



Blaine *Visitor*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | BLAINE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
APRIL 2021

PASTOR'S PEN From Where I Sit

I grew up in the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ, where we always use the words “debts” and “debtors” in the Lord’s Prayer. It comes from the Greek word, “paraptoma”, in Matthew 6:12. Although the Greek word in Luke 11:4, “aphiemi”, may better translate “sins”, which several newer translations actually use. Begging around the 16th Century, our Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican and Methodist brothers and sisters started using the word “trespasses”, to more clearly designate a “violation” of some kind. The point though, is always the same. “Forgive us Lord when we have wronged you, or others. You know, like we forgive others when we have been wronged.”

I remember joking when I was young that we always had to wait for the “trespassers” to catch up! I wonder if my Methodist friends thought we “debtors”, or “sinners”, needed to slow down? And lately, in the midst of all the various and sundry opinions out there on masks and social distancing, safety and returning to normal life, vaccines, herd immunity, government cover up versus plague, what kind of lesson the People of God might need to hear! Are “sinners” and “debtors” wronging others by running ahead? Are “trespassers” wronging others by lagging behind? Isn’t the point actually the same? Aren’t we all trying to do the right thing, even in the midst of different thoughts and ideas?

- Mon - Lois Ministries 1:30 pm
Men’s Bible Study 6:30 pm
- Tues - Scouts 7 pm
- Apr 1 - Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm
- Apr 1 - Prayer Vigil begins, 8 pm Small Sanctuary
- Apr 2 - Prayer Vigil ends, 3 pm
- Apr 3 - Easter Egg Hunt, 11 am
- Apr 4 - Easter Sunday
- Apr 8 - Elders, 6:30 pm
- Apr 10 - Lg Sanctuary & Hall RSVD, 11 am-5 pm
- Apr 12 - Women’s Study begins, 6:30 pm
- Apr 15 - Membership/ Evangelism, 10 am
- Apr 15 - Vaccination Clinic in Fellowship Hall 8-5
- Apr 17 - Fellowship Hall & Kitchen RSVD All Day
- Apr 21 - Jump Rope Making
- Apr 23 - Worship, 9:30 am
- Apr 24 - Newsletter Deadline

Pastor's Pen . . . continued from front page

Aren't we trying to take care of one another, even those with different opinions, or different interpretations? Shouldn't we "sinners" and "trespassers" and "debtors" just try to stay in sync with one another while we keep praying, rather than dig in our heels over what we think is right?

In Matthew, Jesus shares the Lord's Prayer as part of the Beatitudes. Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, those persecuted for my Name, etc.! In Luke, Jesus shares the Lord's Prayer in response to a request by the Disciples. "Lord, teach us to pray"! I wonder if there might be a lesson here? But then, I'm just thinking!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob

1 Corinthians 6:14

"And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power."

Tech Team

The Blaine Tech Team Needs You!

The Tech Team is working hard to help Worship run smoothly and to keep those who cannot join us live connected to the Church. It has been more than 10 months since we expanded "Tech" to include video recording, and we desperately need to expand the "Team".

We are looking for individuals to help with the projection system (scripture and song lyrics), sound board and video recording system. No prior knowledge required! We will train you and guide you as you learn!

Ideally (and eventually), we would like to form a group of about 10 people who are trained in some or all aspects of the tech. At the moment, there are a few pressing and immediate needs. (1) We need two people to help with the second service (someone to run the projection and someone to run the sound board). (2) We need people who are willing to be trained as subs or to fill in when Dodie and/or Sarah are gone or unavailable.

Again, we would like to build a team of people who can rotate coverage and help each other out. Finding coverage for second service and substitutes is only the first step.

Please consider sharing your time and talents with our church by serving on the Tech Team. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Dodie Putney or Sarah Esper.

Financial Update Will Be Available in the May Blaine Visitor

2021 General Fund Budget:	\$218,724.00
Monthly Essential	18,227.00
	Received +/-
January	24,848.00 + 6,621.00
February	18,343.00* + 116.00
Total	\$ 43,191.00 \$ 6,737.00

*3 of 4 weeks deposits recorded

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3rd 11:00 am

Invite your friends and family, dress for the weather, wear a mask, have fun finding eggs, and enjoy story time. Children through 11 years of age are welcome to participate.

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 1st 7:00 pm

As we close out the period of Lent, we will meet together at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 1st in the large sanctuary for a time remembrance of the crucifixion of Christ. This service is a time of self-reflection and is best experienced in person. The service will be recorded and posted on YouTube for those that cannot meet in person.

Prayer Vigil

Thursday, April 1st 8:00 pm
through
Friday, April 2nd 3:00 pm

We invite you to join in this powerful and intimate prayer time. Please sign up for a time slot. We will have continual prayer in the small sanctuary beginning at 8:00 pm, Thursday, April 1st through 3:00 pm on Friday, April 2nd.

Prayer will begin following the Maundy Thursday service to signify Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. We will pray through the night, and continue until Good Friday at 3:00 pm; remembering when darkness fell across the whole land, the curtain in the temple tore, and Jesus gave up His Spirit.

There is a signup sheet at the church, or you can call the church at 352-9148 to inquiry about open time slots.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday - March 28

Worship Services

8:30 & 11 am

Sunday School

9:45 am

Maundy Thursday - April 1

Worship Service

Large Sanctuary

7:00 pm

Prayer Vigil

Small Sanctuary

April 1, 8pm through

April 2, 3 pm

Easter Egg Hunt - April 3

Blaine Christian Church

11 am

Easter Sunday - April 4

Worship Services

8:30 am & 11 am

Sunday School

9:45 am

WELCOME TO SPRING!

It's coming!! Spring that is, but so are other things that happen this time of year.....Easter, summer holidays and picnics, vacations and yes farm families preparing for their fall harvests. As a church family, preparing to gather is foremost on everyone's minds.

I read an article the other day that talked about going fast or going far. It had to do with the annual racing event held in Sebring Florida each year. It struck me that we could all use this analogy in our lives during this covid crisis. The article talks of the book "Go Together" by Shola Richards. He explains, "The reality is that throughout history there has never been a problem of any significance that was solved alone." I thought of my business relationship with my partner when I was working. I would "shoot from the hip" as he used to say while he sat and listened and clipped his fingernail!! I was impatient you see and, in most cases, moving towards MY goal in HIS time ended up being the right thing to do.

As we move forward toward a more normal church worship life, moving forward together and safely will benefit the church in the long term. The Executive Board and so many others continue to work diligently, watch carefully, and listen. We love and appreciate each of you for your unique gifts, thoughts and especially your prayers. We are available for you anytime.

Blessings on each of you,
Jo Ellen Lathwell, Board Chair

THANK YOU...

- ...to Mercy Sobkoviak and Mary Lou Noble for our Lent banner that has reminded us of God's steadfast love during this special season.
- ...to Rita Minter for the new Easter piano scarf.
- ...to all those that donated candy for our Easter Egg Hunt.
- ...to those who placed flowers in the church on Easter Sunday.

APRIL SERMON SCHEDULE



April 4: 1st Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Easter 2nd Reading: John 20:1-18
Sunday Title: "Running to The Empty Tomb"

April 18: 1st Reading: Acts 3:11-19
2nd Reading: Luke 24:36b-48
Title: "Hiding Out"

April 11: 1st Reading: Acts 4:32-35
2nd Reading: John 20:19-31

April 25: 1st Reading: Psalm 23
2nd Reading: John 10:11-18
Title: "The Shepherd"

May Blaine Visitor Deadline April 24, 2021

Please email or drop off information you would like included to the church office, blainechurch@gmail.com.



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



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeri VanDePerre
- 4 Deb Kessler
- 5 Nona Nugent
- 8 Cynthia Briske
- 10 Yvonne Hockett
- 13 Bruce Peabody
- 17 Evelyn Kirk
- 19 Mylie Kelly, Jacob Walrad
- 20 Zoey Putney
- 21 Donny Tanner
- 22 Patrick Kenny
- 24 Greg Waterson
- 25 Ken Nye
- 26 Jenny Caylen, Tal Fuller
- 27 Becky Kline
- 28 Nadine Gilroy
- 29 Bob Bell, Meagan Zych,
Martin R. Gehrke

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Frank & Bonnie Putney
- 14 Kent & Julie Elliott

Please contact the church office if your
birthday or anniversary was not included.
(231) 352-9148 or
blainechurch@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School ministry is an important part of our church life. It is a place for folks to learn from God's Word, to meet others on the faith journey and support one another. This past year has required flexibility with classes and how we meet, but it has been good to gather and learn together. Plan to come and participate in this time of learning each Sunday at 9:45am. Invite a friend to come with you.

Greeters, Ushers, & Worship Leaders/Readers

These volunteer positions are ready to be filled to enhance our worship time together for the rest of the year. Please signup for a month on the sheets posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. You may contact Carolyn Bell with any questions.

Crystal Conference Center Summer Camps

April 30th is the cut off for the Early Bird discount of \$50.00/camper.

BIBLE STUDIES

- **Men's Bible Study**
Monday evenings, 6:30 pm at the church. The Book of Exodus is the topic.
- **Women's Study**
Monday evenings, 6:30 pm or Tuesday mornings, 9:30 am at the church the week of April 12th for five weeks. The book, "Everybody Always" is the study.

VBS 2021

- ♦ Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through
- ♦ August 9th - 12th
- ♦ 6:00-8:10 pm
- ♦ Children 3 years to 6th grade completed



Mark your calendars now for this fun and faith growing week. Read future newsletters for ways to be involved. Grandparents, invite your grandchildren to come for a week with you and let them enjoy evenings at VBS. It is a way to minister to them and to have fun with them.

More information coming for ways you can help with this ministry for our children and children of our community.

We Are The Church Together

It has been over a year now since the pandemic began and the challenges have been great for us as individuals and us as the church. A bright light has been seeing our church continue to be "the church" ministering to each other and the community, encouraging one another and gathering together to worship and learn even with the challenges that brings. We are all the church and called to continue to be the church as we navigate these different times and continue to make Jesus known in our world and share God's love with others. Challenge yourself each day to reach out to someone and bring them the encouragement of a kind word or deed and make their day and yours better, and pray for our church as we move into the future that God is calling us to.

Disciples Mission Fund Easter Offering

Imagine what God can do when we share our gifts.



The Easter Offering reaches deep and wide with the limitless power of the risen Christ.

- Developing Disciples
- Forming new faith communities
- Connecting with ministry partners around the world
- Serving God's people in need

Family Fare Receipts Community Programs

Family fare receipts are still a Mission offering! The receipts will be taken to Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital and turned into the check in person. The Rotary takes them, and they are dispersed into the community where they can be the most helpful. The donation box will be in the fellowship hall and will be taken to POM Hospital April 18.

Jump Ropes

April 21 at the Church

It's time to make t-shirt jump ropes for our Operation Christmas Child boxes. We will have some work bees, wearing masks and social distancing.



Day Camp Crystal Conference Center July 6th - 9th \$15/day 10:00 am - 2:30 pm*

This is a perfect introduction to camp for local children, for children who would like to come with their parents or grandparent, for children who might be visiting family at the lake, for children age 5 years to entering 6th grade.

There's Bible lessons, crafts, music, and worship; lunch in the dining hall; and an afternoon of swimming, wall climbing and playing games.

*Bring a parent or grandparent and camp; overnight \$65/day

Michael Dirksen & Austin Crandell,
Camp Counselors

Greetings From Week of Compassion

In an especially challenging year of uncertainty, Blaine Christian Church has been more generous than ever. With the compound effects of the pandemic and multiple natural disasters this past year, your giving has had a significant impact. Your total **annual giving** (2020) of \$3985.00 has earned a spot in the top 100 giving congregations! Your generosity ensures that Week of Compassion can meet critical needs and continue on-going responses – even during challenging days. We are so grateful that you choose to share your compassion in this way!

Continued prayers for the health and well-being of the Blaine Christian Church family. Prayers for Pastor Bob and for the lives being moved by your ministry.

Gratefully,

Cindy ~ Week of Compassion

TEATIME

The Congregational Fellowship Committee will host a “Tea” program for all ladies of the church on May 8th. Late morning or early afternoon there will be a social distancing program in the large sanctuary. Put this on your calendar and invite your neighbor or family member to come with you.

Congregational Fellowship Offerings

Thank you, Judy Spohn (and Bradford's), for our first fellowship treat! The cookie bars were delicious!

Congregational Fellowship will have a sign-up sheet on the Fellowship Board. It may not be every Sunday. Drinks cannot be served.

As you leave the church please accept your “Treat to Go” from the hostess. We would love to serve coffee however, masks and social distancing are required when you come into the church. Please enjoy your treat when you get to your car or home.

Maggie and Bonnie

PRAYER SHAWLS

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of Blaine Christian Church is ongoing and we always need knitters. We encourage knitters to use Lion Brand Homespun Yarn. The texture, feel and color of this yarn is wonderful and it is washable. Ideally, shawls are 5’ long x 3’ wide. We would also like a few larger prayer shawls.

We use a very simple pattern and the church has been given lots of yarn. If you are interested in knitting a prayer shawl or two, call Stonna Spalding, 231-378-4864 or Bonnie Putney, 231-499-6788.

LOIS MINISTRIES

Mondays 1:30 PM

We will be praying for our church, our pastor, our children and grandchildren. We will pray at 1:30 pm on April 5, 12, 19, and the 26.

“The Lord your God is with you; he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you; he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.”
Zephaniah 3:17

Office Notes...

Thank you everyone for your understanding these past few months as I worked without our software data. Just this week, we received our external hard drive back with the data needed for membership, contributions, accounts payable and payroll! Now the work begins to input the last few months of 2020 and get 2021 current. Not all of all the files or data was recovered, so I will be taking time to sort through what we have and don't have. I encourage all committees with the help of their support staff to do as much of their own committee work as possible in the upcoming weeks. We have talented people that can make flyers, write articles, etc to keep your ministries running smoothly.

A Few Reminders:

- * Announcements (including PowerPoint)/Bulletin deadline is Thursdays at 9 am unless notified.
- * Newsletter deadlines are the 24th of the month.
- * Remember to check the church calendar before scheduling meetings/events.

April 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

