

Blaine

Visitor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
BLAINE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
MARCH 2021

Pastor's Pen From Where I Sit

I was given a book by a friend of mine on dealing with conflict. In one chapter, the author talks about the conflict between Abram (later Abraham) and his nephew Lot in Genesis 13. Or more accurately, between their herdsman. The problem was, they had both been blessed by the Lord. "Their possessions were so great that they could not stay together" (Genesis 13:6)! At first glance it seems absurd! But it made me start to wonder how often our issues, our conflicts even, materialize because we are blessed? Let me quote it.

"Conflict could be defined as 'two or more people trying to occupy the same space or control the same limited resources.' This is what was happening in the dispute between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. There wasn't room for both of them. Abram's response was peaceful—offering Lot his choice of land. But Lot took advantage of his uncle's generosity by choosing the best part for himself. He chose the plain of Jordan, which was so lush that Genesis likens it to the Garden of the Lord. The reason for Abram's generosity goes beyond his good motives. Abram was able to be so vulnerable because he was being taught by God to realize that his well-being was not found in his own clenched fists

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Church Events

Sun - Worship Services

8:30 & 11 am

Sunday School 9:45 am

Choir 6pm

Mon - Lois Ministries 1:30 pm

Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm

Tues - Scouts 7 pm

- Mar 3 - Board Reports Due
- Mar 10 - Qtr. Congregational Board Meeting, 7 pm
- Mar 11 - Elders Meeting, 6:30 pm
- Mar 14 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 20 - First Day of Spring
- Mar 24 - Newsletter Deadline
- Mar 21 - Women's Study signup deadline
- Mar 21 - Easter Candy donations to church
- Mar 28 - Palm Sunday

Pastor's Pen

Continued from front page

but in the open hand of the One who was leading him (Genesis 13:14-18). Our motives and approach to conflict will not be shaped by rules but by whether or not we join Abram in trusting the Provider God. Are we willing to let Him provide for us on His terms and in His time? Or do we believe our security depends on our ability to take matters into our own hands?" (*Developing The Art Of Gracious Disagreement*, RBC Ministries).

I was just thinking that maybe the "Fruits of the Spirit" flourish when we are "Rooted in the Spirit"! What do you think?

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob



Daylight Savings
Time
Begins
March 14th.
Set your clocks
ahead one hour !

Quarterly Congregational Board Meeting March 10, 2021 7:00 PM

Board Reports and Agenda items are due in the church office on March 3rd. Please email as an attachment your print ready report or drop it in Dede's office mailbox.

Board Packets will be available to pick on Sunday, March 7th in fellowship hall.

2020 Giving Statements

Year end statements are now available for those who would like one. Please email or call the church office to request one. Statements show contributions only, not pledge versus contribution as in the past. Information is still being recovered and restored from the hard drive failure at the end of 2020.

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.

Financial Update

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

There is a need for small, individually wrapped candies to fill plastic eggs for Blaine's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3rd at 11:00 am.

If you would like to donate, please bring it to the church and place in the workroom on the counter by Sunday, March 21st.

Maundy Thursday Service

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

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 inquire about open time slots.

Season of Lent

Our journey of remembering God's *steadfast love* for us began with a simple service of ashes, devotion and reflection on Ash Wednesday. Take time each day to for quiet meditation and prayer with God on what it means to know His *Steadfast Love*. Reach out and share that love with others.

Holy Week Schedule

Blaine Christian Church

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 - April 2, 3 pm

Easter Egg Hunt - April 3

11 am

Easter Sunday - April 4

Service Times

to be announced

THANK YOU'S

- Thank you to Lorraine LaGuire, Michelle Herron, Linda Yeager, and Sue Spalding for making fudge for our college kids this year for Valentine's Day. Fourteen young adults received a special package because of your gift. Thanks to Women's Ministry for covering the cost to send the fudge.
- A BIG THANK YOU!! To those who made and delivered "With a heart full of Love" cookies. It was a huge success. Blessings for everyone. Maggie B
- Blaine Church has received many thank yous from members of the church; missions we support for special offerings and projects; and Blaine's monthly mission recipients. At this time many are placed on the Mission bulletin board (across from the picture board). Take a minute to look at the board when you are going by.
- Thank you for keeping each other safe with these practices at church:
Wear a face mask Social Distance
Wash hands often Use Hand Sanitizer

Congregational Fellowship Offerings Coming in March

"Valentines filled with Love" went so well we are going to have a "Treat To Go" beginning in March. It may not be every Sunday. Drinks will not be served. As you leave the church please accept your "Treat to Go" from a hostess at the door.

As much as we would love to serve coffee hours--masks and social distancing are required when you come into the church. Please enjoy your treat when you get to your car or home.

The fellowship hall will be open between the early and traditional services, come in out of the weather as you wait for services and Sunday School to begin.

Maggie and Bonnie

Count your joys
instead of your woes;
count your friends
instead of your foes.

-Irish Proverb



SERMON SCHEDULE

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| March 7: | 1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-17
2nd Reading: John 2:13-22
Title: "A Den of Thieves" |
| March 14: | 1st Reading: Numbers 21:4-9
2nd Reading: John 3:14-21 |
| March 21: | 1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34
2nd Reading: John 12:20-33
Title: "We Would Like to See Jesus" |
| March 28:
Palm Sunday | 1st Reading: Mark 11:1-11
2nd Reading: Philippians 2:5-11
Title: "Humility" |



Sunday School News

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.

Our classes for the children are studying the events of the last week of Jesus' life as we get close to Easter. Adults and youth will be participating in the Lent Study: "Why Easter Matters" in preparation for our Easter celebration. Plan to come and be part of these learning times and grow in your understanding of Jesus and what His life means for your life. Bring a friend.

Vacation Bible School August 9-12 6-8:10pm

Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls us Through

Children 3 years to
6th grade completed
Invited to Participate



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

Sunday School Lent Bible Study

The Lent Bible study during the Sunday School time(9:45-10:45) for the adults and youth to participate in together is called "Why Easter Matters" by Andy Stanley. *'Have you resisted, defied, or tried to bargain your way out of what you thought God wanted? You aren't alone. Scripture documents similar stories. In this Easter Study Andy Stanley looks at some of the people whose lives intersected with Jesus in the weeks leading to his crucifixion. Each of them had an agenda that put them at odds with God and Jesus. As you'll see, there's a little bit of them in all of us.'*

Plan to participate in this study as part of your Lent preparation for Easter. Gary Waterson is serving as leader.

Mid-Week Studies Men's Bible Study

Monday night at the church at 6:30 continues on the book of Exodus.

Women's Bible Study

15 women studied the life of Jesus for 8 weeks in the study by Angie Smith called "Matchless" that concluded on February 23rd.

Women's Study in April "Everybody, Always" by Bob Goff

This 5 weeks study will help us explore what it means *"to love everybody the way Jesus loved them—without fear, insecurity, or restriction. This begins by loving people right where you are through serving and helping the neighbors God has placed into your world. It means loving people when they mess up and helping them move past the place of shame to acceptance. It continues by being courageous and following where God leads one step at a time, even if you feel you are flying blind. Above all, it means not just agreeing with Jesus but actually stepping out and doing what Jesus said"*.

The study will be a great continuation of our Lent devotion on steadfast love and offer practical ways to live out loving others. The cost for the book will be \$8.00.

The study will meet on Monday evenings and possibly Tuesday mornings, depending on interest. Sign up in fellowship hall or contact the church at 231.352.9148 by March 21st to participate.

April Blaine Visitor Deadline March 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



March Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Dodie Putney, Ron Gillison,
Hudson Mobley
- 5 Maggie Baker
- 7 Jenny Elliott, Mark Copher
- 12 Thomas Rumney, Josie Bowman
- 14 Carl Barnum
- 16 Parker Masell
- 15 Jennifer Maat
- 17 Dianne Gillison, Jannette Ervin,
Gracie Walrad
- 19 Leah Bowman
- 20 Mark Evans, Ron Heverly,
Paisley Munsell
- 25 Kenneth Waterson
- 27 Sarah Putney Kirk
- 29 Molly Merrill
- 30 Dale Janusch, Angiolina Russell

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Tom and Laura Masell
- 23 Bruce and Jenny Caylen
- 25 Dave and Yvonne Hockett

Please contact the church office if your
birthday or anniversary was not included.

(231) 352-9148 or
blainechurch@gmail.com

Camp Crystal Registration

All camps offered by Michigan Disciples have moved to an online registration process this year, beginning Tuesday, February 16.

Helpful information for registering:

1. Registration links can be found online at campcrystal.org/registration
2. Early Bird discounts for camps have been extended to April 30, saving registrants \$50 per camper

More information about the camps:
www.campcrystal.org

A New Opportunity

We became aware of a need we hadn't thought of before. Families on food stamps cannot buy non-food items like soaps, paper products, cleaning supplies, etc. Sandy, her sister Patricia and I established a 'Nonfood Essentials' fund for Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN) to use for these supplies. We have funded this account and suggested that our families make donations to it in lieu of our birthday gifts.

If this appeals to you, just send your gift to BACN and label it 'nonfood essentials'.

Terry & Sandy VanHeyningen

Chase the Chill

The Chase the Chill **BACN** food drive was Feb 25-27. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered or said yes when asked to help. The Blaine Day was Thursday, and we were all booked for our 2-hour slots!

Did you know the largest one-time source of food for BACN comes from our twice-annual food drives? The Fall Food Drive brought us nearly 13,000 pounds of food, which lasts an entire month!

BACN served 2,235 individuals in 2020

Prayer Shawls

† Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Thanks for calling. This Covid nonsense has certainly curtailed keeping up with friends & neighbors.

† The Beautiful prayer shawl that came to Crystal for her mother touched Crystal's heart & I know His work will not return void. Shawls do send His love to those who receive them....JR

† Gratefulness

Letting others know by my words and actions how they have benefited my life. Thank you for the shawl-the work of Christ's heart and hands-a true love gift, and prayers of healing.... RG

† The shawl is incredibly beautiful! I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. My mom and I are so blessed.... CS

We have some yarn if anyone would like to knit a prayer shawl; call Stonna Spalding to get started - 231-378-4864.



Dear Friends at Blaine Christian Church and Pastor Bob-
New year greetings from Week of Compassion!!

In an especially challenging year of uncertainty, Blaine C.C. 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!

THANK YOU!

Continued prayers for the health and well-being of the Blaine C.C. family as you all started in-person worship Jan 17, Prayers for Pastor Bob and for the lives being moved by your ministry.

Gratefully ~ Cindy ~ WoC

March 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

