

# DRAWN to the CROSS

## Blaine *Visitor*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2022

### PASTOR'S PEN

“We need to limit Screen Time!” How many parents have you heard say that? Or grandparents? Teachers even, Health Care Providers, both mental and physical? It’s not healthy! I get it! There is no physical benefit at all, other than maybe some minor “eye/hand coordination! There is no relationship building, at least not real relationships! There are pseudo-connections, fake interactions, which the experts say are worse than none at all! And with the push now for Virtual Reality by the tech giants, this is all only going to get worse! McDonalds just announced a pilot program that let’s you go into a virtual world, create an Avatar, a fantasy rendition of who you “want to be”, walk into a virtual McDonalds restaurant and place an order, which will then arrive at your real home via Grub Hub or Uber Eats!

And here is the thing. Every one of us is doing more and more Virtual Reality, and more and more Screen Time, whether we realize it or not! Think Zoom meetings, and working from home. Think Netflix, rather than going out to enjoy nature. Think texts and Twitter, Facebook and E-mails, rather than phone calls! And phone calls, rather than personal visits! And my personal “fly in the ointment”; Virtual Worship, or the Sunday morning Hour of Power, rather than actual Worshipping together as a Community of Faith! That’s like reading a Daily Devotional on Scripture, but never reading Scripture itself!

Someone gave me an article recently on the warning of Hebrews 10:24-25 to, “not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing”. But if you read the whole sentence, it actually tells you why. “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in

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### Church Events

- **MONDAYS**  
Men’s Bible Study, 6:30 pm
- **TUESDAYS**  
Boy Scout Troop 10, 7 pm
- **March 2** - Ash Wednesday  
Soup Supper, 6:30 pm  
Service, 7:15 pm
- **March 2** - Board Reports Due
- **March 4** - Shepherd Ministry, 9:30 am
- **March 4** - Cong. Fellowship, Mtg 1 pm
- **March 9** - Men’s Prayer & Breakfast, 8:30 am
- **March 9** - Congregational Board Meeting, 7 pm
- **March 10** - Lunch with Friends, Noon
- **March 10** - Elders, 6:30 pm
- **March 13** - **Spring Ahead!**  
Daylight Savings Time begins
- **March 17** - St. Pat’s Dinner at church, 6 pm
- **March 18** - Game Night, 5:45pm
- **March 24** - Newsletter Deadline
- **March 28** - Memb/Evang, 5:30 pm

## Pastor's Pen

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the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the ore as you see the Day approaching.”

We need to Worship together so that we can spur one another on toward love and good deeds. And encourage one another. And this is even more critical as you see what's happening in the world today, as you see the Day approaching! Yep! I'd say we need to limit the Screen Time!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Bob

## Lent 2022 Drawn to the Cross

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd and we will be looking at the theme “Drawn to the Cross” as we worship and use our home devotionals on this topic. “Draw near to Christ daily as you ponder Jesus’ personal and boundless love for you this Lent and as you spend time on this theme of ‘Drawn to the Cross’ and come to understand more deeply the meaning of the cross in terms of humility, service and sacrifice.”

## Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022

As a church family we will begin the season of Lent by gathering at 6:30 for a simple supper of soup and bread and then a service of ashes at 7:15 in the small sanctuary. It is hoped that you will plan to come and share in this meaningful time of fellowship and worship. Information about special Holy Week services and our Prayer Vigil will be included in the April newsletter.

## Quarterly Congregational Board Meeting Wednesday March 9, 2022 7:00 pm

Board Reports and Agenda Items are due in the church office by Wednesday, March 2nd. Please email your report as a print ready attachment or drop off your print ready to the church office.

All church members are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. A quorum is required in order to complete the business of the church.

## Who is ready for Camp Crystal 2022?



Registrations for Elementary, Middle, High School, Family, and Day Camp are all live NOW! If you have been to camp before, you know the drill - invite your friends, neighbors, anyone who you think would enjoy a truly unforgettable week of summer camp in northern Michigan! Registration is ALL online this year, so if you have any questions, please reach out! The deadline to register to avoid a late fee is April 30th & the deadline to register for any specific camp is 16 days before the first day of camp.

<https://www.crystalconferencecenter.org/camps-and-retreats/>

# Spring Mission Project 2022

Crystal Conference Center  
April 23 & April 25-27  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This spring, our church will do a mission project at Crystal Conference Center, our own church camp, which everyone can be involved in. The project will include replacing the roof on the Beeches Cabin.

We will need to strip the old shingles off the roof, put on new drip edge, put tar paper it down and re-shingle it. We will need people who can tear off and lay new shingles but also those who can work on the ground to pick up shingles and throw them in the dumpster, cut starters or do general assistance, as well as others who would be willing to prepare a lunch for everyone.

The project will start on Saturday, April 23 and continue Monday, April 25 - Wednesday, April 27. We will meet at camp each day at 8:30 a.m. and work until 5 p.m. The great part about this project being local is that you don't have to be available for the entire time to participate! Although we want some folks who can help every day, if you are only available for one or two or three of the days, you can still sign up.

**Sign Up** - Please pray about how you might be involved in this mission project. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church on the bulletin board for volunteers to sign up to either help on the roof project or to prepare a meal. If you are not able to help in one of the ways already mentioned, please consider committing time in prayer, before and during the project, or consider making a donation to help cover some of the cost of the meals for the volunteers. Checks can be made out to Blaine Christian Church with "Mission Project" in the memo line and turned into the church office.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Wayne Faber. We're looking for volunteers of all ages, even families with older (middle & high school) children can volunteer!



Love remains  
Week of Compassion  
Special Offering  
FEBRUARY 20-27



## Prayer for Ukraine

On Thursday last week, Russia launched military attacks against Ukraine in more than a dozen locations across the country, including near the capital, Kyiv. Week of Compassion is in frequent contact with our partners in Europe, who are monitoring the rapidly developing situation and planning for the displacement of people and the humanitarian needs that are likely to come from this invasion. As we learn more, we will share updates about how Disciples will extend care and compassion to those affected. We join with you and with people around the world in praying for peace.

Ever Loving God,

Today we are filled with many emotions in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Humanity has once again chosen selfishness and death, when we know you to be the God of abundance and life.

We are filled with grief for the lives lost and the senselessness of killing. We grieve, too, for those who have been and will be driven from their homes or made to suffer by the cruelties of violence. God be with those who mourn today and those whose days of mourning are yet to come. May they feel our hearts reaching out to theirs in sorrow and in love.

Breathe your peace into our own fear and anxiety, as our minds are racing or frozen by thoughts of what this will mean for the world that should be at peace. Give us grace and comfort in these times of uncertainty.

Make your presence known to those feeling angry or hopeless, those filled with righteous frustration at injustice and those overwhelmed by despair. May you guide our energy towards productive engagement in service of those who are most impacted.

Whatever the feelings or the situation God, we ask that through it all you would remain with us. Remain with those who are in deep mourning and in need of your comfort. Be present with leaders around the world, that they may know your wisdom and peace. Be with the church as we discern our own path forward in response to a world in desperate need of your peace, your love, and your hope.

We ask these prayers in the name of your Son, the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ,  
Amen.

## Serving This Month

### Praise & Worship Service 8:30 am

**Worship Leader:** Bruce Caylen

**Greeter:** Dodie Putney

**Usher:** Maggie Baker

**Welcome Center:** Cathy Bodell

### Traditional/Blended Service 11:00 am

**Elders:** Wayne & Lynda Faber

**Worship Reader:** Sonja Reitan

**Diaconate Servers:** Sonja Reitan, Lynette Williams, David & Sue Spalding

**Diaconate Preparer:** Ann DeVries

**Greeter:** Janette Ervin

**Usher:** Maggie Baker

**Welcome Center:** Cathy Bodell

Sign up sheets are posted in fellowship hall.



**Daylight Savings Time  
begins on  
March 13, 2022 at 2:00**

**Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour!**

## Staff & Committee Chairs

### 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 (231) 218-6634

#### **Congregational Fellowship**

Dodie Putney (231) 882-4067

#### **Membership & Evangelism**

Jannette Ervin (615) 856-7855

#### **Missions**

Jan Heverly (231) 649-4884

#### **Property**

Pete Nugent (231) 383-3702

#### **Worship**

Carolyn Bell (231) 970-1839

## MARCH SERMON SCHEDULE

**March 6** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Romans 10:8b-13  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 4:1-13  
Title: "Choices"

**March 13** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 13:31-35  
Title: "God Really Does Care"

**March 20** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 13:1-9  
Title: "Going Through the Motions"

**March 27** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32  
Title: "Acceptable"

## 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.

In March and early April, our classes for the children will be studying the events of the last weeks of Jesus' life as we get closer to Easter.

The youth will be spending time with Pastor Bob and looking at what it means to be a follower of Jesus during the month. The adults have a choice of a continuing study on Jeremiah or a study on being "drawn to the cross".

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 or family member with you each week.

## Easter Flowers

We will have the opportunity to order flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter this year. Final details are being worked out as this newsletter goes to print.

The order forms will be available as bulletin inserts and included with our Sunday Worship email.

## Easter Candy

Again, this Easter, our church will be offering an Easter Egg hunt and story time for children on Saturday, April 16th at 11:00am. To make this happen we are asking for donations of small, wrapped candies to place in plastic eggs. If you would like to help with this outreach ministry, please bring a bag or two of candy and place it in the marked container in the office area by Sunday, April 3rd. Thank you in advance for your donation.

## Bible Studies

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Monday nights, 6:30 pm at the church. The group continues the book of Luke. Any questions may be addressed to Bruce Caylen or Rob Janusch.

**WOMEN'S WINTER BIBLE STUDY:** 20 women studied the gospel of Mark for 7 weeks this winter and concluded their study with a potluck on February 28th.

### St. Patrick's Day

### Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner



Thursday March 17th  
6:00 PM



Free Will Offering for  
Week of Compassion

Hosted by Blaine Christian Church  
Mission Committee

RSVP by Friday, March 13, 2022  
Sign-up on the fellowship board

And now these three remain: faith, hope and  
love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Week of Compassion Special Offering  
will be received in congregations on  
Sundays March 13 & March 20.

Text WoC to 41444 to Give



## Coffee Fellowship

The Congregational Fellowship committee wishes all those that love to be coffee hour hostess and serve their own special treats continue to do so. Our signup sheet is on the fellowship hall bulletin board. If you are nervous about hosting, but would love to provide cookies, donuts, fruits, veggies, or something else, please sign up and bring your treats-we'll find someone to co-host with you.

## STAR WORDS

In January, we randomly picked a word out of a basket to ponder on, pray about and include in our daily lives.

How has your word affected your daily life so far this year? Are you willing to submit a few sentences in future newsletters to share with others? If so, please email or drop off your thoughts to the church office.

## PUZZLE EXCHANGE Bring One...Borrow One...

We are beginning a Puzzle Exchange here at church for those who enjoy putting puzzles together. You are invited to Bring One and Borrow One! The puzzles can be put on the table inside the North Entrance of the church. If you have any questions, please call the church office or Jannette Ervin,

**April Blaine Visitor  
Deadline  
March 24, 2022**

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



## FEBRUARY

### BIRTHDAYS

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

### ANNIVERSARIES

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

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](mailto:blainechurch@gmail.com)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Lois Ministries are grandmother's praying for our grandchildren, great grandchildren, church family and pastor. Temporarily on a winter break – we will meet again, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bonnie Putney 231-499-6788
- ◆ Men's Prayer and Breakfast, March 9th, 8:30 AM at the Lighthouse Café in Elberta. Skip Noble is the one to call at 352-7035 for more information.
- ◆ Lunch with Friends Mary Lou and Skip Noble host this luncheon on March 10th.. The potluck includes devotion, prayer, potluck and "Lunch with Friends" card ministry. The potluck begins at noon- bring a dish to pass.
- ◆ Cards at 5:45~ pm on the third Friday. This group meets at 5:45 to play cards, or Dominos-about 1 ½ hour. Bring your own water bottle or drink. If treats are shared remember no sticky ones. Next game is March 18<sup>th</sup> contact Bob Bell, your host. Meet in the basement.
- ◆ Thank you to Lorraine LaGuire, Michelle Herron, Linda Yeager, and Jenny Caylen for making fudge for our college kids this year for Valentine's Day. Twelve young adults received a special package because of your gift. Thanks to Women's Ministry for covering the cost to send the fudge.
- ◆ Volunteering - If you would like to work with any of the committees to help with planning or work on a special project such as the SPRING Mission Project, or BACN food drives, or the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade please let the functioning committee chair know or the staff person. We welcome your enthusiasm.
- ◆ Save the Date - VBS 2022 will be August 8th-11th from 6:00-8:10pm each evening. Please mark your calendars now and make this an important part of the summer planning for your family. Grandparents, invite your grandchildren for a week of fun with you and include VBS in the evenings for them. More information coming in future newsletters.
- ◆ Blaine Church will not be collecting Family Fare receipts anymore. The last bag was taken back to Family Fare. The other batches went to Paul Oliver hospital. Thanks to anyone that donated the receipts.

## Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN) Winter Food Drive

On Thursday, February 24, volunteers from Blaine helped at the Food Drive at Shop and Save. Thanks to Jan Heverly, Jannette Ervin, Don and Aalice Franklin, Mercy Sobkoviak, Sue Spalding, Cathy Bodell, and Bonnie Putney.

The drive brought in nearly 5,000 pounds of food, and the financial contributions are continuing to come in (any online donations through March 18th will be ear-marked for the food drive).

BACN Collection Sundays: March 6 & 20

## SAVE THE DATE



Visit [www.benziehabitat.org](http://www.benziehabitat.org)  
for more information

# 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](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**

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

-Irish Proverb

