



BLAINE VISITOR

Monthly Newsletter | *March 2023*

Mark Your Calendar

- 3.1 Board Packet Deadline
 - 5:30 pm Young Adult Ministry Meets
- 3.2 BACN Food Drive– Family Fare
- 3.6 10:00 am Staff Meeting
 - 5:30 pm Evangelism Meeting
 - 6:00 pm Men’s Bible Study Begins
- 3.9 Lunch With Friends
- 3.8 5:30pm Elders Meeting
 - 7:00 Board Meeting
- 3.11 Fellowship Hall Reserved
- 3.12 Daylight Savings
- 3.15 5:30 pm Young Adults Ministry Meets
- 3.17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3.18 6:00 pm Week of Compassion Dinner
- 3.19 1:30 DeColores Meeting
- 3.20 10:00 am Staff Meeting
 - First Day of Spring
- 3.22 Potluckers
- 3.25 Fellowship Hall Reserved

FROM WHERE I SIT

I’ve been hacked! As I write this, one thousand one hundred and fifty-nine people from my “Contacts List” are being sent a mysterious text message, purportedly from me, asking for pre-paid debit cards to help cancer patients. It’s not from me, of course. It’s a scam! But even though I had nothing to do with it, I feel guilty! Scores of the people I love have contacted me to see if need help! I hope none of them have stepped in this financial trap!

I feel violated too. Picked on, maybe. Singled out for attack. But then, why not just chalk it up to Lent. I mean, this is a time of testing, right? My email has been hacked before, and I managed to survive. But all those people wondering! Somehow this text message thing feels more personal. Do you know what I mean?

Have you ever been there, felt as if you were a fire hydrant in a world of non-thirsty dogs? Have you ever thought “why me,” why is all this “stuff” happening to me? At times like that, I often feel sorry for myself at first. Hopefully, not for too long though. And when I am at my best, I try to reframe the situation, preferably quickly. You know, see it from God’s perspective. “What you intended for harm God has intended for good”! I think I’ll mail a check to the American Cancer Society on Monday to help with research. Not through an email though, or text message. That would just foolish! And I think I’ll pray, right now, for all the people on my “Contact List”. And for all they love they share with me.

May the Lord Bless you as you Walk in the Sunshine, and as you travel through the Valleys of Shadow. And may He Bless us all, with laughter and love and joy, as we embrace His Mercies each new day!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Bob



Serving this Month

Praise & Worship Service 8:30 am

Worship Leader: Rob Sobkoviak
Greeter: Jannette Ervin
Usher: *Volunteers needed*
Welcome Center: Cathy Bodell

Traditional Service 11:00 am

Elders: Lynda and Wayne Faber
Worship Reader: Kathryn Mathieu
Diaconate Servers: Wayne and Nina Margetson, Ralph & Kate Jenkins
Diaconate Preparer: Maggie Baker
Greeter: Jannette Ervin
Usher: Mary Pulido
Welcome Center: Cathy Bodell



March 12:
Daylight Saving Time
begins, remember to
move your clocks
forward!

*Sign up sheets are posted in fellowship
hall*

SERMON SCHEDULE

March 5: Genesis 12:1-5
John 3:1-18
“ In the Dark”

March 12: Exodus 17:1-7
John 4:5-42
“ At the Well”

March 19: Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41
“ Simple Faith”

March 26: Ezekiel 37:1-14
John 11:1-45
“Dry Bones Rattle”

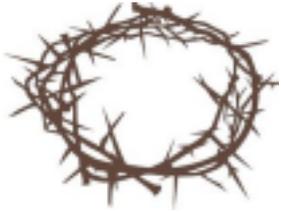
Quarterly Congregational Board Meeting Wednesday March 8, 2023 7:00 pm



Board Reports and Agenda Items are due in the church office by Wednesday, March 1st. Please email your report as a print ready attachment or drop off your print ready to the church office.

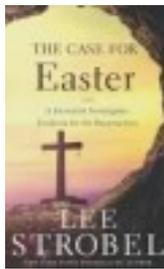
All church members are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting.





LENT 2023—AMAZING LOVE

The season of Lent began 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. Remember to be using your in-home devotions as you prepare your hearts and lives to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. The April newsletter will include the Holy Week and Easter schedule. An early reminder: there will be ONE worship service at 10:00am on Easter as we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection together.



LENT SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

Beginning on Sunday, March 5th will be a Lent study for adults and youth during the 9:45am Sunday School time.

The study is “The Case for Easter: Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus” by Lee Strobel. This study “invite you to look beyond the familiar traditions of the season, challenge you to examine the evidence for yourself, and consider why Easter is so important to your faith” as you prepare your heart and life to celebrate our Easter faith. Plan to participate and invite a friend to come with you—it will be a gift to them.



Roast Beef Dinner

Complete with Cake and Ice Cream!



March 18th
6:00 PM

Free Will Offering for Week of Compassion

Hosted by Blaine Christian Church Mission Committee

RSVP 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

Every Number Is A Name

Creator of the stars of night,
who counts the hairs of our heads and the sands on the shore,
who counts each of us blessed and precious in your sight.
The numbers climb, and our sorrow alongside.

Every number is a name.

Every soul lost is a beloved to be seen no more,
a voice, a face, a spirit now only in memory.

Every one yet missing is a mixture
of overwhelming despair and only the faintest hope.

Every number is a name.

Every worker rushing to rescue and recover
will forever bear the weight of what they cannot forget.

Every offering received, shared in desperate hope,
is one unashamed to plead for grace.

Every number is a name.

The tolls rise in the news, and echo in our hearts.

For every one lost, for every one found,
for every gift of compassion, for every moment of mercy.

For every number and every name, Lord hear our prayer.



~ for the ongoing response in Turkey & Syria ~ 2.12.23

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

The Christian Education committee would like to offer the chance to help with the Young Adult Ministry (YAM) 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) Thank you to the committee members who have helped and to Sally Wolverton, Pam Smith, and Judy Spohn who have already volunteered to serve with this ministry.



BACN Bags

BACN Collections at Blaine Christian Church have been collected every **first and third Sundays** The March Dates

This year with everything costing more at the store, the Mission Committee has decided to have a Food Drive during the Week of Compassion for Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN).

We have purchased shopping bags and Mercy Sobkoviak has designed and painted a logo on the bags. Bags will be available for pick up on **MARCH 12** after both services.

Items that BACN could specifically use include breakfast items such as boxes of cereal, pancake or baking mix., syrup, peanut butter and jelly. A shopping list will be in the bag. Return the bag to the shopping cart at the church by Sunday March 19 with the items you are donating. When we



have the next food drive we will have the bags available for you to use again



A message from BACN:

“ As you may have heard, Blessings in a Backpack is coming under the BACN umbrella this year. The volunteers have already been working at BACN to pack and store the food bags since the doors of the new facility opened in late fall of 2022. This year, BACN will assume full administrative and financial responsibility for BBB.”

Thank you for helping meet the needs of the community.



**MID-WEEK STUDIES
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:**

20 men just completed a winter study on "The Principle of the Path." The men will begin a new study on Revelations with Bob Bodell beginning on March 6h at 6:30 pm. This study will continue through the spring.

**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.

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 your male family, friends, and neighbors.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (YAM)

This group will be meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of the month with the next meeting dates being

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1st and 15th from

5:30-7:00pm

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. Pastor David and Sue 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.



WOMEN'S WINTER BIBLE STUDY: 24 women studied "Jesus Over Everything" for 7 weeks this winter and concluded their study with a potluck on February 27th.

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. 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 and adults will be doing a Lent study together (see article).

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.





NEEDED: EASTER CANDY

Again this Easter, our church will be offering an Easter Egg hunt and story time for children on Saturday, April 8th 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 2nd. Thank you in advance for your donation.

An Update:

The search committee continues to work diligently to find our next senior pastor. The current focus of the committee is to be actively searching for prospective candidates. The position is posted with the Christian Church/ Disciples of Christ as well as regional seminaries and ministry networks outside of the denomination. There is also information on the church's website for prospective candidates which tells them 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.

The most important thing we all can be doing is praying. When we pray God works. Pray for the new prospective pastor, that the Lord would start preparing them, pray for the search committee that they will have guidance and discernment throughout this process and pray for our church and the time of transition.

If you know other pastors, please let them know that Blaine Church is looking for a senior pastor and ask them to share the information with pastors they know who might be looking. It is important that we are all helping to actively share information about our church's opening.

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

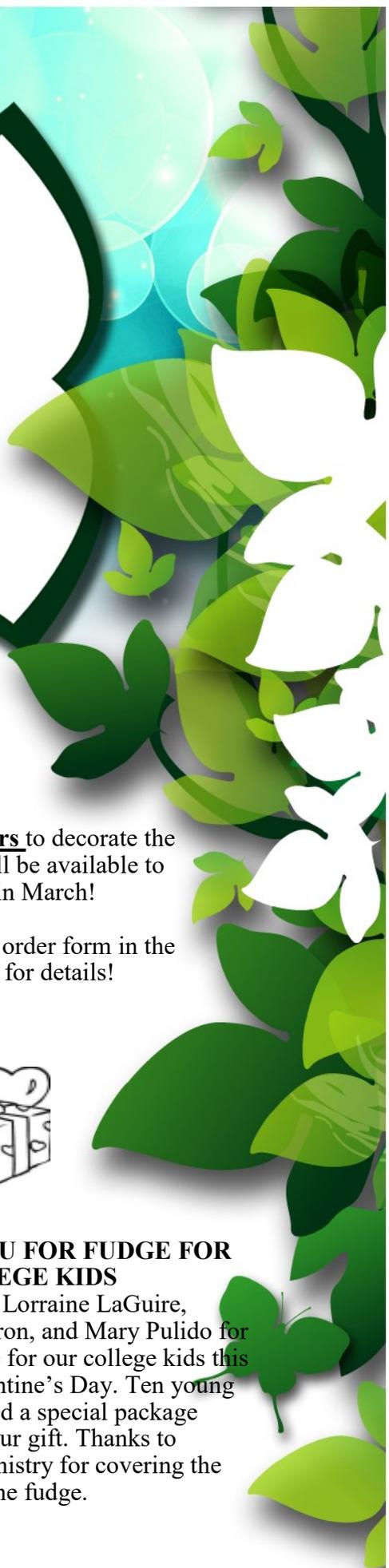
Easter Flowers to decorate the sanctuary will be available to order in March!

Watch for the order form in the Bulletin for details!



THANK YOU FOR FUDGE FOR OUR COLLEGE KIDS

Thank you to Lorraine LaGuire, Michelle Herron, and Mary Pulido for making fudge for our college kids this year for Valentine's Day. Ten young adults received a special package because of your gift. Thanks to Women's Ministry for covering the cost to send the fudge.



Prayer Vigil

We invite you to join us in this powerful and intimate prayer time.

Please sign up for a time slot, in the fellowship hall. We will have continual prayer in the small sanctuary beginning at 8:00 pm, Thursday April 6 through 3:00 pm, Friday April 7. Prayer will begin after 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.



MARCH POTLUCKERS

The date for March Potluckers is Wednesday, March 22nd at 6:30. Watch the bulletin for more information on place and plans for this meeting.

Attention Ladies:

Saturday March 11 at 11:00 am
There is a baby shower here at the Church for Dahlia Sobkoviak (Ron and Barb Sobkoviaks Daughter)!

There will be a light lunch
Join us and share this time with the new "Mom to Be"

She is having a Girl

In March Coffee Fellowship will be served after each of the services at 9:30 and 12:00. 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 treats or drinks.

If you have questions call Dodie at 882- 4067 or Bonnie's cell, 231-499-6788. Thanks, everyone for sharing in this ministry.

"Lunch with Friends" meets every second Thursday of the month at noon.
March 9, 2023 NOON

In March we'll meet at Skip and Mary Lou Nobles, 1044 Watervale Road
Skip and Mary Lou provide your place settings and drinks. Bring a dish to pass for the potluck.

***Did you know?!**

Bulletin boards & our website 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, the website or call Alisa in the church office (352-9148 if you need more information.)

SAVE THE DATES—VBS 2023

We know it is still winter—but as families make summer plans we want you to know the **VBS 2022 will be AUGUST 7th-10th 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**-why not invite your grandchildren for a week of fun with you and then include VBS in the evenings for them. More information coming in future newsletters.





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

April

Blaine Visitor Deadline

March 24, 2023

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



March Birthdays

4 Dodie Putney, Ron Gillison
5 Maggie Baker
14 Carl Barnum
17 Jannette Ervin, Dianne Gillison
20 Ron Heverly, Paisley Munsell, Mark Evans
27 Sara Kirk
29 Molly Merrill
30 Dale Janusch



March Anniversaries

23 Bruce and Jenny Caylen
25 Dave and Yvonne Hockett

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



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
David Spalding, Associate Pastor
(231) 352-9148

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

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
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