



Blaine Visitor



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2023

From Where I Sit.....

The other day, Sue and I were looking at some of our books and we found a book titled, "I Think I Am Happier Than I Think I Am." This is a book of articles written by Father Jim O'Leary, who is the priest that married us. I am fond of his wit and spirituality and find his writing to be inspiring. Below is the article from which the title of book came. I hope you enjoy it.

"I THINK I AM HAPPIER THAN I THINK I AM." For years, our diocese was blessed with a special priest, the Reverend Monsignor Joseph Bryne. He was loving, charming and witty. He was an intellectual. He learned to read Russian in his 60's so that he could read the novels of Dostoevsky. I hate such people! Fr. Bryne had a way of dropping an enigmatic statement on his friends, which left them shaking their heads. He dropped the above statement on a bunch of priests. "I think I am happier that I think I am." What is he talking about?

Joe Bryne went on to explain what he meant. He pointed out that where we focus our attention would largely determine whether we are happy or miserable. We have a strong inclination to live on the surface of life. That is where big ups and downs exist. If I spend my time on the surface of life, I will have lots of worries, lots of anxieties and lots of anger. If I live on the surface of life, I keep focused on disagreeable people, frustrating situations. It is not hard to be unhappy on the surface of life.

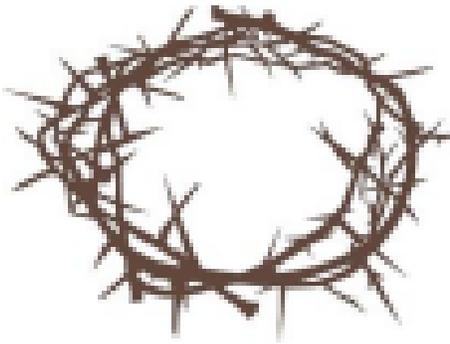
However, I have other options as to where I spend my time. I can go deeper into myself and see life from that viewpoint. I can reach a level of myself where I am most forgiving, most loving. The ups and downs of life look different from that viewpoint. I can reach the deepest part of myself where God resides. From there, everything looks different.

And then, according to Joe Bryne, I find, "I think I am happier than I think I am."

Church Events

**Feb 1 Worship meeting
9:30 am**

- **Feb 1 Young Adults 5:30 pm**
- **Feb 5 & 19 - BACN
Collection Sundays**
- **Feb 8 - Elders, 6:30**
- **Feb 9 Lunch with friends
Noon**
- **Feb 13 Staff meeting 10:00**
- **Feb 14 - Valentine's Day**
- **Feb 15 Young Adults 5:30 pm**
- **Feb 22 Ash Wednesday /
Potluckers 6:30 pm**
- **Feb 24 - Newsletter
Deadline**
- **Feb 27 Staff Meeting 10:00**



LENT 2023—AMAZING LOVE

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22nd and during this season we will be remembering God's "amazing love" for us by sending Jesus and Jesus' willingness to go to the cross to offer us amazing grace.

The church will begin this season with a soup and bread supper on Ash Wednesday at 6:30pm followed by a short worship service with ashes at 7:15pm in the small sanctuary. Plan to come and begin this season with the church family

STAR FOR THE YEAR

On the first Sunday of 2023 and in celebration of Epiphany, folks were able to pick up a star during worship with a word on it that was their word to ponder on and realize how God is calling them to live the word out in their life in 2023.

There are still some stars available in the basket outside the entrance to the sanctuary. If you have not picked one up—reach in and take a star (don't sort through—just take one) then take it home and post it in a place where you will see it each day. It will be good to hear how God uses these words in people's lives this year.



LENT DEVOTIONALS

There will be devotionals available in the fellowship hall to use in your home during this season of remembrance and repentance. The theme of the devotional is "Amazing Grace" and it will remind us of the grace Jesus offers by His going to the cross on our behalf.

Look for the devotional with your name on it. There will also be calendars for teens and children to use at home.



Week of Compassion Special Offering 2023

Rise Up Anew

“Yet this I call to mind and therefore, I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), **Week of Compassion** works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

Blaine’s offering dates are
February 19 and 26



Save the Date:

Blaine Christian Church’s Mission Committee will serve a Beef Dinner on Saturday evening **March 18, 2023 at the church**

All proceeds will go to Week of Compassion

Keep an eye out for more information in later bulletins.

Serving this Month

Praise & Worship Service 8:30 am

Worship Leader: Karl Tietz

Greeter: *Volunteers Needed*

Usher: *Volunteers Needed*

Welcome Center: Cathy Bodell

Traditional Service 11:00 am

Elders: Linda and Wayne Faber

Worship Reader: Deb Kessler

Diaconate Servers: Sonja Reitan, Lynette Williams, John and Linda Byers

Diaconate Preparer: Rick Zych

Greeter: Wayne Margetson

Usher: Nina Margetson

Welcome Center: Cathy Bodell

Sign up sheets are posted in fellowship hall

SERMON SCHEDULE

Feb 5: Isaiah 58:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

“Salt & Light”

Feb 12 1st Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

“ Foundational”

Feb 19 2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

“On the Mountaintop”

Feb 26 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-13

Matthew 4:1-11

“ In the Wilderness”

WinSome Women

The Spring WinSome Women's Retreat is Thursday & Friday, May 4th – 5th, or Friday & Saturday, May 5th – 6th, at Bay Harbor.

If you're interested, pick up a flyer on the table in the Fellowship Hall, or check out the poster on the bulletin board.

Registration is online only (wswretreats.org) and is now and accepting reservations. For more info, see the website:

<https://wswretreats.org/events/627/spring-wsw-retreat>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Christian Education committee would like to offer the chance to help with the Young Adult ministry to the church family.

There is a need for those that are willing to help provide a simple meal each time they meet and also a need for at least 2 people to do childcare each time. If you would like to volunteer to help with this new ministry-speak with Mary Barnum(CE chair) or Carolyn Waterson(CE staff)



Who is ready for Camp Crystal 2023?

Registration is now open!



Save the Date

June 18-23	Elementary Camp
June 23-25	Young Adult Retreat
June 27-29	Day Camp
June 29-July 2	Beloved Community Camp
July 9-15	Middle School Camp
July 9-15	High School Camp
July 16-22	Family Camp

All registrations will be online this year.
Registration opens January 15th!

 A ministry of Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM AT CAMPCRYSTALMI



CAMP CRYSTAL

Camp Crystal has overnight and full day summer camps for all ages -- elementary, middle, and high school, as well as young adults and families!

Invite a friend to camp this year and both you and the friend receive \$50 off your camp registration fee!

For more information about scholarships or becoming a counselor, please contact Michael Dirksen at mdirksen@cascadechristian.com

Fellowship Opportunities



“Lunch with Friends”

Meets every second Thursday of the month at noon.

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

In February we'll meet at Skip and Mary Lou Nobles, 1044 Watervale Road. Skip and Mary Lou provide your place settings and drinks. Please make sure you RSVP with Mary Lou. Bring a dish to pass for the potluck. We will finish with our Card Ministry.

All are invited, including men and spouses. Call Mary Lou at 352-7035 if you have any questions.

Young Adult Ministry

On Wednesday, January 18th was the first meeting for the new “Young Adult Ministry” at the church. This group is for post high school through 30s age to come together and have a meal, fellowship, and discussion. The meal and childcare was provided and discussion held on the direction for the group.

This group will be meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of the month with the next meeting date being **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST from 5:30-7:00pm**. Once again there will be dinner served and childcare provided for those needing it. Pastor

David will continue to provide leadership for the group as it develops and grows.

Be inviting and plan to participate and get to know other young adults and build community with one another.

The group will then again meet on Wednesday, February 15th at 5:30pm

In February Coffee Fellowship will be served after each of the services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM.

The signup sheet to host a coffee hour has been moved to the small easel on the serving table. Ask a friend to help you serve the treats or drinks.

FEBRUARY POTLUCKERS

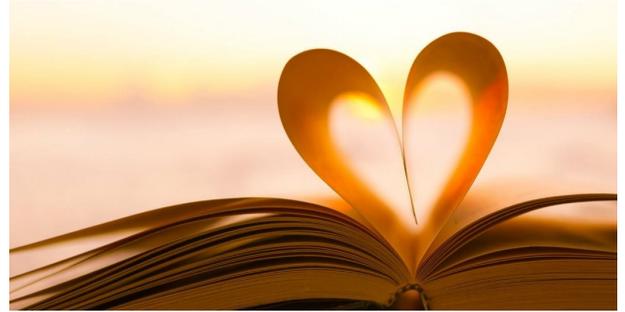


The February Potluckers meeting (4th Wednesday) falls on Ash Wednesday (February 22—so they will be hosting the soup and bread supper prior to the Ash Wednesday service. The supper will be at 6:30 and soup and bread will be provided. Just come for a time of fellowship prior to the service of worship and ashes at 7:15pm in the small sanctuary. This is a wonderful way to begin the season of Lent and our time to prepare for Jesus' journey to the cross and on to the resurrection on our behalf. Mark your calendar and plan to come.

An Update:

The search committee has continued to work through the process of finding our next senior pastor.

Information is now available on the church's website for prospective candidates to inform them about our church and the process of how to apply for the position. You can view this information if you go to Blaine's website and look under the job posting tab. We have also posted the opening with the Disciples of Christ, regional seminaries and other ministry networks.



The search committee would like to thank everyone who has been faithfully praying for us. There are four ways which you can continue to help.

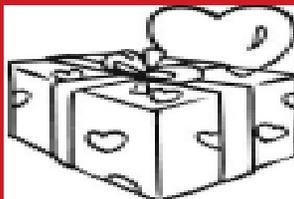
- 1.) Pray for the search committee, for guidance from the Lord and discernment throughout this process.
- 2.) Pray for the new prospective pastor and their family, that the Lord would start preparing them (even before they have applied), as well as our church, for this transition.
- 3.) Please share information about our church's opening with prospective candidates whom you may know or with pastors you are friends with, who may know someone who might be a good fit for our church.
- 4.) Share Blaine Christian Church's social media posts about the senior pastor position opening, when you see them posted.

Thank you,
Blaine Christian Church Search Committee

FUDGE FOR COLLEGE KIDS

Once again this Valentine's Day the church is sending fudge to our college kids as a reminder that we are thinking of them.

Please make sure the church has your college kid's address by February 4th so fudge can be mailed to them. Thank you to those that provided fudge for this ministry to our college kids.



Attention Prayer Partners/Sisters:

We will be coordinating a Valentine fundraiser for the Women's Resource Center.

If you would like to contribute please have money to us by February 14th. Make checks payable to:

Women's Resource Center

Also if you have new ideas for this ministry, please let us know. Dee Lathwell, Nina Margetson, Donna Brown

BACN

BACN Collections at Blaine Christian Church are collected every **first and third Sundays** of the month
February 5th and 19th.

Canned goods, dry goods, personal and house cleaning supplies are collected. Our volunteers will take the donations to BACN when our gray bins in the

Executive Director Gerri VanAntwerp (12 years at BACN) will be Retiring!
Thank You Gerri, Blessings From Blaine Christian Church

I leave knowing many more Neighbors and good Samaritans than when I arrived, and the integrity and honor of this organization is something I will always be proud of and cherish Benzie Area Christian Neighbors. BACN is not a community center, but it is where community thrives.
- Gerri Van Antwerp

Did you know the Impact of your Gifts to BACN?

Financial gifts help us purchase food in bulk at much better prices.

Here are some examples:

25 sweet potatoes for \$25 -
750 cans of corn for \$500 - 1000
cans of chicken noodle soup for \$1000.

One month of Total Food

Benzie Senior Resources is Celebrating **47 Years of Service** to Benzie County Seniors

Providing exceptional services, resources, and trusted care to support Benzie Seniors aged 60 and older who live in Benzie County.

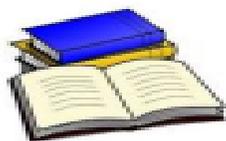
Please check the Mission board in the office hallway to check out the Benzie Senior Pamphlet- over the last year they provided 73,910 meals delivered through their Home Delivered Meals Program; 75,640 miles driven to deliver meals; 16,754 FREE Benzie Bus Rides, and many more services to seniors.

10542 Main Street, Honor (231) 525-0600
BenzieSeniorResources.org



WINTER STUDIES

The men's and women's winter studies continue through the end of the month. The men are studying the "Principle of the Path" by Andy Stanley and the women are studying "Jesus Over Everything" by Lisa Whittle. The men's study will be followed by a study on the book of Revelations beginning in March.



Coming In March:

NEW MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - REVELATION EXPLAINED

Revelation is challenging to read and understand. But it's Christ's message to us and to the church, and has important instructions from our Savior on how to live in this world.

Beginning Monday, March 6th, at 6:30 pm at the church, the Men's Bible Study will meet in the classroom downstairs to study of the Book of Revelation, taught by Bob Bodell.

All the men in our church, both grown up and younger (high school/college) are invited and encouraged to come. You are also encouraged to bring family, friends, and neighbors.

The study will meet each Monday night from March 6th until May 22nd.

If you've always wanted to understand what Revelation is all about, please make plans to come. If you have questions, please contact Bob - 231/651-0329.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

A reminder that there is Sunday School for all ages at 9:45am each Sunday between our two worship services. This winter the younger children's classes are looking at the life of Jesus. The Middlers are continuing their series called "Be Bold" about living out faith each day. The Youth are participating in the study "What on Earth Am I Here For" with the downstairs' adult class and the upstairs adult class is starting a new study on the book of Matthew. Join a class this week and be encouraged in your faith journey as you learn with others.

Bulletin boards have information on community events and Blaine's programs, Bible studies and missions' events that you may want to participate in.

Please check bulletins, bulletin boards, or call Alisa in the church office (352-9148 if you need more information.)

STAFF

Office Manager Alisa Lier– Elliott

231- 352-9148

Congregational Fellowship,

Missions, Property Bonnie Putney

231-352-4940

Membership & Evangelism,

Christian Education Carolyn Waterson

231- 882-9802

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Christian Education

Mary Barnum (231) 313-8922

Congregational Fellowship

Dodie Putney (231) 649-0614

Membership & Evangelism

Jannette Ervin (615) 856-7855

Missions

Howard and Judy Ingleston

(231) 871-0511)

Property

Steve Haugen (231) 882-4274

Worship

Carolyn Bell (231) 970-1839

March

Blaine Visitor Deadline

January 24, 2023

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

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jo Ellen Lathwell
- 3 Dave Puccio
- 4 Elizabeth Putney
- 5 Donna Brown, Jenny Larimer, Bob Bodell
- 7 Loraine LaGuire, Dayne Gillison
- 9 Kim Shadwick
- 11 Lorraine Nordbeck
- 12 Rick Kemperman
- 17 Lyle Cook
- 18 Rhonda Nye
- 20 Piper Putney
- 22 Mike Zych
- 23 Bonnie Putney
- 26 Katelyn Nordbeck, Carolyn Waterson, Ron Gardin
- 27 Ken Herron
- 28 Pat Swartz-Detman
- 29 Charley Trense

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Jared & Kari MacDonald
- 9 Marc & Shea Munsell
- 10 Gentry & Cassidy Mobley

**Please contact the church office
if your birthday or anniversary
were missed, (231) 352-9148**

February 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
David Spalding, Associate Pastor
(231) 352-9148

www.blainechristianchurch.org
email: blainechurch@gmail.com



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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Praise & Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

