



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | BLAINE CHRISTIAN CHURCH | FEBRUARY 2021

## Pastor's Pen

There has been a lot of talk about the Book of Revelation lately. And it makes sense, much is happening in our world. And throughout Scripture we are told to keep watch, to pay attention. Sticking our heads in the sand simply won't do! Besides, the Lord Himself shared those visions with the Apostle John on the Island of Patmos, telling him to write down, "what you have seen, what is now, and what take place later".

In the very first vision, John was given a message to the Church, to seven Churches actually, or seven "types" of Churches. Scholars debate whether this describes "what was" or "what currently is", or if it refers to "what is yet to come". Some believe that it describes the Church down through the Centuries, in "Dispensations", moving from one to the next over time. Others, that it refers to all Churches, during all periods of time. Or simply to those at the time of John. And while that discussion is interesting, and possibly fun, the message is timeless, really. And that's what matters!

The first Church, Ephesus, is told that they don't love the Lord or each other like they did at first. And if they don't repent, their witness, as a Church, will be taken away. The second Church is Smyrna. They are warned of hardships and tough times, but are told that if they persevere that they will "receive the Crown of Life". The third Church is Pergamum.

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## Church Events

**Mondays 1:30 pm**  
Lois Ministries in homes

**Mondays 6:30 pm**  
Men's Bible Study  
Women's Bible Study

**Tuesdays**  
Women's Bible Study, 9:30  
Boy Scout Troop 10, 7 pm

**Feb 4 - Membership/  
Evangelism meeting, 10 am**

**Feb 11 - Elders, 6:30 pm**

**Feb 13 - Memorial Service for  
Bev Christensen, 11 am**

**Feb 17 - Worship Meeting  
10:30 am**

**Feb 17 - Ash Wednesday  
Service, 7 pm**

**Feb 24 - Newsletter Deadline**

# Pastor's Pen

*Continued from front page*

These folks were wealthy and self-reliant. They are warned against compromise with the world, accepting worldly values and ideologies. The fourth is Thyatira. They tolerate false teachings and sinful behavior, particularly sexual immorality. They are warned of God's wrath and judgment!

Sardis is the fifth Church, or type of Church mentioned. They too are very wealthy and self-reliant. And they too have become morally corrupt. They were faithful once, says the Lord, but have now lost their moral compass. Oh, they look good on the outside, going through all of the rituals and traditions and such. They even have a great reputation with those out in the world! But on the inside, they are spiritually empty. Jesus describes them as "Dead". And if they don't wake up and repent, the Lord promises punishment.

The Church at Philadelphia, from the Greek word "Philos" meaning "to love", are praised for being faithful, loving the Lord and each other. But they are warned about holding fast to the that faith, about not letting it slip away. And Laodicea, a Church often used to describe the Church in our world today, is simply "Lukewarm". It is not really cold and lifeless, but not hot and enthusiastic either. Complacent, you might say. Content with where they are. Spiritually indifferent, and deceiving themselves into believing everything is fine. However, if they don't get it together and repent, Jesus says "I will spit you out of my mouth"!

I guess I see wisdom in taking these warnings seriously, regardless of who you feel they were initially given to! I think it wise to look at ourselves in light of these revelations, and adjust accordingly! After all, they are addressed to the Church! And Jesus does say, "Let those who have ears, hear"!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Bob

## 2020 Year End Giving Statements

The 2020 year end giving statements have not been mailed. Due to the hard drive failure on the office computer in November, that information is not readily accessible at this time. If you need a giving statement from the church, please contact Dede in the church office by phone or email and she will go through the deposits and mail a report to you. This process will take time to complete, so do not expect the report the same day or even the same week that you ask. Thank you for your understanding and patience regarding this matter.

### Financial Update

#### 2020 Year End

General Fund Budget:	\$218,724.00
Monthly General Fund Need	18,227.00

	<u>Received</u>
November	\$ 19,112.71
December	\$ 23,520.00

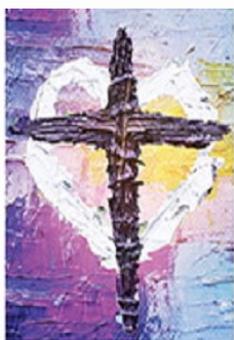
TOTAL \$ 255,438.71

2021 General Fund Budget	\$218,724.00
Monthly General Fund Need	18,227.00

	<u>Received</u>
January	\$ 24,848.00

# LENT 2021 STEADFAST LOVE

The season of Lent (the 40 days leading to the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus on Easter) begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, and continues until Easter, April 4th. This year our theme is “Steadfast Love” and come to know more and more deeply the richness of the bond with our Savior that is never-changing.



STEADFAST  
LOVE

Devotional books are available at the church in envelopes for each family. Please take your envelope, and take and drop off envelopes for others nearby, if you can. There are also children’s activity books included for those families with children.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021



On Ash Wednesday, you are invited to a short worship service with ashes at 7:00 pm in the large sanctuary. (Masks and social distancing will be observed).

This is a special way to begin the season of Lent with the church family and remember all Jesus has done for us as believers.

# BEING CHURCH

Again this month you are reminded to continue to be “the church” in the world. We are again able to meet in person for Sunday School and Worship, but there are those who are not able to do this due to health reasons and those that choose not to meet in person at this time. WE are ALL still “the church” and need to work to stay connected with each other through prayer for each other, notes, calls, emails, text messages.

We also need to be in prayer for our community and world and continue to make God’s love and the good news of Jesus known. BE the CHURCH to someone today.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

We resumed in person Sunday School on January 17th. It is good to gather again in person to study God’s Word together. If you haven’t yet come back to a class, consider coming this week. Masks are being worn and safe distancing practiced so all may participate in classes.

The children’s classes continue their studies on the life of Jesus. The Youth/Adult class continues with the “Overcomer” study and looking at the question-”What do you allow to define you” (this is also taped for virtual watching). There will be a new study beginning later in the month for Lent.

# WINTER BIBLE STUDIES

## **MEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

Meets on Mondays at 6:30 pm in the youth area and are studying the Exodus

## **WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY**

Meets at 6:30 pm on Mondays or 9:30 am on Tuesday for the Bible study called “Matchless-The Life and Love of Jesus” by Angie Smith in downstairs large classroom.

## THANK YOU'S

- Thank You to the Carolers who came to our house and sang Christmas songs. It was very wonderful, also for the treats. What a beautiful way to show God's love. I want to thank the many people who have been praying for me and my family this past year. We have had a great sorrow on our hearts. The cards, love and prayers have helped greatly.  
Love and Blessings,  
Cynthia Briske & Family
- I want to thank you for all your prayers. I had a mild heart attack. Fortunately there was no damage to my heart and all is back to normal.  
Thank you,  
Patricia Gilroy
- Thanks for being good neighbors, helpers, visitors, and listeners; the best at being a church family. You're care for each other is evident in all you do here at Blaine, in our community, and our
- Blaine Church has received many thank you's from members of the church, missions we support for special offerings and projects, and our monthly local tithes. Stop by the Mission bulletin board in the office hallway and take a few minutes to read them.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lois Ministries meets every Mondays at 1:30 pm, praying in their own homes for our church, our pastor, our children and grandchildren.  
**And we know that in all things God works for the food of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose.** *Romans 8:28*
- Coffee Hours are Still Pending - The most important goal is having us back in worship and fellowship together safely. We will begin coffee fellowship when our Congregational Board oks them. The fellowship hall will be open between services. Face masks and social distancing are required when at the church to keep each other safe.

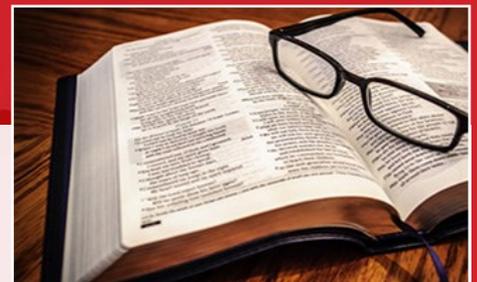
## SERMON SCHEDULE

### February 7:

1st Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
2nd Reading: Mark 1:29-39  
Title: "Miracles, Signs & Wonders"  
Boy Scout Sunday

### February 14:

1st Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12  
2nd Reading: Mark 9:2-9  
Title: "Piercing the Veil"  
Transfiguration Sunday



### February 21:

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-17  
2nd Reading: Mark 1:9-15  
Title: "How Will You Answer?"

### February 28:

1st Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
2nd Reading: Mark 8:31-38  
Title: "Clown Theology"

# March Blaine Visitor Deadline

February 24, 2021

Please email or drop off information you would like included to the church office.



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**  
Jannette Ervin (615) 856-7855

**Missions**  
Terry VanHeyningen 275-1070

**Property**  
Pete Nugent 383-3702



## February Birthdays & Anniversaries

### **BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Jo Ellen Lathwell
- 3 Dave Puccio
- 4 Elizabeth Putney
- 5 Donna Brown, Jenny Larimer, Bob Bodell
- 7 Loraine LaGuire, Dayne Gillison
- 9 Kim Shadwick
- 11 Lorraine Nordbeck
- 12 Rick Kemperman
- 17 Lyle Cook
- 18 Rhonda Nye, Hayen Bowman
- 20 Piper Putney
- 22 Mike Zych, Jonnine Rumney
- 23 Bonnie Putney, Michael Waterson,  
Rachael Waterson
- 26 Katelyn Nordbeck, Carolyn Waterson
- 27 Ken Herron
- 28 Pat Swartz-Detman
- 29 Charley Trense

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 Jared & Kari MacDonald
- 9 Marc & Shea Munsell
- 10 Gentry & Cassidy Mobley

Do you have a birthday or anniversary this month and were not included? Please contact the church office so we can update your information.  
(231) 352-9148 or [blainechurch@gmail.com](mailto:blainechurch@gmail.com)



## Your Compassion At Work. Around the World, Around the Year.

Week of Compassion is more than a week. It is a ministry of the whole Church, reaching those in need "around the world, around the year." Any time we respond to a need in the world, we bear witness to the unity of our table, faithfully sharing the gifts that we have as an expression of Christ's love. In working together with partners, we represent the Disciples of Christ commitment to unity, making our resources reach farther and growing our impact on a global scale.

When you give to Week of Compassion, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world. Through sustainable development projects, our partners help provide life-giving water and other critical resources that help communities reinvent and reimagine what is possible. When water comes to a village, people are safer, healthier, and more free to pursue learning and growth opportunities. Let love flow, and share more than just water.

Donate on line:

[www.weekofcompassion.org/donate.html](http://www.weekofcompassion.org/donate.html)



## KIDS HOPE USA

Our Kids Hope ministry continues to be on hold due to the covid situation. The church is asked to pray for all schools and especially our partner school, Betsie Valley, as the schools navigate this challenging time. We look forward to the time the mentors can again be safely in the school with their students.

## FUDGE for College Kids

Once again this Valentine's Day the church is sending fudge to our college kids as a reminder that we are thinking of them. This seems especially important this year. Please make sure the church has your college kid's address by February 8th so fudge can be mailed to them.



# February 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](http://www.blainechristianchurch.org)**  
**email: [blainechurch@gmail.com](mailto: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**



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

*The Love of God*

