

Blaine Visitor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2023

Church Events

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY : April 2

8:30 am Praise & Worship Service

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Traditional Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY : April 6

6:30 pm Soup Supper

7:15 pm Worship Service

PRAYER VIGIL

April 6 - 8:00 pm Prayer Vigil Begins

April 7 - 3:00 pm Prayer Vigil Ends

EASTER EGG HUNT : April 8 - 11:00 am

All children through 11 years old invited to participate. Dress for the weather and bring a bag or basket.

EASTER SUNDAY : April 9

10:00 am One Worship Service

- Apr 2: Palm Sunday
- Apr 3 : 10:00 am Staff Mtg, 1:00 p.m. - Easter Egg Filling, 5:30 p.m. Membership of Evangelism Mtg.
- Apr 5: Fellowship/ Lg sanctuary reserved (7:30 am-6 pm)
- 5:30 Young Adults Ministry
- Apr 6: 6:30 pm Soup Supper
7:15 Worship followed by prayer
- Apr 7: Good Friday
- Apr 8: 11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt
- Apr 9: Happy Easter, one service
- Apr 10-12: Clergy Retreat (Bob and David Gone)
- Apr 12: 6:30 Elders Mtg
- Apr 15: 11:00 a.m. Prayer Partner Mtg.
- Apr 17: 10:00 am Staff Mtg
5:30 pm Committee Chair Mtg
- Apr 19: 5:30 Young Adults Ministry
- April 22: 1:30-7:00 DeColores Practice
- April 26-30: DeColores Reserved Entire Building

LENT 2023

AMAZING LOVE

The season of Lent began on Wednesday, February 22nd and during this season we have been remembering God's "amazing love" for us by sending Jesus and Jesus' willingness to go to the cross to offer us amazing grace. We will conclude the season of Lent with the following special Holy Week ministries and celebrations:



EASTER EGG HUNT: Saturday, April 8th-11:00am. Children up through age 11 years are invited to come to the church for an Easter Egg hunt and Storytime. Please dress for the weather and bring a container for your eggs. Invite a friend to come with you.



EASTER: Sunday, April 9th-10:00am: We will gather as one body to celebrate Easter and Jesus' resurrection together. This will be a service of praise and thanksgiving for the gift of life that Jesus gives us. HE IS RISEN!!



EASTER CHILDREN'S TIME: Following the opening of Easter worship and the children's moment, children up through 3rd grade are invited to a lesson time with an Easter lesson and project or children are also welcomed to remain in worship. There will be a packet of worship activities available for them.

HOLY WEEK 2023

PALM SUNDAY: Sunday, April 2nd:

We will gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00am with palms and hosannas raised in praise. There will be Sunday School at 9:45 for all ages.



MAUNDY THURSDAY: Thursday, April 6th:

We will gather for a simple supper of soup and bread at 6:30 hosted by the worship committee. Then move at 7:15 to the small sanctuary for a Tenebrae service with foot washing and communion as we remember Jesus' final meal with His disciples.



PRAYER VIGIL: Thursday, April 6th (8pm)-Friday, April 7th (3pm):

Folks will be gathering in the small sanctuary to spend time in prayer for our world, our community and our church and the requests of those that participate. See sign up in fellowship hall. You may also choose a time to pray at home as others pray at the church.



GOOD FRIDAY: Friday, April 7th:

Check out the local paper for churches that will be offering a Good Friday worship service or spend time in scripture and prayer at home.



Plan to make these special times of worship, learning and fellowship a part of your Holy Week this year.

SERMON SCHEDULE

April 2: Palm Sunday
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 21:1-11

“Pedestal, Tomb, Throne”

April 9: Easter Sunday
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10

“Dawn”

April 16 Acts 2:14a, 22-32
John 20:19-31

“After the Parade”

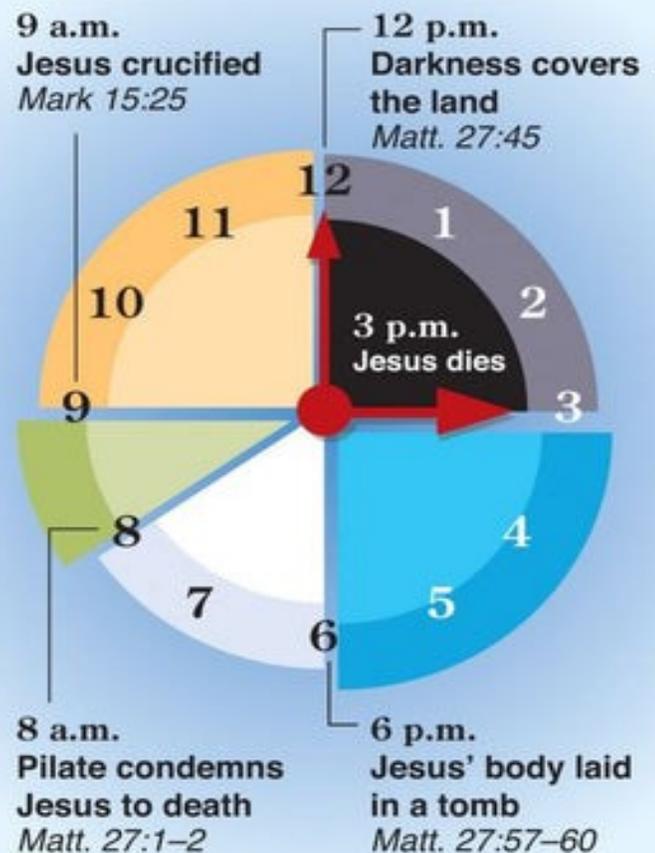
April 23 Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19
Luke 24:13-35

“On the Road”

April 30 Acts 2:42-47
John 10:1-10

“You Can't Steal Salvation”

Good Friday



Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

FROM WHERE I SIT APRIL 2023

I will never forget one of my first mistakes as a brand-new husband. It was so dumb, and so classic, that I now share it in pre-marital counseling. You see, I absolutely love meatloaf! And my new wife knew that! And she worked hours at preparing my favorite—meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, some kind of vegetable, I think it was peas! The house smelled great! My mouth was watering! So, we sat down together at the table, and I took my first bite! And then I said, “this doesn’t taste like my mom’s”!

Now I know all of you ladies are shaking your head in disgust! And some of you might be considering calling my wife and apologizing for my gender. That was forty-two years ago though, and I think I might have had six meatloafs since. But had I just embraced “new” and “different”, “original”, “innovative”, “creative” even, I might have experienced the best “MEATLOAF EVER”!

I am retiring. And at the risk of identifying myself with a meatloaf, things are going to be different. We have had twenty-three years of getting used to each other, some of which feels comfortable and familiar, and some of which may feel burnt and overdone! But the truth is, it’s God’s Banquet! And He knows the recipe, what is best, what will be the most healthy and nutritious experience we could ever imagine! We just need to embrace the change!

I know, it’s a little corny. But truth is truth, even though change is often hard. But taste and see that God is good. Embrace your new Pastor, and their family, with an open heart. In fact, with all of your heart, with every fiber of your being! After all, he or she is here on behalf of Jesus, your Lord and mine!

Love, Pastor Bob

Serving this Month

Praise & Worship Service 8:30 am

Worship Leader: *Volunteer Needed*

Greeter: *Volunteers Needed*

Usher: Shirley Felt

Welcome Center: Cathy Bodell

Traditional Service 11:00 am

Elders: Judy Spohn & Gary Waterson

Worship Reader: Bob Bell

Diaconate Servers: David & Sue Spalding,
Frank & Bonnie Putney

Diaconate Preparer: Hazel Evans

Greeter: *Volunteers Needed*

Usher: Bonnie Putney

Welcome Center: Cathy Bodell



****Sign up sheets are posted in fellowship hall**



Search Committee Update

We need everyone's help. How can you help, you ask? First and most importantly, be in prayer. Continue to pray for the Pastoral Search Committee as we work diligently through the process and for discernment as we look at potential candidates. Also, pray for the new pastor. We do not know who that person is yet, but pray that the Lord will be preparing their heart and family for the next chapter in their lives.

Second, we also need to be preparing our own hearts as we go through this time of transition. We are not going to find a clone of Pastor Bob or the new Pastor Bob or Pastor Bob 2.0. Our new pastor and family will be different than Pastor Bob and Deb. Our new pastor will have different skills, abilities and even sense of humor. They will come in with life experiences in different areas. This could be a great asset to help our church grow in new ways. We need to prepare ourselves to accept our new pastor and family with open arms and be ready for new opportunities.

Third, if you have a pastor friend, let them know that Blaine Christian Church is looking for a senior pastor. Ask if they know any pastors who might be looking for a new church and ask them to share our opening with that person.

Fourth, if you know someone whom you think the Search Committee should consider, please ask that person to prayerfully look at the position as posted on the church's website and then pass their name on to a committee member.

The committee continues to expand our advertising for our senior pastor position as we become aware of additional places to post the opening. We have had several individuals send us their resume but have not continued the process with us. We have had one candidate who sent the requested information, but after reviewing their documents, the committee chose to not pursue them further.

We have also recently received three potential names from the Disciples of Christ regional pastor, which the committee is currently researching and following-up with.

Thank you for the encouragement, efforts and prayers already given.

Wayne Faber-Committee Chair, Dodie Putney-Vice Chair, Judy Spohn, Shannon Gillison, Russ Tiller.

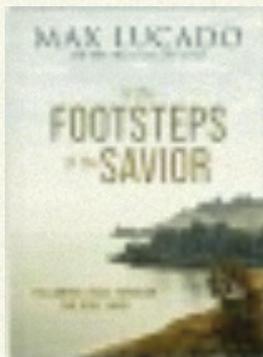


YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (YAM)

This group will be meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of the month with the next meeting dates being **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th and 19th 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 of 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.



The **downstairs' adult/youth class** will be beginning a new study "In the Footsteps of the Savior" that will have the class looking at the fact that *"God has more in store for you than you can imagine! This video Bible study will provide you an encounter with the life-altering Holy One as you follow in the footsteps of the Savior through the Holy Land. Discover, with new eyes, God's heart for his people and his deep love for you."* This will be a 6 week study to end at the end of Sunday school time for the year. 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.



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. After Easter **the children's classes** will be studying more about how Jesus' life changed other lives and being bold in their faith.

The **upstairs' adult class** will continue their study on the book of Matthew.



MID-WEEK STUDY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Monday night at the church at 6:30 continues on the book of Revelation with Bob Bodell as leader. This study continues through late May. If you have questions see Bruce Caylen.



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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Christian Education committee would like to continue 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). This is a great way to get to know some of the children in our church or to make a meal for others.

In April 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. You may keep your treat simple or as fancy as you wish. Beverages and paper products are provided .



“Lunch with Friends”

Meets every second Thursday of the month at noon. In April we’ll meet at Skip and Mary Lou Nobles, 1044 Watervale Road. Skip and Mary Lou provide your place settings and drinks. Please bring a dish to pass for the potluck luncheon. We will finish with our Greeting Card Ministry. All are invited, including men and spouses. Call Mary Lou at 352-7035 to reserve your place or if you have any questions.

We will meet at noon, April 13, 2023.



Attention Prayers Partners

We will be meeting on Saturday, April 15 at 11:00 am in the fellowship hall to draw new prayer partners. If you haven’t yet signed up, please add your name to the list on the table in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to participate. Call Dee Lathwell if you have questions.

New Babies



Harvey Kaskinen
Born 1/10/2023 to Josh & Annie Kaskinen

Perci Merrill-Tietz;
Born 2/15/2023 to Karl and Elizabeth Merrill-Tietz

Elaine Elizabeth Juras;
Born 3/22/2023 to Holly and Chad Juras

Looking Ahead



PICNIC DATE NIGHT

The 2023 “picnic date night” will be **FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH**. Couples are encouraged to mark their calendars now and reserve this evening for a special time of encouragement for your relationship and a provided picnic supper for two. Watch the May newsletter for more details.

The Annual Senior “Assisted Living” Dinner Has been scheduled for May 18, 2023

Guests from the Maples, Paul Oliver Long Term Care, the Orchard House, and Frankfort Senior Care will be invited for a home cooked meal and entertainment by Betsie Bay Minstrels. We are inviting Blaine’s seniors to join us for the evening.

We are asking Blaine Seniors to greet, host, serve and assist our guests. The meal is free, you will need to reserve your seat, the reservation sheet is up in the fellowship hall. If you need more information, please call Bonnie 231.499.6788

Camp Crystal!

All Registration is done online at :
<https://www.crystalconferencecenter.org/registration/>

Join in for some summer fun!



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@cascadecristian.com



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023 SAVE THE DATES—AUGUST 7TH-10TH

We know it is still early—but as families make summer plans we want you to know the **VBS 2023 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. The theme this year is “**STELLAR: Shine Jesus’ Light**”. The week will include music, games, Bible stories, hands on activities and a snack for ages 3 years-6th grade completed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: There will be a need for many volunteers as we do ministry for our children and the children of the community. Watch for a sign up to help that will be coming. **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.

The Mission Committee

Tackled two projects this last month with great success.

The first was the Roast Beef Dinner for Week of Compassion. We collected \$1,022.00 through the generosity of the guests.



The second project was "The BACN BAGS".

Using bags decorated by Mercy S. our shoppers collected 250 lbs. of items for the BACN pantry.

What a caring gift from our Blaine shoppers. Looking forward to shopping again in May.

Regular BACN Collections at Blaine Christian Church are collected every **first and third Sundays** of the month. The April Dates are the 2nd and the 16th. These items are collected in the grey bins in the hallway



The Easter Offering, received by most congregations on April 2 & 9, 2023, supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church.

Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

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

May

Blaine Visitor Deadline

April 24, 2023

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

*hello
April*

Birthdays

4.1 Jeri VanDePerre

4.4 Deb Kessler

4.5 Nona Nugent, Joel Sobkoviak

4.8 Cynthia Briske

4.10 Yvonne Hockett

4.11 Gianna DeWys, Jordan Fekete

4.13 Bruce Peabody

4.15 Ralph Jenkins

4.17 Evelyn Kirk

4.18 Ron Sobkoviak

4.19 Mylie Kelly

4.20 Zoey Putney

4.21 Donnie Tanner

4.22 Patrick Kenny

4.25 Gloria Magnotti, Ken Nye

4.26 Jenny Caylen

4.27 Becky Kline

4. 28 Nadine Gilroy

4.29 Bob Bell, Meagan Zych

Anniversaries

4.2 Frank and Bonnie Putney (46 Years)

4.5 Ron and Barb Sobkoviak

4.14 Kent and Julie Elliott (50 Years)

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

April 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

