Who is Jesus? Why did He come to earth? How can I know Him?*

We live in a world where there is a lot of confusion about Jesus. Too often people want to shape Him and His message to fit their personal needs or agendas. So how can we know the truth? Angie will lead a search for truth as she unfolds the story of our matchless Savior, His mission, miracles, and message. This study will deepen your understanding of Jesus through biblical, historical, and cultural insight and help you see Him less as an iconic figure and more as an intimate friend. There will be a morning (9:30) and evening (7:00) session. The deadline to sign up is December 15th. Cost is \$14 for the study book. Masks will be required, and social distancing practiced.

TUESDAY NIGHT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Watch announcements and email for information on a possible 8-week study.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & CANTATA

These events will not be happening this year due to COVID-19 and concerns for safety of our church family. Let's all pray that next year we will be back to all of our special Advent/Christmas ministries that bring us together to celebrate and have fellowship together.

CHRISTMAS EVE "The Gift of Heavenly Peace"

The plan is to gather at 10:00 pm on Christmas Eve for a service of worship, communion, and candles to celebrate the coming of Jesus to bring us peace that we might share that peace with our community and world.

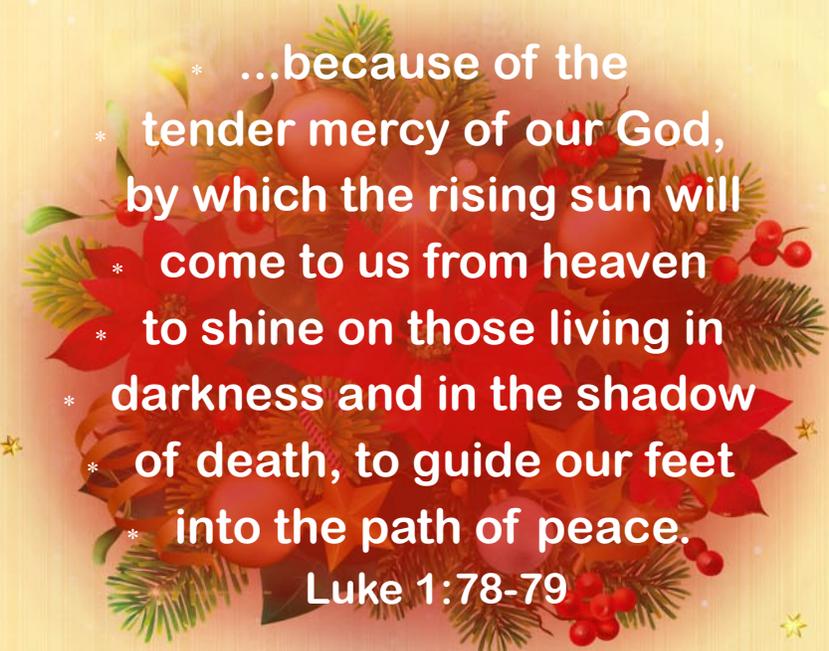
STAYING CONNECTED

This has been a different time for our church family over the last several months with stay at home recommendations, not meeting in person for a time, and wearing masks and safe distancing, and it looks like some of this will continue for a while. It is important that we reach out to each other and stay connected as a church family and encourage each other in our daily lives.

Take time to call someone, write a note, text or email a message, do a drive by "hello", drop off a surprise on someone's step. You get the idea! This will not only lift their spirits, but also lift yours. When we reach out to others it is a double blessing and shows the love of Jesus in tangible ways. Let us all take the time to let our church family know we are thinking of them, praying for them and looking forward to being all together again, sometime in 2021.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

This fall our Sunday School classes have looked a bit different due to COVID-19 and the comfort level of folks being involved. We have gathered each week to study God's Word together since September (until November 15th) in different groupings than is typical for our church. Our Nursery class (2yrs-young 4s) and Beginners (pre-K/K) have studied Old Testament stories and will be looking at the events of the birth of Jesus during December (online or in person). Our Elementary class has looked at the book of Luke and will also be looking at the events of Jesus' birth during December (either online or in person). The youth and adults have combined classes this fall for a study on Jesus' parables and will continue together during December for a study on what the coming and coming again of Jesus means in our lives (again either online or in person). In January, the classes will begin new studies and you will receive information through announcements regarding these classes and what they will look like.



* ...because of the
* tender mercy of our God,
* by which the rising sun will
* come to us from heaven
* to shine on those living in
* darkness and in the shadow
* of death, to guide our feet
* into the path of peace.

Luke 1:78-79



NEW EMAIL FORMAT

In November, we began sending out emails in a new format with Constant Contact. When we have in person worship services, there will be two emails, one that Pastor Bob sends with his weekly printed sermon and a second one that is sent with the video link of the sermon, weekly announcements, the Adult Sunday School lesson video link, and any other special events that might be happening. Since we have postponed in person worship due to COVID-19, only one email is sent with all of the information included.

If you are not receiving these weekend emails or having problems finding or opening them, please email blainechurch@gmail.com or call Dede at 231-651-0810 between 9am-4pm Mon-Thurs and we will try to work out the issue together. For those of you who use gmail and are not receiving these emails in your Inbox, click on Labels or Categories at the top or left of your gmail screen and look in Promotions.

As of November, any emails that Pastor Bob or Dede have for the congregation and more are included in these group emails.

January Blaine Visitor

Deadline: December 28

The past few years, I have combined the December and January newsletters into one issue. This year is now different for a few reasons. I am using a different computer and trying to get all of the church information up to speed and correct (that is why this newsletter has a different layout). Another reason is the postponement of in person worship services and keeping our church communications as relevant as we can.

With Christmas Eve & Christmas celebrations, the deadline for the January Blaine Visitor will be on December 28th. Please email or drop off any information to the church office. Thank you for understanding this change.

Dede

**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

**Membership & Evangelism, Christian
Education** Carolyn Waterson 882-9802

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christian Education

Jenny Caylen 882-9004

Congregational Fellowship

Maggie Baker (616) 915-2620

Membership & Evangelism

Chair Person Needed

Missions

Terry VanHeyningen 275-1070

Property

Pete Nugent 383-3702

Worship

Kari MacDonald 871-0079



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sharon Blight, Phillip Putney
- 6 Janet Copher, Kathryn Mathieu,
Cash Orman
- 7 Walt Kline
- 8 Charlotte Putney
- 11 Brady Larimer
- 12 Everett Zych
- 14 Jim Bekkering, Sabrina Merrill
- 16 John Byers
- 26 Erica Jager
- 28 Keith Jewell
- 29 Clair Putney, Shannon Gillison
- 30 Rebecca Tanner

ANNIVERSARYS

- 2 Brian Dodie Putney
- 15 Greg and Kathryn Mathieu
- 22 Neil and Linda Nugent
- 30 Terry and Sandra VanHeyningen



2020 YEAR END

All year end bills, reimbursement requests and contributions to be posted for the 2020 year must be received in the church office by:

December 30, 2020

Anything received after will be posted for the 2021 year.

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



M A D R A W E D L I H C T S I R H C
 E S C I L E L J E B S R S H T B C M
 Y O A H A E B O L Z D Y P T N F R E
 D P R P R V A K C F R T O R E R H H
 O E P I M I T E A X E R O I V A S E
 H M C G D W S M R I H X Y B D N S L
 A M R A O S C T I K P D T C A K E H
 J A H M E L L R M J E F I G S I N T
 U N Y Y P P A E O A H J V K L N R E
 L U D R G Y F S G L S M I M O C E B
 E E R R U O R O N N C D T P R E H P
 L L O H R H L D E Z R W A S A N T H
 L T N O A E P D Q C O O N Y C S E E
 A O E T T S E F U Y N S D B Y E G R
 H O L Y S P I R I T K I F D A T O T
 I P Y K U O T G R A I K R G I F T S
 T S E L D N A C T B B R L P W D O W



advent
 angels
 bethlehem
 birth
 candles
 Carols
 christ child
 christmas day

emmanuel
 frankincense
 gifts
 gold
 hallelujah
 holy spirit
 magi
 miracle

myrrh
 nativity
 prince of peace
 savior
 shepherds
 stable
 star
 togetherness

If You, or Someone You Know Are In Need...

Michigan Stay Well Counseling via the COVID-19 Hotline
 Call 1-888-535-6136. Press 8 to talk to a Michigan Stay Well
 Counselor. Counselors available 24/7. Confidential and Free.

If you are experiencing emotional stress and anxiety but are more
 comfortable texting than talking, get help from **Michigan Crisis
 Text Line**—text the keyword RESTORE to 741741. Open 24/7.

If you would like to manage feelings of COVID-19 stress and anxiety
 through meditation, sleep, and movement exercises, get help from
Headspace Web Service—free to all Michiganders (normally a paid
 service) and visit headspace.com/mi.



December 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

7018 Putney Road Arcadia, MI
www.blainechristianchurch.org
email: blainechurch@gmail.com

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Praise & Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Coffee & Fellowship following services.



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


Sing,
choirs of
ANGELS,
sing in exaltation;
sing all ye citizens of
Heaven above!
Glory to God,
glory in the highest;
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
CHRIST
THE LORD.