

Blaine *Visitor*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | BLAINE CHRISTIAN CHURCH | MAY 2021

PASTOR'S PEN From Where I Sit

I have a Pastor friend who hikes the Appalachian Trail. He told me, "The key is to plan your times of rest. It's easy to plan what you want to see, or how far you plan on going. It's easy to decide when you'll start and when you'll stop. It's even easy to figure out what you need for the journey. After all, others have done this before you. What's difficult, is planning how, and when you'll rest!" "It's not a Sprint," he said, "but rather a Marathon. If you want to finish well, you have to pace yourself!" And it makes sense, right? Psychologists call it self-care. I heard that again and again and again in Seminary! And Theologians point to "Sabbath Keeping" as critical! I get that too! I do! Even God chose to rest, and Commanded us to do the same!

I have to confess, though, I am not very good at it. This is one area of my Spiritual Disciplines where I fail miserably and need to work harder! My type "A", driven personality sees "self-care" as "selfish", even though I clearly know the difference. I am actually really good at telling my Clergy Colleagues that they are Commanded by the Lord to take care of themselves! I am just not very good at doing it myself!

2021 is a Sabbatical year, an intentional time of rest and spiritual renewal. I remember my last Sabbatical, five years ago. It was halfway through week five, and I was standing knee-deep in crystal clear water. It was dawn, and I had a coffee in my hand.

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Church Events

Mondays:

Lois Ministries, 1:30 pm
Men's Bible Study, 6:30 pm
Women's Study, 6:30 pm

Tuesdays:

Women's Study, 9:30 am

Wednesdays:

Boy Scouts, 7 pm

- May 4 - Vaccination Clinic
- May 6 - National Day of Prayer
- May 9 - Happy Mother's Day
- May 21 - Reserved for Rehearsal, 3-8 pm
- May 22 - Reserved All Day for wedding
- May 23 - Pentecost, Teacher Appreciation
- May 24 - Blaine Visitor Deadline
- May 30 - Summer Worship Hours Begin
- May 31 - Memorial Day

Pastor's Pen . . . continued from front page

The whole day was before me. My kayak was tricked-out for fishing. Mist covered the entire lake. There was even a Loon calling in the background! I can't picture a more serene setting. And yet, I couldn't calm down! I thought I might need professional help. So, I did some research, and apparently that's the norm! Clergy, on Sabbatical, often only begin to relax at week five or six. It was eye opening!

Sabbath, where the word Sabbatical comes from, is an intentional time in the Presence of God. I know that now. I didn't at first. It is a "planned time of rest" on the Journey of Ministry. Let me share with you an excerpt from *Jesus Calling*, that I just "happened" to read while writing this article. "In order to know My will, you must spend time with Me—enjoying My Presence. This is not an onerous task but a delightful privilege. I will show you the path of Life; in My Presence is fullness of Joy; at My right hand there are pleasures forevermore." I just wanted to share what I was thinking.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob

Summer Worship Schedule Begins May 30, 2021

Our summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, May 30, 2021 with worship services at 8:30 and 10:00 am.

During the summer months there will not be Sunday School. There will be activity packets for the children to use during the worship service.

Opportunities on Sundays

There are a number of ways to volunteer and serve each Sunday at Blaine: Greeter, Usher, Worship Leader/Reader, Fellowship Host.

These volunteer positions are ready to be filled and enhance our worship time together for the rest of the year. Please sign-up on the sheets posted in fellowship hall on the bulletin board.

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY
MAY 9, 2021

She is
clothed with
strength and
dignity; she
can laugh at
the days to
come.

Proverbs 31:25

Financial Update

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

	Received	+/-
January	16,748.00	- 1,479.00
February	21,958.00	+ 3,731.00
March	18,153.00	- 74.00
<u>April</u>	<u>19,529.50</u>	<u>+ 1,302.50</u>
Total	\$ 76,388.50	\$ + 3,480.50

National Day of Prayer May 6, 2021

The National Day of Prayer celebrates 70 years of prayer for America this year!

Join with us and millions of believers across the nation on Thursday, May 6th, as we pray this year's theme, "Lord, Pour Out Your Love, Life and Liberty." 2Corinthians 3:17

Visit our website nationaldayofprayer.org and join us at 8 pm ET for our National Broadcast/

Local observance this year will be at the Benzie Co. Sheriff's Department at 11:00 on May 6th. Join others in the community for this time of prayer for our nation. Also spend time at home that day praying for our nation and leaders.

Bible Studies

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Monday evenings, 6:30 pm at the church. The Book of Matthew is the current topic.

WOMEN'S STUDY

Monday evenings, 6:30 pm or Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am. The book, "Everybody Always is the topic.

Water Bottle Ministry

As of now, the Beulah July 4th Parade is on the calendar. With that in mind, Blaine Christian Church will participate in the parade handing out cold, refreshing bottles of water.

We are collecting 16 oz plastic water bottles by the case. The water can be placed under the coat rack in the north entrance as in years past. The labeling station will be setup in that area in order to put our church labels on the bottles.

If any of this information changes, we will let you know as soon as we do at the church.

Sabbatical

Pastor Bob's Sabbatical will begin on July 25, 2021 and run through October 24, 2021. Our Written Sabbatical Policy here at Blaine Christian Church allows for a three-month period of rest and renewal for Clergy after seven years of continuous service, and then every five years thereafter. As of August 20th, Pastor Bob will have been at the Church twenty-one years, and this will be his third Sabbatical.

We have a Sabbatical Planning Committee comprised of Bruce Peabody, Gary Waterson, and Bruce Caylen—as well as Pastor Bob and Pastor David. We are currently assembling a Brochure to help answer any questions you might have. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions or concerns. In addition, our Board of Elders will be serving in various ministry capacities while Pastor Bob is gone. And Pastor David will be filling in as an On Call/Emergency Pastor during that time.

Sincerely,

The Sabbatical Planning Committee

Board Packet Deadline June 2, 2021

Board reports and agenda items for our next board meeting is Wednesday, June 2, 2021. Please email as an attachment, or drop off your print ready reports to the church office. Support staff are available to help as needed with your reports.

Quarterly Congregational Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 9, 2021
7:00 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

- If you have a 2021 high school graduate, we would like their name and plans for next year to include in our June newsletter. Please email Carolyn Waterson, [watersoncg@gmail.com](mailto:watsoncg@gmail.com) with this information. We will be recognizing these young people on Sunday, June 6th as we gather to worship.

SPECIAL MUSIC

- Beginning in June there is the opportunity for those with a music bend to share their talent in place of the anthem in the 10am worship service. If you would like to share your talent in this way and help lead our church family in worship, please contact Carolyn Waterson for open dates. The music may be instrumental or vocal. Thank you in advance for those that will volunteer in this way.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

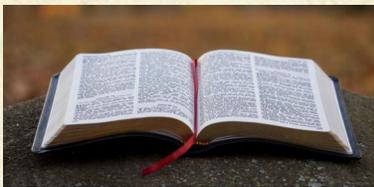
- ♦ Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through
- ♦ August 9th - 12th
- ♦ 6:00-8:10 pm
- ♦ Children 3 years to 6th grade completed



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 in June for ways you can help with this ministry for our children and children of our community.

MAY SERMON SCHEDULE



- May 2:** 1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40
2nd Reading: John 15:1-8
Title: "Pruning Season"
- May 9:** 1st Reading: 1 John 5:1-6
2nd Reading: Acts 10:44-48
Title: "Welcome"

- May 16:** 1st Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
2nd Reading: John 17:6-19
Title: "Sanctified"

- May 23:** 1st Reading: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-16
2nd Reading: Acts 2:1-21
Title: "Empowered"

- May 30:** 1st Reading: Romans 8:12-17
2nd Reading: John 3:1-17
Title: "Born Again"

June Blaine Visitor Deadline May 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



May Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Michelle Herron
- 3 Mary Lathwell
- 6 Winnie Cook
- 7 A.J. Elliott
- 9 Traci Kelly, Amara Larimer
- 10 Brian Putney, Avery Kely
- 12 Lynette Williams
- 14 Norma Bogard
- 15 Sandy Magnan
- 18 Tom Masell, Bob Bogard
- 19 Logan Foster
- 20 Bruce Caylen
- 22 Kim Lathwell
- 23 Ashley Nye
- 25 Julie Elliott, Lenny Merrill,
Clara Merrill, Doug Kirk
- 27 Matt Gillison, Larry Lathwell
- 29 Michelle Smeltzer
- 30 Dave Siuda
- 31 Linda Byers

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Tal & Theresa Fuller
- 6 Lyle & Winnie Cook
- 21 Lennie & Shelli Merrill
Mike & Meagan Zych
Carl & Mary Barnum
- 24 Doug & Jacque Erdman
- 28 Rick & Janet Maat

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

Thank You's!

Sunday School

Our last Sunday of Sunday School for the spring is Sunday, May 23rd. Sunday school will then begin again in September. We want to thank and celebrate our Sunday School teachers and study leaders for the past year. They have been flexible with how they did lessons and reached people because of the covid situation-and showed us all how much they care for our church.

These dedicated folks have sent much time preparing lessons, leading lessons, praying for their classes, and modeling Jesus. We give God thanks for each of them:

Jenny Caylen and Julie Zych (Nursery class), Shannon Gillison (Beginners), Kim Shadwick (Elementary class), Gary Waterson (Youth/Adult), Cynthia Briske and Shelli Merrill (Adult), Dodie Putney and Sarah Esper (AV help). Mid-week studies: Rob Janusch and Bruce Caylen (Men's group), Carolyn Waterson and Sue Spalding (Women's group).

Many lives have been touched by your dedication, love and willingness to serve in our church this past year. Thank you!

For the summer months we will continue to have activities for the children to do in worship on the theme of the children's moment and look forward to a more 'normal' children's ministry program in the fall.

Music Ministry

This year has been a different year for our music ministry, and we give thanks for those that have felt called and able to serve. It has taken being flexible and changing the way we do some things--but it has been good to gather and sing praises together and to help our church worship God each Sunday. Our hope and prayer is that by this coming fall we will be able to gather in a more 'normal' way and enjoy "ALL" of us being back together again.

The following folks have served in the choir and/or praise team during the last year:

Jenny Caylen, Deb Larimer, Deb Kessler, Sonja Reitan, Michelle Herron, Cathy Bodell, Carolyn Bell, Mary Lou Noble, Donna Brown, Sandy VanHeyningen, Terry VanHeyningen, Kim Lathewell, Ron Gardin, Neil Nugent, Gary Waterson, Skip Noble, Bob Bell, Russ Tiller, Sara Tiller, Yvonne Hockett, Gloria Sobkoviak, Mercy Sobkoviak, Carolyn Waterson, Doug Erdman, Jacque Erdman, Mike Brief, Darlene Miank, Mary Lee, and AV help from Dodie Putney and Sarah Esper.

In addition to our singers, we have also enjoyed prelude music by Mercy Sobkoviak, Dahlia Sobkoviak, Sonja Reitan, Lynda Faber, Jim and Lynne Bekkering. The church has been blessed by your service

Office Notes...

- * **PLEASE** remember to check the church calendar before scheduling meetings, events, or borrowing items from the church. There are a number of reserved dates and reserved items.
- * Announcements/Bulletin deadline is Thursdays at 9 am unless notified.
- * Newsletter deadlines are the 24th of the month.

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.

Whoa...Jump Ropes

Lots of t-shirt donations have come in - more than 7 bags!

We need braiders to make the jump ropes. They are easy to braid and take less than an hour to make one. If you would like to braid some, please contact Bonnie at 231-499-6788.

No more t-shirts for now, thank you.

Lois Ministries

Mondays at 1:30 pm

We will be praying for our church, our pastor, our children and grandchildren. We will pray at 1:30 pm on May 3, 10, 17, 24.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through ur Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith intothis grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2

Congregational Fellowship

A fellowship treat can be offered after each service on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in fellowship hall if you would like to provide a treat*.

When you leave the church, please accept out "Treat to Go" from the host/hostess and enjoy it when you get to your car or at home. We would love to serve coffee, however, masks and social distancing are required inside the church.

*Treats need to be precut and individually wrapped. Everything has been delicious!

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT / PICNIC DATE NIGHT

FRIDAY, JUNE 18th, 6:00 pm

If you have been at Blaine for a while, you will know about our annual "married enrichment date night" that is usually in the winter months. Because of covid we have not been able to do this fun and growing time for the last two winters. So, we decided to be creative and make it a picnic date night this June. Married couples are invited to come to the church on and gather in the sanctuary for a marriage enrichment time presented by Pastor Bob and Deb and then they will be given a boxed picnic supper for two and sent off to find a spot to enjoy this meal together. Cost of the evening will be announced later. If you need help with childcare for this evening--please let the church know and it will be provided. It is our hope that many couples will take this opportunity to spend an evening together and focus on their marriage. Mark your calendars now and watch the June newsletter and announcements for more details and sign-up deadline.

Day Camp at 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

Family Life Center *Transformational Ministry Of Echo His Love*

ABC's (Always Building Character)
Self Improvement Adult and Children's Classes
Mondays June 7th, 6:00-7:30 pm
First Christian Church UCC of Benzonia
901 Barber St., Benzonia MI

Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County

Preparations are underway for a new Habitat house to be built in Thompsonville this year. Contractors and volunteers will be constructing a 1,176 sq. ft., home with 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, a laundry room, living room and kitchen. Visit benziehabitat.org for more information on this build and upcoming fundraisers.

BACN builds community, capacity, and sustainability

...an excerpt from April 2021 Communique

While 2020 may have been a year worth forgetting...Generosity has always been a hallmark of our community, generosity remained as strong as ever. I appreciate each and every one who has helped us navigate 2020. Even during uncertain times, it is our Neighbors, one and all who make BACN happen.

With gratitude,

Gerri VanAntwerp, Executive Director

BACN Donations *Benzie Area Christian Neighbors*

Blaine will be accepting non-perishable food and dry good donations the first and third Sundays of each month. A volunteer will take them to BACN. Please put your donations in the gray baskets located in the office hallway. Thank you.

2021 PENTECOST OFFERING **BE THE NEW CHURCH**

RECEIVED IN CONGREGATIONS
SUNDAYS MAY 16 AND MAY 23
BE BOLD + BE COURAGEOUS + BE GENEROUS

The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples new church development. To donate online, visit:
disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost



**Pentecost is
May 23, 2021**

Celebrate by wearing red on this day, which represents the fire of the spirit in church.

Pentecost is celebrated on the 50th day from Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in Acts 2:1-31. Pentecost is the birthday of the church.

May 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



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

MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER AND HONOR.

