

Blaine Visitor

December 2022

From Where I Sit.....

At a Staff Meeting this week, Pastor David shared a devotion talking about Jesus being the “Lord of our Lives.” And just the day before our Sunday Sermon was on the very same topic. Then this morning I was reading Romans 10:9, a foundational Scripture passage for Christianity.

Paul writes, “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Needless-to-say, God had gotten my attention. Do you realize that the word “God,” according to Webster, means “supreme or ultimate reality...perfect in power, wisdom, and goodness?” And the word “Lord” means, “One having power and authority over...to whom service and obedience are due”? So, this Salvation thing is not as simple as “I believe in God,” as some would have you believe. In fact, James 2:19 says “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.” Honoring Jesus as “Lord” is serious, isn’t it! That word “Lord,” by-the-way, is mentioned almost six hundred times in Scripture. Try to get your head around the depth of that. Picture living through a tornado. Once you have experienced that kind of power first-hand, rather than just theoretically, you can’t help but live differently. From then on you respect the power. You live in awe of it’s presence and tremble at it’s potential. And if a tornado can make you sit up and pay attention, how about God? In C.S. Lewis’ the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Mr. Beaver describes the might and majesty of Aslan, the lion-God. When he finishes, Lucy asks with a stutter, “Is..is he safe?” Mr. Beaver replies, “Safe? Who said anything about safe? Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He is the king I tell you.” I wonder if we have tried to domesticate God? I wonder if we have tried to make our relationship with Him way too casual? I mean, Jesus is Lord! Hardly safe! But always good!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob

Church Events

- ◆ Dec 1 - Board Packet Deadline
- ◆ Dec 5 - Staff Meeting 10:00am
- ◆ Dec 8- Lunch with Friends
- ◆ Dec 11- Children's Christmas Program 4pm
- ◆ Dec 14- Congregational Board Meeting, 7pm
- ◆ Dec 14 - Elders Meeting, 5:30pm
- ◆ Dec 18 - Cantata Sunday One Service at 10am
- ◆ Dec 19 - Staff Meeting 10:00 am
- ◆ Dec 21 - Christmas Caroling 4:30pm
- ◆ Dec 24 - Newsletter Deadline
- ◆ Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service 9pm
- ◆ Dec 25 - Merry Christmas! One Service 10:00 am
- Jan 1 - One Service at 10am

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

During this special season there will be some changes in our worship schedule and opportunities for us to all worship together as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

December 4th and 11th: Advent Worship: Regular Sunday schedule of Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 and Sunday School at 9:45 for all ages. The youth and adults will continue the study, "The Heart that Grew Three Sizes". Children will be studying the events around the birth of Jesus and planning for the Christmas program.

December 18th: ONE Worship service: Christmas Cantata "The Glory of God" by the choir and the opportunity to all worship together and have fellowship. Invite your music loving friends to come and worship with you this morning. There will not be regular Sunday School this morning-but there will be young children programming with a Christmas lesson, following the children's moment in worship.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

On Saturday, December 24th we will gather at 9:00pm to once again celebrate the birth of Jesus into our world and end our time of waiting. There will be scripture readings, music, communion and candles as we worship together.

December 25th: Happy Birthday, Jesus! One service at 10:00am with programming for young children following the children's moment in worship. No regular Sunday School. Plan to come with your family and celebrate the birth of Jesus with the church family.

January 1st, 2023: Happy New Year! One service at 10:00am with programming for young children following the children's moment in worship. No regular Sunday School. Join with the church family to celebrate the gift of the beginning of a brand new year.

ADVENT- "BE BORN IN US"

The season of Advent began on November 27th and each Sunday we will gather to worship, sing songs of the season, hear the message of the season, and light the candle of the Advent wreath as we get ready to once again celebrate the birth of Jesus into our world.

Sunday, December 4 & 11:
Sunday School: 9:45
Avent Worship 8:30 & 11

Sunday, December 11:
Children/Teen Christmas
Program 4:00pm

Sunday, December 18:
ONE Worship service at 10:00am
with the choir cantata

Wednesday, December 21
Tentative date for Christmas
Caroling (see article)

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve service at 9:00 pm

Sunday, December 25
ONE Worship service at 10:00am

Sunday, January 1, 2023
ONE Worship service at 10:00am



Quarterly Congregational Board Meeting

December 14

7pm

All members are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting in the sanctuary. In order to complete the business of the church, we have to have a quorum.

Board reports and agenda items are due in the church office by December 1. Please attach your print ready report or drop it off in the church office mailbox.

Board packets will be available to pick up in the fellowship hall on Sunday December 11.

2022 Year End

All year end bills, reimbursement requests and contributions to be posted for the 2022 year must be received in the church office by

December 30, 2022

Anything received after this date will be posted for the 2023 year. Please call the church office if you need to make other arrangements to meet this deadline.

231-352-9148



Sermon Schedule

Dec. 4 : 1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-13
Title: " The Plan"

December 11: 1st Reading: James 5:7-10
2nd Reading; Mathew 11:2-11
Title: " Not Offended:"

December 18: Christmas Cantata
One Service at 10:00am

December 24: 1st Reading John 1:1-5
Christmas Eve 2nd Reading Luke 2:1-11
Title: " The Light Shines in the Darkness"

December 25: 1st Reading: Psalm 85:1-7
2nd Reading John 1:1-14
Title: "Why Christmas?"



Wild Game Dinner

Save the Date!

Saturday January 28, 2023

Appetizers 5:00pm

Dinner 6:00pm

All men are invited to participate in this annual dinner featuring wild game. Set aside some of your bounty from this past year for your dish to share. Join us for fellowship, dinner, and prizes.

Please bring non-perishable food items for BACN.



Coffee Fellowship has been wonderful
With delicious treats and seasonal decorations

Served after each service

If you have any questions please call Dodie Putney:
231-882-4067 or Bonnie Putney:231-499-6788

For future hosts, there is a sign up sheet on the fel-
lowship table.

The Thanksgiving Family Pot luck was unfortunately
canceled due to weather.

We are looking forward to a replacement event in
January.



SERVING THIS MONTH

Praise & Worship Service 8:30 am

Worship Leader: Mary Barnum

Greeter: Chuck Wolverton

Usher: Sally Wolverton

Welcome Center: Cathy Bodell

Traditional Service 11:00 am

Elders: Deb Larimer & Steve VanDePerre

Worship Reader: Rob Janusch

Diaconate Servers: Sonja Reitan, Lynette William,
David & Sue Spalding

Diaconate Preparer: Ann DeVries

Greeter: Max Kessler

Usher: Mary Pulido



Sunday, December 11 at 4:00pm

Children/teen Christmas Program

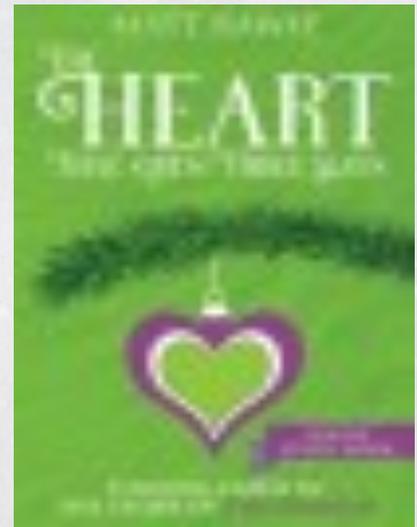
A time for the children to share the “good news of Jesus’ birth” in their own special way. The children will be working on the program during their Sunday School classes on December 4th and 11th. Please plan to have your child come and participate. Teachers have materials for each of them.

Church family: plan to come on the December 11th and enjoy the program and the fellowship time following it.

ADVENT STUDY

During Sunday School hour

The four week Advent study called “The Heart that Grew 3 Sizes” by Matt Rawle continues during the Sunday School time. This study invites you to rediscover the gift of Advent as you prepare your heart for Christmas. The study is for both the youth (grades 7 and above) and adults and the leader will be Gary Waterson. It will conclude on December 11th and a new study will begin in January.





CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Singers Needed!!

Our church has a long standing tradition of Christmas Caroling to our more shut in folks each December.

We are planning for this on **Wednesday, December 21st at 4:30pm.** For this tradition to continue this year there is a need for **32 people who enjoy singing and want to brighten the lives of others to sign up and commit to this 2-3 hour service.**

Our list to carol has grown and there is a need to send out 3 groups of singers. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and the return of smiles and joy will make you glad you said "yes". Participants will return to the church for chili and Christmas goodies.

We are in need of volunteers to help shovel the sidewalks this winter.

Shoveling should be done before first service.

There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall.

If you have any questions please contact Pete Nugent.

(231) 383-3702



KIDS KARE HELP

The Kids' Kare ministry is for our young children through grade 2 after the children's moment in worship. There continues to be a need for adults or high school age youth to lead this ministry. All materials are planned and provided for you. Take this opportunity to spend time with the younger children of our church family. Speak to Jenny Caylen (CE chair) or Carolyn Waterson (staff) if you would like to volunteer or need more information. We are thankful for Elizabeth Putney, Jenny Caylen and Deb Larimer, who regularly serve in this ministry.

Forever Faithful Commitment Cards:

Thank you to those who have completed and returned your 2023 Commitment cards. If you have not yet returned your card, please help us to plan for the 2023 budget by mailing it or dropping it in the offering plate at your earliest convenience. May God's blessing follow you in your faith journey.



The Pastoral Search Committee would like to thank everyone who filled out a congregational survey. We mailed out 135 surveys and received 56 back. As the committee has begun reviewing them, we are finding consistent themes in what our congregation is looking for in their next pastor. This information will be very useful as we screen potential candidates.

The committee is also developing a Congregational Profile. This document will help prospective candidates know more about Blaine Christian Church, the church family, the ministries in which the church is involved, and the Benzie/Manistee County area.

Please continue to pray for the committee and God's guidance. Pray that the Lord will be preparing our church as well as preparing the next pastor for Blaine Church.

Blaine Christian Church Search Committee: Wayne Faber – Chair, Dodie Putney – Vice Chair, Shannon Gillison, Russ Tiller, Judy Spohn

Thank you from Pie Day!



WE MADE 760 APPLE PIES!

On Friday, November 4, 2022, over 40 young and older men and women, some from Blaine, and some from other area churches, came together to make 760 fresh, homemade apple pies during our Annual Heavenly Apple Pie Day.

What many in our church and in our community may not know is that this isn't simply a day for making pies and enjoying some time together.

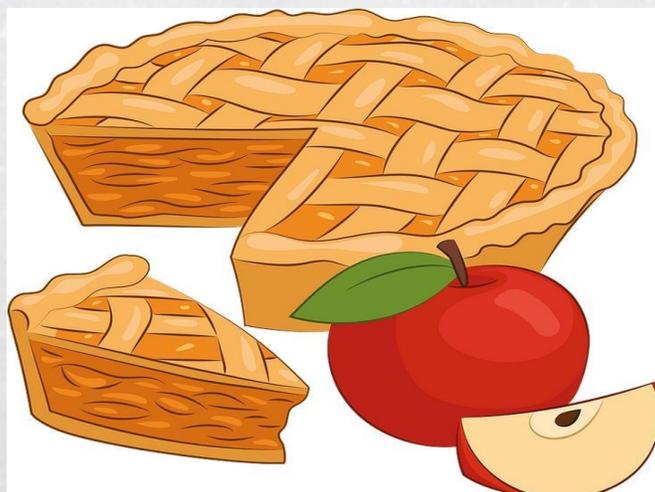
The very important purpose of Pie Day is to raise funds so we can give to missions projects every year: two local agencies - Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN) and E.C.H.O. His Love, and two Disciples agencies - Week Of Compassion (Disaster Relief Fund) and the Missions Fund.

The Missions Ministry and the Christian Women's Fellowship at our church appreciates all the volunteers who donated ingredients, took orders, helped make pies, made deliveries, provided lunch, and so much more. Those who covered the cost of supplies made it possible for a larger amount of the funds raised to go to missions.

Many local businesses and individuals purchase these apple pies every year. Because of the church and community support this year, our Annual Heavenly Apple Pie Day raised \$7,491 (\$775 more than last year). These donations will go a long way to help both local families and families across the state and country.

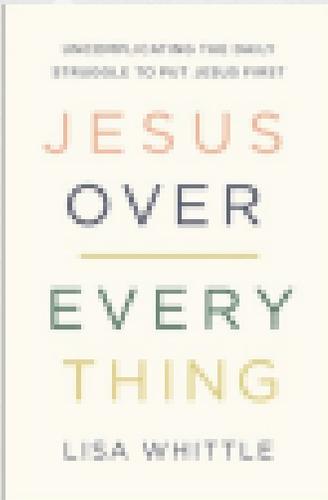
If you missed out on the fun of helping Blaine make a difference for the Lord, plan to help next year. This annual event is always on the first Friday of November.

A special thanks to Julie Zych for heading up this missions effort.



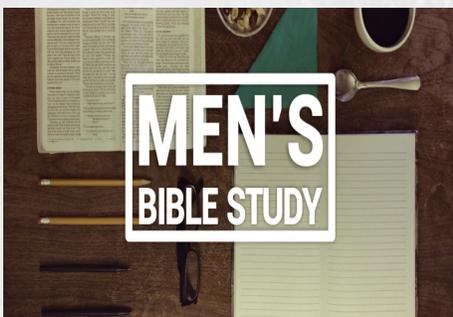
WINTER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This winter women are invited to participate in a 6 week study called, "Jesus Over Everything" by Lisa Whittle. "We all want to put Jesus first and live simpler lives, but we struggle with both. In this six-session video Bible study, Lisa Whittle helps us fully engage in a life of uncomplicated, unwavering love for Jesus in a world that pulls us in every direction. The Jesus-first life clears our minds and heart of overindulgence, endless options, and me-centered thinking. Jesus Over Everything is a compelling call to give God his rightful place in our everyday lives." The study will begin the week of January 15th with a Monday evening class at 6:30 and a Tuesday morning class at 9:30am. Cost for the study book is \$10 and is payable at the first class. Please sign up in fellowship hall by December 14th to reserve a spot for the class.



- **Lunch with Friends**

Mary Lou and Skip Noble have extended their hospitality to host "Lunch with Friends" one more time this year. The Potluck will be held on December 8 (second Thursday) at noon. Devotion, prayer, and potluck are enjoyed, and we finish with our "Lunch with Friends" card ministry. Skip and Mary Lou's address is 1044 Watervale Rd; 352-7035. Men and women are welcomed to join us.

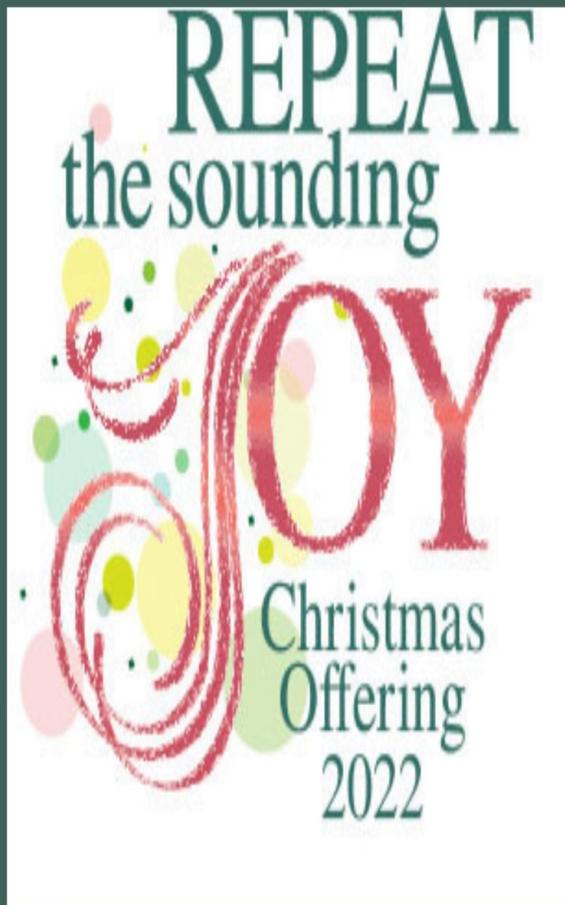


- **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Monday night men's Bible study continues at 6:30 each week. This group is studying the book of Luke. All men are invited to participate.

Reminder to check out the bulletin boards in the fellowship hall.

Bulletin boards have information on community events, Blaine's programs, bible studies and mission events that you may want to participate in!



Received in most congregations Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022

BACN

Benzie Area Christian Neighbors

Blaine Church collects items on the first and third Sundays, December 4 and 18 for BACN, our food pantry in Benzie County. Donations that are always needed: cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items. Also consider holiday meal items.

Your donations may be put in the gray basket in the hallway.

Benzie Sr Resources

Christmas Gift Bags

Donations Due December 12th

Blaine is collecting lip balm, hand lotion, facial tissue, large print crosswords, word searches and 2023 calendars for Benzie Senior Resources. They will use our donations to fill Christmas Gift Bags for our local homebound senior citizens. December 12th is the last day to put your offerings in the designated gray basket in the office hallway.

GIVING TO HELP OTHERS

As you celebrate this season of giving, think too about how you can give to help someone else with a gift to Benzie Area Christian Neighbors, Habitat for Humanity, ECHO, Blessings in Backpacks, Senior Resources, or our Mission Discretionary fund. All these funds help those who are in need of help with basic living needs and with special circumstances in their lives. Checks can be made out and sent to the organization or to the church and marked in the memo for the fund you desire. These gifts may be given in honor or memory of someone as your Christmas gift for them.



STAFF

Office Manager Alisa Elliott (231)
352-9148

**Congregational Fellowship, Mis-
sions, Property** Bonnie Putney
352-4940

**Membership & Evangelism, Chris-
tian Education** Carolyn Waterson
882-9802

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christian Education

Jenny Caylen (231) 882-9004

Congregational Fellowship

Dodie Putney (231) 649-0614

Membership & Evangelism

Jannette Ervin (615) 856-7855

Missions

Howard and Judy Ingleston ((231)
871-0511)

Property

Pete Nugent (231) 383-3702

Worship

Carolyn Bell (231) 970-1839



January

Blaine Visitor Deadline

December 24, 2022

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



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sharon Blight, Phillip Putney
- 6 Janet Copher, Kathryn Mathieu, Cash Orman
- 7 Walt Kline
- 8 Charlotte Putney
- 11 Brady Larimer
- 12 Everett Zych
- 14 Jim Bekkering, Sabrina Merrill
- 16 John Byers, Erica Jager
- 28 Keith Jewell
- 29 Clairia Putney, Shannon Gillison
- 31 Patrick Spalding

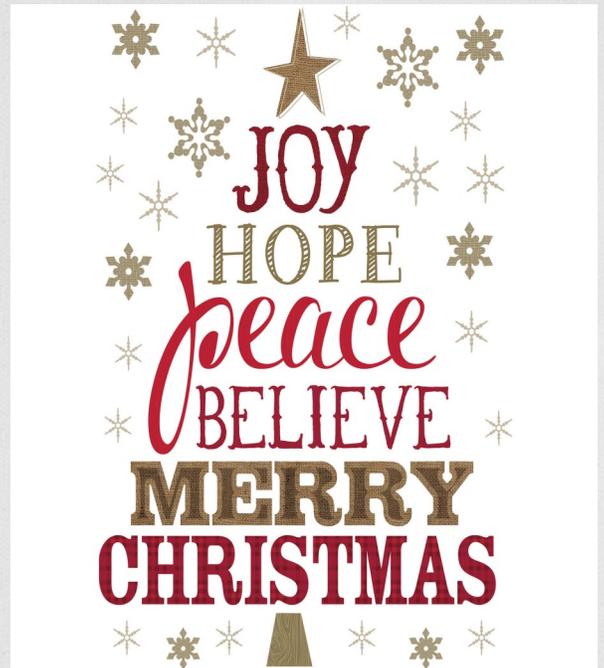
ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Brian and Dodie Putney
- 15 Greg and Kathryn Mathieu
- 22 Neil and Linda Nugent
- 30 Terry and Sandra VanHeyningen

Please contact the church office
if your birthday or anniversary
was missed, (231) 352-9148 or
blainechurch@gmail.com

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).



SUNDAY 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**

**Rev. Robert D. Larimer, Pastor
David Spalding, Associate Pastor
(231) 352-9148
7018 Putney Road Arcadia, MI
www.blainechristianchurch.org
email: blainechurch@gmail.com**

