

Blaine *Visitor*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BLAINE CHRISTIAN CHURCH | JANUARY 2021

GREAT & EXCITING NEWS

In Person Worship Services Begin
Sunday, January 17, 2021

The Executive Board has decided that we will be reopening for in-person Worship Services beginning January 17, 2021! We are all looking forward to praising the Lord as a Family! It has been difficult not being together, and our Church leadership has worked diligently at tracking numbers and trends, in order to keep us safe. A great big "Thank You, to each one of them! And a "Thank You" to all of you, for being patient!

The song goes..."the church is not a building, the church is the people". We have experienced this in many ways over the last year when we could not meet together in person due to covid. It has been a difficult time for us as followers of Jesus who know we are called to gather together to worship, to learn and to serve others. Thankfully technology has allowed many in our church to stay connected and worship in our homes.

If you haven't called someone or written a note lately, then do it today. Maybe take a page of your directory each day and pray for those folks by name, asking God to bless their lives and lead them along His path in 2021. Be creative and continue to be "the church" and make the gospel known.

Church Events

- **Mondays 1:30 pm**
Lois Ministries in homes
- **Mondays 6 pm**
Men's Bible Study
- **Tuesdays 9:30 am / 7 pm**
Women's Bible Study
- **Jan 1 - Happy New Year**
- **Jan 5 - Women's Bible Study begins**
- **Jan 14 - Elders, 6:30 pm**
- **Jan 17 - In Person Worship Services begin**
- **Jan 24 - Blaine Visitor Deadline**

Hope for the New Year

Advent season is still fresh in our minds. As we enter the new year together in spirit I have reflected on the meaning of Advent. The candles we light each week symbolized hope, love, joy and peace. Each of these have had a special meaning in 2020 for all of us but Hope in the new year abounds.

We hope for a successful vaccine for the horrible virus that surrounds us.

We hope for the ability to meet again and share God's love with our neighbors and church family by seeing their faces and hearing their voices.

We hope for the ability to see our children and grandchildren and watch them not have to deal with is there school or isn't there school.

We hope to be able to hug each other and begin to heal from our pain of the past year.

We've learned some things too:

We've learned that there are ways to still reach out to our church family and to connect with them in ways we hadn't planned to. Pastor Bob and the worship team have done an awesome job of creating an online service that keeps us in touch with each other.

We've learned that porch drops and drive by waves and virtual hugs, while not the same, can lift the spirits of those who needed to stay home.

We've learned that ministry can take place all around us and that love, joy and peace can be found if we look for them.

As we enter 2021, may our prayers for each other be fervent and our love for each other be true. May the joy we feel when we reach out to those in need give us the peace in knowing that God is with us, He knows our needs and He has a plan.

Thank you to all who have gone above and beyond to make the best of 2020!

Jo Ellen Lathwell
Executive Board Chair



Pastor's Pen

JANUARY 2021

Have you ever had one of those dreams where you are falling? When I was young, I often dreamed that I was falling down the stairs to the basement. Only I would always wake up just before I hit the bottom. Have you ever had one of those? Maybe on non-specific dream? Simply falling? Or maybe falling from a tree, or over a cliff? They are actually pretty common. And according to the "Experts", these are dreams of hopelessness or fear! Or materialize out of a place of fear!

The opposite are the flying dreams. You are soaring through the clouds, or high up in the trees—down through a beautiful meadow, or out across the ocean. Have you ever had one of those? The same "Experts" say these are dreams of freedom, of possibilities, of hope!

We are beginning a brand-new year! And because of our relationship with Jesus Christ, we have a future hope, an eternal hope, that is far beyond anything we can imagine! "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!" (Romans 8:1). So, my prayer, for all of us, is that we all start having flying dreams!

Just think of the possibilities of soaring into the future as a Church! Think of the freedom that we can share with the world, the Good News! Many of the people around us have been experiencing dark times. And we have a Light, a way to help them fly free as well! Our future is bright! Our hope is secure! We have so much reason to rejoice! So, let's fly together, shall we, as we step into 2021 and beyond! And all God's People said, Amen!

Love,
Pastor Bob

WINTER 2021 BIBLE STUDIES

**Women's Tuesday Bible Study
Begins January 5, 2021
Sessions at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm**

On Tuesday, January 5th, an 8 week women's Bible study will begin titled, "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's 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. Angie unpacks Scripture in a way that's easy to understand, regardless of how long you've been studying the Bible.

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. Masks will be required and safe distancing practiced as it was in the fall study. There are still a couple of study books available if you are interested in signing up. Cost is \$14. Contact Carolyn Waterson.

Pay attention and turn your ear to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach ...

Proverbs 22:17

Men's Monday Night Bible Study 6:00 pm

All men are invited to join in this weekly study on Monday evenings, 6:00 pm in the large classroom downstairs.

The study topic will be Exodus. Please contact Rob Janusch with any questions.

Sunday School

We will resume in person Sunday School on January 17th. It will be good to gather again in person to study God's Word together. The Nursery and Beginner classes will be looking at the early life of Jesus.

The Elementary class will finish up their study of Luke (also looking at the early life of Jesus) and then begin a new study.

The Youth and Adults will be sharing in a joint time of learning in the sanctuary using the 5 week study "Overcomer". This study will help the participant to answer the question "What do you allow to define you?" A great question to ponder as the new year begins.

Plan to make this time of learning a priority for your family as we make our way through the year 2021. It is good to gather together and share with each other as we learn together. Masks will be worn and safe distancing practiced.

New To Our Church Family

David and Sue Spalding joined our church family in membership on December 13, 2020.

David has preached a few time and we will see him in the pulpit for the first two weeks in

January. Sue will be leading a session of the Women's winter Bible study on Tuesdays.

Welcome to our church family!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Men's Wild Game Dinner has been cancelled for 2021 due to the uncertainties we are still facing with the coronavirus.
- Lois Ministries meets every Mondays at 1:30 pm, praying in their own homes for our church, our pastor, our children and grandchildren.
- Coffee Hours are Still Pending - The most important goal is having us back in worship and fellowship together safely. Although in person worship resumes on January 17th, coffee hours will begin at a later date. The fellowship hall will be open between services. Face masks and social distancing are required when at the church to keep each other safe.

2021 Church Leadership

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Board Chair	Jo Ellen Lathwell
Vice Chair	Bob Yeager
Secretary	Donna Brown
Financial Trustee	Dodie Putney
Trustees	Howard Ingleston

ELDERS

Bruce Caylen	Sarah Esper
Wayne Margetson	Judy Spohn
Mary Lee	Steve VanDePerre
Tom Brown	Deb Kessler
Deb Larimer	

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Worship	Carolyn Bell
Christian Ed	Jenny Caylen
Missions	Terry VanHeyningen
Property	Pete Nugent
Cong Fellowship	Maggie Baker
Memb/Evang	Jannette Ervin
Memorial	Judy Ingelston
Historian	Mary Lou Noble

SERMON SCHEDULE

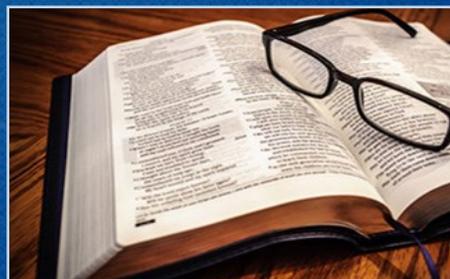
Jan 3: 1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14
2nd Reading: John 1:10-18
Title: "Jesus, Still the Reason for the Season"

Jan 10: 1st Reading: Acts 19:1-7
2nd Reading: Psalm 29

Jan 17: 1st Reading: John 1:43-51
2nd Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10
Title: "Called"

Jan 24: 1st Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
2nd Reading: Mark 1:14-20
Title: "Called by God"

Jan 31: 1st Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Title: "A Prophet Who Speaks in My Name"



February Blaine Visitor Deadline

Sunday, January 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

Worship
Carolyn Bell (248) 252-1312



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kylee Merrill
- 3 Rita Minter, Nina Margetson
- 5 Brielle Gillison, Charlotte Gerhke, Maggie MacDonald
- 8 Makenzie Waterson
- 9 Janet Maat
- 10 Gay Waterson
- 12 Katherine Waterson
- 16 Elizabeth Merrill, Rick Maat
- 19 Jan Heverly
- 21 Ayden Collins
- 24 Kari MacDonald
- 27 Les Putney
- 29 Elaine Putney

Do you have a birthday or anniversary this month and were not included? Please contact the church office so we can update your information. Thank you.

(231) 352-9148
blainechurch@gmail.com

THANK YOU's

- “Thank you” just doesn’t encompass how grateful I feel! Our Worship Committee and Tech Team have been working diligently these last ten months, putting together one type of service after another! They have had to be flexible, as the Coronavirus has dictated almost constant change! They have had to be creative, and innovative, learning new ways to do things so that we can all continue to Worship our Lord! They have had to meet on weird days, and at different times! And now, they have outdone themselves by putting together a beautiful Christmas Eve Service and Blaine Family Christmas Card! I just can’t say thank you enough! And a particular thanks needs to go out to Sarah Esper who has assembled all that has been done, recorded and edited and uploaded it to the Internet, so that we can all be One! Thank you, each and every one of you, from the bottom of my heart!
Love, Pastor Bob
- Many folks helped to make our Advent/Christmas time special at Blaine. Thank you to all who helped with the worship services, caroled, provided goodies for folks, sent notes and cards, called or did doorway visits. You helped to make this time of year special for our church family.

- Dear Church Family!
Thank you so much for all of your love and support, for your well-wishes and kind gifts! Thank you especially for your prayers! Deb and I love each one of you more than we can ever express! We are so blessed to be a part of this Church! May the Lord bless each of you mightily in the year, and years to come!
Love,
Bob and Deb Larimer
- Dear church family,
Many thanks for the Christmas gift I received from you. It is such a joy to serve in our church and do ministry with all of you. Gary and I will enjoy doing something special with the gift and think of you as we enjoy our time together. God’s blessings as we continue to make Jesus known in our community and world.
Carolyn Waterson, staff for education and evangelism
- Thank you for the Christmas gift. I never think about receiving a cash gift from the church, especially in this pandemic year. Serving with you is a gift year-round.
Love, Bonnie
- This past year has challenged each of us in so many different and unique ways. Blaine’s Congregation is an example of what true kindness, generosity, and compassion means. Thank you for the encouragement this past year and the Christmas gifts and cards.
Blessings to All of You, Dede



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



Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs. — Isaiah 49:10

January 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



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

Wishing You
A
New Year
Filled With
New Hope,
New Joy
&
New Beginnings